

Field Biology - Birds

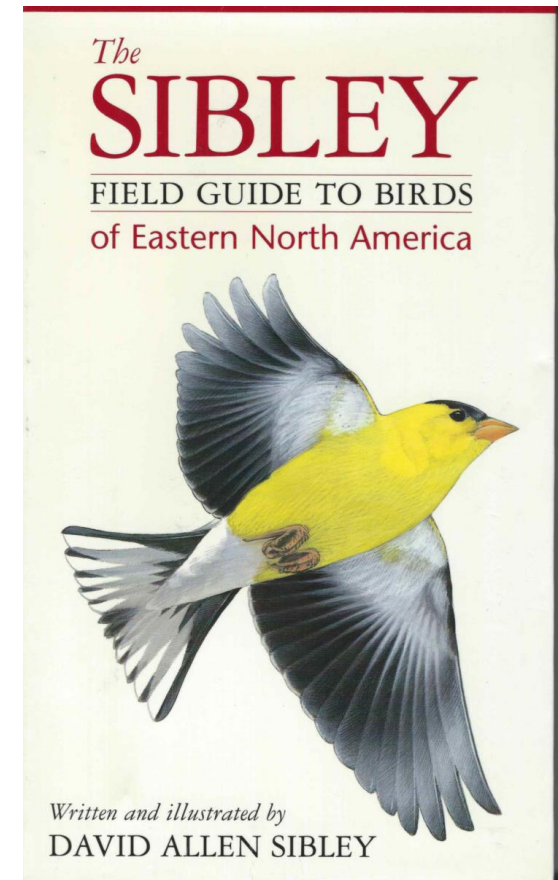
Fall 2016



Bird Content in Field Biology

- ID powerpoint has 65 birds species to learn (common names only)...35 species in today's powerpoint.
- Birding in field labs
- Specimen collection (In Rice Hall; we'll do a lab later in semester using these)
- Sibley field guides (not required)

Also: Birding Club at Cornell
(<https://orgsync.com/73409/chapter>)








The
SIBLEY
FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS
of Eastern North America



Written and illustrated by
DAVID ALLEN SIBLEY

Presentation shows images of 65 bird species scanned from the Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America

Key to the Range Maps

-  **Winter** Shows the normal winter distribution of the species. Many species are somewhat nomadic in winter, occupying only parts of the mapped range at any given time.
-  **Summer** For virtually all species this is the breeding range and is more consistently and uniformly occupied than the winter range.
-  **Year-round** Indicates that the species can be found all year in this area, even though winter and summer populations may involve different individual birds. Only a few species are truly resident.
-  **Migration** Main migration routes are shown, as well as areas of regular dispersal and post-breeding wandering. Note that migration also passes through the summer and winter ranges.
-  **Rare** Shows locations of rare occurrence (may be a single record or up to a few records a year).

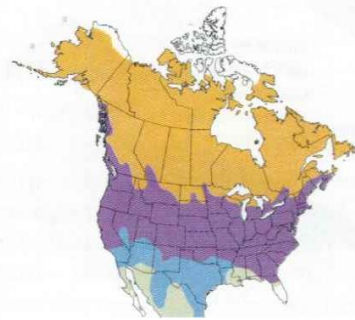
Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

L 25–45" ws 43–60"

WT 3.5–9.8 lb (1,600–4,500 g)

Common and widespread. Found grazing on agricultural land, golf courses, or any open ground, usually but not always adjacent to water. Nearly always in flocks and family groups. Nests on the ground singly in any grassy or marshy setting. Note brownish color and pale breast contrasting with black neck, white cheek, and dark bill and legs. Flock flies high in well-defined V formation. Subspecies variation in Canada Goose involves mainly size: The species as a group includes our largest and nearly our smallest goose. **Voice:** Flock chorus a resonant, musical, honking *hronk*. Voice of smaller subspecies slightly higher, but very similar to larger subspecies.

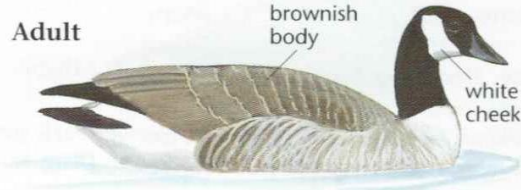


Adult

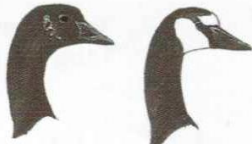
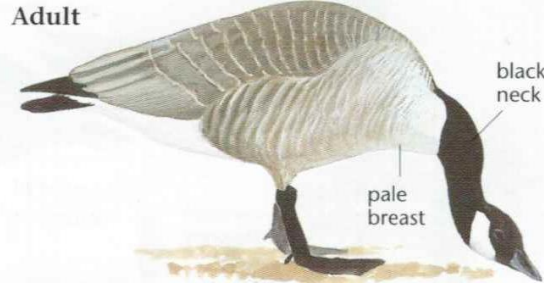


Juvenile
(Aug–Jan)

Adult



Adult



occasional variants of any subspecies may have white cheek-patch enlarged with white forehead or nearly absent

Canada Goose

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Canada_Goose/id



Canada Goose

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Canada_Goose/id

- Large brown goose, black neck, white facial patch
- Marshes, ponds, lakes, lawns, agricultural fields
- Diet: green vegetation, grain

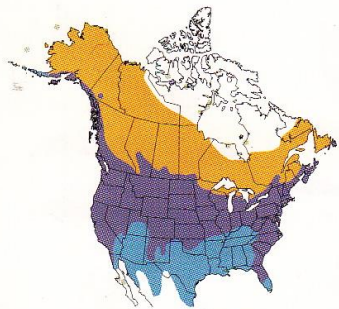


Mallard

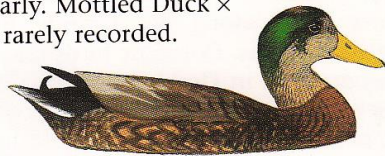
Anas platyrhynchos

L 23" ws 35" wt 2.4 lb (1,100 g)

Common and widespread on shallow water from coastal lagoons to city parks; in most areas the most frequently seen species of duck. Nests on the ground in concealing vegetation, usually near water. Usually in small groups or pairs, but large numbers gather at favored ponds. Feeds mainly on seeds taken from the water. Male breeding plumage distinctive, with yellow bill, green head, and pale body. Female more difficult to identify; note large size, prominent dark line through eye, brownish belly, orange legs, and orange and black bill. The many domesticated variations may cause confusion (see page 61). **Voice:** Female gives familiar loud quacking call. Male gives shorter rasping quack and, in display, a short down-slurred whistle.



American Black Duck × Mallard hybrid adult ♂ breeding
Seen regularly. Mottled Duck × Mallard is rarely recorded.



Mallard

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mallard/id>

DABBLING DUCKS

Family: Anatidae

This group includes the familiar puddle ducks, including the ubiquitous Mallard. These species are found mainly on smaller ponds and marshes in shallow water, where they feed at the surface by “dabbling” their bills in the water or by upending to reach deeper; they rarely dive. Unlike most diving ducks the dabbling ducks have legs placed farther forward on the body so that walking is easier, and they are able to take off directly from the water without running. Adult females are shown.



male

Mallard

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mallard/id>



female

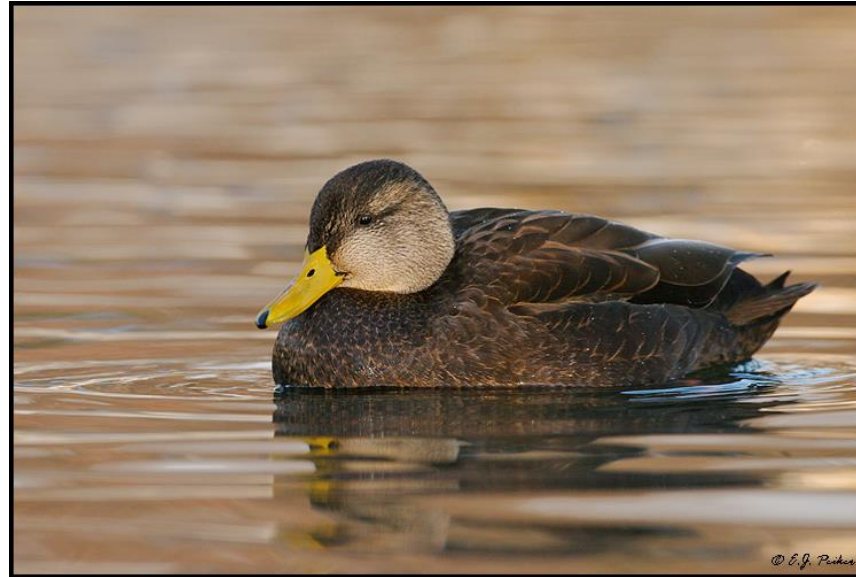
- Male: green head, chestnut breast, pale sides
- Female: Mixed browns, note “speculum” pattern
- Marshes, ponds, lakes, rivers
- Diet: aquatic vegetation, small invertebrates

American Black Duck

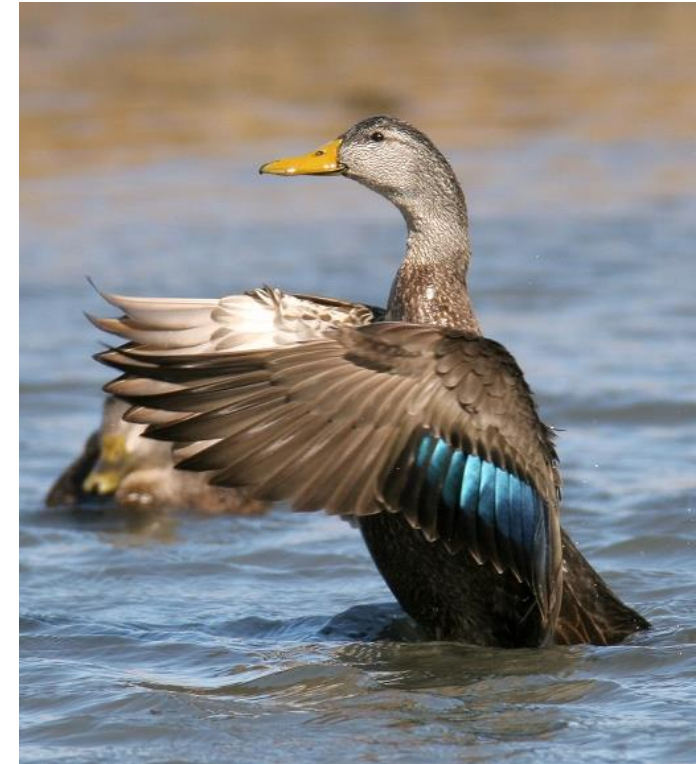
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Black_Duck/id



female



male



male

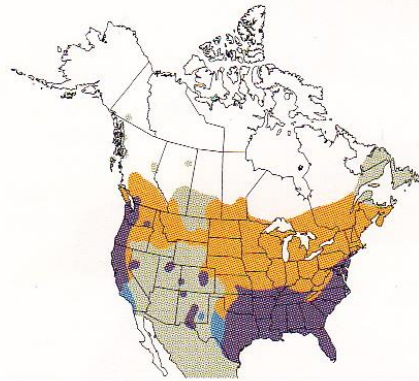
- Body chocolate brown, paler head. Males with yellow bill (olive in female); blue “speculum” in wing with no white
- Marshes, ponds, lakes, rivers
- Diet: aquatic vegetation, seeds, small invertebrates

Wood Duck

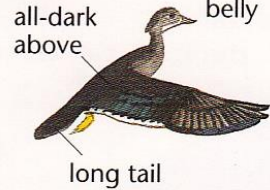
Aix sponsa

L 18.5" ws 30" wt 1.3 lb (600 g)

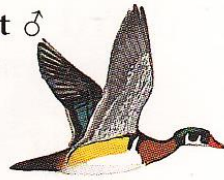
Uncommon on sheltered ponds, rivers, swamps, or wherever there is standing water among trees. Nests in tree cavities or boxes. Usually in pairs or small groups; never in large flocks. Feeds mainly on acorns and other seeds. Mostly dark, with contrasting white belly. Breeding male distinctive. Both sexes have rather small bill, drooping crest, and long broad tail usually raised when swimming. **Voice:** When flushed female gives penetrating squealed *ooEEK*, *ooEEK*. Male gives high thin *jeweep*.



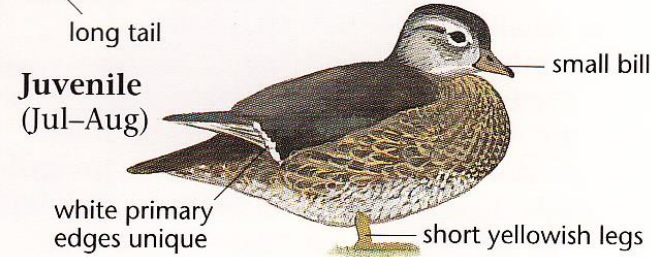
Adult ♀



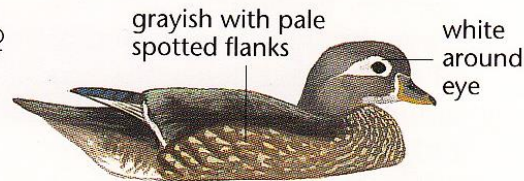
Adult ♂



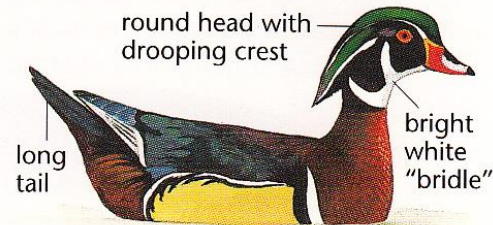
Juvenile
(Jul–Aug)



Adult ♀



Adult ♂
breeding
(Sep–Jun)
compare
Mandarin
Duck
(page 61)



Wood Duck

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wood_Duck/id



female

Wood Duck

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wood_Duck/id



male

- Male: green head, chestnut breast, pale sides
- Female: Mixed browns, note “speculum” pattern
- Swamps, marshes, wooded areas (cavity nester)
- Diet: aquatic vegetation, small invertebrates, seeds



male & female



male



female

Redhead

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Redhead/id>

- Size of a Mallard; female is plain grayish brown; male with rusty red head, black breast, gray body
- Lakes, ponds, rivers
- Diet: aquatic invertebrates, plant matter (dives food)

DIVING DUCKS

Family: Anatidae

This is a much more diverse group than the dabbling ducks. As a rule, diving ducks are found on deeper water than dabblers, and they feed by diving underwater; but beware that dabblers can and do dive, and diving ducks will dabble in shallow water. Their legs are placed far back on the body, and they walk with difficulty; most require a running start to take off from the water. Diet varies from underwater plants to shellfish to fish and other prey, and habitat choices and bill shape vary accordingly. Adult females are shown.

Bufflehead

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bufflehead/id>



female



female (L) & male (R)



male

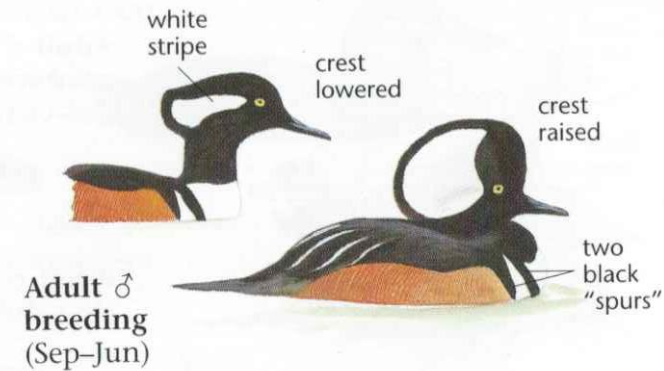
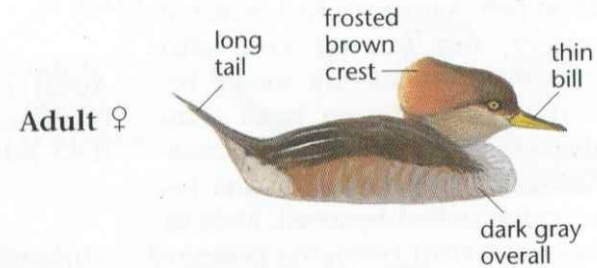
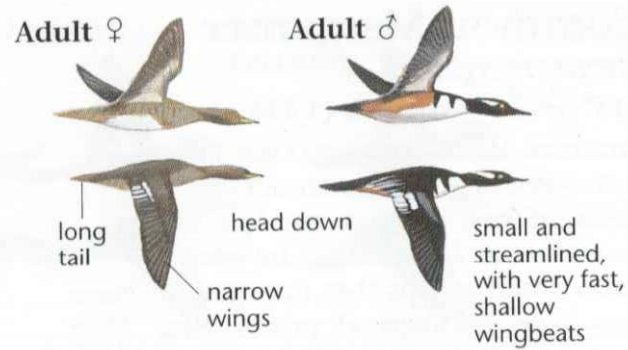
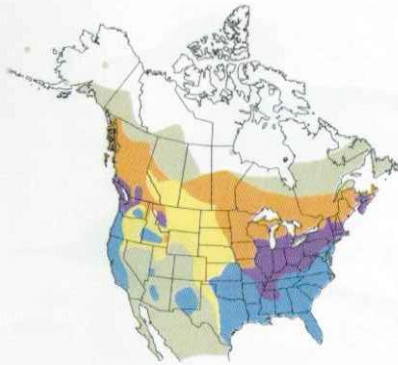
- Small, compact duck; female brownish with white cheek patch; male with white body, black back, black head with white patch (compare with male Hooded Merganser)
- Lakes, large ponds, rivers
- Diet: aquatic invertebrates, some seeds (dives for food)

Hooded Merganser

Lophodytes cucullatus

L 18" ws 24" wt 1.4 lb (620 g)

Uncommon in small flocks on sheltered ponds and bays, especially wooded ponds with standing dead trees. Nests in tree cavities. Feeds on fish, crustaceans, and insects captured in shallow water. Small and long-bodied; often raises tail when swimming. All have "hammerhead" crest; mostly white on male, frosted brown on female. Wings produce shrill trill in flight. **Voice:** Female gives soft croak. Male in display gives low purring croak.



Hooded Merganser

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Hooded_Merganser/id



female

Hooded Merganser

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/
guide/Hooded_Merganser/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Hooded_Merganser/id)



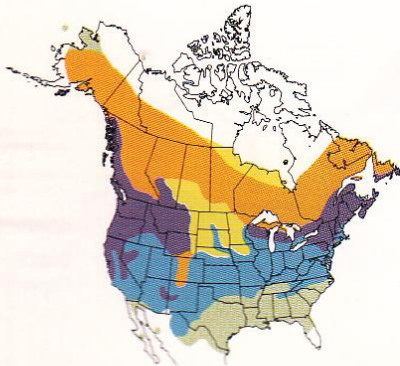
male

Common Merganser

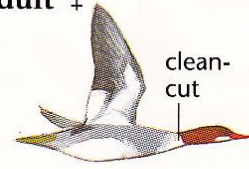
Mergus merganser

L 25" ws 34" wt 3.4 lb (1,530 g)

Common locally on deep clear lakes and rivers; uncommon on salt water. Nests in tree cavities and on the ground near large lakes. In winter forms small groups that may gather into large numbers at prime sites. Feeds on fish. Similar to Red-breasted Merganser, but heavier and with thicker bill. Male mostly white. Female has darker brown head than Red-breasted, with sharply contrasting white chin and neck. **Voice:** Female similar to Red-breasted. Male in display gives faint twanging notes.

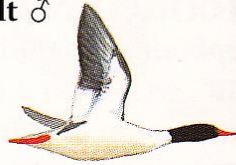


Adult ♀

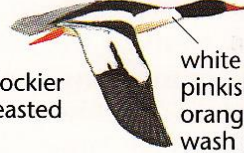


clean-cut

Adult ♂



larger and stockier than Red-breasted

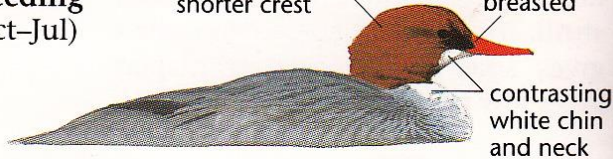


white with pinkish-orange wash below

Adult ♀
breeding
(Oct–Jul)

darker, more rounded head than Red-breasted; shorter crest

deeper bill than Red-breasted



contrasting white chin and neck

Adult ♂
nonbreeding
(Jul–Oct)



Adult ♂ breeding
(Nov–Jul)



all-white

Common Merganser

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Merganser/id



female

Common Merganser

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/
guide/Common_Merganser/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Merganser/id)



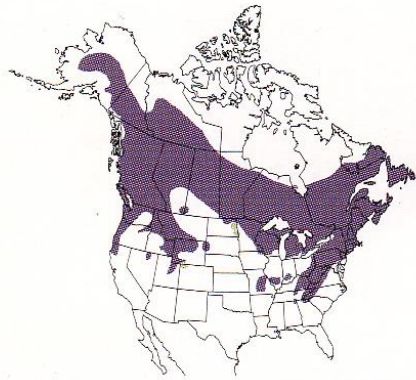
male

Ruffed Grouse

Bonasa umbellus

L 17" ws 22" wt 1.3 lb (580 g)

Uncommon in hardwood forests; in many areas the only medium-size game bird, and the only one found in deciduous woods. Usually solitary. Feeds on seeds and tree buds. Relatively long-tailed. Dark tail-band and dark bars on flanks distinctive. Often flushed from the ground and heard but not seen; takes off with loud burst of wingbeats. Male "drumming" display an accelerating series of muffled thumps produced by beating wings, like a distant motor starting. **Voice:** Both sexes give clucking notes.



