

REGIONAL FIELD-GUIDE SERIES

# ALL ABOUT BIRDS SOUTHEAST



**FREE**  
**Merlin<sup>®</sup>**  
Bird ID App

Download on the  
 **App Store**

GET IT ON  
 **Google Play**

# ALL ABOUT BIRDS SOUTHEAST

  
PRINCETON  
[press.princeton.edu](http://press.princeton.edu)

The **Cornell** Lab  
of Ornithology 



*White-breasted Nuthatch* ©Evan Lipton/Macaulay Library

# ALL ABOUT BIRDS SOUTHEAST



Published in 2022 by Princeton University Press  
41 William Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08540  
6 Oxford Street, Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1TR

[press.princeton.edu](http://press.princeton.edu)

Requests for permission to reproduce material from this work should be sent to  
[permissions@press.princeton.edu](mailto:permissions@press.princeton.edu)

Copyright ©2022 by Cornell University

All rights reserved. No part of this book or any subsequent editions may be reproduced, transmitted, broadcast, or stored in an information retrieval system in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, taping, and recording, without prior written permission from the publisher.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2021940669

ISBN: 978-0-691-99001-9

Ebook ISBN: 978-0-691-23006-1

Front cover photo: Snowy Egret ©Evan Lipton/Macaulay Library

Back cover photos (left to right): Yellow Warbler ©Ryan Schain/Macaulay Library; Eastern Bluebird ©Brad Imhoff/Macaulay Library; Eastern Meadowlark ©Dan Vickers/Macaulay Library; Hermit Thrush ©Sue Barth/Macaulay Library

Cover-flap illustrations: ©2022 Pedro Fernandes; Cover-flap extracted photos: Black Skimmer, Common Loon, ©Brian L. Sullivan/Macaulay Library; Wood Stork ©David Wilson/Macaulay Library; Northern Gannet ©Chris Sayers/Macaulay Library; Anhinga ©Liam Wolff/Macaulay Library; Monk Parakeet ©Jay McGowan/Macaulay Library; Loggerhead Shrike ©Dorian Anderson/Macaulay Library

Editor: Jill Leichter

Assistant Editors: Michael L. P. Retter, Caroline Watkins

Photo Editors: Michael L. P. Retter, Jill Leichter

Design concept and layout: Patricia Mitter, Jill Leichter, Diane Tessaglia-Hymes, Brian L. Sockin, Regina Miles

Printed in Malaysia

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>11</b>	
Getting Started	12	
<b>Birding 101</b>	<b>15</b>	
Four Keys to Bird Identification	16	
Using Field Marks to Identify Birds	28	
Use Merlin to See the Possibilities	30	
Tips for Beginning Bird Watchers	31	
Listening to Birds	34	
Photographing Birds	36	
Digiscoping	38	
<b>Attracting Birds to Your Yard</b>	<b>41</b>	
Birdscaping	42	
Bird Feeders	44	
Feeder Placement & Safety	46	
Bird Food	47	
Water Sources	51	
Features of a Good Birdhouse	52	
<b>Getting Involved</b>	<b>57</b>	
Citizen Science	58	
eBird	59	
Great Backyard Bird Count	62	
Bird Academy	63	
Project FeederWatch	64	
NestWatch	66	
Celebrate Urban Birds	67	
Seven Simple Actions to Help Birds	68	
<b>Guide to Species</b>	<b>71</b>	
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	72	<b>GEESE • DUCKS</b>
Snow Goose	73	
Canada Goose	74	
Muscovy Duck	75	
Wood Duck	76	
Blue-winged Teal	77	

Northern Shoveler	78	<b>GEESE • DUCKS</b>
Gadwall	79	
American Wigeon	80	
Mallard	81	
American Black Duck	82	
Mottled Duck	83	
Northern Pintail	84	
Canvasback	85	
Redhead	86	
Greater Scaup	87	
Lesser Scaup	88	
Ruddy Duck	89	
Northern Bobwhite	90	<b>QUAIL • TURKEY • GROUSE</b>
Wild Turkey	91	
Ruffed Grouse	92	
Pied-billed Grebe	93	<b>GREBES</b>
Rock Pigeon	94	<b>PIGEONS • DOVES • CUCKOOS</b>
Eurasian Collared-Dove	95	
Common Ground Dove	96	
White-winged Dove	97	
Mourning Dove	98	
Greater Roadrunner	99	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	100	
Black-billed Cuckoo	101	
Common Nighthawk	102	<b>NIGHTJARS</b>
Chimney Swift	103	<b>SWIFTS • HUMMINGBIRDS</b>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	104	
Rufous Hummingbird	105	
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	106	
Sora	107	<b>RAILS • GALLINULES • COOTS</b>
Common Gallinule	108	
American Coot	109	
Purple Gallinule	110	
Limpkin	111	
Sandhill Crane	112	<b>CRANES • STILTS • OYSTERCATCHERS</b>
Black-necked Stilt	113	
American Oystercatcher	114	
Black-bellied Plover	115	<b>PLOVERS • SANDPIPERS</b>
Killdeer	116	
Long-billed Curlew	117	
Marbled Godwit	118	
Ruddy Turnstone	119	

Sanderling	120	<b>PLOVERS • SANDPIPERS</b>
Western Sandpiper	121	
Spotted Sandpiper	122	
Willet	123	
Laughing Gull	124	<b>GULLS • TERNS</b>
Ring-billed Gull	125	
Herring Gull	126	
Great Black-backed Gull	127	
Least Tern	128	
Caspian Tern	129	
Black Tern	130	
Common Tern	131	
Forster's Tern	132	
Royal Tern	133	
Black Skimmer	134	<b>SKIMMERS</b>
Red-throated Loon	135	<b>LOONS</b>
Common Loon	136	
Wood Stork	137	<b>STORKS</b>
Northern Gannet	138	<b>GANNETS</b>
Anhinga	139	<b>ANHINGAS</b>
Double-crested Cormorant	140	<b>CORMORANTS • PELICANS</b>
American White Pelican	141	
Brown Pelican	142	
Great Blue Heron	143	<b>HERONS • IBISES • SPOONBILLS</b>
Great Egret	144	
Snowy Egret	145	
Little Blue Heron	146	
Tricolored Heron	147	
Cattle Egret	148	
Green Heron	149	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	150	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	151	
White Ibis	152	
Glossy Ibis	153	
Roseate Spoonbill	154	
Black Vulture	155	<b>VULTURES</b>
Turkey Vulture	156	
Osprey	157	<b>KITES • HAWKS • EAGLES</b>
Swallow-tailed Kite	158	
Mississippi Kite	159	
Northern Harrier	160	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	161	



Cooper's Hawk	162	<b>KITES • HAWKS • EAGLES</b>
Bald Eagle	163	
Red-shouldered Hawk	164	
Red-tailed Hawk	165	
Eastern Screech-Owl	166	<b>OWLS</b>
Great Horned Owl	167	
Burrowing Owl	168	
Barred Owl	169	
Belted Kingfisher	170	<b>KINGFISHERS</b>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	171	<b>WOODPECKERS</b>
Red-headed Woodpecker	172	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	173	
Downy Woodpecker	174	
Hairy Woodpecker	175	
Pileated Woodpecker	176	
Northern Flicker	177	
American Kestrel	178	<b>FALCONS</b>
Peregrine Falcon	179	
Monk Parakeet	180	<b>PARROTS</b>
Eastern Wood-Pewee	181	<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>
Least Flycatcher	182	
Eastern Phoebe	183	
Vermilion Flycatcher	184	
Great Crested Flycatcher	185	
Eastern Kingbird	186	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	187	
Yellow-throated Vireo	188	<b>VIREOS</b>
Blue-headed Vireo	189	
Warbling Vireo	190	
Red-eyed Vireo	191	
Loggerhead Shrike	192	<b>SHRIKES</b>
Blue Jay	193	<b>JAYS • CROWS</b>
Florida Scrub-Jay	194	
American Crow	195	
Fish Crow	196	
Common Raven	197	
Carolina Chickadee	198	<b>CHICKADEES • TITMICE</b>
Black-capped Chickadee	199	
Tufted Titmouse	200	
Horned Lark	201	<b>LARKS</b>
Purple Martin	202	<b>SWALLOWS</b>
Tree Swallow	203	

Barn Swallow	204	<b>SWALLOWS</b>
Cliff Swallow	205	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	206	<b>KINGLETS</b>
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	207	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	208	<b>NUTHATCHES</b>
White-breasted Nuthatch	209	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	210	
Brown Creeper	211	<b>CREEPERS</b>
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	212	<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>
House Wren	213	<b>WRENS</b>
Winter Wren	214	
Carolina Wren	215	
European Starling	216	<b>STARLINGS</b>
Gray Catbird	217	<b>CATBIRDS</b>
Brown Thrasher	218	<b>THRASHERS • MOCKINGBIRDS</b>
Northern Mockingbird	219	
Eastern Bluebird	220	<b>THRUSHES</b>
Swainson's Thrush	221	
Hermit Thrush	222	
Wood Thrush	223	
American Robin	224	
Cedar Waxwing	225	<b>WAXWINGS</b>
House Sparrow	226	<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>
House Finch	227	<b>FINCHES • LONGSPURS</b>
Purple Finch	228	
Pine Siskin	229	
American Goldfinch	230	
Lapland Longspur	231	
Grasshopper Sparrow	232	<b>SPARROWS • JUNCOS • TOWHEES</b>
Lark Sparrow	233	
Chipping Sparrow	234	
Field Sparrow	235	
Fox Sparrow	236	
Dark-eyed Junco	237	
White-crowned Sparrow	238	
White-throated Sparrow	239	
Savannah Sparrow	240	
Song Sparrow	241	
Swamp Sparrow	242	
Eastern Towhee	243	
Yellow-breasted Chat	244	<b>BLACKBIRDS • ORIOLES • GRACKLES</b>
Bobolink	245	

Eastern Meadowlark	246	<b>BLACKBIRDS • ORIOLES • GRACKLES</b>
Orchard Oriole	247	
Baltimore Oriole	248	
Red-winged Blackbird	249	
Bronzed Cowbird	250	
Brown-headed Cowbird	251	
Brewer's Blackbird	252	
Common Grackle	253	
Boat-tailed Grackle	254	
Ovenbird	255	<b>WOOD-WARBLEDERS</b>
Black-and-white Warbler	256	
Prothonotary Warbler	257	
Tennessee Warbler	258	
Orange-crowned Warbler	259	
Common Yellowthroat	260	
Hooded Warbler	261	
American Redstart	262	
Northern Parula	263	
Magnolia Warbler	264	
Blackburnian Warbler	265	
Yellow Warbler	266	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	267	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	268	
Palm Warbler	269	
Pine Warbler	270	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	271	
Yellow-throated Warbler	272	
Black-throated Green Warbler	273	
Summer Tanager	274	<b>CARDINALS • GROSBEAKS • BUNTINGS</b>
Scarlet Tanager	275	
Northern Cardinal	276	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	277	
Blue Grosbeak	278	
Indigo Bunting	279	
Painted Bunting	280	
Dickcissel	281	
<b>Image Credits</b>	<b>282</b>	
<b>Index</b>	<b>287</b>	
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>291</b>	

# WELCOME TO YOUR ALL ABOUT BIRDS, SOUTHEAST GUIDE

Wherever you live, we hope you'll enjoy the amazing diversity and beauty of the birds around you. Birds stir our imaginations with their songs, dazzling colors, and flight. Whether in the wilderness, on farms, or in the heart of cities, birds open up a door into endless discoveries and fascination with the natural world.



So how exactly do you go about identifying an unfamiliar wild bird likely to fly away before you can figure out what it is? This guide will help you with a treasure trove of information, best practices, and advice about bird identification. By starting with the birds in your backyard, neighborhood, and region, you'll get to know more about the diversity, behaviors, and seasonal changes in birds—a foundation for endless explorations.

In these pages, you'll find information about the most common bird species in your region, drawn from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's comprehensive website, [AllAboutBirds.org](http://AllAboutBirds.org), used by more than 22 million people each year. Each species profile includes a map and four photographs that will help you recognize and appreciate the diversity of birds' plumages within and between species. You will also discover information about the Cornell Lab's vast online resources and learn about the Lab's free **Merlin® Bird ID** app to help you identify the birds around you based on your observations, photographs, and sound recordings.

We've also included a special section about the Cornell Lab's "citizen science" projects—scientific studies driven by contributions from bird watchers just like you—including the Cornell Lab's Project FeederWatch, NestWatch, and Great Backyard Bird Count. Our largest citizen-science initiative, eBird, provides a free portal for you to create and keep your own bird lists while sharing them for use in science, conservation, and outreach. Each year, participants record more than 100 million bird sightings! These projects empower you to participate and contribute to important science, while enjoying the outdoors or the view from your window. So, let's get started and have fun!

**Miyoko Chu**  
Senior Director of Communications  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology

**Brian Scott Sockin**  
CEO/Publisher  
Cornell Lab Publishing Group

## GETTING STARTED

All About Birds is a field guide for new and developing birders, based on *AllAboutBirds.org*, your online guide to birds and birding from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The content you will find in this book was curated by some of the world's leading bird experts and is presented in a friendly, easy-to-understand manner, just like the *All About Birds* website.

The first section of this book is presented as **Birding 101**, a primer for beginning and novice birders, but also a refresher for more advanced birders. You will learn how to identify birds with best practices, how to find, watch, and listen to birds, how to choose equipment, and how to take photos of birds (including how to “digiscope” with your smartphone).

The second section, **Attracting Birds to Your Backyard**, shares some of our best advice and tools to help you “birdscape” or create bird-friendly habitat outside your home. We begin with the three essential elements that all birds need to thrive—food, water, and shelter—followed by descriptions of different types of bird feeders and information on bird food options and what to look for when buying or building nest boxes. We also equip you with the things you need to know to attract the birds you want to see at home, and how you can protect and keep them safe while enjoying them.

The third section, **Getting Involved**, shares information about citizen science and how you can participate and contribute to important scientific studies at the Cornell Lab.

The fourth section is the bird field guide, covering 210 species of commonly seen birds in the southeastern United States. Each species page features easy-to-use sections with graphics, cool facts, backyard tips, and more. The diagram on the following page will show you how to navigate the species field guide pages.



# SAMPLE PAGE

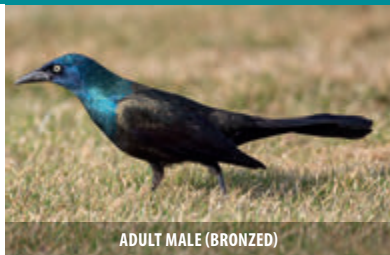
Common and scientific names

Category for easier searching

**COMMON GRACKLE** (*Quiscalus quiscula*) **BLACKBIRDS • ORIOLES • GRACKLES**



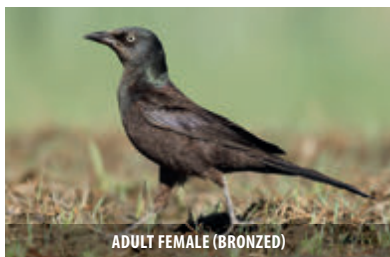
ADULT MALE (PURPLE)



ADULT MALE (BRONZED)



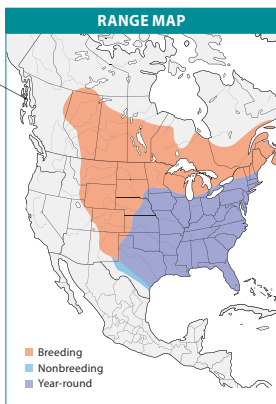
JUVENILE



ADULT FEMALE (BRONZED)

Photos may include immature and adult birds, and breeding and nonbreeding plumages for easier identification year-round.

Range Map



**SIZE & SHAPE** Common Grackles are large, lanky blackbirds with long legs. The head is flat, and the bill is longer than in most blackbirds, with the hint of a downward curve. In flight, wings appear short in comparison to the tail, which is very long and hangs down in the middle.

Size & Shape

**COLOR PATTERN** Common Grackles appear black from afar, but up close, iridescent colors and a golden eye come into focus. Some birds in the East are more purple overall than bronze. Females are less glossy and have shorter tails than males. Juveniles are all dark brown with dark eyes and shorter tails.

Color Pattern

**BEHAVIOR** Common Grackles form large flocks, flying or foraging on lawns and in agricultural fields. They strut on their long legs, pecking for food rather than scratching. At feeders, they dominate smaller birds. Their flight is direct, with stiff wingbeats.

Behavior

**HABITAT** Common Grackles thrive around agricultural fields, feedlots, city parks, and suburban lawns. They're also common in open habitats including woodland, forest edges, meadows, and marshes.

Habitat

**Common Grackles** are blackbirds that look like they've been slightly stretched. They're taller and have a longer tail than a typical blackbird, with a longer, more tapered bill and glossy, iridescent bodies. Grackles walk around lawns and fields on their long legs or gather in noisy groups high in trees, typically conifers.



# BIRDING 101



*Baltimore Oriole ©Linda Petersen/Macaulay Library*



## FOUR KEYS TO BIRD IDENTIFICATION

*To identify an unfamiliar bird, first focus on four keys to identification.*

With more than 800 species of birds in the U.S. and Canada, it's easy for a beginning bird watcher to feel overwhelmed by possibilities. Field guides often look crammed with similar birds arranged in seemingly haphazard order. We can help you figure out where to begin.



*White-throated Sparrow*

First we share where *not* to start. Many ID tips focus on very specific details of plumage called field

marks, such as the eyering of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, or the double breast band of a Killdeer. While these tips are useful, they assume you've already narrowed down your search to just a few similar species. Instead, start by learning how to recognize the group a mystery bird belongs to. You may still need to look at field marks to clinch some IDs. But these four keys—**Size and Shape, Color Pattern, Behavior, and Habitat**—will quickly get you to the right group of species, so you'll know exactly which field marks to look for.

### 1

## SIZE AND SHAPE

*Birds are built for what they do. Every part of the bird you're looking at is a clue to what it is.*

The combination of size and shape is one of the most powerful tools to identification. Though you may be drawn to watching birds because of their wonderful colors or fascinating behavior, when it comes to making identifications, size and shape are the first pieces of information you should examine. With just a little practice and observation, you'll find that differences in size and shape will jump out at you. The first steps are to learn typical bird silhouettes, find reliable ways to gauge the size of a bird, and notice differences in telltale parts of a bird such as the bill, wings, and tail. Soon, you'll know the difference between Red-winged Blackbirds and European Starlings while they're still in flight, and be able to identify a Red-tailed Hawk or Turkey Vulture without taking your eyes off the road.

## Become Familiar with Silhouettes

*Often you don't need to see any color at all to know what kind of bird you're looking at.*

Silhouettes quickly tell you a bird's size, proportions, and posture, and quickly rule out many groups of birds—even ones of nearly identical overall size.



### House Finch

A small-bodied finch with a fairly large beak and somewhat long, flat head. The House Finch has a relatively shallow notch in its tail.

Beginning bird watchers often get sidetracked by a bird's bright colors, only to be frustrated when they search through their field guides. Finches, for example, can be red, yellow, blue, brown, or green, but they're still always shaped like finches. Learn silhouettes, and you'll always be close to an ID.

## Judge Size Against Birds You Know Well

*Size is trickier to judge than shape.*

You never know how far away a bird is or how big that nearby rock or tree limb really is. Throw in fluffed-up or hunkered-down birds and it's easy to get fooled. But with a few tricks, you can still use size as an ID key. Compare your mystery bird to a bird you know well. It helps just to know that your bird is larger or smaller than a sparrow, a robin, a crow, or a goose, and it may help you choose between two similar species, such as Downy and Hairy woodpeckers or Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks.



Sometimes you need two reference birds for comparison. A crow is bigger than a robin but smaller than a goose.

## Judge Against Birds in the Same Field of View

*Your estimate of size gets much more accurate if you can compare one bird directly against another.*

When you find groups of different species, you can use the ones you recognize to sort out the ones you don't.

Use size and shape to find the full range of species hiding in a large flock. Amid these Caspian Terns are some smaller Common Terns. You'll also notice a Ring-billed Gull in the front on the left and a larger Herring Gull near the center.



For instance, if you're looking at a gull you don't recognize, you can start by noticing that it's larger than a more familiar bird, such as a Ring-billed Gull, that's standing right next to it. For some groups of birds, including shorebirds, seabirds, and waterfowl, using a known bird as a ruler is a crucial identification technique.

## Apply Your Size and Shape Skills to the Parts of a Bird

*After you've taken note of a bird's overall size and shape, there's still plenty of room to hone your identification.*

Turn your attention to the size and shape of individual body parts. Here you'll find clues to how the bird lives its life: what it eats, how it flies, and where it lives.

Start with the bill—that all-purpose tool that functions as a bird's hands, pliers, knitting needles, knife-and-fork, and bullhorn. A flycatcher's broad, flat, bug-snatching bill looks very different from the thick, conical nut-smasher of a finch. Notice the slightly downcurved bills of the Northern Flickers in your backyard. That's an unusual shape for a woodpecker's bill, but perfect for a bird that digs into the ground after ants, as flickers often do.

Bills are an invaluable clue to identification, but tail shape and wing shape are important, too. Even subtle differences in head shape, neck length, and body shape can all yield useful insights if you study them carefully.

Noticing details like these can help you avoid classic identification mistakes. For example, the Ovenbird is a common eastern warbler that has tricked many a bird watcher into thinking it's a thrush. The field marks are certainly thrushlike—warm brown above, strongly streaked below, even a crisp white eyering. But look at overall shape and size rather than field marks, and you'll see the body plan of a warbler—plump, compact body, short tail and wings, thin, pointed, insect-grabbing bill.

## Measure the Bird Against Itself

*This is the most powerful way to use a bird's size for identification.*

It's hard to judge a lone bird's size, and an unusual posture can make shape hard to interpret. But you can always measure key body parts (e.g., wings, bill, tail, legs) against the bird itself.

Look for details such as how long the bird's bill is relative to the head. That's a great way to tell apart Downy and Hairy woodpeckers as well as Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, but it's useful with other confusing species, too. Judging how big the head is compared to the rest of the body helps separate Cooper's Hawks from Sharp-shinned Hawks in flight. Get in the habit of using the bird itself as a ruler, and you'll be amazed at how much information you can glean from each view. Good places to start include noting how long the legs are; how long the neck is; how far the tail extends past the body; and how far the primary feathers of the wing end compared to the tail.



### Hairy vs. Downy Woodpeckers

The Hairy Woodpecker (L) is quite a bit larger than the Downy Woodpecker (R), but this is not obvious unless they are side by side. Looking at relative bill size is a way to distinguish between the two when they are not together. The Downy Woodpecker's bill is proportionally smaller than the Hairy Woodpecker's when compared to head size.

## 2 COLOR PATTERN

*When identifying a bird, focus on patterns instead of trying to match every feather.*

A picture, even a fleeting glimpse, can be worth a thousand words. As soon as you spot a bird, your eyes take in the overall pattern of light and dark. And if the light allows, you'll probably glimpse the main colors as well. This is all you need to start your identification.

Use these quick glimpses to build a hunch about what your mystery bird is, even if you just saw it flash across a path and vanish into the underbrush. Then, if the bird is kind enough to hop back into view, you'll know what else to look for to settle the identification.

Imagine that you're on vacation in Yosemite National Park. You see a small, bright-yellow bird flitting into the understory. Yellow immediately suggests a warbler (or the larger Western Tanager). Did you pick up a hint of grayness to the head? Or perhaps some glossy black? Just noticing that much can put you on track to identifying either a MacGillivray's Warbler or a Wilson's Warbler.



*Wilson's Warbler*

Some birds have very fine differences that take practice even to see at all. But don't start looking for those details until you've used overall patterns to let the bird remind you what it is. Read on for a few tips about noticing patches of light and dark, and the boldness or faintness of a bird's markings.

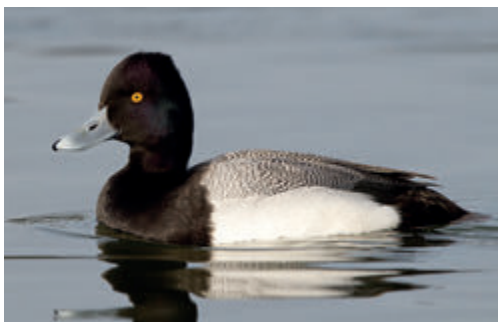
### Light and Dark

*When you're trying to make an ID, keep in mind that details can change, but overall patterns stay the same.*

Remember that birds molt and their feathers wear. Their appearance can vary if the bird is old or young, or by how well it had been eating last time it molted. And of course, the light the bird is sitting in can have a huge effect on the colors you see.

At a distance and in very quick sightings, colors fade and all that's left are light and dark. It helps to familiarize yourself with common patterns. For example, American White Pelicans are large white birds with black trailing edges to their wings. Snow Geese are similarly shaped and colored, but the black in their wings is confined to the wingtips.

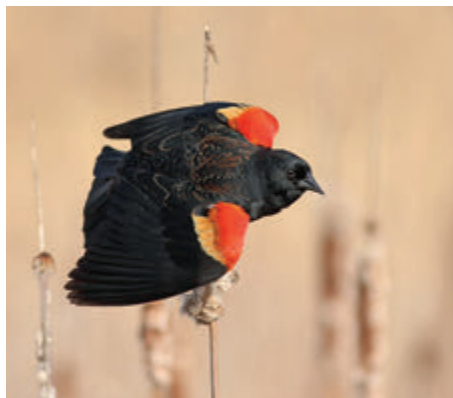
Greater and Lesser scaups are dark ducks with a pale patch on the side; Northern Shovelers are the opposite: light-bodied ducks with a dark patch on the side.



*Lesser Scaup*

Many birds are dark above and pale below—a widespread pattern in the animal world that helps avoid notice by predators. By reversing this pattern, male Bobolinks, with their dark underparts and light backs, look conspicuous even from all the way across a field.

Other birds seem to be trying to call attention to themselves by wearing bright patches of color in prominent places. Male Red-winged Blackbirds use their vivid shoulder patches to intimidate their rivals (notice how they cover up the patches when sneaking around off their territory). American Redstarts flick bright orange patches in their wings and tail, perhaps to scare insects out of their hiding places.



*Red-winged Blackbird*

Many birds, including Dark-eyed Juncos, Spotted and Eastern towhees, American Robins, and several hummingbirds, flash white in the tail when they fly, possibly as a way of confusing predators. White flashes in the wings are common, too: look for them in Northern Mockingbirds; Acorn, Golden-fronted, and Red-bellied woodpeckers; Common and Lesser nighthawks; and Phainopeplas.

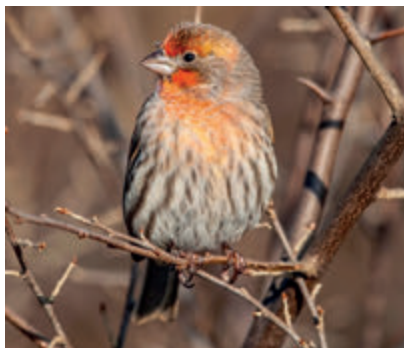
## Bold and Faint

*Notice strong and fine patterns.*

There are some confusing bird species that sit side by side in your field guide, wearing what seems like the exact same markings and defying you to identify them. Experienced birders can find clues to these tricky identifications by noticing how boldly or finely patterned their bird is. These differences can take a trained eye to detect, but the good news is that there's a great trial case right outside at your backyard feeder.



*Male Purple Finch*



*Male House Finch*

House Finches are common across most of temperate North America. Much of the continent also gets visits from the very similar Purple Finch. Males of the two species are red on the head and chest and brown and streaky elsewhere. The females are both brown and streaky. So how do you tell them apart? Look at how strongly they're marked.

Male House Finches tend to be boldly streaked down the flanks, whereas male Purple Finches are much paler and more diffusely streaked. Even the red is more distinct, and more confined to the head and breast, in a male House Finch. Male Purple Finches look washed all over, even on the back, in a paler raspberry red.

The all-brown females of these two species are an even better way to build your skills. The streaks on female House Finches are indistinct, brown on brown, with little actual white showing through. If a female Purple Finch lands next to it, she'll stand out with crisply defined brown streaks against a white background, particularly on the head.

Once you've had some practice, these small differences can be very useful. Similar degrees in marking can be seen between the coarsely marked Song Sparrow and finely painted Lincoln's Sparrow, and between immature Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks.

## BEHAVIOR

# 3

*There's what birds wear, and then there's how they wear it. A bird's attitude goes a long way in identification.*

Bird species don't just look unique, they have unique ways of acting, moving, sitting, and flying. When you learn these habits, you can recognize many birds the same way you notice a friend walking through a crowd of strangers.

Chances are you'll never see a Cedar Waxwing poking through the underbrush for seeds, or a Wood Thrush zigzagging over a summer pond catching insects. But similar-sized birds such as towhees and swallows do this all the time. Behavior is one key way these birds differ.

Because so much of a bird's identity is evident in how it acts, behavior can lead you to an ID in the blink of an eye, in bad light, or from a quarter-mile away. Before you even pick up your binoculars, notice how your bird is sitting, how it's feeding or moving, whether it's in a flock, and if it has any nervous habits such as flicking its wings or bobbing its tail.

And remember that to get good at recognizing birds by their behavior, you must spend time watching them. It's tempting to grab your field guide as soon as you see a field mark. Or, after identifying a common bird, you might feel rushed to move on and find something more unusual. Resist these urges. Relax and watch the bird for as long as it will let you. This is how you learn the way a bird acts, how you discover something new...and let's face it, it's probably why you went out bird watching in the first place.

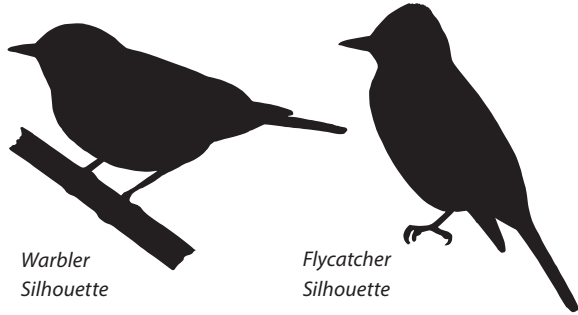
### Posture

*The most basic aspect of behavior is posture, or how a bird presents itself.*

You can learn to distinguish many similarly proportioned birds just from the poses they assume. It's a skill that includes recognizing a bird's size and shape, and adds in the impression of the bird's habits and attitude.



Warblers and flycatchers can be distinguished by posture.



For example, in the fall season, the small, drab-green Pine Warbler looks similar to the Acadian Flycatcher, right down to the two wingbars and the straight bill. But you're unlikely to confuse the two because their postures are so different. Pine Warblers hold their bodies horizontally and often seem to crouch. Flycatchers sit straight up and down, staying on alert for passing insects.

Horizontal versus vertical posture is the first step. Next, get an impression of the how the bird carries itself. Does it seem inquisitive like a chickadee or placid like a thrush? Does it lean forward, ready for mischief, like a crow? Or is it assertive and stiff, like a robin? Do the bird's eyes dart around after targets, like a flycatcher, or methodically scan the foliage like a vireo? Is the bird constantly on alert, like a finch in the open? Nervous and skittish like a kinglet?

## Movement

*As soon as a sitting bird starts to move, it gives you a new set of clues about what it is.*

You'll not only see different parts of the bird and new postures, you'll sense more of the bird's attitude through the rhythm of its movements. There's a huge difference between the bold way a robin bounces up to a perch, a mockingbird's showy, fluttering arrival, and the meekness of a towhee skulking around.

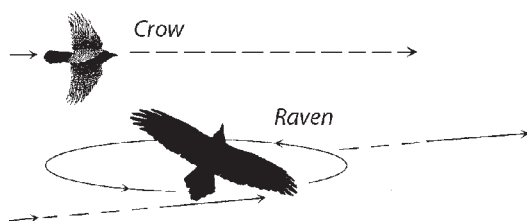
On the water, some ducks, such as Mallard and Northern Pintail, tip up (or "dabble") to reach submerged vegetation. Others, including scaup and Redhead, disappear from view as they dive for shellfish and other prey. Among the divers, you'll notice that some species, such as eiders, open their wings just before they dive. These ducks flap their wings for propulsion underwater, and they almost always begin a dive this way.

## Flight Pattern

*Certain birds have flight patterns that give them away.*

Almost nothing flaps as slowly as a Great Blue Heron—you can see this from miles away. Learn the long swooping flight of most woodpeckers and you'll be able to pick them out before they've even landed.

Many small birds, particularly finches, have bouncy, roller-coasterlike trajectories caused by fluttering their wings and then actually folding them shut for a split second.



### Crows and Ravens

Flight style can be a great way to identify birds at a distance. Although crows and ravens look very similar, they fly quite differently. American Crows flap slowly and methodically, whereas Common Ravens take frequent breaks from flapping to soar or glide.

Birds of prey have their own distinct styles. Red-tailed Hawks and other buteos fly with deep, regular wingbeats or soar in circles on broad wings. Falcons fly with powerful beats of their sharply pointed wings.

## Feeding Style

*Much of the time that you watch birds on the move, you'll be watching them feed, so it pays to become familiar with foraging styles.*

Some are obvious: the patient stalking of a heron; the continual up-and-back sprints of Sanderlings; the plunge of a kingfisher. But you can develop a surprisingly specific impression of almost any bird just from a few seconds of watching it forage.

For example, swallows, flycatchers, vireos, finches, and thrushes are all roughly the same size, but they feed in totally different manners: swallows eat on the wing; flycatchers dart out from perches and quickly return; vireos creep through leaves; finches sit still and crush seeds; and thrushes hop low to the ground eating insects and fruit.

## Flocking

*A flock of kingfishers? A single starling all on its own? Some species seem to be born loners, and others are never found solo.*

Even among flocking birds, there are those content to travel in threes and fours, and others that gather by the dozens and hundreds. A noisy group of yellow birds in a treetop is much more likely to be a flock of American Goldfinches than a group of Yellow Warblers. A visit to northern coasts in winter might net you several thousand Brant, but you'll probably only see Harlequin Ducks by the handful.

You'll often see flocks of gulls on a beach, in a parking lot, or wheeling overhead.



Learning the tendencies of birds to flock and their tolerance for crowding is one more aspect of behavior you can use. Just remember that many species get more sociable as summer draws to a close. After nesting is over and young are feeding themselves, adults can relax and stop defending their territories.

## 4

### HABITAT

*A habitat is a bird's home, and many birds are choosy. Narrow down your list by keeping in mind where you are.*

Identifying birds quickly and correctly is often about probability. By knowing what's likely to be seen you can get a head start on recognizing the birds you run into. And when you see a bird you weren't expecting, you'll know to take an extra look.

Habitat is both the first and last question to ask yourself when identifying a bird. Ask it first, so you know what you're likely to see, and last as a double-

check. You can fine-tune your expectations by taking geographic range and time of year into consideration.

### Birding by Probability

We think of habitats as collections of plants—grassland, cypress, pine woods, broadleaf forest. But they're equally collections of birds. By noting the habitat you're in, you can build a hunch about the kinds of birds you're most likely to see.

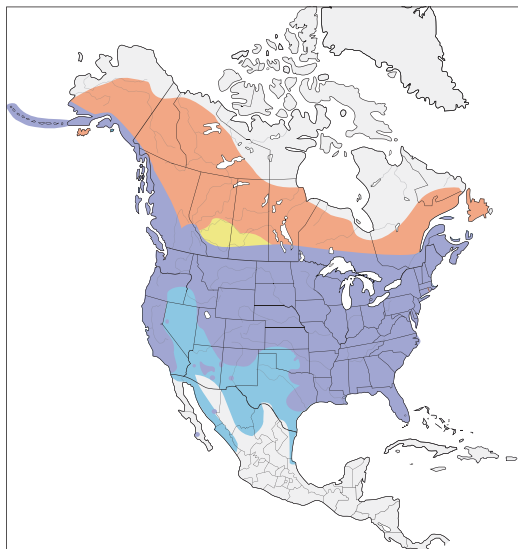
Of course, if you only let yourself identify birds you expect to see, you'll have a hard time finding unusual birds. The best way to find rarities is to know your common birds first (the ones left over are the rare ones). Birding by probability just helps you sort through them that much more quickly.

### Use Range Maps

You don't have to give yourself headaches trying to keep straight every last bird in your field guide. They may all be lined up next to each other on the pages, but that doesn't mean they're all in your backyard or local park.

Make it a habit to check the range maps before you make an identification. For example, you can strike off at least half of the devilishly similar *Empidonax* flycatchers at once, just by taking into account where you are when you see one. Similarly, North America has two kinds of small nuthatches with brown heads, but they don't occur within about 800 miles of each other.

Of course, birds do stray from their home ranges, sometimes fantastically, and that's part of the fun. But remember that you're birding by probability, so first compare your bird against what's likely to be present. If nothing matches, then start taking notes.



Range map of the Bald Eagle

## Check the Time of Year

*Range maps hold another clue to identification—they tell you when a bird is likely to be around.*



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird*

Many of summer's birds, including most of the warblers, flycatchers, thrushes, hummingbirds, and shorebirds, are gone by late fall. Other birds move in to replace them. This mass exodus and arrival is part of what makes bird watching during migration so exciting.

### Use eBird to Help

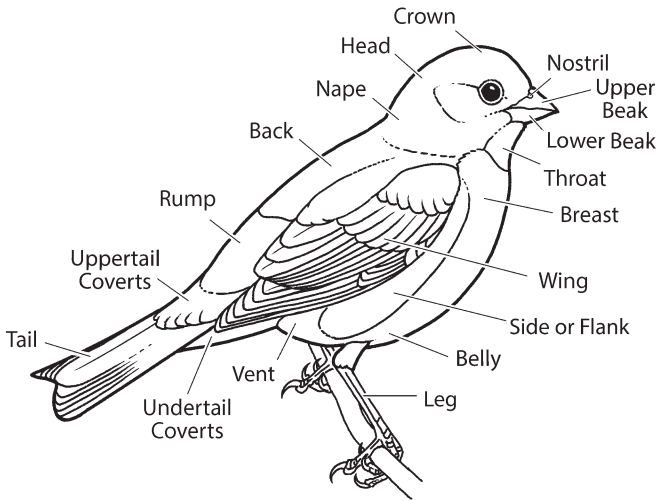
eBird's online species maps are a great way to explore both range and season. You can zoom in to see bird records from your immediate surroundings, and you can filter the map to show you just sightings from a particular month or season.

Another way to focus on the most likely birds near you is to use our free Merlin® Bird ID app for iOS and Android. Merlin takes your location and date, asks you a few simple questions, and gives you a short list of matching possibilities. See page 30 for more on Merlin.

## USING FIELD MARKS TO IDENTIFY BIRDS

Once you've looked at Size and Shape, Color Pattern, Behavior, and Habitat to decide what general type of bird you're looking at, you may still have a few similar birds to choose between. To be certain of your identification, you'll need to look at field marks.

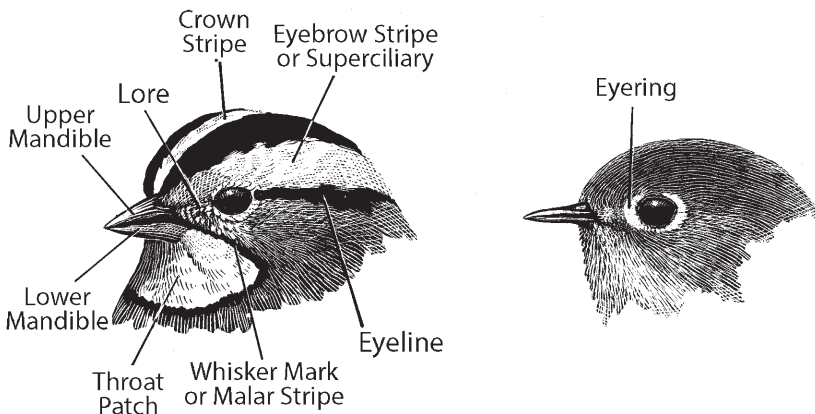
Birds display a huge variety of patterns and colors, which they have evolved in part to recognize other members of their own species. Birders use these features (called "field marks") to help distinguish species. Pay particular attention to the field marks of the head and the field marks of the wing.



Ornithologists divide a bird's body into topographical regions: beak (or bill), head, back, wings, tail, breast, belly, and legs. To help with identification, many of these regions are divided still further. This diagram shows some of the commonly used descriptive terms.

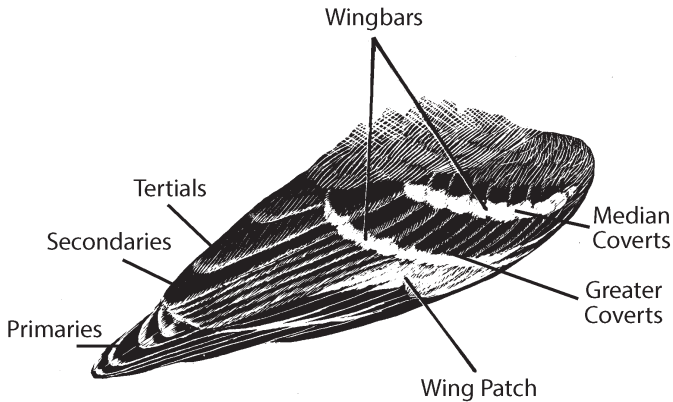
### Field Marks of the Head

When identifying an unknown bird, markings on the head are particularly important, as are beak shape and size. Here are head markings visually displayed to help you along.



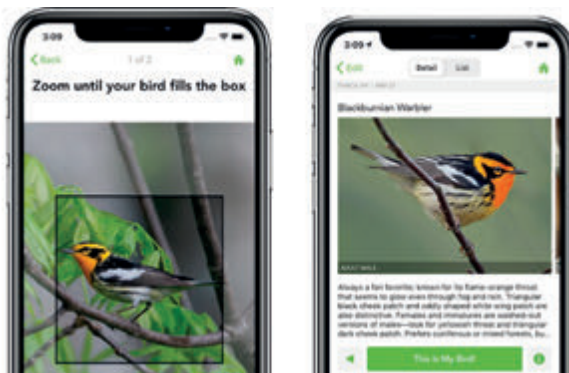
## Field Marks of the Wing

A bird's wings are another great place to pick up clues about its identity. In a few groups, notably warblers and vireos, the presence of wingbars and patches of color on the wing can give positive identification even when the bird is in nonbreeding plumage. In other groups, such as flycatchers and sparrows, the absence of wing markings may be important. It also pays to learn the main feather groups, such as primaries, secondaries, tertials, and coverts, and to look for “feather edging”—a different color running along the edges of feathers.



## USE MERLIN TO SEE THE POSSIBILITIES

**Merlin**<sup>®</sup>, an instant bird identification app from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, can make many identifications simple. It works by narrowing down your choices, prompting you to enter the date, location, and the bird's size, colors, and behavior.



Merlin was designed to be a birding coach for beginning and intermediate bird watchers. Merlin asks you the same questions that an expert birder would ask to help solve a mystery bird sighting. Notice that date and location are Merlin's first and most important questions.

It takes years of experience in the field to know what species are expected at a given location and date. Merlin shares this knowledge with you based on more than one billion sightings submitted to eBird from birders across the world.

Merlin also asks you to describe the color, size, and behavior of the bird you saw. Because no two people describe birds exactly the same way, Merlin presents a shortlist of matching species based on descriptions from Cornell Lab experts as well as thousands of bird enthusiasts who helped "teach" Merlin by participating in online activities.

If you photograph a bird and aren't sure what it is, Merlin can help identify that as well. Using a computer vision system trained on millions of images from the Macaulay Library, the Photo ID tool will help guide you to the right answer.

Much like a modern field-guide app, Merlin also provides world-class photos, ID text, sounds, and range maps. You can browse thousands of stunning images taken by top photographers and listen to a selection of songs and calls for each species. Merlin works all over the world, so no matter where you live or might be traveling, download Merlin for FREE (see page 30 for details).

## THE RIGHT STUFF

# 10 TIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRD WATCHER!



Birding mainly involves patience, careful the wonder and beauty of the natural world overtake you. But having the right equipment can help too:

### 1 Binoculars

Your enjoyment of birds depends hugely on how great they look through your binoculars, so make sure you're getting a big, bright, crisp picture through yours. In recent years excellent binoculars have become available at surprisingly low prices. So, while binoculars under \$100 may seem tempting, it's truly worth it to spend \$250 to \$300 for vastly superior images as well



as lifetime warranties, waterproof housing, and lighter weight. We suggest getting 7-power or 8-power binoculars—they're a nice mix of magnification while still allowing you a wide enough view that your bird won't be constantly hopping out of your image.

## 2 Field Guides

Field guides like this one focus on the most common species in your area and are meant to be portable. Unlike their digital counterparts, they often earn a special place on windowsills, providing a ready resource at home for hours of study and daydreaming.

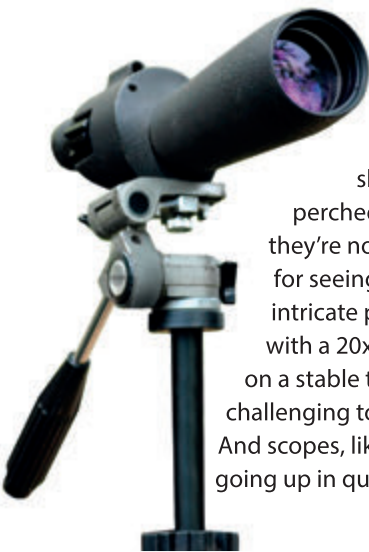
## 3 Bird Feeders

With binoculars for viewing and a guide to help you figure out what's what, the next step is to attract birds to your backyard, where you can get a good look at them. Bird feeders come in all types, but we recommend starting with a black-oil sunflower feeder, adding a suet feeder in winter and a hummingbird feeder in summer (or all year in parts of the continent). From there you can diversify to feeders that house millet, thistle seeds, mealworms, and fruit to attract other types of species. In sections that follow, we describe the main types of bird feeders along with images of what they look like, to help you choose the right feeders for your yard and to attract the birds you want to see.



## 4 Spotting Scopes

By this point in our list, you've got pretty much all the gear you need to be a birder—that is, until you start looking at those ducks on the far side of the pond, or shorebirds in mudflats, or that Golden Eagle perched on a tree limb a quarter-mile away. Though they're not cheap, spotting scopes are indispensable for seeing details at long range—or simply reveling in intricate plumage details that can be brought to life only with a 20x to 60x zoom. The fact that they are mounted on a stable tripod also helps you see details that can be challenging to appreciate while hand-holding binoculars. And scopes, like binoculars, are coming down in price while going up in quality.



## 5 Cameras

Affordable modern digital cameras allow even novice photographers to take great photos anywhere, anytime. And even if you don't get a great shot every time, even a blurry photo of a bird can help you or others clinch its ID. Birds are inherently artistic creatures, and more and more amateur photographers are connecting with birds through taking gorgeous pictures. If you don't want to invest in a camera with a big lens or long zoom right away, you can also try digiscoping—fitting your point-and-shoot camera or your smartphone's camera up to a spotting scope or binoculars to get a magnified view.

## 6 Keeping a List

"Listing" doesn't have to be for hardcore birders only; it's fun to record special moments from your days of birding. Many people save their records online using eBird. A Cornell Lab project, eBird allows you to keep track of every place and day you go bird watching, enter notes, share sightings with friends, and explore the data other eBirders have entered. Learn more about eBird and how to use it for free on pages 59–61.

## 7 Birding by Ear

Many people love bird sounds—calls, songs, and other avian utterances that fill the air. You can use these sounds as clues to identify species. When you are out in the field, use Merlin® to identify bird song.

## 8 Visual Bird Identification Skills

Now that we've covered the physical tools that equip you for bird watching, let's loop back to your mental tools. Once you're outside and surrounded by birds, practice the four-step approach to identification that we shared earlier in *Birding 101*: Size and Shape; Color Pattern; Behavior; and Habitat.

## 9 Birding Apps and Digital Field Guides

If you have a smartphone, you can carry a bookshelf in your pocket. You've already learned about the free Merlin® Bird ID app, but there are many other resources at your disposal. Download the eBird app to keep track of your bird observations in the field, as well as explore recent sightings and bird lists for nearby hotspots. There are also digital field guides—most of the major printed field guides have an app or eBook version. Some specialized apps cover specific groups of species, such as the Warbler Guide and Raptor ID apps. Others, like LarkWire, focus on helping you learn bird song. Search for them in Apple and Android stores. Our All About Birds species guide ([AllAboutBirds.org](http://AllAboutBirds.org)) works on mobile devices, giving you access to free ID information and sound recordings straight from your smartphone's internet browser.

## 10 Connect with Other Birders

Bird watching can be a relaxing solo pursuit, like a walk in the woods decorated with bird sightings. But birding can also be a social endeavor, and the best way to learn is from other people. A great way to connect with people and birds in your area is to look on [birding.aba.org/](http://birding.aba.org/). You'll get emails that will tell you what people have been seeing, announce local bird outings,



and connect you with members of your local birding club. Most regions also have Facebook groups where people share what they've been seeing and welcome newcomers. There's a decent chance that someone's leading a bird walk near you this weekend—and they'd love to have you come along.

## LISTENING TO BIRDS

*When a bird sings, it's telling you what it is, where it is, and often what is happening.*

You can only see straight ahead, but you can hear in all directions at once. Learning bird songs is a great way to identify birds hidden by dense foliage, birds far away, birds at night, and birds that look identical to each other.

And then there's the "dawn chorus," that time as the sun begins to light up the world, when birds join together in a symphony of sound. When you first listen to a dawn chorus in full swing, the sheer onslaught of bird song can be overwhelming. How does anyone begin to pick apart the chirps, whistles, and trills that are echoing out of the woods? The answer, of course, is to concentrate on one bird at a time—and that approach holds true when you're trying to learn individual songs, too. Don't try to memorize each entire song you hear; instead, focus on one quality of the sound at a time. Many birds have a characteristic rhythm, pitch, or tone to their song. Here's how to use them:

### Rhythm

Get used to a bird's characteristic tempo as well as the number of distinct sections to its song. Marsh Wrens sing in a hurry, while White-throated Sparrows are much more leisurely.

## Repetition

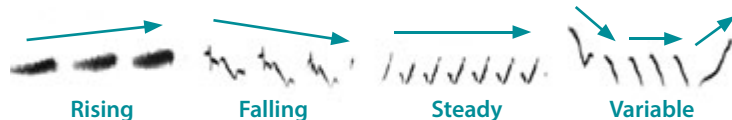
Some birds characteristically repeat syllables or phrases before moving on to a new sound. Northern Mockingbirds do this many times in a row. Though Brown Thrashers sound similar, they typically repeat only twice before changing to a new syllable.



*Wood Thrush*

## Pitch

Most birds sing in a characteristic range, with smaller birds (such as the Cedar Waxwing) typically having higher voices and larger birds (such as the Common Raven) usually having deeper voices. Many bird songs change pitch, so it helps to pay attention to the overall pitch trend in a song. Some birds are distinctive for having steady voices, such as the Chipping Sparrow's trill.



## Tone

The tone of a bird's song is sometimes hard to describe, but it can be very distinctive. As a start, pay attention to whether a bird's voice is a clear whistle, harsh or scratchy, liquid and flutelike, or a clear trill. If you can remember the quality of a bird's voice, it can give you a clue to the bird's identity even if the bird doesn't sing the same notes every time.

- **Buzzy:** Like a bee—a good example would be Townsend's Warbler song.
- **Clear:** Something you could whistle. Northern Cardinals have a clear song, as do Yellow Warblers.
- **Trilled:** A lot of sounds in a row that are too fast to count (technically, more than 11 sounds per second). Chipping Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos sing trills.



**Buzzy**



**Clear**



**Trilled**

## PHOTOGRAPHING BIRDS

# 5

### BASICS OF GOOD BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY



With the explosion in availability and design of digital cameras, it's now possible for hobbyists to take amazingly good photos. Though your photos may not show up on the cover of *National Geographic*, you can up the “wow” factor by paying attention to a few basics.

Beyond the mechanical aspects of shutter speed, aperture, and ISO (which digital cameras increasingly handle automatically), there is an indefinable something that transforms an image into a work of art. Often thought of as talent, just as often it's the result of hours of practice and attention to detail. Here are five basics of good bird photography to bear in mind:

### 1 Lighting

The best times to shoot are morning and late afternoon when the light is angled, warmer, and more subdued. It's harder to take a good picture in the middle of a bright, clear day because images end up with too much contrast, where light areas get washed out and shadows turn inky black.

Having the source of light behind and slightly to one side of you creates a more three-dimensional subject. Having your subject backlit rarely works well unless you're deliberately going after a silhouette.

### 2 Framing

Professionals usually avoid placing any subject in the exact center of a photograph. It tends to be more visually stimulating to see the bird off to one side, facing inward. Our own eyes naturally follow the same trajectory. Luckily, it's easy to crop your image later on to get the framing how you want it, so framing in the field is less important unless you're very close to your subject.

### 3 Composition

Non-bird elements in your picture can add or detract from a pleasing composition. Branches, shrubbery, rocks, and flowers can be a distraction—or they can be used artfully to frame the bird within the picture. Although you want to avoid having a branch right behind the bird looking like it's growing

out of its head, incorporating some part of the bird's habitat often makes a shot better. If the background is too busy, try opening the aperture to blur the background and make your subject stand out.

#### 4 Angle

You can shoot from a position that is higher than your subject, lower, at eye level, or somewhere in between. Each situation can be different—but adjusting your height to shoot the bird at eye level is often a good choice, as it puts the viewer on the same plane as the bird. To get closer to wary birds, you can wear muted clothing, hide behind vegetation, and move slowly and calmly in a zigzag pattern. It is never a good idea to bait a bird or to approach so closely that you flush the bird or alter its behavior.



*Sanderling*

#### 5 Knowledge of Your Subject

To be the best bird photographer you can be, you really have to know birds. For example, knowing the habitat and behavior of a species allows you to predict where you're likely to find them and anticipate what they might do next. For example, berry bushes attract Cedar Waxwings; herons haunt the edges of marshes and ponds; waterfowl often rest and preen in the same spot every day. Study your subject and you'll know when and where to get the shot.

#### What Kind of Camera?

We're in a golden age of camera design and there are great options at every level of interest. Serious enthusiasts tend toward DSLR (digital single-lens reflex) or mirrorless cameras with interchangeable lenses, but these can be expensive. At the entry level, so-called "superzoom" cameras can produce surprisingly good results while remaining compact and fairly inexpensive.

## DIGISCOPING

*Placing the lens of a digital camera to the eyepiece of a spotting scope is called “digiscoping.” It’s an inexpensive way to take decent pictures without a heavy, expensive telephoto lens.*

Both scopes and digital cameras have improved tremendously since the dawn of digiscoping. One of the most significant advances has been the advent of smartphones, which are now arguably the best tool for digiscoping and certainly the most convenient. Scopes, too, have come down in price.



*Digiscoped Rose-breasted Grosbeak*

There can be different goals in digiscoping. It can be practiced slowly and patiently to capture frame-worthy photos, whether detail-rich or artistically blurred. More often, it’s a handy way to capture shots to remind yourself of a special moment or to back up a rare bird report. It’s even becoming common for people to record video while digiscoping.

Granted, digiscoping does require a spotting scope, which can cost as much as a camera and telephoto lens—but some birders are happy to put their money toward a scope that can do double duty in both bird watching and photography.

Getting a good image when digiscoping comes down to gathering plenty of light, getting the camera lens the correct distance from the scope’s eyepiece, and holding everything steady.

### Getting Connected

There are a variety of ways to bring the camera lens and scope eyepiece together. For smartphones, the earliest method involved placing a finger between phone and eyepiece both to steady the lens and keep it at the correct distance. Today you can find phone adapters custom-sized to hold a phone in the proper position—greatly cutting down on fiddling and frustration.

If you don't line up camera and eyepiece perfectly, you may get uneven focus, part of the image cut off, or shadows creeping in as light leaks in between scope and camera lenses. Remember that the many commercial adapters are not universal, so make sure you get what fits your gear.

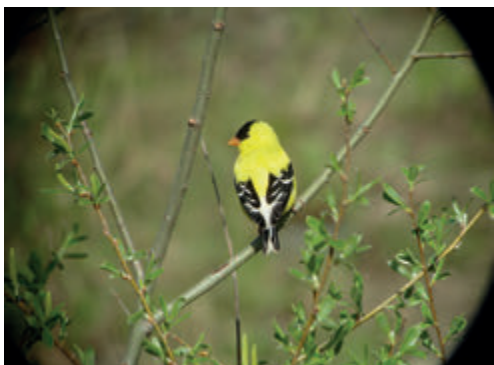
### Standing Steady

The magnification produced by digiscoping is just what you need to pull your subject in close, but it also magnifies small movements from wind or a shaky trigger finger. Keeping extraneous motion to a minimum is of paramount importance. A quality tripod for your scope will provide stable support and prevent your photos from turning into a blurry mess. You'll find that a rock-steady tripod will be well worth it anyway—even in routine bird watching without attaching a camera.

## 5 TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL DIGISCOPING

### 1 Let There Be Light

One cause of blurry photos is low light coming through the scope, which forces a slower shutter speed and increases the effect of motion. Using larger, brighter scopes, such as 85-mm models rather than 65-mm models, results in noticeably better digiscoped photos. If you can change your camera's ISO (a feature becoming more common on smartphones), setting it higher can get you a faster shutter speed.



*Digiscoped American Goldfinch*

### 2 Resist the Zoom

For scopes with a zoom, bear in mind that you quickly lose light as you zoom in. The human eye is good at compensating for this; cameras less so. Take advantage of your camera's many megapixels by shooting at a lower, brighter zoom setting and then cropping later.



### **3** Capture the Motion

Many cameras and phones have a continuous shooting feature that takes photos one after another. This setting can help you catch birds in just the right pose. As an alternative, consider shooting video of a fast-moving subject—this can be more helpful than still photos when trying to identify a bird later.