Ruffed Grouse

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ruffed_Grouse/id



Gray morph

Ruffed Grouse

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ruffed_Grouse/id

Red morph



Wild Turkey

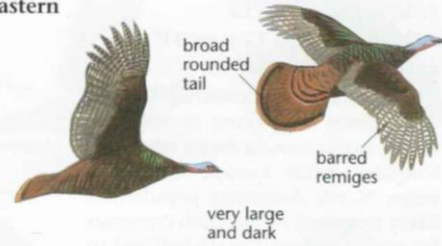
Meleagris gallopavo

♂ L 46" ws 64" wt 16.2 lb (7,400 g)

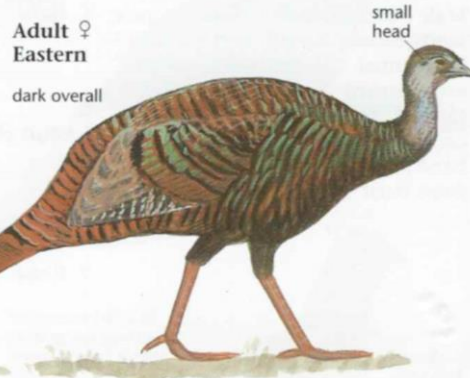
♀ L 37" ws 50" wt 9.2 lb (4,200 g)

Common and increasing in open woodlands. Most often seen walking along forest roads or foraging in open fields, usually in flocks of five to 40 or more. Roosts in trees at night. Very large, with heavy body and inconspicuously small head and long legs. Blackish overall, with pale gray flight feathers. Native Eastern birds have dark rufous feather tips; Southwestern desert populations have paler whitish tips; domestic varieties, which may escape, have white tips. **Voice:** Female gives loud sharp *iike, iike, iike* . . . repeated in slow series. Male in display gives familiar descending gobble.

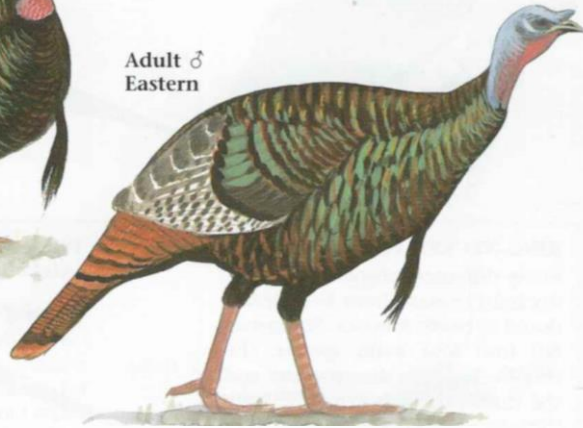
Adult ♀
Eastern



Adult ♀
Eastern



Adult ♂
Eastern



Adult ♂
Southwestern



foraging group



Wild Turkey

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wild_Turkey/id



Male

Wild Turkey

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wild_Turkey/id

Female

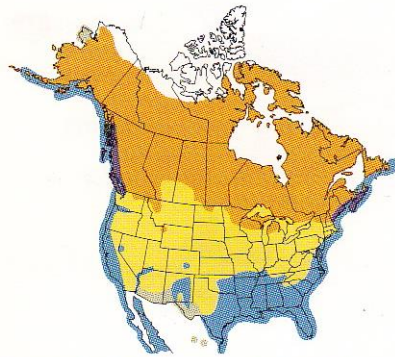


Common Loon

Gavia immer

L 32" ws 46" wt 9 lb (4,100 g)

Common locally; in most areas the most frequently seen species of loon. Nests on wooded lakes. Winters on open lakes, bays, and ocean. Often solitary, but forms loose flocks during migration and on wintering grounds. Dives for fish. A large, long-bodied, heavy-billed bird; larger and heavier than Red-throated Loon, with heavier bill. Juvenile and nonbreeding plumage identified by details of head and neck pattern. **Voice:** Low melancholy yodeling or wailing cries such as a rising *hoooo-lee*.



Adult nonbreeding



Adult breeding



large feet

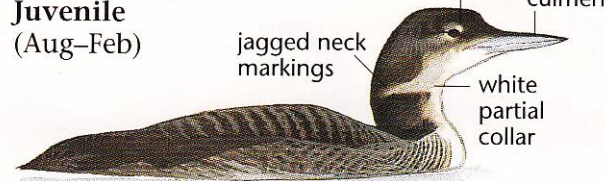


thick dark neck with jagged pattern



black head and neck

Juvenile (Aug–Feb)



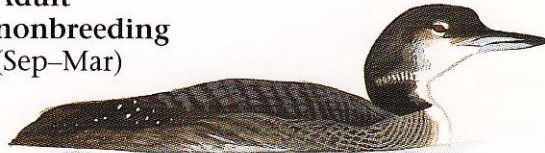
jagged neck markings

white around eye

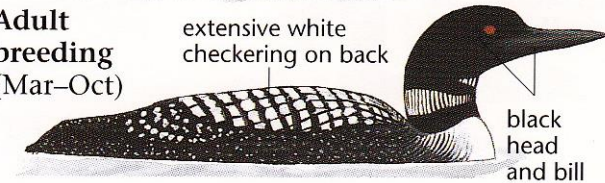
dark culmen

white partial collar

Adult nonbreeding (Sep–Mar)



Adult breeding (Mar–Oct)



extensive white checkering on back

black head and bill

Common Loon

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Loon/id

LOONS AND GREBES

Families: Gaviidae, Podicipedidae

Loons (Gaviidae) and grebes (Podicipedidae) are superficially similar but unrelated families of waterbirds. Birds of both families are expert swimmers and divers; they spend virtually their entire lives on the water, and are rarely seen on land except when nesting. These species have legs set far back on the body, a feature that gives them propulsion for swimming and diving but makes them ungainly on land. Loons are larger than grebes, with relatively longer bodies, shorter necks, larger, dagger-like bills, and more pointed wings. Grebes are relatively longer-necked and have lobed toes. Compare cormorants, ducks (especially mergansers), and alcids. Nonbreeding adults are shown.



Breeding plumage

- Large bird; breeding adult with black head, white underparts, black & white checkered above. Non-breeding bird plain dark gray above, white below.
- Lakes, rivers, coastal areas
- Diet: predominantly fish (dives for food)

Common Loon

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Loon/id

Non-breeding plumage

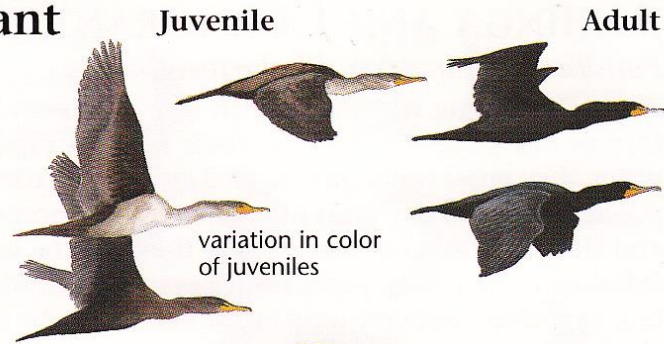
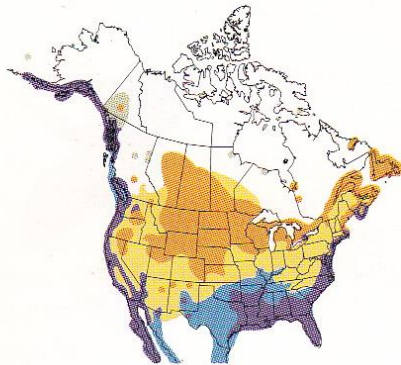


Double-crested Cormorant

Phalacrocorax auritus

L 33" WS 52" WT 3.7 lb (1,700 g)

Common on clear open waters from ponds and rivers to open ocean. Roosts in trees and on posts, rocks, and sandbars at water's edge. May form large flocks. Dives for fish. In most areas the only cormorant, but can be difficult to distinguish from Great and Neotropic Cormorants where range overlaps. Note size, length of tail, orange throat and lores, and immature's pale neck. **Voice:** Hoarse grunting or wailing sounds, mainly at nest site.



Double-crested Cormorant

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/double-crested_cormorant/id

ANHINGA AND CORMORANTS

Families: Anhingidae, Phalacrocoracidae

These fish-eating waterbirds with four webbed toes are members of the order Pelecaniformes (see page 40). Because their feathers rapidly become saturated on contact with water, they enter water only to feed and bathe; after feeding they rest spread-winged on exposed perches to dry their plumage. The cormorants (Phalacrocoracidae) have bare chins and straight bills with hooked tips; they may be seen swimming, flying in untidy lines, or standing on sandbars, posts, or tree branches. Anhinga (Anhingidae) has a straight, pointed bill, bare chin, and very long broad tail; it may be seen swimming with only its head above the water, flying and often soaring, or standing on rocks or trees. Juveniles are shown.



Adult

Double-crested Cormorant

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/double-crested_cormorant/id

Immature



- Large bird; adult with black body, orange skin below long hooked bill; Immature: gray-brown body
- Lakes, rivers, coastal areas
- Diet: predominantly fish (dives for food)

Great Blue Heron

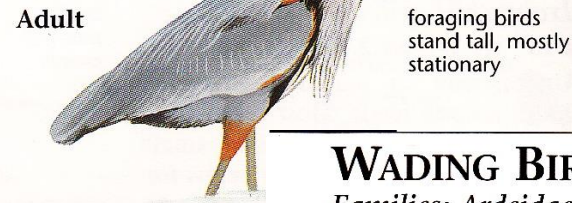
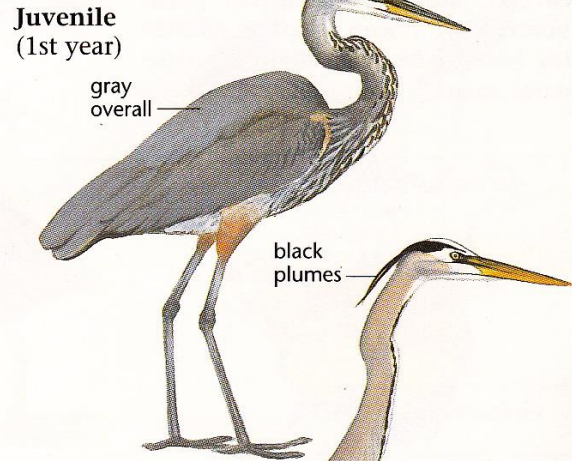
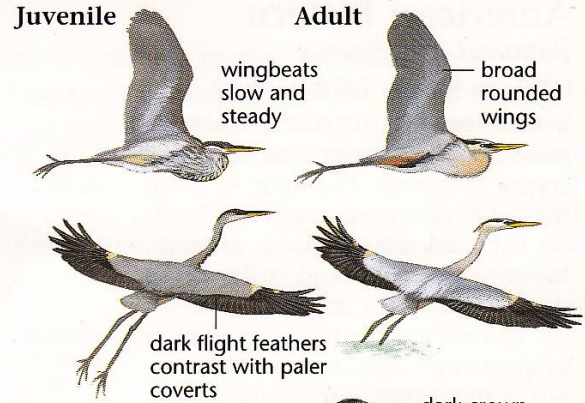
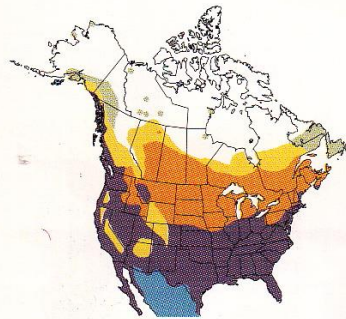
Ardea herodias

L 46" ws 72" wt 5.3 lb (2,400 g)

Uncommon but widespread; in many inland areas the most frequently seen species of heron. Nests in colonies in dead trees, usually not with other herons. Usually seen singly, but may migrate or roost in flocks. Forages in many types of open habitat from stream and pond edges to wet meadows or even upland fields. Stands or walks slowly, searching for fish, small mammals, and other prey. Our largest heron; large size and gray color unmistakable. Flight graceful, with slow wingbeats and arched wings. Like other herons and egrets, long neck can be extended or coiled; always coiled in flight. Voice: Very deep, hoarse, trumpeting or croaking *fraaahnk*.



differs from Sandhill Crane by coiled neck and arched wings



Great Blue Heron

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Blue_Heron/id

WADING BIRDS

Families: *Ardeidae*, *Ciconiidae*, *Phoenicopteridae*, *Threskiornithidae*

Hérons, egrets, and bitterns (*Ardeidae*) all have coiled necks and straight, dagger-like bills used to capture prey in quick strikes. Ibises and Roseate Spoonbill (*Threskiornithidae*) extract small invertebrates from the water or mud with a long, downcurved or spoon-shaped bill. Wood Stork (*Ciconiidae*) uses its heavy bill to seize prey from the water. Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopteridae*) has a unique angled bill with a comb-like structure (lamellae) used to filter tiny animals from the water or mud. Adults are shown.



Great Blue Heron

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Blue_Heron/id



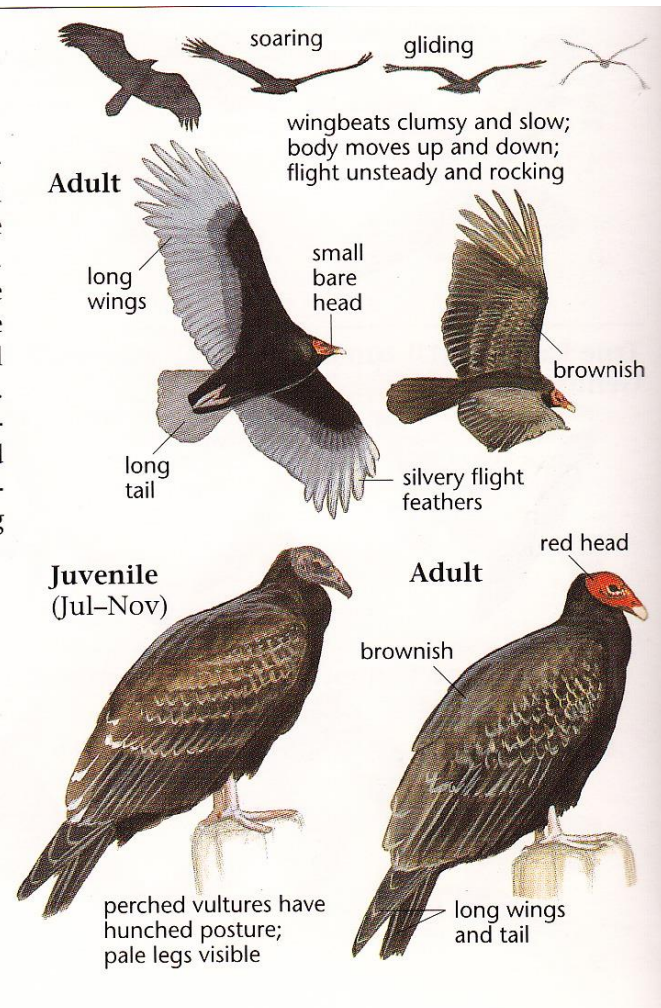
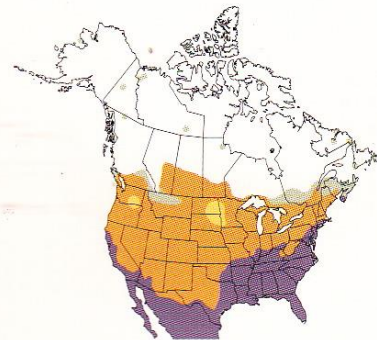
- Blue-gray body, black & white stripes on head, long pointed bill
- Marshes, lakes, ponds, riparian areas
- Diet: fish and other small vertebrates

Turkey Vulture

Cathartes aura

L 26" ws 67" wt 4 lb (1,830 g)

Common. Usually seen high overhead, cruising for carrion. Roosts in trees or on structures. Nests on the ground in crevices or hollow logs. Solitary or in small groups. Note large size, dark color, and distinctive flight with wings raised in dihedral and tilting gently from side to side. Similar to Golden Eagle; note two-toned wings, small naked head, and rocking flight. Compare Black Vulture. **Voice:** Soft hissing and clucking sounds; seldom heard.



Turkey Vulture

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Turkey_Vulture/id

DIURNAL RAPTORS

Families: Accipitridae, Cathartidae, Falconidae

All species are in the family Accipitridae, except the New World vultures (Cathartidae) and the true falcons and Crested Caracara (Falconidae). Diurnal raptors are predatory and carnivorous (although vultures eat mainly carrion), with sharp talons and hooked bills for grasping and tearing prey. Preferred diet varies widely between species, and habits and hunting styles vary accordingly. When attacking prey from above, many raptors make a swift steep dive, known as "stooping." Wing shape, body proportions, and flight style differ between species and provide valuable identification clues. Three main genera—*Buteo*, *Accipiter*, and *Falco*—each with basic similarities in shape and habits, account for much of the variation. Juveniles are shown (except vultures).



Turkey Vulture

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Turkey_Vulture/id



- Large brown/black raptor; not two-tone pattern in underwing; bare skin on head less visible in flight
- Often soaring; uses diverse habitats
- Diet: carrion

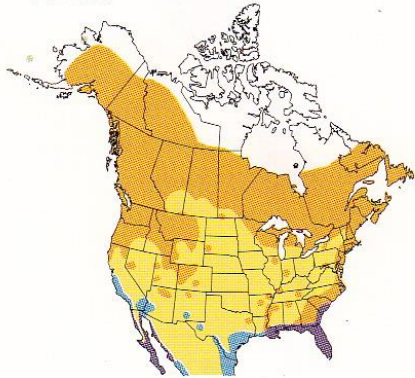


Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

L 23" ws 63" wt 3.5 lb (1,600 g)

Uncommon around any open water that harbors fish. Perches on conspicuous poles or trees near water. Nest a bulky mass of sticks in dead trees or other prominent supports near water. Usually solitary. Hovers over open water and dives headfirst to catch fish with feet (unique among raptors). Long crooked wings (held slightly arched) and white underparts gull-like. Note all-dark upperside, including rump and tail, and dark patches on underwing. **Voice:** Frequently heard short shrill whistles, single or in series.



Osprey

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Osprey/id>

Osprey

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Osprey/id>



- Large hawk, brown above, white below, white head with brown line through eye
- Lakes, rivers, coastal areas
- Diet: almost entirely fish

Cooper's Hawk

Accipiter cooperii

L 16.5" ws 31" wt 1 lb (450 g)

Uncommon. Found in woods and edges of woods; often hunts around houses and birdfeeders. Nests in tall trees, especially pines. Solitary. Feeds on small birds and mammals captured in surprise attack. A medium-size accipiter; always larger than Sharp-shinned Hawk, but size difficult to judge. Relatively the most slender and longest-tailed accipiter, with rather long head and neck. Best identified (with experience) by shape and stiff wingbeats. **Voice:** Series of flat nasal barks *pek pek pek . . .* at nest site.



Juvenile

longer rounder tail than Sharp-shinned, with broad white tip

wings held straight

large head

finely streaked

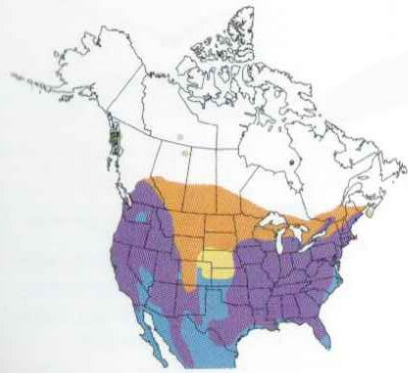
Adult

Juvenile (1st year)

Adult ♀

thin dark streaks

thicker legs than Sharp-shinned



Cooper's Hawk

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/coopers_hawk/id



Adult

Cooper's Hawk

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/coopers_hawk/id



Immatures

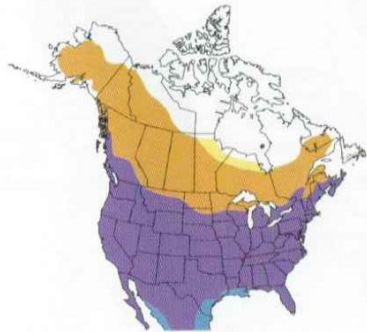
- Medium-sized, fast-flying hawk; adult slate gray above, rusty below; Immature brownish above, heavily streaked below
- Wooded habitats
- Diet: mostly small birds

Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis

L 19" ws 49" wt 2.4 lb (1,080 g)

Uncommon but widespread; the hawk commonly seen perched on trees, poles, or fenceposts along roads or fields. Because it is so numerous and easily seen, this species is the one against which all other buteos are compared. Nests in tall trees with open feeding areas nearby. Solitary. Hunts mainly from perch, choosing same sentinel perch day after day; sometimes hunts from the air while kiting. Feeds mainly on small mammals. Stocky and broad, with rounded wings and short tail. Striking red tail of adult distinctive. In flight, also note pale underside of flight feathers and dark mark on leading edge of underwing; juvenile has pale rectangle on primaries. Light morph has pale breast contrasting with brown head and streaked belly-band, and white-speckled V on back. **Voice:** Rasping whistled scream *cheeeeerrrr* falling in pitch and intensity.