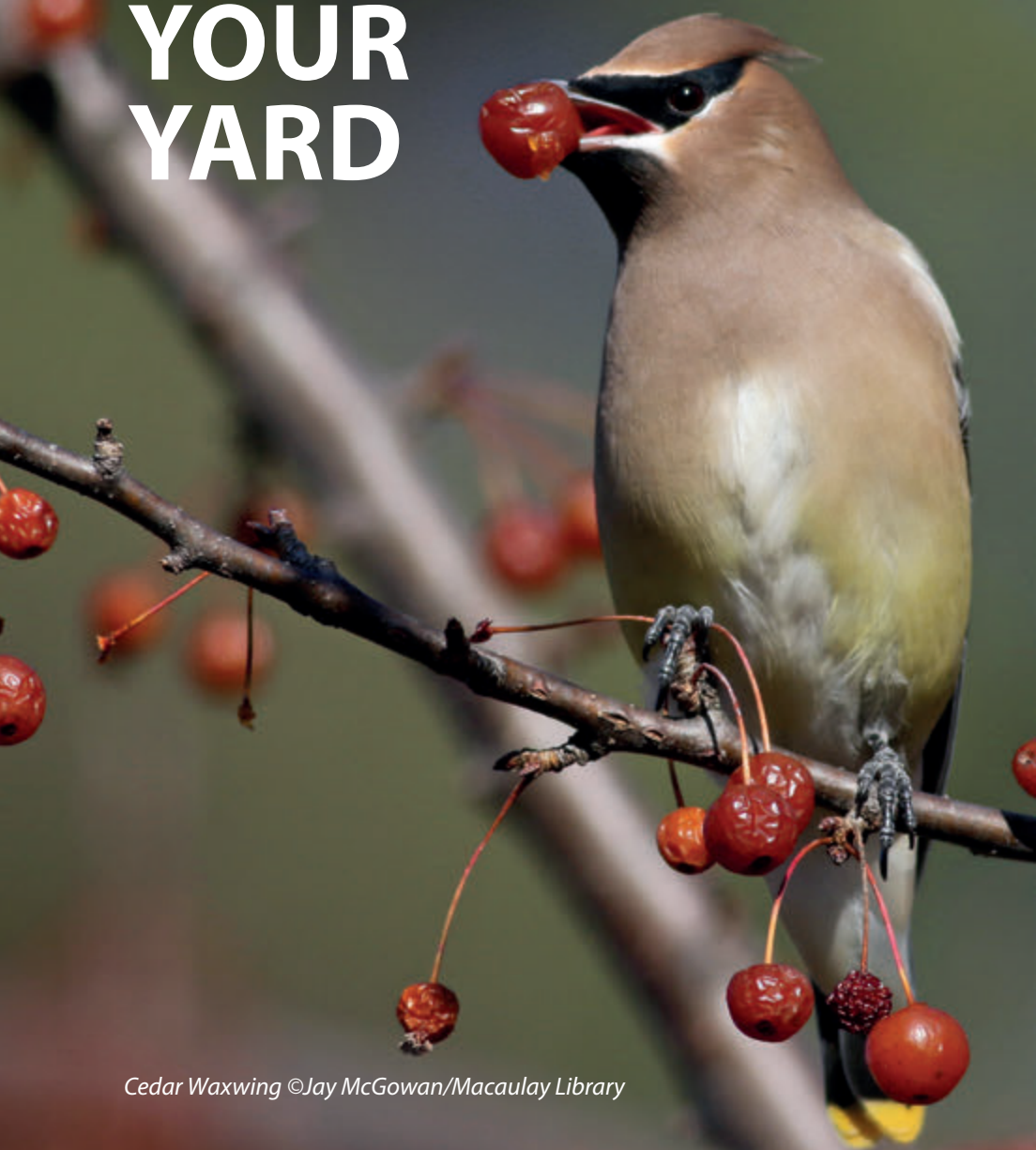
### **4** Try It with Your Binoculars

Sometimes called “digibinning,” this advanced technique can sometimes produce decent photos. If you don’t already have a spotting scope, it’s a less expensive way to get into digiscoping. But be warned: it’s hard to hold the binocular-phone combination steady. It’s a good idea to start with large, stationary birds such as herons.

### **5** Practice, Practice, Practice

Fortunately, once you’ve got the equipment, taking digital photos is virtually free. It may seem impossible at first, but you’ll quickly improve as you become comfortable with setting up the scope and handling your camera’s controls. Don’t be afraid to experiment—you never know what you’ll come away with.

# ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR YARD



## BIRDSCAPING

*You can watch birds anywhere.*

Parks, nature preserves, and wildlife refuges provide some of the most diverse species, but the easiest place to watch birds is your own backyard. Enhancing your yard to attract and support birds is called “birdscaping.”

Putting up a feeder is an easy way to attract birds. But if you’d prefer a more natural approach or you want to satisfy more than birds’ nutritional needs, consider landscaping your yard—even just a part of it—to be more bird friendly. Even a small yard can provide vital habitat. The core concept is simple—all birds need three basic things from their habitats.



*American Goldfinch*

### 1 Food

Your birds can get food from feeders that you put up. Landscaping your yard to provide the fruit, seeds, beneficial insects, and other small animals that birds feed on adds natural food sources for birds, too.

### 2 Water

All living things need water to survive. Providing this habitat necessity is one of the quickest ways to attract birds to your property. If there is a water source in your yard, such as a pond, creek, birdbath, or even a puddle, you’ve probably noticed birds using it. If you don’t have a water feature yet, a birdbath is an easy way to provide this habitat need.

### 3 Shelter

Whether it’s protection from the elements, safe places to hide from predators, or secure locations to hide nests, providing shelter is one of the best ways to make your property bird-friendly.



## Improve Your Yard

Take a “bird’s-eye” look at your backyard. Does it provide those things? If not, there are plants you can grow and many other ways you can enhance your yard to make it safe and inviting for birds. Here are some tips to help you:

### 1 Evaluate Your Yard

First, take stock of what you already have. Draw a map of your property including buildings, sidewalks, fences, trees, shrubs, feeders, and nest boxes. Note sunny or shady sites, low or wet areas, sandy sites, and plants you want to keep.

### 2 Start With a Plan

Before you start digging holes and rearranging your yard, develop a planting plan. Draw each new plant onto a piece of tracing paper, then place that over the map of your yard. Once your plants are in, use your map as a reminder about which ones need to be watered and weeded, especially in the first year after planting. Mulch is great for keeping moisture in and weeds out.



### 3 Think Variety

Try to include variety and year-round value in your planting plan. Look for places to include grasses, legumes, hummingbird flowers, plants that fruit in summer and fall, winter-persistent plants, and conifers for shelter. Plant native species instead of exotics, and look for places to create shelter with a brush pile or standing dead tree.

## BIRD FEEDERS

*Fifty million people in North America feed birds and it's a great way to attract birds to your backyard. But feeders are not one size fits all—different species are attracted to different designs. Here are the main types of feeders and the types of birds they attract.*

### Ground

Many species of birds, including sparrows and doves, prefer to feed on large, flat surfaces and may not visit any type of elevated feeder. Song Sparrows and many towhee species, for instance, will rarely land on a feeder, but they will readily eat fallen seed from the ground beneath your feeders. To attract these species, try spreading seed on the ground or on a large surface such as the top of a picnic table. Ground feeders that sit low to the ground with mesh screens for good drainage can also be used. Make sure that there are no predators around, including outdoor cats.



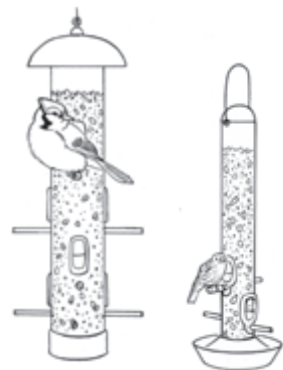
### Large and Small Hopper

A hopper feeder is a platform on which walls and a roof are built, forming a “hopper” that protects seed against the weather. Large hoppers attract most species of feeder birds and will allow larger species, such as doves and grackles, to feed. Small hoppers will attract smaller birds while preventing those larger species from comfortably perching and monopolizing the feeder.



### Large and Small Tube

A tube feeder is a hollow cylinder, often made of plastic, with multiple feeding ports and perches. Tube feeders keep seed fairly dry. Feeders with short perches accommodate small birds such as finches but exclude larger birds such as grackles and jays. The size of the feeding ports varies as well, depending on the type of seed to be offered. Note that special smaller feeding ports are required for nyjer (thistle) seed to prevent spillage.



## Sugar Water

Sugar-water feeders are specially made to dispense sugar water through small holes. Choose a feeder that is easy to take apart and clean, because the feeder should be washed or run through the dishwasher frequently.



## Platform

A platform feeder is any flat, raised surface onto which bird food is spread. The platform should have plenty of drainage holes to prevent water accumulation. A platform with a roof will help keep seeds dry. Trays attract most species of feeder birds. Placed near the ground, they are likely to attract juncos, doves, and sparrows.



## Suet Cage

Suet or suet mixes can be placed in a specially made cage, tied to trees, or smeared into knotholes. Cages that are only open at the bottom tend to be starling-resistant but allow woodpeckers, nuthatches, and chickadees to feed by clinging upside down.



## Thistle Sock

Thistle "socks" are fine-mesh bags to which birds cling to extract nyjer or thistle seeds. Seed within thistle socks can become quite wet with rain, so only use large ones during periods when you have enough finches to consume the contents in a few days.



## Window Feeder

Small plastic feeders affixed to window glass with suction cups, and platform feeders hooked into window frames, attract finches, chickadees, titmice, and some sparrows. They afford wonderful, close-up views of birds, and their placement makes them the safest of all feeder types for preventing window collisions.



## FEEDER PLACEMENT & SAFETY

Place feeders in a quiet area where they are easy to see and convenient to refill. Place them close to natural cover, such as trees or shrubs. Evergreens are ideal, as they provide thick foliage that hides birds from predators and buffers winter winds. Be careful not to place feeders too close to trees with strong branches that can provide jump-off points for squirrels and cats. A distance of about 10 feet is a good compromise.

### Hummingbird Feeders

Place hummingbird feeders in the shade if possible, as sugar solution spoils quickly in the sun. Don't use honey, artificial sweeteners, or food coloring. If bees or wasps become a problem, try moving the feeder.

Clean and refill hummingbird feeders every few days in a dishwasher or very hot water to prevent dangerous mold. Keep seed and suet feeders clean by washing them periodically in a dishwasher, with soap and very hot water, or with a diluted bleach or vinegar solution.

### Window Strikes

Ornithologists estimate that up to *one billion* birds are killed by hitting windows in the United States and Canada each year. Placing feeders close to your windows (ideally closer than three feet) can help reduce this problem. When feeders are close, a bird leaving the feeder cannot gain enough momentum to do harm if it strikes the window.

You can prevent more window strikes by breaking up reflections of trees and open space, which birds perceive as a flight path through your home. Techniques include attaching streamers, suction-cup feeders, or decals to windows, crisscrossing branches within the window frames, or installing awnings or screens. Acopian Bird Savers are closely spaced ropes that hang down over windows. They do the work of tape or decals but are easier to install and can be aesthetically pleasing.

Another method is to attach netting to the outside of the window to buffer the impact. Deer netting (the kind used to keep deer from eating plants in your yard) works well, pulled taut to prevent any entanglements.

To learn more about window crashes, how to prevent them, and more specific solutions to this problem, visit <https://tinyurl.com/preventing-window-crashes>.

## BIRD FOOD

Sunflower seeds attract the widest variety of birds and are the mainstay food used in most bird feeders. Other varieties of seed can help attract different types of birds to your feeders and yard and this section highlights many of them. When buying mixtures, note that those that contain red millet, oats, and other fillers are not attractive to most birds and can lead to a lot of waste.

### Sunflower Seeds

There are two kinds of sunflower—black oil and striped. The black oil seeds (“oilers”) have very thin shells, easy for virtually all seed-eating birds to crack open, and the kernels within have a high fat content, which is extremely valuable for most winter birds. Striped sunflower seeds have a thicker shell, much harder for House Sparrows and blackbirds to crack open. So, if you’re inundated with species you’d rather not subsidize at your feeder, before you do anything else, try switching to striped sunflower. Sunflower in the shell can be offered in a wide variety of feeders, including trays, tube feeders, hoppers, and acrylic window feeders. Sunflower hearts and chips shouldn’t be offered in tube feeders where moisture can collect. Since squirrels love sunflower seeds, be prepared to take steps to squirrel-proof your feeder if needed.



### Safflower

Safflower has a thick shell, hard for some birds to crack open, but is a favorite among cardinals. Some grosbeak chickadees, doves, and native sparrows also eat it. According to some sources, House Sparrows, European Starlings, and squirrels don’t like safflower, but in some areas they seem to have developed a taste for it. Cardinals and grosbeaks tend to prefer tray and hopper feeders, which make these feeders a good choice for offering safflower.



### Nyjer or Thistle

Small finches including American Goldfinches, Lesser Goldfinches, Indigo Buntings, Pine Siskins, and Common Redpolls often devour these tiny, black,





needlelike seeds. As invasive thistle plants became a recognized problem in North America, suppliers shifted to a daisylike plant, known as *Guizotia abyssinica*, that produces a similar type of small, oily, rich seed. The plant is now known as niger or nyjer, and is imported from overseas. The seeds are heat-sterilized during importation to limit their chance of spreading invasively, while retaining their food value.

### White Proso Millet

White millet is a favorite with ground-feeding birds including quails, native sparrows, doves, towhees, juncos, and cardinals. Unfortunately, it's also a favorite of House Sparrows, which are already subsidized by human activities and supported at unnaturally high population levels by current agricultural practices and habitat changes. When these species are present, you may want to stop offering millet; virtually all the birds that like it are equally attracted to black oil sunflower. Because white millet is so preferred by ground-feeding birds, scatter it on the ground or set low platform feeders with excellent drainage.



### Shelled and Cracked Corn

Corn is eaten by grouse, pheasants, turkeys, quail, cardinals, grosbeaks, crows, ravens, jays, doves, and cranes, and other species. Unfortunately, corn has two serious problems. First, it's a favorite of House Sparrows, starlings, geese, bears, raccoons, and deer. Second, corn is the bird food most likely to be contaminated with aflatoxins, which are extremely toxic even at low levels. Never buy corn in plastic bags, never allow it to get wet, never offer it in amounts that can't be consumed in a day during rainy or very humid weather, and be conscientious about raking up old corn. Never offer corn covered in a red dye. Corn should be offered in fairly small amounts at a time on tray feeders. Don't offer it in tube feeders that could harbor moisture.



## Peanuts

Peanuts are very popular with jays, crows, chickadees, titmice, woodpeckers, and many other species, but are also favored by squirrels, bears, raccoons, and other animals. Like corn, peanuts have a high likelihood of harboring aflatoxins, so must be kept dry and used up fairly quickly. Peanuts in the shell can be set out on platform feeders or right on a deck railing or window feeder as a special treat for jays. If peanuts, peanut hearts, or mixtures of peanuts and other seeds are offered in tube feeders, make sure to change the seed frequently, especially during rainy or humid weather, and be sure to completely empty out and clean the tube every time you do so.



## Milo or Sorghum

Milo is a favorite with many western ground-feeding birds. On Cornell Lab of Ornithology seed-preference tests, Steller's Jays, Curve-billed Thrashers, and Gambel's Quails preferred milo to sunflower. In another study, House Sparrows did not eat milo. Milo should be scattered on the ground or on low tray feeders.



## Golden Millet, Red Millet, Flax, and Others

These seeds are often used as fillers in packaged birdseed mixes, but most birds shun them. Waste seed becomes a breeding ground for bacteria and fungus, contaminating fresh seed more quickly. Make sure to read the ingredients list on birdseed mixtures, avoiding those with these seeds. If a seed mix has a lot of small, round seeds, make sure they're milo or sorghum, not red millet.



## Mealworms

Mealworms are the larvae of the mealworm beetle, *Tenebrio molitor*, and they provide a high-protein treat for many birds. Some people provide live mealworms, while others prefer offering dried larvae. Birds such as chickadees, titmice, wrens, and nuthatches relish this food, and mealworms are one of the few food items that reliably attracts bluebirds. Offer mealworms on a flat tray or in a specialized mealworm feeder.



## Fruit

Various fruits can prove quite attractive to many species of birds. Oranges cut in half will often attract orioles which will sip the juice and eat the flesh of the orange. Grapes and raisins are a favorite of many fruit-eating birds such as mockingbirds, catbirds, bluebirds, robins, and waxwings. You can also provide a dish of grape jelly for these species, but be sure to avoid jellies containing artificial ingredients like preservatives or sweeteners. Several species are also attracted to the dried seeds of fruits such as pumpkins or apples. Be sure to dispose of any fruit that becomes moldy because some molds create toxins that are harmful to birds.



## Sugar Water or Nectar

To make nectar for hummingbirds, add one part table sugar to four parts boiling water and stir. A slightly more diluted mixture can be used for orioles (one part sugar to six parts water). You may want to use regular granulated white sugar rather than raw or cane sugar, which may contain additional ingredients that have unknown effects on hummingbirds. Allow the mixture to cool before filling the feeder. Store extra sugar water in the refrigerator for up to one week (after that it may become moldy, which is dangerous for birds). Adding red food coloring is unnecessary and possibly harmful to birds. Red portals on the feeder, or even a red ribbon tied on top, will attract the birds just as well.



## Grit

Birds "chew" their food in the muscular part of their stomach called the gizzard. To aid in the grinding, birds swallow small, hard materials such as sand, small pebbles, ground eggshells, and ground oyster shells. Grit, therefore, attracts many birds as a food supplement or even by itself. Oyster shells and eggshells have the added benefit of being a good source of calcium, something birds need during egg laying. If you decide to provide eggshells, be sure to sterilize them first. You can boil them for 10 minutes or heat them in an oven (20 minutes at 250°F). Let the eggshells cool, then crush them into pieces about the size of sunflower seeds. Offer the eggshell in a dish or low platform feeder.



## WATER SOURCES

Like all animals, birds need water to survive. Though they can extract some moisture from their food, most birds drink water every day. Birds also use water for bathing, to clean their feathers and remove parasites. After splashing around in a bath for a few minutes, a bird usually perches in a sunny spot and fluffs its feathers out to dry. Then it carefully preens each feather, adding a protective coating of oil secreted by a gland at the base of its tail.

Because birds need water for drinking and bathing, they are attracted to water just as they are to feeders. A dependable supply of fresh, clean water is very important. In fact, a birdbath may even bring in birds that don't eat seeds and won't visit your feeders otherwise. Providing water for birds can improve the quality of your backyard bird habitat and should provide you with a fantastic opportunity to observe bird behavior.



*Blackburnian Warbler*

Birds seem to prefer baths that are at ground level, but raised baths will attract birds as well and may make birds less vulnerable to predators. Change the water daily to keep it fresh and clean. You can also arrange a few branches or stones in the water so that birds can stand on them and drink without getting wet (this is particularly important in winter). Birdbaths should be only an inch or two deep, with a shallow slope.

One of the best ways to make your birdbath more attractive is to provide dripping water. You can buy a dripper or sprayer, or you can recycle an old bucket or plastic container by punching a tiny hole in the bottom, filling it with water, and hanging it above the birdbath so the water drips out. In freezing climates, a birdbath heater will keep ice from freezing. Don't add antifreeze; it is poisonous to all animals, including birds.

To learn more about birdbaths: <https://tinyurl.com/learn-more-birdbaths>.

## FEATURES OF A GOOD BIRDHOUSE

### IT'S WELL CONSTRUCTED



**Untreated Wood** – Use untreated, unpainted wood, preferably cedar, pine, cypress, or for larger boxes (owls) non-pressure-treated CDX exterior grade plywood.



**Galvanized Screws** – Use galvanized screws for the best seal. Nails can loosen over time, allowing rain into the nest box. Screws are also easier to remove for repairs or maintenance. Do not use staples.



### IT KEEPS BIRDS DRY



**Sloped Roof** – A sloped roof that overhangs the front by 2–4" and the sides by 2" will help keep out driving rain, while also thwarting predators. Add 1/4"-deep cuts under the roof on all three edges to serve as gutters that channel rain away from the box.



**Recessed Floor** – A recessed floor keeps the nest from getting wet and helps the box last longer. Recess the floor at least 1/4" up from the bottom.



**Drainage Holes** – Add at least four drainage holes (3/8" to 1/2" diameter) to the floor to allow any water that enters the box to drain away. Alternatively, you can cut away the corners of the floorboard to create drainage holes.

### IT HELPS REGULATE TEMPERATURE

**Thick Walls** – Walls should be at least 3/4" thick to insulate the nest properly. (Note that boards sold as 1" are actually 3/4" thick.)

**Ventilation Holes** – For adequate ventilation, there should be two 5/8"-diameter holes on each of the side walls, near the top (four total).

## IT KEEPS OUT PREDATORS

**No Perches** – A perch is unnecessary for the birds and can actually help predators gain access to the box.



**Types of Predator Guards** – Although predators are a natural part of the environment, birdhouses are typically not as well concealed as natural nests and some predators can make a habit of raiding your boxes. Adding a baffle or guard helps keep nestlings and adults safe from climbing predators. Below are some time-tested options.



### ← Collar Baffle

A metal collar of about 3 feet in diameter surrounding the pole underneath the nest box.

### Stovepipe Baffle →

A more complex pole-mounted baffle. These baffles are generally 8" in diameter and 24"–36" long.



### ← Hole Guard

A wooden block over the entrance hole that extends the depth of the entrance hole. You can also use an entrance hole guard in combination with a pole-mounted baffle (preferred), or attach it to boxes installed on trees.

### Noel Guard →

A wire mesh tube attached to the front of the nest box.



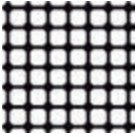
## IT HELPS FLEDGLINGS LEAVE THE NEST



**Rough Interior Walls** – The interior wall below the entrance hole should be rough to help nestlings climb out of the box. For small boxes (wrens and chickadees), plain wood is usually rough enough, but you can roughen smooth boards with coarse sandpaper.



**Interior Grooves** – A series of shallow horizontal cuts, like a small ladder, works well in medium-sized boxes meant for swallows and bluebirds. Swallows, in particular, need a little help climbing out of boxes.



**Duck Boxes** – For duck boxes, staple a strip of 1/4"-mesh hardware cloth from floor to hole to help ducklings escape deep boxes.

## IT HAS THE RIGHT ENTRANCE SIZE FOR THE RIGHT BIRD

By providing a properly sized entrance hole, you can attract desirable species to your birdhouses while excluding predators and unwanted occupants. Below are the requirements for entrance-hole size for some common species that nest in boxes.

HOLE SIZE	SPECIES
3"	Screech-owls, American Kestrel
2½"	Northern Flicker
1 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>16</sub> "	Ash-throated Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird
1½"	Eastern Bluebird, Western Bluebird, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren
1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	White-breasted Nuthatch, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow
1¼"	Prothonotary Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Tufted Titmouse
1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	House Wren, chickadees

## IT MAKES PLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE EASY



### Extended Back

A few extra inches at the top and bottom of your birdhouse can make it easier to mount on a metal pole. Alternatively, you can predrill mounting holes in the back panel before assembly and use a short-handled screwdriver to install the box.



### Hinged Door with a Sturdy Closing Mechanism

A hinged side gives you access for cleaning and monitoring your nest box, both of which are important for a successful nesting season. A latch or nail keeps the box securely closed until you are ready to open it.

## COMMON NEST BOX PREDATORS

**SNAKES** – Many snakes are excellent climbers and can easily surmount an unguarded pole. Snakes most likely to climb into birdhouses are generally nonvenomous (such as racers and rat snakes) and helpful at controlling rodents. Avoid installing nest boxes next to brush piles or trees.

**RACCOONS** – Raccoons are intelligent and can remember nest box locations from year to year. They can be abundant in populated areas. Mount nest boxes on a metal pole equipped with a baffle; avoid mounting them on trees or fence posts.

**CHIPMUNKS / MICE** – Chipmunks and mice are both nest predators and competitors for nest boxes. To keep chipmunks and mice out, mount boxes away from trees on a metal pole equipped with a baffle.



**CATS** – Cats are excellent jumpers and can leap to the top of a nest box from a nearby tree or from the ground. Mount your box high enough and far enough from trees so cats cannot spring to the top of the box in a single leap. Keep pet cats indoors for their own safety and that of birds.

## INTO DIY?

Visit [nestwatch.org/birdhouses](http://nestwatch.org/birdhouses) to get FREE downloadable nest-box plans.





*Marbled Godwit* ©Luke Seitz/Macaulay Library

# GETTING INVOLVED



## CITIZEN SCIENCE

*Each month, bird watchers report millions of bird observations to citizen-science projects at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, contributing to the world's most dynamic and powerful source of information on birds.*

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has been at the forefront of citizen science since 1966. Today, the birding community can use our innovative online tools to tap into millions of records and see how their own sightings fit into the continental picture. Scientists can analyze the same data to reveal striking changes in the movements, distributions, and numbers of birds across time,



and to determine how birds are affected by habitat loss, pollution, and disease.

If you enjoy watching birds, you can help and contribute to science, whether you are a beginner or a seasoned birder. Participating can take as little or as much time as you want—you decide!

### There's a Project for Every Bird Watcher

Our fun and meaningful citizen-science projects enable people to watch birds at their favorite locations and share their sightings:

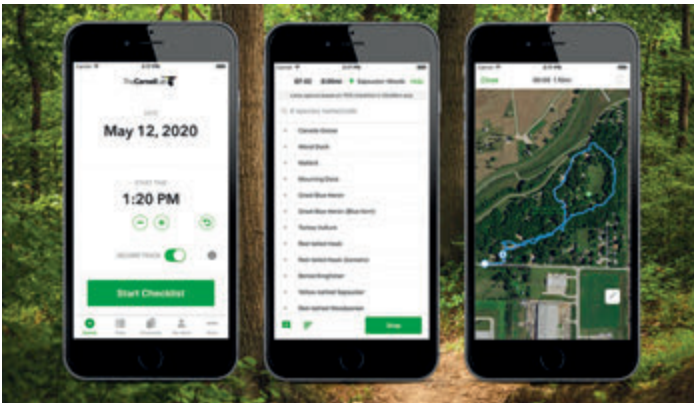
- **eBird** is a powerful tool for keeping track of your sightings and for exploring what others have seen—with global coverage and millions of sightings recorded per month for science and conservation.
- **Great Backyard Bird Count** is possibly the easiest project of all and the best one to start with—a global effort to count birds over one long weekend each February.
- **Project FeederWatch** is a winter project where you count birds at your feeders to help track bird populations and distributions.
- **NestWatch** asks you to report on the nests of birds breeding around you—training and best practices for visiting nests are provided.
- **Celebrate Urban Birds** combines art and science, and encourages participants in urban and rural settings to share their knowledge of local birds and culture.

## eBIRD

*Since its inception in 2002, eBird has grown into one of the world's largest data sources about living things—thanks to birders contributing a billion or more sightings of birds.*

eBird gives birders a convenient, free way to enter, store, and organize their sightings. And it makes those sightings available to others, turning it into a useful resource for studying or finding birds anywhere in the world. Not only that, your sightings power science and conservation, helping scientists identify which species are declining and where best to direct conservation efforts.

Use eBird to start or maintain your birding lists—or use it to find out where and when to go birding. It works all over the world and provides endless ideas about what to do and where to go next. And it's free.



eBird provides easy-to-use online tools for birders and critical data for science. With eBird, you can:

- Record the birds you encounter
- Keep track of birding activity and lists
- Learn where to find birds near you
- Share sightings with other birders
- Contribute to science and conservation

### Record and Store Sightings in eBird

eBird allows you to easily record the birds you find. Simply enter when, where, and how you went birding, then fill out a checklist of all the birds you

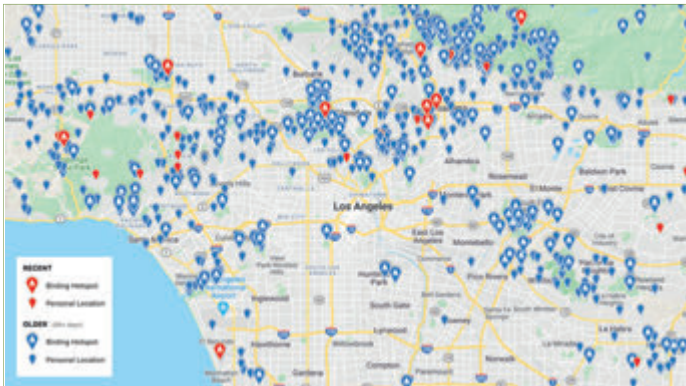
identified with confidence by sight or sound. A free mobile app allows you to create and share checklists faster than ever. Data quality filters check all submissions automatically and local experts review unusual records before they enter the database.

eBird automatically organizes your bird observations into local and national lists, year lists, and more. You can also add photos and sound recordings to your checklists, so you can share your experiences with friends while also powering Merlin Bird ID, an automatic bird identification tool that can help you build skills for better birding. All these features work in any country in the world and are available in many languages.

### Explore Data and Learn with eBird

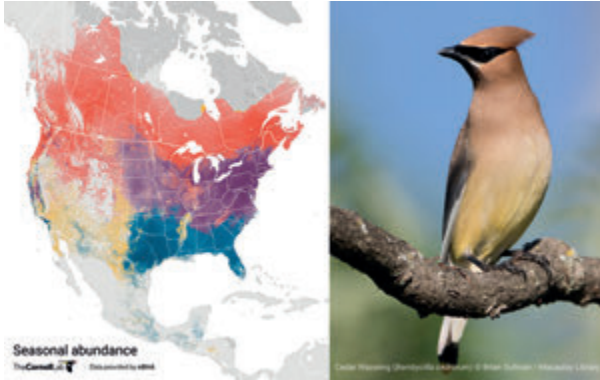
One of eBird's greatest strengths is its ability to show you where and when birds occur, using innovative visualization tools. These free tools are used annually by millions of birders, scientists, and conservationists worldwide. Here are a few:

- **Species Maps:** Choose a species, then explore a map of everywhere it has been reported. Filter the map by date or zoom in to anywhere in the world with pinpoint precision.

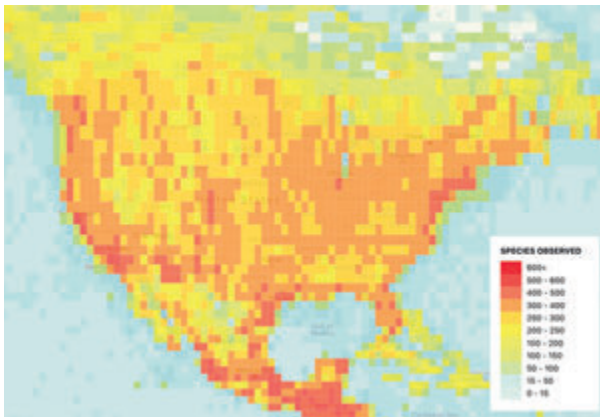


- **Photo and Sound Archive:** Each month, eBirders upload thousands of images and sounds. All of them are searchable in the Macaulay Library archive, so you can explore birds both familiar and new.
- **Explore a Region:** See the full species list, plus recent sightings, photo and audio recordings, best hotspots, and top birders for any county, state, province, or country. The Illustrated Checklist is a living field guide for any region!

- **Seasonal Occurrence Graphs:** Create a customized species list for any region and season. This tool tells you which species to expect when; bars tell you how rare or common each bird is throughout the year.



- **Hotspot Explorer:** Use an interactive map to explore popular birding spots anywhere in the world—a great tool for travelers looking for local tips on where to go birding.



### Your Sightings Support Science and Conservation

Every checklist you submit helps scientists better understand when and where birds occur, helping pinpoint where conservation is likely to have the greatest impact on bird populations. Your checklists also help scientists track the health of our bird populations; eBird data helps identify which species may be in trouble and in need of attention. Learn more about eBird and the birds recently seen in your area at [eBird.org](https://www.ebird.org).

## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

*In 1998, the annual four-day Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) began in the United States and Canada. It was the first citizen-science program to collect and display bird observation data online on a large scale. Today, the GBBC is one of the most popular annual events among bird watchers and has expanded to include the whole world. More than 200,000 people of all ages and walks of life take part. In 2020, 249,444 counts flooded in, recording a total of 6,942 species of birds—more than half of all bird species in the world!*

### Why Count Birds?

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document and understand the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time. Scientists use information from the GBBC, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, to see the big picture about what is happening to bird populations. You can help scientists investigate far-reaching questions, such as these:

- How does weather and climate change influence bird populations?
- Some birds appear in large numbers during some years but not others. Where are these species from year to year, and what can we learn from these patterns?
- How does the timing of bird migrations compare across years?
- What kinds of differences in bird diversity are apparent in cities versus suburban, rural, and natural areas?

### Why Is the GBBC in February?

Originally the GBBC was held in the U.S. and Canada each February to create a snapshot of the distribution of birds just before spring migrations ramped up in March. Scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, Birds Canada, and elsewhere can combine this information with data from surveys conducted at different times of the year. In 2013, the count went global, creating snapshots of birds wherever they are in February, regardless of seasons across the hemispheres.

### How to Participate

We invite you to participate! Visit [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org) to find out when the next GBBC is happening (it falls in February during the U.S. Presidents' Day weekend). If you're new to citizen science, you'll need to register for a free online account to enter your checklist counts. If you have already participated

in another Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you can use that login information for GBBC.

Once registered, simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count every February. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world, for as long as you wish. During the count, you can explore what others are seeing in your area or around the world.

To learn more and participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count, visit [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org).

*The Great Backyard Bird Count is led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with Birds Canada and many international partners. The Great Backyard Bird Count is powered by eBird.*

## BIRD ACADEMY

*Whether you're newly curious about the bird songs in your backyard, an avid birder with a life list to tend, or a budding ornithologist, Bird Academy has a course for every bird enthusiast.*

Bird Academy courses are entirely online. You can learn at your own pace, return to the material as often as you wish, and there is no deadline to complete them. Take advantage of exclusive learning tools and friendly video tutorials created by our team of expert birders, ornithologists, and educational designers. *The Wonderful World of Owls, How to Identify Bird Songs, Nature Journaling and Field Sketching, Understanding Bird Behavior, and Sparrow Identification* are just a few of the courses on offer.

To find out more, visit [Academy.AllAboutBirds.org](http://Academy.AllAboutBirds.org).



Barn Owl



## PROJECT FEEDERWATCH



*Northern Cardinal*

Project FeederWatch is a survey of birds that visit feeders in backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. Each year, tens of thousands of people participate in Project FeederWatch. Annually, FeederWatchers report more than 7 million birds, providing valuable data for monitoring changes in the distribution and abundance of backyard birds. Participants gain from the rewarding experience of learning about birds at their feeders and contributing their own observations to reveal larger patterns in bird populations across the continent.

### Why Are FeederWatch Data Important?

With each season, FeederWatch increases in importance as a unique tool to monitor bird species in North America. What sets FeederWatch apart from other monitoring programs is the detailed picture that FeederWatch data provide about weekly changes in bird distribution and abundance. Because participants count and identify all their birds multiple times from the same location, FeederWatch data are extremely powerful for detecting gradual changes in bird populations and ranges through time. FeederWatch data tell us where birds are as well as where they are not, which enables people to piece together accurate population maps. Finally, FeederWatch data provide information on a spatial and temporal scale that could not be collected by any other method than through the efforts of many participants over many years.

### How Are FeederWatch Data Used?

The massive amounts of data collected by FeederWatchers across the continent help people understand:

- Long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance
- Invasive species dynamics continent-wide
- Behavioral interactions of birds at feeders
- The timing and extent of winter irruptions of winter finches and other species

- Expansions or contractions in ranges of feeder birds
- How supplementary food and backyard habitat affect birds
- How disease is spread among birds that visit feeders

### How to Participate

Anyone interested in birds can participate, including people of all skill levels and backgrounds. FeederWatch is a great project for children, families, individuals, classrooms, retirees, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs. You can count birds as often as every week, or as infrequently as you like—the schedule is very flexible. All you need is a bird feeder, birdbath, or plantings that attract birds.

Participants submit their counts using the FeederWatch mobile app or website ([FeederWatch.org](https://www.feederwatch.org)) and have access to a variety of digital resources including detailed counting instructions; information about birds and bird feeding; tools to explore personal and continental data; Winter Bird Highlights, FeederWatch's year-end report; and the digital version of Living Bird, the Cornell Lab's award-winning magazine. There is a small annual participation fee for U.S. residents, and Canadians can join by making a donation of any size to Birds Canada. The participation fee covers staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report. Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible.

To learn more about Project FeederWatch, visit [FeederWatch.org](https://www.feederwatch.org).



*Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada.*

## NESTWATCH

NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, how many eggs are laid, how many hatch, and how many young survive. The database is used to study the current condition of breeding bird populations and how they may be changing over time.



*Nest of a Song Sparrow*

By finding and monitoring bird nests, NestWatch participants help scientists track the breeding success of birds across North America. Participants witness fascinating behaviors of birds at the nest, and collect information on the location, habitat, species, number of eggs, and number of young. Launched in 2007 with funding from the National Science Foundation, NestWatch has collected more than 400,000 nesting records. Combined with historic data, this information will help scientists address how birds are affected by large-scale changes such as global climate change, urbanization, and land conversion.

### How to Participate

Participating in NestWatch is free and just about anyone can do it (children should always be accompanied by an adult when observing bird nests). Simply follow the directions on the website to become a certified NestWatcher, find a bird nest using the helpful tips, visit the nest every 3–4 days to record what you see, and then report this information on the website, or use the mobile app. Your observations will be added to those of thousands of other NestWatchers in a continually growing database used by researchers to understand and study birds. While you contribute extremely valuable information to science, you will also learn firsthand about the breeding behaviors of birds.

To learn more about NestWatch, visit [NestWatch.org](http://NestWatch.org). Download the mobile app on Google Play or the App Store.

## CELEBRATE URBAN BIRDS

Celebrate Urban Birds is a year-round project developed by the Cornell Lab for people in cities, suburbs, and rural areas. It is an easy, fun project for the entire family; no prior knowledge of birds is required, and your data will help scientists understand how birds use green spaces in cities. Since 2007, Celebrate Urban Birds has partnered with 11,000 community organizations and distributed 400,000 educational kits. Educational materials and online trainings are offered in both English and Spanish.

### How to Participate

1. Visit *CelebrateUrbanBirds.org* and click "Get Started Now."
2. Learn to identify 16 focal species. You can get additional species lists online at *CelebrateUrbanBirds.org/regional*.
3. Pick a place to watch birds in an area that is 50 feet by 50 feet (the size of half a basketball court).
4. Spend 10 minutes watching birds in the selected area.
5. Repeat observations three times in the same area in one month.
6. Share data online or send to the Cornell Lab by mail.



Every year Celebrate Urban Birds awards dozens of mini-grants to community organizations, including Alzheimer's support groups, youth clubs, oncology centers, businesses, and rehabilitation centers throughout the Americas to lead community activities focused on birds, greening, and the arts. Any community-based organization, especially those led by minoritized communities, are encouraged to apply for a grant. Visit *CelebrateUrbanBirds.org* to order educational materials, apply for a community grant, or find hundreds of fun, creative activities that involve the arts, greening, and birds for people of all ages.

To learn more about CUBs, visit *CelebrateUrbanBirds.org*.

## SEVEN SIMPLE ACTIONS TO HELP BIRDS

*In 2019, scientists documented North America's staggering loss of nearly three billion breeding birds since 1970. Helping birds can be as simple as making changes to everyday habits.*

### 1 Make Windows Safer, Day and Night

**The challenge:** Up to one billion birds are estimated to die each year after hitting windows in the United States and Canada.

**The cause:** By day, birds perceive glass reflections in glass as habitat they can fly into. By night, migratory birds drawn in by city lights are at high risk of colliding with buildings.

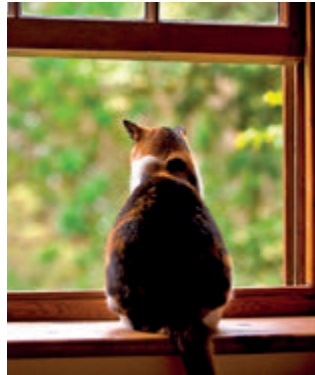
**These simple steps save birds:** On the outside of the window, install screens or break up reflections using film, paint, Acopian BirdSavers or other string spaced no more than two inches high or four inches wide.

### 2 Keep Cats Indoors

**The challenge:** Cats are estimated to kill more than 2.6 billion birds annually in the U.S. and Canada. This is the #1 human-caused reason for the loss of birds, aside from habitat loss.

**The cause:** Cats can make great pets, but more than 110 million feral and pet cats now roam in the United States and Canada. These nonnative predators instinctively hunt and kill birds even when well fed.

**A solution that's good for cats and birds:** Save birds and keep cats healthy by keeping cats indoors or creating an outdoor "catio." You can also train your cat to walk on a leash.



### 3 Reduce Lawn, Plant Natives

**The challenge:** Birds have fewer places to safely rest during migration and to raise their young: More than 10 million acres of land in the United States were converted to developed land from 1982 to 1997.

**The cause:** Lawns and pavement don't offer enough food or shelter for many birds and other wildlife. With more than 40 million acres of lawn in the U.S. alone, there's huge potential to support wildlife by replacing lawns with native plantings.

**Add native plants, watch birds come in:** Native plants add interest and beauty to your yard and neighborhood, and provide shelter and nesting areas for birds. The nectar, seeds, berries, and insects will sustain birds and diverse wildlife.

## 4 Avoid Pesticides

**The challenge:** More than one billion pounds of pesticides are applied in the United States each year. The continent's most widely used insecticides, called neonicotinoids or "neonics," are lethal to birds and to the insects that birds consume. Common weed killers used around homes, such as 2, 4-D and glyphosate (used in Roundup), can be toxic to wildlife, and glyphosate has been declared a probable human carcinogen.

**The cause:** Pesticides that are toxic to birds can harm them directly through contact, or if they eat contaminated seeds or prey. Pesticides can also harm birds indirectly by reducing the number of available insects, which birds need to survive.



*Orange-crowned Warbler*

**A healthy choice for you, your family, and birds:** Consider purchasing organic food. Nearly 70% of produce sold in the U.S. contains pesticides. Reduce pesticides around your home and garden.

## 5 Drink Coffee That's Good for Birds

**The challenge:** Three-quarters of the world's coffee farms grow their plants in the sun (source), destroying forests that birds and other wildlife need for food and shelter. Sun-grown coffee also often requires using environmentally harmful pesticides and fertilizers. On the other hand, shade-grown coffee preserves a forest canopy that helps migratory birds survive the winter.



**The cause:** Too few consumers are aware of the problems of sun coffee. Those who are aware may be reluctant to pay more for environmentally sustainable coffee.

**Enjoy shade-grown coffee:** It's a win-win-win: it's delicious, economically beneficial to coffee farmers, and helps more than 42 species of North American migratory songbirds, including orioles, warblers, and thrushes, that winter in coffee plantations.

## 6 Protect Our Planet from Plastics

**The challenge:** It's estimated that 4,900 million metric tons of plastic have accumulated in landfills and in our environment worldwide, polluting our oceans and harming wildlife such as seabirds, whales, and turtles that mistakenly eat plastic, or become entangled in it.

**The cause:** Plastic takes more than 400 years to degrade, and 91% of plastics created are not recycled. Studies show that at least 80 seabird species ingest plastic, mistaking it for food. Cigarette lighters, toothbrushes, and other trash have been found in the stomachs of dead albatrosses.

**Reduce your plastics:** Avoid single-use plastics including bags, bottles, wraps, and disposable utensils. It's far better to choose reusable items, but if you do have disposable plastic, be sure to recycle it.

## 7 Watch Birds, Share What You See

**The challenge:** The world's most abundant bird, the Passenger Pigeon, went extinct, and people didn't realize how quickly it was vanishing until it was too late. Monitoring birds is essential to help protect them, but tracking the health of the world's 10,000 bird species is an immense challenge.

**The cause:** To understand how birds are faring, scientists need hundreds of thousands of people to report what they're seeing in backyards, neighborhoods, and wild places around the world. Without this information, scientists will not have enough timely data to show where and when birds are declining around the world.

**Enjoy birds while helping science and conservation:** Join a project such as eBird, Project FeederWatch, Breeding Bird Survey, or the International Shorebird Survey to record your bird observations. Your contributions will provide valuable information to show where birds are thriving—and where they need our help.

If you don't yet know how to use eBird, we have a free course to help you get the most out of the project and its tools:

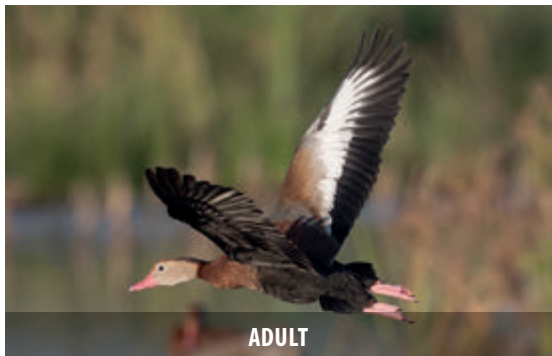
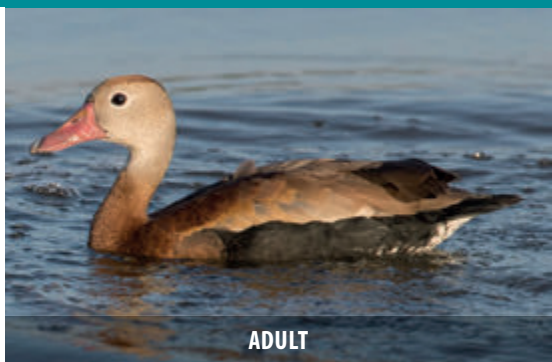
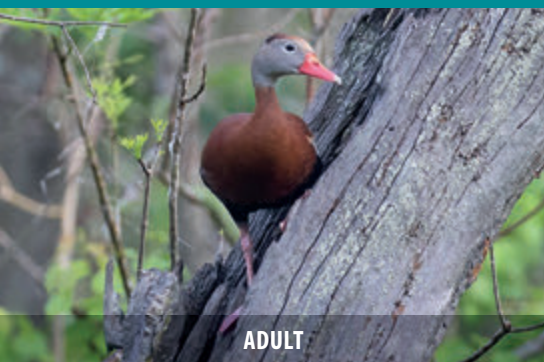
<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/>.

# GUIDE TO SOUTHEAST SPECIES



*Yellow-throated Warbler* ©Brad Imhoff/Macaulay Library



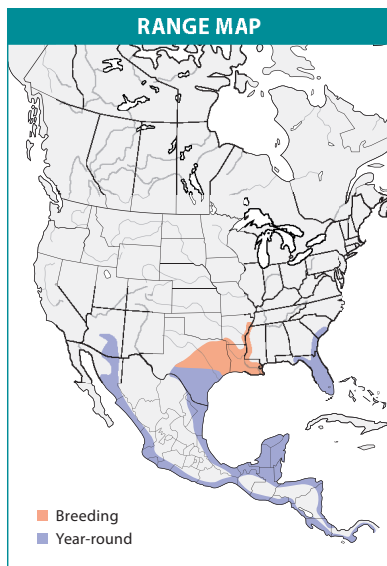


**SIZE & SHAPE** The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck is a large, gooselike duck with a long neck, long legs, and short tail. In flight, look for broad wings, a long neck, and a hunched back.

**COLOR PATTERN** The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck appears dark overall with a chestnut breast and black belly set off by a bright pink bill and legs. It has a grayish face and a broad, white patch in the wings which appears as a stripe down its wing while at rest.

**BEHAVIOR** Flocks of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks regularly feed on waste grain in agricultural fields, often at night. Listen for their high-pitched whistles as they travel from feeding fields to roosting sites. They often perch in trees and on logs over water. They nest in cavities and they take readily to nest boxes.

**HABITAT** Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks roam edges of shallow ponds, golf courses, city parks, and schoolyards. They also frequent agricultural fields, particularly flooded rice fields.



The **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** is a boisterous duck with a brilliant pink bill and an unusual, long-legged silhouette. In places like Texas and Louisiana, watch for noisy flocks of these gaudy ducks dropping into fields to forage on seeds or loafing on golf course ponds.



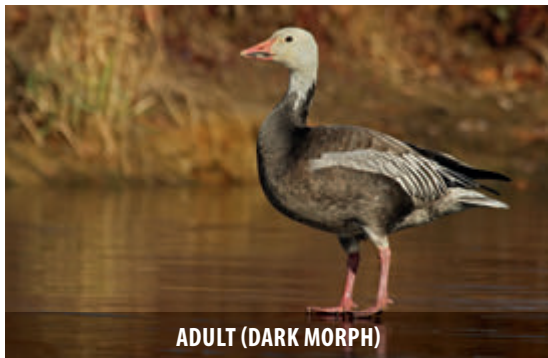
JUVENILE (WHITE MORPH)



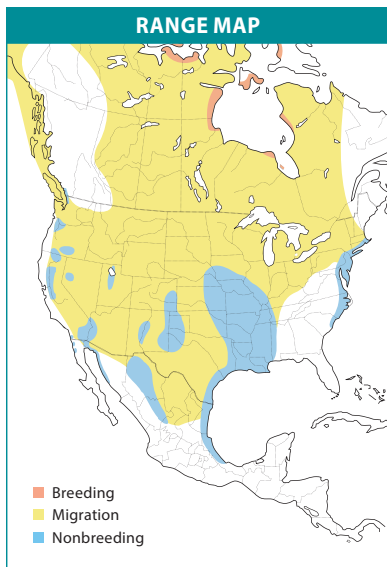
ADULTS (WHITE MORPH)



IMMATURE (DARK MORPH)



ADULT (DARK MORPH)



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Snow Goose is a medium-sized goose with a hefty bill and long, thick neck. Juveniles are slightly smaller than adults in the fall, and this can be noticeable in flocks during fall and early winter.

**COLOR PATTERN** The white morph of the Snow Goose is white with black wingtips that are barely visible on the ground but more noticeable in flight. You may also see a dark morph Snow Goose, or “Blue Goose,” with a white face, dark brown body, and white under the tail.

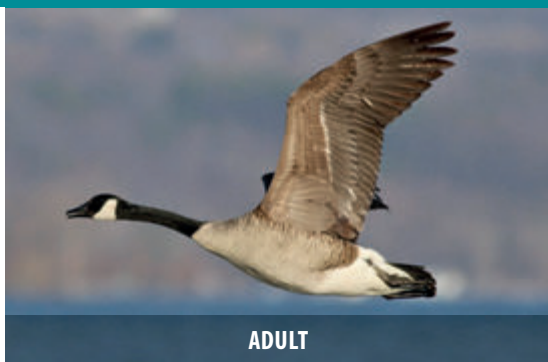
**BEHAVIOR** Snow Geese don’t like to travel alone and can form flocks of several hundred thousand. Family groups forage together on wintering grounds, digging up roots and tubers from muddy fields and marshes. In flight, they are steady on the wing with even wingbeats.

**HABITAT** Snow Geese use agricultural fields, which is one reason their populations are doing so well. During winter and migration, look for them in plowed cornfields, wetlands, lakes, ponds, and marshes where they roost and bathe along shorelines and in open water.

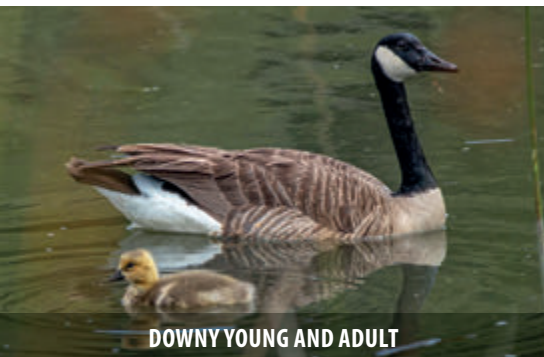
Watching huge flocks of **Snow Geese** swirl down from the sky, amid a cacophony of honking, is a little like standing inside a snow globe. These loud, white-and-black geese can cover the ground in a snowy blanket as they eat their way across fallow cornfields or wetlands.



ADULT



ADULT



DOWNY YOUNG AND ADULT



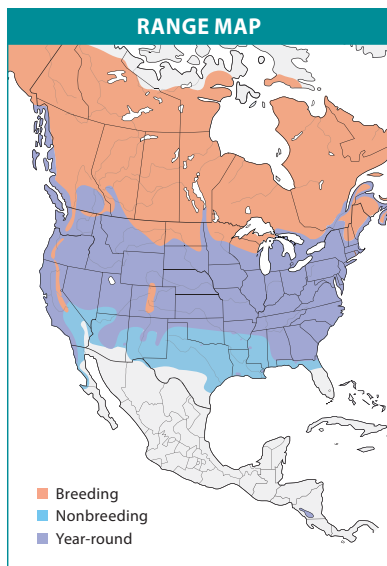
ADULTS

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Canada Goose is a big waterbird with a long neck, large body, large, webbed feet, and a wide, flat bill. Adult Canada Geese can vary widely in size.

**COLOR PATTERN** Canada Geese have a black head with a white chinstrap, black neck, tan breast, and brown back. At least 11 subspecies of Canada Goose have been recognized. They tend to be smaller as you move northward in summer; plumage is darker as you move westward.

**BEHAVIOR** Canada Geese feed by dabbling in the water or grazing in fields and large lawns. They are known for their honking call and are often very vocal in flight. They often fly together in pairs or in V formation in flocks, which reduces wind resistance and conserves energy.

**HABITAT** Canada Geese can be found just about anywhere in the U.S. and Canada, near lakes, rivers, ponds, or other small or large bodies of water, and also in yards, parks, lawns, and farm fields.



The large **Canada Goose**, with its signature white chinstrap, is a familiar and widespread bird of fields and parks. Thousands of “honkers” migrate north and south each year, filling the sky with long V-formations. Every year, more of these grassland-adapted birds are staying put, and some people regard them as pests.



ADULT AND DOWNY YOUNG (DOMESTIC TYPE)



ADULT MALE (WILD TYPE)

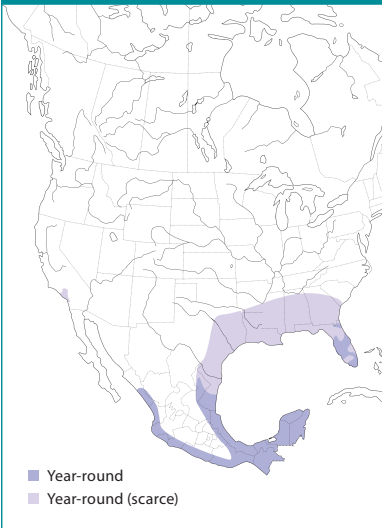


ADULT (DOMESTIC TYPE)



ADULT (DOMESTIC TYPE)

**RANGE MAP**



**SIZE & SHAPE** Muscovy Ducks are large, heavy-bodied ducks with long necks that can make them look like small geese. They have a fairly long bill that slopes smoothly up to the forehead. The tail is fairly long. Males are larger than females; domesticated individuals are often larger than wild.

**COLOR PATTERN** Wild Muscovy Ducks are mostly black. Adult males have large white patches on the wings; juveniles show much smaller white wing patches. In good light, the black feathers can show a greenish gloss. Domesticated and wild Muscovy Ducks have variable large patches of white to brown feathers, and red facial skin with odd warty growths.

**BEHAVIOR** Wild Muscovy Ducks are wary birds that feed by dabbling in shallow wetlands. Domesticated ducks can be common at urban parks, mixing with other ducks and taking handouts from park visitors.

**HABITAT** Wild Muscovy Ducks live in forested wetlands and nest in tree cavities. They forage in shallow wetlands, ponds, and lagoons. Domesticated ducks are common on farms and in parks.

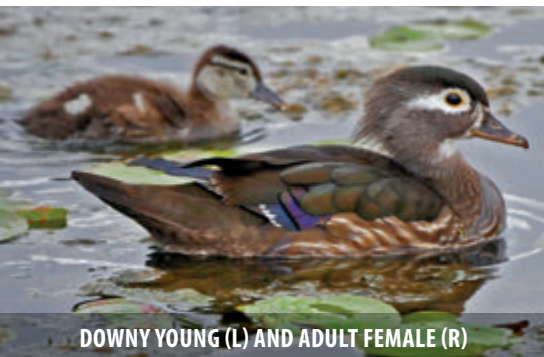
The **Muscovy Duck** causes confusion for bird watchers, as it's distinctive and commonly seen but doesn't appear in some field guides. Wild Muscovy Ducks are forest dwellers that nest in tree cavities and are restricted to south Texas and points south. Domesticated versions occur across much of North America.



BREEDING MALE



BREEDING MALE



DOWNY YOUNG (L) AND ADULT FEMALE (R)



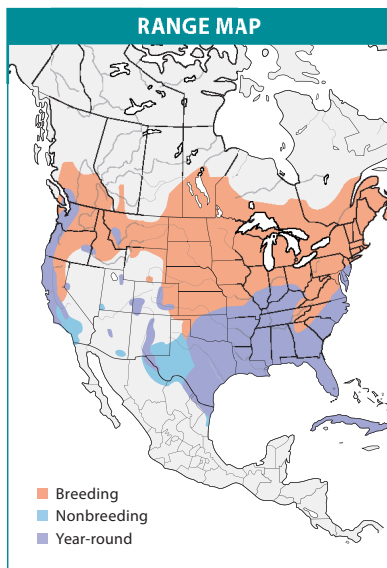
NONBREEDING MALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Wood Duck has a unique shape among ducks—a boxy, crested head; thin neck; and long, broad tail. In flight, they hold their heads up high, sometimes bobbing them.

**COLOR PATTERN** The male Wood Duck is a gorgeous duck with intricate plumage. In good light, males have a glossy green head with white stripes, a chestnut breast, and buffy sides. The female is gray brown with a white-speckled breast and a white teardrop around the eye.

**BEHAVIOR** Unlike most waterfowl, Wood Ducks perch and nest in trees and are comfortable flying through woods. Their broad tail and short, broad wings help make them maneuverable. When swimming, the head jerks back and forth much as a walking pigeon's does. You often see Wood Ducks in small groups (fewer than 20), keeping apart from other waterfowl.

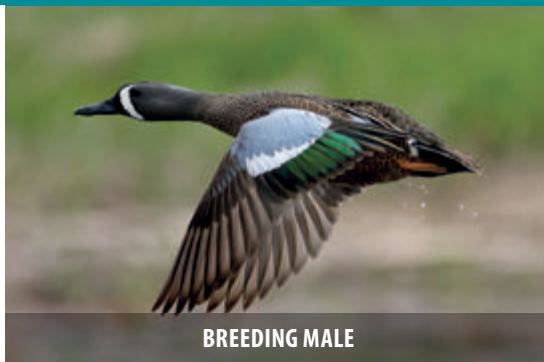
**HABITAT** Look for Wood Ducks in wooded swamps, marshes, streams, beaver ponds, and small lakes. As cavity nesters, Wood Ducks take readily to nest boxes.



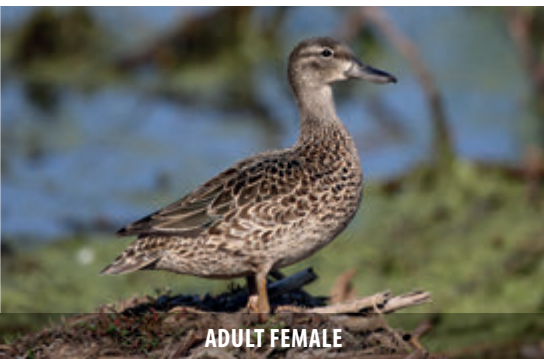
**Wood Ducks** are one of the few duck species equipped with strong claws that can grip bark and perch on branches. Soon after hatching, the mother duck leaves the nest and calls to her ducklings to jump down and join her in the water. Ducklings can jump from heights of over 50 feet without injury.



**BREEDING MALE**



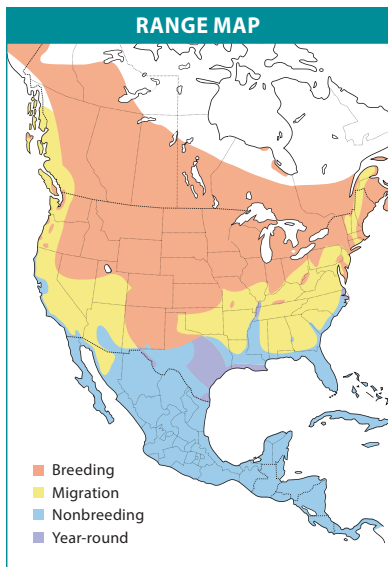
**BREEDING MALE**



**ADULT FEMALE**



**NONBREEDING MALE**



**SIZE & SHAPE** A small dabbling duck, a Blue-winged Teal is dwarfed by a Mallard and only a touch larger than a Green-winged Teal. Its head is rounded, and the bill is on the large side.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding males are brown-bodied with dark speckling on the breast, a slaty-blue head with a white crescent behind the bill, and a small white flank patch in front of their black rear. Females and eclipse males are a patterned brown. In flight, they reveal a bold powder-blue patch on their upperwing coverts.