EASTERN Juvenile



Adult



Light juvenile (1st year)

white speckled V on scapulars



Light adult

streaked belly-band



Red-tailed Hawk

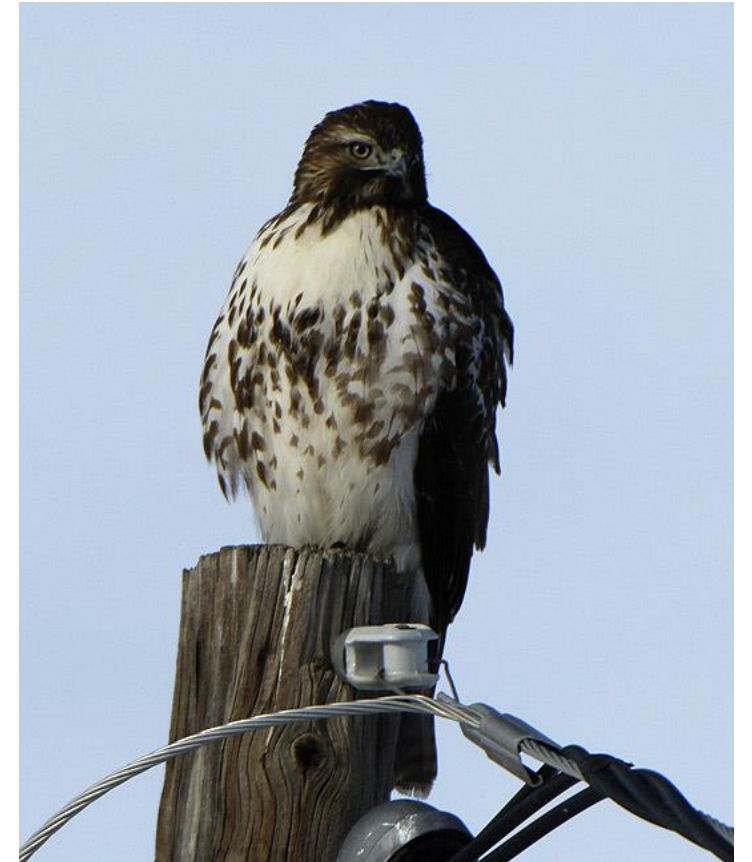
http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-tailed_Hawk/id



Red-tailed Hawk

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-tailed_Hawk/id

- Large brown raptor; rusty tail in adults; note “belly band”
- Open habitats (grassland, agriculture, open habitats)
- Diet: small vertebrates, especially mammals

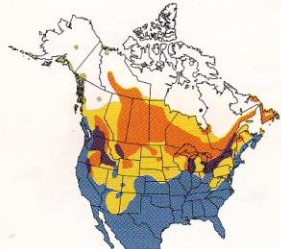


Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

l 17.5" ws 48" wr 1.1 lb (520 g)

Common; probably our most widely seen gull. Found on all bodies of water from small lakes and rivers to ocean; often also seen foraging on agricultural land or loitering around restaurants, parking lots, and city parks looking for handouts. In small groups where food is plentiful. The smallest of the common white-headed gulls, with relatively short bill and long slender wings. Juvenile has mostly white underside and rump with dark tail-band. On adult note yellow dark-ringed bill, yellow legs, and sharply contrasting black wingtips. **Voice:** High calls with wheezy scratchy quality.

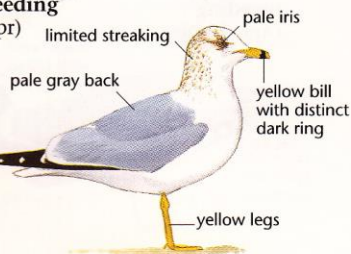


Juvenile
(Jul-Sep,
some to Dec)

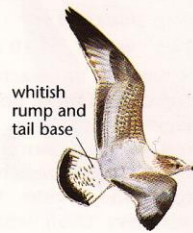


adult-like plumage
acquired after two years

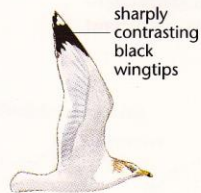
**Adult
nonbreeding**
(Sep-Apr)



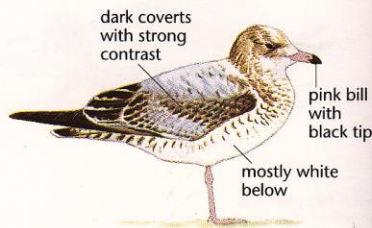
Paler 1st winter



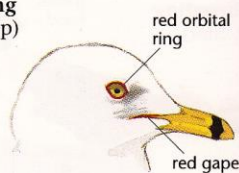
Adult nonbreeding



1st winter
(Sep-Apr)



**Adult
breeding**
(Apr-Sep)



Ring-billed Gull

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ring-billed_gull/id

SKUAS, JAEGERS, AND GULLS

Family: Laridae

These web-footed waterbirds are unique in being equally adept at swimming, walking, and flying. Skuas and jaegers are oceanic birds that come to land only to nest. On the nesting grounds they prey on lemmings, small birds, and other animals; at other seasons they pirate much of their food from other seabirds by chasing them and forcing them to relinquish captured prey. The conspicuous and gregarious gulls generally inhabit open areas (beaches, lakeshores, etc.) and are attracted to dumps, dams, restaurants, and other man-made concentrations of food. Most gulls are omnivorous, feeding on any food they can capture, glean, or scavenge. Large species mix freely where food is abundant, while smaller gulls tend to form discrete flocks. Most gulls belong to the genus *Larus* and are similar in basic structure and habits; the small-bodied "hooded gulls," which show a dark hood in breeding plumage, form a distinctive group. Identification is complicated by subtle differences between species, confusing immature plumages, and frequent hybridization. Adult nonbreeding gulls are shown, skuas and jaegers in breeding plumage.



Adult breeding

Ring-billed Gull

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ring-billed_gull/id

Adult non-breeding

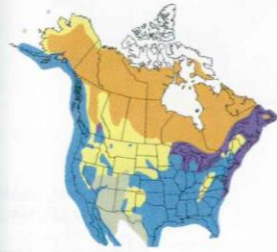


Herring Gull

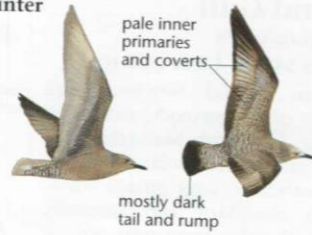
Larus argentatus

l 25" ws 58" wr 2.5 lb (1,150 g)

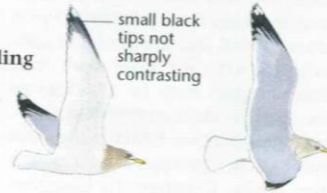
Common and widespread; the most frequently seen species of gull along much of Atlantic coast, but outnumbered inland by Ring-billed Gull. Gathers in large groups where food is abundant; most numerous of the large, white-headed gulls. Often roosts in parking lots, open fields, and similar areas. Forages for fish and other animal prey, largely scavenged, primarily on the water and at garbage dumps. Larger than Ring-billed. Juvenile and all first and second year birds have mostly dark tail and extensive brown on body. Adult has pale gray upperside, black wing-tips not sharply contrasting, and pink legs. **Voice:** Relatively low, clear, bugling calls.



1st winter



Adult nonbreeding



1st winter (Sep-Apr)



2nd winter (Aug-Apr)

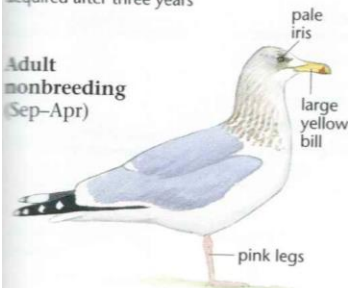


1st summer (Apr-Aug)

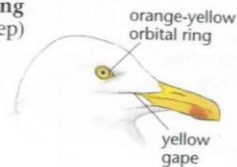


adult-like plumage acquired after three years

Adult nonbreeding (Sep-Apr)



Adult breeding (Feb-Sep)



Herring Gull

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/herring_gull/id



Adult breeding

Herring Gull

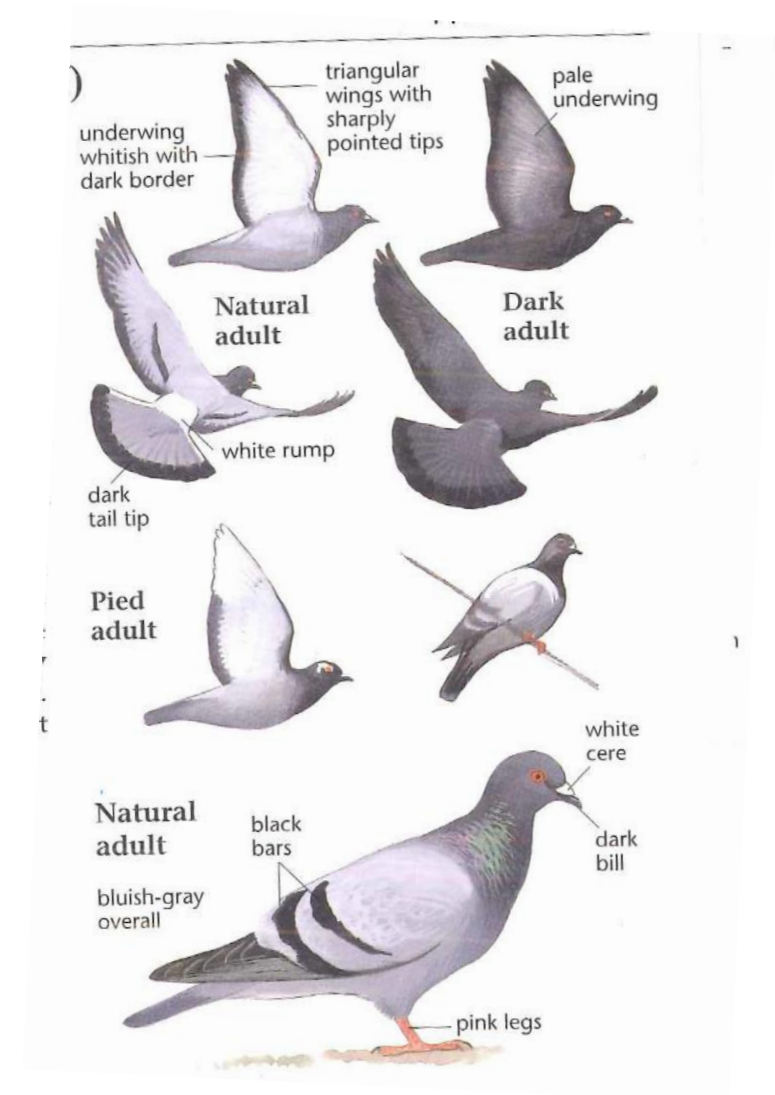
[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/
guide/herring_gull/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/herring_gull/id)

Adult non-breeding



Rock Pigeon

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/rock_pigeon/id



PIGEONS AND DOVES

Family: Columbidae

The familiar Rock Dove (the common city pigeon) and Mourning Dove are members of this family. Pigeons and doves typically have relatively small heads and bills, short legs, and strong direct flight. They feed on seeds and fruit; many species forage on the ground, walking with mincing steps and bobbing head. All species give low cooing calls. Tail pattern is often distinctive and very useful for identification. Adults are shown.

Rock Pigeon

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/rock_pigeon/id

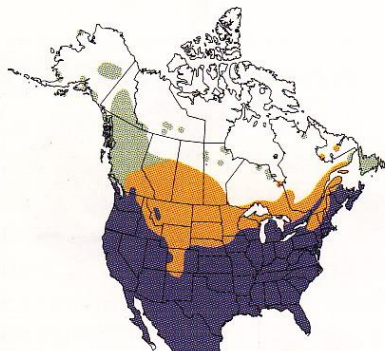


Mourning Dove

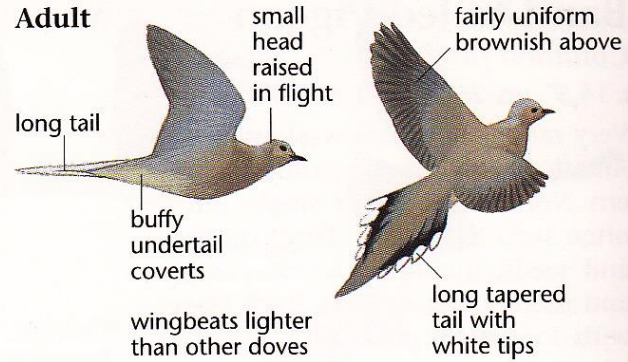
Zenaida macroura

L 12" ws 18" wt 4.2 oz (120 g)

Common and widespread in many suburban and agricultural habitats with mix of open ground and brushy cover. Usually in small groups. Forages mainly on the ground for seeds. Frequently seen on overhead wires or on the ground on lawns and at bird feeders. Our most slender dove, with long pointed tail and relatively narrow, pointed wings. Subtly colored in brown and gray; generally warm brown with buffy undertail coverts and black spots on wing coverts. Wings produce light airy whistle on takeoff. **Voice:** Song a mournful hooting *ooAAH cooo coo coo*; often mistaken for an owl. Sometimes also a strong single *poooooo*.

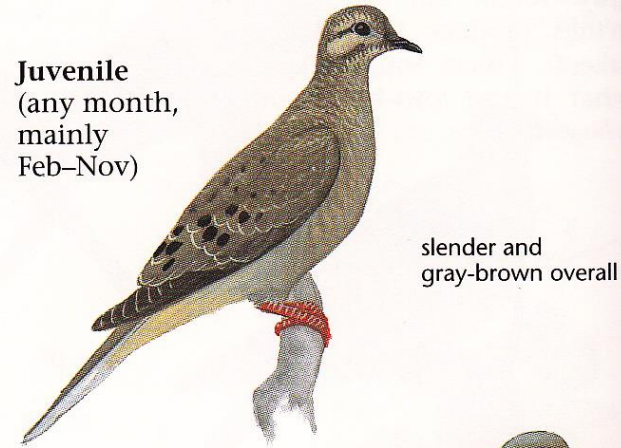


Adult

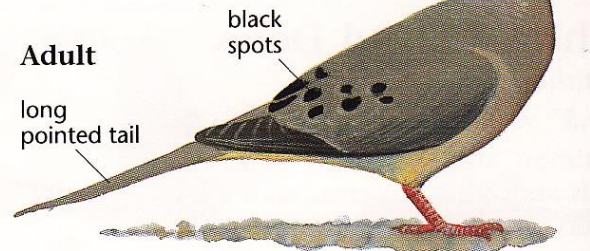


Juvenile

(any month, mainly Feb–Nov)



Adult



Mourning Dove

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/mourning_dove/id

Mourning Dove

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/mourning_dove/id



- Gray-brown dove, pointy tail
- Open habitats (grassland, agriculture, suburban)
- Diet: seeds, small grains

Great Horned Owl

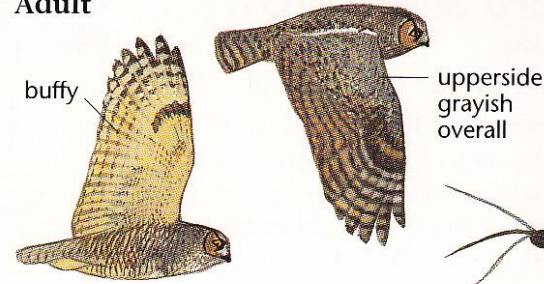
Bubo virginianus

L 22" ws 44" wt 3.1 lb (1,400 g)

Uncommon but widespread. Nocturnal: roosts during day in trees, on sheltered cliff ledges, or in other secluded spots; at night forages in woods, fields, and forest edges for medium-size mammals such as rabbits and skunks. Usually solitary. Large (like Red-tailed Hawk) and bulky; broad ear tufts create cat-like head shape. Note overall grayish upperside, barred underside, and tawny-orange face. **Voice:** Song a deep muffled hooting in rhythmic series *ho hoo hoo hoododo hooooo hoo*. Courting female answers male with nasal barking *guwaay*. Juvenile begs with high, wheezy or scratchy bark *reeeek* or *sheew*.



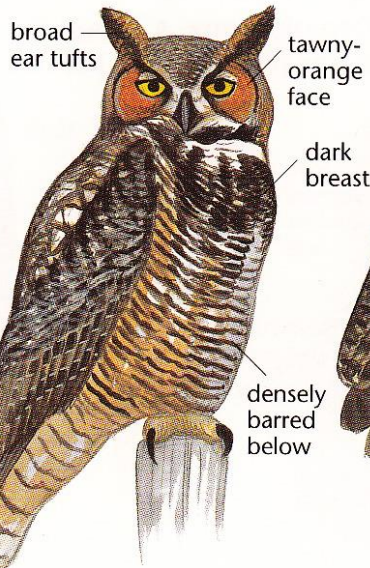
Adult



Fledgling (Mar-Aug)



Adult



Adult



Great Horned Owl

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Horned_Owl/id



Great Horned Owl

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Horned_Owl/id

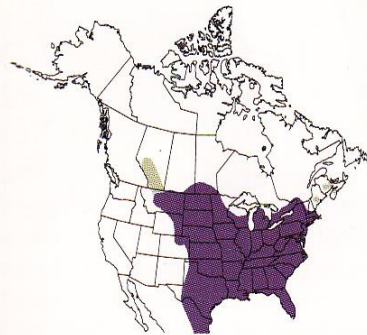


Eastern Screech-Owl

Otus asio

L 8.5" ws 20" wt 6 oz (180 g)

Uncommon but widespread; in many areas the only small owl. Strictly nocturnal: roosts during day in old woodpecker holes and other cavities or next to tree trunk; perches at night on low limbs in orchards, open woods, and along forest edges in search of insects and rodents. Usually solitary. Small and stocky; relatively short-tailed, broad-winged, and large-headed. Variable in color from bright rufous to plain grayish, but always intricately patterned. Also varies geographically: nearly always gray at western edge of range; larger and paler in Great Plains; smaller and darker along Mexican border. **Voice:** Primary song a strongly descending, whistled whinny. Tremolo song a long whistled trill on one pitch.



Eastern Screech-Owl

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern Screech-Owl/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Screech-Owl/id)



Red morph

- Small owl, gray or red phase, small ear tufts
- Wooded areas, common
- Diet: small vertebrates, larger insects

Eastern Screech-Owl

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Screech-Owl/id



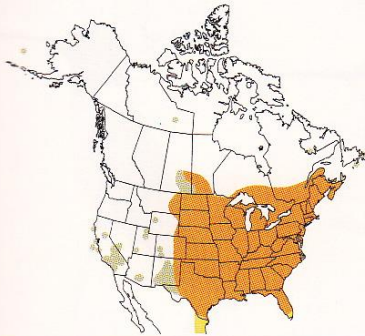
Red and gray morphs

Chimney Swift

Chaetura pelagica

L 5.25" ws 14" wt 0.81 oz (23 g)

Common and widespread. Nests almost exclusively in man-made chimneys, so most frequently seen around towns and cities. Usually in small groups, but gathers by the thousands at favored roost sites. Dark gray overall with no contrasting markings. Stubby cylindrical body and very stiff wings give rise to apt description "a cigar with wings." Voice: High hard chips run together into rapid, uneven, twittering series.



Chimney Swift

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/chimney_swift/id

SWIFTS

Family: *Apodidae*

Swifts are superficially similar to swallows but are easily distinguished by the very stiff movements of their scythe-shaped wings. They are related to hummingbirds and have a similar wing structure, with a very short "arm" (inner wing) and a long "hand" (outer wing). Swifts usually spend the entire day flying at high altitudes in search of tiny insects and floating spiders; during inclement weather, they may be seen coursing low over ponds and fields with swallows. They come to rest only at nest and roost sites in sheltered chimneys and cliff crevices and are virtually never seen perched. Adults are shown.



Chimney Swift

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/
guide/chimney_swift/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/chimney_swift/id)

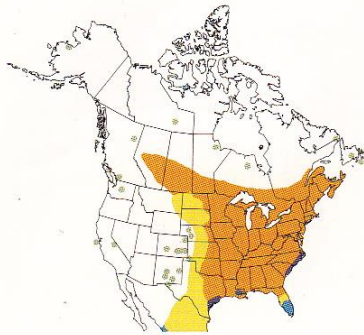


Ruby-throated Hummingbird

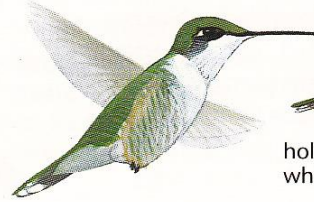
Archilochus colubris

L 3.75" ws 4.5" wt 0.11 oz (3.2 g)

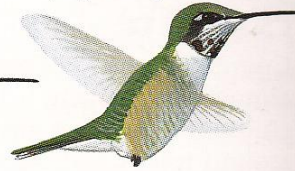
Common in wooded areas and edges of woods, especially at flowers or hummingbird feeders; the only hummingbird in most of our region (other species from western North America turn up mainly in late fall and winter). Often nests near water. Golden-green upperside, usually with green crown. Male's red throat and black chin distinctive. Wings of adult male produce faint high whistle in flight. **Voice:** Call a soft husky *tiiv* or *tipip*. Chase call sharp and sputtering. Male display includes high rattling notes.



Juvenile ♀
(Jun–Dec)



Subadult ♂
(Sep–Dec)



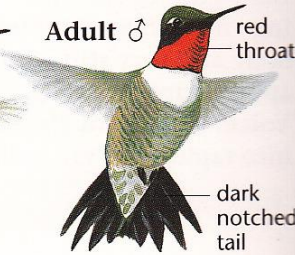
holds tail still
while hovering

bright golden-green above



Adult ♀

Adult ♂

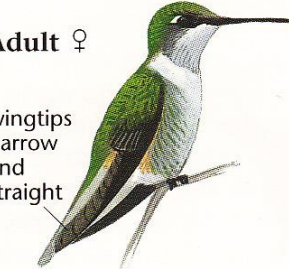


red throat

dark notched tail

Adult ♀

wingtips narrow and straight



Adult ♂



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ruby-throated_Hummingbird/id

HUMMINGBIRDS

Family: Trochilidae

These tiny birds with exceptionally long bills are unmistakable. They have extremely long and broad primaries and beat their wings up to 70 times per second in insect-like hovering flight. All hummingbirds are essentially solitary and aggressive; individuals in dispute over a territory give chattering "chase calls." Habitat preferences, while real, are of little use for identification, since all species congregate at feeders or flowers. Hummingbirds feed primarily on nectar from flowers and on tiny insects, either picking them from vegetation or capturing them in flight. Adult females are shown.



male

- Greenish above, pale below, male with iridescent red throat, long thin bill.
- Forest and forest edge
- Flower nectar, small insects

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ruby-throated_Hummingbird/id

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ruby-throated_Hummingbird/videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvqaKhjrCD8>



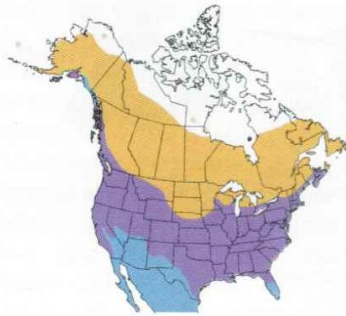
female

Belted Kingfisher

Ceryle alcyon

L 13" ws 20" wt 5 oz (150 g)

Uncommon but widespread around any sheltered open water with small fish. Often sits on prominent lookout perch such as a wire or pole, and often hovers over water to locate small fish before diving headfirst. Dark blue-gray above and mostly white below, with prominent white collar, shaggy crest, and large bill. In flight note irregular rowing wingbeats and white patch at base of primaries. **Voice:** Call a very distinctive, long, uneven, clattering rattle.



Belted Kingfisher

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Belted Kingfisher/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Belted_Kingfisher/id)

KINGFISHERS

Family: Alcedinidae

North American kingfishers are fish-eating birds found on sheltered waters. They search for prey from a lookout perch on trees or wires and often hover over open water before plunge-diving headfirst to capture small fish. Belted and Ringed Kingfishers are large, loud, and conspicuous; they prefer more open settings and prominent perches and hover frequently. Green Kingfisher is small, inconspicuous, and quiet; it favors sheltered creeks and pools, where it perches on low twigs and flies low over the water, rarely hovering. All three kingfishers are solitary and nest in holes excavated in dirt banks. Adult females are shown.



male

Belted Kingfisher

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Belted Kingfisher/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Belted%20Kingfisher/id)

female



- Blue-gray above, 'shaggy' crest, white with breast band(s) below (female with 2!)
- Riparian areas, lakes, ponds, marshes
- Diet: Plunge-dives for fish, aquatic vertebrates

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKwaWhrmmA>

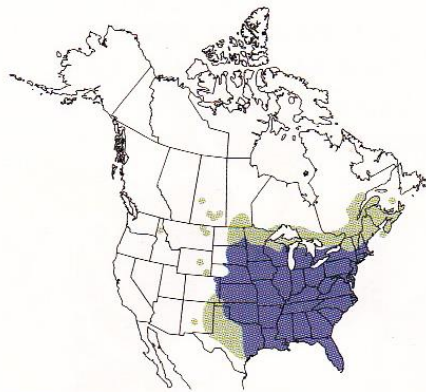
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wF0Xxy61cBI>

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Melanerpes carolinus

L 9.25" ws 16" wt 2.2 oz (63 g)

Common in mature deciduous woods. Note uniformly barred back, brown underparts, and red nape. Faint wash of red on belly rarely visible, but bright red nape always conspicuous. Population in southern Florida has all-black central tail feathers like Golden-fronted Woodpecker. **Voice:** Call a loud rich *quirrr*; in flight a single low *chug*. Also a harsh *chig-chig*, or a series of *chig* notes delivered slowly or rapidly. Drum medium speed and length; sometimes begins with one or several separate taps.



Red-bellied Woodpecker

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-bellied_Woodpecker/id

WOODPECKERS

Family: Picidae

Woodpeckers use their stiff tail feathers as props while clinging to tree bark and their straight, chisel-like bills to peel bark or excavate wood in search of wood-boring insects. They nest in excavated tree cavities and announce their territory by rapidly drumming their bill against a hollow tree or other resonant object. These drumming sounds are often distinctive and may be used as an aid in identification. Woodpeckers are mostly solitary. Flight of most species is undulating, with noisy heavy wingbeats. Adult females are shown.



male

- Black & white above, pale below, red on nape; robin-sized
- Wooded habitats
- Diet: Mostly insects, seeds

Red-bellied Woodpecker

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-bellied_Woodpecker/id



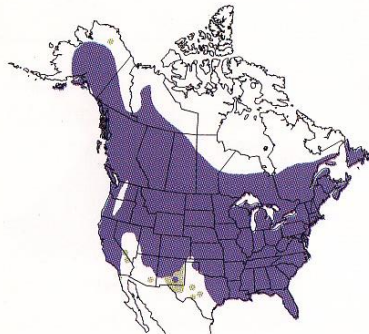
female

Downy Woodpecker

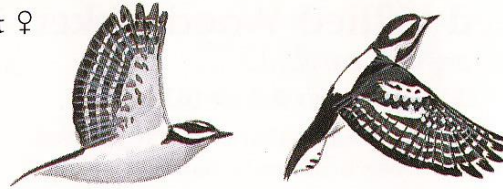
Picoides pubescens

L 6.75" ws 12" WT 0.95 oz (27 g)

Common in any wooded habitat, especially deciduous woods with patches of smaller trees or brush. More numerous than very similar Hairy Woodpecker. Often forages along twigs and weed stems. Our smallest woodpecker, with very short bill. Distinguished from all woodpeckers except Hairy by white patch on back and mostly unmarked whitish flanks. Differs from Hairy by smaller size, relatively small bill, foraging habitat, and voice; note that dark bars on outer tail feathers are shown by some Hairy Woodpeckers. Also note Downy's more conspicuous tuft of nasal bristles. **Voice:** Call a short, gentle, flat *pik*. Rattle call slow, squeaky, and descending. Drum relatively short and slow; repeated frequently, usually 10 or more times per minute.



Adult ♀

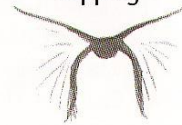


red crown

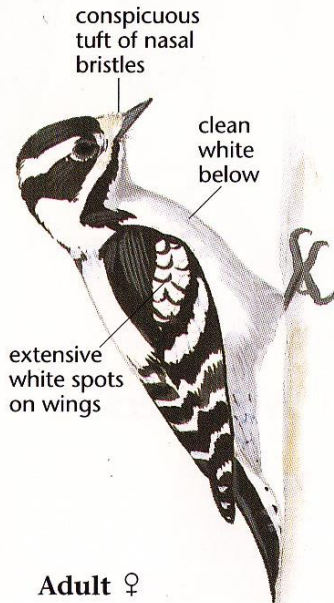
Juvenile (Jul-Aug)



flapping



conspicuous tuft of nasal bristles

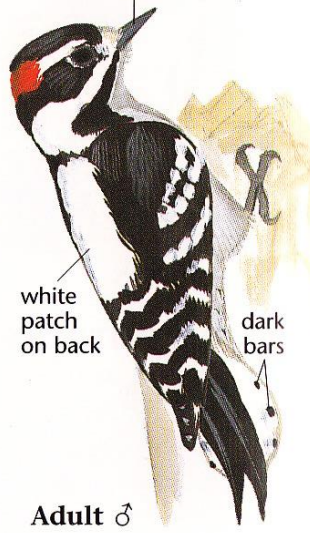


clean white below

extensive white spots on wings

Adult ♀

small bill



white patch on back

dark bars

Adult ♂

Downy Woodpecker

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/downy_Woodpecker/id



male

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUTJ5dA_rVg

- Small size, black & white above, males with red spot on neck
- Wooded habitats
- Diet: seeds, insects

Downy Woodpecker

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/downy_Woodpecker/id



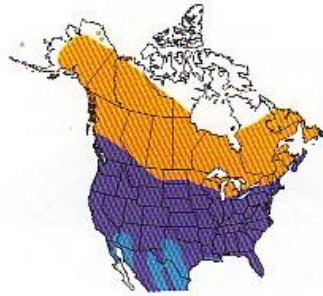
female

Northern Flicker

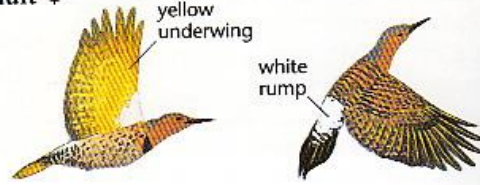
Colaptes auratus

L 12.5" WS 20" WT 4.6 oz (130 g)

Common and widespread in wooded areas with openings. Unlike other woodpeckers, this species forages largely on the ground, feeding on ants. A large woodpecker, with long, slightly downcurved bill. Striking plumage always distinctive: brownish with barred back, spotted belly, and black breast-band. White rump and yellow underwing startling in flight. Both sexes have red crescent on nape; male has black malar. Flickers in most of eastern North America are the Yellow-shafted form. Voice: Call a high piercing *keew*. Song a long strong series *kwikwikwikwi* . . . continuing up to 15 seconds. Drum variable.



Adult ♀



Adult ♀



red crescent on nape
brown face and throat
black malar

Adult ♂



Northern Flicker

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Flicker/id



male

Northern Flicker

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Flicker/id

female



male



- Yellow underside of wings, brownish and barred above red nape, robin-sized
- Open woods, forest edge, often on ground
- Mostly insects, ants, seeds

Pileated Woodpecker

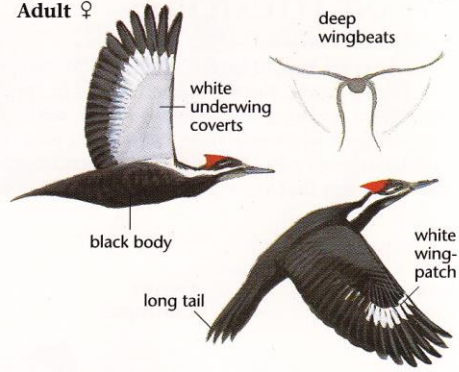
Dryocopus pileatus

L 16.5" ws 29" wt 10 oz (290 g)

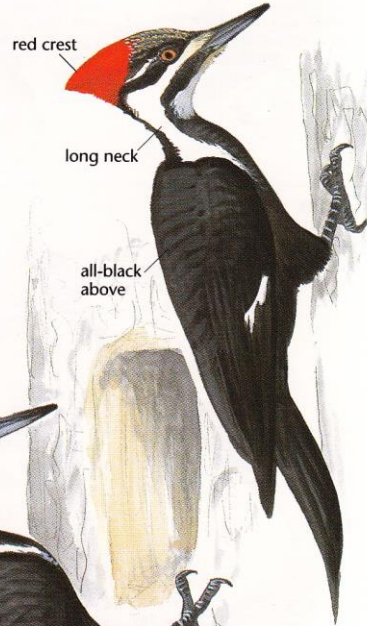
Uncommon but widespread; sparsely distributed in mature hardwood forests. Favorite foods include carpenter ants, so often forages low on dead trees or even on fallen logs, creating distinctive oval or rectangular holes. Unmistakable: crow-size, with long neck, red crest, and obvious white wing-patch. Flight fairly direct (not undulating like other woodpeckers) with deep, irregular, rowing wingbeats. **Voice:** Call a single loud, deep, resonant *wek* or *kuk*; often gives a slow series of *wek* notes similar to Northern Flicker, but slower, with irregular rhythm and deeper wilder sound. Also a higher, more rapid series *kuk kuk keekeekekekekekekekekekuk kuk*. Drum slow, powerful, accelerating, and trailing off at end; infrequent, no more than two times per minute.



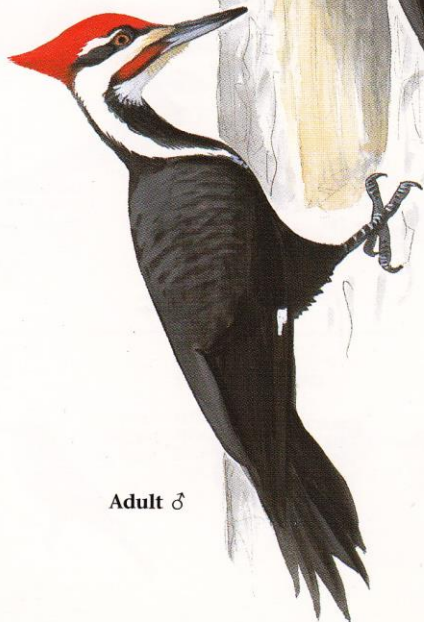
Adult ♀



Adult ♀



Adult ♂



Pileated Woodpecker

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Pileated_woodpecker/id



Pileated Woodpecker

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Pileated_woodpecker/id

- Black bodied, red crest on head, large (crow-sized)
- Forested habitats
- Mostly wood-boring insects, fruits, seeds

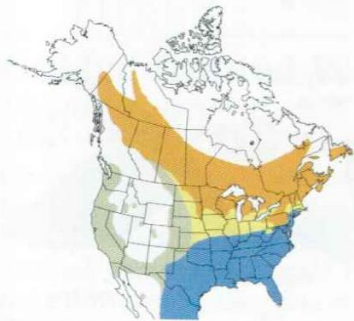


Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Sphyrapicus varius

l 8.5" ws 16" wt 1.8 oz (50 g)

Uncommon. Nests in mixed woodlands, especially in aspens. Winters in any woodlands. Less active than other woodpeckers, perching and tapping quietly. Drills small shallow holes in tree bark (note characteristic pattern of lined-up rows), feeding on sap and on insects attracted to sap. Bold white bar across upperwing coverts and unbroken white stripe from slender bill to belly distinctive. Juvenile retains distinctive brownish plumage through winter. Nearly identical to Red-naped Sapsucker, which replaces Yellow-bellied to the west. **Voice:** Call a nasal, squealing or mewling *neeeah*. Drum a burst of about five rapid taps followed by gradual slowing with occasional double taps.



Adult ♀



white bar



brownish overall

white coverts

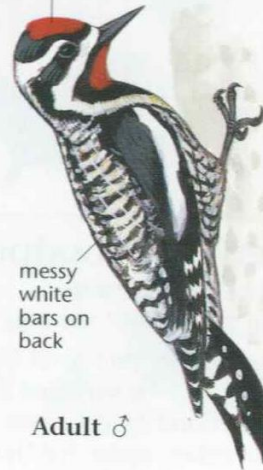
Juvenile
(Jul-Mar)

long white "mustache"



Adult ♀

red crown



messy white bars on back

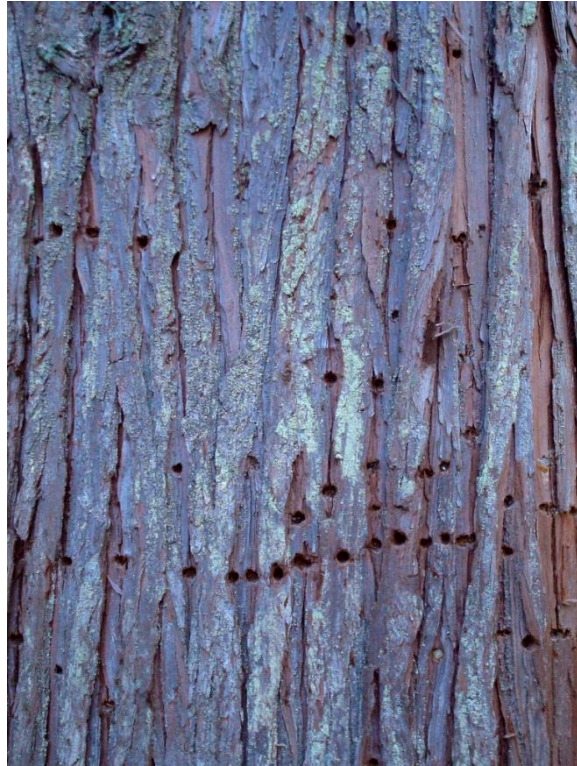
Adult ♂

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Yellow-bellied_Sapsucker/id



female



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Yellow-bellied Sapsucker/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Yellow-bellied_Sapsucker/id)

- Black & white above, pale below, black on chest, white wing stripe, red crown, males with red throat
- Wooded habitats
- Mostly tree sap and small insects (drills a row of holes in tree trunk)



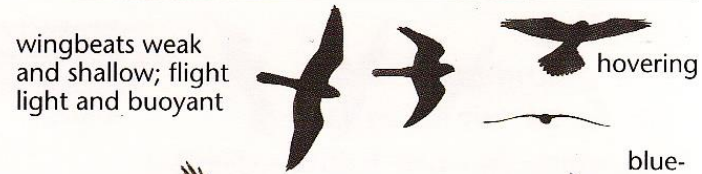
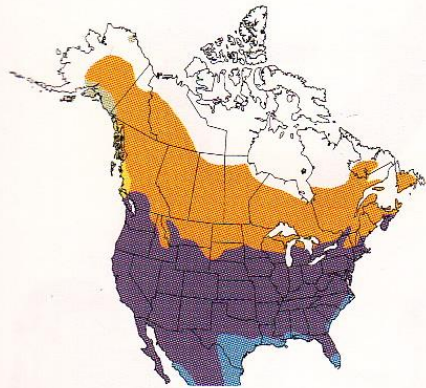
male

American Kestrel

Falco sparverius

L 9" ws 22" wt 4.1 oz (117 g)

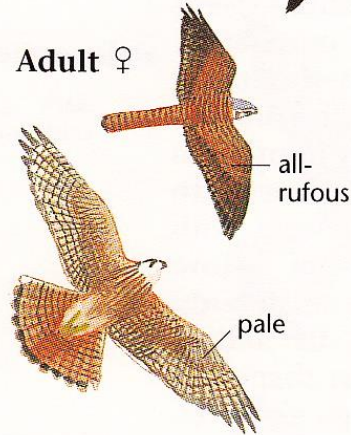
Uncommon in many open habitats from desert grasslands to meadows to brushy fields; often seen on roadside wires or fenceposts, pumping its tail. Nests in tree cavities, birdhouses, or crevices in buildings. Solitary. Hunts within small range, mainly for insects and small mammals from perch or by hovering and dropping straight down. Our smallest falcon. Small size, habits, and rufous color distinctive. **Voice:** Shrill screaming *killy killy killy*. . . .



wingbeats weak and shallow; flight light and buoyant

hovering

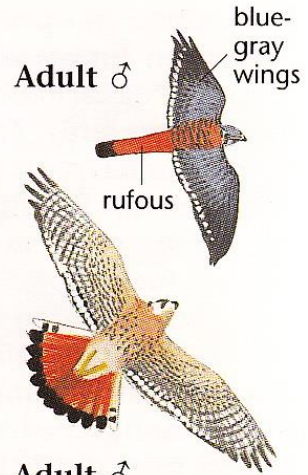
Adult ♀



all-rufous

pale

Adult ♂



blue-gray wings

rufous

Adult ♀



boldly patterned head

rufous barred

juvenile ♂ and ♀ resemble respective adult

Adult ♂



habitually bobs tail when perched

American Kestrel

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Kestrel/id

female



American Kestrel

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Kestrel/id



male

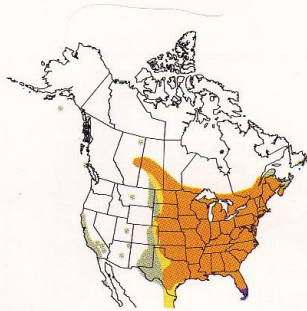


Great Crested Flycatcher

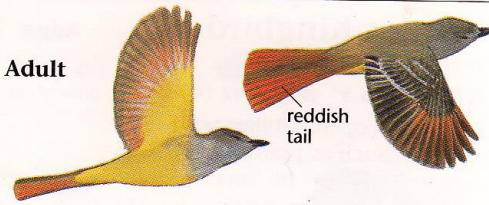
Myiarchus crinitus

l 8.75" ws 13" wt 1.2 oz (34 g)

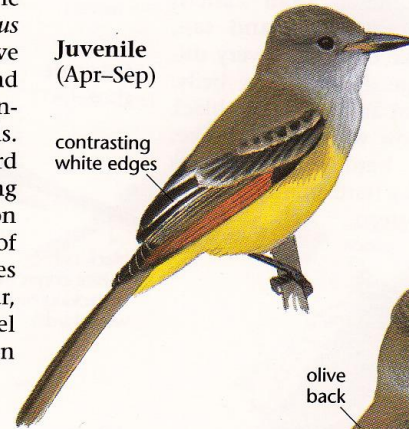
Common in mature deciduous forests. Solitary or in pairs. Forages for insects and berries from perch on twigs within middle to upper levels of trees, rarely in open. A large and somewhat secretive flycatcher. The most richly colored of the *Myiarchus* flycatchers, with gray head, olive back, rufous wings and tail, and bright yellow belly; also note contrasting blackish and white tertials. Yellow belly extends farther forward than on other *Myiarchus*, merging with gray breast in olive patch on sides of breast. **Voice:** Song a series of clear, strong, alternated phrases *quitta* and *queeto*. Call a strong, clear, rising *queep* and a rough level *KRREEP*, often strung together in an excited series.



Adult

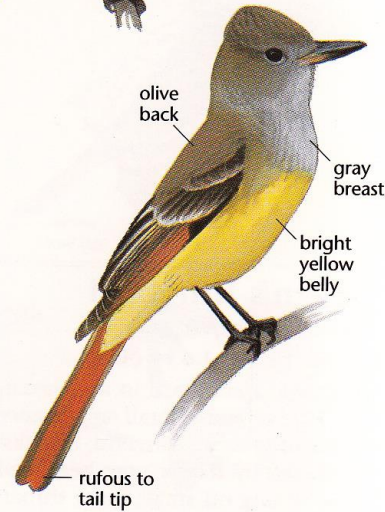


Juvenile
(Apr-Sep)



contrasting
white edges

Adult



olive
back

gray
breast

bright
yellow
belly

rufous to
tail tip

Great Crested Flycatcher

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Crested_Flycatcher/id

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Family: Tyrannidae

Flycatchers are named for their habit of catching flying insects in midair, usually in a short sally from a perch. Nearly all species feed in this way; some also eat berries or other food. Their flight is strong, buoyant, and agile, with quick turns and abrupt movements. They perch upright while watching intently for prey. Most flycatchers are drab and have short, broad, flattened bills. Plumage and structure can be so similar among species within the various genera that voice is the primary field mark. Adults are shown.