**BEHAVIOR** You'll often find Blue-winged Teal with other species of dabbling ducks, where pairs and small groups dabble and up-end to reach submerged vegetation. They are often around the edges of ponds, choosing a concealed spot to forage or rest.

**HABITAT** Look for Blue-winged Teal on calm bodies of water from marshes to small lakes. The Prairie Pothole Region, full of grassy habitats intermixed with wetlands, is the heart of their breeding range.

Pairs and small groups of this tiny dabbling duck inhabit shallow ponds and wetlands across much of North America. **Blue-winged Teal** are long-distance migrants, with some birds heading all the way to South America for the winter, leaving their breeding grounds well before other species in the fall.



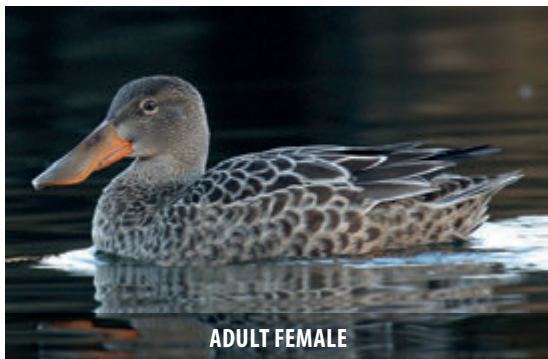
**BREEDING MALE**



**BREEDING MALES**



**NONBREEDING MALE**



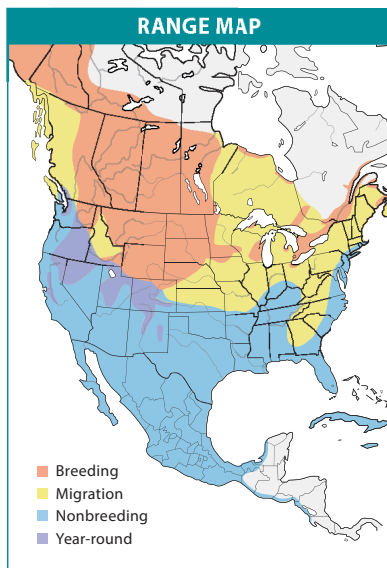
**ADULT FEMALE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** The aptly named Northern Shoveler has a shovel-shaped bill that quickly sets it apart from other dabbling ducks, even at a considerable distance. It is a medium-sized duck that tends to sit tilted forward in the water, as if its large bill is pulling its front half down.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding male shovelers are bold white, blue, green, and rust, but their most notable feature is their white chest and white lower sides. In flight, males flash blue on the upper wing and green on the secondaries (the speculum). Female and immature shovelers are mottled brown and have powdery blue on the wings (sometimes visible on resting birds), and a very large orange bill. Nonbreeding males sometimes show a white facial crescent near the bill.

**BEHAVIOR** Northern Shovelers often have their heads down in shallow wetlands, busily sweeping their bills side to side, filtering out aquatic invertebrates and seeds from the water.

**HABITAT** Northern Shovelers forage in shallow wetlands, coastal marshes, flooded fields, lakes, and sewage lagoons. They nest along the margins of wetlands or in neighboring grassy areas.



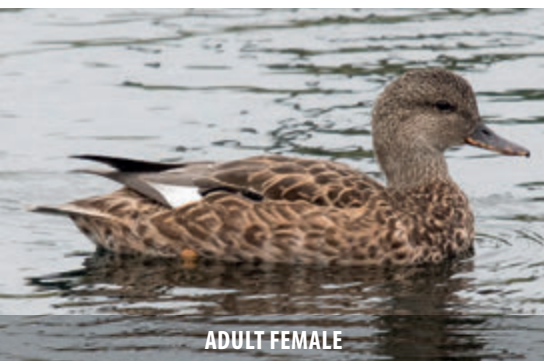
Perhaps the most distinctive of the dabbling ducks thanks to its large spoon-shaped bill, the **Northern Shoveler** busily forages, head down, in shallow wetlands. The edges of its uniquely shaped bill have comb-like projections, which filter out tiny crustaceans and seeds from the water.



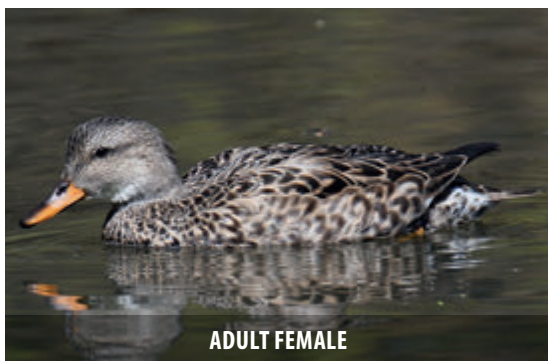
MALE



BREEDING MALE

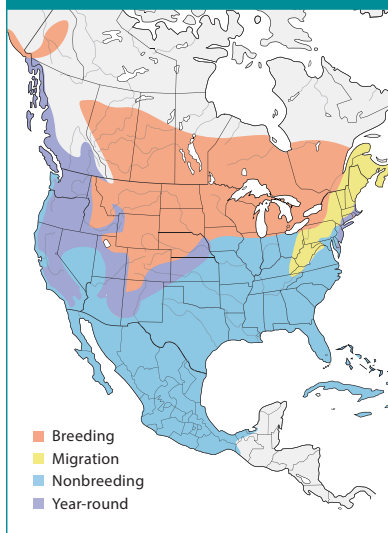


ADULT FEMALE



ADULT FEMALE

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Gadwall are about the same size as Mallards, but the bill is noticeably thinner. Gadwall have a fairly large, square head with a steep forehead. In flight, the neck is slightly thinner and the wings slightly more slender than those of a Mallard.

**COLOR PATTERN** Male Gadwall are gray brown with a black patch at the tail. Females are patterned with brown and buff and have variably orange to black bills. In flight, both sexes have a white wing patch that is sometimes visible while swimming or resting.

**BEHAVIOR** Gadwall feed with other dabbling ducks, tipping forward to reach submerged vegetation. They sometimes steal food from diving ducks or coots. In winter, you'll often see them in pairs; mates are selected for the breeding season as early as late fall.

**HABITAT** Gadwall breed mainly in the Great Plains and prairies. On migration and in winter, look for them in reservoirs, ponds, freshwater and saltwater marshes, city parks, or muddy edges of estuaries.

The **Gadwall's** understated elegance makes this common duck easy to overlook. Males are intricately patterned with gray, brown, and black; females resemble female Mallards, although with a thinner bill and different head shape and wing pattern. Gadwall sometimes snatch food from diving ducks and coots.

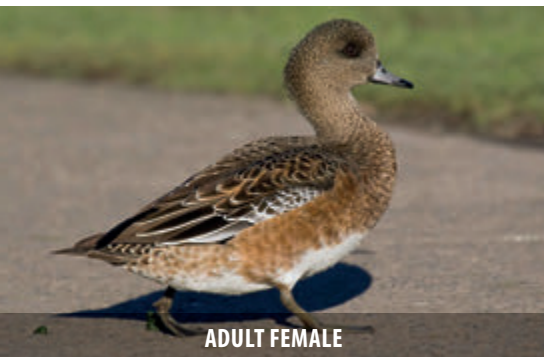




BREEDING MALE



BREEDING MALE



ADULT FEMALE



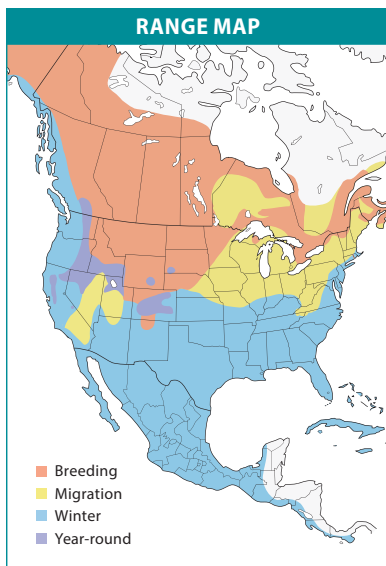
NONBREEDING MALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** American Wigeons are medium-sized, compact ducks with a short bill and a round head. They tend to sit on the water with their heads pulled down. They are larger than Green-winged Teal and smaller than Mallards.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding males have a grayish brown head with a white cap and a wide green stripe behind the eye. A pinkish cinnamon body with white patches on the sides of the rump contrasts with black undertail feathers. Females and nonbreeding males are brown with a dark smudge around the eye. Both sexes have a black-tipped gray bill.

**BEHAVIOR** American Wigeons congregate on lakes and wetlands, nibbling aquatic vegetation on the surface or tipping up for submerged plants. They also waddle through fields, plucking at plants. They are more vocal than many ducks, especially during the nonbreeding season.

**HABITAT** At all times of year, American Wigeons can be found in freshwater wetlands, lakes, slow-moving rivers, impoundments, flooded fields, estuaries, bays, and marshes.



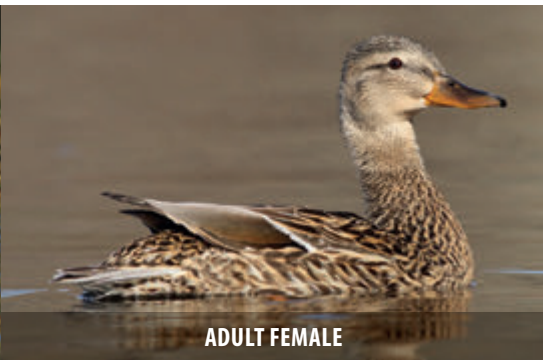
Quiet lakes and wetlands come alive with the breezy whistle of the **American Wigeon**, a dabbling duck with pizzazz. Noisy groups congregate during fall and winter, plucking plants with their short gooselike bills from wetlands and fields or nibbling plants from the water's surface.



BREEDING MALE (L) AND ADULT FEMALE (R)



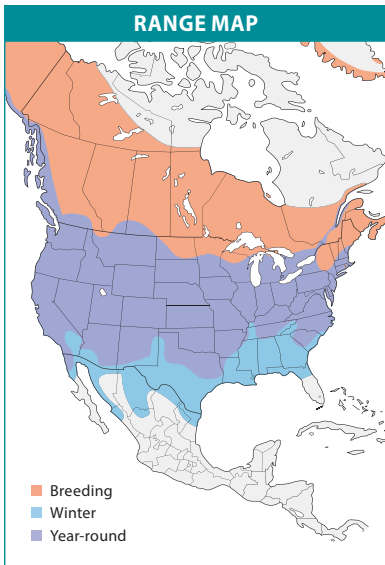
BREEDING MALE



ADULT FEMALE



NONBREEDING MALE



**SIZE & SHAPE** Mallards are large ducks with hefty bodies, rounded heads, and wide, flat bills. Like many dabbling ducks, the body is long, and the tail rides high out of the water, giving a blunt shape. In flight, their wings are broad and set back toward the rear.

**COLOR PATTERN** Male Mallards have a dark, iridescent green head and bright yellow bill. The gray body is sandwiched between a brown breast and black rear. Females and juveniles are mottled brown with orange-and-blackish bills. Both sexes have a white-bordered, blue speculum patch in the wing.

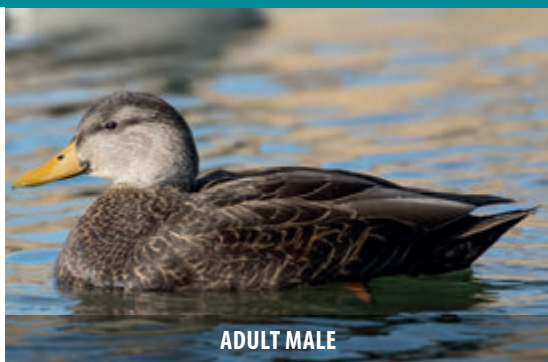
**BEHAVIOR** Mallards are dabbling ducks and almost never dive. They can be very tame, especially in city ponds, and often group together with other Mallards, other species of dabbling ducks, or even farm ducks.

**HABITAT** Mallards can live in almost any wetland habitat. Look for them on lakes, ponds, marshes, rivers, and coastal habitats, as well as city and suburban parks and residential backyards.

Perhaps the most familiar of all ducks, **Mallards** occur throughout the U.S. and Canada in ponds and parks as well as wetlands and estuaries. The male's gleaming green head, gray flanks, and black tail-curl arguably make it the most easily identified duck. Almost all domestic ducks come from this species.



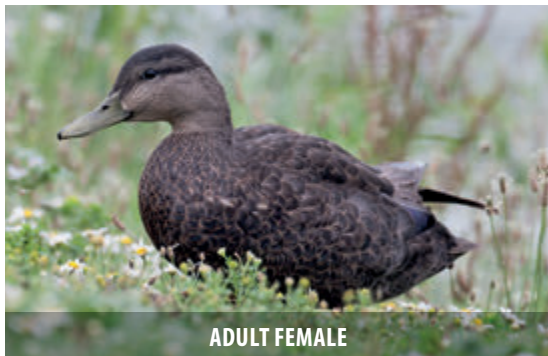
ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



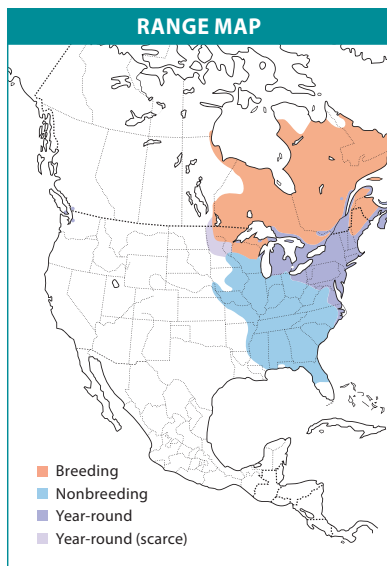
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** American Black Ducks are large ducks with a profile nearly identical to the Mallard's. They have rounded heads, thick bills, and bulky bodies. Like other dabbling ducks, they sit high in the water with tails high.

**COLOR PATTERN** American Black Ducks have very dark brown bodies with pale gray-brown heads and yellow-green bills. Females tend to be slightly paler than males, with duller olive bills. In flight, the underwings are bright white. The secondaries (speculum) are iridescent purple without white borders.

**BEHAVIOR** These are dabbling ducks that tip up instead of dive when they forage. They eat aquatic plants, invertebrates, and occasionally small fish in shallow water. They also fly into agricultural fields to feed on waste corn and grain. Look for them mixed into flocks with other "puddle ducks" such as Gadwall and Mallards.

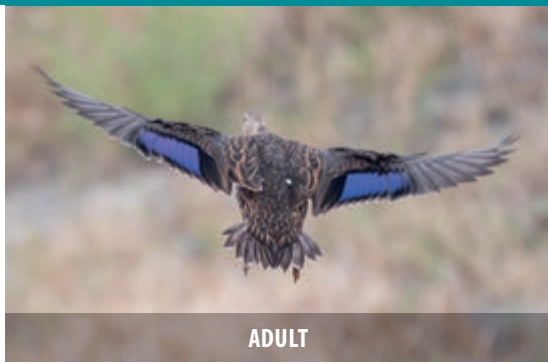
**HABITAT** American Black Ducks nest in eastern wetlands including freshwater marshes and saltmarshes. During migration and winter, they rest and forage in protected ponds, marshes, and bays.



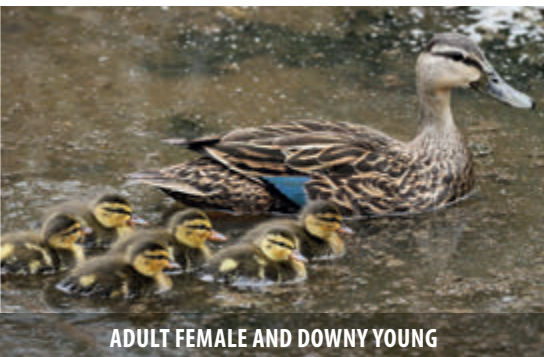
The shy but common **American Black Duck** hides in plain sight in shallow wetlands of eastern North America. They often flock with Mallards and look quite similar to female Mallards. Look again to notice the dark chocolate-brown flanks, pale gray face, and olive-yellow bill of an American Black Duck.



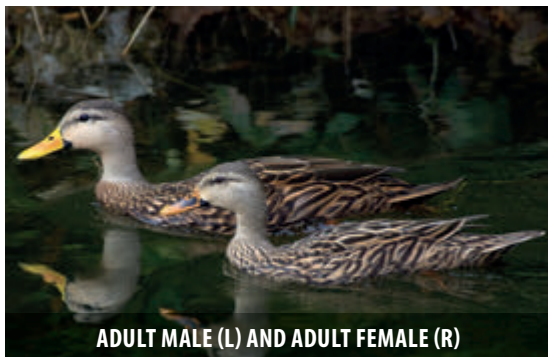
ADULT MALE



ADULT

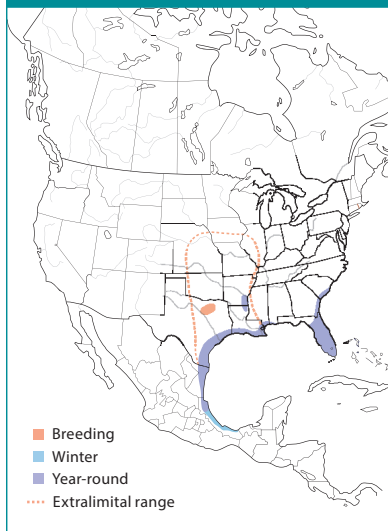


ADULT FEMALE AND DOWNY YOUNG



ADULT MALE (L) AND ADULT FEMALE (R)

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** A relatively large duck, similar in size to a Mallard, with a sturdy body, short neck, short tail, and moderately long bill.

**COLOR PATTERN** Both sexes are mostly brown and buff, like a female Mallard, but darker and richer in color and with a black patch at the opening of the bill (the gape). The very buffy face and throat lack fine streaking. The back and sides are rich brown streaked with buff. Males have intensely yellow bills; females have greenish yellow to orangish bills, with or without dark markings. White in the tail is an indication that the individual has some Mallard genes; a pure Mottled Duck has a dark tail.

**BEHAVIOR** Mottled Ducks are “dabbling ducks” that feed at the surface or tip up to reach submerged vegetation. They rarely dive unless being pursued by a predator.

**HABITAT** Mottled Ducks use shallow freshwater and brackish wetlands, including marshes, ponds, ditches, and flooded agricultural fields for resting, feeding, and nesting.

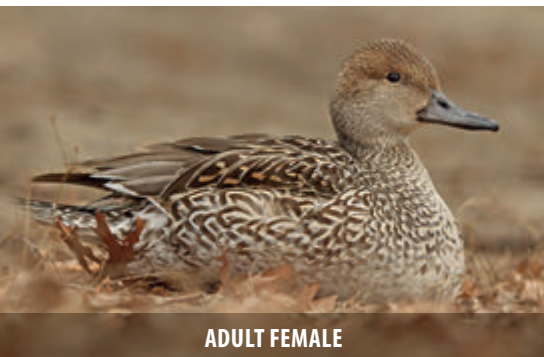
The **Mottled Duck** is reminiscent of a female Mallard or an American Black Duck and is so closely related that hybridization, especially with Mallards, poses a real threat to the Mottled Duck’s future. Look for this species in pairs or small flocks, mostly in freshwater marshes near the coast.



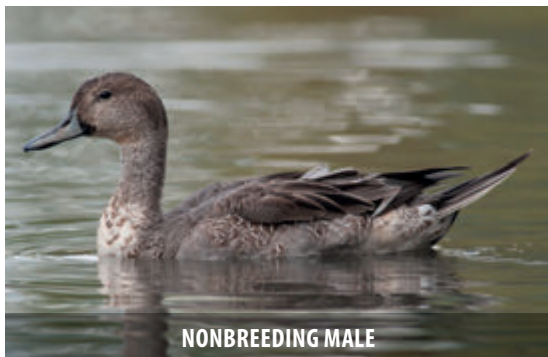
**BREEDING MALE**



**BREEDING MALE**



**ADULT FEMALE**



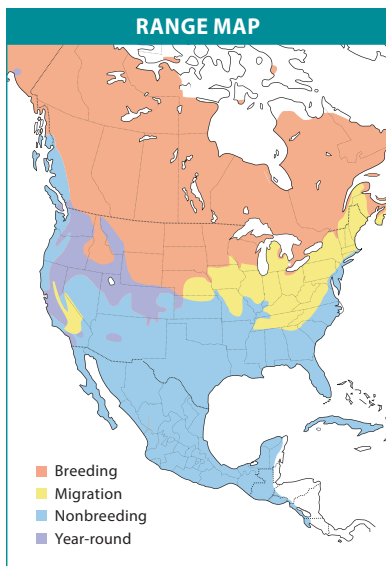
**NONBREEDING MALE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** Northern Pintails are elegant, long-necked ducks with a slender profile. The tail is long and pointed, but it is much longer and more prominent on breeding males than on females and nonbreeding males. In flight, wings are long and narrow.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding males stand out with a white breast and white line down their rich brown head and neck. When molting, both sexes are mottled brown and white with a tan face and a dark bill. In flight, males flash a green speculum and females a bronzy speculum.

**BEHAVIOR** These dabbling birds use their bills to filter out seeds and insects on the water's surface. They feed on grain and insects in wetlands and agricultural fields. They form groups, often with other ducks, in the nonbreeding season.

**HABITAT** Northern Pintails nest in wetlands, croplands, grasslands, wet meadows, and shortgrass prairies, and forage in lakes and ponds. When not breeding, look for them in wetlands, ponds, lakes, bays, tidal marshes, and flooded agricultural fields.



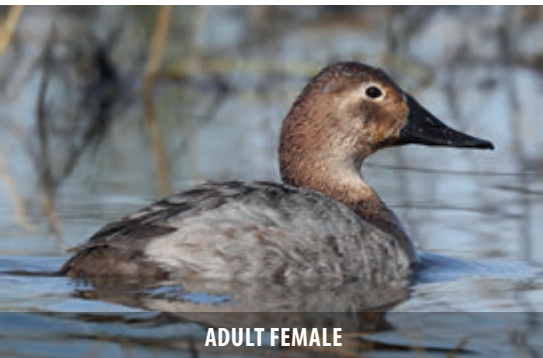
Elegant **Northern Pintails** swim through wetlands and lakes with their long, pointed tails held high. These eager breeders head to the Prairie Pothole Region of the Great Plains, as well as Alaska and other parts of Canada, to nest as soon as the ice breaks up. Though still common, their populations are declining.



BREEDING MALE



BREEDING MALE

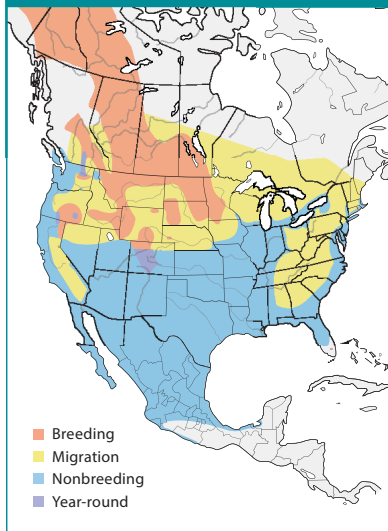


ADULT FEMALE



JUVENILE

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Canvasbacks are big-headed diving ducks with a gently sloping forehead and a stout neck. The long bill meets a sloping forehead, creating a seamless look. On the water, the Canvasback has an oval body and a short, sloping tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding males have a chestnut head and neck set off against a black chest, whitish body, and black rear. Females are pale brown where males are chestnut and black, and have a grayish rather than white body. In late summer and early fall, males have brown heads and necks with a paler body. Males have red eyes, and females have dark eyes.

**BEHAVIOR** Diving ducks that are gregarious during the nonbreeding season, Canvasbacks form large single-species rafts or mix with Redheads and scaups. They dive underwater to feed on plant tubers, seeds, and clams.

**HABITAT** Canvasbacks breed in lakes, deep-water marshes, bays, and ponds. In winter, look for them in deep freshwater lakes and coastal waters.

Often called the aristocrat of ducks, the **Canvasback** holds its long sloping forehead high with a distinguished look. This diving duck eats plant tubers at the bottom of lakes and wetlands. It breeds in lakes and marshes and winters by the thousands on freshwater lakes and coastal waters.



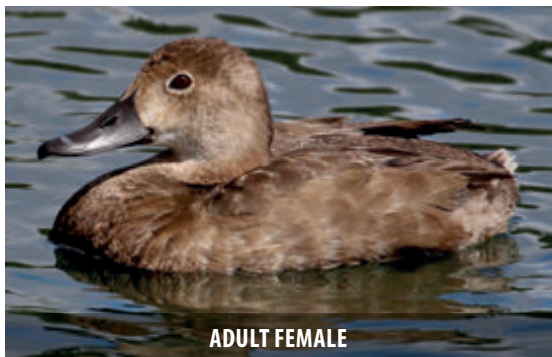
BREEDING MALE



BREEDING MALE



NONBREEDING MALE



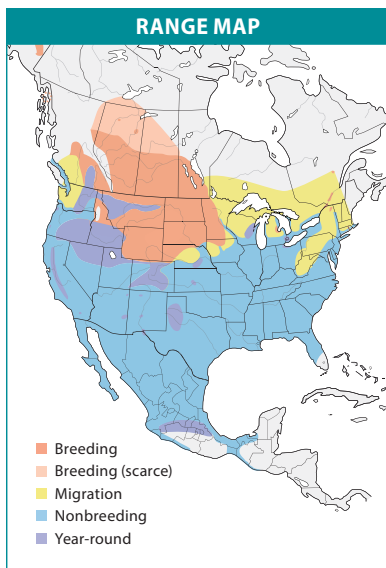
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Redheads are medium-sized diving ducks with a smoothly rounded head and a moderately large bill. They are slightly larger than Ring-necked Ducks and slightly smaller than Canvasbacks.

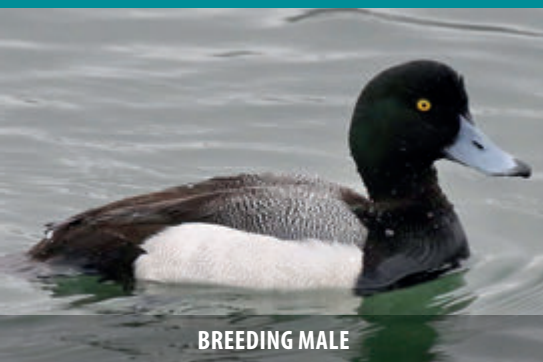
**COLOR PATTERN** Male Redheads are a mixture of cinnamon head, black breast and tail, and gray body. Females and immatures are a plain, mostly uniform brown. Redheads have black-tipped, gray bills, and gray flight feathers.

**BEHAVIOR** In migration and winter, look for Redheads in large rafts, often with other duck species. They usually dive for their food, although they use shallower water than other diving ducks and may feed by tipping up, like a dabbling duck.

**HABITAT** Redheads breed mainly in seasonal wetlands such as the Prairie Pothole Region of the Great Plains. In migration and winter, they form large flocks on the Gulf Coast, as well as on lakes, reservoirs, bays, and along the Great Lakes and coastlines across the southern U.S.



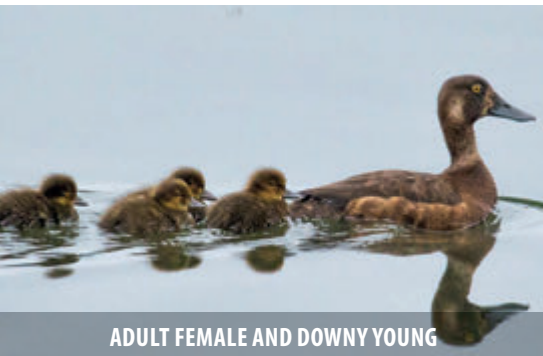
With a gleaming cinnamon head setting off a body marked in black and gray, adult male **Redheads** light up the open water of lakes and coastlines. These sociable ducks molt, migrate, and winter in sometimes huge flocks, particularly along the Gulf Coast, where winter numbers can reach the thousands.



BREEDING MALE



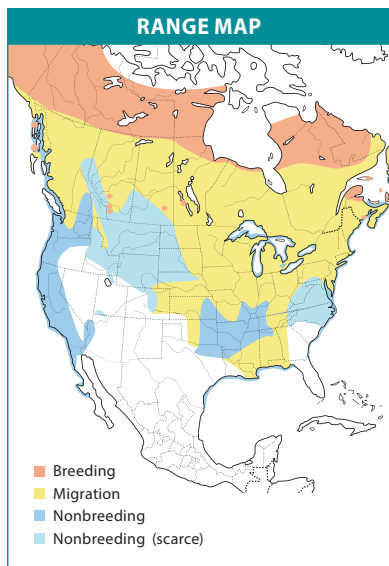
BREEDING MALE



ADULT FEMALE AND DOWNY YOUNG



NONBREEDING MALE



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Greater Scaup is a medium-sized diving duck with an evenly rounded head. It is larger than a Green-winged Teal and smaller than a Canvasback.

**COLOR PATTERN** At a distance, breeding male Greater Scaup are black and white, but closer views reveal an iridescent green sheen on the head, super thin black barring on the back, a bluish bill, and a yellow eye. Females are brown overall with a darker brown head and a white patch next to the bill, but the size of the white patch varies. Nonbreeding males look like a cross between a female and a breeding male: a mottled brown-and-gray body and a blackish head.

**BEHAVIOR** During migration and winter, these diving ducks form large flocks on bays, lakes, and larger wetlands. They tend to form tight groups with each other and sometimes mix with other diving ducks.

**HABITAT** Greater Scaup breed in shallow lakes and ponds in treeless wetlands in the tundra. During winter, look for Greater Scaup on coastal bays, lakes, and reservoirs.

The **Greater Scaup** breeds across the tundra. They congregate by the hundreds and thousands along both coasts during winter. Remarkably similar to the Lesser Scaup, the Greater Scaup has a rounded head, the Lesser Scaup a peaked head.

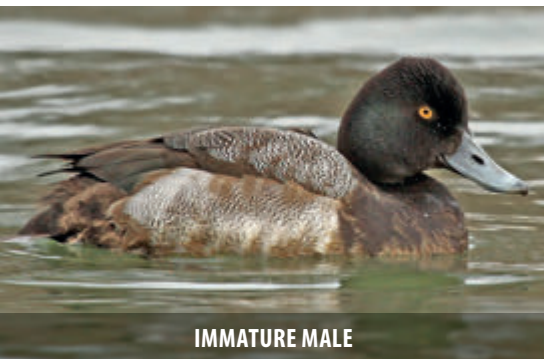




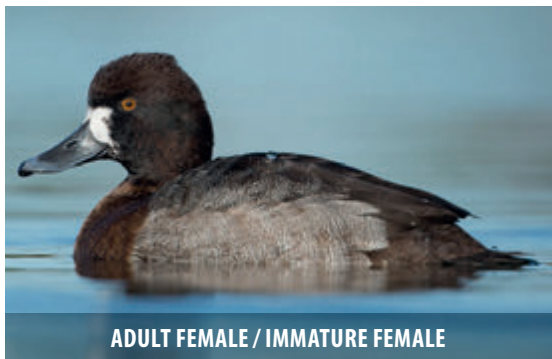
BREEDING MALE



BREEDING MALE



IMMATURE MALE



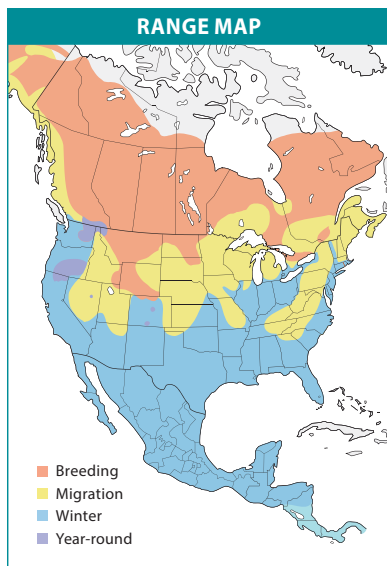
ADULT FEMALE / IMMATURE FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Lesser Scaup is a medium-sized diving duck with a small peak at the back of the head. Behind the small peak, the back of the head and neck is mostly flat, not strongly rounded as it is on Greater Scaup.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding males are black and white with an iridescent purple-to-green head sheen, a delicately patterned black-and-white back, a bluish bill, and a yellow eye. Females are brown with a darker brown head and a white patch by the bill.

**BEHAVIOR** During migration and winter, Lesser Scaup form large flocks on lakes, bays, rivers, and larger wetlands. They tend to form tight groups and mix with other diving ducks such as Canvasbacks and Greater Scaup.

**HABITAT** During winter, look for Lesser Scaup on inland lakes, reservoirs, coastal bays, and estuaries. During the breeding season, they are more commonly found nesting in marshes of northern North America.



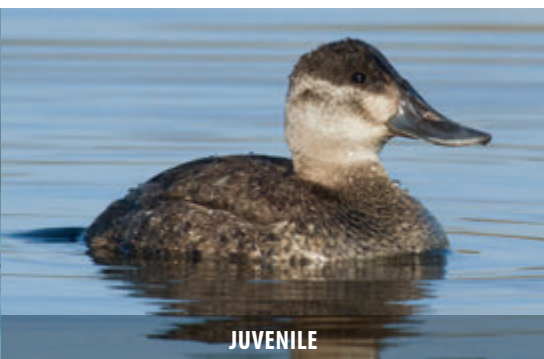
Groups of **Lesser Scaup** congregate on bodies of water during migration and winter, sometimes by the thousands. Look for them floating on the surface or diving to eat aquatic invertebrates and plants. Unlike the Greater Scaup's rounded head, the Lesser Scaup's tiny, peaked hat sits near the back of the head.



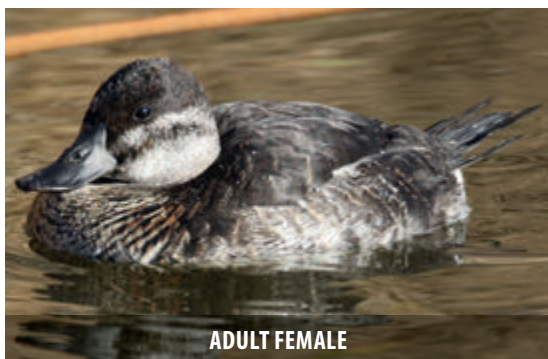
**BREEDING MALE**



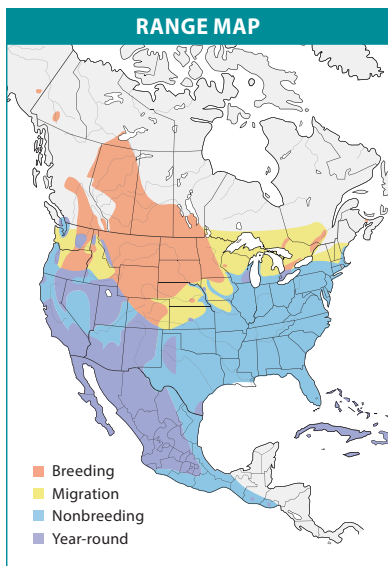
**NONBREEDING MALE**



**JUVENILE**



**ADULT FEMALE**



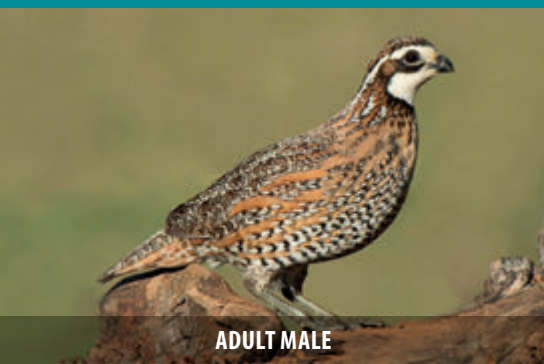
**SIZE & SHAPE** Ruddy Ducks are small and compact with stout, scoop-shaped bills, and long, stiff tails they often hold cocked upward. They have slightly peaked heads and fairly short, thick necks.

**COLOR PATTERN** Male Ruddy Ducks have blackish caps and white cheeks. In summer, they have chestnut bodies with bright blue bills. In winter, they are dull gray brown with gray bills. Females are brownish with a blurry cheek stripe.

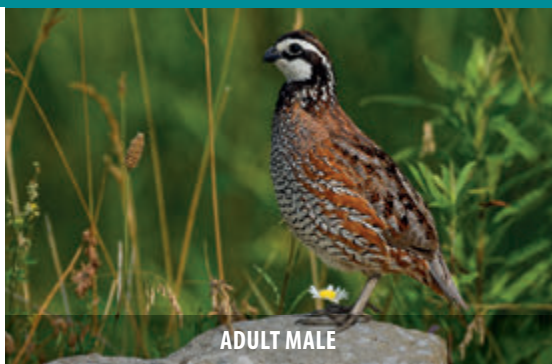
**BEHAVIOR** Ruddy Ducks dive to feed on aquatic invertebrates, especially midge larvae. They feed most actively at night, so you'll often see them sleeping during the day, head tucked under a wing and tail cocked up.

**HABITAT** Ruddy Ducks nest in marshes adjacent to lakes and ponds, primarily in the Prairie Potholes Region. In migration, they flock to large rivers, ponds, lakes, and coastal estuaries, frequently mixing with other diving ducks.

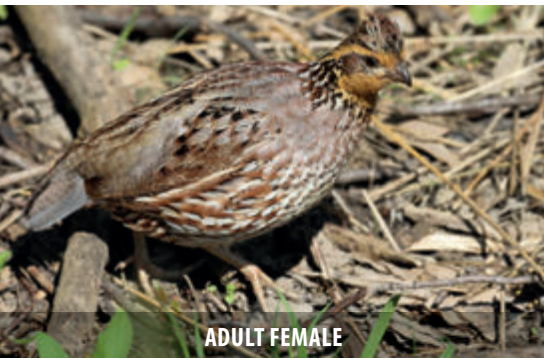
The bright colors and odd behavior of male **Ruddy Ducks** drew attention from early naturalists, though they didn't pull any punches. One 1926 account states, "Its intimate habits, its stupidity, its curious nesting customs and ludicrous courtship performance place it in a niche by itself..."



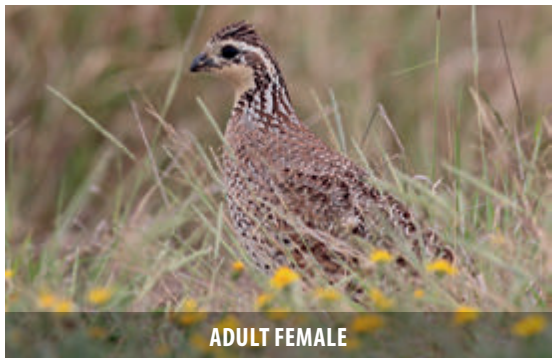
ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE



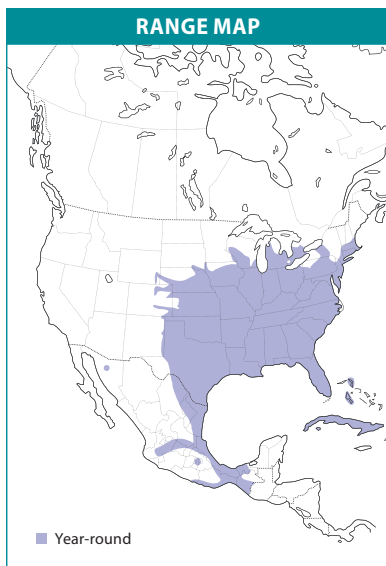
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Bobwhites are small quail with rounded bodies, small heads, rounded wings, and short tails. The male bobwhite has a small crest that becomes erect when it is alert and its head is raised.

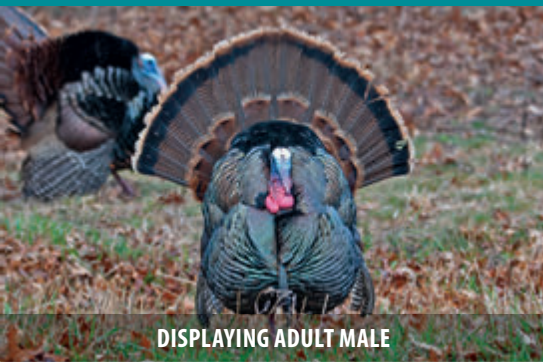
**COLOR PATTERN** Northern Bobwhites are intricately patterned in brown, rufous, buff, and black. Males have a bold black-and-white striped face with a brown crown and white throat. Females are more speckled with black, brown, and white. They have buffy throats and eyebrows.

**BEHAVIOR** Northern Bobwhites travel in coveys and run across the ground from the shelter of one shrubby patch to another. When they are flushed, they explode into flight with quick wingbeats and then duck into the nearest cover.

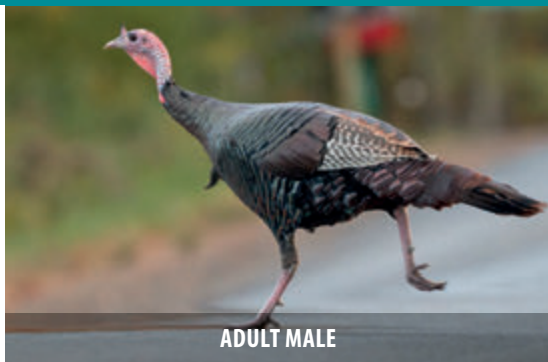
**HABITAT** Northern Bobwhites live in open pine forests, overgrown fields, shrubby areas, and grasslands. They also like areas managed with prescribed fire, which helps maintain an open, grassy ground layer.



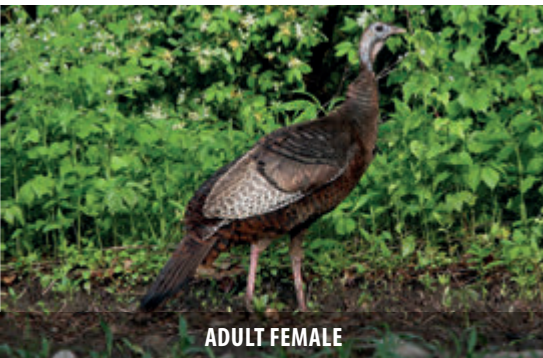
Listen for the whistled ringing of the camouflaged **Northern Bobwhite** in the eastern countryside. They forage in groups, scurrying between cover or bursting into flight if alarmed. In sharp decline over the last half-century due to habitat loss and changes in agriculture, bobwhites are a high priority for conservation.



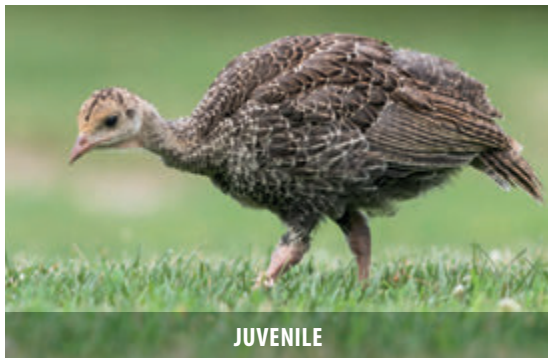
DISPLAYING ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE

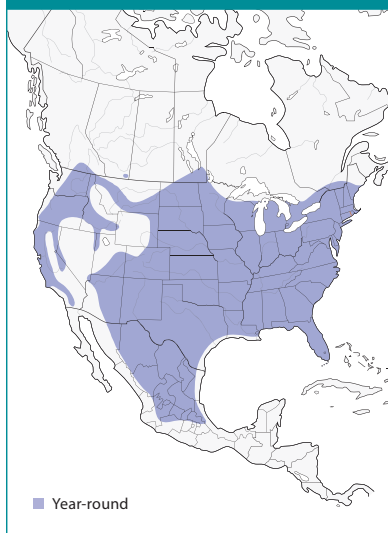


ADULT FEMALE



JUVENILE

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Wild Turkeys are very large, plump birds with long legs, wide, rounded tails, and small heads on long, slim necks.

**COLOR PATTERN** Turkeys are dark with a bronze-green iridescence to their plumage. Their wings are barred with white. Their rump and tail feathers are tipped rusty or white. The bare skin of the head and neck varies from red to blue to gray.

**BEHAVIOR** Turkeys travel in flocks and search the ground for nuts, berries, insects, and snails, using their strong feet to scratch leaf litter out of the way. In early spring, males perform courtship displays in clearings. They puff up their body feathers, flare their tails into a vertical fan, and strut slowly while giving a gobbling call. At night, they roost in trees in groups.

**HABITAT** Wild Turkeys live in mature forests, particularly those with oak, hickory, or beech trees, interspersed with forest edges and fields. You may see them along roads and in woody backyards.

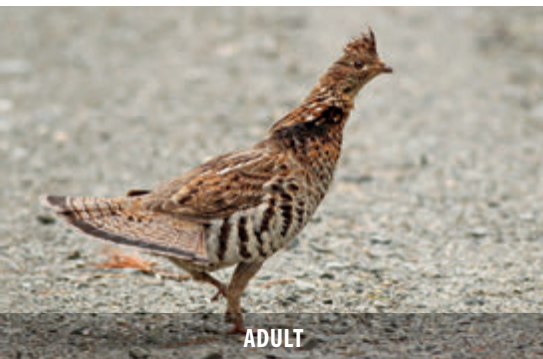
Look for flocks of **Wild Turkeys** striding around woods and clearings like the miniature dinosaurs they are. Courting males puff themselves up and fill the air with gobbling. The bird's popularity at the Thanksgiving table led to a drastic decline in numbers, but they now occur in every U.S. state except Alaska.



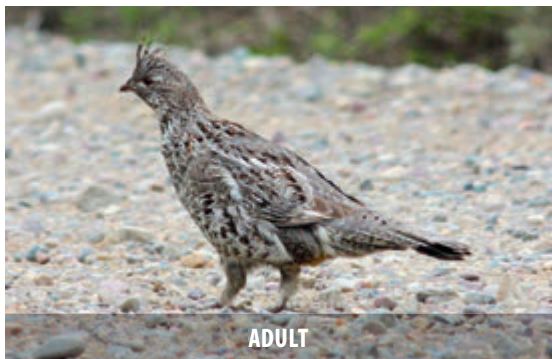
**BREEDING MALE**



**BREEDING MALE**



**ADULT**



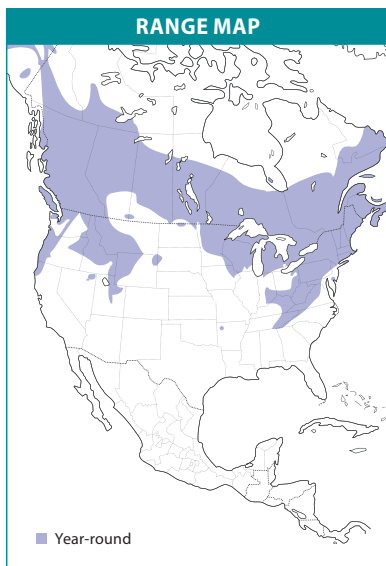
**ADULT**

**SIZE & SHAPE** Ruffed Grouse are fairly small grouse with a short, triangular crest and a long, fan-shaped tail. They have short legs and often look slimmer than other grouse species.

**COLOR PATTERN** Ruffed Grouse are intricately patterned with dark bars and spots on either a reddish brown or grayish background. Dark bars down the side of the neck widen on the belly. The tail is barred, with one wide, black band near the tip.

**BEHAVIOR** Look for Ruffed Grouse foraging on the forest-interior floor for seeds and insects. Displaying males stand atop logs and beat their wings to make a deep, airy drumming sound. In spring, you'll likely see lone birds; in summer, look for females with broods of chicks. In winter, they form flocks and often eat buds of broadleaf trees.

**HABITAT** Ruffed Grouse usually occupy mixed broadleaf and coniferous forest interiors with scattered clearings. They also live along forested streams and in areas growing back from burning or logging.



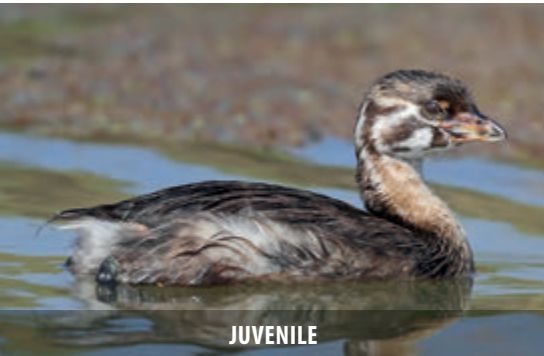
The **Ruffed Grouse** is hard to see, but its “drumming on air” display is a fixture of many spring forests. It can come as a surprise to learn this distant sound, like an engine trying to start, comes from a bird at all. Displaying males expose a rich black ruff of neck feathers, giving them their name.



BREEDING ADULT



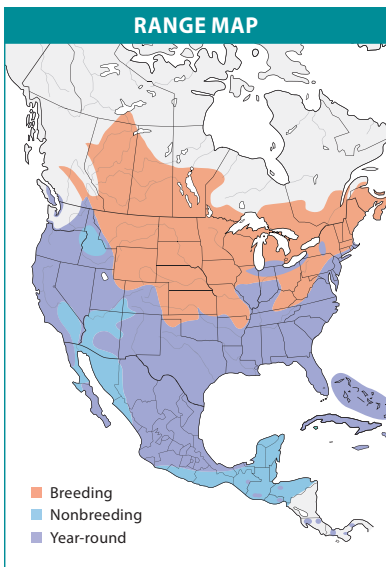
BREEDING ADULT



JUVENILE



NONBREEDING ADULT



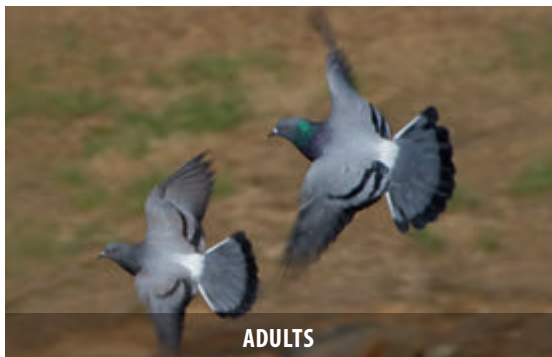
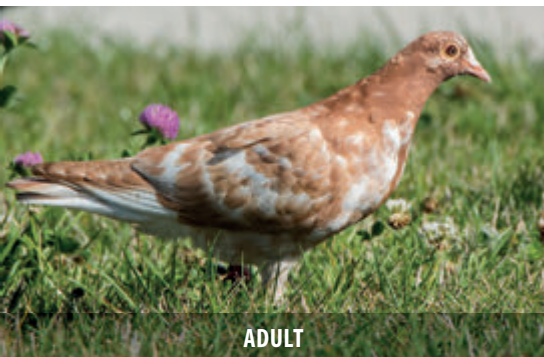
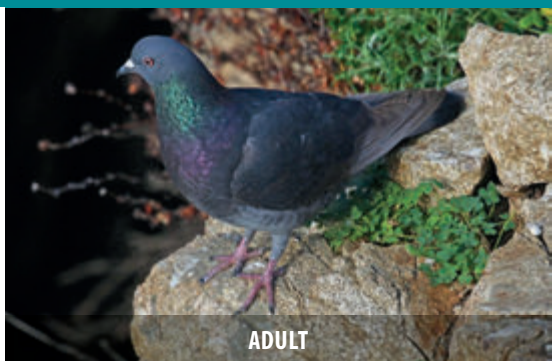
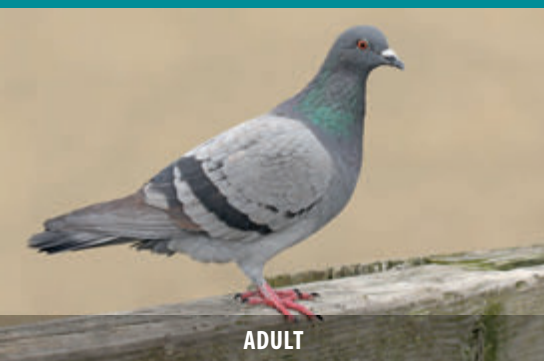
**SIZE & SHAPE** Pied-billed Grebes are small, chunky, swimming birds. They have compact bodies and slender necks, with relatively large, blocky heads and short, thick bills. They have virtually no tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** These brown birds are darker above and lighter below. In spring and summer, the crown and nape are dark, and the throat is black. While breeding, the bill is whitish with a black band, but yellowish brown the rest of the year. Juveniles have striped faces.

**BEHAVIOR** Pied-billed Grebes can adjust their buoyancy, using this ability to float with just the upper half of the head above water. They catch small fish and invertebrates by diving or slowly submerging.

**HABITAT** Look for Pied-billed Grebes on small, quiet ponds and marshes where thick vegetation grows out of the water. In winter, they are found on larger water bodies, occasionally in large groups.

Part bird, part submarine, the **Pied-billed Grebe** is common across much of North America. These expert divers inhabit sluggish rivers, freshwater marshes, lakes, and estuaries. Rarely seen in flight and often hidden amid vegetation, Pied-billed Grebes announce their presence with loud, far-reaching calls.

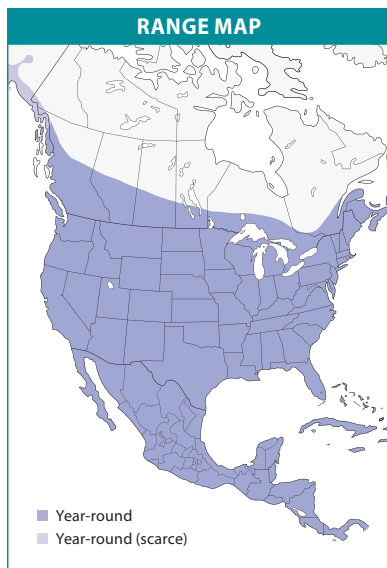


**SIZE & SHAPE** Larger and plumper than Mourning Doves, Rock Pigeons are tubby birds with small heads and short legs. Their wings are broad but pointed, and their tails are wide and rounded.

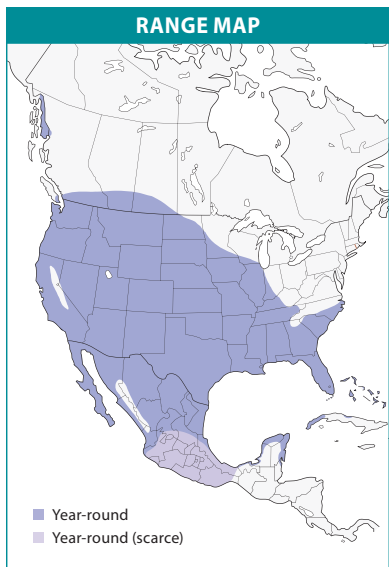
**COLOR PATTERN** Since pigeons are derived from domestic birds, their plumage is wildly variable. Most birds are a combination of gray, black, white, and/or rusty. Many birds are bluish gray with two black bands on each wing, a black tip to the tail, a white rump, and iridescent neck feathers.

**BEHAVIOR** Pigeons often gather in flocks, walking or running on the ground and pecking for food. When alarmed, the flock may suddenly fly into the air and circle several times before coming down again.

**HABITAT** Familiar birds of cities and towns, Rock Pigeons were introduced from Europe in the early 1600s as a food source. They also live on farmlands, and near rocky cliffs. They may gather in large flocks in urban parks where people feed them.



Common in cities around the world, **Rock Pigeons** were introduced to North America in the early 1600s and now crowd streets and public squares, where they live off discarded food and birdseed. City pigeons nest on buildings and window ledges. In the countryside, they nest on barns, grain towers, natural cliffs, and bridges.



**SIZE & SHAPE** Eurasian Collared-Doves have plump bodies, small heads, and long tails. The wings are broad and slightly rounded. The broad tail is squared off at the tip, rather than pointed like a Mourning Dove's.

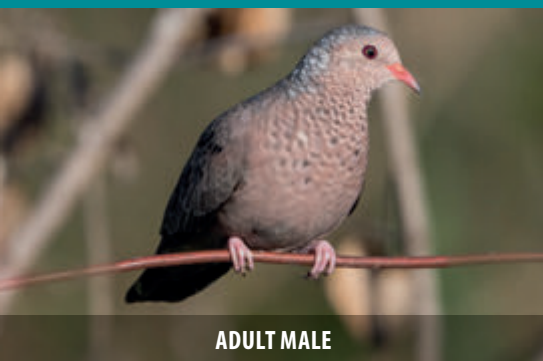
**COLOR PATTERN** Eurasian Collared-Doves are chalky light brown to gray buff birds with broad white patches in the tail. The collar is a narrow black crescent around the nape of the neck. In flight and when perched, the wingtips are darker than the rest of the wing. Adult and immature birds look alike.

**BEHAVIOR** These doves perch on telephone poles, wires, and in large trees while giving incessant three-syllable coos. Their flight pattern features bursts of clipped wingbeats and looping glides. When walking, these doves bob their heads and flick their tails.

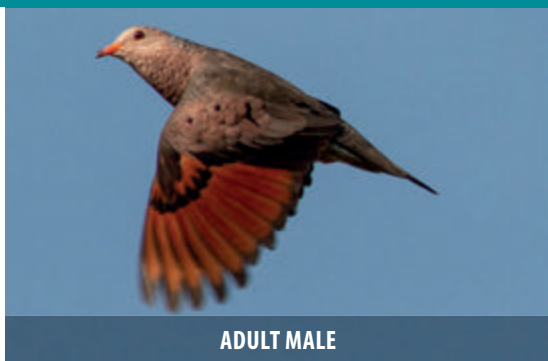
**HABITAT** Eurasian Collared-Doves live in urban and suburban areas throughout much of the U.S. except the Northeast. In rural settings, look for them on farms and in livestock yards where grain is available.

Find the **Eurasian Collared-Dove** on phone wires and fence posts, giving its rhythmic three-parted coo. This chunky bird gets its name from the black half-collar at the nape of the neck. Introduced to the Bahamas in the 1970s, they made their way to Florida by the 1980s, then colonized much of North America.





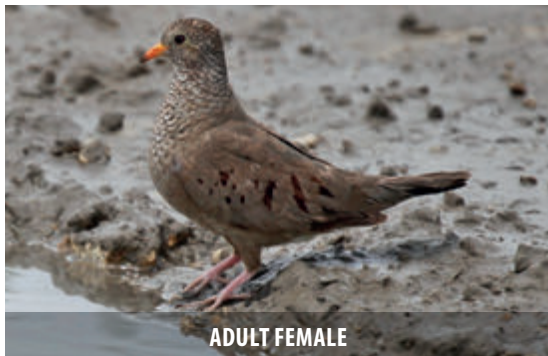
ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



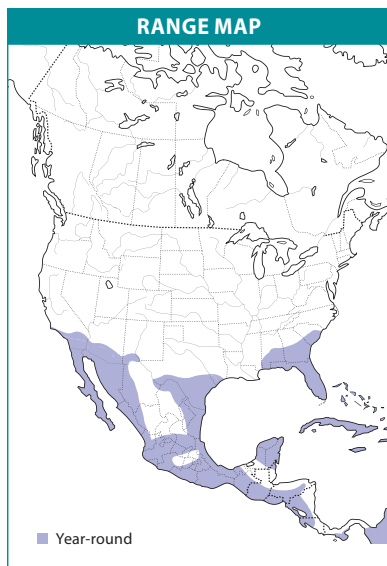
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Common Ground Doves are tiny doves with short, round wings, short tails, and short, thin bills. They are stocky, with short legs, and they shuffle as they walk.