Great Crested Flycatcher

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Crested_Flycatcher/id

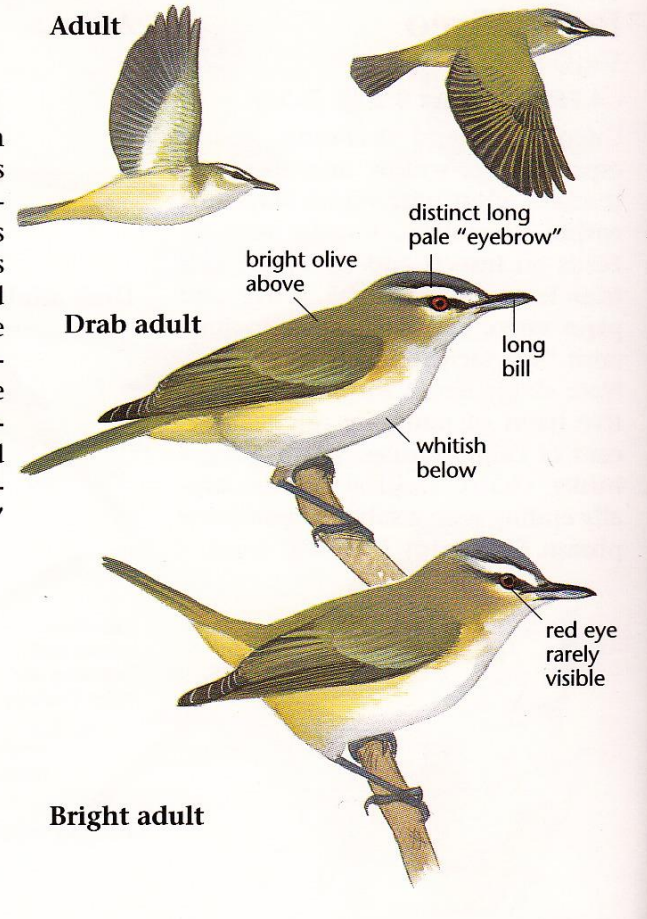
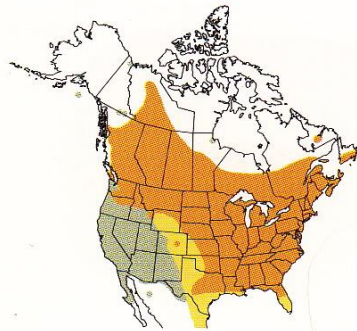


Red-eyed Vireo

Vireo olivaceus

L 6" WS 10" WT 0.6 oz (17 g)

Common and widespread. Nests in broadleaf trees in forests; migrants found in any wooded habitat. Usually at middle to upper levels of trees within foliage. Usually solitary. Feeds on insects, larvae, and berries gleaned from trees. A large and elongate vireo with long bill; long pale "eyebrow" and dark eye-line accentuate long-headed look. **Voice:** Song a series of simple, hurried, whistled phrases sounding like "here-I-am, in-the-tree, look-up, at-the-top. . . ." Call a nasal mewing *meerf*.



Red-eyed Vireo

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-eyed_Vireo/id

SHRIKES AND VIREOS

Families: Laniidae, Vireonidae

Shrikes (Laniidae) are predatory songbirds with hooked bills. They perch conspicuously on fences, wires, and treetops, where they search for insects and small vertebrates up to the size of sparrows and mice. They sometimes cache captured prey on thorns for later consumption. Vireos (Vireonidae) are small, relatively stocky songbirds with stout hooked bills and short strong legs. Plumage is generally drab and all species show either an eye-stripe or "spectacled" pattern around the eye. They are usually solitary or in pairs, but often join mixed flocks of other forest songbirds such as warblers and chickadees. Vireos feed on insects and larvae gleaned from leaves, as well as berries. Songs and calls are remarkably similar between some species; song is partially learned and cannot be relied upon for identification. Adults are shown.



Red-eyed Vireo

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-eyed_Vireo/id

- Small songbird, olive green above, pale below, gray crown, slight 'hook' to bill
- Wooded habitats
- Diet: insects, small fruits

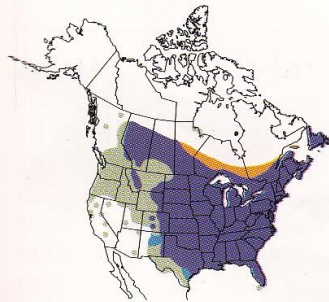


Blue Jay

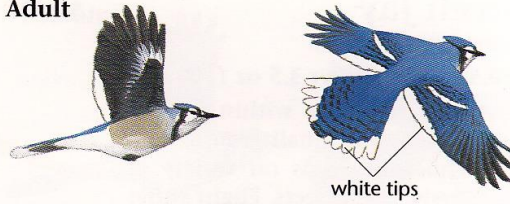
Cyanocitta cristata

L 11" ws 16" wt 3 oz (85 g)

Common and widespread in woods. Travels through woods in small groups or pairs; during migration may gather in larger flocks. Feeds on variety of insects as well as acorns and other seeds. Flight steady, with rowing wingbeats and short, sailing or swooping glides. Truly unmistakable, with bright blue wings and tail, flashing white patches, blue crest, and dark "necklace." **Voice:** Varied; most common call a shrill, harsh, descending scream *jaaaay*. Other calls include a clear whistled *toolili* and expert mimicry of hawks.



Adult

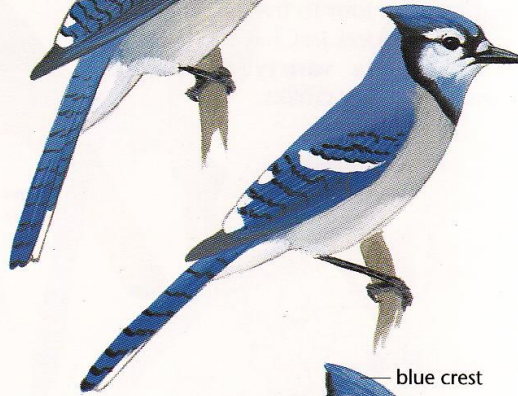


white tips

Juvenile
(May–Aug)



Dark adult



blue crest

dark
"necklace"

pale gray
underparts
with white
belly

Pale adult



Blue Jay

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/blue_jay/id

JAYS, CROWS, AND THEIR ALLIES

Family: Corvidae

These are relatively large, sturdy songbirds with thick bills, strong legs, and loud voices. All species are rather social and usually travel in groups. They are noisy and aggressive, often mobbing predators such as hawks and owls, but become surprisingly inconspicuous when nesting. Most are omnivorous, eating anything from insects to fruit to carrion; nuts and seeds are important in the diet of all species, and some specialize in seeds of particular trees such as oaks or pinyon pine. Adults are shown.



Blue Jay

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/blue_jay/id

- Various shades of blue above, crested head, pale below with black collar
- Wooded habitats
- Mostly insects, seeds, nuts (esp. acorns) – watch for caching behavior!!

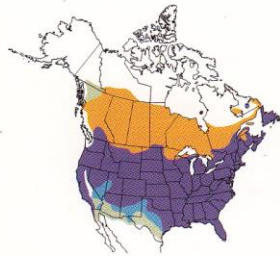


American Crow

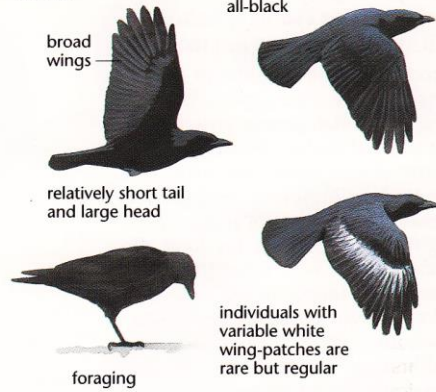
Corvus brachyrhynchos

l 17.5" ws 39" wr 1 lb (450 g)

Common and widespread; certainly one of the best-known birds in eastern North America. Found in small groups (occasionally large flocks) in all open habitats from beaches and farmland to suburbs and open woods. Forms large communal roosts at night where thousands of individuals gather in trees. Feeds on great variety of animal and vegetable food. Generally flies high in small loose groups; flight direct, with steady rowing wingbeats. All-black; distinguished from other crows and ravens by structure and voice. **Voice:** Common call the familiar, full-voiced *caaw* with great variety of inflection and pitch; also a hollow rattle. Juvenile calls higher and hoarser; often a drawn-out *cahrrr*.



Adult



Juvenile (Jun–Aug)



Habits of Crows

Crows are quite social and are usually seen in small flocks. They communicate with a great variety of cawing sounds. Groups often gather to mob hawks or owls, and a particularly excited-sounding caw announces the presence of those predators. Mobbing is a poorly understood phenomenon in which one or more members of a species, or even several species in concert, chase, dive-bomb, or surround a predator, often vocalizing vigorously. The intent of such attacks is largely to encourage the "enemy" to move on to another area.



American Crow

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/american_crow/id



American Crow

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/american_crow/id

- Solid black, slight iridescence
- Diverse array of open habitats
- Diet: Generalist, insects, seeds, fruit, small vertebrates, bird eggs.
- Social: communal rooster, mobbing behavior

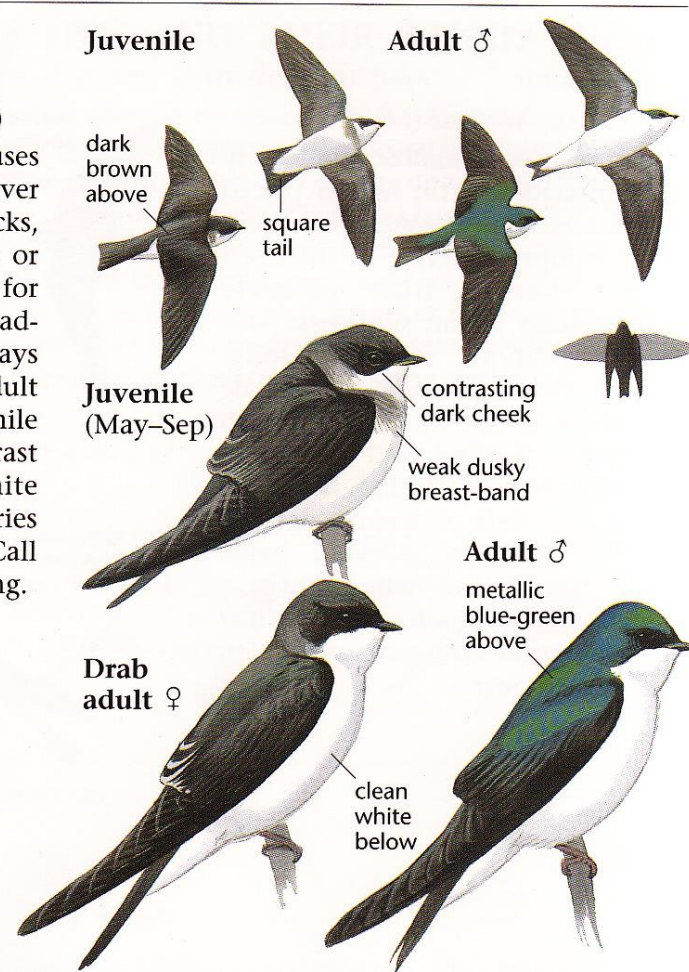
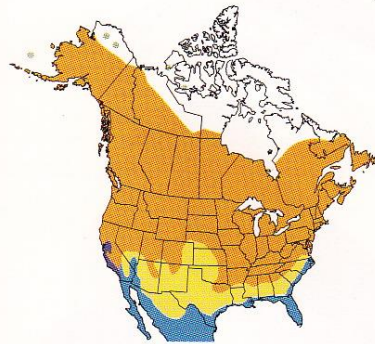


Tree Swallow

Tachycineta bicolor

L 5.75" ws 14.5" wt 0.7 oz (20 g)

Common. Nests singly in birdhouses or tree cavities in open fields or over water. Often seen in large flocks, perching on wires or in bushes or reeds. Forages over fields or water for berries and insects. Relatively broad-winged, with notched tail. Always dark above and white below: adult metallic blue-green above, juvenile brownish; all show sharp contrast between dark cheek and white throat. **Voice:** Song a repeated series of clear, sweet, whistled phrases. Call a high liquid chirping or twittering.



Tree Swallow

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/tree_swallow/id

SWALLOWS

Family: Hirundinidae

Swallows are aerial songbirds with very short legs and bills and relatively long and pointed wings. They feed almost exclusively on flying insects captured in graceful swooping flight (Tree Swallow also eats berries). Foraging groups gather where prey is abundant and may be seen flying over grassy meadows or ponds and resting on exposed perches such as overhead wires. All species may occur together in these feeding aggregations. Nest construction varies widely between species, and some are colonial breeders. Adult females are shown.



Tree Swallow

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/tree_swallow/id

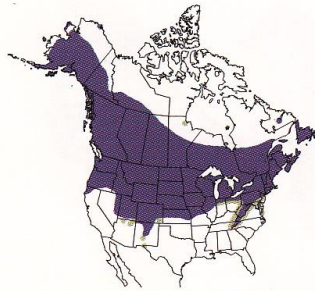


Black-capped Chickadee

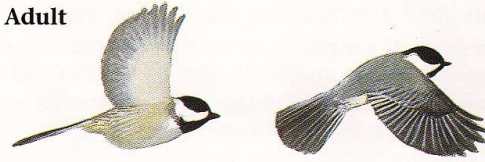
Poecile atricapilla

L 5.25" ws 8" wt 0.39 oz (11 g)

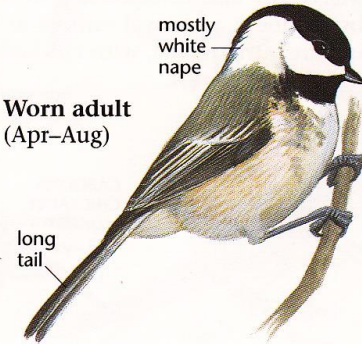
Common and widespread in any wooded habitat. In small groups; may loosely associate with other woodland songbirds such as warblers, kinglets, creepers, nuthatches, and titmice. Feeds on seeds, insects, and spiders gleaned from twigs. Small, fluffy, large-headed, and long-tailed. Black cap and throat with white cheek distinctive. Flight slow, deeply undulating, and usually flies only short distances between trees. **Voice:** Song a simple, high, clear, whistled *fee-beeyee* with second part lower than first. Call the familiar chattering *chikadee dee dee dee*.



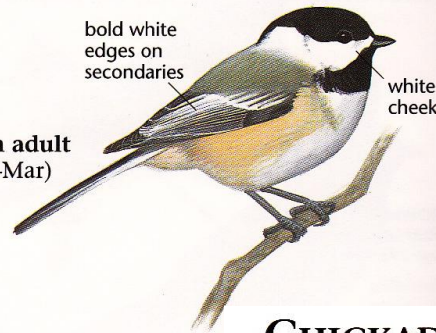
Adult



Worn adult
(Apr–Aug)



Fresh adult
(Sep–Mar)



Black-capped Chickadee

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black-capped_Chickadee/id

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, AND THEIR ALLIES

Families: Aegithalidae, Certhiidae, Paridae, Remizidae, Sittidae

These small songbirds are often seen together in mixed-species flocks searching woodlands for insects and seeds. The nuthatches and creepers have unusual foraging methods: Brown Creeper (Certhiidae) uses its long tail as a prop and climbs in a woodpecker-like fashion; nuthatches (Sittidae) cling to bark with only their legs and feet, and are capable of climbing sideways or head-down. Chickadees and titmice (Paridae), Verdin (Remizidae), and Bushtit (Aegithalidae) have short strong bills and strong legs. They are active birds moving nervously and acrobatically as they search vegetation for food, and are among the most frequent and loyal visitors to bird feeders. All except Verdin occur in small groups and are rather social, with chickadees often forming the nucleus of mixed-species flocks. Adults are shown.

Black-capped Chickadee

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black-capped_Chickadee/id



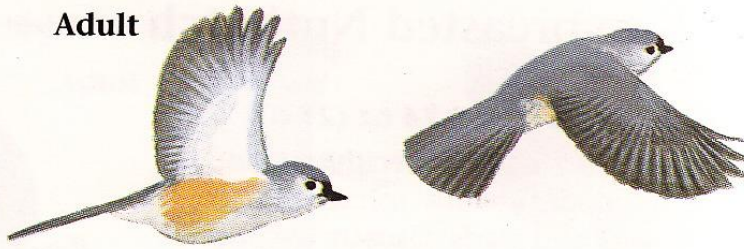
- Black throat and cap, gray above, pale below, small size.
- Wooded habitats, forest edge
- Diet: small insects, seeds, fruits
- Very social, occurs in groups, mixed-species flocks, mobbing behavior!

Tufted Titmouse

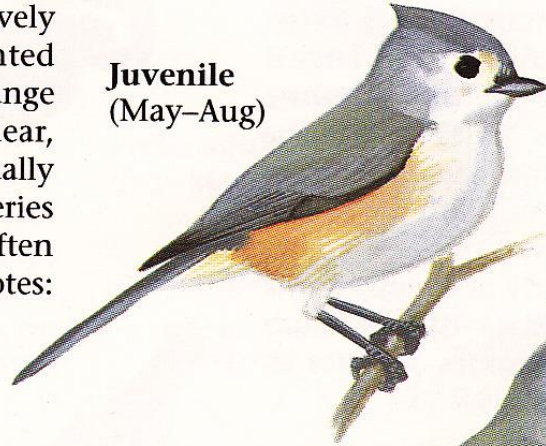
Baeolophus bicolor

L 6.5" ws 9.75" wt 0.75 oz (21.5 g)

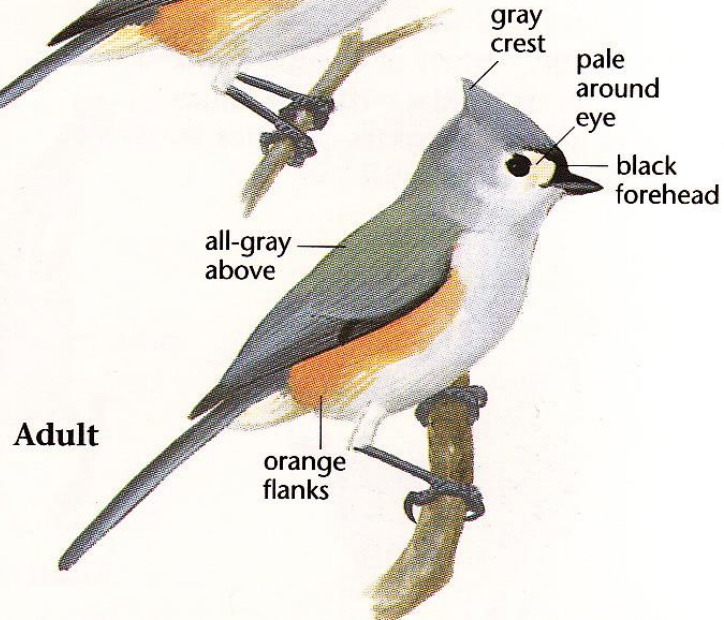
Common and widespread in mature deciduous woods. In pairs or small groups. Feeds on insects and seeds. Larger than chickadees and relatively short-tailed, with small pointed crest. Pale gray overall, with orange flanks. **Voice:** Song a low, clear, whistled *peter peter peter peter*, usually strongly two-syllabled. Call a series of angry, nasal, rising notes often preceded by very high, thin notes: *ti ti ti sii sii zhree zhree zhree*.



Adult



Juvenile
(May–Aug)



Adult

Tufted Titmouse

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/tufted_titmouse/id



Tufted Titmouse

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/tufted_titmouse/id

- Gray above, with crest on head, rusty sides,
- Wooded habitats, forest edge
- Diet: small insects, seeds, fruits
- Very social, occurs in groups, mixed-species flocks, mobbing behavior!

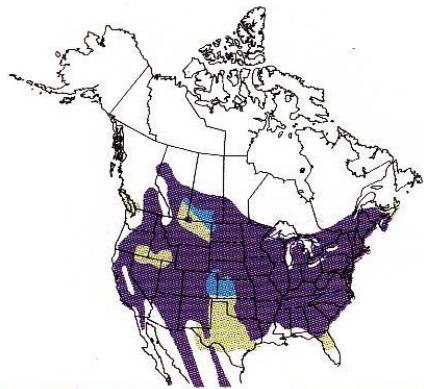


White-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta carolinensis

L 5.75" ws 11" wt 0.74 oz (21 g)

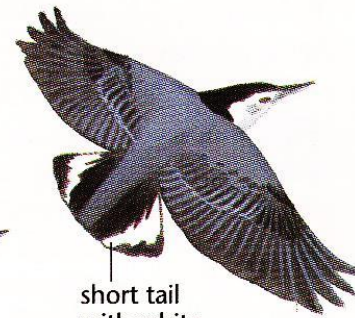
Common in mature deciduous and mixed woods. Usually solitary. Feeds on insects and seeds. Usually seen on trunk or major limbs of trees, often climbing head-down. Our largest nuthatch; note extensively white head with narrow dark crown-stripe and long bill. **Voice:** Song a series of soft, nasal, whistled notes *whi-whi-whi-whi-whi-whi-whi* on one pitch. Call a nasal, slightly descending *yenk* or *renk*. Birds in Black Hills of South Dakota give faster series of notes *yi-didididid* or *yidi-yidi-yidi*.



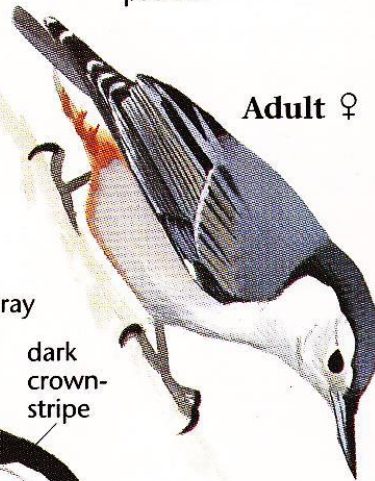
Adult ♂



short tail
with white
pattern



Adult ♀



blue-gray
above

dark
crown-
stripe

all-white
face

Adult ♂



White-breasted Nuthatch

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/White-breasted_Nuthatch/id

female



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUTJ5dA_rVg

- Blue-gray above, black cap, white face and underparts, rusty flanks
- Wooded habitats, forest edge
- Diet: small insects, seeds
- Climbs up and down tree trunks, nasal call note, joins mixed-species flocks

White-breasted Nuthatch

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/
White-breasted Nuthatch/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/White-breasted_Nuthatch/id)



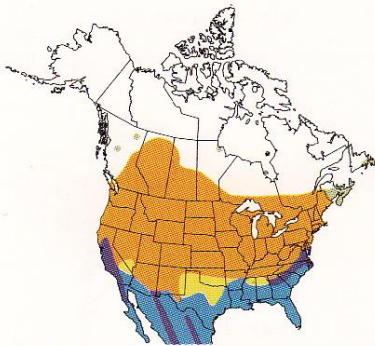
male

House Wren

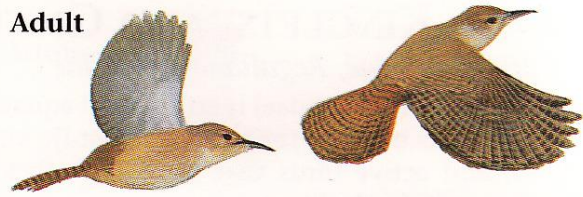
Troglodytes aedon

L 4.75" ws 6" wt 0.39 oz (11 g)

Common in brushy tangles at edges of woods, overgrown gardens, and hedgerows, where its loud bubbling song is familiar sound. Small and relatively slender. Drab gray-brown overall, with pale "eyebrow," faint eye-ring, and pale underparts. **Voice:** Song a rapid bubbling series of trills and rattles, rolling and descending. Calls varied, from dry harsh scold notes to higher, more nasal whining notes and dry *chek* notes.

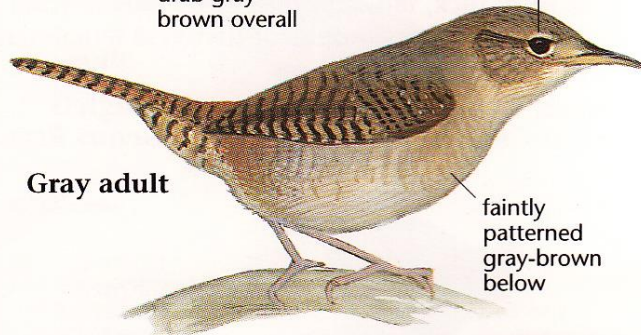


Adult



drab gray-brown overall

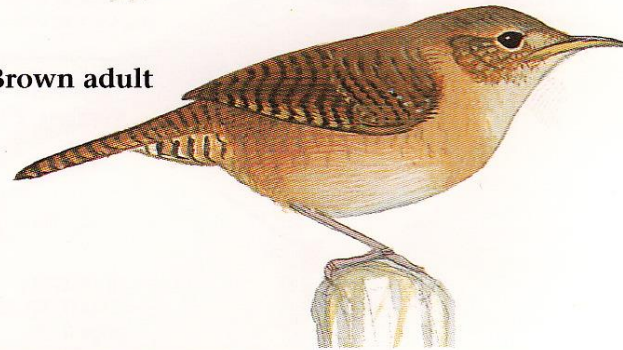
faint eye-ring and pale "eyebrow"



Gray adult

faintly patterned gray-brown below

Brown adult



House Wren

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/House_Wren/id

WRENS

Family: Troglodytidae

Wrens are mostly small brown birds with narrow heads and long slender bills, adaptations for probing deep into crevices as they search for food. Active and secretive, they creep through vegetation, foraging for insects and fruit, often with their tail raised above the back. They are almost always solitary. Most nest in cavities such as birdhouses, but a few species build globular nests of sticks and grass. Wrens are aggressive toward predators, at least vocally, and give a wide variety of loud, harsh, scolding calls. Adults are shown.



House Wren

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/House_Wren/id

- Small size, plain brown above, paler below; note fine barring in tail and wing.
- Dense undergrowth, forest edge
- Diet: small insects, spiders

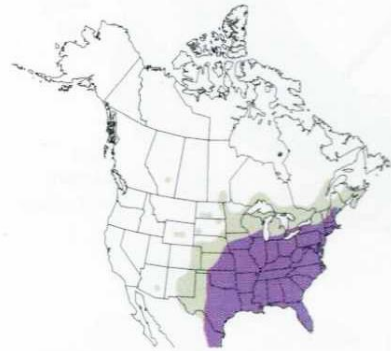


Carolina Wren

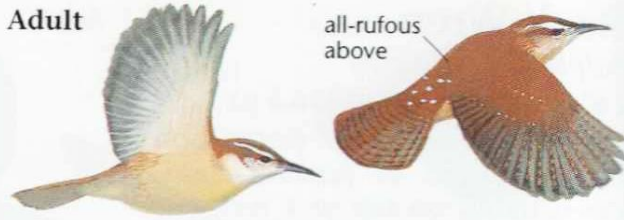
Thryothorus ludovicianus

L 5.5" WS 7.5" WT 0.74 oz (21 g)

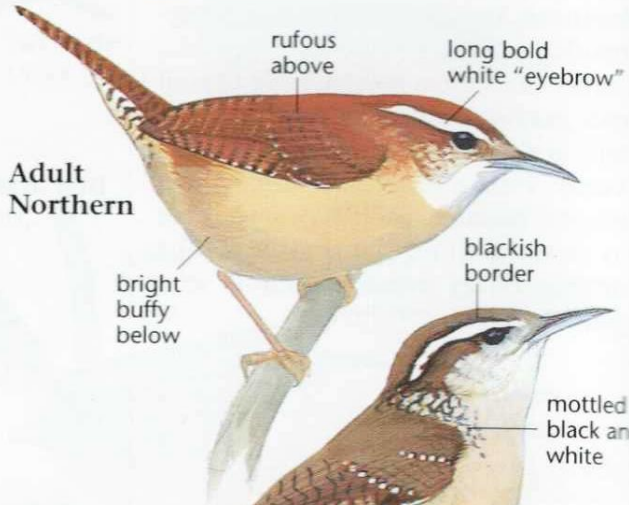
Common in dense brushy tangles within woods. A rather large and stocky wren, but still a small bird. Reddish-brown overall, with long bold white "eyebrow." Beware confusion with Bewick's Wren. Mexican population (found in southern Texas) is browner and more distinctly marked overall. **Voice:** Song a rich rolling chant of three- or four-syllable phrases *pidaro pidaro pidaro* or *TWEEpudo TWEEpudo TWEEP*. Calls varied, including rich scold notes and a low solid *didip*.



Adult



Adult Northern



Adult Mexican



Carolina Wren

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/carolina_wren/id



Carolina Wren

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Carolina_Wren/id



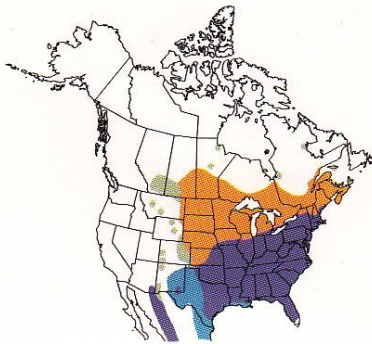
- Rusty brown above, white line above eye, buffy underparts
- Dense undergrowth in forest edge
- Diet: small insects, spiders, seeds

Eastern Bluebird

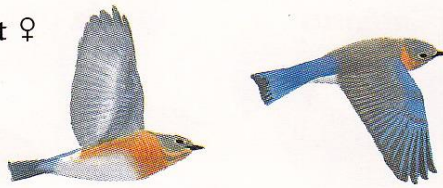
Sialia sialis

L 7" ws 13" wt 1.1 oz (31 g)

Uncommon in mixture of open fields and trees, such as orchards, golf courses, and parks. Nests in boxes or tree cavities. Usually in small groups of up to 10 that roam from one area to another in search of food. Feeds on insects and fruit gleaned from the ground or vegetation. A rather small and stocky thrush. No other eastern bird has bright blue wings and tail with orange breast. **Voice:** Song consists of pleasing soft whistles *chiti WEEW wewidoo*. Call a soft husky *jeew wiwi* and a short dry chatter.

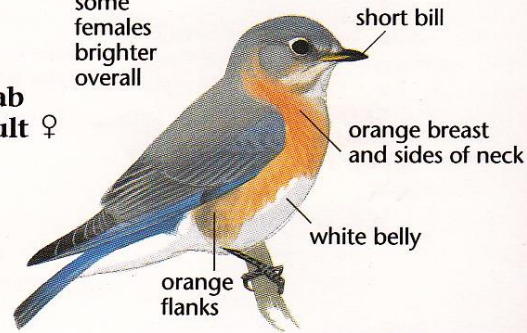


Adult ♀



some females brighter overall

Drab adult ♀



Adult ♂



Eastern Bluebird

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/eastern_bluebird/id

THRUSHES

Family: *Turdidae*

Thrushes are a diverse group that includes such familiar species as bluebirds and American Robin, and well-known songsters like Wood Thrush. Most have short, blunt-tipped bills and relatively long legs and are known for their beautiful fluting songs. They feed mainly on insects, snails, and fruit and are somewhat retiring and solitary, although a few species (including American Robin) form large flocks and forage in the open. Adults or first-year females are shown.



male



male

Eastern Bluebird

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/eastern_bluebird/id



female

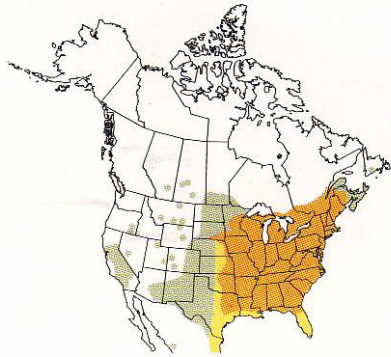
- Rusty red breast, white belly, male sky blue above; female grayish blue above
- Farms, open roadsides, rural areas, forest edge
- Diet: invertebrates; fruits

Wood Thrush

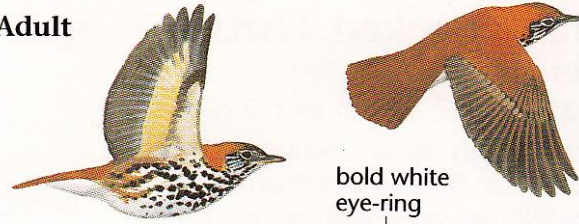
Hylocichla mustelina

L 7.75" ws 13" wt 1.6 oz (47 g)

Common in open but shaded under-story of mature deciduous forests. Habits similar to Swainson's Thrush. Distinguished from other spotted thrushes by relatively large size and heavy body, reddish-brown upper-side (brightest on nape), bold white eye-ring, and bold black spots on white underparts. **Voice:** Song rich, fluting, and varied: begins with a low soft *po po* phrase, then a short gurgling phrase, and ends with a rich, buzzy or trilled whistle. Call a staccato *pit pit*. Flight call a sharp nasal *jeeen*.



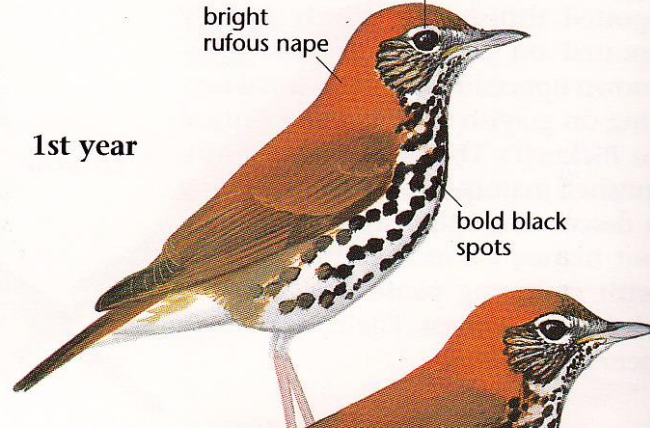
Adult



bold white eye-ring

bright rufous nape

1st year



bold black spots

Adult



Wood Thrush

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/wood_thrush/id



Wood Thrush

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/wood_thrush/id



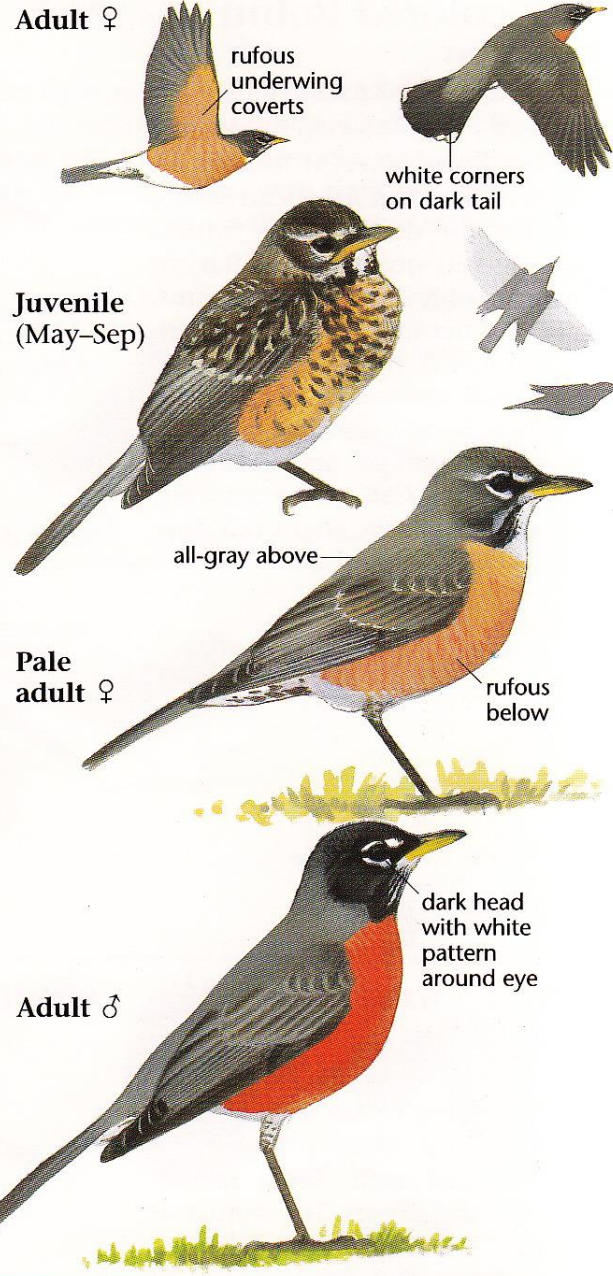
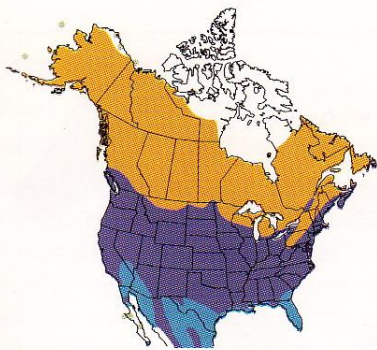
- Rusty red above, white below with heavy black spotting; a bit smaller than a robin
- Mature forest undergrowth, forest edge
- Diet: invertebrates; fruits

American Robin

Turdus migratorius

L 10" ws 17" wt 2.7 oz (77 g)

Common and widespread; one of North America's most familiar birds. Nests in any open woodland habitat from spruce, pine, or deciduous forests to suburban neighborhoods. Most often seen on lawns and fields searching for earthworms. Gathers in large foraging flocks and communal roosts in winter that may number in the hundreds or even thousands; winter diet mainly berries. Relatively large and conspicuous. Uniform dark gray upperside with darker head, rufous to rusty-orange breast and flanks, and dark tail with white corners distinctive. **Voice:** Song a series of low whistled phrases, usually several phrases followed by a pause; often two or three phrases repeated over and over. Call varied; a clucking *pup* or *piik* and a high descending *shheerr*. Flight call a very high, trilled, descending *sreel*.



American Robin

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Robin/id

American Robin

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Robin/id



male



female

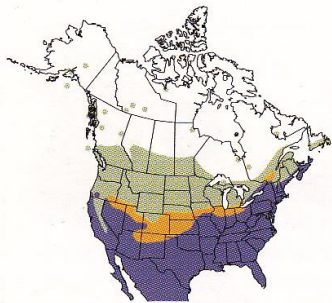
- Gray-brown above, rusty underparts, white markings around eye
- Open forests, forest edge
- Diet: earthworms and other invertebrates; fruits

Northern Mockingbird

Mimus polyglottos

L 10" ws 14" wt 1.7 oz (49 g)

Common and conspicuous in suburban habitats and brushy fields. Highly territorial and nearly always seen singly, although family groups may be seen in late summer. Feeds on insects and fruit; often defends fruiting trees and shrubs from other birds. Very long-tailed, with pale gray upperside and whitish underside. Conspicuous white sides of tail and large white wing-patches obvious in flight. Superficially similar to shrikes, but note different shape and behavior, relatively small head, broad wings, and larger white wing-patch. **Voice:** Song a regimented series of varied phrases, with each phrase repeated two to six times; many phrases are imitations of other species. Call a harsh dry *chak*.



Northern Mockingbird

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/northern_mockingbird/id

MIMIDS

Family: Mimidae

Like thrushes, mimids are well known for their songs, which are incredibly diverse and often include imitations of other species. Mimids resemble thrushes but are longer-tailed and have a slightly or obviously decurved bill. They are generally solitary and forage mainly on the ground by raking through leaf litter or soil with their bill. Most species frequently run on the ground with their tail raised; they will often run, rather than fly, to escape danger. Adults are shown.

Northern Mockingbird

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/
guide/northern_mockingbird/
id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/northern_mockingbird/id)

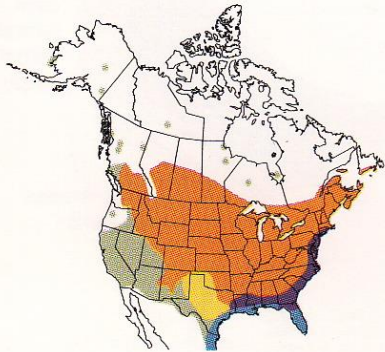


Gray Catbird

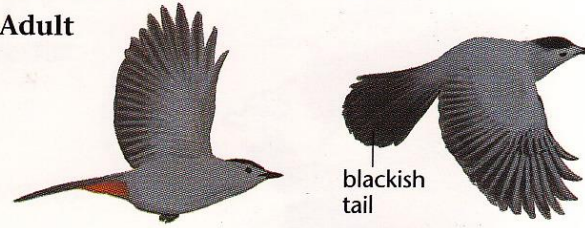
Dumetella carolinensis

L 8.5" ws 11" wt 1.3 oz (37 g)

Common in brushy understory of woods, often in damp shaded areas. Generally solitary. Stays within brushy vegetation, foraging on the ground or in low shrubs for insects, other invertebrates, and berries. Overall slaty gray plumage with blackish cap and tail distinctive; no other eastern bird is this color. **Voice:** Song a rambling halting warble with distinctive mewing and interspersed sharp chips. Call a hoarse, cat-like mewing; also a crackling rattle and a low *whurf*.



Adult



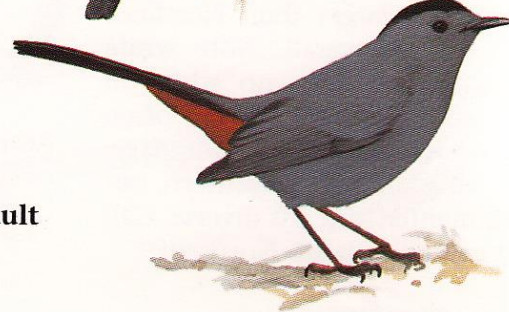
dark slaty gray overall



Adult

blackish cap

Adult



Gray Catbird

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Gray_Catbird/id



Gray Catbird

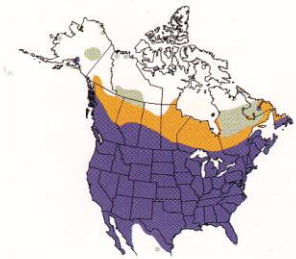
http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Gray_Catbird/id

European Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

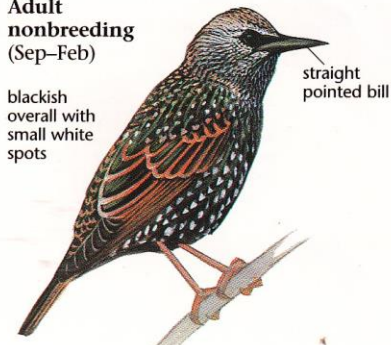
l 8.5" ws 16" wt 2.9 oz (82 g)

Common and widespread. Introduced from Europe to New York in the late 1800s; now found throughout North America and one of the most common birds wherever human settlement occurs. Nests in birdhouses, crevices in buildings, and tree cavities. Found in large flocks almost year-round. Forages on the ground for grubs, worms, insects, seeds, and the like, or in trees for fruit. Starlings have a straight tapered bill, which they force into soil or vegetation and open with powerful muscles, creating a hole and exposing prey. Note uniform blackish color and distinctive white dots of nonbreeding plumage. Distinguished from all other birds by shape and habits. In flight note short square tail and pointed triangular wings. **Voice:** Song relatively quiet and disjointed: a mushy, gurgling, hissing chatter with high sliding whistles; often includes imitations of other birds' calls. Common call a harsh chatter. Flight call a muffled dry *wrrsh*.



Adult nonbreeding
(Sep–Feb)

blackish overall with small white spots



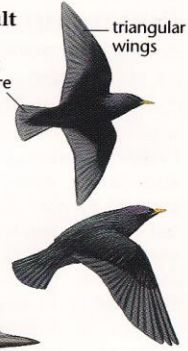
Juvenile



Adult

short square tail

triangular wings



Juvenile
(May–Aug)

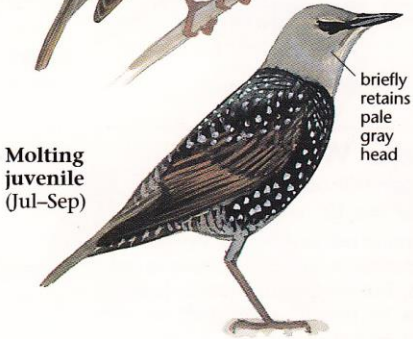
pale throat

drab gray-brown overall



Molting juvenile
(Jul–Sep)

briefly retains pale gray head



walks with waddling gait, probing ground with bill



Adult breeding
(Dec–Aug)

yellow bill

oily greenish-black overall



European Starling

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/european_starling/id

STARLINGS, MYNAS, AND BULBULS

Family: Pycnonotidae, Sturnidae

Starlings (Sturnidae) are represented in North America by European Starling, a medium-size songbird with the dark silky plumage and short triangular wings typical of members of this family. Mynas (Sturnidae) and bulbuls (Pycnonotidae) are small to medium-size songbirds introduced from Asia. Their range in eastern North America is limited to suburban areas in Florida. Mynas and bulbuls are somewhat gregarious and may form small flocks while feeding or roosting. Adults are shown.

European Starling

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/european_starling/id



Breeding



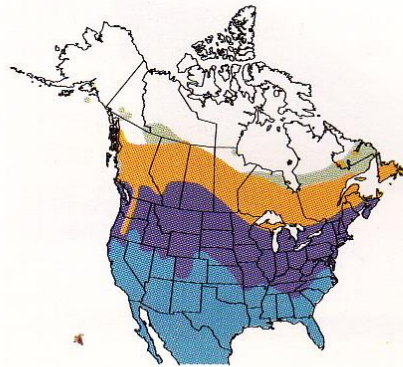
Fall

Cedar Waxwing

Bombycilla cedrorum

L 7.25" ws 12" wt 1.1 oz (32 g)

Common but irregular in any habitat where fruit or other food (such as tree buds, flowers, and insects) is found. Nests in brushy areas such as old fields and stream edges. Winters in open woods or suburbs where berries are plentiful. Almost always in small or large flocks, except when nesting. Silky brown color and crest, yellow-tipped tail, and dark mask distinctive. Compare Bohemian Waxwing. **Voice:** Song simply a series of call notes. Call a high, thin, clear or slightly trilled *sreee*; given in chorus from flock.