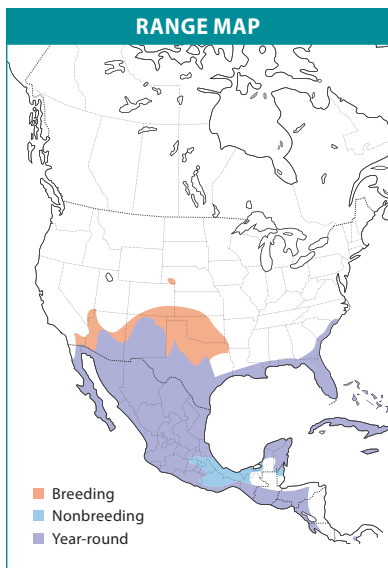
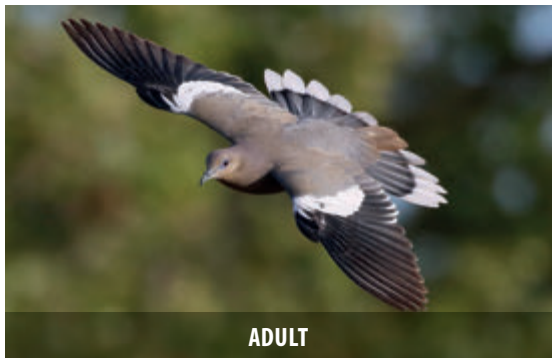
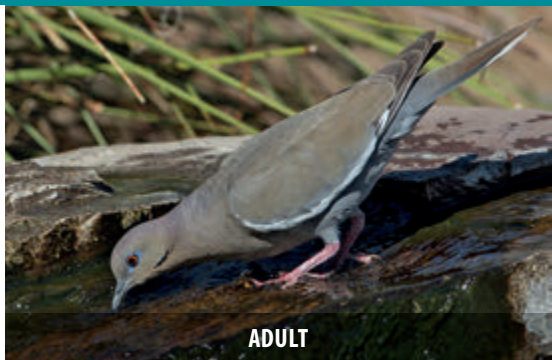
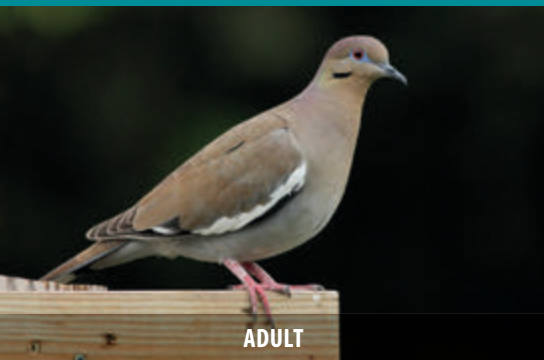
**COLOR PATTERN** Common Ground Doves are sandy brown overall, with large, dark spots on the wings. In flight, wings show rich rufous patches. Males have a pinkish wash on the head, neck, and chest, and bluish crowns; females are duller. Both sexes have fine, dark scaling on the neck and chest, and pinkish red bills with a dark tip.

**BEHAVIOR** These relatively shy birds usually hide in grasslands and small groves of trees. Males sing a series of quiet, moaning coos. They are often seen on the ground at backyard bird feeders eating seeds, grains, and some insects.

**HABITAT** Common Ground Doves live in open or shrubby areas with tall grasses or groves of trees, including riparian corridors and open savannas. They also live in towns and suburbs, where they frequent yards and hedges.



The sparrow-sized **Common Ground Dove** forages in dusty open areas, feeding beneath grass clumps. Its plumage is easy to overlook until the bird takes flight, flashing reddish brown in the wings. These attractive doves are found across the southernmost parts of the U.S., from California to South Carolina.



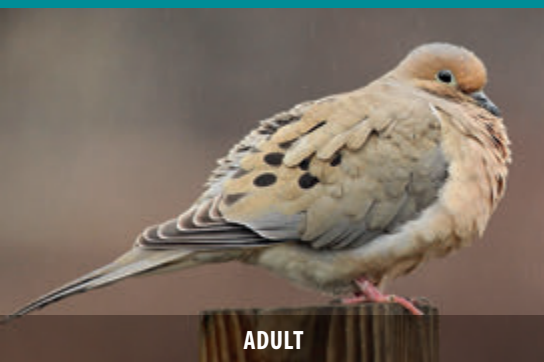
**SIZE & SHAPE** White-winged Doves are plump, medium-sized doves with small heads and short, square-tipped tails. They have relatively long, thin bills.

**COLOR PATTERN** White-winged Doves are brown with a dark line on the cheek. Each wing has a bold white stripe above, and the tail has white corners. Their faces are marked with a black streak on the cheek and blue skin around the red eyes.

**BEHAVIOR** White-winged Doves forage on waste grain and seeds on the ground or take to trees to eat berries. In the Sonoran Desert, they eat saguaro cactus fruits. They often gather in huge flocks for trips between roosting and foraging areas, and during migration. Their long, hooting *whoo-OOO-oo, oo-oo* calls are an increasingly common sound in the southern U.S.

**HABITAT** Find these doves in southwestern desert habitat and in cities and suburbs of Texas and the coastal Southeast. They often visit backyards with birdbaths and feeders. Individuals move widely across the continent after the breeding season.

Originally a bird of desert thickets, the **White-winged Dove** is now common in cities and towns across the southern U.S. In flight, its subdued wing crescents become flashing white stripes worthy of the bird's common name. Look closely for a remarkably colorful face, with bright red eyes and blue "eye shadow."



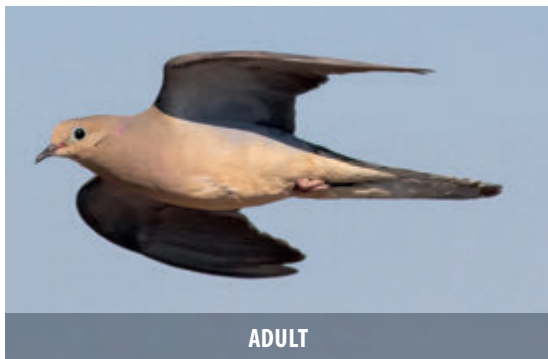
ADULT



ADULT



JUVENILE



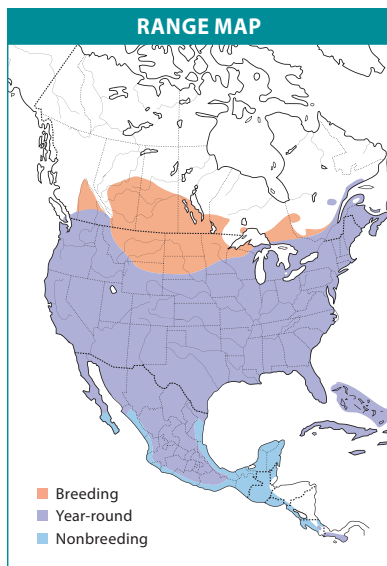
ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** Mourning Doves are plump-bodied and long-tailed, with short legs, a small bill, and a head that looks tiny in comparison to the body. The long, pointed tail is unique among North American doves.

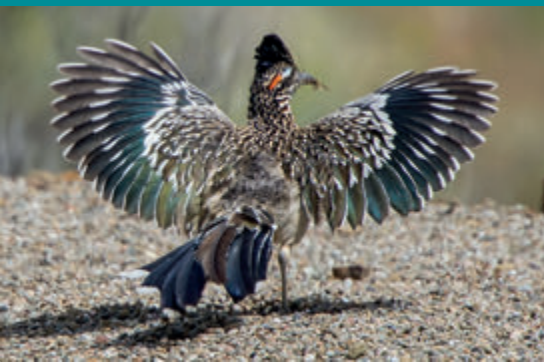
**COLOR PATTERN** Mourning Doves often match their open-country surroundings in color. They're a delicate brownish gray to buffy tan overall, and a pale peach color below, with pink legs. They have large black spots on their wings and black-bordered white tips to the outer tail feathers.

**BEHAVIOR** Mourning Doves fly fast on powerful wingbeats, sometimes making sudden ascents, descents, and dodges, their pointed tails stretching behind them.

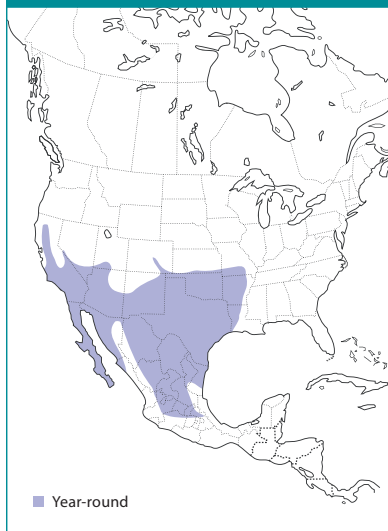
**HABITAT** You can see Mourning Doves nearly anywhere except the deep woods. Mourning Doves prefer open fields, areas with scattered trees, and woodland edges, but many roost in woodlots during winter. They feed on the ground in grasslands, agricultural fields, backyards, and roadsides.



The **Mourning Dove's** soft, drawn-out coos sound like laments. Common across much of the continent, this graceful dove perches on telephone wires and forages for seeds on the ground; its flight is fast and straight. When taking off, its wings make a sharp whistling or whinnying sound.



## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Greater Roadrunners are large cuckoos with a distinctive shape: long legs, a very long, straight tail, and a long neck. The head has a short crest and the bill is long, heavy, and slightly downcurved.

**COLOR PATTERN** They are tan or brown with extensive blackish streaking on the upperparts and chest. The crown is black with small, pale spots, and they have a patch of bare, blue skin behind the eye. The wings are dark with white highlights. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Greater Roadrunners spend most of their lives on the ground hunting lizards, small mammals, and birds. They run fast, leaning over parallel to the ground with their tails streaming behind them. They are weak fliers, but may perch above the ground on fence posts and sometimes telephone wires.

**HABITAT** Greater Roadrunners are characteristic birds of the hot, shrubby expanses of the desert Southwest. They aren't restricted to deserts, though; look for them in open country with patches of shrubs or small trees almost as far east as the Mississippi River. They are also found in towns.

A bird born to run, the **Greater Roadrunner** can outrace a human, kill a rattlesnake, and thrive in the harsh desert of the Southwest. As they run, they hold their lean frames nearly parallel to the ground and rudder with their long tails. They have recently extended their range eastward into Missouri and Louisiana.



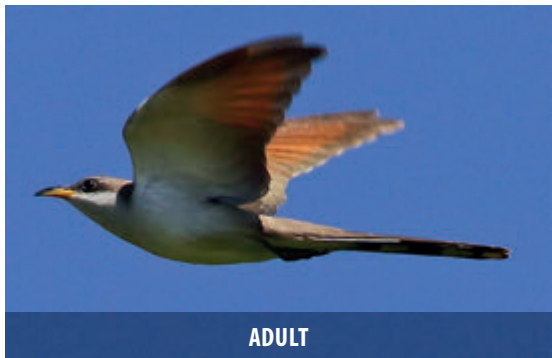
ADULT



ADULT



JUVENILE



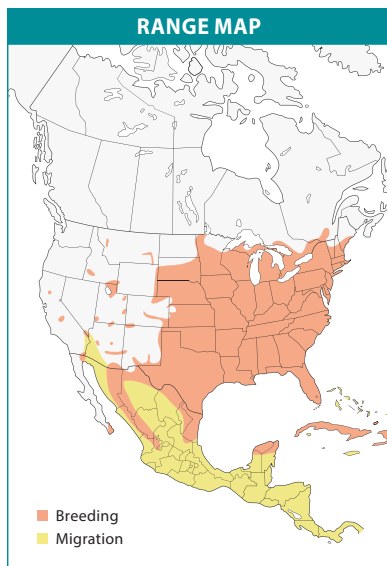
ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** Yellow-billed Cuckoos are large, long, and slim birds. The bill is almost as long as the head and slightly downcurved. They have a flat head, thin body, and very long tail. Wings appear pointed and swept back in flight.

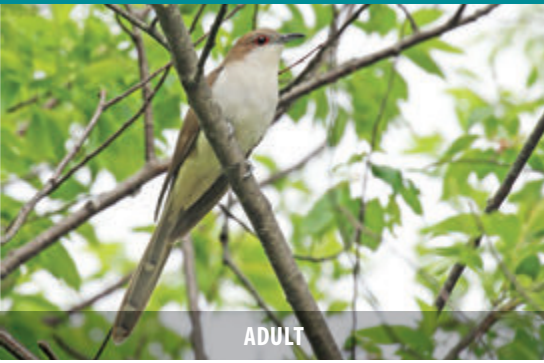
**COLOR PATTERN** Yellow-billed Cuckoos are warm brown above and clean whitish below. They have a blackish mask across the face and a yellow eyering. From below, the tail has wide white bands and narrower black ones. The bill is mostly yellow.

**BEHAVIOR** Yellow-billed Cuckoos forage slowly and methodically in treetops for large, hairy caterpillars—this approach can make them hard to find. However, they are vocal birds, and their slow, rolling, guttural calls are distinctive. They fly in a straight path using sharp wingbeats with a slight pause between them.

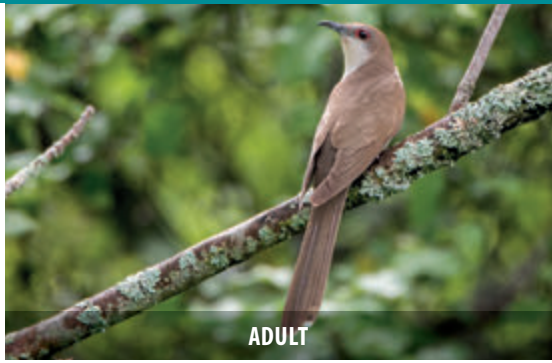
**HABITAT** Look for Yellow-billed Cuckoos among the canopies of broadleaf trees in woodland patches with gaps and clearings. In the West, this species is found only in the cottonwood-dominated forests that line larger rivers running through arid country.



**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** are slender, long-tailed birds that stay well hidden in broadleaf woodlands. They usually sit still, hunching their shoulders as they hunt for caterpillars. Fortunately, their drawn-out, knocking song is very distinctive. They have become rare in the West in the last half-century.



ADULT



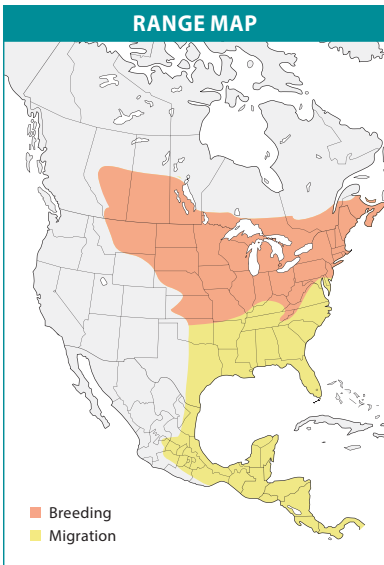
ADULT



JUVENILE



ADULT



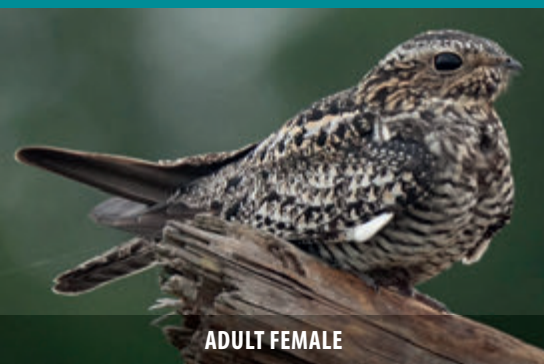
**SIZE & SHAPE** Cuckoos are slender, dove-sized birds with a longer, slightly curved bill and a very long tail. When perched, it often has a hunchbacked posture. It is larger than a Baltimore Oriole and smaller than an American Crow.

**COLOR PATTERN** Black-billed Cuckoos are plain brown above without cinnamon tones. Below they are white with a buffy wash to the throat, and they have a red ring around the eye and a black bill. Note the small black-and-white bars at the tips of the gray tail feathers.

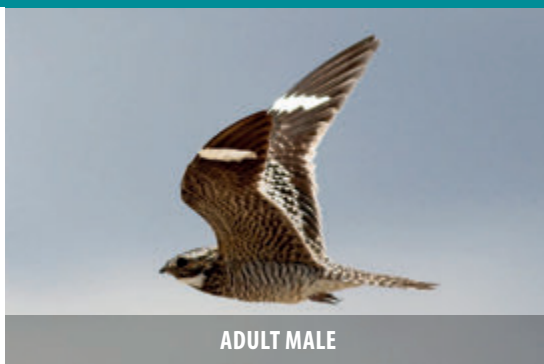
**BEHAVIOR** Black-billed Cuckoos move slyly through thickets and often don't budge at all. When they do fly they have a graceful flight, flying on long and pointed wings. They feast on caterpillars, especially fall web worms and tent caterpillars.

**HABITAT** Black-billed Cuckoos breed in dense woodlands and thickets with broadleaf and coniferous trees, often near water. During migration, they forage in thickets, woodlands, orchards, gardens, and scrublands. On their wintering grounds, they also use thickets, woodlands, and scrub.

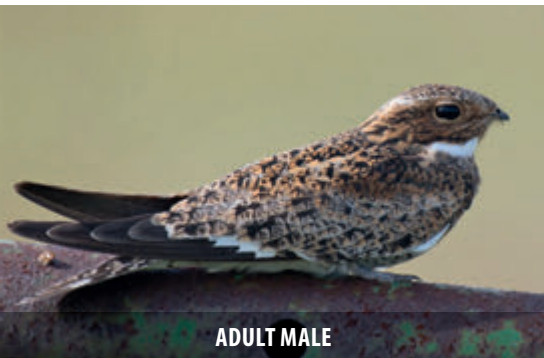
Uncommon and elusive, the **Black-billed Cuckoo** skulks around densely wooded eastern forests and thickets. Its staccato song can be heard day and night, but getting a look at its slender brown body and namesake black bill may take a bit of patience. On the breeding grounds, it eats tent caterpillars and webworms.



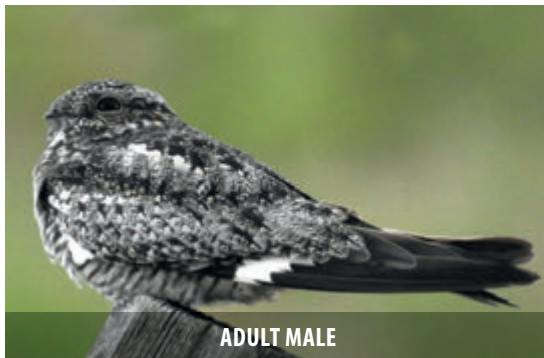
ADULT FEMALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



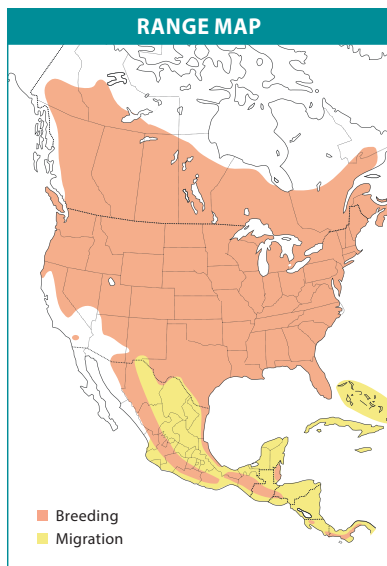
ADULT MALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Common Nighthawks are medium-sized, slender birds with very long, pointed wings and medium-long tails. Only the small tip of the bill is usually visible, and this combined with the large eye and short neck gives the bird a big-headed look.

**COLOR PATTERN** Common Nighthawks are camouflaged in gray, white, buff, and black. The long, dark wings have a white blaze about two-thirds of the way out to the tip. In flight, a pale, V-shaped throat patch contrasts with the rest of the plumage.

**BEHAVIOR** Look for Common Nighthawks flying in the early morning and evening. During the day, they roost motionless on branches, fence posts, or the ground, and can be hard to see. Their buzzy *peent* call is distinctive.

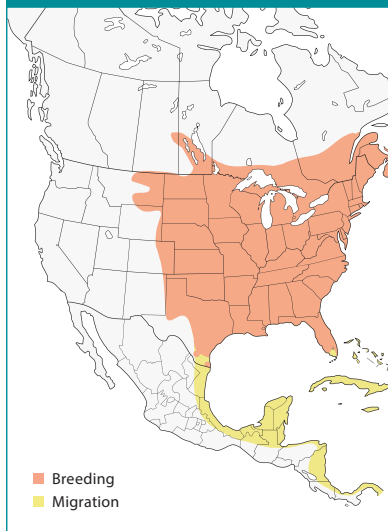
**HABITAT** Common Nighthawks are most visible when they forage on the wing over cities and open areas near woods or wetlands. They migrate over fields, river valleys, marshes, woodlands, towns, and suburbs.



On warm summer evenings, **Common Nighthawks** roam the skies, giving a sharp, electric *peent* call. These long-winged birds fly in graceful loops, chasing insects. They are fairly common but declining birds that make no nest. Their young are highly camouflaged, and even the adults seem to vanish as soon as they land.



#### RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Chimney Swifts are very small birds with slender bodies and very long, narrow, curved wings. They have a round head, short neck, and short, tapered tail that gives them the appearance of a flying cigar. The wide bill is so short that it is hard to see.

**COLOR PATTERN** Chimney Swifts are dark gray brown all over, slightly paler on the throat. They can appear to be all black from a distance and when backlit against the sky. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Chimney Swifts fly rapidly with nearly constant wingbeats, and often twist from side to side and bank erratically. Their wingbeats are stiff, with very little flex at the wrists. They often give a high, chattering call while they fly.

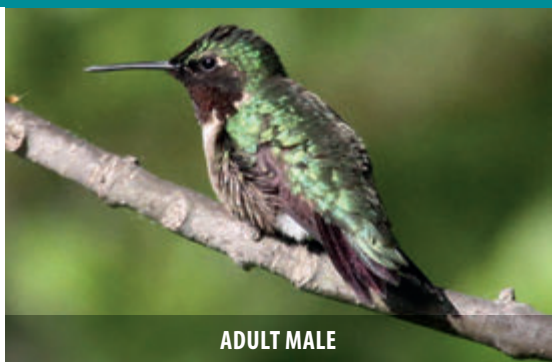
**HABITAT** Chimney Swifts forage widely, feeding on flying insects. They gather to nest and roost in chimneys and other dim, enclosed areas with a vertical surface on which to cling, like air vents, wells, hollow trees, and caves. They forage over urban and suburban areas, rivers, lakes, forests, and fields.

Best identified by silhouette, the **Chimney Swift** spends almost its entire life airborne. Its tiny body, curving wings, and stiff, shallow wingbeats give it a flight style as distinctive as its fluid, chattering call. It can't perch, clinging instead to vertical walls. This species has sharply declined as chimneys fall into disuse.

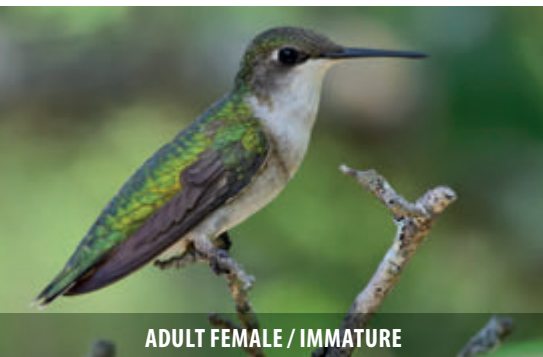




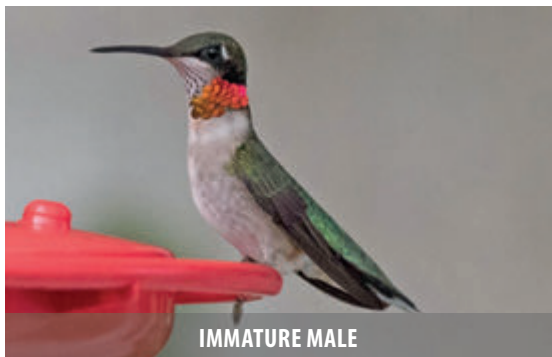
ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE / IMMATURE



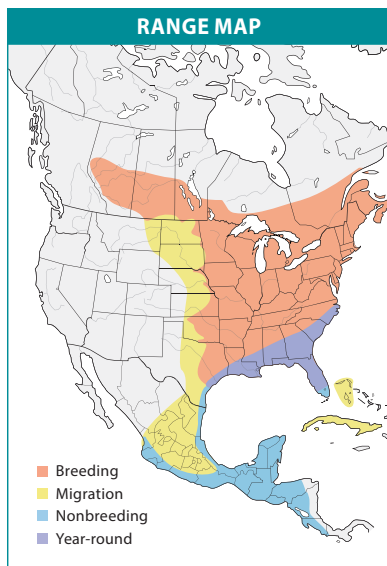
IMMATURE MALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is a small hummingbird with a slender, slightly downcurved bill and fairly short wings that don't reach all the way to the tail when the bird is sitting.

**COLOR PATTERN** Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are bright emerald or golden green on the back and crown, with grayish white underparts. Males have a brilliant iridescent red throat that looks dark when it's not in good light. Immature males have some red feathers on the throat.

**BEHAVIOR** Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fly straight and fast but can stop instantly, hover, and adjust their position up, down, or backwards with exquisite control. They often visit hummingbird feeders and tube-shaped flowers and defend these food sources against others. You may also see them plucking tiny insects from the air or from spider webs.

**HABITAT** Ruby-throated Hummingbirds live in open woodlands, forest edges, meadows, and grasslands, and in parks, gardens, and backyards.



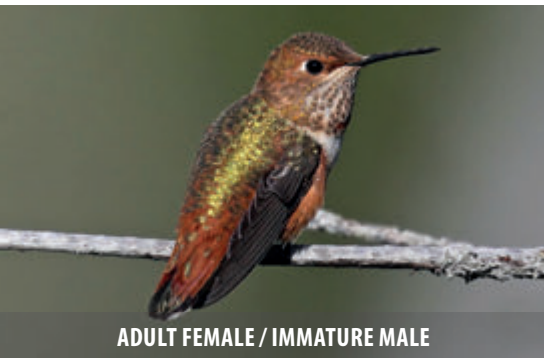
The **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** is the sole breeding hummingbird in the eastern half of the U.S. and Canada. These precision-flying creatures glitter in the full sun, and are common at feeders and in flower gardens in summer. In early fall, they head south, with many crossing the Gulf of Mexico in a single flight.



ADULT MALE



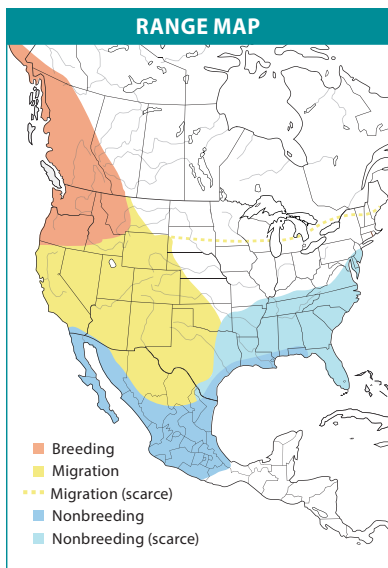
ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE / IMMATURE MALE



ADULT FEMALE / IMMATURE FEMALE



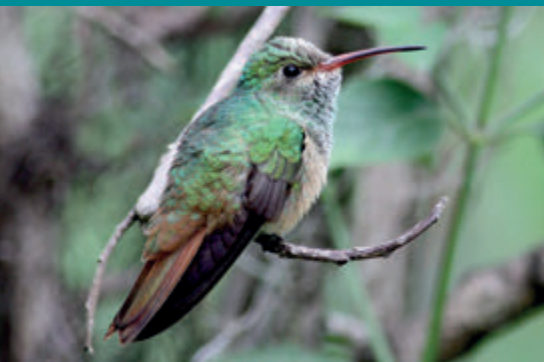
**SIZE & SHAPE** The Rufous Hummingbird is fairly small with a slender, nearly straight bill, a tail that tapers to a point when folded, and fairly short wings that don't reach the end of the tail when the bird is perched.

**COLOR PATTERN** Male Rufous Hummingbirds are bright rufous on the back and belly, with an iridescent throat that can appear red, orange, gold, or even greenish. Females are green above with rufous-washed flanks, rufous patches in the green tail, and a dark spot on the throat. Adult males have rufous and black tails. Females and immatures also have green and white in the tail.

**BEHAVIOR** Look for their fast, darting flight and pinpoint maneuverability. They tirelessly chase away other hummingbirds, even in places they're only visiting on migration. Like other hummers, they eat insects as well as nectar.

**HABITAT** Rufous Hummingbirds breed in open areas, yards, parks, and forests up to treeline. On migration, they pass through mountain meadows as high as 12,600 feet elevation, where nectar-rich, tubular flowers bloom. Their winter habitat in Mexico includes shrubby openings and oak-pine forests at middle to high elevation.

One of the feistiest hummingbirds in North America, the brilliant rufous male and the green-and-rufous female **Rufous Hummingbird** are relentless attackers at flowers and feeders, going after (if not always defeating) even the large hummingbirds of the Southwest, which can be double their weight.



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Buff-bellied Hummingbird is a medium-sized hummingbird, much larger than a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Wings are as long as the tail when perched.

**COLOR PATTERN** Both sexes are metallic bronze green above with a rusty tail and dark wings. They have an iridescent green throat that can appear dark, depending on the light, and a buff belly. The bright red-orange bill is tipped in black. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Buff-bellied Hummingbirds defend feeders and flowering trees against other hummingbirds and some insects, such as butterflies and wasps. At feeders in south Texas, they dominate other hummingbirds by chasing them off of feeders and flower sources, probably because they are larger in size. While in pursuit, they give a long call with repeated notes: *see-see-see-see-su-su*.

**HABITAT** Look for Buff-bellied Hummingbirds in open woodlands, second-growth forests, clearings, scrub, plantations, and gardens. They are often seen at sugar water feeders.



The **Buff-bellied Hummingbird** regularly disperses to the northeast from its breeding areas in south Texas. This northerly movement is noteworthy among North American hummingbirds. It is probably the least-studied hummingbird that regularly occurs in the United States.



BREEDING ADULT



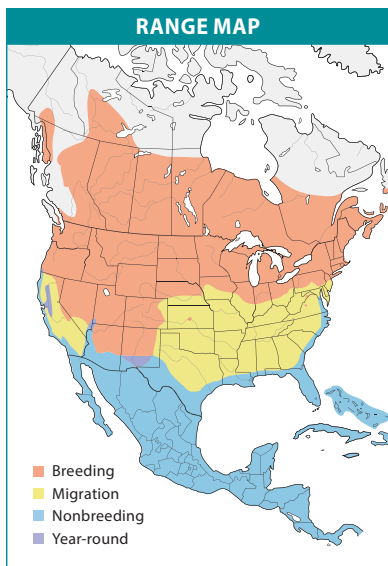
BREEDING ADULT



JUVENILE



NONBREEDING ADULT



**SIZE & SHAPE** Soras are small, chubby, chickenlike rails with long toes. They have stubby bills and frequently hold their tails cocked up.

**COLOR PATTERN** Soras are mottled gray and brown with white-edged feathers, and a candy-corn-shaped bill. They have a black mask and throat patch, white side lines, and a white patch under the tail. Females are duller than males.

**BEHAVIOR** Soras walk through shallow wetlands, pushing their head forward with every step while nervously flicking the tail upward. They forage in dense vegetation but may venture into open areas from time to time. Their long toes help them walk on top of floating mats of vegetation.

**HABITAT** Soras make their homes in shallow freshwater wetlands with dense emergent vegetation. During migration and winter, they also use brackish marshes, flooded fields, and wet pastures.

Its descending whinny emanates from the depths of cattails and rushes, but the secretive **Sora** rarely shows itself. When it finally appears, the Sora walks slowly through shallow wetlands, a bit like a chicken that has had too much coffee, nervously flicking its tail and exposing the white feathers below.

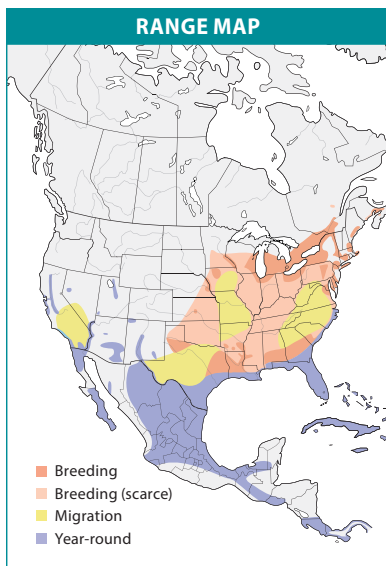
**BREEDING ADULT****BREEDING ADULT****JUVENILE****NONBREEDING ADULT**

**SIZE & SHAPE** Common Gallinules are medium-sized marsh birds with long legs and toes. They have a small head, thin neck, and small, thin bill. They frequently hold their wings up, such that the wingtips stick up on the back.

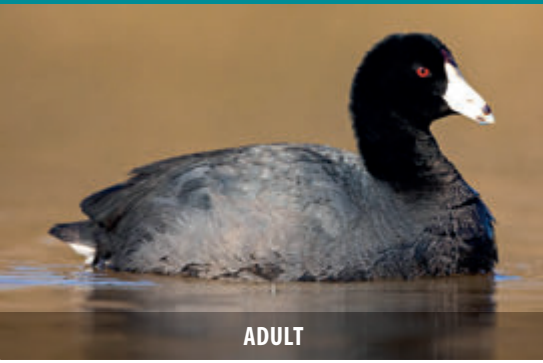
**COLOR PATTERN** Both sexes are charcoal gray with a white side stripe and white outer tail feathers. Adults have a red shield on their forehead and a red bill tipped in yellow. Juveniles look similar, but lack the red shield and bill.

**BEHAVIOR** Common Gallinules swim like a duck and walk on top of marsh vegetation. When walking, they tend to crouch and slowly flick their tail up. They often stay close to emergent marsh vegetation but may swim out in the open.

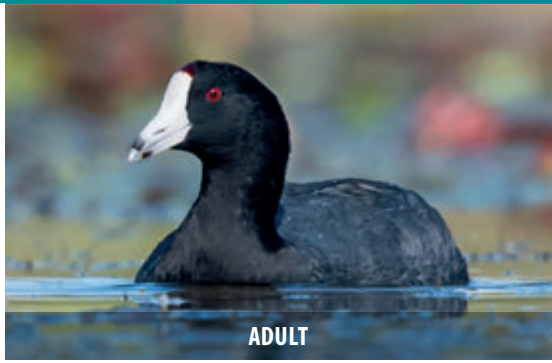
**HABITAT** Common Gallinules use freshwater and brackish marshes, ponds, and lakes that mix submerged, floating, and emergent aquatic vegetation and are open water all year. They also forage in ditches, canals, and rice fields.



The **Common Gallinule** swims like a duck and walks atop floating vegetation with its long, slender toes. It squawks and whinnies from thick cover in marshes and ponds from Canada to Chile, pecking out of vegetation. Formerly called the Common Moorhen, it is related to coots, rails, and cranes.



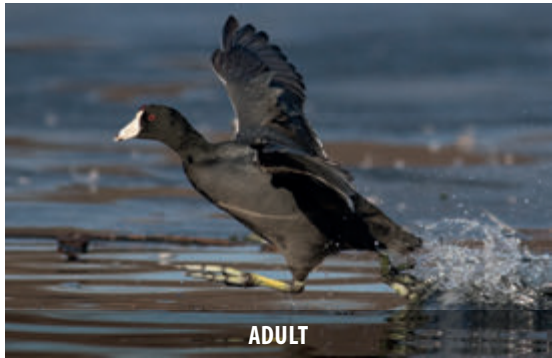
ADULT



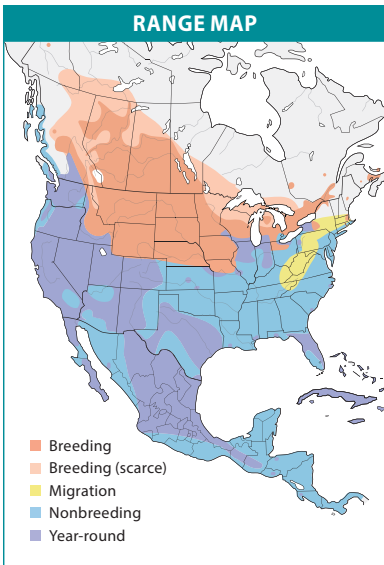
ADULT



JUVENILE



ADULT



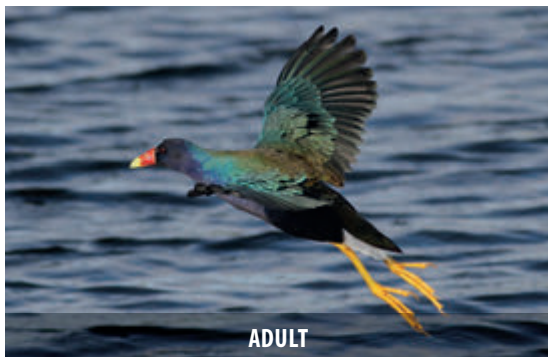
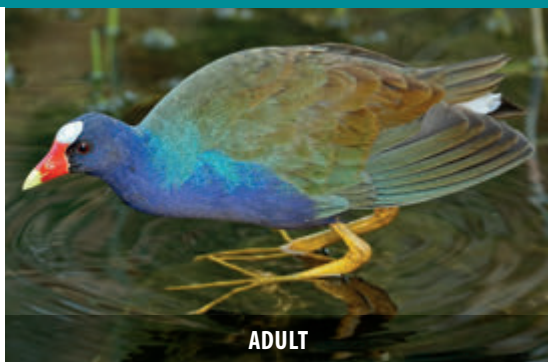
**SIZE & SHAPE** American Coots are plump, chickenlike birds with a rounded head and a sloping bill. Their tiny tail, short wings, and large feet are visible on the rare occasions they take flight.

**COLOR PATTERN** Coots are dark gray to black birds with a bright white bill and forehead. The legs are yellow green. At close range, you may see a small patch of red on the forehead.

**BEHAVIOR** You'll find coots eating aquatic plants on almost any body of water. When swimming, they look like small ducks (and often dive), but on land they look more chickenlike, walking rather than waddling. An awkward and often clumsy flier, the American Coot requires long running takeoffs to get airborne.

**HABITAT** Look for American Coots at ponds in city parks, in marshes, at reservoirs, along the edges of lakes and in roadside ditches, at sewage treatment ponds, along saltwater inlets, and in saltmarshes.

The waterborne **American Coot** is a reminder that not everything that floats is a duck. A close look at the coot's small head and scrawny legs reveals a very different kind of bird. Common in nearly any open water across the continent, they're closer relatives of the Sandhill Crane and rails than of Mallards or teal.

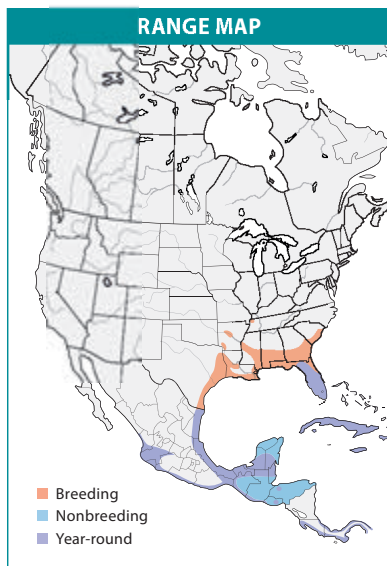


**SIZE & SHAPE** A chicken-sized rail with a heavy conical bill, short tail (often cocked), a compact body, and very long legs and toes. The Purple Gallinule is slightly smaller than an American Coot and larger than a Sora.

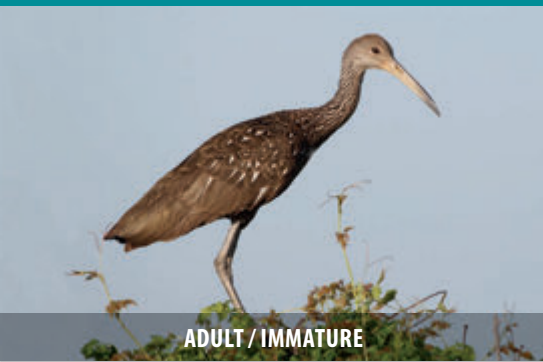
**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are a medley of purplish head and body, greenish wings and back, a yellow-tipped red bill, baby-blue frontal shield, and bright yellow legs and feet. Juveniles show very little hint of these colors, being mostly brown above, khaki below, with much duller bill and legs. Immatures acquire their colors gradually in their first year.

**BEHAVIOR** Purple Gallinules forage near the water's edge, walking slowly and investigating vegetation with an outstretched neck or pecking at fruits or tubers. They swim well and sometimes use their long toes to climb bushes and trees.

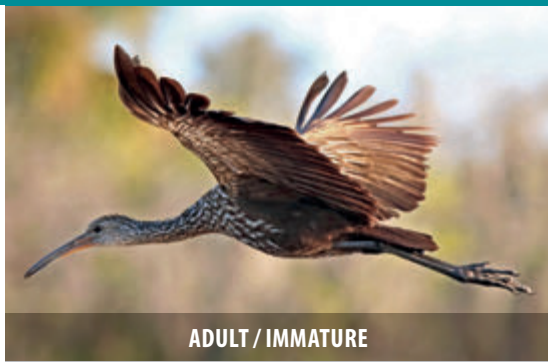
**HABITAT** Purple Gallinules are almost always found near fresh water, even during migration. For nesting, they favor freshwater ponds with emergent vegetation, and the species has adapted well to many human-altered environments.



lurking in the marshes of the extreme southeastern U.S. lives the **Purple Gallinule**, one of the most vividly colored birds in all of North America. Watch for these long-legged, long-toed birds stepping gingerly across water lilies and other floating vegetation as they hunt frogs and invertebrates or pick at tubers.



ADULT / IMMATURE



ADULT / IMMATURE

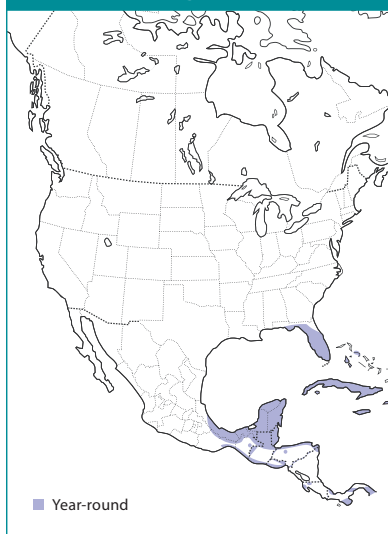


ADULT / IMMATURE



JUVENILE

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Limpkin is a stocky, heron-sized bird with a heavy body and long neck and legs. The bill is long, fairly thick, and curves slightly downward, like a larger version of a rail's bill.

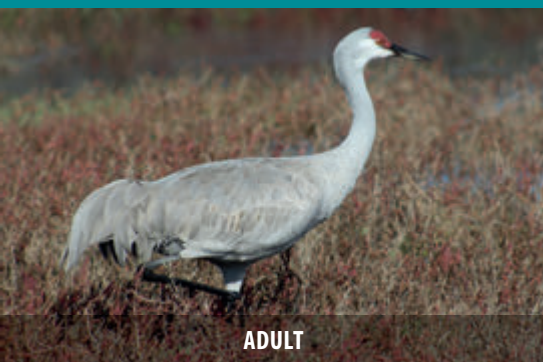
**COLOR PATTERN** Both sexes are uniformly rich brown with heavy white spangling in the neck, back, and wing coverts. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Limpkins stalk snails by slowly walking through shallow water or on top of floating vegetation. They appear placid except during territorial conflicts between males, which are dramatic encounters involving chasing, calling, flying, and stylized combat.

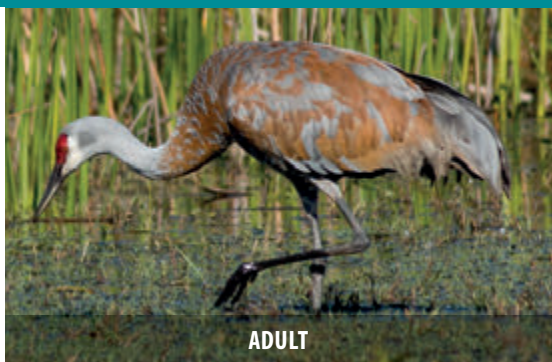
**HABITAT** Limpkins favor freshwater swamp forests, ponds, lakes, sloughs, canals, and marshes, especially areas where slow-moving creeks and rivers are present. Sometimes they can be found foraging in agricultural areas such as cane fields or in canals and ditches.

The gangly **Limpkin** is a tropical wetland bird with a long bill that is bent and twisted at the tip for easy removal of snails—especially apple snails—from their shells. It hunts both day and night, often leaving piles of snail shells at the edges of freshwater wetlands. Listen for their unforgettable, haunting cries.





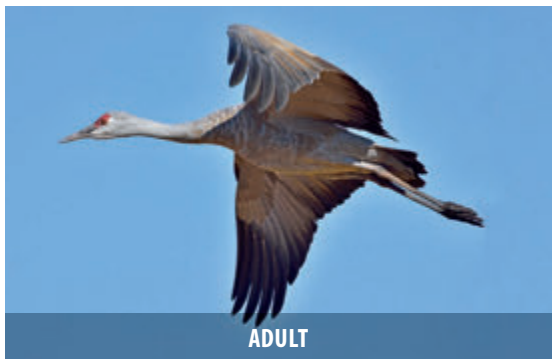
ADULT



ADULT



JUVENILE



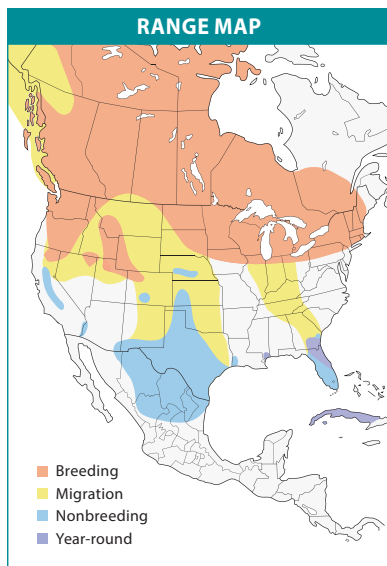
ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** Sandhill Cranes are large, tall birds with a long neck, long legs, and broad wings. The short tail is covered by drooping feathers that form a “bustle.” The head is small and the bill is straight and longer than the head. In flight, the straight neck sets cranes apart from herons.

**COLOR PATTERN** Both sexes are pale gray. Adults have a pale cheek and red skin on the crown. Their legs are black. Juveniles are gray without the pale cheek or red crown. Some birds are stained with rust.

**BEHAVIOR** Sandhill Cranes do not hunt in open water or hunch their necks the way herons do. They form extremely large flocks—into the tens of thousands—on their wintering grounds and during migration. They often migrate very high in the sky.

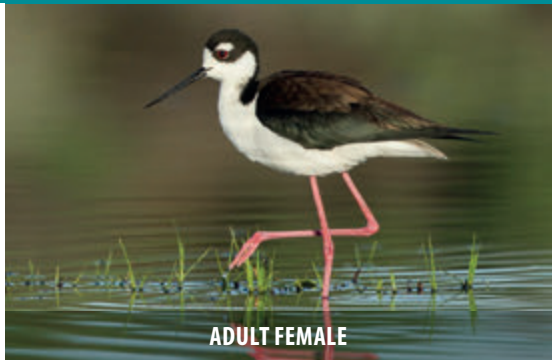
**HABITAT** Sandhill Cranes breed and forage in open prairies, grasslands, and wetlands. Outside of the breeding season, they often roost in deeper water of ponds or lakes, where they are safe from predators.



The crimson-capped **Sandhill Crane** has an elegance that draws attention. It breeds in open wetlands, fields, and prairies and forms large groups, filling the air with rolling cries. While populations are generally strong, some isolated populations in Mississippi and Cuba are endangered.



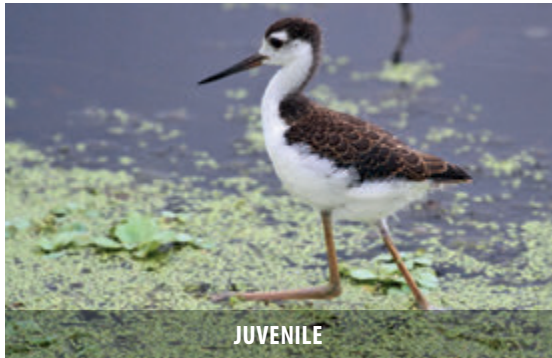
**ADULT MALE**



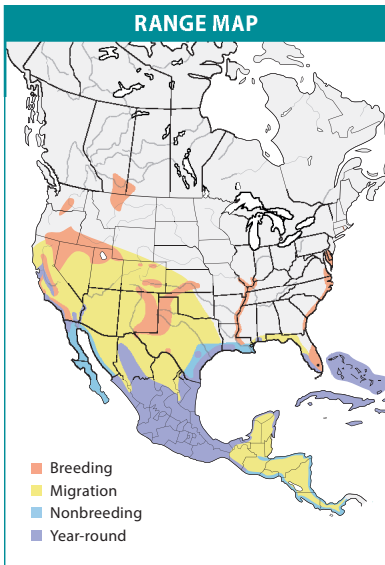
**ADULT FEMALE**



**IMMATURE**



**JUVENILE**



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Black-necked Stilt is a tall and lanky shorebird with a delicate-looking body. It has very long legs, a long neck, a small head, and a thin, straight bill. It is larger than a Lesser Yellowlegs.

**COLOR PATTERN** These birds are black above and white below, with white around the eye and rosy pink legs. In females and immatures, the black areas can be brownish.

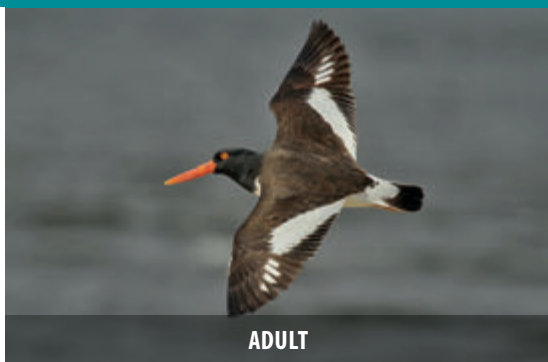
**BEHAVIOR** Black-necked Stilts wade into shallow bodies of water in pursuit of tiny aquatic invertebrates. Adults defending nests or chicks fly around and call loudly, sometimes performing a distraction display by feigning injury.

**HABITAT** Black-necked Stilts are almost always seen near shallow water, including both salt and fresh waters, especially mudflats, salt pans, saltmarshes, and human-modified habitats like sewage ponds, evaporation pools, and flooded fields.

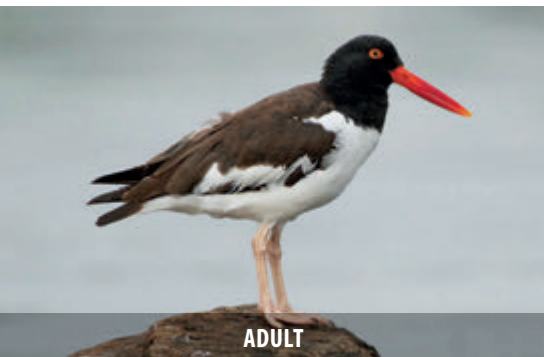
**Black-necked Stilts** are among the most stately of the shorebirds, with long rosy pink legs and elegant plumage. They move deliberately when foraging, walking slowly through wetlands in search of tiny aquatic prey. When disturbed, stilts are vociferous, and their high, yapping calls carry for some distance.



ADULT AND DOWNY YOUNG



ADULT



ADULT



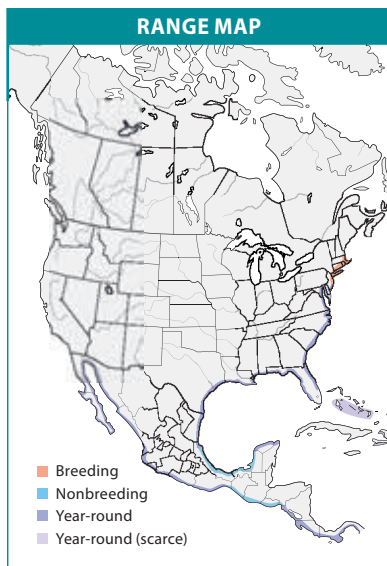
JUVENILE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The American Oystercatcher is a large, thickset shorebird with a long, stout bill, a large head, robust neck, and thick legs.

**COLOR PATTERN** The American Oystercatcher looks black and white from a distance. At closer range, the back and wings are brown, and the head and breast are black contrasting with the white underparts. The bright orange-red bill matches what look like orange eyes, but are actually yellow eyes ringed in red that appear orange from a distance. Juveniles are duller than adults with a dark-tipped bill.

**BEHAVIOR** American Oystercatchers probe sandy and stony areas for clams, oysters, and other mollusks, which they open by cutting or smashing. Much of their day is spent resting in roosts during high tide. They are vigorous, and very loud, during courtship displays, territorial conflicts, and interactions with intruders.

**HABITAT** Look for American Oystercatchers in intertidal areas on barrier islands and beaches, saltmarshes, and shellfish reefs.



**American Oystercatchers** survive almost exclusively on shellfish—clams, oysters, and other saltwater mollusks—and live only in a narrow ecological zone of saltmarshes and barrier beaches. They are sensitive to development on the beaches where they nest and are on the Yellow Watch List of Partners in Flight.



**BREEDING MALE**



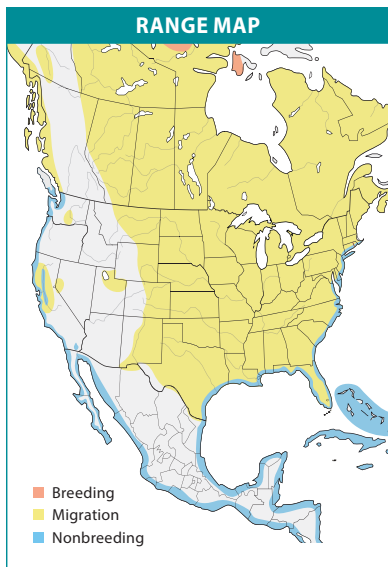
**NONBREEDING ADULT**



**JUVENILE**



**NONBREEDING ADULT**



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Black-bellied Plover is a medium-sized to large shorebird. It has moderately long legs, a short neck and bill, and a large, rounded head.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding males are a dazzling mix of black and white: checkered upperwings, a black face and belly, a white crown, nape, and undertail, and dark legs and bill. Adult females in breeding plumage are similar but with less contrast. Nonbreeding adults are pale gray above and grayish or whitish below. Juveniles are more scaly looking on the back. All plumages show black “armpits” in flight.

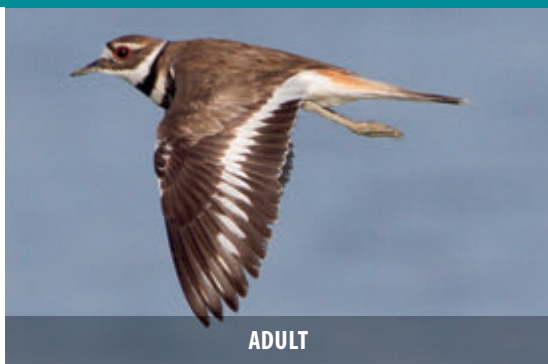
**BEHAVIOR** Black-bellied Plovers move by stop-run-stop, or stop-run-peck, scanning and capturing prey at stops with a single peck or series of pecks. Worms and clams may be shaken vigorously in nearby shallow water to remove mud.

**HABITAT** Black-bellied Plovers nest in Arctic lowlands on dry tundra. In winter, find them on coastal lagoons and estuaries. Migrants stop along coastlines and in harvested agricultural areas, sod farms, and muddy edges of lakes and rivers.

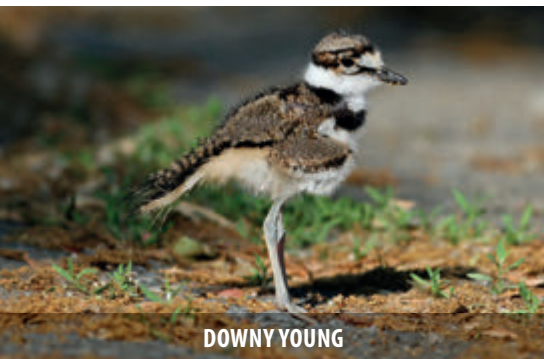
**Black-bellied Plovers** are supreme aerialists, and are readily identified at great distance by black axillaries (“armpit” feathers) and their mournful-sounding call. The largest of North America’s migratory plovers, it breeds farther north than other species, at the very top of the world, and occurs on six continents.



ADULT



ADULT



DOWNY YOUNG



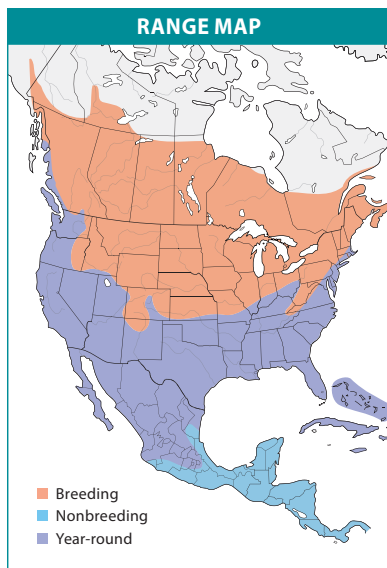
ADULT IN PREDATOR DISTRACTION DISPLAY

**SIZE & SHAPE** Killdeer have the characteristic large, round head, large eye, and short bill of all plovers. They are especially slender and lanky, with a long, pointed tail and long wings.

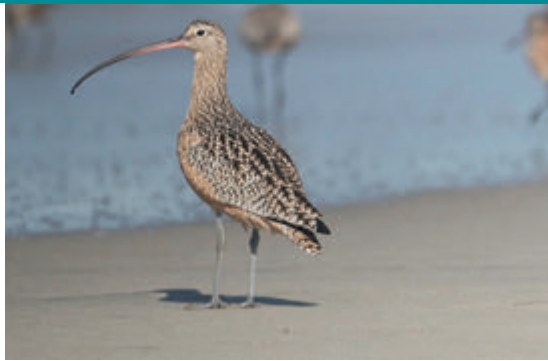
**COLOR PATTERN** Both sexes of the Killdeer are brownish tan on top and white below. The white chest is crossed with two black bands, and the brown face is marked with black-and-white patches. The bright orange-buff rump is conspicuous in flight. Downy young have just one black band on the breast.