Cedar Waxwing

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/cedar_waxwing/id

WAXWINGS

Family: *Bombycillidae*

Waxwings are medium-size songbirds named for the colorful waxy "droplets" on the ends of the secondary flight feathers of adults; these droplets are actually dense concentrations of pigments found in the birds' diet of fruit. Waxwings have distinctive silky plumage, long crests, black masks, and yellow-tipped tails. They are almost always seen in flocks feeding on berries. Adults are shown.

Cedar Waxwing

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/cedar_waxwing/id

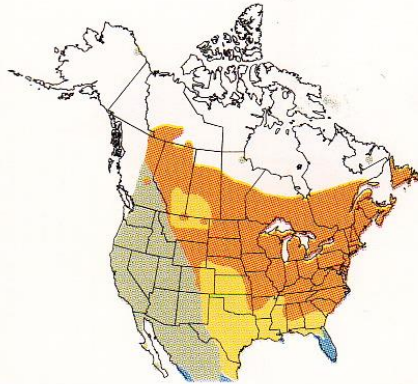


Ovenbird

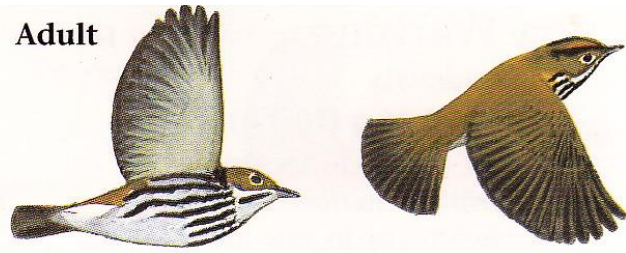
Seiurus aurocapillus

L 6" ws 9.5" wt 0.68 oz (19.5 g)

Common in mature deciduous or mixed forests with sparse shaded undergrowth. Seen mainly on the ground, walking with high-stepping gait and head-bobbing, often with tail raised. Olive above; white below, with distinct black streaks. Note bold white eye-ring and dark crown-stripes. **Voice:** Song a series of explosive, two-syllable phrases increasing in volume *chertee chertee cherTEE cherTEE CHERTEE CHERTEE CHER-TEE*. Call a hard dry chip. Flight call a piercing rising *seek*.



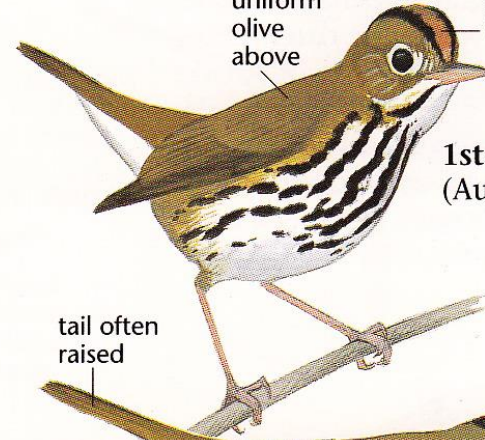
Adult



Ovenbird

uniform olive above

dark lateral crown-stripes with orange-tinged center



1st winter (Aug-Mar)

tail often raised

bold white eye-ring

Adult



distinct black streaks on white underparts

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/ovenbird/id>

WOOD-WARBLERS

Family: Parulidae

These are small active birds with short pointed bills. Many species are brilliantly colored in yellow, green, and blue and often have bold contrasting patterns. Wood-warblers are mainly solitary. They may form loose, mixed-species flocks in migration or winter (often with chickadees and other songbirds), but are never found in cohesive single-species flocks. All feed on small insects gleaned from leaves and twigs, as well as some berries and nectar. Songs are very useful in identification; most species sing two distinct song types in different situations, differing in rhythm and pattern. First-winter females are shown.



Ovenbird

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/
guide/ovenbird/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/ovenbird/id)

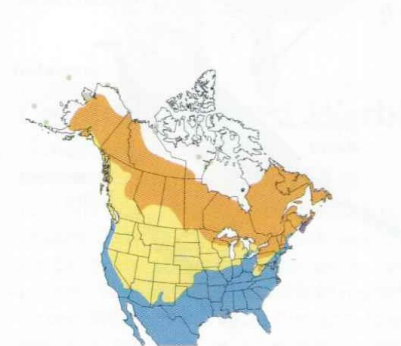


Yellow-rumped Warbler

Dendroica coronata

L 5.5" ws 9.25" wt 0.43 oz (12.3 g)

Common and conspicuous; in many areas the only warbler likely to be seen in winter. Nests in relatively open coniferous forests and their edges. Winters in open brushy habitats, such as dunes and field edges, especially among fruiting shrubs like bayberry and juniper. Often in small loose flocks. Often perches upright on relatively exposed perches, flying up to catch passing insects. A rather large, long-tailed warbler, with stout dark bill. Bright yellow rump-patch distinctive and often conspicuous. Also note pale throat, streaked breast, and on winter bird overall brownish color. **Voice:** Song a rather flat, soft warble *sidl sidl sidl seedl seedl seedl seedl seel* usually fading at end. Call a low flat *chep*. Flight call a clear *ssit*.



MYRTLE

1st winter ♀



dark cheek

short dark bill

1st winter ♀

(Aug-Apr)



pale throat

brownish overall

yellow rump-patch

yellow sides

long tail

dark cheek



heavily streaked breast

Adult ♀ breeding

(Apr-Aug)



white throat

Adult ♂ breeding

(Apr-Aug)

Yellow-rumped Warbler

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/yellow-rumped-warbler/id>

Yellow-rumped Warbler

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/yellow-rumped_warbler/id



male



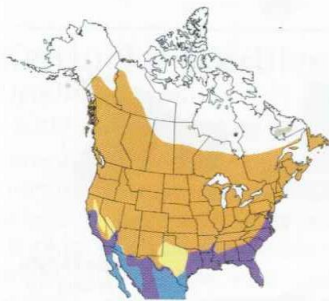
female

Common Yellowthroat

Geothlypis trichas

L 5" ws 6.75" wt 0.35 oz (10 g)

Common in wide variety of weedy, brushy, and marshy habitats; nearly always in low wet areas. Small and stocky, with short-necked, crouching posture and tail often raised. Often flushed from low grassy or weedy areas, flying low into nearby brush; note small size, plain olive upper-side, rounded tail, and low flight. Black mask of male distinctive. Female has yellow throat contrasting sharply with dark cheek. **Voice:** Song a gentle, rhythmic, musical whistle in repeated three- to five-syllable phrases *wichety wichety wichety* and many variations. Call a dry *chedp*. Flight call a short nasal buzz *dzik*. Male gives a long staccato rattle in breeding season.



1st year ♀



1st winter ♀



1st winter ♂
(Jul-Mar)



Adult ♀



Adult ♂

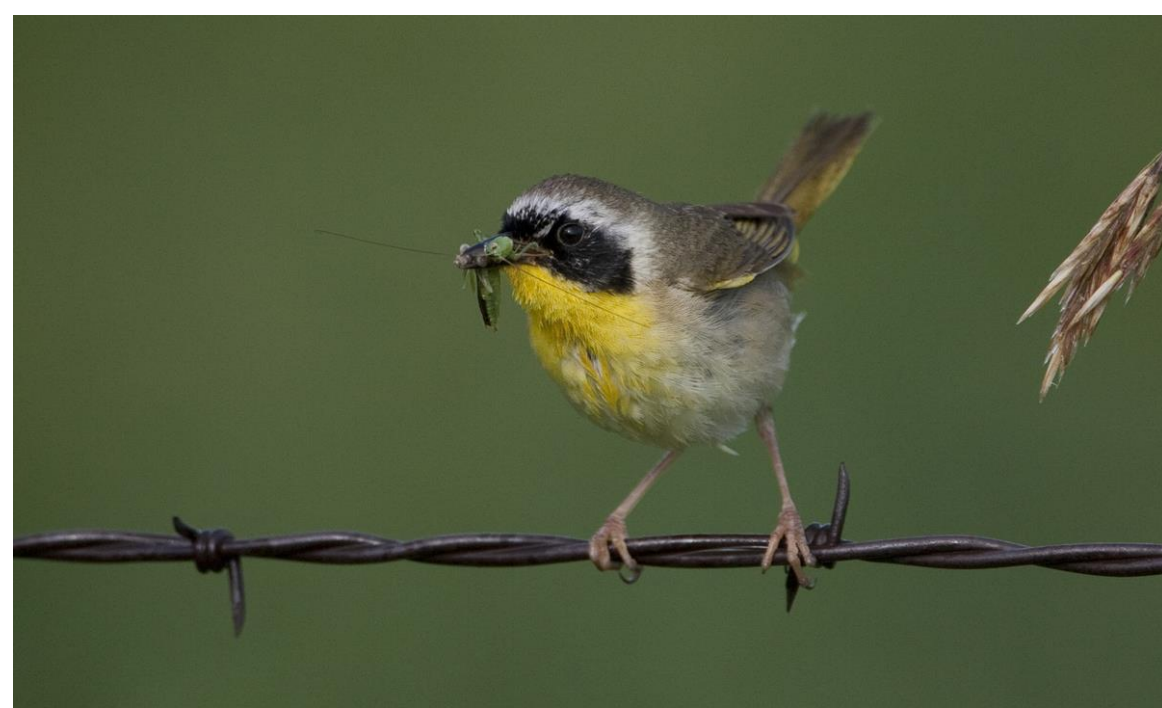


Common Yellowthroat

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/common_yellowthroat/id

Common Yellowthroat

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/
common_yellowthroat/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/common_yellowthroat/id)



male

male



female

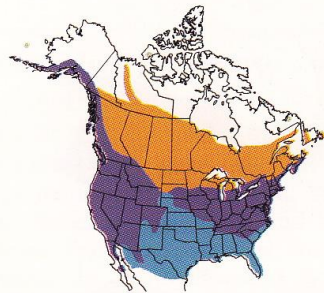


Song Sparrow

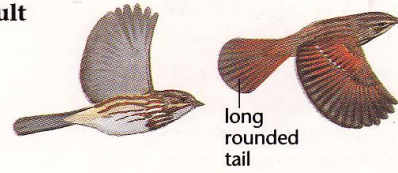
Melospiza melodia

L 6.25" WS 8.25" WT 0.7 oz (20 g)

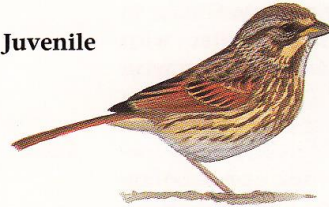
Common and widespread; in most areas the most frequently seen streaked sparrow. Found in open brushy areas and edges, such as gardens and hedgerows in suburbs, where it hops around on grass at edges of lawns and fields or sings from top of bush. Usually solitary, but may form loose groups. A rather stocky, long-tailed sparrow. Note bold coarse streaks above and below and usually reddish-brown wings and tail. **Voice:** Song relatively complex; a variable series of trills and clear notes with slightly husky quality and gentle rhythm; usually begins with several short notes and includes one long trill in middle: *seet seet seet to zleeeeeee tipo zeeet zeeet*. Call a distinctive husky *jump*. Flight call a high thin *seet*.



Adult

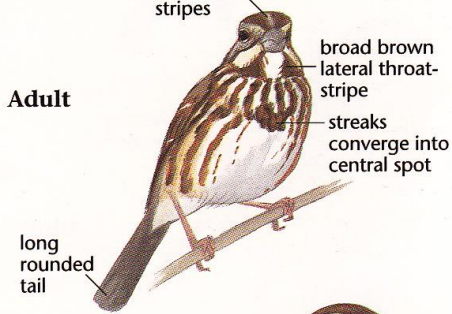


Juvenile



brown and gray crown stripes

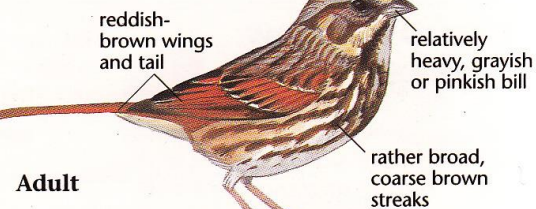
Adult



broad brown lateral throat stripe

streaks converge into central spot

long rounded tail



reddish-brown wings and tail

relatively heavy, grayish or pinkish bill

rather broad, coarse brown streaks

Adult

Song Sparrow

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/song_sparrow/id

EMBERIZINE SPARROWS AND THEIR ALLIES

Family: *Emberizidae*

This large group consists of mostly small, streaked brownish birds of grassy and brushy areas. All have short conical bills. Most sparrows and their allies switch their diet seasonally, from mostly insects and larvae in summer to mostly seeds in winter. Many forage on the ground using a "double-scratch" method of kicking both feet back simultaneously to expose food. Some species form large, pure or mixed flocks in winter, while others have very specific habitat requirements and do not flock. Learning the characteristics of several genera—especially *Spizella*, *Aimophila*, *Ammodramus*, *Zonotrichia*, and *Melospiza*—will aid in the identification of sparrows. First-winter females are shown.

Song Sparrow

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/song_sparrow/id



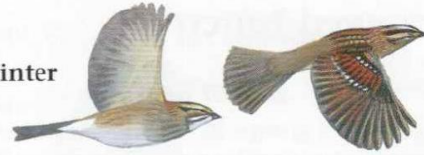
White-throated Sparrow

Zonotrichia albicollis

L 6.75" ws 9" wt 0.91 oz (26 g)

Common in brushy patches in or near openings in mixed woods. Winters in flocks in hedgerows, thickets, and woodland edges. A rather stocky, dark reddish-brown sparrow. Usually unstreaked below and always showing contrast between mainly grayish breast and white throat. Adults range from drab (tan-striped) to bright (white-striped) regardless of sex and age. **Voice:** Song a series of high clear whistles given in a rhythmic pattern *sooooo seeeeee dididi dididi dididi* ("Old Sam Peabody Peabody Peabody"). Call a sharp metallic *chink*. Flight call a high *seet*.

1st winter



Juvenile



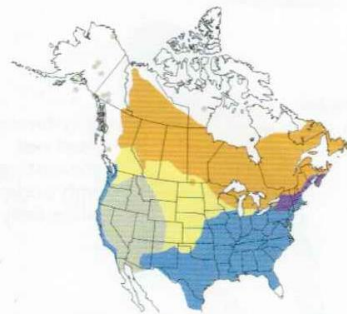
1st winter (Aug-Mar)



Tan-striped adult



White-striped adult



White-throated Sparrow

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/white-throated_sparrow/id



White-throated Sparrow

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/
guide/white-
throated_sparrow/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/white-throated_sparrow/id)



Dark-eyed Junco

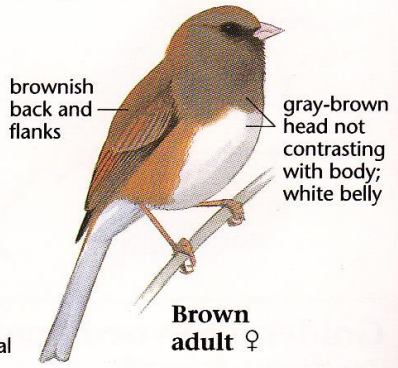
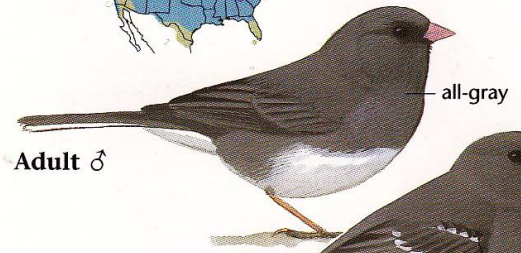
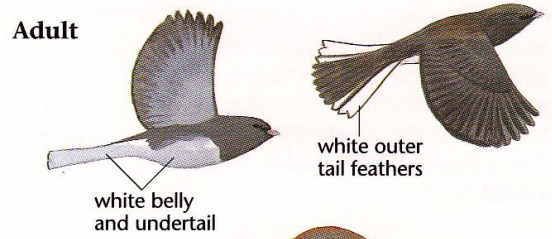
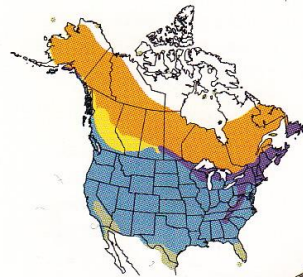
Junco hyemalis

L 6.25" ws 9.25" wt 0.67 oz (19 g)

Five subspecies groups in North America. All forms have similar habits: nest in relatively open coniferous or mixed woods with patches of open ground and brush; winter in small flocks in patchy wooded areas; forage on open ground, flying into brush or trees when alarmed. All forms share basic similarities: plain gray head and breast contrasting with pale pinkish-white bill; unstreaked gray, brown, and white body and contrasting white belly; and white outer tail feathers that flash conspicuously in flight. **Voice:** Similar in all forms. Song a short trill; averages shorter and more musical than Chipping Sparrow. Call a very high hard *stip*. Flight call a sharp buzzy *tzeet*.

SLATE-COLORED

Common; the most widespread subspecies, and the only one found in most of eastern North America. Nearly same size as Oregon. Gray or gray-brown overall, with little or no contrast between head and back or flanks.



Dark-eyed Junco

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/dark-eyed_junco/id

Dark-eyed Junco

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/dark-eyed_junco/id

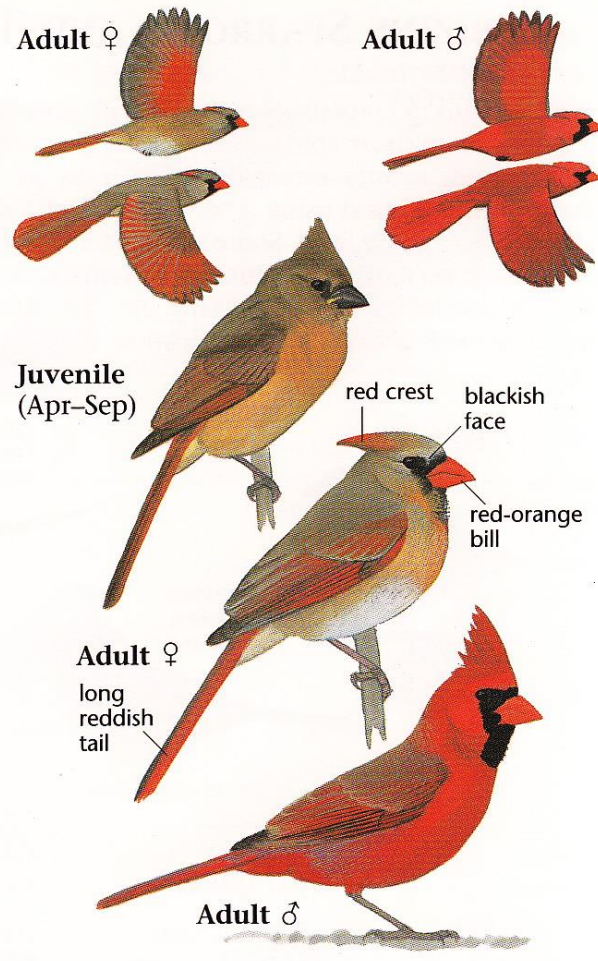
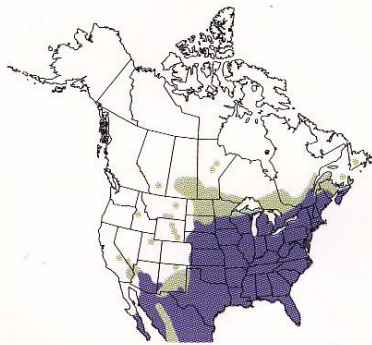


Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis

L 8.75" ws 12" wt 1.6 oz (45 g)

Common in brushy habitat within or at edges of woods, often in suburban settings. In pairs or small groups year-round. Feeds on seeds, fruit, and insect larvae. Male all-red, with black face and red bill; longer-tailed than tanagers. Female has reddish wings and tail, blackish face, and red-orange bill. **Voice:** Song a series of high, clear, mostly slurred whistles *woit woit woit chew chew chew chew chew* or *pichew pichew tiw tiw tiw tiw tiw tiw tiw* with many variations. Call a high hard *tik*; also a softer rising *twik*.



Northern Cardinal

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Cardinal/id

TANAGERS, CARDINALS, AND THEIR ALLIES

Families: Cardinalidae, Coerebidae, Thraupidae

Tanagers (Thraupidae) are medium-size birds with distinctive stout pointed bills. They are generally solitary and stay within the foliage of trees, where they feed on insects and fruit. Males are brilliant red or yellow; females and immatures are drabber greenish-yellow. Bananaquit (Coerebidae) is a distinctive species with a very short tail and a sharply pointed, decurved bill. Cardinals, grosbeaks, cardinaline buntings, and Dickcissel (all in Cardinalidae) have thick conical bills (similar to sparrows and finches) and feed on seeds, fruit, and insects. They are usually solitary, but sometimes gather in small groups. Males of most species are very brightly colored. Members of Cardinalidae differ from the emberizine sparrows in details of call notes, habits, and plumage. Adult females are shown.



male



Northern Cardinal

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Cardinal/id



female



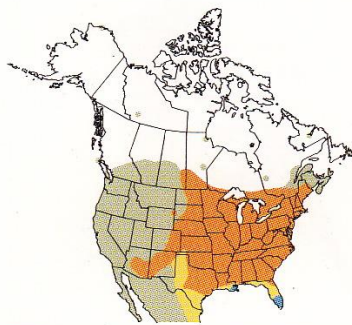
female

Indigo Bunting

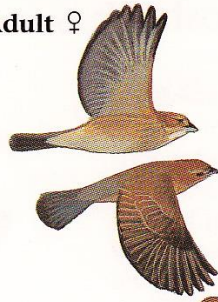
Passerina cyanea

L 5.5" ws 8" wt 0.51 oz (14.5 g)

Common in any open brushy area, including weedy fields and hedgerows, with trees nearby. Found mainly in low vegetation, but sings from high in trees. Usually solitary; loose groups may gather in good habitat. Feeds on insects and seeds. A small, finch-like bird. Bright blue male distinctive. Female easily confused with sparrows; note warm brownish color, plain face, bicolored bill, rounded tail with hints of blue, and habits and calls. **Voice:** Song a high, sharp, urgent warble with most phrases repeated *ti ti whee whee zerre zerre*. Call a dry sharp *spik*. Flight call a relatively long, shrill buzz.