**BEHAVIOR** These tawny birds run across the ground in spurts, stopping with a jolt every so often to check their progress, or to see if they've startled up any insect prey. When disturbed, they break into flight and circle overhead, calling repeatedly. Their flight is rapid, with stiff, intermittent wingbeats. To lure predators away from a nest, Killdeer will feign injury with a broken-wing display.

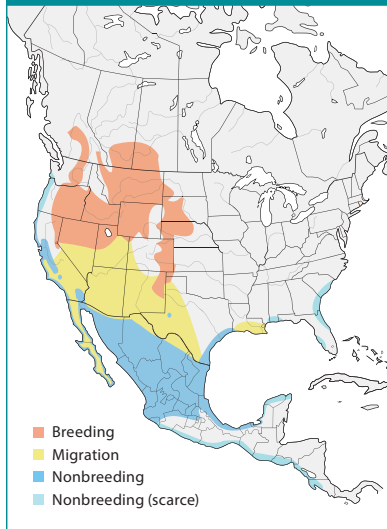
**HABITAT** Look for Killdeer on open ground with low vegetation (or no vegetation at all), such as lawns, golf courses, driveways, parking lots, and gravel-covered roofs, as well as pastures, fields, sandbars, and mudflats. This species is one of the least water-associated of all shorebirds.



The **Killdeer's** broken-wing act leads predators away from a nest, but it doesn't keep cows or horses from stepping on eggs. To guard against large hooved animals, the Killdeer uses quite a different display: fluffing itself up, displaying its tail over its head, and running at the beast to attempt to make it change its path.



## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Long-billed Curlew is a large, long-legged shorebird with a very long, thin, curved bill. It has a heavy football-shaped body, a long neck, and a small round head. It is larger than a Whimbrel but smaller than a Cattle Egret.

**COLOR PATTERN** Long-billed Curlews are speckled and barred in browns above with a pale cinnamon wash throughout and a plain cinnamon belly. The head and neck are pale with faint streaks, and the lower bill is pink at the base. In flight, the wings are mostly cinnamon. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** The Long-billed Curlew forages for earthworms and other deep-burrowing prey in soft muddy substrates using its long, curved bill. In drier grassland habitats, it pecks at insects. It walks with a strut, pushing its head forward.

**HABITAT** Long-billed Curlews breed in sparse grasses, including shortgrass and mixed-grass prairies and agricultural fields. In the nonbreeding season, look for them in wetlands, tidal estuaries, mudflats, shallow flooded fields, beaches, and even lawns.

North America's largest shorebird, the **Long-billed Curlew**, is a graceful creature with an almost impossibly long, thin, and curved bill. While the pair works together to incubate the eggs and care for the brood, the female typically leaves 2–3 weeks after the eggs hatch, and her mate is left to care for the young.



BREEDING ADULT



BREEDING ADULT



NONBREEDING ADULT / IMMATURE



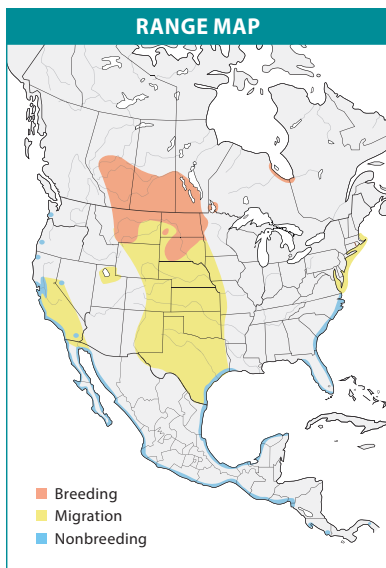
BREEDING ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Marbled Godwit is a large, long-legged shorebird with an extremely long, slightly upturned bill. A small round head sits atop a thin neck. In flight, its legs stick out beyond the tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** Marbled Godwits are barred above and below in brown, white, and cinnamon during the breeding season. The bill is black at the tip and orange at the base during the breeding season, and pink during the nonbreeding season, but this distinction can be difficult to see.

**BEHAVIOR** The Marbled Godwit probes into sand or mud with its long bill for aquatic invertebrates. It sometimes walks while probing or takes a few steps before burying its bill in the mud. It is social outside of the breeding season and forages in groups.

**HABITAT** Marbled Godwits breed in northern shortgrass prairies near wetlands. During migration and on the wintering grounds, look for them on mudflats, salt ponds, beaches, estuaries, and wetlands.



Shorebirds have some of the most interesting bill shapes, and the **Marbled Godwit** is no exception with its swordlike bill. This well-camouflaged speckled brown bird is especially noticeable on the prairie when it spreads its long and pointed wings to take flight.



**BREEDING ADULTS**



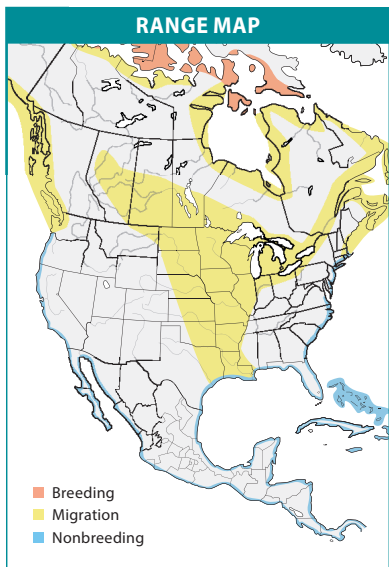
**BREEDING ADULT**



**JUVENILE**



**NONBREEDING ADULT**



**SIZE & SHAPE** Ruddy Turnstones are short, stocky, oval-shaped shorebirds with stout, slightly upturned bills. They are larger than Spotted Sandpipers but smaller than Willets.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding males have black-and-white markings on the head and throat and a chestnut-and-black pattern on the back. Breeding females are paler. Both have orange legs that are brighter in the breeding season.

**BEHAVIOR** Ruddy Turnstones flip rocks, pebbles, and seaweed along shorelines in search of food. They rarely wade in waters more than a few inches deep, generally foraging out of the water. On migration and in winter, they gather in groups of 10 to over 1,000.

**HABITAT** Ruddy Turnstones breed in the tundra of northern North America. On migration and in winter, they use freshwater shorelines, mudflats, rocky shorelines, and sandy beaches further south.

A shorebird that looks a bit like a calico cat, the **Ruddy Turnstone's** orange legs and uniquely patterned black-and-white head and chest make this bird easy to pick out of a crowd. Long-distance migrants that breed in the Arctic tundra, they spend off-seasons on rocky shorelines and sandy beaches on both coasts.





NONBREEDING ADULT



NONBREEDING ADULT



JUVENILE



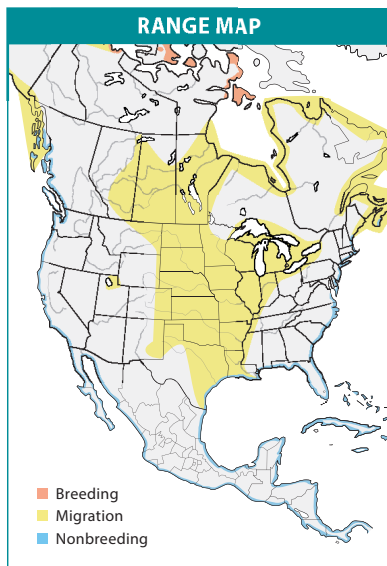
BREEDING ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** Sanderlings are small, plump sandpipers with a stout bill about the same length as the head. Sanderlings are medium-sized members of the genus *Calidris*.

**COLOR PATTERN** In nonbreeding plumage, they are light gray above and white below, with a blackish shoulder mark. In spring and summer, they are spangled black, white, and rufous on the head, neck, and back. Juveniles have a checkered back and unmarked white underparts. Their legs and bills are black.

**BEHAVIOR** Sanderlings breed on the High Arctic tundra and migrate south in fall to populate beaches. They gather in loose flocks to probe the sand for marine invertebrates, running back and forth in a perpetual “wave chase.”

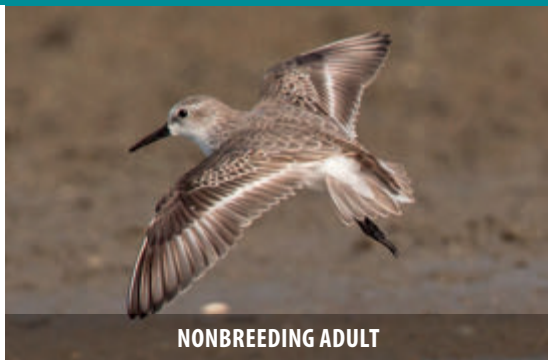
**HABITAT** During migration and winter, Sanderlings forage on North American beaches but will also use mudflats in the Midwest. They nest in the High Arctic on gravel patches and low-growing, wet tundra.



The **Sanderling's** black legs blur as it runs back and forth on the beach, picking or probing for tiny prey in the wet sand left by receding waves. Sanderlings are medium-sized sandpipers recognizable by their pale nonbreeding plumage, black legs and bill, and obsessive wave-chasing habits.



NONBREEDING ADULT



NONBREEDING ADULT

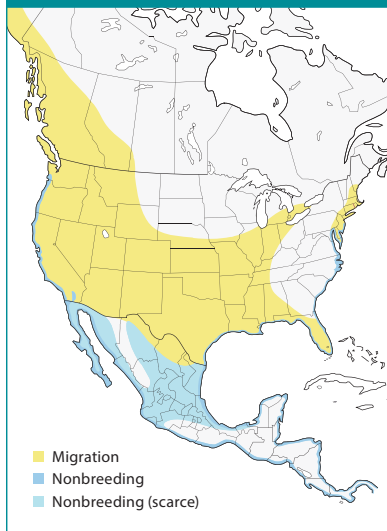


BREEDING ADULT



JUVENILE

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Western Sandpiper is a small, portly shorebird with a long, thin bill with a slight droop. It has pointed wings, a short tail, and medium-length legs for its size. Females tend to be larger and have longer bills than males.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding adults have black, brown, rufous, and gold upperparts, with white underparts marked with extensive dark arrow-shaped streaks. They have a rufous crown and ear patch, and dark legs and bill. Nonbreeding adults are pale gray above, whitish below. Juveniles are similar to nonbreeding adults but the upperparts are more vivid in the wings, showing gold and rufous edges to feathers.

**BEHAVIOR** Western Sandpipers congregate in large flocks on beaches and mudflats. Their toes are adapted for walking and running in short bursts while foraging on beaches. They can often be seen balancing on one leg, or even hopping.

**HABITAT** Western Sandpipers breed in low coastal tundra with sedges. On migration and in winter, look for them along mudflats, beaches, shores of lakes and ponds, and flooded fields.

In migration, the **Western Sandpiper** stages in huge, spectacular flocks, particularly along the Pacific Coast at San Francisco Bay and in the Copper River Delta in Alaska. Estimates suggest that nearly the whole breeding population passes through the Copper River Delta in a few weeks each spring.



NONBREEDING ADULT



BREEDING ADULT



JUVENILE



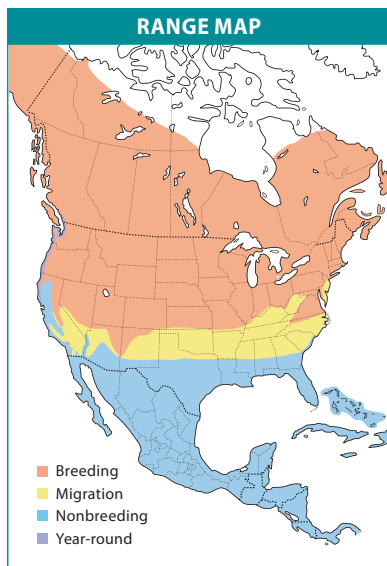
JUVENILE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Spotted Sandpiper is a medium-sized shorebird with a bill slightly shorter than its head and a body that tapers to a longish tail. They have a rounded breast and usually appear as though they are leaning forward.

**COLOR PATTERN** In breeding season, Spotted Sandpipers have an orange bill, and bold spots on their bright white breast. The back is dark brown. In winter, a Spotted Sandpiper's breast is not spotted; it's plain white, while the back is grayish brown and the bill is pale yellow. In flight, Spotted Sandpipers have a thin white stripe along the wing. Juveniles have pale scaling above.

**BEHAVIOR** Spotted Sandpipers are often solitary and walk with a distinctive teeter, bobbing their tails up and down constantly. When foraging, they walk quickly, crouching low, occasionally darting toward prey, all while bobbing the tail.

**HABITAT** Find Spotted Sandpipers along streambanks, rivers, ponds, lakes, and beaches. They are one of the most widespread breeding shorebirds in the U.S., commonly seen near fresh water, even in arid or forested regions.



The **Spotted Sandpiper** is the most widespread breeding sandpiper in North America. Female Spotted Sandpipers sometimes practice an unusual breeding strategy called polyandry, where a female mates with up to four males, each of which then cares for a clutch of eggs.



BREEDING ADULT (EASTERN)



NONBREEDING ADULT (WESTERN)

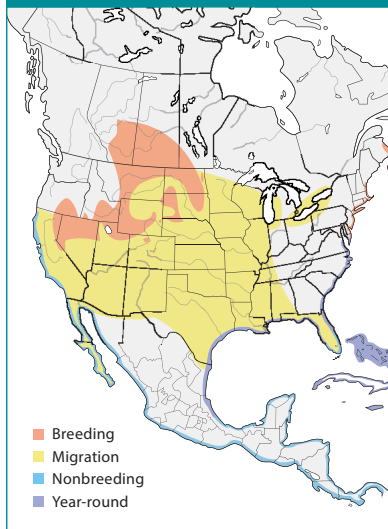


JUVENILE (EASTERN)



NONBREEDING ADULTS (WESTERN)

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Willets are large, stocky shorebirds with long legs and thick, straight bills considerably longer than the head. Their wings are broader and rounder than those of many shorebirds, and the short tail is squared off at the tip.

**COLOR PATTERN** Willets are gray or brown birds that, when flying, display a striking white stripe between black patches along each wing. In summer, Willets are mottled gray, brown, and black; in winter they are a plain gray. The legs are bluish gray to olive gray.

**BEHAVIOR** Willets are often seen alone. They walk deliberately, pausing to probe for prey in sand and mudflats. When startled, they react with a piercing call, often opening their wings and running rather than taking flight.

**HABITAT** In winter, look for Willets on beaches, rocky coasts, mudflats, and marshes. In breeding season, Western birds nest in grasslands and prairies near fresh water. Eastern birds breed on barrier beaches, islands, and in coastal saltmarshes, and spend the winter in South America.

Like Killdeer, **Willets** will pretend to be disabled by a broken wing in order to draw attention to themselves and lure predators away from their eggs or chicks. Because they find prey using the sensitive tips of their bills, and not just eyesight, Willets can feed both during the day and at night.



BREEDING ADULT



NONBREEDING ADULT



IMMATURE (FIRST WINTER)



JUVENILE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Laughing Gulls are medium-sized gulls with fairly long wings and long legs that impart a graceful look when they are flying or walking. They have stout, fairly long bills. They are slightly smaller than Ring-billed Gulls.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are dark gray above and white below. Summer adults have a sooty-black hood, white arcs around the eyes, and a reddish bill. In winter, the hood becomes a gray mask on a white head, and the bill becomes black. The legs are reddish black to black.

**BEHAVIOR** Laughing Gulls eat almost anything, including food they catch or steal, handouts, garbage, and discards from fishing boats. They often congregate in parking lots, sandy beaches, and mud bars.

**HABITAT** This coastal species is rarely seen far inland. Look for them in plowed fields, garbage dumps, parking lots, and shorelines. They nest, often in large groups, on islands near the shore, away from terrestrial predators.



Swirling over beaches with strident calls and a distinctive, sooty-black head, **Laughing Gulls** provide sights and sounds evocative of summer on the East Coast. You'll run across this handsome gull in large numbers at beaches, docks, and parking lots, where it waits for handouts or fills the air with its raucous calls.



BREEDING ADULT



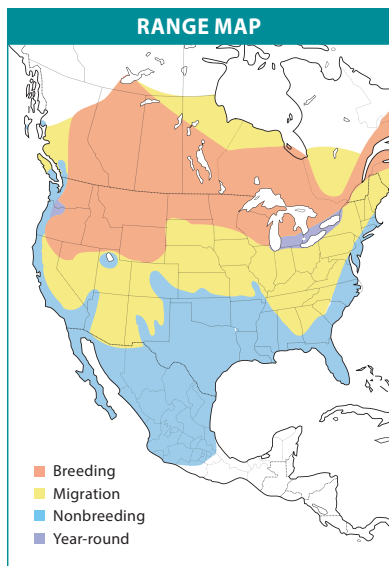
NONBREEDING ADULT



IMMATURE (FIRST WINTER)



IMMATURE (SECOND WINTER)



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Ring-billed Gull is a medium-sized gull with a fairly short, slim bill. When perched, its long, slender wings extend past its square-tipped tail. In flight, the birds move lightly on easy flaps of their fairly slender wings.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are pale gray above and white below with a white head and tail; their black wingtips are spotted with white. They have yellow legs and eyes, and yellow bills with black bands. Nonbreeding adults have brown-streaked heads. Second-winter birds have a black band on the tail and lack white spots in the black wingtips. First-winter birds have gray backs but are otherwise mottled brown and white; they have black-tipped pink bills and pink legs.

**BEHAVIOR** These sociable gulls often fly overhead by the hundreds or feed together on golf courses, beaches, and fields. Strong, nimble flyers and opportunistic feeders, Ring-billed Gulls circle and hover acrobatically, looking for food.

**HABITAT** Ring-billed Gulls are often found in urban, suburban, and agricultural areas. On the coast, they frequent estuaries, beaches, mudflats, and coastal waters. In winter, they're common around docks, wharves, and harbors.

Familiar acrobats of the air and comfortable around humans, **Ring-billed Gulls** frequent parking lots, garbage dumps, beaches, and fields, sometimes by the hundreds. You're most likely to see them far away from coastal areas—in fact, most Ring-billed Gulls nest in the interior of the continent, near fresh water.



**BREEDING ADULT**



**NONBREEDING ADULT**



**JUVENILE**



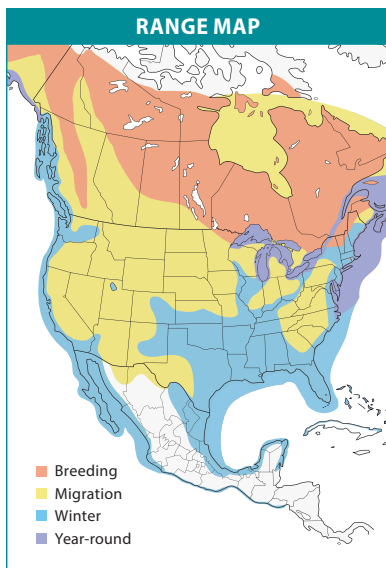
**IMMATURE (SECOND WINTER)**

**SIZE & SHAPE** Herring Gulls are large gulls with hefty bills and robust bodies. In flight, they look barrel-chested and broad-winged compared to smaller gulls.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding adult Herring Gulls are light gray above and white below, with black wingtips, white heads, and pale eyes ringed in red. In winter, dusky brown streaks mark their heads. The legs are dull pink at all ages. Juveniles are tan overall with dark eyes and tan-and-white checkerboarding on the back. Immature plumages are intermediate between juvenile and adult.

**BEHAVIOR** Herring Gulls patrol shorelines and open ocean, picking scraps off the surface. Rallying around fishing boats or refuse dumps, they are loud scavengers that snatch other birds' meals.

**HABITAT** Look for Herring Gulls along coasts, and near large lakes and rivers; in summer, look for them as far north as coastal Alaska. They feed in open water, mudflats, plowed fields, and garbage dumps; they gather in open space near food.



Spiraling above a fishing boat or squabbling at a dock or parking lot, **Herring Gulls** are the quintessential gray-and-white, pink-legged “seagulls.” They’re the most familiar gulls of the North Atlantic and can be found across much of coastal North America in winter.



BREEDING ADULT



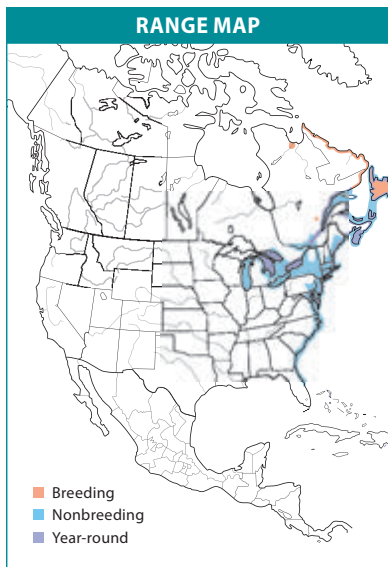
BREEDING ADULT



IMMATURE (FIRST SUMMER)



IMMATURE (FIRST WINTER)



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Great Black-backed Gull is the largest species of gull in the world. It has a stout body with broad wings, a thick neck, and a heavy, slightly bulbous bill. It is larger than a Herring Gull, but smaller than a Brown Pelican.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are white with slate-black upperwings and backs. They have dull pink legs, a yellow bill with a red spot near the tip, and dark eyes. Juveniles are checkered grayish brown and white above; they have black bills and flight feathers. The back and wings on first-winter birds are checkered in tans, grays, and white.

**BEHAVIOR** Great Black-backed Gulls follow fishing boats for scraps of bait, take garbage from trash cans and landfills, patrol beaches for food, steal other seabirds' catches, and prey on smaller birds, eggs, and chicks. They roost communally.

**HABITAT** Great Black-backed Gulls live on the Atlantic Coast and inland on the Great Lakes. They choose isolated sites like piers or islands for breeding, and then disperse for the rest of the year to feed at sea, along coasts, and at landfills.

The **Great Black-backed Gull** is the largest gull in the world. Its broad wings and powerful appearance give it an impressive, regal look. One early observer said, "It surely seemed to be a king among the gulls, a merciless tyrant over its fellows, the largest and strongest of its tribe."





**BREEDING ADULT**



**BREEDING ADULT**



**JUVENILE**



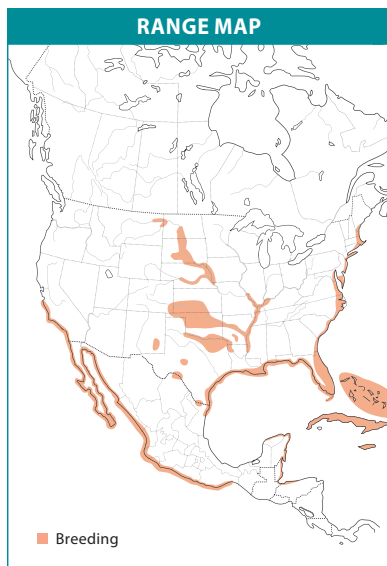
**IMMATURE (FIRST YEAR)**

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Least Tern, the smallest tern in North America, has narrow pointed wings and a short tail. It is smaller than a Killdeer.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding adult Least Terns have gray backs with white underparts, a black cap, and a white forehead. The yellow bill has a black tip. Nonbreeding adults have a black bill and some gray in the black cap. Immatures have a black leading edge to the wing which appears like a black shoulder when perched.

**BEHAVIOR** Least Terns feed by plunging into water from flight. They may hover briefly before plunging.

**HABITAT** Look for Least Terns on coasts, beaches, bays, estuaries, lagoons, lakes, and rivers. They choose to breed on the sandy or gravelly beaches and banks of rivers or lakes, and on rare occasions, on flat rooftops of buildings.



Wide sandy beaches, lake fronts, and riverbanks are the **Least Tern's** favorite nesting habitats. This small tern makes just a scrape in the sand or mud for a nest, which offers little protection from people, development, and off-road vehicles. In the past fifty years, their numbers have declined by about 88%.



BREEDING ADULTS



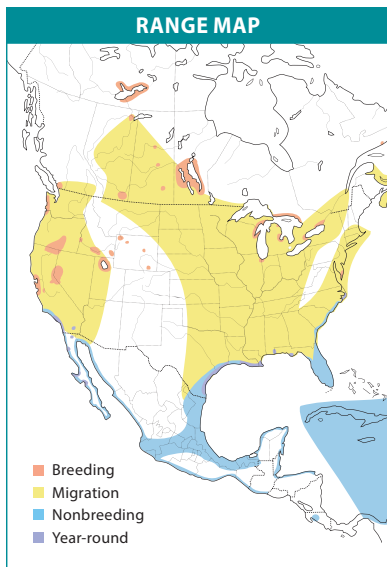
BREEDING ADULT



JUVENILE



NONBREEDING ADULTS



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Caspian Tern is the largest tern in the world. It has a large bill with a thick base, and a shallow fork in the tail. The large head can look smoothly rounded, squared off, or slightly crested.

**COLOR PATTERN** Caspian Terns have a black cap, a white body, and a brilliant coral-red bill with a dark band near the tip. Nonbreeding adults and immatures have a grayish crown and forehead. Juveniles have black edging to back feathers.

**BEHAVIOR** Caspian Terns fly over water with the bill pointing down, then plunge into the water to catch fish.

**HABITAT** Caspian Terns tend to breed in salt marshes and a range of islands, including barrier, dredge-spoil, and freshwater lake and river islands. In migration and winter, they are found along coastlines, large rivers, and lakes. They roost on islands and isolated spits.

The **Caspian Tern** aggressively defends its breeding colony. It will pursue, attack, and chase predatory birds, and can cause bloody wounds on the heads of people who invade the colony. The entire colony will take flight, however, when a Bald Eagle flies overhead, exposing the chicks to predation from gulls.



**BREEDING ADULT**



**BREEDING ADULT**



**NONBREEDING ADULT / JUVENILE**



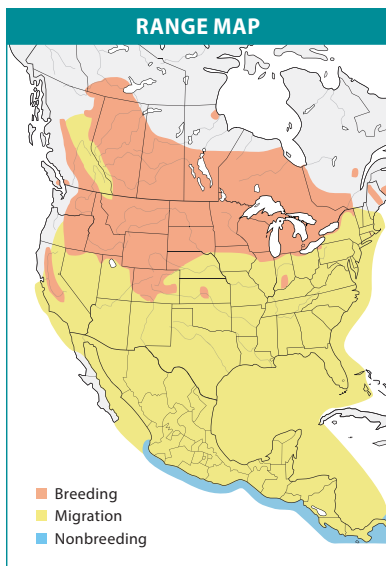
**JUVENILE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Black Tern is a small and delicately built waterbird with a thin, pointed bill; long, pointed wings; a shallowly forked tail; and short legs. It is larger than a Least Tern, and smaller than a Common Tern.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults in breeding plumage are dark gray above with black heads and black underparts. Underwings and undertail coverts are pale. Nonbreeding adults are gray above, whitish below, with a dusky crown, ear patch, and mark at the side of the breast. Juveniles are similar to nonbreeding adults but with a brown scaled pattern to the upperparts.

**BEHAVIOR** Black Terns forage by flying slowly and either dipping to the water's surface to pick up small fish or insects, or by catching insects on the wing. They breed in colonies in freshwater lakes, making nests on floating vegetation.

**HABITAT** Black Terns nest in freshwater marshes and bogs and winter in coastal lagoons, marshes, and open ocean waters. Migrants may stop over in almost any type of wetland.



An outlier in a world of white seabirds, breeding **Black Terns** are a handsome mix of charcoal gray and jet black. Their delicate form and neatly pointed wings provide tremendous agility as these birds flutter and swoop to pluck fish from the water's surface or veer to catch flying insects, much as a swallow does.



BREEDING ADULT



BREEDING ADULT

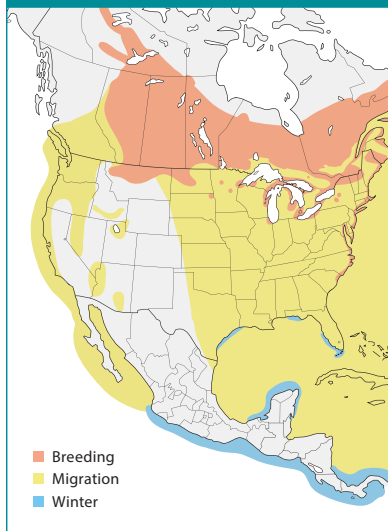


IMMATURE



IMMATURE

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Common Terns have long, narrow, angular wings and pointed wingtips. Unlike gulls, this tern has a straight, slender bill. The tail is forked, and the legs are short.

**COLOR PATTERN** Common Terns are pale gray overall with a black cap. Breeding birds have a gray belly and a fully black cap that extends to the back of the neck. They also have a red-orange bill tipped in black and red-orange legs. Nonbreeding birds have a white forehead, a partial black cap, and black legs and bill. Immature birds have a distinctive black bar on the leading edge of the wing.

**BEHAVIOR** Terns fly gracefully with rowing wingbeats over open waters, diving down to pick fish from or just below the water's surface. They are vocal and gregarious birds that make their presence well known.

**HABITAT** Common Terns nest on rocky islands, barrier beaches, and saltmarshes and forage over open waters. In the breeding season, they frequent both salt and fresh waters, but in winter, they tend to stick to marine environments.

**Common Terns** made an unfortunate appearance in women's fashion in the late 19th century. Feathers and sometimes entire terns were mounted on women's hats, resulting in their near extirpation from the Atlantic Coast. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 restored their populations by the 1930s.



**BREEDING ADULT**



**BREEDING ADULT**



**JUVENILE**



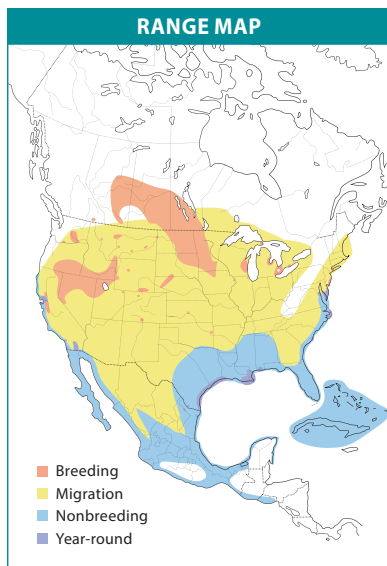
**NONBREEDING ADULT**

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Forster's Tern is a slender, long-tailed, long-winged waterbird with a long, pointed bill and short legs. When perched, the long tail streamers extend past the end of the wings. It is larger than a Black Tern.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding adults are gray above and white below, with a black cap and orange bill with a black tip. They have silvery gray wingtips and orange legs. Nonbreeding adults have a dark bill, white crown, and blackish eye patch. Juvenile birds are a mottled rusty brown, white, and gray with a black eye patch.

**BEHAVIOR** Forster's Terns forage by flying slowly over the water to scan for fish, then diving to capture prey. Breeding adults perform spiraling courtship flights and also parade through the colony in tandem with raised bills.

**HABITAT** Forster's Terns breed in marshes, usually in areas with extensive open water and some floating vegetation. They winter in oceans, bays, and estuaries, close to the coast. Some winter inland near the Gulf of Mexico.



Flashing slender, silvery wings and an elegantly forked tail, **Forster's Terns** cruise above the shallow waters of marshes and coastlines. These medium-sized white terns are often confused with the similar Common Tern, but Forster's Terns have a longer tail and, in nonbreeding plumage, a distinctive black eye patch.



BREEDING ADULT



BREEDING ADULT

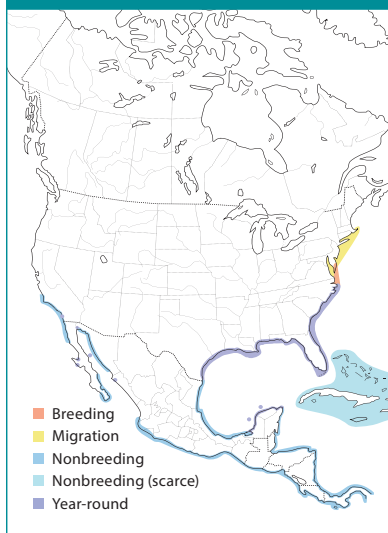


NONBREEDING ADULT



JUVENILE

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Royal Tern is large, slender, and long-winged. The head is fairly large and often has a ragged crest at the back. Royal Terns have a substantial body, a long, forked tail, and short legs. The bill is long and daggerlike.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding adults are pale gray above and white below, with a black crest and bright orange bill. Nonbreeders have a white forehead with black only at the rear of the crest. The outer primaries of the wing are blackish, and the legs are black. Juveniles are similar but with tan feathers in upperparts, dusker upperwings, and a paler bill.

**BEHAVIOR** Royal Terns forage by slowly flying above the water's surface, then diving for small fish and crustaceans. They nest in dense colonies on beaches and islands.

**HABITAT** Look for Royal Terns in the warm, shallow waters of oceans, bays, and rivers, usually close to shore. They nest and roost on barrier beaches, sandy islands, and artificial islands created by dredging. They may be found inland after strong storms.

A sleek seabird of warm saltwater coasts, the **Royal Tern** lives up to its regal name with a tangerine-colored bill and ragged, ink-black crest against crisp white plumage. Royal Terns fly gracefully and slowly along coastlines, diving for small fish, which they capture with a swift strike of their daggerlike bills.



**BREEDING ADULT**



**NONBREEDING ADULT**



**BREEDING ADULT**



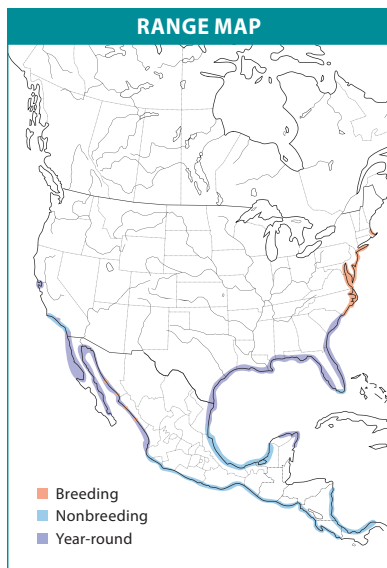
**JUVENILE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Black Skimmer is larger than most terns but with similarly elegant, streamlined proportions. It has very long wings and an outsized bill in which the upper half is much shorter than the lower half.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are starkly black above and white below, with a black-and-red bill and orange-red legs. Juveniles are brownish above, with pale-edged wing covert feathers.

**BEHAVIOR** Skimmers have a distinctive flight style: usually very low to the water with wings held above its body. Long upstrokes and short downstrokes allow the skimmer to stay clear of the water. This creates a characteristic bounding or ranging style to the flight. Juveniles often rest with their body flat on the ground and neck extended.

**HABITAT** Black Skimmers favor coastal beaches and islands near oceans, including along the Gulf of Mexico, and are occasionally seen inland, especially in sites such as Salton Sea, California, and Palm Beach County, Florida.



The **Black Skimmer** forages in flight, opening its bill and dropping its long lower mandible into the water, skimming along until it feels a fish. Then it relaxes the neck, quickly closing its jaws and whipping the fish out of the water. Because these birds feed essentially by touch, they can even forage at night.



BREEDING ADULT



BREEDING ADULT



JUVENILE



NONBREEDING ADULT



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Red-throated Loon is a small loon with a long, sinuous neck, a thin, daggerlike bill, and long, narrow, pointed wings. The legs are set far back on the body, and the feet trail behind the tail in flight. The bill is usually pointed slightly upward.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding adults are dark grayish brown above, pale below, with a pale gray neck and rusty throat patch. The back of the neck is accented with thin black-and-white stripes that extend down the sides of breast. Nonbreeding adults are blackish above and white below, with a mostly white face.

**BEHAVIOR** Red-throated Loons forage by scanning beneath the water's surface, dipping the head, then diving to pursue fish. They also locate prey in flight, often in large flocks that descend when schools of fish are detected.

**HABITAT** Red-throated Loons breed in the Arctic in tundra and taiga lakes and along marine coasts. They use large lakes and bays during migration, and coastal ocean waters during winter.

**Red-throated Loons** are among the finest fish hunters in North America. They are smaller and more slender than other loons, with a smaller bill tilted slightly upward. Like other loons, they dive for fish from the surface, but they also hunt from the air. They fly swiftly and are able to stall, pivot, and drop with precision.





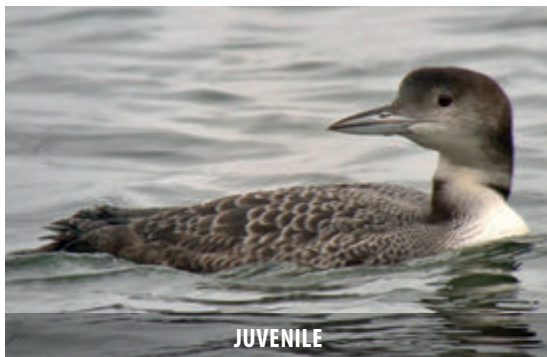
**BREEDING ADULT**



**NONBREEDING ADULT**



**NONBREEDING ADULT / IMMATURE**



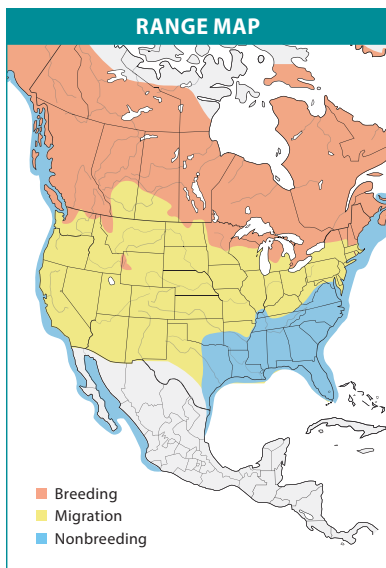
**JUVENILE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** Common Loons are large, diving waterbirds with rounded heads and daggerlike bills. They have long bodies and short tails that are usually not visible. In flight, they stretch out, with a long, flat body and long neck and bill. Their feet stick out beyond the tail (unlike ducks and cormorants), looking like wedges.

**COLOR PATTERN** In summer, adults have a black head and bill, a black-and-white spotted back, and a white breast. From September to March, adults are plain gray on the back and head with a white throat. The bill also fades to gray. Juveniles look similar, but with more pronounced scalloping on the back.

**BEHAVIOR** Common Loons are stealthy divers, submerging without a splash to catch fish. Pairs and groups often call to each other at night. In flight, notice their shallow wingbeats and unwavering, straight flight path.

**HABITAT** Common Loons breed on quiet, remote freshwater lakes of the northern U.S. and Canada, and they are sensitive to human disturbance. In winter and during migration, look for them on lakes, rivers, estuaries, and coastlines.



The eerie calls of **Common Loons** echo across the clear lakes of the northern wilderness. In winter, look for them along seashores and on inland reservoirs and lakes. These powerful, agile divers catch small fish in underwater chases. They are less suited to land and typically come ashore only to nest.



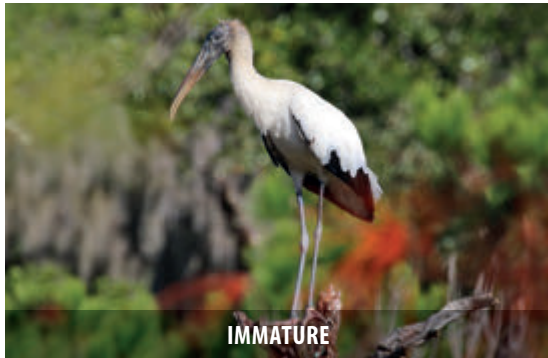
ADULT



ADULT

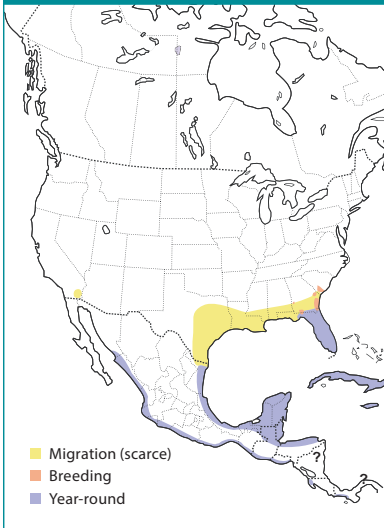


JUVENILE



IMMATURE

## RANGE MAP



- Migration (scarce)
- Breeding
- Year-round

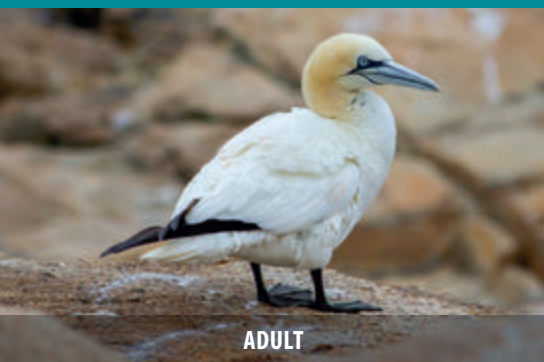
**SIZE & SHAPE** Wood Storks are hefty wading birds with football-shaped bodies perched atop long legs. They have a long neck and a long, thick bill that is curved at the tip. They fly with their neck and legs outstretched but tend to perch with the neck drawn in, giving them a humpbacked appearance.

**COLOR PATTERN** Wood Storks are entirely white save for their black flight feathers and tail. The head is unfeathered and scaly looking in adults, and variably feathered in immatures.

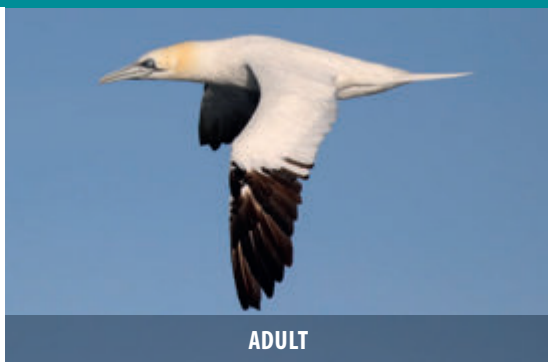
**BEHAVIOR** Wood Storks frequently feed in groups with their heads down, feeling for prey in open wetlands. Within the group, they often feed in lines—one after the other. They fly with head and legs outstretched, soaring on thermals like a raptor or vulture.

**HABITAT** Wood Storks breed in fresh and brackish forested wetlands. They forage in wetlands, swamps, ponds, and marshes, especially those with an open canopy.

Large, white **Wood Storks** wade through southeastern swamps and wetlands and roost and nest in colonies in trees above standing water. Skilled fliers, they soar on thermals with neck and legs outstretched. This bald-headed wading bird stands just over three feet tall, towering above almost all other wetland birds.



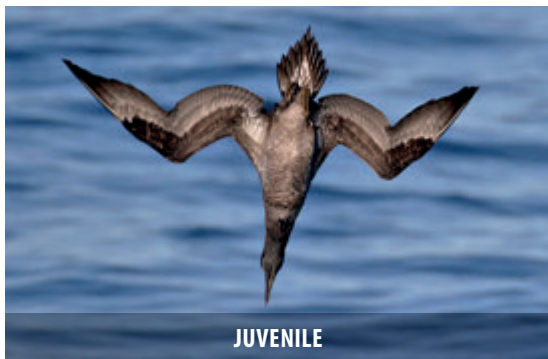
**ADULT**



**ADULT**



**IMMATURE (THIRD YEAR)**



**JUVENILE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Northern Gannet is a nearly albatross-sized, heavy-bodied seabird, with long, pointed wings, tail, and bill. It is larger than a Great Black-backed Gull and smaller than a Brown Pelican.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are snow white with black wingtips and yellow heads; juveniles are uniformly sooty brown; and subadults are intermediate between these plumages, often appearing as a patchwork of dark and light feathering.

**BEHAVIOR** Northern Gannets fly with deep, slow wingbeats as they search for fish, then dive straight down in spectacular plunges, sometimes alone, sometimes in very large flocks. They nest on oceanside cliffs, their only time on dry land.

**HABITAT** Northern Gannets forage mainly in salt water, though they occasionally pursue fish into the brackish mouths of large rivers. Wandering individuals have turned up in the Great Lakes or other inland freshwater bodies.



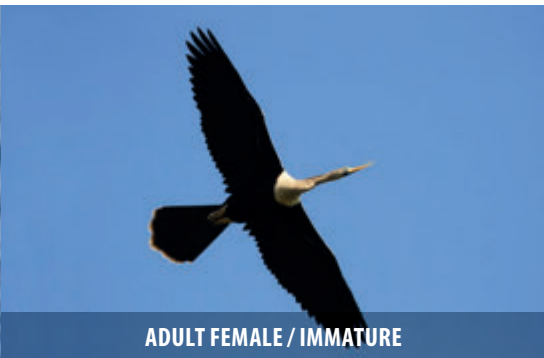
To see the **Northern Gannet** hunting fish is one of North America's great wildlife spectacles: flocks of sharp-billed, slender-winged birds rain down upon the ocean, blizzardlike, by the thousands. Their excellent vision and vigorous vocalizing when diving helps them catch fish and avoid collisions with others.



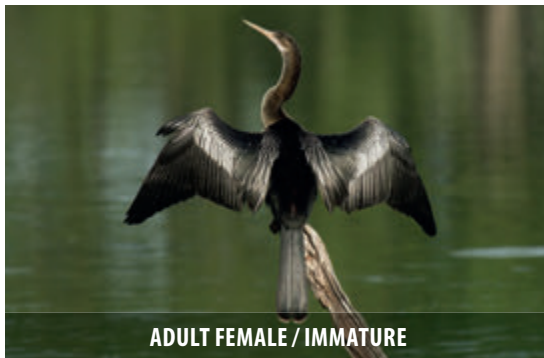
BREEDING MALE



BREEDING MALE AND DOWNY YOUNG

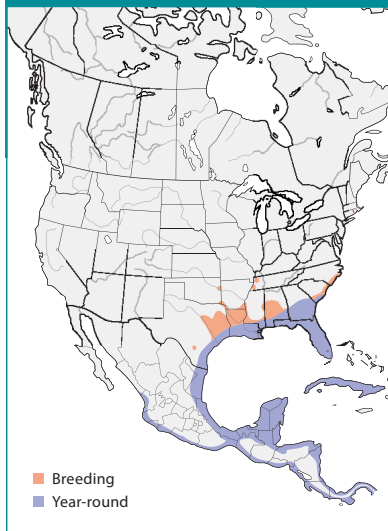


ADULT FEMALE / IMMATURE



ADULT FEMALE / IMMATURE

RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Anhingas are large and slender waterbirds with long, fanlike tails. They have a long S-shaped neck and a daggerlike bill. They have slim bodies and look rather flattened in flight.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult male Anhingas are black with silvery to white streaks on the back and wings. Females and immatures have a pale tan head, neck, and breast. Anhingas' bills are various shades of yellow.

**BEHAVIOR** Anhingas swim with their bodies partly or mostly submerged and their long, snakelike neck held partially out of the water. After a swim, they perch on branches or logs to dry out, with wings extended. They frequently soar high in the sky.

**HABITAT** Anhingas inhabit freshwater lakes, ponds, and slow-moving streams with branches near the water for drying themselves. They also use brackish bays and lagoons along the coast, but they avoid extensive open water.

Look for the snakelike head of the **Anhinga** poking above a lake's surface as it stealthily swims. Underwater, it stabs fish with its daggerlike bill. After every dip, it dries itself at the water's edge, silvery wings outstretched and head held high. Once dry, it takes flight, soaring high on thermals, stretched out like a cross.



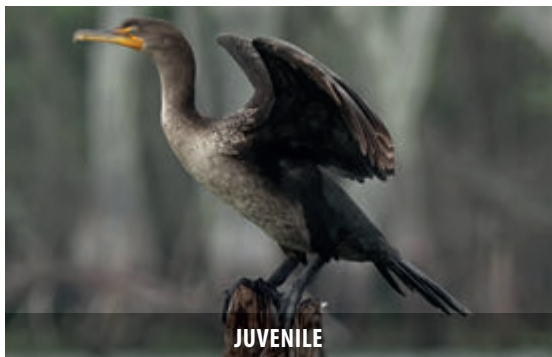
NONBREEDING ADULT



BREEDING ADULT



JUVENILES (L) AND NONBREEDING ADULT (R)



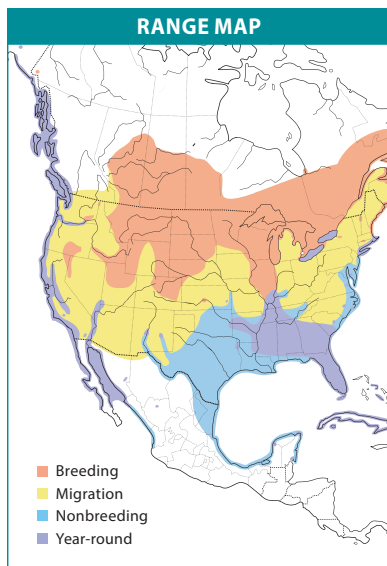
JUVENILE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Double-crested Cormorant is a large waterbird with a relatively short tail and a small head on a long, kinked neck. The thin, hooked bill is roughly the length of its head. Its heavy body sits low in the water, and it can be mistaken for a loon.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are brownish black with a small patch of yellow-orange skin on the face. Immatures are browner overall, palest on the neck and breast. Breeding adults develop a small double crest of stringy black or white feathers behind the eyes.

**BEHAVIOR** Double-crested Cormorants float low in the water and dive to catch small fish. After fishing, they stand on docks, rocks, and tree limbs with wings spread open to dry. In flight, they often travel in V-formation flocks.

**HABITAT** Double-crested Cormorants are the most widespread cormorants in North America, and they are often seen on fresh water. They breed on coastlines and along large inland lakes. They form colonies of stick nests built high in trees on islands or in patches of flooded timber.



The prehistoric-looking **Double-crested Cormorant** is a common sight around fresh and salt waters across temperate North America—attracting the most attention when standing on docks, rocky islands, and channel markers, wings spread to dry. These solid and heavy-boned birds are experts at diving to catch small fish.



ADULTS / IMMATURES



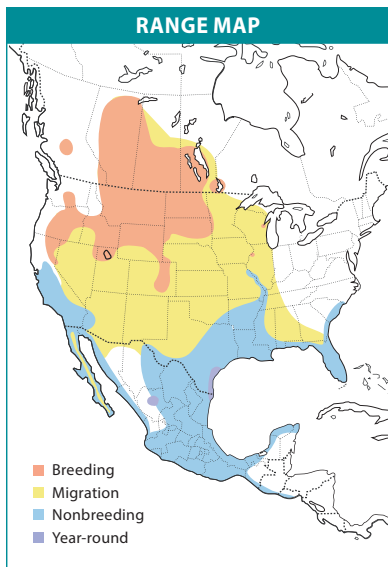
BREEDING ADULTS



NONBREEDING ADULTS



NONBREEDING ADULT



**SIZE & SHAPE** The American White Pelican is a huge waterbird with very broad wings, a long neck, and a massive bill that gives the head a unique, long shape. They have thick bodies, short legs, and short, square tails. A yellow plate forms on the upper bill of breeding adults. The large throat pouch, typical of pelicans, isn't usually obvious.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are white with black feathers visible when the wings are spread. A patch of chest feathers can turn yellow in spring. The bill and legs are yellow orange. Immatures are mostly white, but the head, neck, and back are washed with dusky brown and the bill is dull pink.

**BEHAVIOR** American White Pelicans feed from the water's surface, dipping their beaks in to catch prey. They often upend but do not plunge-dive. They are among the heaviest flying birds in the world and often travel long distances in large flocks.

**HABITAT** American White Pelicans typically breed on islands in shallow wetlands in the interior of the continent. They spend winters mainly on coastal waters, bays, and estuaries, or a little distance inland.

One of the largest North American birds, the **American White Pelican** is majestic in the air, soaring with incredible steadiness. On the water, they dip their pouched bills to scoop up fish, or tip-up like dabbling ducks. Sometimes, groups of pelicans work together to herd fish into the shallows for easy feeding.

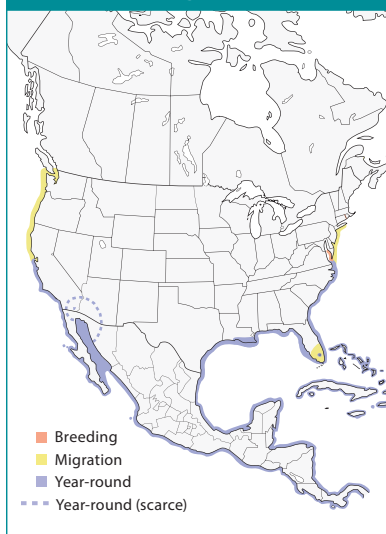
**NONBREEDING ADULT****BREEDING ADULTS****JUVENILE****BREEDING ADULT**

**SIZE & SHAPE** Brown Pelicans are huge, stocky seabirds. They have thin necks and very long bills with a stretchy throat pouch used for capturing fish. Their wings are long and broad, often noticeably bowed when the birds are gliding.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are gray brown with pale, yellowish heads and white necks. In breeding plumage, the back and sides of the neck turn a rich, dark reddish brown. Immatures are gray brown above with a pale whitish belly and breast.

**BEHAVIOR** Brown Pelicans plunge into the water, stunning small fish with the impact of their bodies and scooping them up in their throat pouches. When not feeding, they stand on fishing docks, jetties, and beaches or cruise the shoreline.

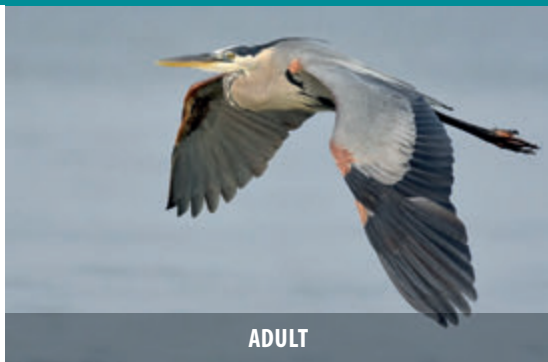
**HABITAT** Brown Pelicans live along seacoasts and are rarely seen inland. An exception is at Salton Sea in California, where they are found in large numbers. They nest in colonies, often on isolated islands free of land predators.

**RANGE MAP**

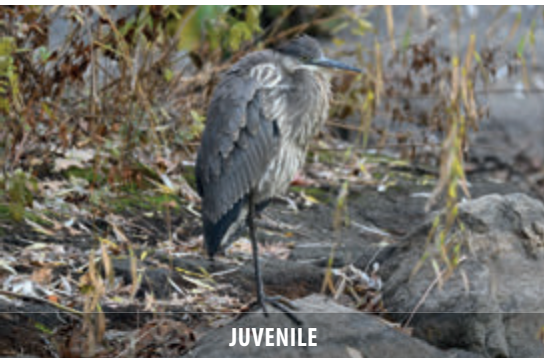
Squadrons of **Brown Pelicans** glide above the surf along coasts and feed by plunge-diving from high up, using the force of impact to stun small fish before scooping them up. They are fairly common today—an example of a species' recovery from pesticide pollution that once placed them at the brink of extinction.



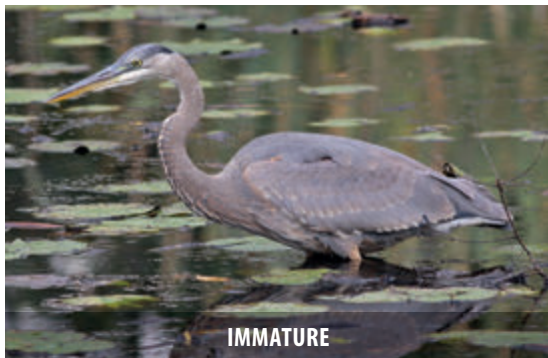
**GREAT WHITE HERON**



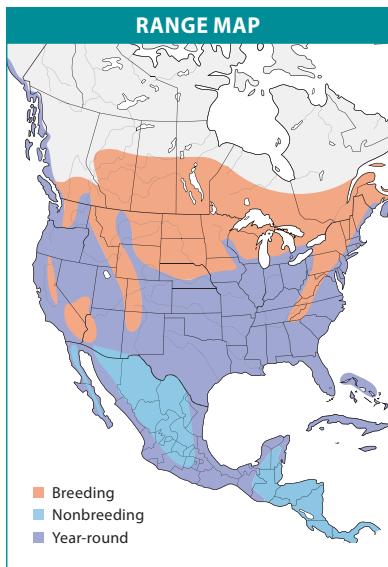
**ADULT**



**JUVENILE**



**IMMATURE**



**SIZE & SHAPE** This largest of North American herons has long legs, a sinuous neck, and a thick, daggerlike bill. Head, chest, and wing plumes give a shaggy appearance. In flight, the Great Blue Heron curls its neck into a tight S shape; its wings are broad and rounded, and its legs trail well beyond the tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** Great Blue Herons appear blue gray from a distance, with a wide black stripe over the eye. In flight, the upper side of the wing is two-toned: pale on the forewing and darker on the flight feathers. A pure white subspecies occurs in coastal southern Florida. The "Great White Heron" is larger and bulkier than its darker cousins and is currently classified as a subspecies of the Great Blue Heron.

**BEHAVIOR** Hunting Great Blue Herons wade slowly or stand statuelike, stalking prey in shallow water or open fields. Their very slow wingbeats, tucked-in neck, and trailing legs create an unmistakable silhouette in flight.

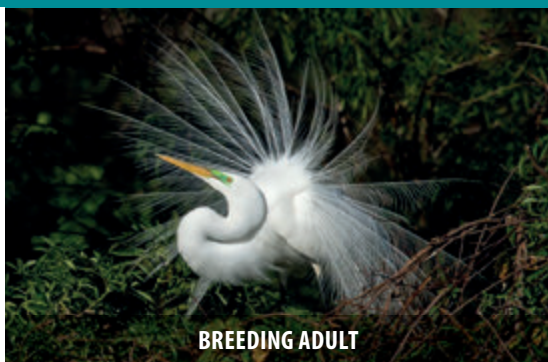
**HABITAT** Look for Great Blue Herons in saltwater and freshwater habitats, from seashores, marshes, sloughs, riverbanks, and lakes to backyard goldfish ponds. They also forage in grasslands and agricultural fields.

Whether poised at a river bend or cruising the coastline with slow, deep wingbeats, the **Great Blue Heron** is a majestic sight. It will often stand motionless as it scans for prey or wades belly deep with long, deliberate steps. This heron may move slowly, but it can strike like lightning to grab a fish or snap up a gopher.





NONBREEDING ADULT / IMMATURE



BREEDING ADULT



NONBREEDING ADULT / IMMATURE



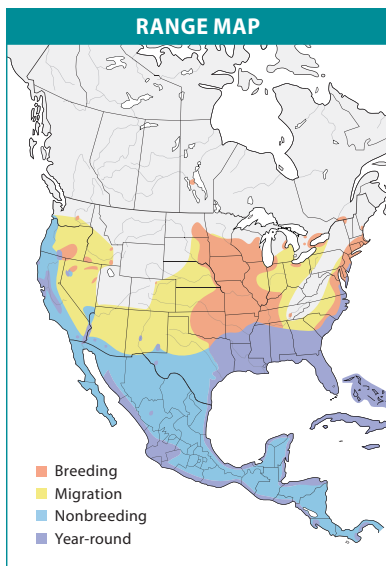
NONBREEDING ADULT / IMMATURE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Great Egrets are tall, long-legged wading birds with an S-curved neck and a daggerlike bill. In flight, the long neck is tucked in, and the legs extend far beyond the tip of the short tail. During breeding season, long feathery plumes, called aigrettes, grow from its back. They are held up during courtship displays.