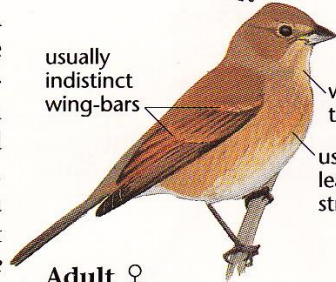
Adult ♀



Adult ♂



usually indistinct wing-bars



whitish throat

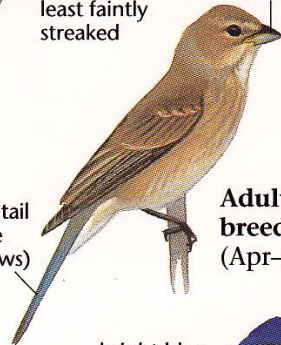
usually at least faintly streaked

Adult ♀ nonbreeding (Sep–Apr)

warm cinnamon to gray-brown overall

bicolored bill

bluish tail (unlike sparrows)



Adult ♀ breeding (Apr–Sep)

Adult ♂ nonbreeding (Sep–Apr)



bright blue, darker on head



Adult ♂ breeding (Apr–Sep)

Indigo Bunting

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/indigo_bunting/id



female

Indigo Bunting

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/indigo_bunting/id



male

male

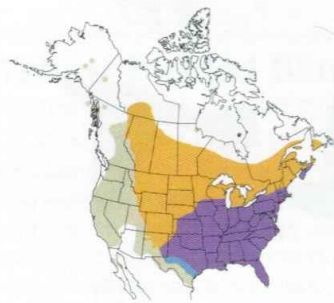


Common Grackle

Quiscalus quiscula

L 12.5" ws 17" wt 4 oz (115 g)

Common and widespread. Nests in trees, especially dense evergreens such as junipers. Forages for seeds and invertebrates on the ground in open areas near trees or within open woods, often in very large flocks or mixed with blackbirds. Larger and heavier than blackbirds, with longer thicker bill; note much larger tail with distinctive keel shape. **Voice:** Song an unmusical harsh *kh-sheee* or *kh-reezzh*. Calls include short, harsh, toneless, wheezy notes. Flight call a low dry *kek* deeper than blackbirds.



Adult ♂



keel-shaped tail
longer than
blackbirds

Juvenile



pale iris

heavy bill

Adult ♀



blackish overall
with limited
iridescence

Adult ♂



multicolored
iridescence

Common Grackle

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/common_grackle/id



male



Common Grackle

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/
common_grackle/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/common_grackle/id)



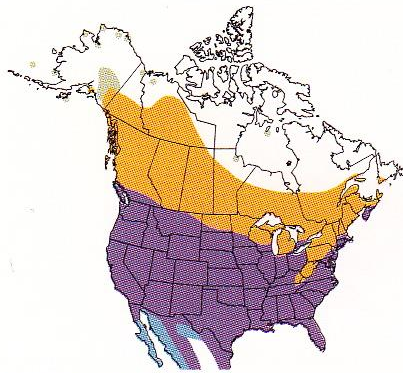
female

Red-winged Blackbird

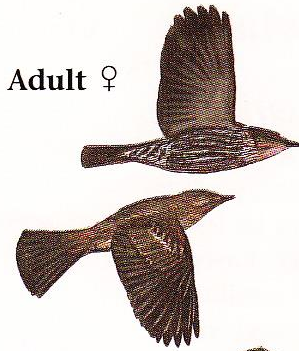
Agelaius phoeniceus

L 8.75" ws 13" wt 1.8 oz (52 g)

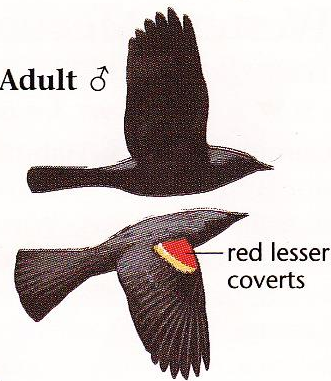
Common; our most widespread blackbird. Nests and roosts in wet, marshy or brushy habitats; almost any small weedy ditch or wet hayfield harbors a breeding pair. Forages for seeds and invertebrates in open fields, often in very large flocks. Male distinctive. Female can be mistaken for sparrows; note larger size, thin bill, dense streaks below, and habits. **Voice:** Song consists of several liquid notes followed by a harsh gurgling trill *kon-ka-reeeee*. Call a low dry *chek*. Alarm call a high, clear or buzzy *teeew*.



Adult ♀



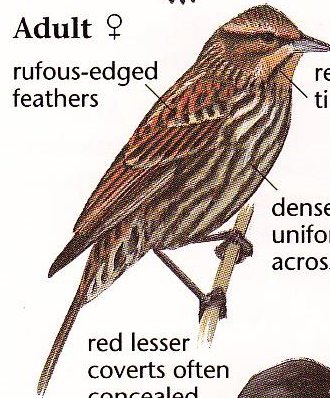
Adult ♂



Adult ♀

rufous-edged feathers

reddish-tinged throat

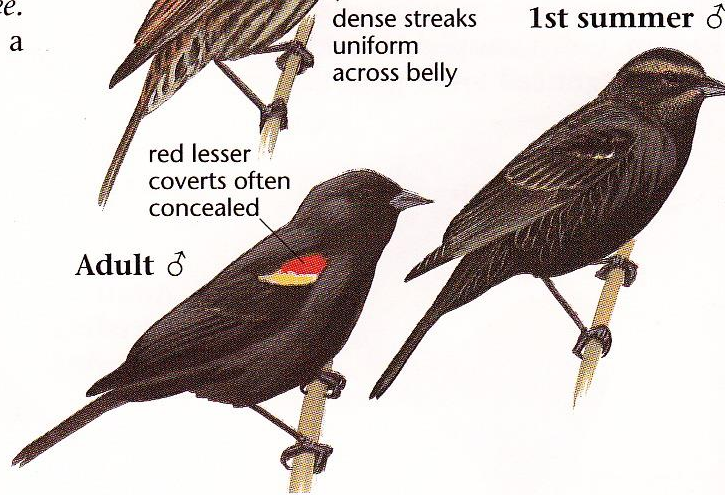


dense streaks uniform across belly

1st summer ♂

red lesser coverts often concealed

Adult ♂



Red-winged Blackbird

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/red-winged_blackbird/id

Red-winged Blackbird

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/red-winged_blackbird/id



female



male



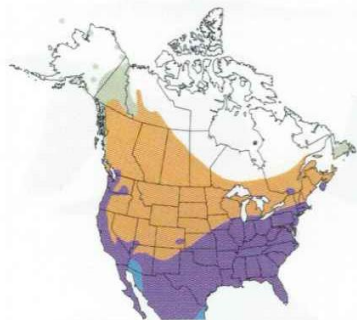
male

Brown-headed Cowbird

Molothrus ater

L 7.5" ws 12" wt 1.5 oz (44 g)

Common in open or patchy woodlands in breeding season. Usually in small flocks and often with blackbirds. Forages for seeds and invertebrates on open ground. Smaller and shorter-tailed than blackbirds, with stout bill and pointed wings. Male distinctive, with glossy black body and brown head. Female paler gray-brown than blackbirds. **Voice:** Song a series of low gurgling notes followed by thin sliding whistles. Call a hard rising rattle. In flight male gives a high, thin, whistled *seeeeetiti*.



Brown-headed Cowbird

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/brown-headed_cowbird/id

Brown-headed Cowbird

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/brown-headed_cowbird/id



female



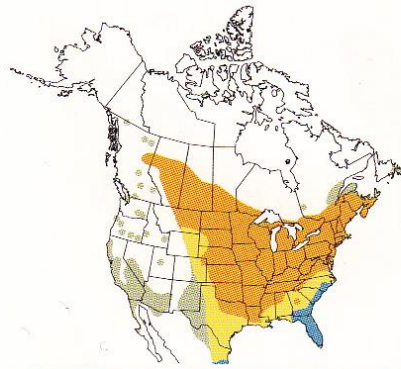
male

Baltimore Oriole

Icterus galbula

L 8.75" ws 11.5" wt 1.2 oz (33 g)

Common in open deciduous woodlands or among scattered tall trees. Solitary or in small groups. Forages widely for caterpillars, fruit, and nectar in low brush and in trees. Note bright orange color, white wing-bars, slender bluish bill, and mostly orange tail. **Voice:** Song a short series of clear rich whistles *pidoo tewdi tewdi yeew* and many variations; often gives simple, two-note whistles such as *hulee*. Call a harsh uneven chatter. Flight call a husky trumpeting *veet*.



Baltimore Oriole

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Baltimore Oriole/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Baltimore_Oriole/id)



male

Baltimore Oriole

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Baltimore_Oriole/id



Male at nest



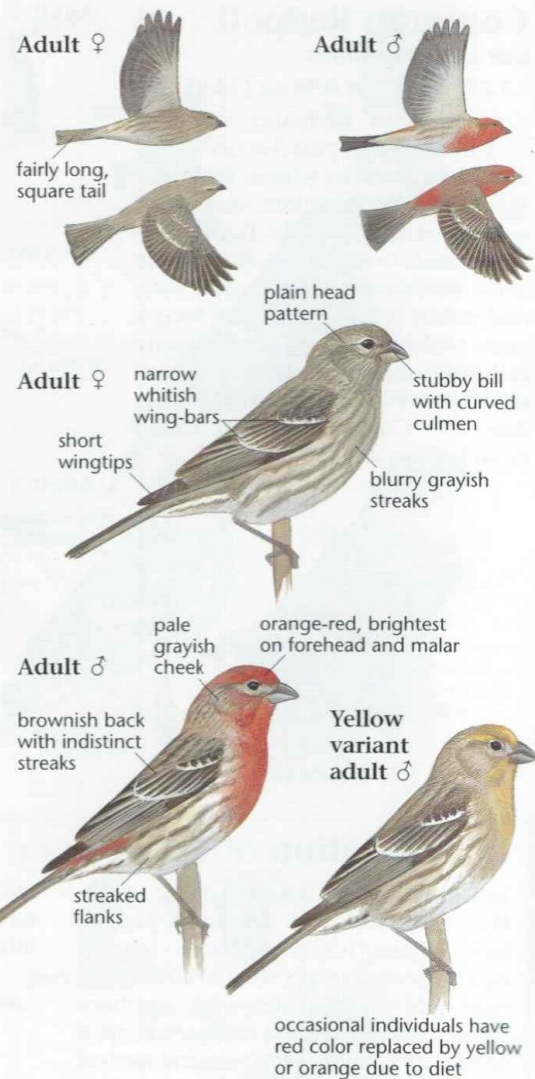
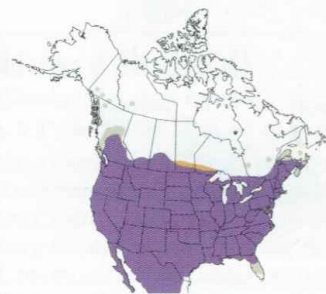
female

House Finch

Carpodacus mexicanus

L 6" ws 9.5" wt 0.74 oz (21 g)

Common and widespread in suburbs and patchy, brushy, and wooded areas. Native to western North America; introduced to Long Island in the 1950s and from there colonized all of eastern United States and southern Canada. Nearly always in small flocks. Feeds on seeds and some insects. A regular visitor to bird feeders and often nests on or near buildings. Relatively long-tailed, with round head and short bill with curved culmen. Female drab overall, weakly patterned gray-brown on head, pale grayish below with blurry gray-brown streaks. **Voice:** Song a sweet varied warble with steady tempo; begins with relatively high clear notes and ends with lower burry notes; often a long *veeeerrr*. Flight call a soft husky *fiidlp* or *vweet*.



House Finch

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/house_finch/id

FINCHES AND OLD WORLD SPARROWS

Families: Fringillidae, Passeridae

Finches (Fringillidae) are small to medium-size birds with conical, sparrow-like bills and usually short notched tails. They constantly give distinctive calls in high, strong, undulating flight and often perch in treetops. Males are often brightly colored with patches of red or yellow, while females are drabber. The Old World sparrows (Passeridae) were introduced from Europe; they are similar to emberizine sparrows, but are differently patterned and have a relatively large head and short tail. They are usually found in small flocks and give chirping calls. Adult females are shown.

House Finch

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/house_finch/id



male

female

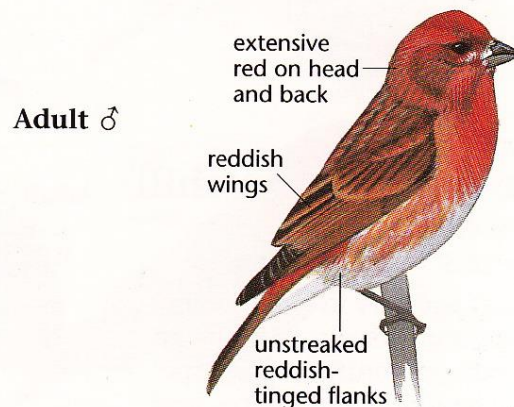
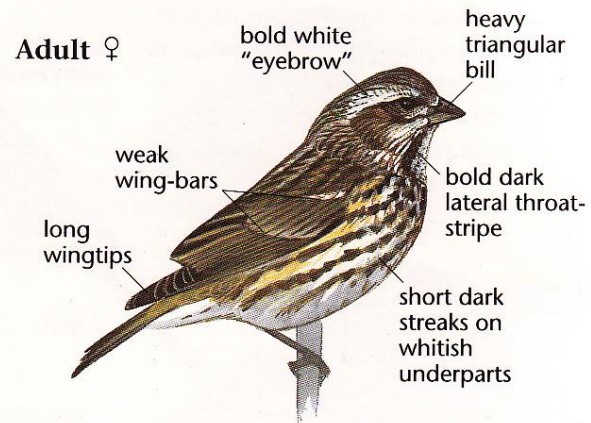
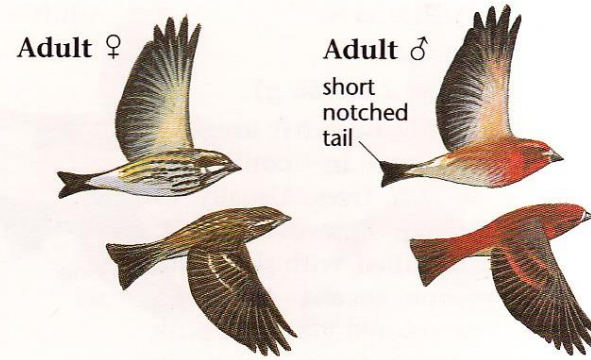
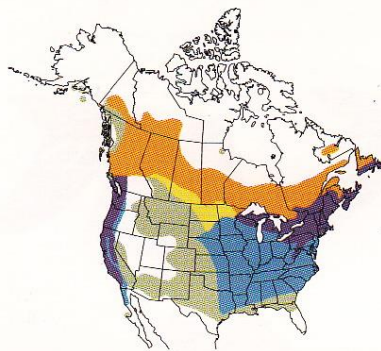


Purple Finch

Carpodacus purpureus

L 6" ws 10" wt 0.88 oz (25 g)

Uncommon in wooded and brushy areas. Usually in small flocks. Forages for seeds, fruit, and some insects. Visits bird feeders. Stockier than House Finch, with different overall shape, shorter and deeply notched tail, relatively large head, and triangular bill with straighter culmen, and longer and more pointed wings. On Female, note bold head pattern with whitish eyebrow and malar, whitish underparts with distinct, short dark streaks, and whitish belly. Adult male has bright red head and breast and reddish wash over back, wings, and flanks. Note lack of distinct streaks on underparts. **Voice:** Song a bright, rapid, slightly hoarse warble, usually slightly rising but ending with descending trill *cheerrrr*. Call a short whistled phrase *tweeyoo* and variations; similar to Red-eyed Vireo. Flight call a light hard *pik*.



Purple Finch

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/purple_finch/id



female

Purple Finch

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/purple_finch/id



male



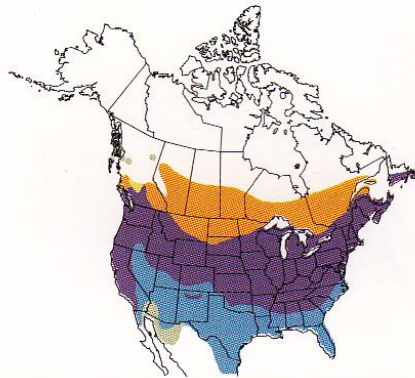
male

American Goldfinch

Carduelis tristis

L 5" WS 9" WT 0.46 oz (13 g)

Common and widespread in orchards, hedgerows, and overgrown fields. Almost always seen in flocks, feeding on tree buds, weed seeds (especially thistles), and some insects. Male unmistakable. Female distinguished from other finches by small size and unstreaked yellow-brown plumage. **Voice:** Song of high sweet phrases *toWEE toWEE toWEE* to *tweer tweer tweer ti ti ti ti* similar to Indigo Bunting. Call a thin wiry *toweeewee* and variations. Flight call a soft, whistled, descending series *ti di di di*.



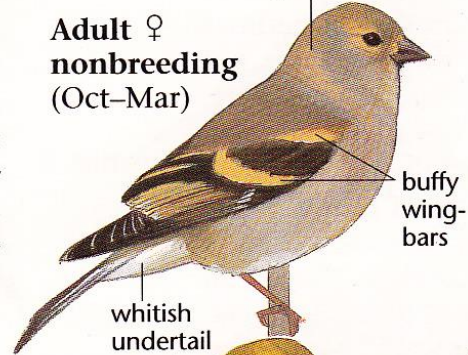
Adult ♀



white underwing coverts

plain yellow-brown

Adult ♀ nonbreeding (Oct–Mar)



whitish undertail coverts

Adult ♂ breeding



black forehead; orange bill

yellow back

buffy wing-bars

Adult ♂ breeding (Mar–Oct)



brilliant yellow

Adult ♀ breeding (Mar–Oct)



American Goldfinch

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/american_goldfinch/id



male

American Goldfinch

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/american_goldfinch/id



Nonbreeding



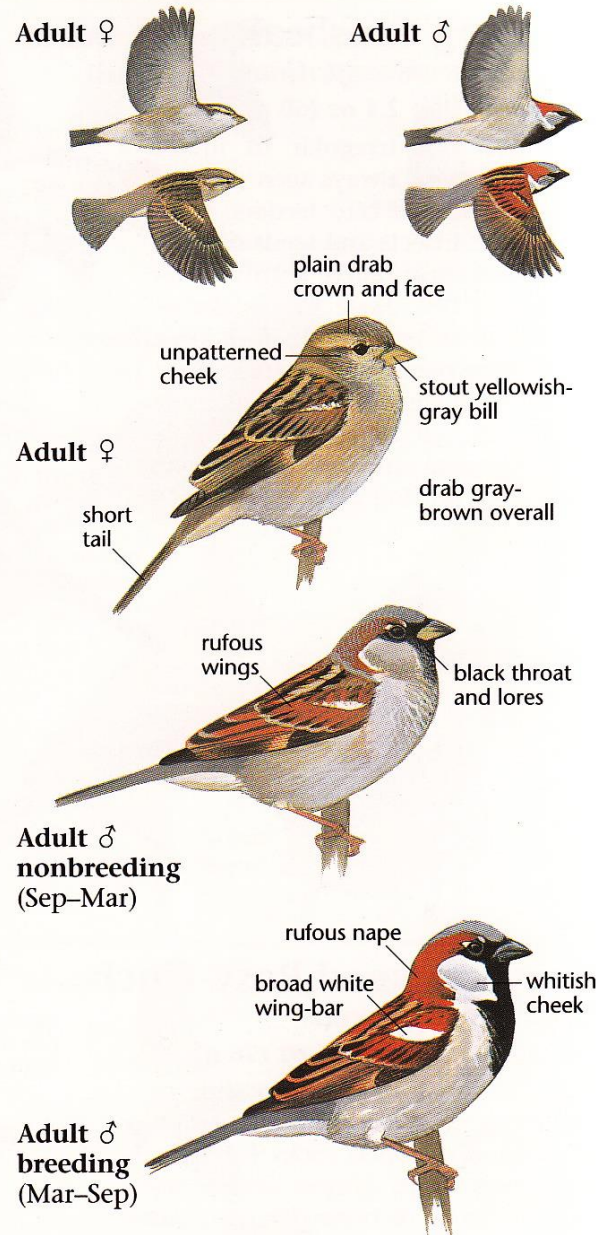
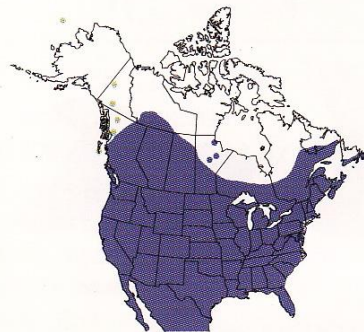
female

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

L 6.25" ws 9.5" wt 0.98 oz (28 g)

Common and widespread; the ubiquitous sparrow of cities, towns, parking lots, and farms. Introduced from Europe in the mid-1800s. Nests in any sheltered cavity from birdhouses to streetlights to crevices in buildings. Almost always in small flocks. Feeds on seeds and insects; avidly seeks handouts such as bread crumbs or french fries at parks and parking lots. Stocky, short-tailed, and large-headed, with blunt-tipped bill. Male strikingly patterned: black throat and lores, mostly rufous upperparts, and one broad white wing-bar. Female drab gray-brown overall, with plain face. **Voice:** Song a monotonous series of nearly identical chirps. Call a husky *fillip* or a low rattling series. Flight call a soft husky *pido* and a descending *piirv*.



House Sparrow

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/house_sparrow/id



female

House Sparrow

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/house_sparrow/id



male