**COLOR PATTERN** Every feather on a Great Egret is white. The bill is solid yellowish orange, and the legs and feet are entirely black. During courtship, the skin patch between the bill and eyes brightens to lime green.

**BEHAVIOR** You can find Great Egrets wading in shallow water hunting for food. They typically stand still and watch for prey to pass by, and then, with startling speed, strike with a jab of the long neck and bill.

**HABITAT** Great Egrets live in freshwater, brackish, and marine wetlands. During the breeding season, they are found in nesting colonies on lakes, ponds, marshes, estuaries, impoundments, and islands.



The pristinely white **Great Egret** gets even more dressed up for the breeding season. A patch of skin on its face turns neon green, and long plumes grow from its back. Called aigrettes, those plumes were the bane of egrets in the late 19th century, when such adornments were prized for ladies' hats.



BREEDING ADULT



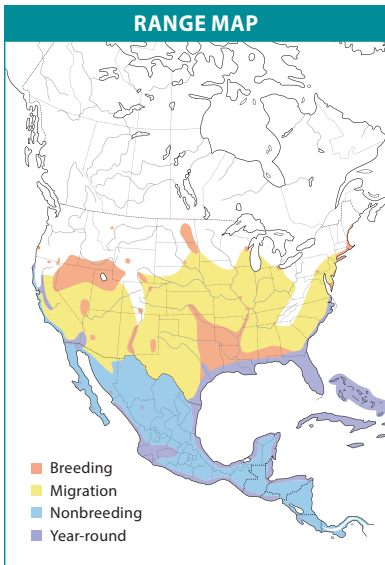
NONBREEDING ADULT



IMMATURE



NONBREEDING ADULT



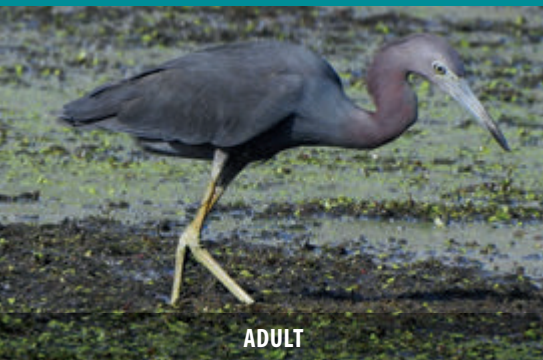
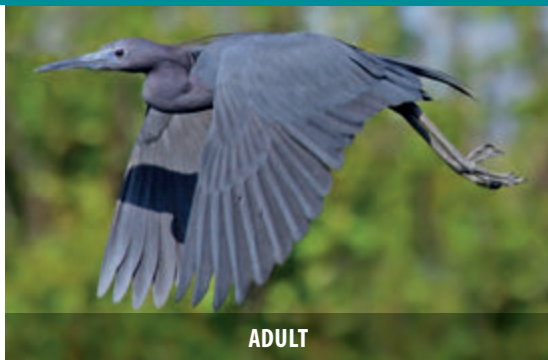
**SIZE & SHAPE** Snowy Egrets are medium-sized herons with long, thin legs and long, slender, bills. Their long, thin neck sets the small head well away from the body. It is smaller than a Great Egret and larger than a Cattle Egret.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult Snowy Egrets are all white with a black bill, black legs, and rich yellow feet. They have a patch of yellow skin at the base of the bill. Immature Snowy Egrets have greenish yellow running up the backs of the legs.

**BEHAVIOR** Snowy Egrets wade in shallow water to spear fish and other small aquatic prey. While they use a sit-and-wait technique to capture their food, they may run back and forth through the water with their wings spread, chasing prey.

**HABITAT** They are most common along the coast but some breed patchily in inland wetlands. Snowy Egrets nest colonially, usually on protected islands, and often with other small herons. They concentrate on mudflats, beaches, and wetlands, but also forage in wet agricultural fields and along the edges of rivers and lakes.

The elegant **Snowy Egret** uses its feet to stir up or herd small aquatic animals as it forages. Breeding Snowy Egrets grow plumes that once fetched astronomical prices, endangering the species. Through conservation efforts in the early 20th century, this species is again common in coastal wetlands.

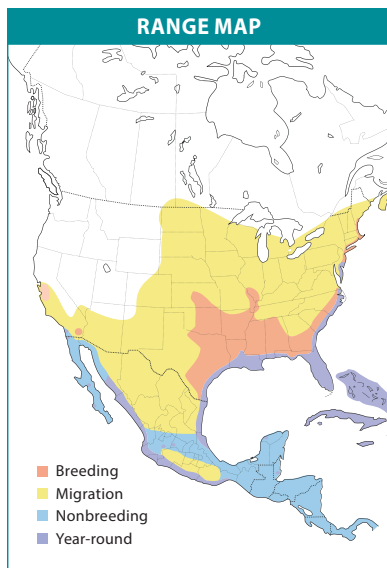
**ADULT****ADULT****IMMATURE (FIRST SPRING)****JUVENILE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Little Blue Heron is fairly small, with a slight body, slender neck, and fairly long legs. It has rounded wings, and a long, straight, spearlike bill that is thick at the base.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult Little Blue Herons are very dark all over, with a rich purple-maroon head and neck, and a dark slaty-blue body. They have yellow eyes, greenish legs, and a bill that is pale blue at the base and black at the tip. Immature birds that are molting into adult plumage are a patchwork of white and blue. Juvenile birds are mostly white, except for dusky tips to the outer primaries. Legs are pale green.

**BEHAVIOR** This bird is a stand-and-wait predator. They watch the water for prey, changing locations by walking slowly or by flying to a completely different site. They nest in trees, usually among other nesting herons and wading birds.

**HABITAT** Look for Little Blue Herons on quiet waters ranging from tidal flats and estuaries to streams, swamps, and flooded fields. They are usually found in only small numbers at any one water body, often tucked into hidden corners.



A small heron arrayed in moody blues and purples, the **Little Blue Heron** is a common but inconspicuous resident of marshes and estuaries in the Southeast. They stalk shallow waters for small fish and amphibians with a quiet, methodical approach that can make them surprisingly easy to overlook at first glance.



BREEDING ADULT



BREEDING ADULT



JUVENILE



NONBREEDING ADULT



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Tricolored Heron is a medium-sized, delicate, and slim heron with a long, daggerlike bill. Its long, thin neck curves up to its small head. It is larger than a Snowy Egret and smaller than a Great Blue Heron.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are a mix of blue-gray, lavender, and white. Breeding birds have small white plumes at the back of the head, a blue patch around the bill, and pink legs. Nonbreeding birds have yellowish legs and fewer flourishes. Juveniles have a reddish neck.

**BEHAVIOR** Tricolored Herons gracefully walk through wetlands, but they also run after fish with sharp turns and stops, balancing with their wings. They tend to forage alone or at the edge of flocks of wading birds.

**HABITAT** Tricolored Herons use coastal estuaries, saltmarshes, mangroves, and lagoons during the breeding season. In the nonbreeding season, they use coastal areas, freshwater marshes, lake edges, canals, and ditches.

Once known as the Louisiana Heron, the **Tricolored Heron** is a fairly small heron that wades through coastal waters in search of small fish, often running and stopping with balletic turns and starts. It builds stick nests in trees and shrubs, often in colonies with other wading birds.

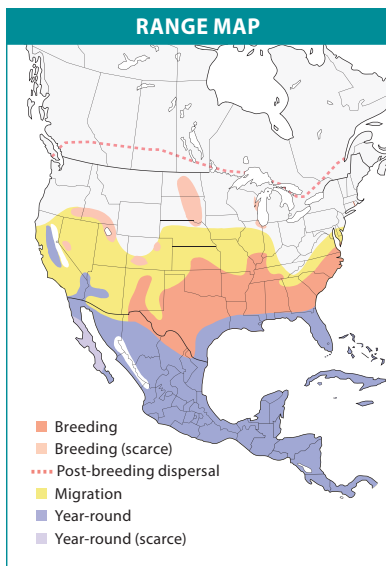
**BREEDING ADULT****BREEDING ADULT****NONBREEDING ADULT****JUVENILE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** Compared with other herons, Cattle Egrets are noticeably small and compact. They have relatively short legs and a short thick neck. The straight, daggerlike bill is shorter and thicker than other herons. They have medium-length, broad, rounded wings.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult Cattle Egrets are white with a yellow bill and legs. In breeding plumage, they have golden plumes on their head, chest, and back. Juveniles have dark legs and bill.

**BEHAVIOR** Cattle Egrets stalk insects and other small animals on the ground in grassy fields. They are less often seen in water than other herons. They nest in dense colonies of stick nests in trees or emergent wetlands, often mixed with other species of herons.

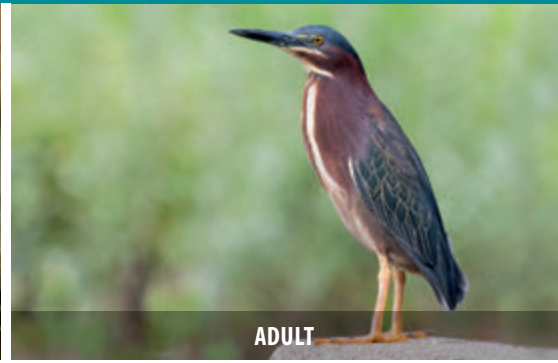
**HABITAT** Cattle Egrets forage in flocks in upland areas such as pastures and fields, generally focusing on drier habitats than other species of white herons.



The short, thick-necked **Cattle Egret** spends most of its time in fields rather than streams, foraging at the feet of cattle, head bobbing with each step, or riding on their backs to pick at ticks. Originally from Africa, it found its way to North America in 1941 and quickly spread across the continent.



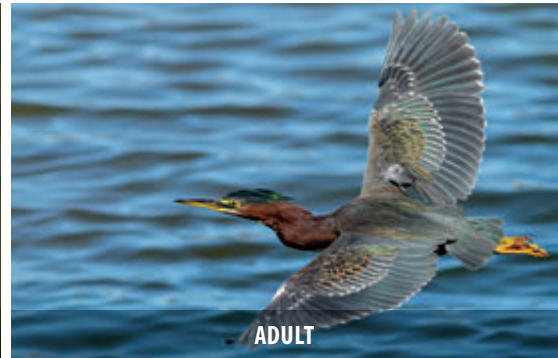
**ADULT**



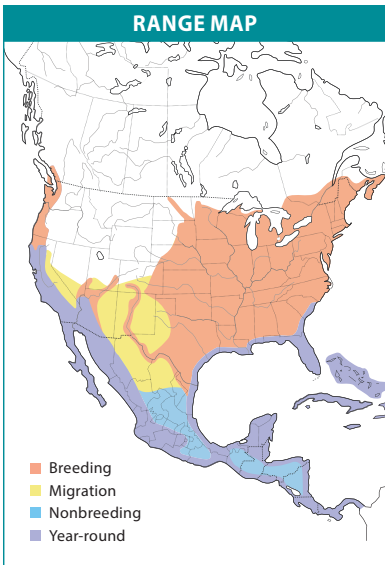
**ADULT**



**JUVENILE**



**ADULT**



**SIZE & SHAPE** Compared with most herons, Green Herons are short and stocky, with relatively short legs and thick necks that are often drawn up against their bodies. They have broad, rounded wings and a long, daggerlike bill. They sometimes raise their crown feathers into a short crest. They are crow-sized—small for a heron.

**COLOR PATTERN** From a distance, Green Herons look all dark. Up close, they are deep green on the back with a rich chestnut breast and neck. The wings are dark gray. Juveniles are browner, with pale streaking on the neck and wing spots.

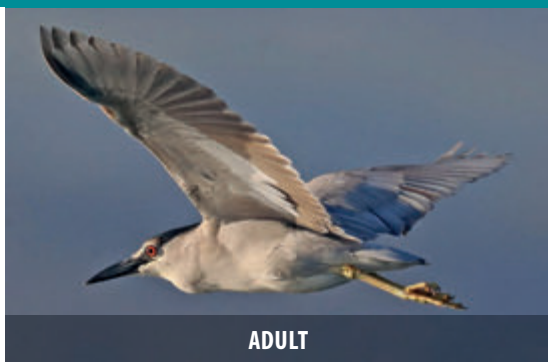
**BEHAVIOR** Green Herons stand very still at the water's edge as they hunt for food, typically on solid ground or vegetation, seldom wading. In flight, they can look ungainly, often partially uncrooking their necks.

**HABITAT** Green Herons live near wooded ponds, marshes, rivers, reservoirs, and estuaries. They may nest in dry woods and orchards as long as there is water nearby for foraging.

The dark, stocky **Green Heron** often hides behind leaves at the water's edge, patiently crouching on slender yellow legs to surprise fish with a snatch of their daggerlike bill. They sometimes lure in fish using small items such as twigs or insects as bait.



ADULT



ADULT



IMMATURE (FIRST SUMMER)



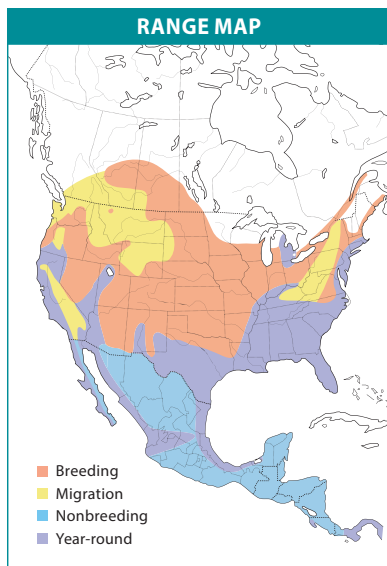
JUVENILE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Black-crowned Night-Herons are medium-sized herons with rather squat, thick proportions. They have thick necks, large, flat heads, and heavy, pointed bills. The legs are short, and the wings are broad and rounded.

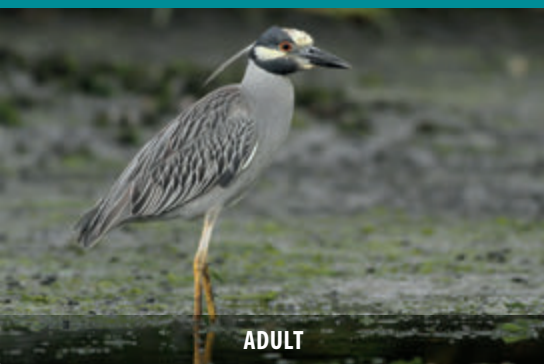
**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are light-gray birds with a neatly defined black back and black crown. Immatures are brown with white spots on the wings and blurry streaks on the underparts. Adults have black bills; immatures have yellow-and-black bills. Juveniles are brown and streaky overall.

**BEHAVIOR** These herons often spend their days perched on tree limbs or concealed among foliage. They forage in the evening and at night, in water, on mudflats, and on land. In flight, they fold their head back against their shoulders.

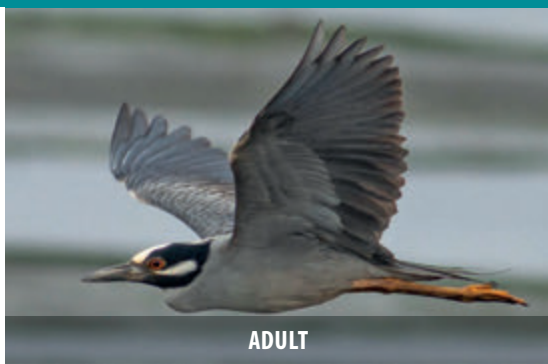
**HABITAT** These social birds tend to roost and nest in groups, although they typically forage on their own. Look for them in most wetland habitats across North America, including estuaries, marshes, streams, lakes, and reservoirs.



**Black-crowned Night-Herons** are most active at night or at dusk. Look for their ghostly forms flapping out from daytime roosts to forage in wetlands. These social birds breed in colonies of stick nests usually built over water. The most widespread heron in the world, it lives in fresh, salt, and brackish wetlands.



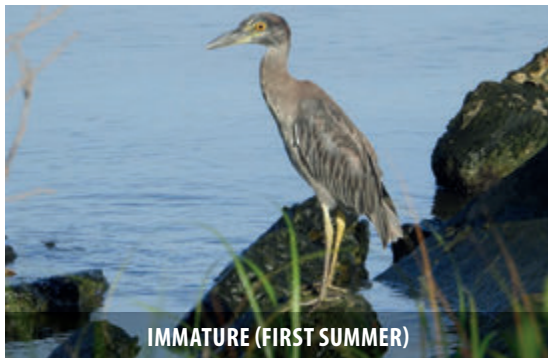
**ADULT**



**ADULT**

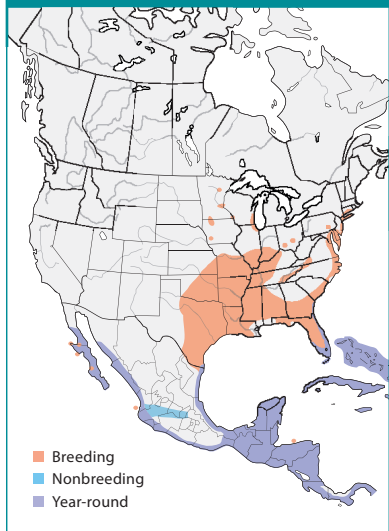


**JUVENILE**



**IMMATURE (FIRST SUMMER)**

**RANGE MAP**



- Breeding
- Nonbreeding
- Year-round

**SIZE & SHAPE** Yellow-crowned Night-Herons are medium-sized herons with stocky bodies, short, thick necks, and short legs. They have large, blocky heads with thick, relatively short bills. In flight, the wings are broad and rounded.

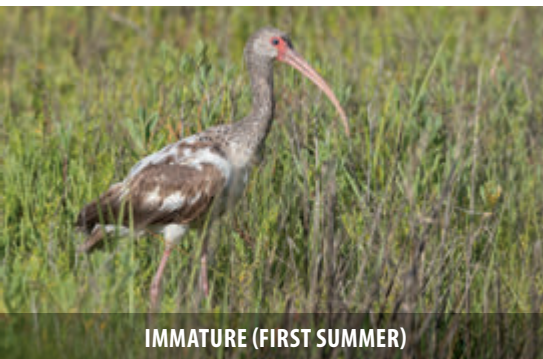
**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are gray with bright, orange-yellow legs. They have a black head, a white cheek patch, and a yellow crown and head plumes. Immatures are brown with white spots on the back and wings and streaky underparts.

**BEHAVIOR** Yellow-crowned Night-Herons stalk prey in or near shallow water, usually alone, with a hunched posture. They perch on stumps and tree branches, often over water. The majority of their prey is crustaceans.

**HABITAT** These herons favor coastal wetlands, barrier islands, saltmarshes, and mangroves. They also occur inland along bottomland forests, swamps, and sometimes wet lawns or fields.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** forage all day and night, stalking crustaceans in wetlands, wet fields, and even lawns. They catch crabs and crayfish with a lunge and shake them apart or swallow them whole. They're most common in coastal marshes, barrier islands, and mangroves, but are also found in the interior.



**ADULT****ADULT****IMMATURE (FIRST SUMMER)****JUVENILE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** The White Ibis is a large wading bird with a football-shaped body. It has long legs, a long, curved bill, and a long neck held straight in flight. It is larger than a Cattle Egret, smaller than a Great Egret.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are almost entirely white, save for the black-tipped wings and brilliant reddish pink legs and bill. Reddish pink skin surrounds their blue eyes. Immatures are brown and white as they molt into adult plumage.

**BEHAVIOR** White Ibises forage in groups, walking slowly with their heads down, probing the mud for insects and crustaceans. In flight, their long necks are stretched out and their feet trail behind.

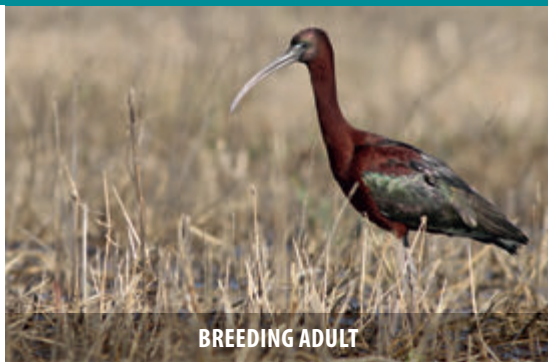
**HABITAT** White Ibises use freshwater marshes, coastal estuaries, mangroves, flooded pastures, mudflats, and swamps. They mostly forage in shallow areas, but also use lawns and parks, especially in southern Florida.



**White Ibises** gather in groups in shallow wetlands and estuaries in the southeastern United States, stepping through the water on bright red legs and probing the muddy surface below. They nest in colonies in trees and shrubs along the water's edge, changing locations nearly every year.



BREEDING ADULT



BREEDING ADULT



NONBREEDING ADULT



JUVENILE

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Glossy Ibis is a large, long-legged wading bird with a compact body, long neck, and long, curved bill. It flies with neck outstretched, sometimes drooping slightly, and legs trailing behind.

**COLOR PATTERN** The plumage appears dark, almost blackish, at a distance or in poor light. At close range, adults are a rich chestnut with metallic green wings. Breeding birds have dark facial skin and pale lines extending from the bill to the dark eye, but not around it. Juveniles are duller brown overall with some white streaking on the neck.

**BEHAVIOR** Glossy Ibises occur in flocks, both at nesting colonies and when foraging for insects, small fish, and seeds. They typically feed by lowering the bill into water, mud, or soil to feel for prey, and they often feed among many other species of wading birds.

**HABITAT** Glossy Ibises frequent almost any wetland environment with shallow water or exposed mud, such as freshwater marshes, saltmarshes, mudflats, mangroves, and flooded fields.

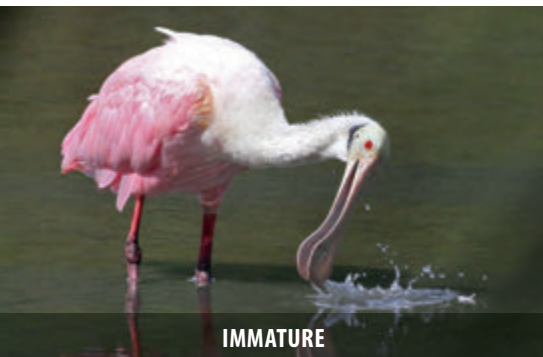
At distance, **Glossy Ibises** look uniformly dark, but a close look in good light reveals stunning colors: deep maroon, emerald, bronze, and violet. They disperse widely after the nesting season, and in the past 100 years, they have expanded their breeding range north from the southeast to New England.



ADULT



ADULT



IMMATURE



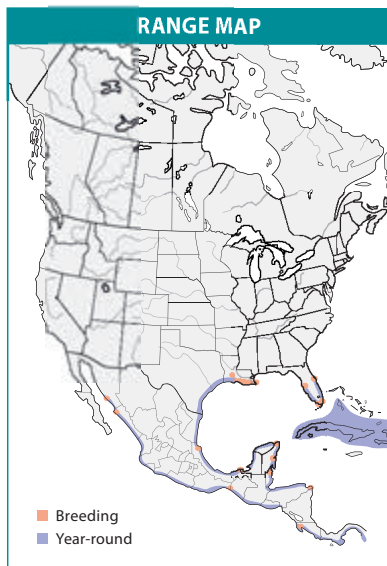
JUVENILE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Roseate Spoonbill is a large waterbird with a football-shaped body and long legs. The long bill is flattened into a spoon at the end and protrudes from a small head. They fly with long necks outstretched and often rest with it curled into an S.

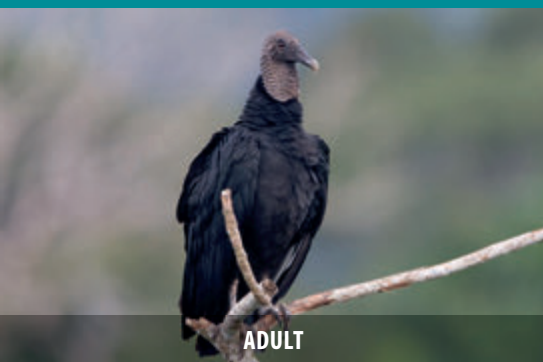
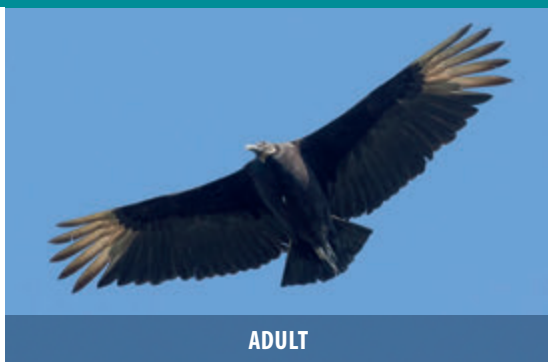
**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are pale pink with deeper pink shoulders and rump. Their tails are orange. They have a white neck and a partially feathered, yellow-green head and red eyes. Juveniles are much duller and have a fully feathered head for three years until they attain adult plumage.

**BEHAVIOR** Roseate Spoonbills wade through shallow water swinging their head side to side with their bill under the water, feeling for prey. Spoonbills forage, roost, and nest in groups often with other ibises, herons, and egrets.

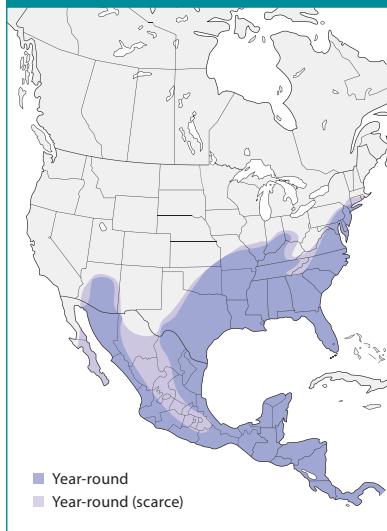
**HABITAT** Roseate Spoonbills forage in the shallows of fresh, brackish, and marine waters including bays, mangroves, forested swamps, and wetlands. They nest and roost in trees and shrubs along the water's edge.



The flamboyant **Roseate Spoonbill**, with its bright pink feathers, red eye staring out from a partly bald head, and giant spoon-shaped bill, looks like it came straight out of a Dr. Seuss book. Groups sweep their spoonbills through shallow fresh or salt waters snapping up crustaceans and fish.


**ADULT**

**ADULT**

**JUVENILE (L) AND ADULT (R)**

**ADULTS**
**RANGE MAP**


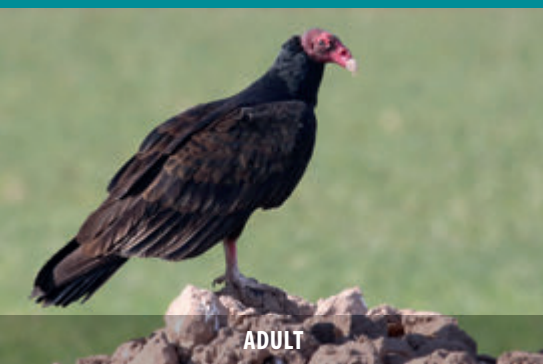
**SIZE & SHAPE** In flight, the Black Vulture holds its broad, rounded wings flat and angled slightly forward. The tail is short and square-cornered. It has a small, bare head and a narrow but strongly hooked bill. Note splayed wingtips or “fingers” in flight.

**COLOR PATTERN** Black Vultures are uniformly blackish, except for white patches or “stars” on the underside of their wingtips (this can be hard to see in strong light or from far away). The bare skin of the head is gray in adults and blackish in juveniles, which also have some feathers on the head.

**BEHAVIOR** During the day, Black Vultures soar in flocks, often with Turkey Vultures and hawks. Look for them along highway margins eating roadkill, as well as picking through dumpsters. They roost in groups in trees and on transmission towers. In flight, note frequent, quick, snappy wingbeats.

**HABITAT** Look for Black Vultures in open areas within forested landscapes. They typically nest and roost in wooded areas and soar above open areas to seek their food. They have substantially increased their range northward in recent decades.

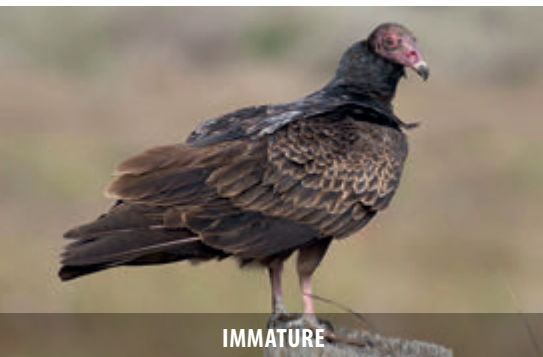
Turkey Vultures have an excellent sense of smell, but **Black Vultures** aren’t as accomplished as sniffers. To find food, they soar high in the sky, watching the lower-soaring Turkey Vultures. When a Turkey Vulture’s nose detects decaying flesh and descends on a carcass, the Black Vulture follows close behind.



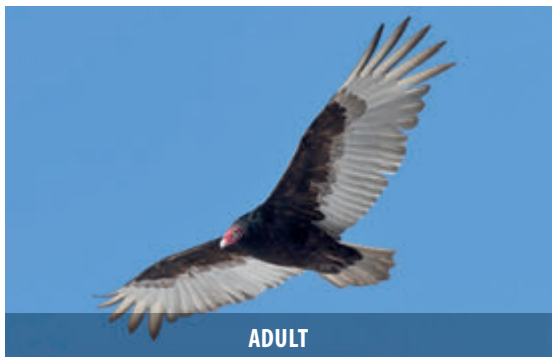
ADULT



ADULT AND IMMATURES (FIRST YEAR)



IMMATURE



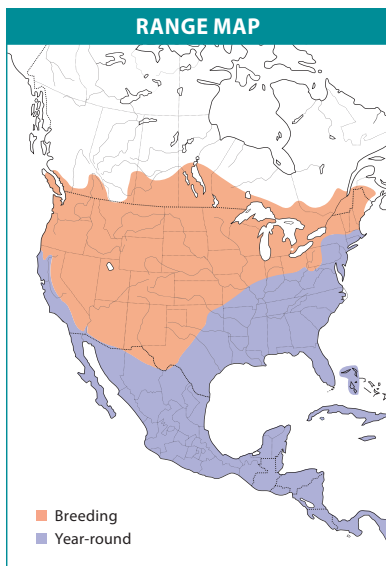
ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** Turkey Vultures are large, dark birds with long, broad wings. Bigger than other raptors, except eagles and condors, Turkey Vultures hold their wings slightly raised when soaring, making a V-shape when seen head-on.

**COLOR PATTERN** Turkey Vultures appear black from a distance but up close are dark brown with a featherless head and pale bill. While most of the body and forewings are dark, the undersides of the flight feathers and wingtips are paler. Adults' heads are red; juveniles' are grayish and become red over time.

**BEHAVIOR** Turkey Vultures are majestic but unsteady soarers. Their teetering flight with deep but few wingbeats is characteristic. Look for them gliding relatively low to the ground, sniffing for carrion, or riding thermals up to higher vantage points.

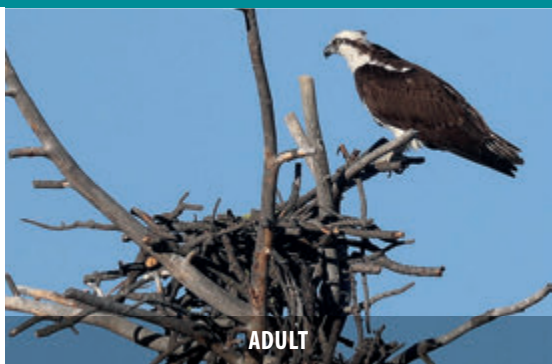
**HABITAT** Turkey Vultures are common around open areas such as roadsides, suburbs, farm fields, countryside, and food sources such as landfills, trash heaps, and construction sites.



If you see a large raptor soaring in wobbly circles with its wings raised in a V, it's likely a **Turkey Vulture**. These birds ride thermals in the sky and use their keen sense of smell to find fresh carcasses. A consummate scavenger, it cleans up the countryside one bite at a time, never mussing a feather on its bald head.



ADULT



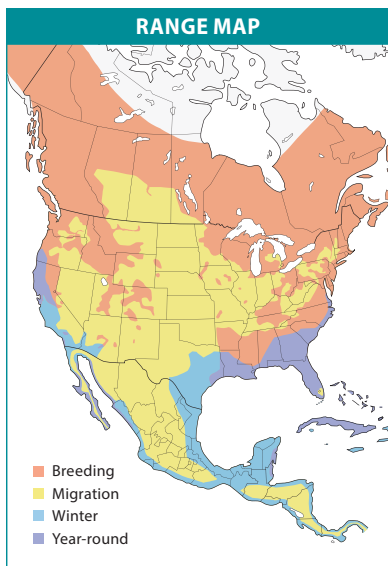
ADULT



JUVENILE



ADULT



**SIZE & SHAPE** Ospreys are very large, distinctively shaped hawks. Despite their size, their bodies are slender, with long, narrow wings and long legs. In flight, crooked wings combine with the body to make a distinctive M shape.

**COLOR PATTERN** Ospreys are brown above and white below, and overall, they are whiter than most raptors. From below, wings are mostly white with darker flight feathers and a prominent dark patch at the wrists. The head is white with a broad brown stripe through the eye. Juveniles have white spots on the back and buffy shading on the breast.

**BEHAVIOR** Ospreys search for fish by flying on steady wingbeats and bowed wings or circling high in the sky over relatively shallow water. They often hover briefly before diving, feet first, to grab a fish.

**HABITAT** Look for Ospreys around nearly any body of water: saltmarshes, rivers, ponds, reservoirs, estuaries, and even coral reefs.

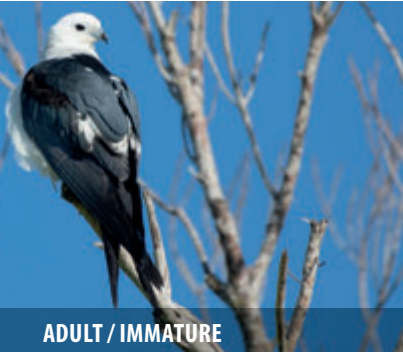
Novel among North American raptors for its diet of live fish and ability to dive into water to catch them, **Ospreys** are common sights soaring over shorelines, patrolling waterways, and standing on their huge stick nests, white heads gleaming. Their numbers have rebounded since the ban on the pesticide DDT.



ADULT / IMMATURE



ADULT / IMMATURE



ADULT / IMMATURE



JUVENILE

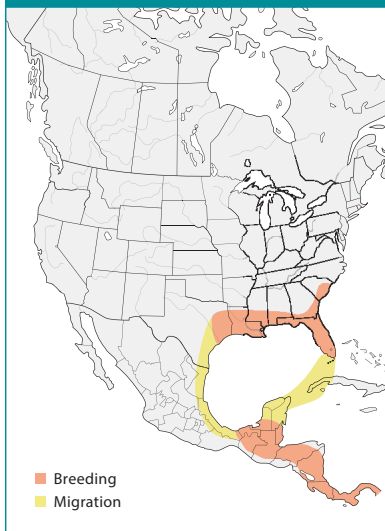
**SIZE & SHAPE** Swallow-tailed Kites are large but slender and buoyant. They have long, narrow, pointed wings, slim bodies, and a very long, deeply forked tail. The bill is small and sharply hooked.

**COLOR PATTERN** Swallow-tailed Kites are a sharp contrast of a bright white head and underparts, and gleaming black wings, back, and tail. From below, the wing linings are white, and the flight feathers are black. Immatures and adults look similar. Juveniles have a buffy wash on the throat that fades in a few weeks.

**BEHAVIOR** Swallow-tailed Kites spend most of their day aloft, rarely flapping their wings. They tend to circle low over trees as they hunt for small animals in the branches. During migration, they may form large flocks.

**HABITAT** Look for Swallow-tailed Kites over swamps, marshes, and large rivers of the southeastern U.S., particularly in Florida. At the end of summer, all the Swallow-tailed Kites in the U.S. leave and migrate south to South America.

#### RANGE MAP



With a deeply forked tail and bold black-and-white plumage, the **Swallow-tailed Kite** is unmistakable in summer skies above swamps of the Southeast. Flying with barely a wingbeat and maneuvering with twists of its incredible tail, it chases dragonflies or plucks frogs, snakes, and nestlings from tree branches.



ADULT



ADULT

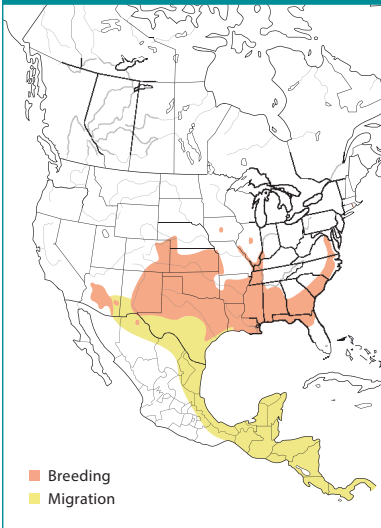


JUVENILE (L) AND ADULT (R)



ADULT

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Mississippi Kites are slender, fairly small raptors with long, pointed wings. The tail is fairly long and square-tipped. The strongly hooked bill is small and delicate.

**COLOR PATTERN** Mississippi Kites are an inky mix of gray and black, lightening to a pale grayish white on the head and on the upper secondaries in the wing. The wingtips and tail are black. Juveniles are streaky, with brownish chests and underwings, and banded tails.

**BEHAVIOR** These birds are excellent aerialists, spending much of their time aloft and sailing in the wind or flying with buoyant wingbeats. Their noticeable agility when flying is needed to catch large flying insects, such as dragonflies, which make up a large portion of their diet. They may form large flocks in late summer, and thousands travel together during spring and fall migration.

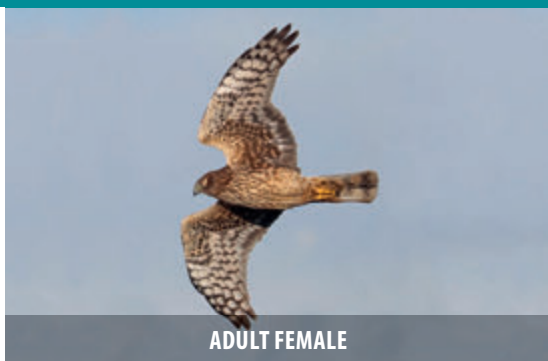
**HABITAT** Mississippi Kites live in bottomland hardwood forests of the Southeast and in tree-lined areas of the southern prairies, where they are found coursing over and nesting in windbreaks, parks, and even leafy urban backyards.

**Mississippi Kites** make a streamlined silhouette as they carren through the sky hunting small prey, or dive-bombing intruders too close to the nest. These pearl-gray raptors often hunt together and nest colonially in stands of trees, from windbreaks on southern prairies to old-growth bottomlands in the Southeast.





ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE



JUVENILE MALE



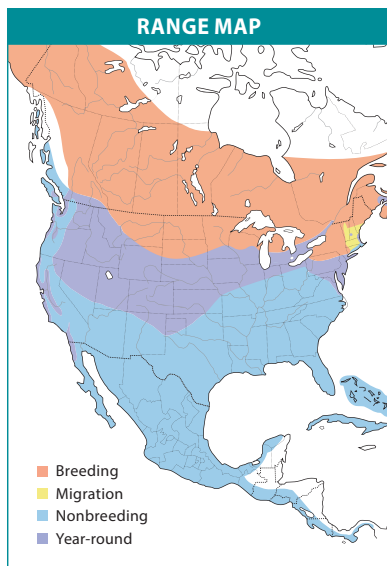
JUVENILE FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Northern Harriers are slender, medium-sized raptors with long, broad wings and a long, rounded tail. They have a flat, owl-like face and a small, sharply hooked bill. They often fly with their wings held in a V-shape.

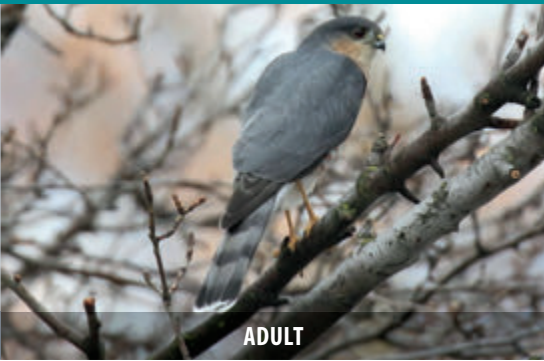
**COLOR PATTERN** Males are gray above and whitish below with black wingtips, a dark edge to the wing, and a black-banded tail. Females and immatures are brown, with black bands on the tail. For both sexes, a white rump patch is obvious in flight.

**BEHAVIOR** Northern Harriers fly low over the ground when hunting, weaving back and forth over fields and marshes as they watch and listen for small animals. They eat on the ground, and they perch on low posts or trees. On the breeding grounds, males perform elaborate flying barrel rolls to court females.

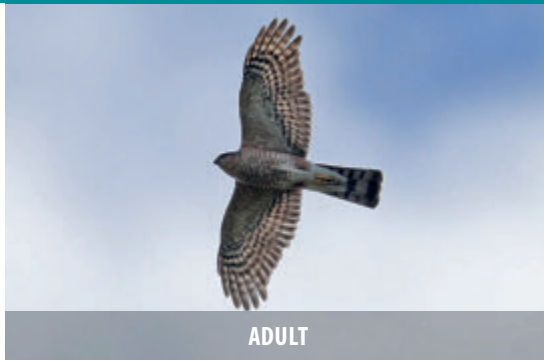
**HABITAT** Northern Harriers are found in open areas such as grasslands, marshes, and fields. They like undisturbed tracts with low, thick vegetation.



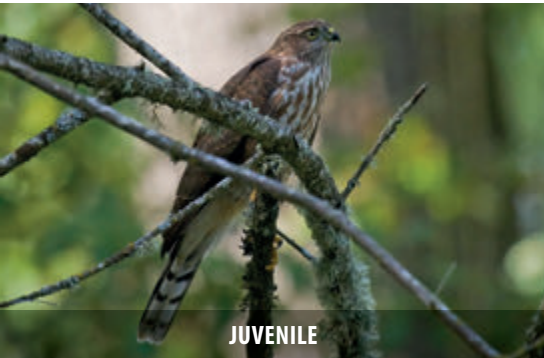
The **Northern Harrier** is distinctive from a distance: a slim, long-tailed hawk gliding low over a marsh or grassland, wings held in a V-shape. Its owlish face helps it hear mice and voles beneath the vegetation. Each male may mate with several females. These unusual raptors are found across much of North America.



ADULT



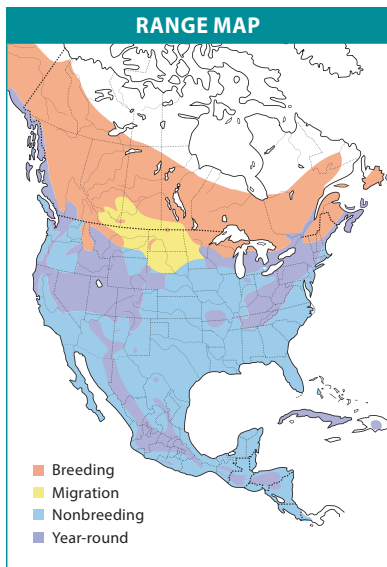
ADULT



JUVENILE



JUVENILE



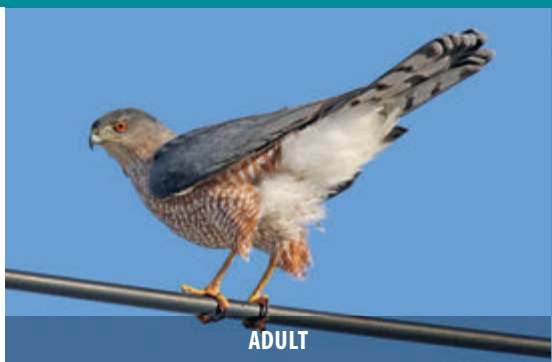
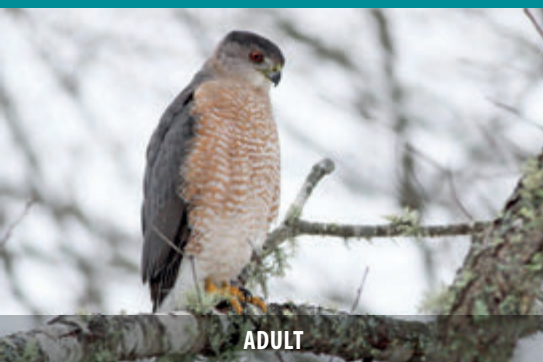
**SIZE & SHAPE** Sharp-shinned Hawks are small, pigeon-sized hawks with long, square-tipped tails and rounded wings. Their small, rounded heads do not always project beyond the “wrists” of the wings in flight. Females are considerably larger than males.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are slaty blue gray above, with dark hoods and narrow red-orange bars on the breast. Immature birds are mostly brown with coarse vertical streaks on white underparts. Adults and young have broad, dark bands across their long tails.

**BEHAVIOR** Sharp-shinned Hawks are agile fliers that speed through dense woods to surprise their prey, typically songbirds. They also pounce from low perches. When flying in the open, they have a flap-and-glide flight style.

**HABITAT** Sharp-shinned Hawks breed in deep forests. During migration, look for them in open habitats or high in the sky. During the nonbreeding season, they hunt small birds and mammals at forest edges and at bird feeders.

A tiny hawk that appears in a blur of motion—and often disappears in a flurry of feathers. That’s the **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, the smallest hawk in Canada and the United States and a daring, acrobatic flier. These raptors have distinctive proportions for flying in deep woods: long legs, short wings, and very long tails.

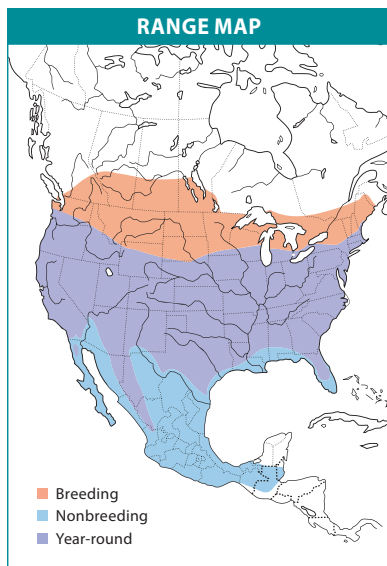


**SIZE & SHAPE** This is a medium-sized hawk with a slender body, vertical stance, rounded wingtips, and very long tail. In Cooper's Hawks, the head often appears large and square-shaped, the shoulders broad, and the tail tip rounded. Females are significantly larger than males.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are steely blue-gray above with warm reddish bars on the breast, a pale nape that contrasts with the dark cap, and thick, dark bands on the otherwise pale gray tail. Juveniles are brown above and crisply streaked with brown on the upper breast, giving them a somewhat hooded look compared with young Sharp-shinned Hawks' more diffuse streaking.

**BEHAVIOR** Cooper's Hawks fly with a flap-flap-glide pattern typical of the genus *Accipiter*. Even when crossing large open areas, they rarely flap continuously. They can also thread their way through tree branches at top speed.

**HABITAT** Cooper's Hawks are forest and woodland birds, but leafy suburbs are nearly as good. They are a regular sight in parks, quiet neighborhoods, over fields, and at backyard feeders.



**Cooper's Hawks** are common woodland hawks and skillful fliers that tear through cluttered tree canopies in pursuit of other birds. Similar to their smaller lookalike, the Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawks can be unwanted guests at bird feeders, looking for an easy meal (but not one of sunflower seeds).



ADULT



IMMATURE

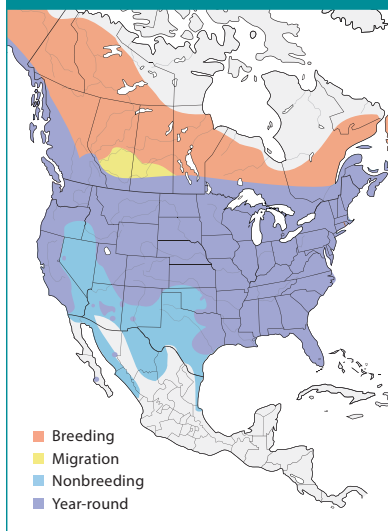


JUVENILE



JUVENILE

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Bald Eagle dwarfs most other raptors. It has a heavy body, large head, and long, hooked bill. In flight, a Bald Eagle holds its broad wings flat like a board.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults have white heads and tails with dark brown bodies and wings. Legs and bills are bright yellow. Immature birds have dark heads and tails and are mottled in white in varying amounts before they reach maturity at five years of age.

**BEHAVIOR** You'll find Bald Eagles soaring high in the sky, flapping low over treetops with slow wingbeats, perched in trees, or on the ground. They scavenge many meals by harassing other birds or by eating carrion or garbage. They eat mainly fish but also hunt mammals, gulls, and waterfowl.

**HABITAT** Look for Bald Eagles near lakes, reservoirs, rivers, marshes, and coasts. To see large Bald Eagle congregations, check out wildlife refuges or large bodies of water in winter over much of the continent, or fish processing plants and dumpsters year-round in the Pacific Northwest.

The **Bald Eagle** has been the U.S. national emblem since 1782 and a spiritual symbol for native people for far longer. Look for these regal birds soaring in solitude, chasing other birds for their food, or gathering in droves in winter. Once endangered by hunting and pesticides, Bald Eagles now thrive under protection.

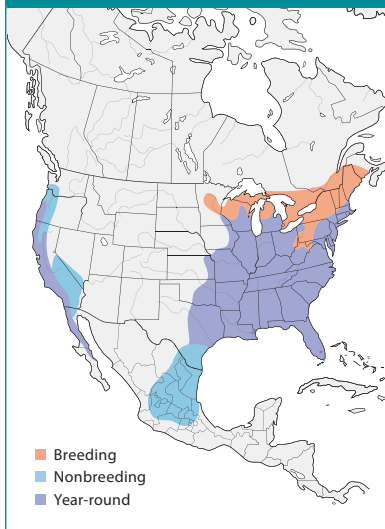
**ADULT (FLORIDA)****ADULT****JUVENILE****JUVENILE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** Red-shouldered Hawks are medium sized, with broad, rounded wings and medium-length tails that they fan when soaring. They glide or soar with their wingtips pushed slightly forward, giving them a distinctive “reaching” posture.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are colorful hawks with dark-and-white checkered wings and warm reddish barring on the breast. The tail is black with narrow white bands. Immatures are brown above and white, streaked with brown, below. All ages show narrow, pale crescents near the wingtips in flight. Florida birds have very pale, grayish heads.

**BEHAVIOR** Red-shouldered Hawks soar over forests or perch on tree branches or utility wires. Their whistled *kee-rah* is a distinctive sound of the forest. They hunt small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles from perches or in flight.

**HABITAT** Look for Red-shouldered Hawks in broadleaf woodlands, often near rivers and swamps. During migration, they often move high overhead along ridges or coastlines. They may be abundant at some hawk-watching overlooks.

**RANGE MAP**

Whether wheeling over a swamp forest or whistling from a riverine park, a **Red-shouldered Hawk** is a sign of tall woods and water. It's one of our most distinctively marked common hawks, with barred, reddish peach underparts and a strongly banded tail. They hunt prey ranging from mice to frogs and snakes.



ADULT



ADULT

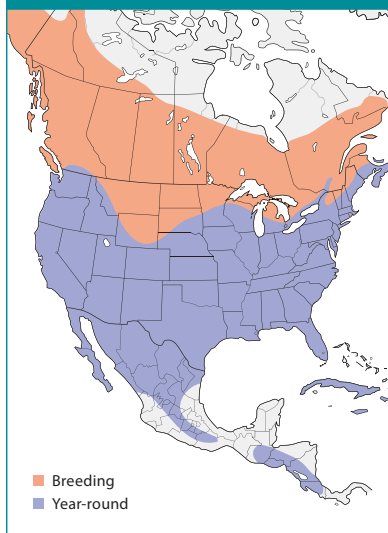


JUVENILE



JUVENILE

RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Red-tailed Hawks are fairly large and have proportions typical of the genus *Buteo*: very broad, rounded wings and a short, wide tail. Females seen from a distance might fool you into thinking you're seeing an eagle—until an actual eagle comes along.

**COLOR PATTERN** Red-tailed Hawks have extremely variable plumage, and some of this variation is regional. Most are rich brown above and pale below with a streaked belly. The tail is usually pale below and cinnamon red above, though in young birds it's brown and banded.

**BEHAVIOR** Red-tailed Hawks soar in wide circles high over a field. In high winds, they may hover without flapping, eyes fixed on the ground. Unlike a falcon's stoop, they attack in a slow, controlled dive with legs outstretched.

**HABITAT** The Red-tailed Hawk is a bird of open country. Look for it along fields and perched on telephone poles, fenceposts, or trees standing alone or along edges of fields.

Probably the most common hawk in North America, the **Red-tailed Hawk** soars above open fields, turning circles on its broad, rounded wings. Find it atop telephone poles, eyes fixed on the ground to catch prey movements, or simply waiting out cold weather before climbing a thermal updraft into the sky.



ADULT (GRAY)



ADULT (BROWN)



JUVENILE



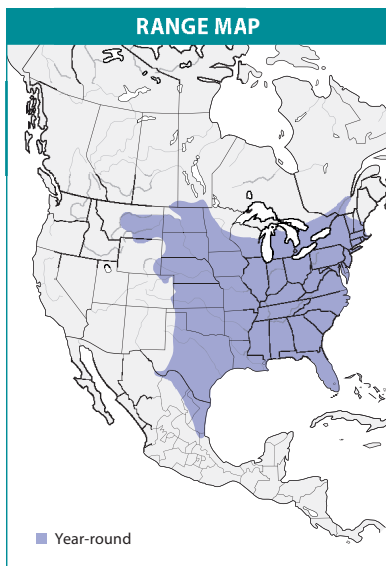
ADULT (RED)

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Eastern Screech-Owl is a short, stocky, pigeon-sized bird with a large head and almost no neck. Its wings are rounded; its tail is short and square. Pointed ear tufts are often raised, giving this owl a distinctive silhouette.

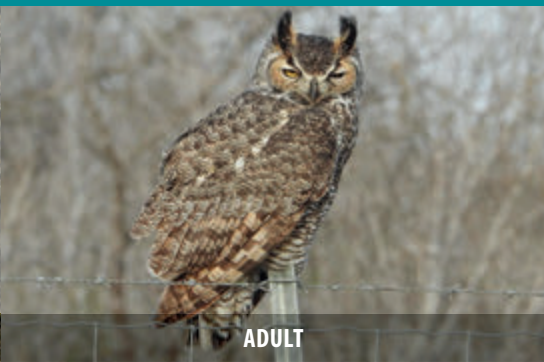
**COLOR PATTERN** Eastern Screech-Owls can be either mostly gray or mostly reddish brown. Whatever the overall color, they are patterned with complex bands and spots that give the bird excellent camouflage against tree bark. Eyes are yellow.

**BEHAVIOR** Eastern Screech-Owls are active at night and more often heard than seen. This cavity-roosting owl can be attracted to nest boxes or spotted in daylight at the entrance to its home in a tree cavity.

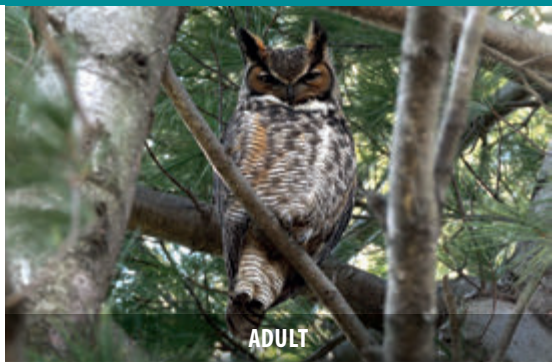
**HABITAT** Trees define the Eastern Screech-Owl's habitat. This owl is fairly common in most types of woods (coniferous or broadleaf; urban or rural), particularly near water. It shuns treeless expanses of mountains or plains.



The **Eastern Screech-Owl**, no bigger than a pint glass, is found wherever there are trees. It is quite willing to nest in backyard nest boxes. These camouflaged birds hide out in nooks and tree crannies in the day, so listen for their hollow trills and descending whinnies at night.



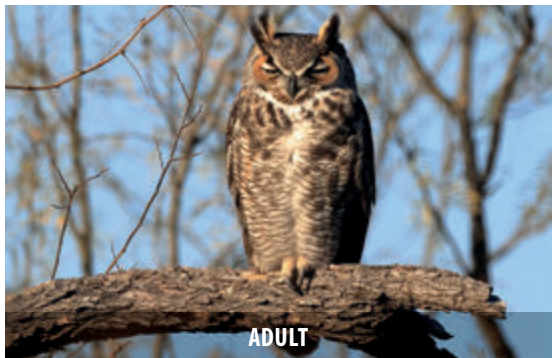
ADULT



ADULT



JUVENILE



ADULT



RANGE MAP

■ Year-round  
 ■ Year-round (scarce)

**SIZE & SHAPE** Great Horned Owls are large and thick-bodied with two prominent feathered tufts on the head. The wings are broad and rounded. In flight, the rounded face and short bill combine to create a blunt-headed appearance.

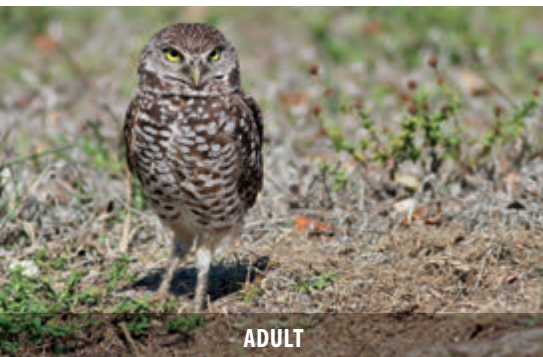
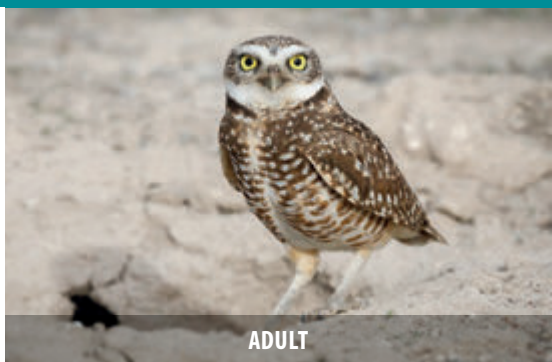
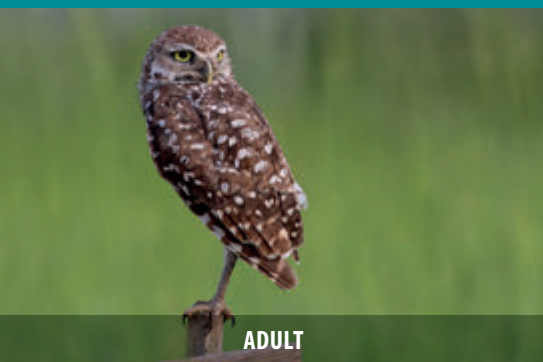
**COLOR PATTERN** Great Horned Owls are mottled grayish brown, with reddish brown faces and a neat white patch on the throat. Their overall color tone varies regionally from sooty to pale. The color of the facial disc also varies regionally from grayish to cinnamon.

**BEHAVIOR** You may see Great Horned Owls at dusk on fence posts or tree limbs at the edge of open areas, or flying across roads or fields with stiff, deep beats of their rounded wings. Their call is a stuttering series of mellow hoots.

**HABITAT** Look for this widespread owl in young woods interspersed with fields or other open areas. The broad range of habitats they use includes forests, swamps, desert, and tundra edges, as well as cities, suburbs, and parks.

With its long earlike tufts, yellow eyes, and deep hooting voice, the **Great Horned Owl** is the quintessential owl of storybooks. This powerful predator can take down birds and mammals larger than itself, but it also dines on daintier fare such as mice, and frogs. It's one of the most common owls in North America.



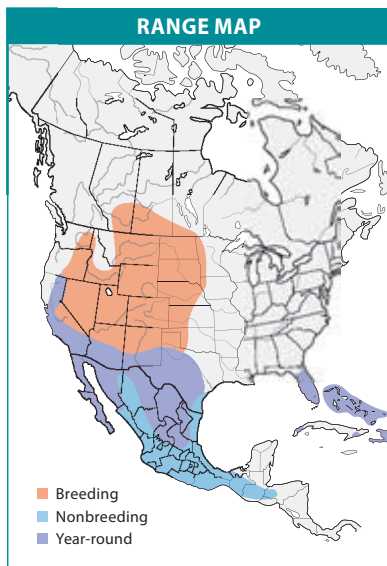


**SIZE & SHAPE** Burrowing Owls are small with long legs and short tails. The head is rounded and does not have ear tufts. It is about the same length/height as an American Robin but much bulkier.

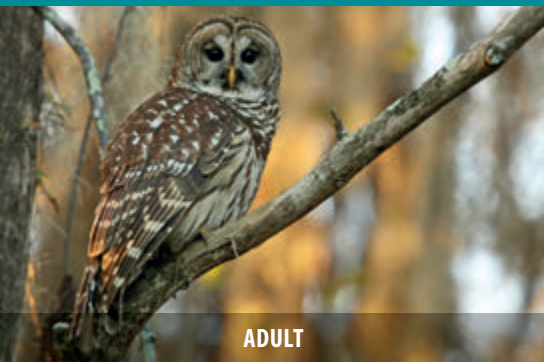
**COLOR PATTERN** Adult Burrowing Owls are brown birds mottled with white spots on the upperparts. The breast is spotted, grading to dark brown bars on the belly. They have a bold white throat and eyebrows, and yellow eyes. Juveniles are buffy and less patterned below.

**BEHAVIOR** Burrowing Owls spend most of their time on the ground or low perches. They hunt close to the ground catching insects and small animals. When alarmed, they jerk their bodies quickly up and down. They are active during the day.

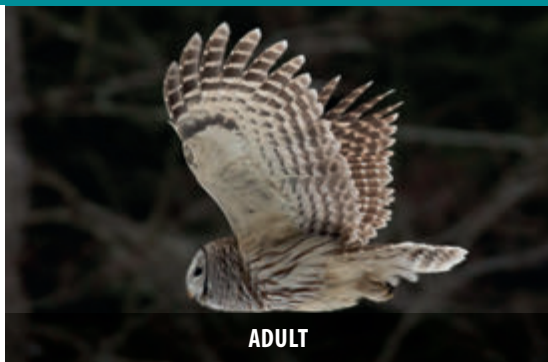
**HABITAT** Burrowing Owls live in open habitats with sparse vegetation such as prairies, pastures, desert or shrub-steppe, and airports. In parts of their range, they nest in the burrows of prairie dogs and ground squirrels.



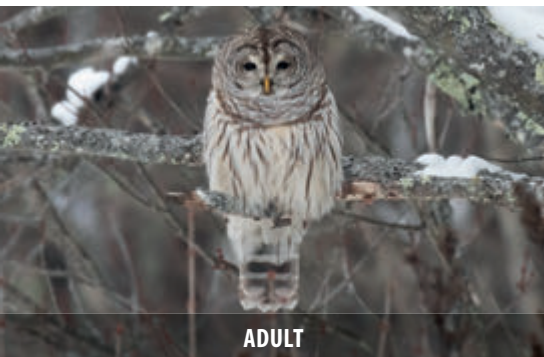
Owls are unmistakable, and that goes double for a long-legged owl that hunts on the ground during the day. Petite **Burrowing Owls** live underground in burrows they've dug themselves or taken over from a prairie dog or ground squirrel. Their numbers have declined sharply with human alteration of their habitat.



ADULT



ADULT

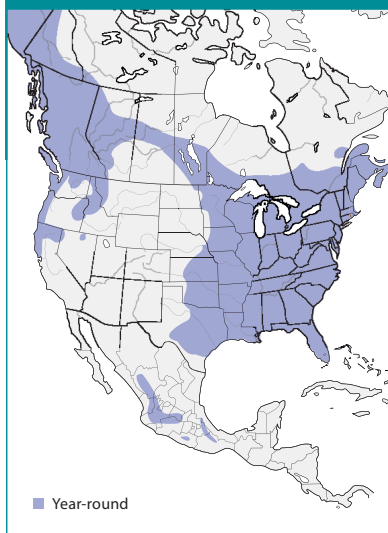


ADULT



JUVENILE

RANGE MAP



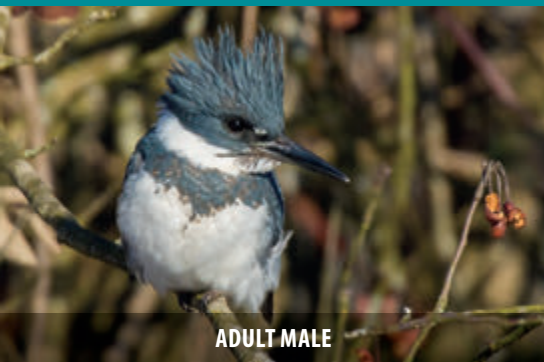
**SIZE & SHAPE** Barred Owls are large, stocky owls with rounded heads, no ear tufts, and medium-length, rounded tails.

**COLOR PATTERN** Barred Owls are mottled brown and white overall, with dark brown, almost black, eyes. The underparts are mostly marked with vertical brown bars on a white background, while the upper breast is crossed with horizontal brown bars. The wings and tail are barred brown and white.

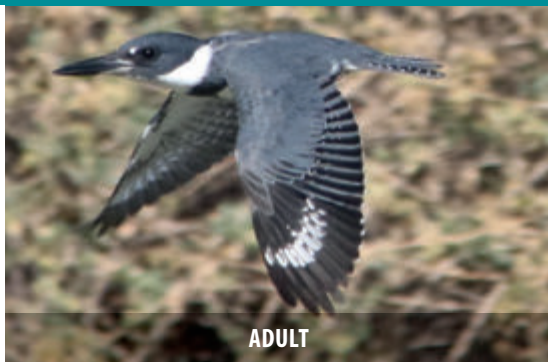
**BEHAVIOR** Barred Owls are mostly nocturnal and roost quietly in forest trees during the day. At night they hunt small animals, especially rodents, and give an instantly recognizable *Who cooks for you?* call.

**HABITAT** Barred Owls live in large, mature forests made up of both broadleaf trees and conifers, often near water. They nest in tree cavities. In the Northwest, Barred Owls have moved into old-growth coniferous forest, where they compete with the threatened Spotted Owl.

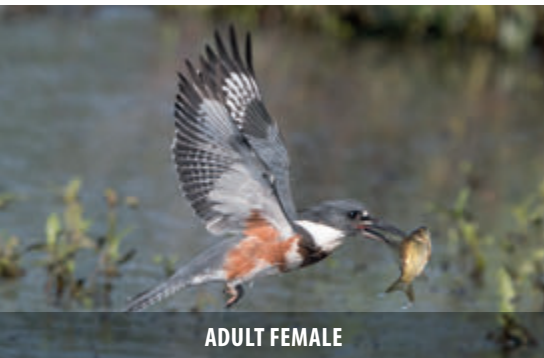
The **Barred Owl's** hooting call, *Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?*, is a classic sound of old forests and swamps. But this attractive owl, with soulful brown eyes and brown-and-white striped plumage, can pass completely unnoticed as it flies noiselessly through the dense canopy or snoozes on a tree limb.



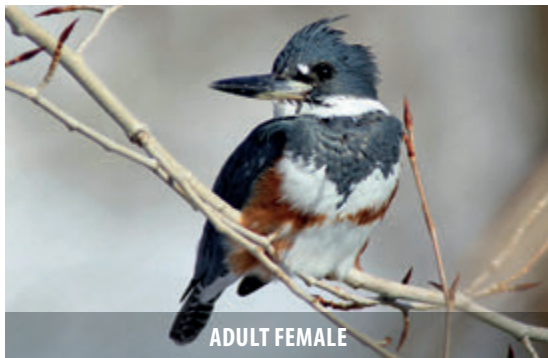
ADULT MALE



ADULT



ADULT FEMALE



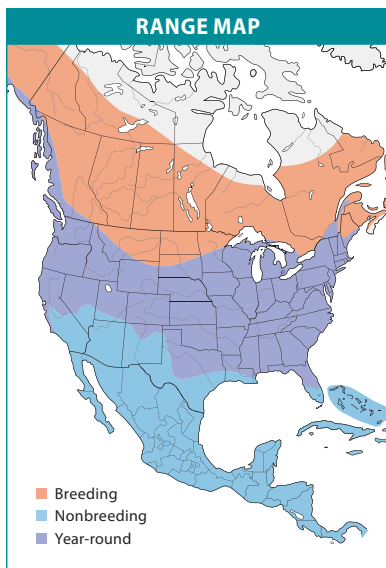
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Belted Kingfishers are stocky, large-headed birds with a shaggy crest on the top and back of the head and a straight, thick, pointed bill. Their legs are short and their tails are medium length and square-tipped.

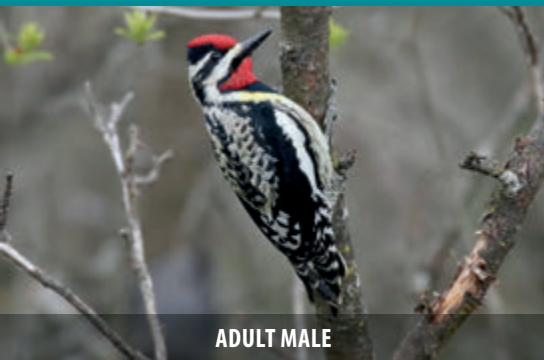
**COLOR PATTERN** These ragged-crested birds are a powdery blue gray with white spotting on the wings and tail. Males have one blue band across the white breast, while females also have a broad rusty band on their bellies. Juveniles show irregular rusty spotting in the breast band.

**BEHAVIOR** Belted Kingfishers often perch alone along the edges of streams, lakes, and estuaries, searching for small fish. They fly quickly up and down rivers and shorelines giving loud rattling calls. They hunt by plunging directly from a perch, or by hovering over the water, bill downward, before diving after a fish they've spotted.

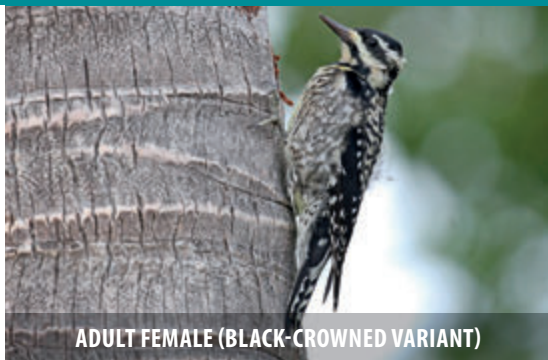
**HABITAT** Kingfishers live near streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and estuaries. They spend winters in areas where the water doesn't freeze so they have continual access to their aquatic foods.



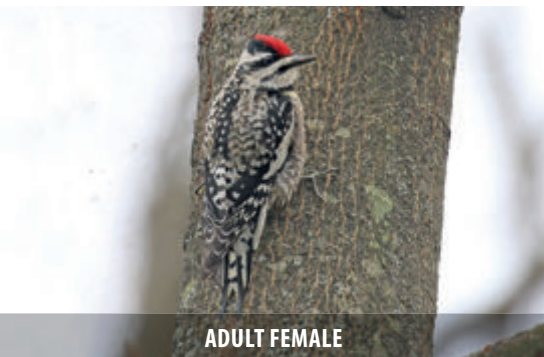
With its top-heavy physique, energetic flight, and piercing, rattled call, the **Belted Kingfisher** seems to have an air of self-importance as it patrols up and down rivers and shorelines. The Belted Kingfisher is one of the few bird species in which the female is more brightly colored than the male.



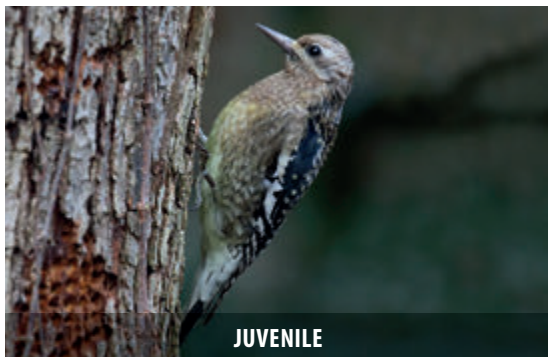
**ADULT MALE**



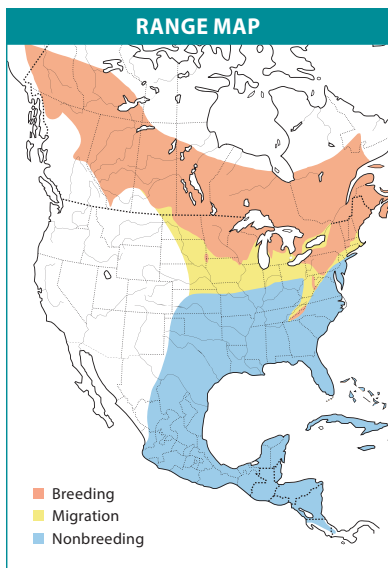
**ADULT FEMALE (BLACK-CROWNED VARIANT)**



**ADULT FEMALE**



**JUVENILE**



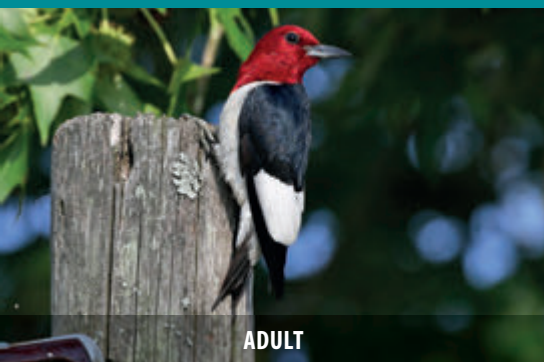
**SIZE & SHAPE** Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are fairly small with stout, straight bills. The long wings extend about halfway to the tip of the stiff, pointed tail at rest. They often hold their crown feathers up to form a peak at the back of the head.

**COLOR PATTERN** Both sexes are mostly black and white with red foreheads, but males also have red throats. Look for a white stripe along the folded wing and black-and-white face stripes, a black chest shield, and white or yellowish underparts. Occasionally, females have a black crown.

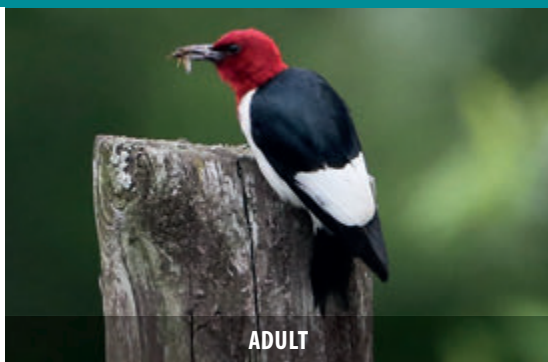
**BEHAVIOR** Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers perch upright, leaning on their tails like other woodpeckers. They feed at sap wells—neat rows of shallow holes they drill in tree bark—and drum on trees in a distinctive stuttering pattern. Listen for their loud mewing calls.

**HABITAT** Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers live in both hardwood and conifer forests. They often nest in groves of small trees such as aspens, and spend winters in open woodlands.

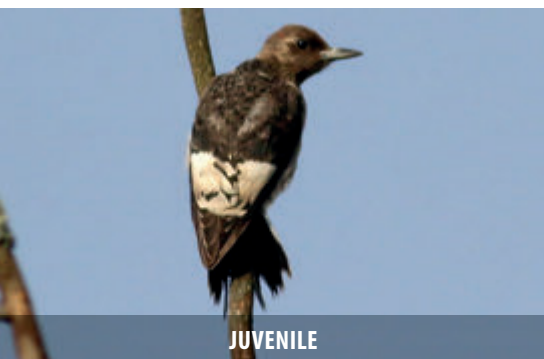
In forests, look for rows of shallow holes in tree bark. If you live in the East, this is the work of the **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, an enterprising woodpecker that laps up the leaking sap and any trapped insects with its specialized, brush-tipped tongue. They often sit still on tree trunks for long intervals while feeding.



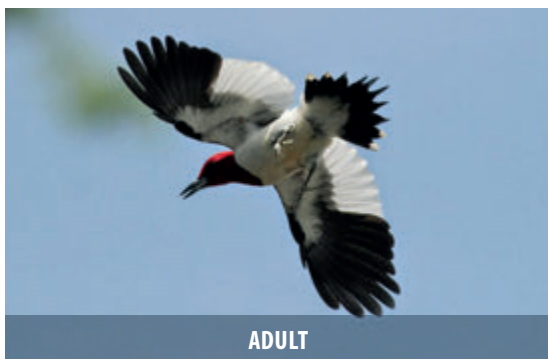
ADULT



ADULT



JUVENILE



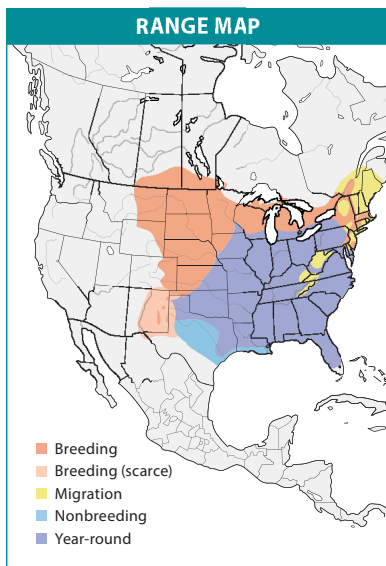
ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** Red-headed Woodpeckers are medium-sized woodpeckers with fairly large, rounded heads, short, stiff tails, and powerful, straight bills.

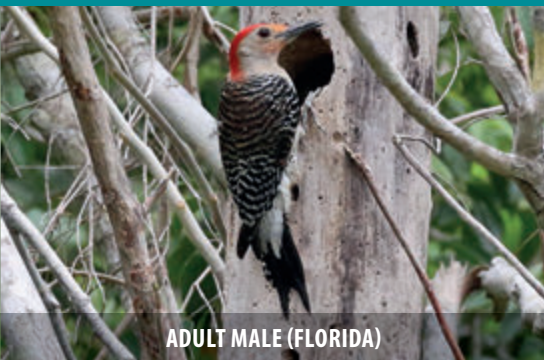
**COLOR PATTERN** Adults have bright red heads, white underparts, and black backs with large, white patches in the wings, making the lower back appear all white when perched. Juveniles have a brown head, a dingy belly, and a blackish brown back with white wing patches.

**BEHAVIOR** Red-headed Woodpeckers hammer into wood for insects, but also catch insects in flight and on the ground, and eat considerable amounts of fruit and seeds. Their raspy calls are shriller and scratchier than Red-bellied Woodpeckers.

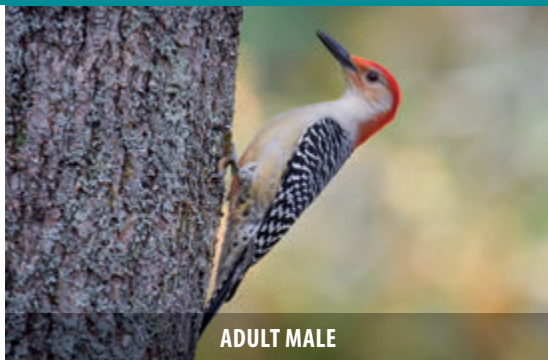
**HABITAT** Red-headed Woodpeckers live in pine and oak savannas and open forests with clear understories. They like pine plantations, tree rows in agricultural areas, standing timber in beaver swamps, and other wetlands.



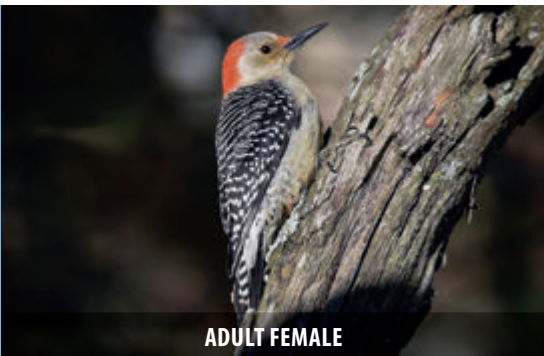
The **Red-headed Woodpecker's** bold pattern has earned it the description of a "flying checkerboard." They catch insects in the air and eat lots of acorns and beech nuts, often storing food in tree crevices for later. In the past half-century, habitat loss and changes in food supply have led to severe population decline.



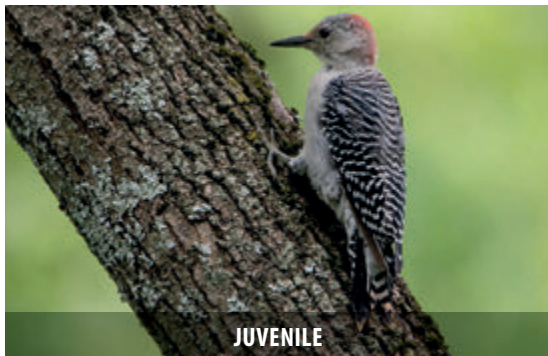
ADULT MALE (FLORIDA)



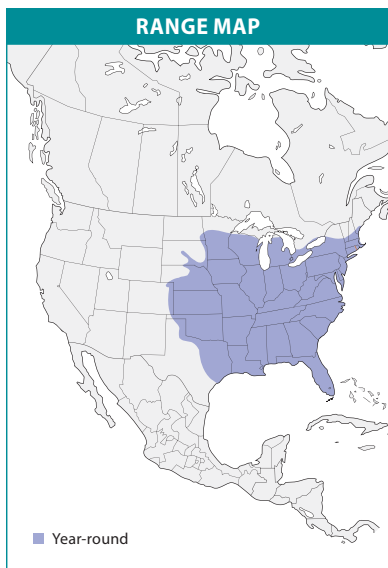
ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE



JUVENILE



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Red-bellied Woodpecker is a sleek, round-headed woodpecker, about the same size as a Hairy Woodpecker but without the blocky outlines.

**COLOR PATTERN** The Red-bellied Woodpecker may appear pale overall, even with a bold black-and-white barred back and flashy red forehead and nape. Females lack the male's red crown. Look for white patches near the wingtips. The red belly is subtle and hard to see. In Florida, the tail is mostly black, and adult males lack red on the forecrown.

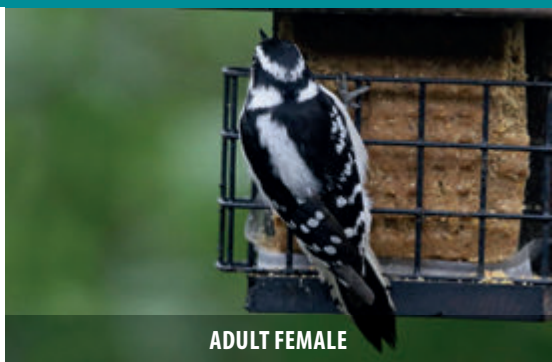
**BEHAVIOR** Look for Red-bellied Woodpeckers hitching along branches and trunks of medium to large trees, picking at the surface more often than drilling into it. Like most woodpeckers, they have an undulating flight pattern.

**HABITAT** Red-bellied Woodpeckers are common in many eastern woodlands and forests, from old stands of oak and hickory to young hardwoods and pines. They will also venture from forests to appear at backyard feeders.

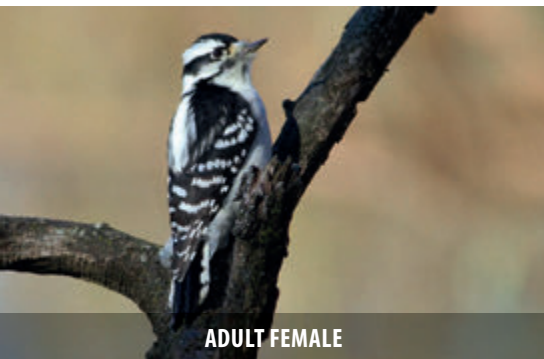
**Red-bellied Woodpeckers** are common in forests of the East. Their gleaming red napes make them an unforgettable sight; just resist the temptation to call them Red-headed Woodpeckers, a somewhat rarer species with a completely red head. Learn this bird's rolling call, and you'll notice them everywhere.



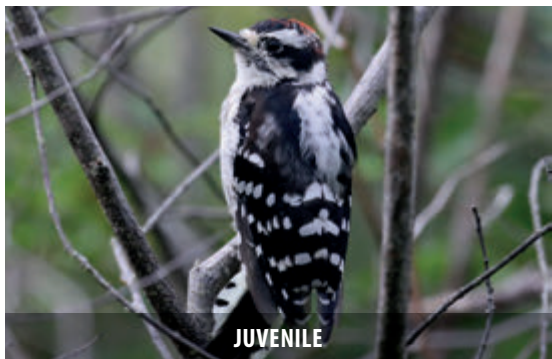
ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE



ADULT FEMALE



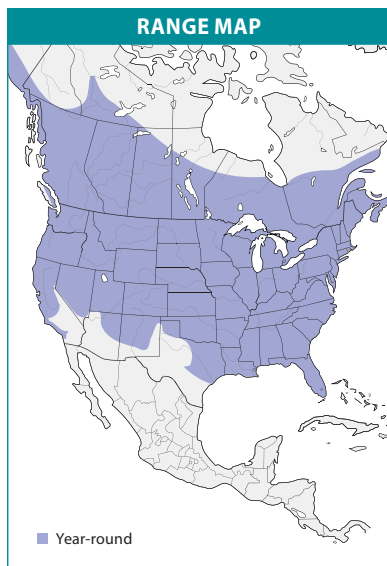
JUVENILE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The tiny, sparrow-sized Downy Woodpecker has a straight, chisel-like bill, blocky head, wide shoulders, and straight-backed posture as it leans away from tree limbs braced by its tail feathers. The bill is short for a woodpecker.

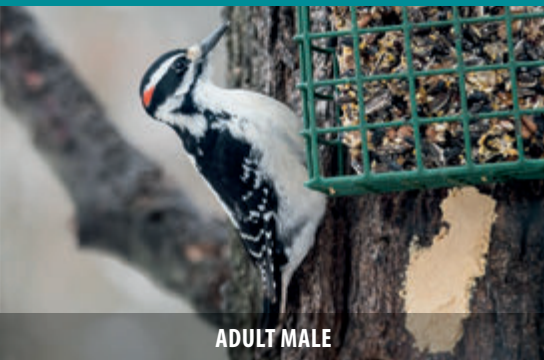
**COLOR PATTERN** Downy Woodpeckers have black upperparts checked with white on the wings, bold white stripes on the head, and the back has a broad white stripe down the center. Males have a small red patch on the head; it's on the nape in adults and on the crown in juveniles.

**BEHAVIOR** Downy Woodpeckers hitch around tree trunks and even small weed stalks, moving more acrobatically than larger woodpeckers. In spring and summer, they are noisy, making shrill whinnying calls and drumming on trees.

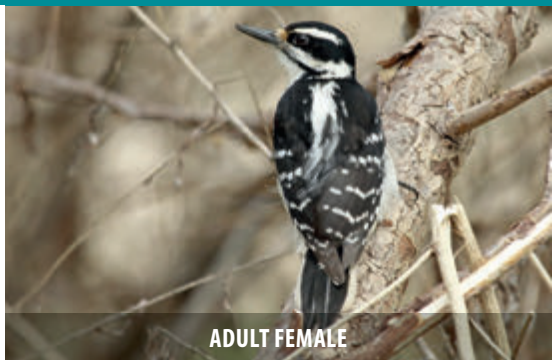
**HABITAT** You'll find Downy Woodpeckers in open woodlands, particularly among broadleaf trees, and brushy or weedy forest edges. They're also at home in orchards, city parks, backyards, and vacant lots.



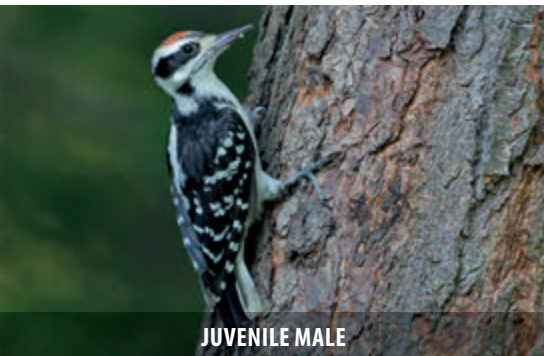
This active little black-and-white woodpecker, the **Downy Woodpecker**, is a familiar sight. An acrobatic forager, it's at home on tiny branches or balancing on seed balls and suet feeders. Downies and their larger lookalike, the Hairy Woodpecker, are one of the first ID challenges for beginner birdwatchers.



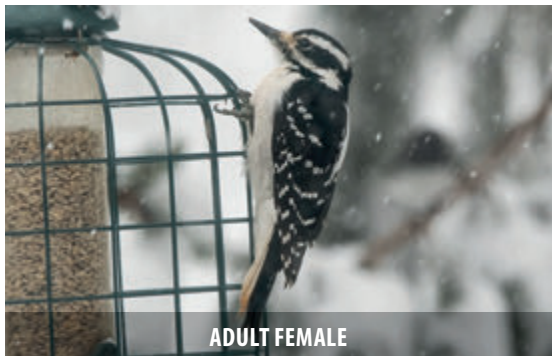
ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE

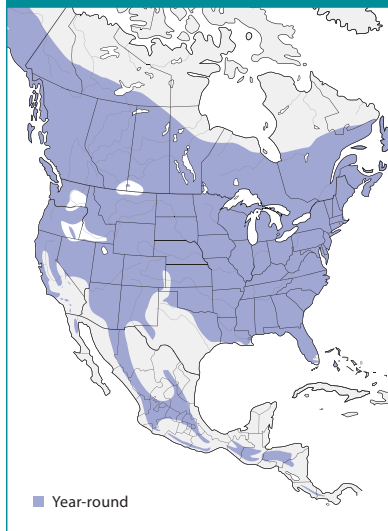


JUVENILE MALE



ADULT FEMALE

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Hairy Woodpecker is a medium-sized woodpecker with a fairly square head, a long, straight, chisel-like bill, and stiff, long tail feathers it braces against tree trunks. The bill is nearly the same length as the head. It is about the same size as the Red-bellied woodpecker.

**COLOR PATTERN** Hairy Woodpeckers have black wings that are checkered with white. The head has two white stripes and, in males, a bright red spot above the nape. The back is gleaming white between folded black-and-white wings. The white outer tail feathers are not barred with black. Immature males have red on the crown.

**BEHAVIOR** Hairy Woodpeckers hitch up tree trunks and along main branches. They sometimes feed at the bases of trees, along fallen logs, and, rarely, on the ground. They have the slowly undulating flight pattern of woodpeckers.

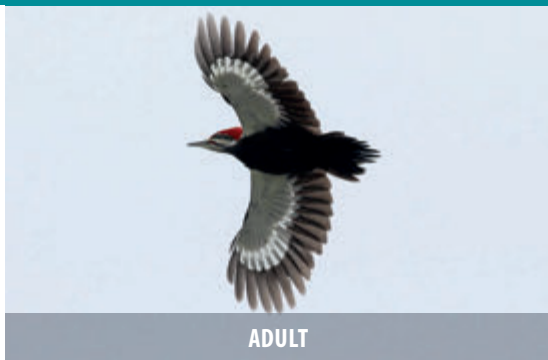
**HABITAT** You can find Hairy Woodpeckers in mature forests, woodlots, suburbs, parks, and cemeteries, as well as forest edges, open woodlands of oak and pine, recently burned forests, and stands infested by bark beetles.

The larger of two lookalikes, **Hairy Woodpeckers** are powerful, medium-sized birds that forage along trunks and branches of large trees. They have a much longer bill than the Downy Woodpecker's smaller thornlike bill, and have a soldierly look, with an erect, straight-backed posture on tree trunks and cleanly striped heads.

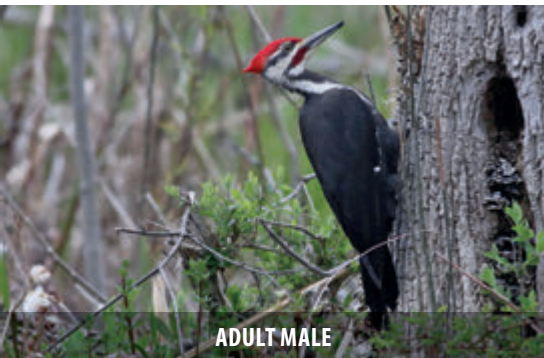




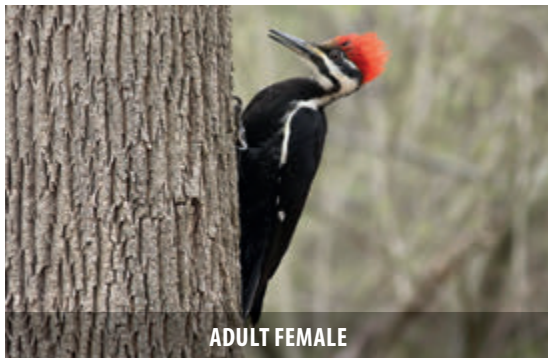
ADULT MALE AND IMMATURES



ADULT



ADULT MALE



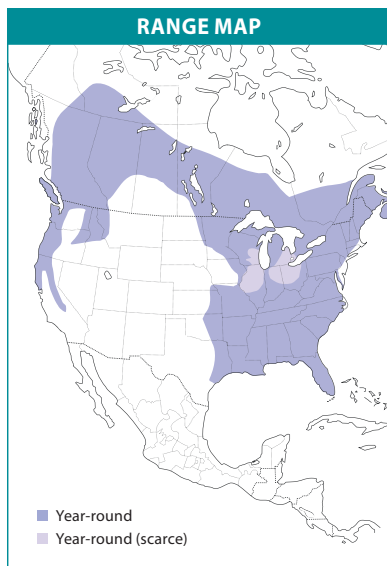
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Pileated Woodpecker is a very large woodpecker with a long neck and a triangular crest that sweeps off the back of the head. The bill is long and chisel-like and is about the length of the head. In flight, wings are broad.

**COLOR PATTERN** Pileated Woodpeckers are mostly black with white stripes on the face and neck and a flaming red crest. Males have a red stripe on the cheek. In flight, the bird reveals extensive white underwings and small white crescents on the upper side at the base of the primary feathers.

**BEHAVIOR** Pileated Woodpeckers drill distinctive rectangular-shaped holes in rotten wood to get at carpenter ants and other insects. They are loud birds with strident calls.

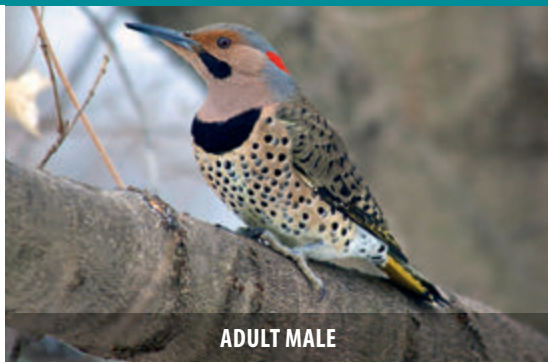
**HABITAT** Pileated Woodpeckers require forests with large, standing dead trees and downed wood. Such forests are often old, particularly in the West. In the East, they live in young forests as well and may be seen in wooded suburbs.



Black with a flaming red crest, the **Pileated Woodpecker** is one of the biggest, most striking forest birds on the continent. Look for them whacking at dead trees and fallen logs in search of carpenter ants, leaving unique rectangular holes in the wood. These holes are crucial shelters for birds and other animals of the forest.



ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE

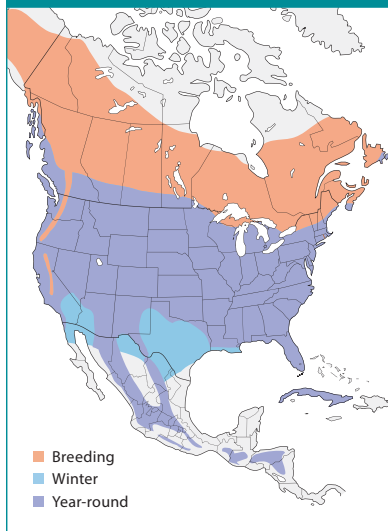


ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE

## RANGE MAP



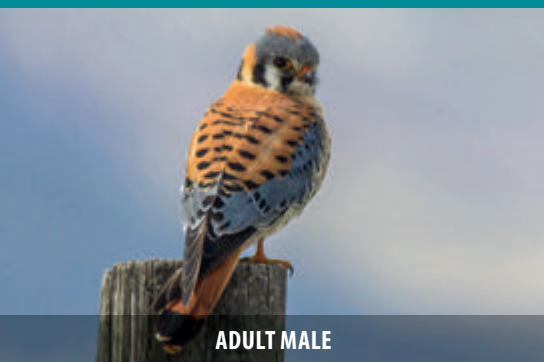
**SIZE & SHAPE** Flickers are fairly large woodpeckers with a slim, rounded head, long, slightly curved bill, and long, flared tail that tapers to a point.

**COLOR PATTERN** Flickers appear brownish overall with a white rump patch that's conspicuous in flight and often visible when perched. The undersides of the wing and tail feathers are bright yellow in eastern birds. Up close, the brown plumage is richly patterned with black spots, bars, and crescents. Males have a black mustache and a red patch on the nape. Females lack the mustache.

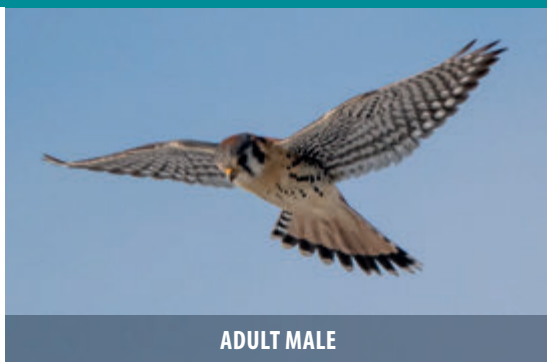
**BEHAVIOR** Unlike most woodpeckers, Northern Flickers spend lots of time on the ground. Ants and beetles are its main food, and the flicker often digs in the dirt to find them. When in trees, they usually perch upright on horizontal branches instead of leaning against their tails on a trunk.

**HABITAT** Look for Northern Flickers in woodlands, forest edges, and open fields with scattered trees, as well as city parks and suburbs. You can also find them in wet areas such as flooded swamps and marsh edges.

**Northern Flickers** are large, brown woodpeckers with a gentle expression and handsome black-scalloped plumage. On walks, don't be surprised if you scare one up from the ground. It's not where you'd expect to find a woodpecker, but flickers eat ants and beetles, digging for them with their slightly curved bill.



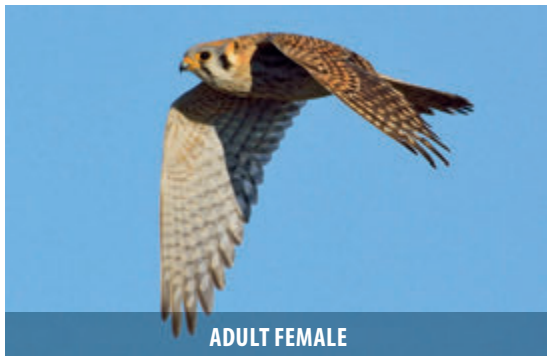
ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE



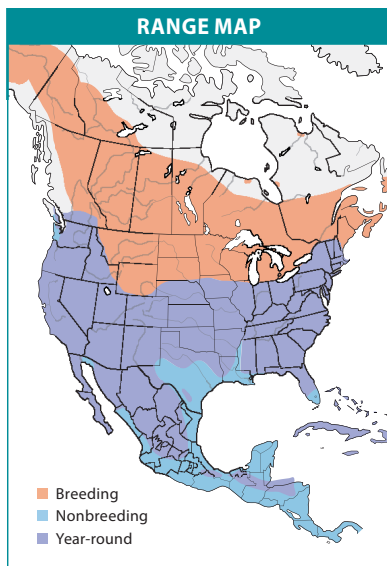
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The slender American Kestrel is roughly the size and shape of a Mourning Dove, although it has a larger head; longer, narrow wings; and a long, square-tipped tail. In flight, the wings are often bent and the wingtips swept back.

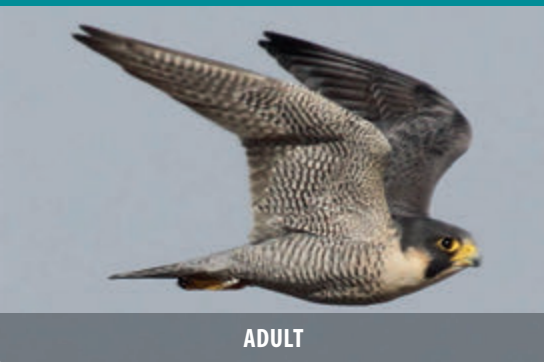
**COLOR PATTERN** American Kestrels are pale when seen from below and a warm, rusty brown, spotted with black, above. The tail has a black band near the tip. Males have slate-blue wings; females' wings are reddish brown. Both sexes have pairs of black vertical slashes on the sides of their pale faces—sometimes called “mustaches” or “sideburns.”

**BEHAVIOR** American Kestrels snatch their victims from the ground, though some catch quarry on the wing. They are gracefully buoyant in flight and small enough to get tossed around in the wind. When perched, kestrels often pump their tails as if they are trying to balance.

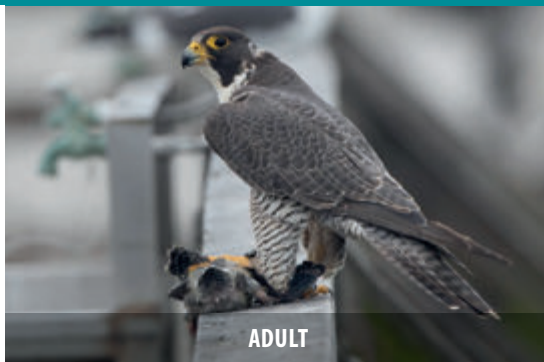
**HABITAT** You'll find kestrels in habitats ranging from deserts and grasslands to alpine meadows. You're most likely to see them perching on telephone wires along roadsides in open country with short vegetation and few trees.



The **American Kestrel**, North America's smallest falcon, packs a predator's fierce intensity into its small body. They hunt for insects and small prey in open territory, perch on wires, or hover in the wind, flapping and adjusting their long tails to stay in place. Kestrels are declining; you can help them by putting up nest boxes.



ADULT



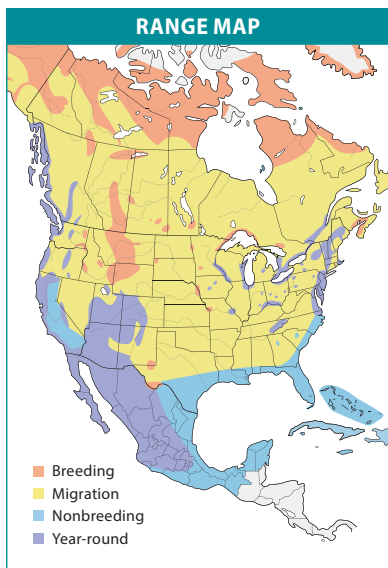
ADULT



JUVENILE



JUVENILE



**SIZE & SHAPE** The largest falcon over most of the continent, the Peregrine Falcon has long, pointed wings and a long tail. The bill is strongly hooked. Males are smaller than females, so size can overlap with large female Merlins or small male Gyrfalcons.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults are dark gray above with a blackish helmet and yellow eyering. The cere (a fleshy covering at the base of the upper bill) is also vivid yellow. Pale whitish underparts have fine, dark barring. Juveniles are heavily marked, with vertical streaks on the breast, and a gray bill. They lack the yellow eyering and cere.

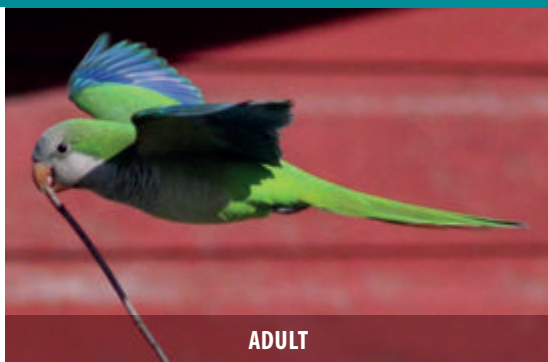
**BEHAVIOR** Peregrine Falcons catch medium-sized birds in the air with swift, spectacular dives, called stoops. In cities, they are masterful at catching pigeons. Elsewhere, they feed especially on shorebirds and ducks. They often sit on high perches, waiting for the right opportunity to make their aerial assault.

**HABITAT** If a mudflat full of shorebirds suddenly erupts, scan the skies for a Peregrine Falcon. Also, look on skyscrapers, cliffs, and other tall structures. They are seen all over North America but are more common along coasts.

Powerful and fast flying, the **Peregrine Falcon** drops down on prey from high above in a spectacular stoop. Virtually eradicated from eastern North America by pesticide poisoning in the middle 20th century, they are now thriving in many large cities and coastal areas thanks to recovery efforts.



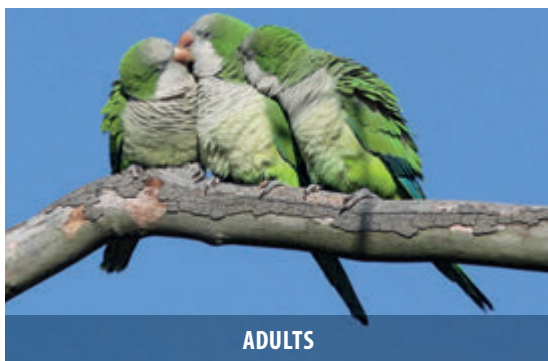
ADULT



ADULT



ADULT



ADULTS

**SIZE & SHAPE** Monk Parakeets are small with a long, pointed tail and fairly narrow, pointed wings. Like other parakeets, they have large heads and large, hooked bills. They are larger than a European Starling, smaller than a Rock Pigeon.

**COLOR PATTERN** Monk Parakeets are green with a gray face and breast. The bill is a pale peachy color. In flight, the wings' primary and outer secondary flight feathers flash blue.

**BEHAVIOR** These noisy birds are often seen and heard traveling between their nests and feeding sites. Adults forage for seeds, nuts, fruits, and greens. Look for them in small flocks in trees, where they can be hard to pick out against the green leaves. They sometimes also feed on the ground.

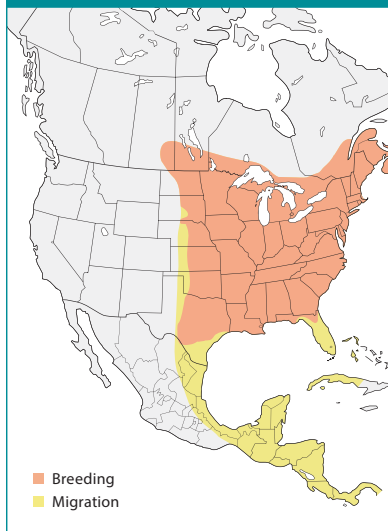
**HABITAT** In their native South America, Monk Parakeets live in dry, open habitats. In the U.S., they live in urban and suburban settings, where they feed on ornamental fruit trees and often nest on human structures such as power transformers.



The noisy, green-and-gray **Monk Parakeet**, native to South America but popular in the pet trade, formed wild populations in U.S. cities in the 1960s. They nest communally, living together year-round in multifamily stick nests in trees and on power poles; these large communal nests may help in surviving the cold northern winters.



## RANGE MAP



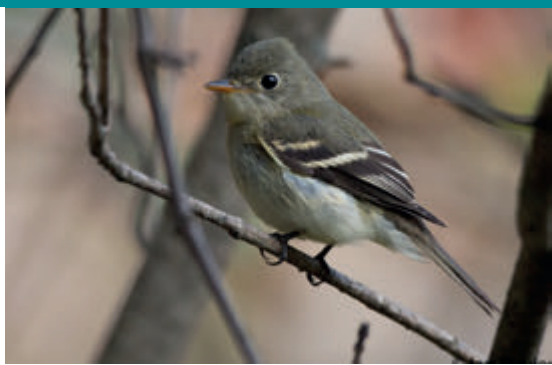
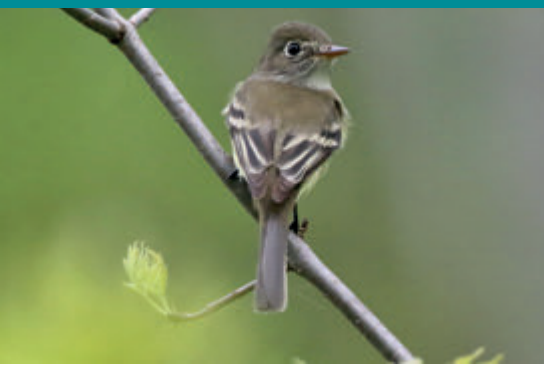
**SIZE & SHAPE** Eastern Wood-Pewees are medium-sized flycatchers with long wings and tails. Like other pewee species, they have short legs, an upright posture, and a peaked crown that tends to give the head a triangular shape. Their long wings are an important clue to separate them from *Empidonax* flycatcher species.

**COLOR PATTERN** Eastern Wood-Pewees are olive gray with dark wings and little or no yellow on the underparts. The sides of the breast are dark with an off-white throat and belly, giving them a vested look. They have little or no eyering. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Eastern Wood-Pewees are sit-and-wait predators that fly out from perches after insects and return to the same or a nearby perch. They often perch high in trees in exposed places with good viewpoints.

**HABITAT** Eastern Wood-Pewees are most common in broadleaf forest, but they breed in nearly any forested habitat, even smaller woodlots, as long as it is fairly open. On migration, they can occur in nearly any spot with trees.

The **Eastern Wood-Pewee** is inconspicuous until it gives its unmistakable slurred *pee-a-wee!* song, a characteristic sound of summers in the East. The Eastern Wood-Pewee's lichen-covered nest is so inconspicuous that it often looks like a knot on a branch.

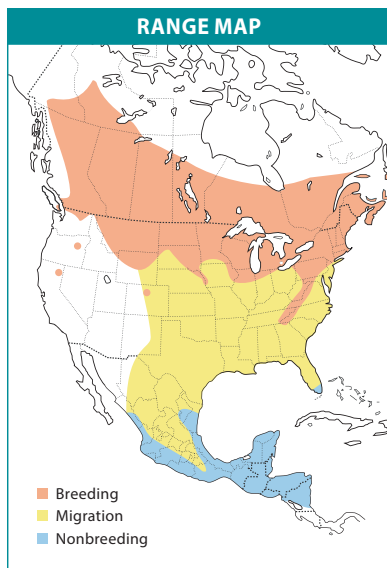


**SIZE & SHAPE** Least Flycatchers are the smallest *Empidonax* flycatchers in the East. They tend to perch upright, but they appear a little more compact than most. The head is proportionately large and is round to square in shape. Note their short wings.

**COLOR PATTERN** Least Flycatchers are grayish olive above with a dusky breast. Their head is grayish olive as well, with a bold, white eyering. They have a very faint yellow wash to the belly and two white wingbars. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Least Flycatchers congregate in clusters in broadleaf forests during the breeding season. They sing incessantly in summer, tossing their head back with each chebec. They flit from perch to perch on dead branches in the middle to upper level of the forest canopy.

**HABITAT** These birds breed in broadleaf and mixed forests of all ages, including second-growth and mature forests. These forests tend to have a few shrubs or small saplings in the understory and a well-developed canopy.



**Least Flycatchers** are fairly easy to identify due to their small size, white eyering, and *chebec* song. In summer, look for them singing in broadleaf forests. These little birds don't let others push them around and may chase species as large as Blue Jays. Over half of their population has been lost since 1970.



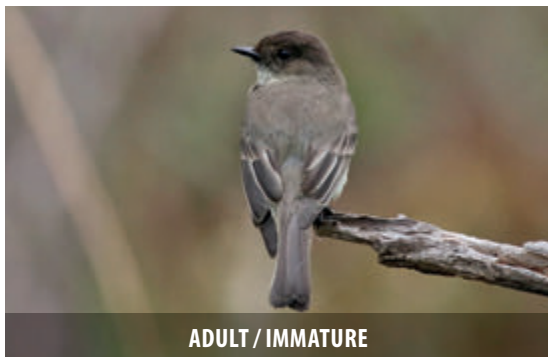
ADULT / IMMATURE



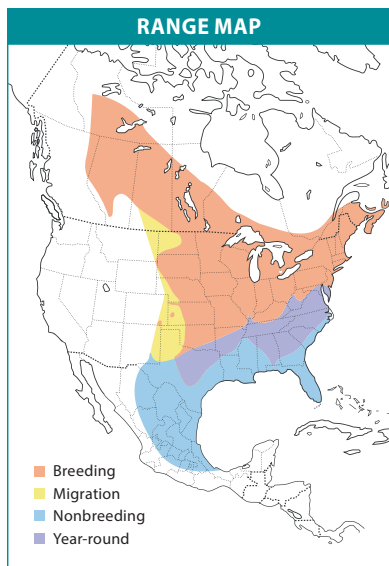
ADULT / IMMATURE



JUVENILE



ADULT / IMMATURE



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Eastern Phoebe is a plump flycatcher with a long tail and short wings. The head appears large for its size and can look flat, but the crown feathers may be raised into a peak. Short, wide bills are useful for snatching insects on the wing.

**COLOR PATTERN** The Eastern Phoebe is brownish gray above and off-white below, with a dusky wash to the sides of the breast and a darker head. Birds in fresh fall plumage show faint yellow on the belly and whitish edging on wing feathers. Juveniles resemble adults but may have cinnamon wingbars.

**BEHAVIOR** The Eastern Phoebe perches low in trees or on fence lines. They are very active, making short flights to capture insects, often returning to the same perch. They make sharp *peep* calls in addition to their familiar *phoebe* vocalizations. When perched, Eastern Phoebes wag their tails down and up frequently.

**HABITAT** These birds favor open woods such as yards, parks, woodlands, and woodland edges. Phoebes usually breed around buildings or bridges, constructing their nests under the protection of an eave or ledge.

Listen for the **Eastern Phoebe's** raspy *phoebe* song around yards and farms in spring and summer. Their mud-and-grass nests can be found in nooks on bridges, barns, and houses, adding to the species' familiarity to humans. They winter farther north than most other flycatchers and return north early in spring.

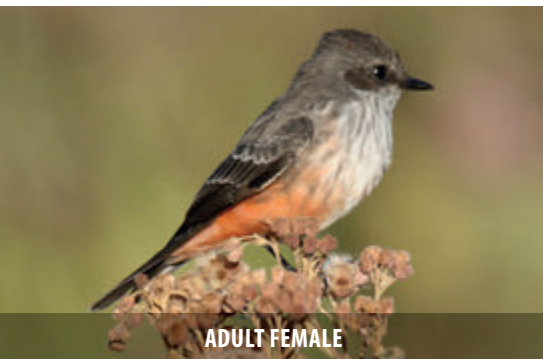




ADULT MALE



IMMATURE MALE (FIRST YEAR)



ADULT FEMALE



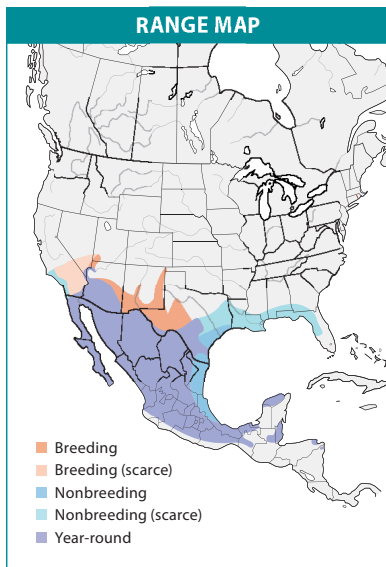
IMMATURE FEMALE (FIRST YEAR)

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Vermilion Flycatcher is a small compact flycatcher with a short tail.

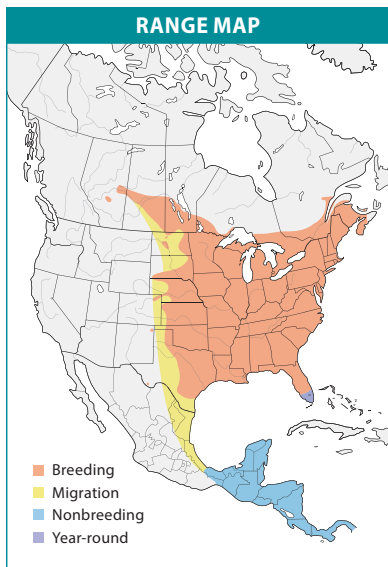
**COLOR PATTERN** Adult male Vermilion Flycatchers are a brilliant red or red orange and blackish brown. Immature males have variable patches of red feathers on the head and breast. Females are dark grayish brown above, with white near the throat becoming pale salmon or orangish under the tail. Breast, sides, and flanks are streaked with grayish brown. Immature females are duller than adults with a yellow or peachy belly and streaked breast.

**BEHAVIOR** During breeding season, males display high above the canopy, puffing up and singing in flight. They may also deliver a butterfly or other insect to the female. These birds sit low on exposed perches, scanning for insects, which they often take on the wing.

**HABITAT** Look for Vermilion Flycatchers in open habitats, including scrub, deserts, weedy fields, cultivated lands, mowed parks, and riparian woodlands.



A feathered ember in a desert landscape, the male **Vermilion Flycatcher** is exactly what its name says: a brilliant red bird that hawks flying insects from conspicuous perches on shrub tops and fences. Watch for the male's high, fluttering flight display and listen for his twittering display song.



**SIZE & SHAPE** Great Crested Flycatchers are large flycatchers with fairly long and lean proportions. They have a large head, broad shoulders, and a fairly long tail. The crest is not especially prominent. The bill is fairly wide at the base and straight.

**COLOR PATTERN** Great Crested Flycatchers are reddish brown above, with a brownish gray head, gray throat and breast, and bright lemon-yellow belly. Brown upperparts are highlighted by rufous-orange flashes in the primaries and in the tail feathers. Adult and immature birds look alike.

**BEHAVIOR** Great Crested Flycatchers fly out from high perches near the top of a tree after large insects, returning to the same or a nearby perch. Their clear, rising *reep!* calls are a very common sound in summer.

**HABITAT** Great Crested Flycatchers nest in open woodlands and forest edges with dead and dying trees. They tolerate humans and sometimes choose old orchards and woody urban areas such as parks, cemeteries, and golf courses.

Common in eastern woodlands, the **Great Crested Flycatcher** hunts high in the canopy, giving an emphatic rising whistle. They swoop after flying insects and may crash into foliage in pursuit of leaf-crawling prey. The only eastern flycatchers that nest in cavities, they sometimes make use of nest boxes.



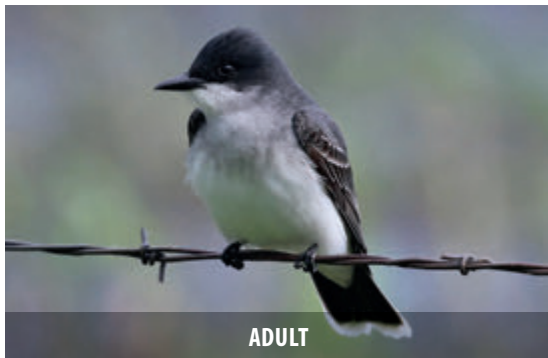
ADULT



ADULT



JUVENILE



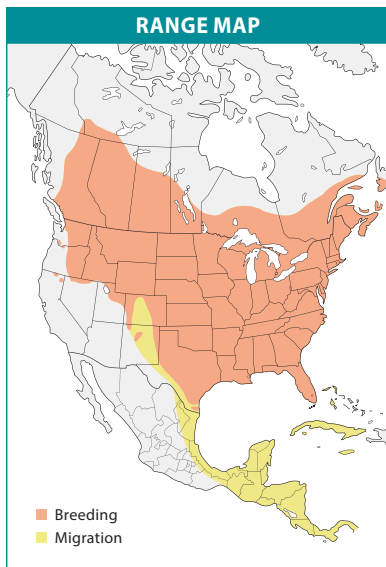
ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Eastern Kingbird is a large, sturdy flycatcher with a large head, upright posture, square-tipped tail, and a relatively short, wide, straight bill.

**COLOR PATTERN** Eastern Kingbirds are blackish above and white below, with a darker head than the wings and back. The black tail has a white tip. Look for red feathers on the crown of an agitated male, though he usually keeps these hidden.

**BEHAVIOR** Eastern Kingbirds often perch in the open atop trees or along utility lines or fences. They fly with very shallow, rowing wingbeats and a raised head, usually accompanied by metallic, sputtering calls. Eastern Kingbirds are visual hunters, flying out from perches to snatch flying insects.

**HABITAT** Eastern Kingbirds breed in open habitats such as yards, fields, pastures, grasslands, or wetlands, and are especially abundant in open places along forest edges or water. They spend winters in forests of South America.



With dark-gray upperparts and a neat white tip to the tail, the **Eastern Kingbird** looks like it's wearing a business suit. And this big-headed, broad-shouldered bird does mean business—just watch one harassing crows, Red-tailed Hawks, Great Blue Herons, and other birds that pass over its territory.



ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE

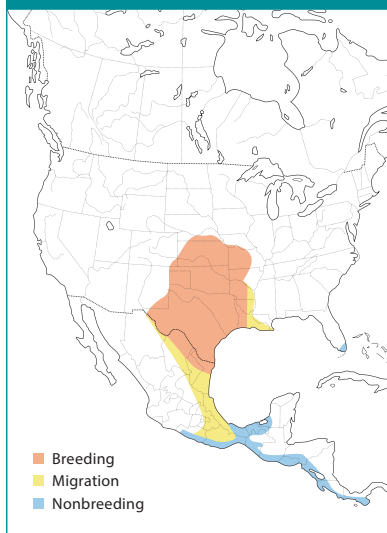


ADULT FEMALE



ADULT / JUVENILE

## RANGE MAP



- Breeding
- Migration
- Nonbreeding

**SIZE & SHAPE** Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are slender and stout-billed with very long, stiff, deeply forked tails. Adult males have longer tail feathers than females and immatures. It is smaller and more slender than an American Robin.

**COLOR PATTERN** These are pale gray birds with blackish wings and black tails with white edges. Adults have salmon-pink flanks that extend to underwing patches. Males are more intensely colored than females, and their tails are longer.

**BEHAVIOR** These birds perch on utility lines, treetops, and fences to watch for insect prey. They are agile fliers, thanks to their long tails. They are highly territorial, and will chase other birds out of their territories accompanied by loud, squeaky calls.

**HABITAT** Scissor-tailed Flycatchers breed in open habitats in the southern Great Plains and south Texas, especially around scattered trees or utility lines. They tolerate human presence well and frequently breed in towns.

An elegant gray-and-salmon-pink flycatcher festooned with an absurdly long tail, the **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** is the bird to look for on fence wires in the south-central United States. Their long, forked tails prove useful as they expertly catch insects on the wing with sharp midair twists and turns.



**ADULT**



**ADULT**



**JUVENILE**



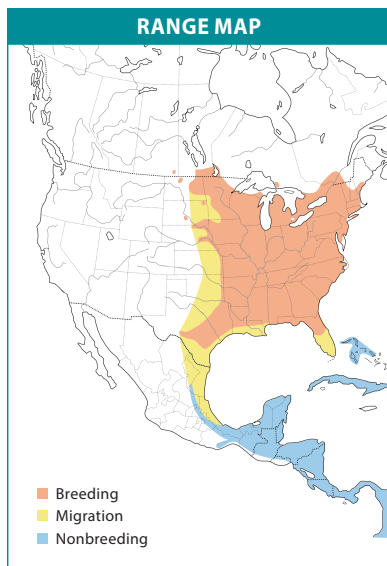
**ADULT**

**SIZE & SHAPE** Yellow-throated Vireos are small songbirds, but they are chunky, with a big head, thick bill, and short tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** Male and female Yellow-throated Vireos look as if they are wearing bright-yellow spectacles on their olive-green heads. The throat and chest match the spectacles, but the lower belly is bright white. Two white bars mark the gray wings.

**BEHAVIOR** Yellow-throated Vireos forage in middle and upper stories of forests, gleaning insects off trunks, branches, and leaves. They tend to forage in the interior parts of trees, particularly on bare branches. They move slowly from place to place and search for a relatively long time from one spot.

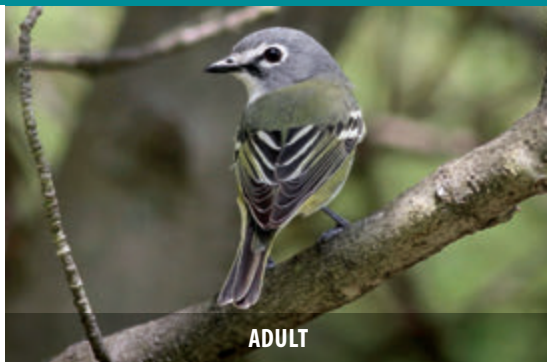
**HABITAT** Yellow-throated Vireos breed in broadleaf forests and prefer forest edges with an open understory. They winter in a range of habitats, from dry tropical forest to rainforest up to 6,000 feet elevation.



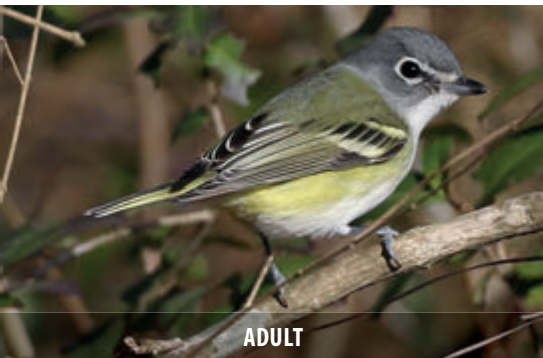
The **Yellow-throated Vireo's** bright throat and bespectacled eyes make it one of the most colorful members of its family. Hopping through the broadleaf forest canopy, it picks insects off branches and twigs. Males sing a burry *three-eight* throughout the day, joined by chattering females during aggressive encounters.



ADULT



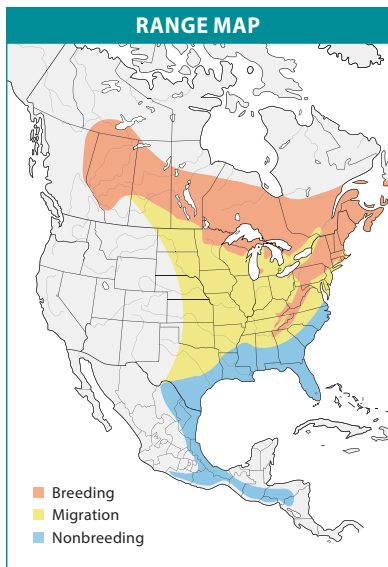
ADULT



ADULT



ADULT



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Blue-headed Vireo is a stocky, small songbird with medium-length tail and fairly heavy, hooked bill and thick legs (compared to warblers). It is larger than a Carolina Chickadee, smaller than a Tufted Titmouse.

**COLOR PATTERN** A moss-green bird with a blue-gray head and white underparts. The face is set off by clean white spectacles and throat. The tail and wings are blackish, with two white wingbars.

**BEHAVIOR** Blue-headed Vireos forage at middle heights in mature trees, where they move slowly from branch to branch, searching for insects. They tilt their heads to look carefully in all directions, then pounce on a caterpillar or other prey.

**HABITAT** Blue-headed Vireos breed in mature boreal and montane forests of many types; migrants and wintering birds can be found in almost any forested setting but especially those with some understory plants.

The **Blue-headed Vireo** offers a pleasing palette of moss green, bluish gray, and greenish yellow, set off by bold white spectacles, throat, and belly. Males sing a slow, cheerful carol, often the first indication of the species' presence in a forest.

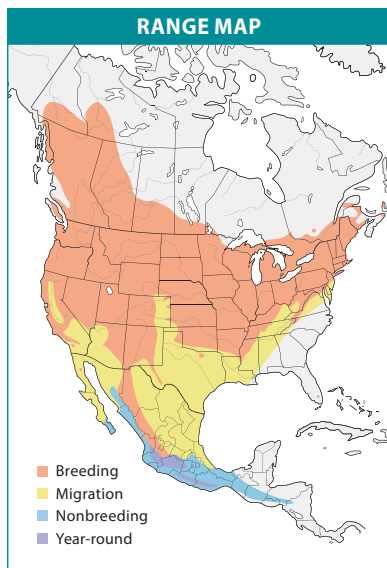


**SIZE & SHAPE** Warbling Vireos are small, chunky songbirds with thick, straight, slightly hooked bills. They are medium-sized for vireos, with a fairly round head and medium-length bill and tail.

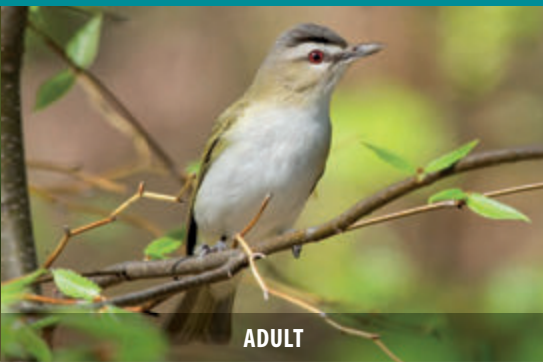
**COLOR PATTERN** These birds are grayish olive above and whitish below, washed on the sides and vent with yellow. They have a dark line through the eye and a white line over the eye. The space between the eye and the bill is usually white. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Warbling Vireos forage sluggishly, intently peering at leaf surfaces from a single perch before pouncing or moving on. They eat mostly caterpillars. They give their loud, rollicking, finchlike song frequently on summer territories.

**HABITAT** Open, broadleaf woodlands, forest edges, and riverside woodlands are the preferred habitats of Warbling Vireos throughout the year, though they also use some mixed coniferous-broadleaf habitats. Even on migration, they typically occur in areas with taller trees.



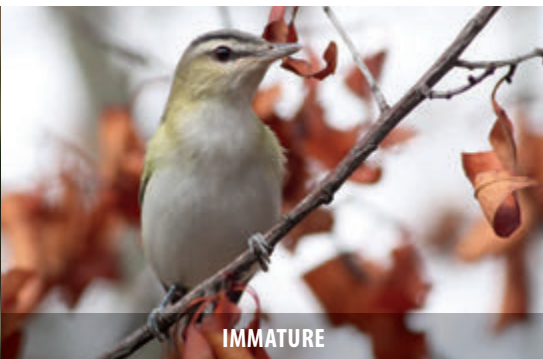
The rich, rollicking song of the **Warbling Vireo** is a common sound in many parts of central and northern North America during summer, making it a great bird to learn by ear. Warbling Vireos are otherwise fairly plain birds that stay high in broadleaf treetops, hunting methodically among the leaves for caterpillars.



ADULT



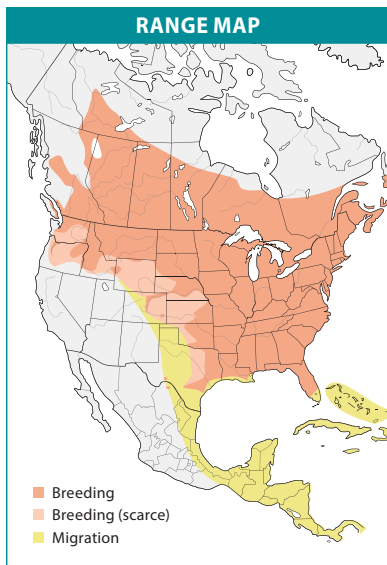
ADULT



IMMATURE



ADULT



- Breeding
- Breeding (scarce)
- Migration

**SIZE & SHAPE** Red-eyed Vireos are chunky songbirds, a bit bigger than most warblers, with a long, angular head, thick neck, and a strong, long bill with a small but noticeable hook at the tip. The body is stocky and the tail fairly short.

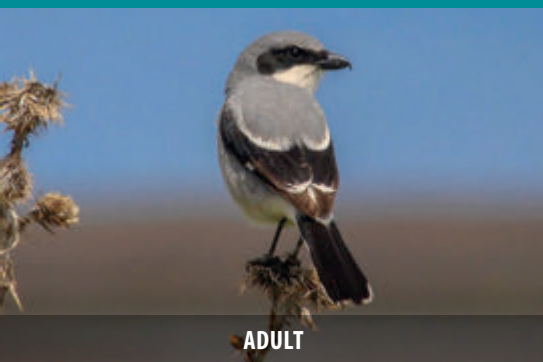
**COLOR PATTERN** Red-eyed Vireos are olive green above and clean white below with a gray crown and white eyebrow stripe bordered above and below by blackish lines. Flanks and under the tail have a green-yellow wash. Adults have red eyes; immature birds have dark eyes.

**BEHAVIOR** These vireos forage in broadleaf canopies, moving slowly and methodically, carefully scanning leaves for caterpillars and other prey. They sing incessantly in summer, even in the afternoon heat.

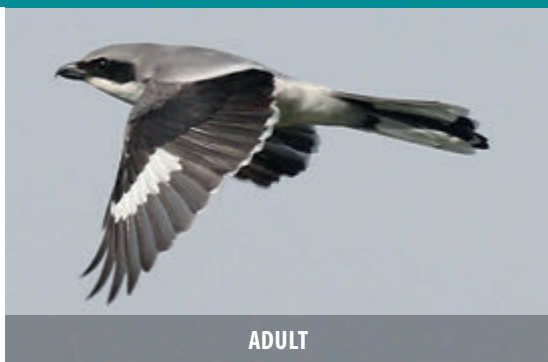
**HABITAT** Red-eyed Vireos breed in broadleaf and mixed forests with shrubby understories. They are also found in neighborhoods with large trees. During migration, look for them in more varied habitats.

A tireless songster, the **Red-eyed Vireo** is one of the most common summer residents of eastern forests. Their brief but incessant songs contribute to the characteristic sound of summer. When fall arrives, they head for the Amazon basin, fueled by a summer of plucking caterpillars from leaves in the treetops.





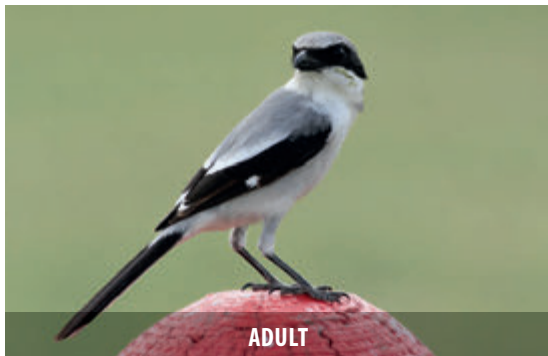
ADULT



ADULT



ADULT



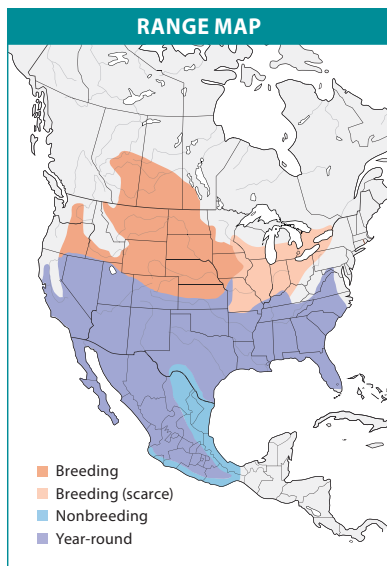
ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Loggerhead Shrike is a thick-bodied songbird with a large, blocky head. The thick bill has a small hook. The tail is fairly long and rounded.

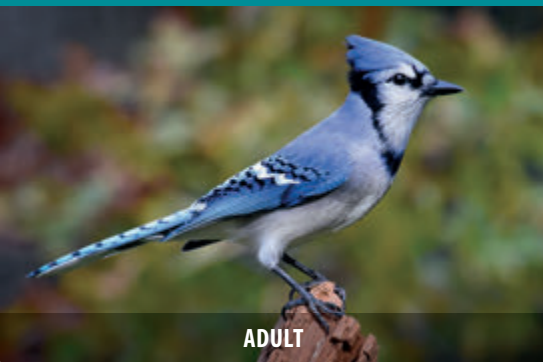
**COLOR PATTERN** The Loggerhead Shrike is a gray bird with a wide black mask contrasting a white throat. The tail is black with white corners; the wings are black with white at the base of the primaries that form a small “handkerchief” spot when the wing is closed and larger white patches in flight. Juveniles have darker barring above and below.

**BEHAVIOR** Loggerhead Shrikes sit on low, exposed perches and scan for rodents, lizards, birds, and insects. They eat smaller prey right away, but they are famous for impaling larger items on thorns or barbed wire to be eaten later.

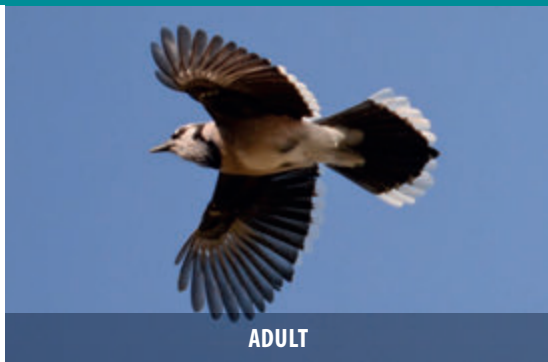
**HABITAT** Open country with scattered shrubs and trees is the typical habitat of Loggerhead Shrike, but the species can also be found in more heavily wooded habitats with large openings, and in very short habitats with few or no trees.



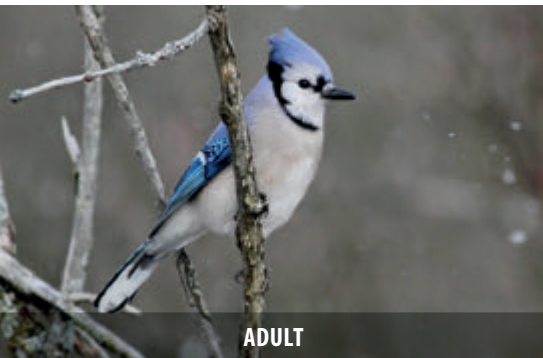
The **Loggerhead Shrike** is a songbird with a raptor’s habits, hunting small prey from conspicuous perches. These masked predators lack a raptor’s talons, so they skewer their kills on thorns or barbed wire or wedge them into tight places for easy eating. Their numbers have dropped sharply in the last half-century.



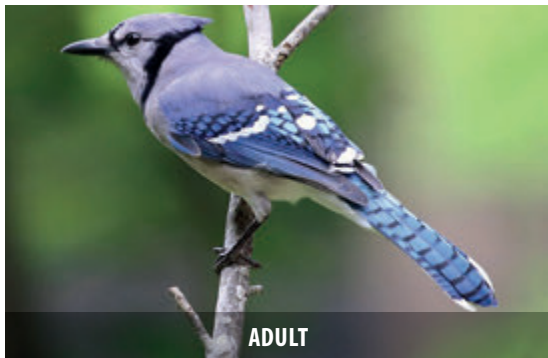
**ADULT**



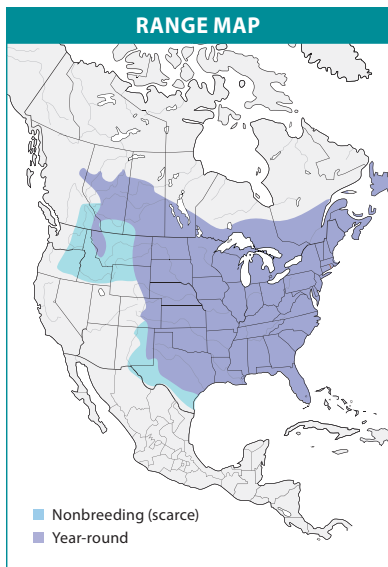
**ADULT**



**ADULT**



**ADULT**



**SIZE & SHAPE** Blue Jays are large crested songbirds with broad, rounded tails. They are smaller than crows, but larger than robins.

**COLOR PATTERN** Blue Jays are a brilliant blue above and white or light gray below, with a prominent crest and a bold black necklace. The wings and tail are barred with black, and the wings are spangled with white. Large white tail corners are prominent in flight.

**BEHAVIOR** Blue Jays make a large variety of calls that carry long distances. Most calls are produced while the jay is perched in a tree. It flies across open areas silently, especially during migration. Blue Jays stuff food items in a throat pouch to cache elsewhere. When eating, it will hold a seed or nut securely in its feet and peck it open.

**HABITAT** Blue Jays are birds of forest edges. A favorite food is acorns, and they are often found near oaks, in forests, woodlots, towns, cities, and parks.

The common, large **Blue Jay** is familiar to many people, with its perky crest; blue, white, and black plumage; and noisy calls. This songbird is known for its intelligence and complex social systems with tight family bonds. Its fondness for acorns is credited with helping spread oak trees after the last glacial period.

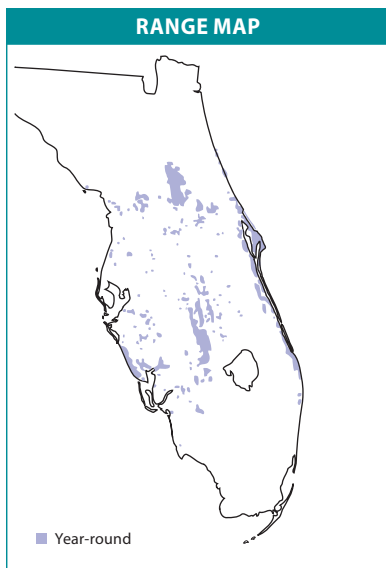


**SIZE & SHAPE** The Florida Scrub-Jay is a large and sturdy songbird with a long tail and hefty legs. This uncrested jay has a big flat head and a heavy bill.

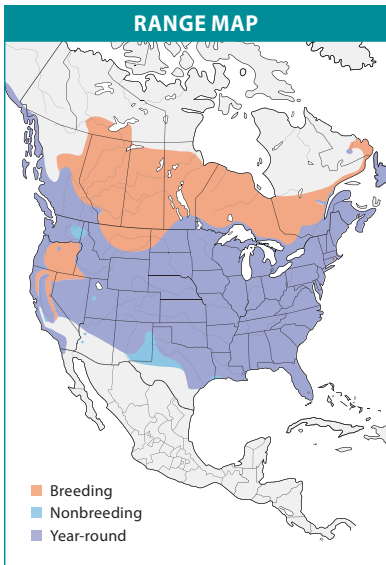
**COLOR PATTERN** Florida Scrub-Jays are dull blue above with a frosted forehead and throat. They have sand-colored backs and bellies. The chest is crossed by a messy blue necklace. Juveniles are grayer overall than adults and lack the adult's blue head.

**BEHAVIOR** Florida Scrub-Jays form family groups of a breeding pair and up to six nonbreeding birds. They hop on the ground or in trees and shrubs to pick insects and harvest acorns, which they bury to eat later. They often perch on wires or exposed branches with their long tail hanging down. One individual from the family group serves as a sentinel to keep an eye out for predators.

**HABITAT** Florida Scrub-Jays are found only in low-growing oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods with sandy soils in Florida. Within these patches of oak scrub, they frequent relatively open areas with bare sandy patches.



The **Florida Scrub-Jay** is the only bird species that lives exclusively in Florida. This social bird forms extended family groups; young from previous years help parents at subsequent nests until they get a territory of their own. Extensive habitat destruction and fragmentation threaten this endangered bird's small population.



**SIZE & SHAPE** American Crows are long-legged, thick-necked, oversized songbirds with a heavy, straight bill. In flight, the wings are fairly broad and rounded with the wingtip feathers spread like fingers. The short tail is rounded or squared off at the end.

**COLOR PATTERN** American Crows are all black, including the legs and bill and eyes. As they molt, old feathers can appear brownish or scaly compared to glossy new feathers. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** American Crows are very social, sometimes forming flocks in the thousands. Inquisitive and sometimes mischievous, crows are good learners and problem solvers, often raiding garbage cans and picking over discarded food containers. They're also aggressive and chase away larger birds including hawks, owls, and herons.

**HABITAT** American Crows are common birds of fields, open woodlands, and forests. They thrive around people, and you'll often find them in farm fields, lawns, parking lots, athletic fields, roadsides, towns, and garbage dumps.

**American Crows** are familiar over much of the continent: large, intelligent, all-black birds with hoarse, cawing voices. They are a common sight in treetops, fields, and on roadsides, and in habitats ranging from open woods and empty beaches to town centers. They usually feed on the ground and eat almost anything.

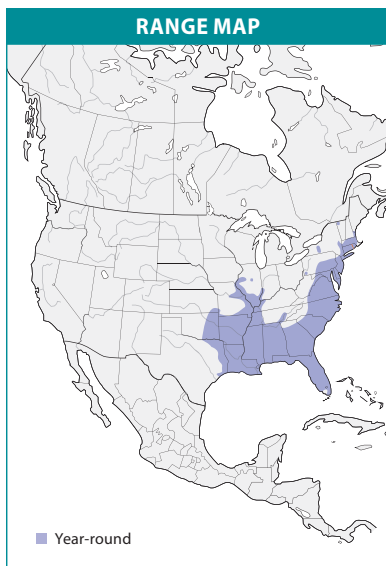


**SIZE & SHAPE** Fish Crows fit the standard crow shape: hefty, well-proportioned birds with heavy bills, sturdy legs, and broad wings. At rest, Fish Crows' wings fall short of their medium-length, square tails.

**COLOR PATTERN** Fish Crows are all black. Immatures are less glossy and can become brownish as their feathers wear in their first year, but adult and immature birds look quite similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Fish Crows are very social birds; look for them in pairs in the breeding season and in groups of up to several hundred or more during migration or winter. When they give their distinctive nasal calls from the ground, they often puff out their neck and body feathers, forming a ragged throat ruff.

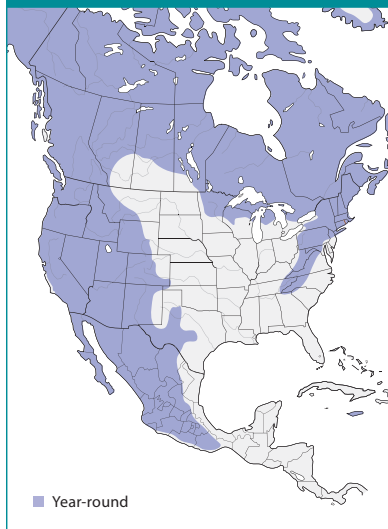
**HABITAT** Fish Crows live along the coasts and inland along major freshwater rivers and lakes. You may find Fish Crows in a wide variety of habitats near water, often in towns and cities near parks, docks, and landfills. They share many habitats with American Crows.



Not everyone realizes it, but there are two kinds of crows across much of the eastern United States. Looking almost identical to the American Crow, **Fish Crows** are tough to identify until you learn their nasal *uh-uh* call. Look for them around bodies of water, usually in flocks and sometimes with American Crows.



#### RANGE MAP



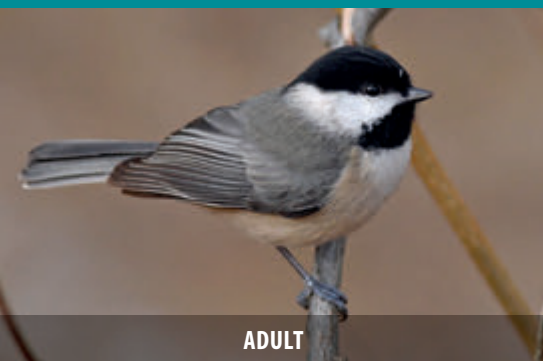
**SIZE & SHAPE** The Common Raven is not just large but massive, with a thick neck, shaggy throat feathers, and a Bowie knife of a beak. In flight, ravens have long, wedge-shaped tails. They're more slender than crows, with longer, narrower wings, and longer, thinner "fingers" at the wingtips.

**COLOR PATTERN** Common Ravens are entirely black, right down to the legs, eyes, and beak. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Common Ravens aren't as social as crows and tend to be alone or in pairs, except at food sources like landfills. They're confident, inquisitive birds that strut around or bound forward with light, two-footed hops. In flight, they are buoyant and graceful, interspersing soaring, gliding, and slow flaps.

**HABITAT** Look for the Common Raven in open and forest habitats across western and northern North America, as well as high desert, seacoast, and grasslands. It also does well in rural settlements, towns, and cities.

The **Common Raven** has accompanied people around the Northern Hemisphere for centuries, following them in hopes of a quick meal. Ravens are among the smartest of all birds, gaining a reputation for solving ever more complicated problems invented by ever more creative scientists.



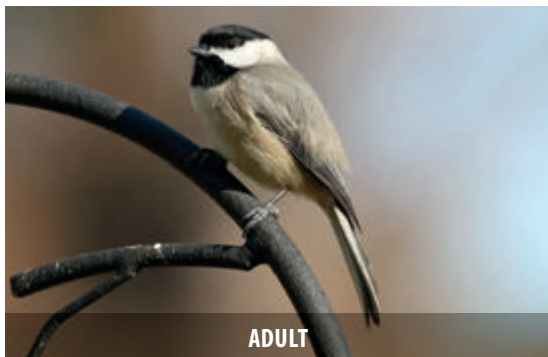
ADULT



ADULT



ADULT



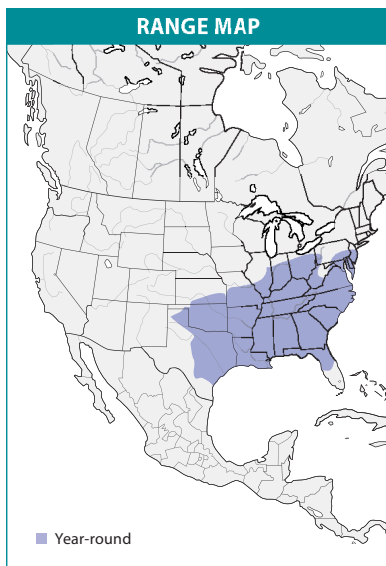
ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** This tiny, approachable songbird has a short neck and large head, giving it a distinctive round body shape. Its tail is fairly long and narrow, and its short bill is thicker than a warbler's but thinner than a finch's.

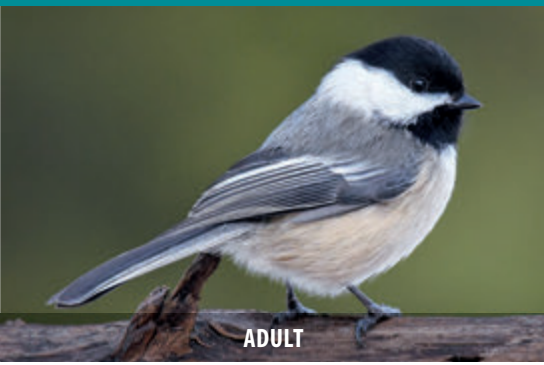
**COLOR PATTERN** Carolina Chickadees have a black cap and bib separated by stark white cheeks. The back, wings, and tail are soft gray. Compared to Black-capped Chickadees, their black bib is smaller and looks cleaner at the edge. Secondary feathers are edged in pale gray, not white like Black-capped Chickadees.

**BEHAVIOR** Inquisitive and acrobatic, this sociable bird forms mixed feeding flocks with other small birds, roaming within a fairly large area, except during the breeding season.

**HABITAT** Carolina Chickadees live in broadleaf and coniferous forests, swamps, wet woods, open woods, parks, and urban and suburban yards.



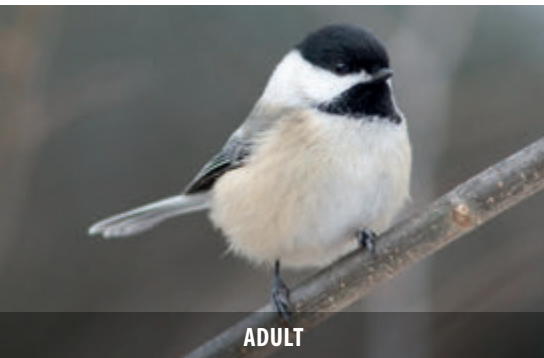
Named by John James Audubon, the curious **Carolina Chickadee** looks very much like a Black-capped Chickadee, with a black cap, black bib, gray wings and back, and whitish underside. The two species hybridize in the area where their ranges overlap but probably diverged more than 2.5 million years ago.



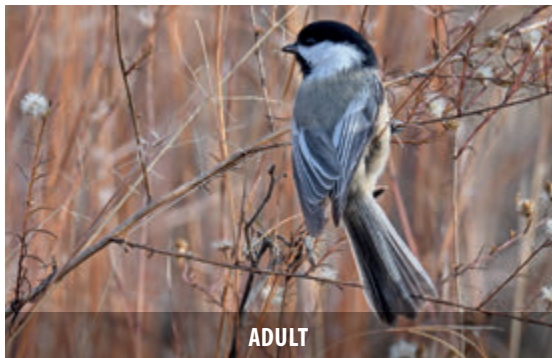
ADULT



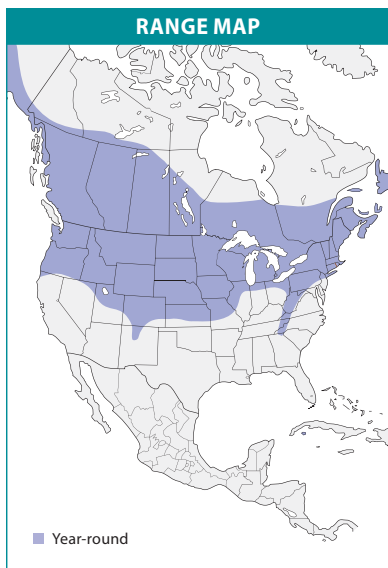
ADULT



ADULT



ADULT



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Black-capped Chickadee is small and compact with a thin, short bill. The short neck and large head accentuate the spherical body shape. It has a long, narrow tail and a short bill, a bit thicker than a warbler's but thinner than a finch's.

**COLOR PATTERN** The Black-capped Chickadee's cap and bib are black, the cheeks white, the back soft gray, and the wing feathers gray edged with white. Underparts are a soft buff color on the sides grading to white beneath.

**BEHAVIOR** Black-capped Chickadees seldom remain at feeders except to grab a seed to eat elsewhere. They are acrobatic and associate in flocks; the sudden activity when a flock arrives is distinctive. They often fly across roads and open areas one at a time with a bouncy flight.

**HABITAT** Chickadees may be found in any habitat that has trees or woody shrubs, from forests and woodlots to residential neighborhoods and parks. They frequently nest in birch or alder trees.

The **Black-capped Chickadee** is almost universally considered “cute” thanks to its oversized round head, tiny body, and curiosity about everything, including humans. Most birds that associate with chickadee flocks respond to chickadee alarm calls, even when their own species doesn't make a similar sound.

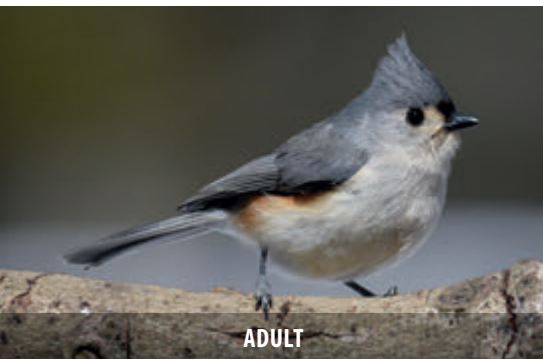




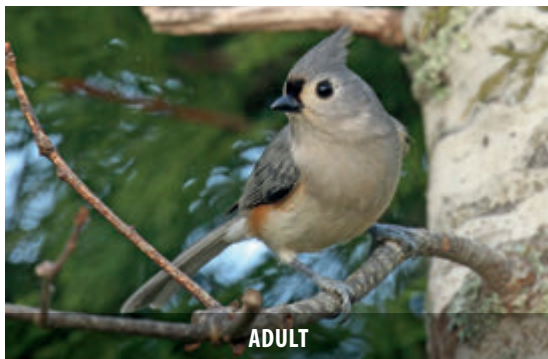
ADULT



ADULT



ADULT



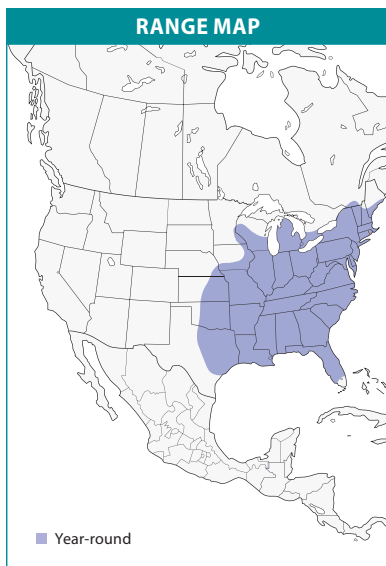
ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Tufted Titmouse looks large among the small birds that come to feeders, an impression that comes from its large head and eye, thick neck, and full body. The pointed crest and stout bill help identify it even in silhouette.

**COLOR PATTERN** The Tufted Titmouse is soft, silvery gray above and white below, with a rusty or peach-colored wash down the flanks. A black patch just above the bill makes the bird look stub-nosed.

**BEHAVIOR** These acrobatic foragers often join flocks of chickadees and other small birds as the group passes through the titmouse's territory. Their flight tends to be fluttery but level. When a titmouse finds a large seed, you'll see it carry the prize to a perch and crack it with sharp whacks of its stout bill.

**HABITAT** The Tufted Titmouse lives in broadleaf or mixed coniferous-broadleaf woods with dense canopies, typically at elevations up to about 2,000 feet. It's also common in orchards, parks, and suburbs.



A little gray bird with an echoing voice, the **Tufted Titmouse** is common in eastern broadleaf forests. Large black eyes, a small, round bill, and a brushy crest give these birds a quiet but eager expression that matches the way they flit through canopies, hang from twig-ends, and frequently drop in to feeders.



**BREEDING MALE**



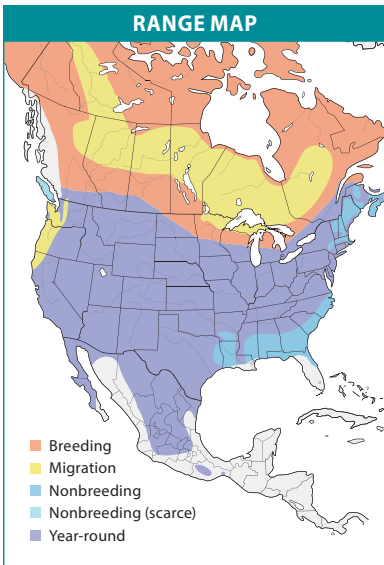
**NONBREEDING MALE**



**JUVENILE**



**ADULT FEMALE**



**SIZE & SHAPE** Horned Larks are small, long-bodied songbirds that usually adopt a horizontal posture. They have short, thin bills, short necks, and rounded heads that sometimes show two small “horns” of feathers sticking up toward the back.

**COLOR PATTERN** Males are sandy brown above and white beneath, with a black chest band, mask, and head stripes, which are sometimes raised like tiny “horns.” The face and throat are yellow or white. Females have less defined markings. Juveniles are brown overall with white-edged feathers and a brown breast band.

**BEHAVIOR** Horned Larks are usually found in flocks except during the breeding season. They creep along bare ground, searching for small seeds and insects. They often join in winter flocks with other open-country species.

**HABITAT** Horned Larks favor starkly open habitats with bare earth: deserts, tundra, beaches, dunes, grazed pastures, plowed fields, roadsides, and feedlots. They are drawn to fields spread with waste grain and manure. In winter, they mostly feed in areas free of snow.

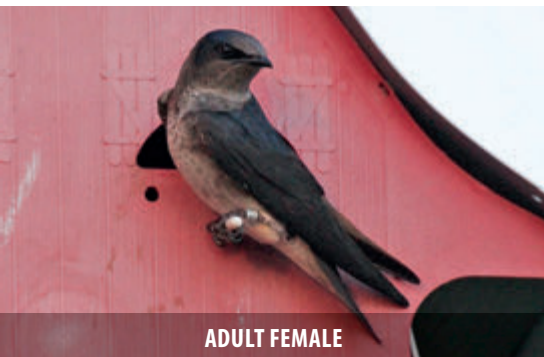
Look carefully at a bare field, especially in winter, and you may see it crawling with little **Horned Larks**. These songbirds are widespread in fields, deserts, and tundra, where they forage for seeds and insects, and sing a high, tinkling song. Though still common, they have declined sharply in the last half-century.



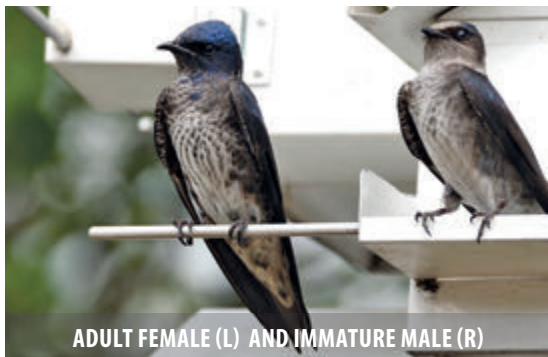
ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE



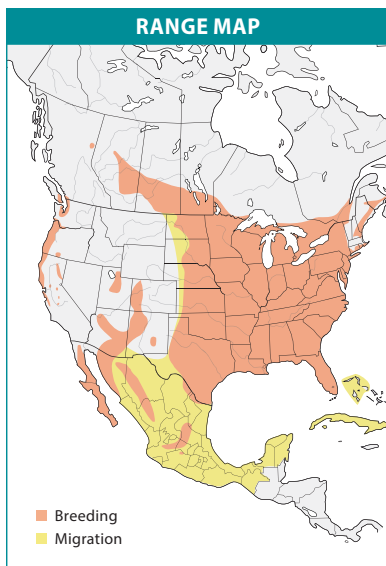
ADULT FEMALE (L) AND IMMATURE MALE (R)

**SIZE & SHAPE** Purple Martins are very large, broad-chested swallows. They have stout, slightly hooked bills, short, forked tails, and long, tapered wings.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males are an iridescent, dark bluish purple overall with brown-black wings and tail. Females and immatures are duller, with variable amounts of gray on the head and chest and a whitish lower belly.

**BEHAVIOR** Purple Martins fly rapidly with a mix of flapping and gliding. They feed in midair, catching large, aerial insects such as dragonflies. Martins feed and roost in flocks, often mixed with other species of swallows. They often feed higher in the air than other swallows, which can make them tough to spot.

**HABITAT** Purple Martins are colonial, with dozens nesting in the same spot. They feed in open areas, especially near water. In the East, they nest almost exclusively in nest boxes and martin houses; in the West, they nest in natural cavities.



Putting up a **Purple Martin** house is like installing a miniature neighborhood in your backyard. In the East, they will peer from the entrances and chirp from the rooftops all summer. In the West, martins mainly nest in woodpecker holes. North America's largest swallow, it performs aerial acrobatics to snap up flying insects.



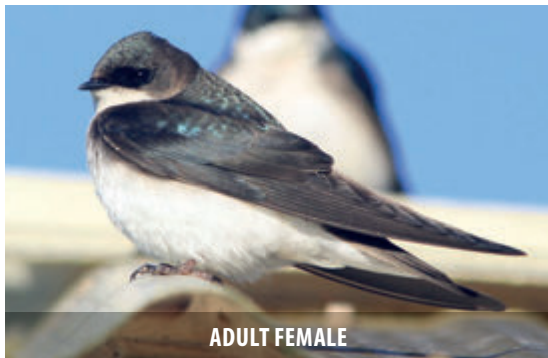
**ADULT MALE**



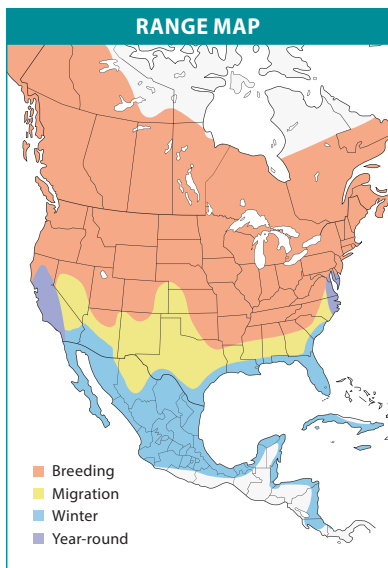
**ADULT MALE**



**JUVENILES**



**ADULT FEMALE**



**SIZE & SHAPE** Tree Swallows are small streamlined songbirds with long, pointed wings and a short, squared or slightly notched tail. Their bills are very short and flat.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males are blue green above and white below with blackish flight feathers and a thin black eye mask. Females are duller with more brown in their upperparts, and juveniles are completely brown above. Juveniles and some females can show a weak, blurry gray-brown breast band.

**BEHAVIOR** Tree Swallows feed on small, aerial insects that they catch during acrobatic flight. After breeding, they will gather in large flocks to molt and migrate. In the nonbreeding season, they form huge communal roosts.

**HABITAT** Tree Swallows feed on small, aerial insects that they catch in their mouths during acrobatic flight. After breeding, Tree Swallows gather in large flocks to molt and migrate. In the nonbreeding season, they form huge communal roosts.

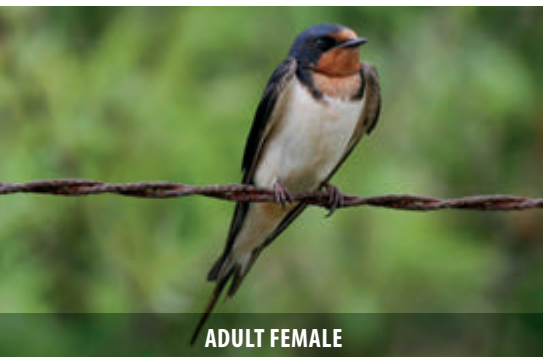
Handsome aerialists with deep, iridescent blue backs and clean white fronts, **Tree Swallows** are a familiar sight in summer fields and wetlands across northern North America. They chase after flying insects with acrobatic twists and turns, their steely blue-green feathers flashing in the sunlight.



ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE



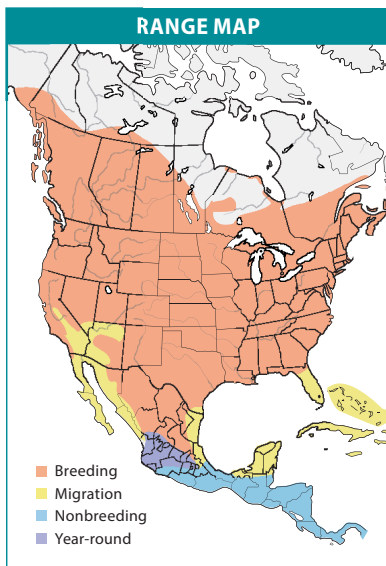
JUVENILES

**SIZE & SHAPE** When perched, the sparrow-sized Barn Swallow appears cone shaped, with a slightly flattened head, no visible neck, and broad shoulders that taper to long, pointed wings. The tail extends well beyond the wingtips and the long outer feathers give the tail a deep fork.

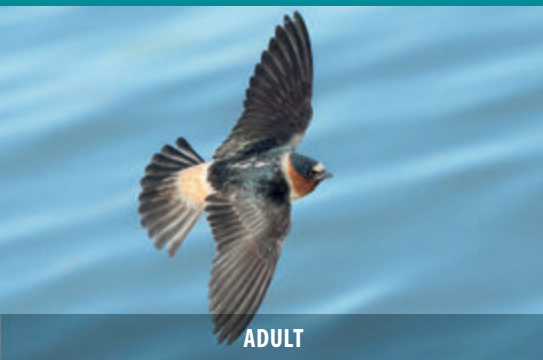
**COLOR PATTERN** Barn Swallows have a steely blue back, wings, and tail, and rufous to tawny underparts. The blue crown and face contrast with the cinnamon-colored forehead and throat. White spots under the tail can be difficult to see except in flight. Males are more boldly colored than females. Juveniles are dark above and pale cinnamon below with a rusty throat and forehead.

**BEHAVIOR** Watch for the Barn Swallow's smooth, fluid wingbeats. They often follow farm implements, cattle herds, and humans to snag flushed insects.

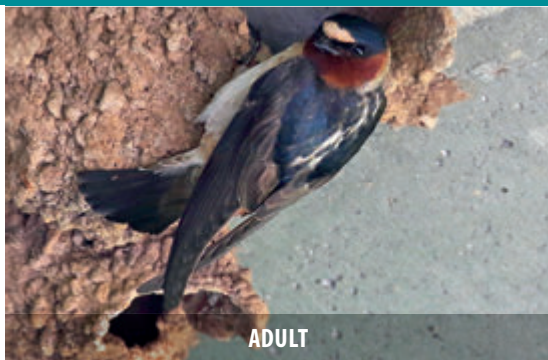
**HABITAT** You can find the adaptable Barn Swallow feeding in open habitats from fields, parks, and roadway edges to marshes, meadows, ponds, and coastal waters.



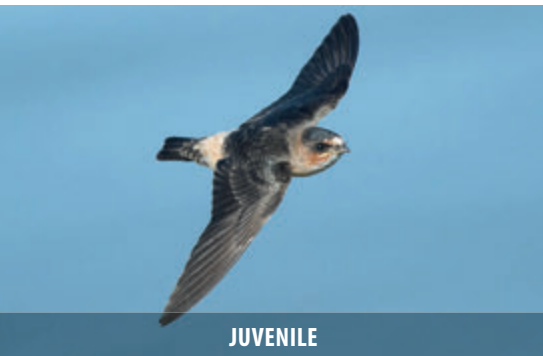
Glistening cobalt blue above and tawny below, **Barn Swallows** dart gracefully over fields, barnyards, and open water in search of flying insects. They often cruise low, flying just a few inches above the ground or water. The Barn Swallow is the most abundant and widely distributed swallow species in the world.



ADULT



ADULT

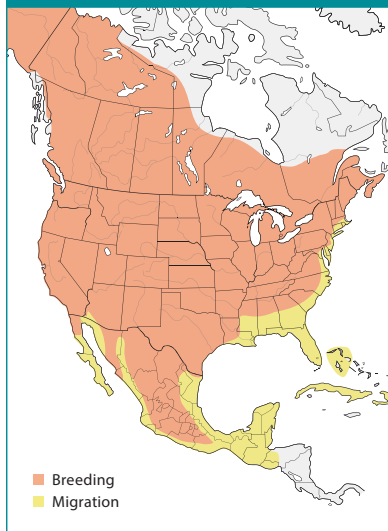


JUVENILE



ADULTS

## RANGE MAP



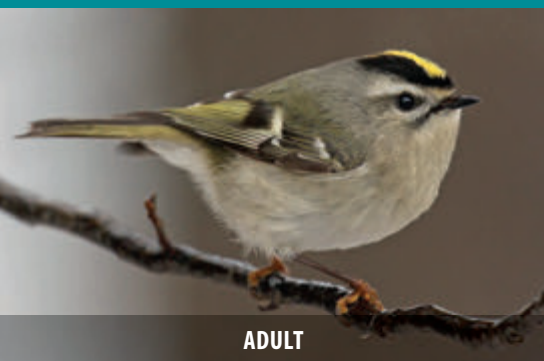
**SIZE & SHAPE** These compact swallows have rounded, broad-based wings, a small head, and a medium-length, squared tail. They are sparrow-sized.

**COLOR PATTERN** In poor light, Cliff Swallows look brown with dark throats and white underparts. In good light, you'll see their metallic, dark blue backs and pale, buff-colored rumps. They have rich, brick-red faces and a bright buff-white forehead patch like a headlamp. Some juveniles show whitish throats in summer and fall.

**BEHAVIOR** Cliff Swallows zoom around in intricate aerial patterns catching insects on the wing. When feeding with other species of swallows, they often stay higher in the air.

**HABITAT** Cliff Swallows traditionally built their nests on cliff faces but now have adopted bridges, overpasses, and culverts as colonial nesting sites. They feed near and over water, frequently mixing with other species of swallows.

In summer, flocks of **Cliff Swallows** swarm around bridges and overpasses, where clusters of their intricate mud nests cling to vertical walls. These sociable swallows are nearly always found in large groups, chasing insects high above the ground, preening on perches, or dipping into a river for a bath.



**ADULT**



**ADULT MALE**



**JUVENILE**



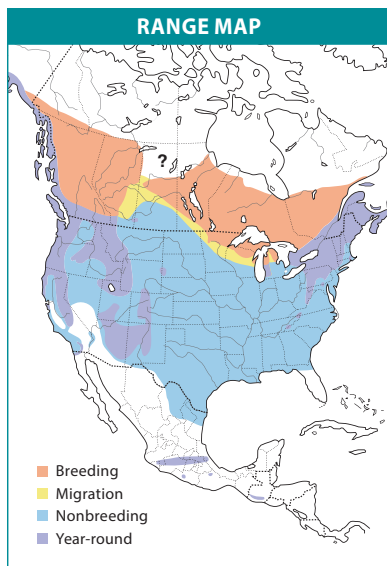
**ADULT FEMALE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** Golden-crowned Kinglets are tiny songbirds with a rounded body, short wings, and skinny tail. They have relatively large heads, and their bills are short and thin—perfect for gleaning small insects.

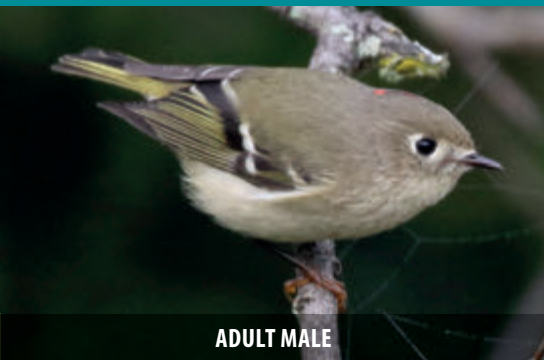
**COLOR PATTERN** Golden-crowned Kinglets are pale olive above and gray below, with a black-and-white striped face and a bright yellow crown patch. In males, the crown patch is accented with a red-orange stripe down the middle. Both sexes have a thin white wingbar and yellow edges to their black flight feathers.

**BEHAVIOR** Golden-crowned Kinglets stay concealed high in dense trees, giving thin, very high-pitched calls. They pluck small insects from conifer needles, hovering to reach them. In migration and winter, they join other insectivorous songbirds in mixed flocks.

**HABITAT** These birds live mainly in coniferous forests, breeding in boreal or montane forests, and conifer plantations. In winter, look for them in broadleaf forests, suburbs, swamps, bottomlands, and scrubby habitat.



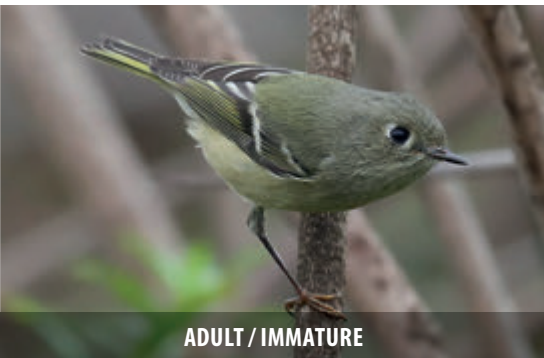
Although the **Golden-crowned Kinglet** is barely larger than a hummingbird, this frenetically active bird can survive  $-40^{\circ}$  nights, sometimes huddling together for warmth. A good look can require some patience, as they spend much of their time high up in dense spruce or fir foliage.



ADULT MALE



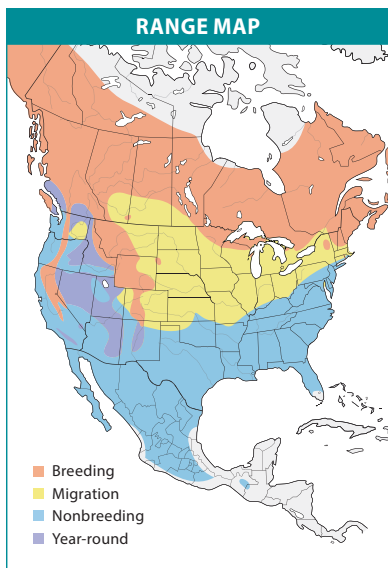
ADULT MALE



ADULT / IMMATURE



ADULT / IMMATURE



**SIZE & SHAPE** Ruby-crowned Kinglets are tiny songbirds with relatively large heads, almost no neck, and thin tails. They have very small, thin, straight bills.

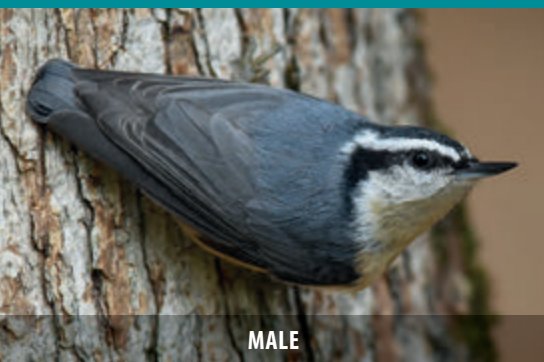
**COLOR PATTERN** Ruby-crowned Kinglets are olive green with a prominent broken white eyering and white wingbar. This wingbar contrasts with an adjacent blackish bar in the wing. The brilliant ruby crown of the male is only occasionally visible, usually in spring and summer.

**BEHAVIOR** These are restless, acrobatic birds that move quickly through foliage, typically at lower and middle levels. They flick their wings almost constantly as they go.

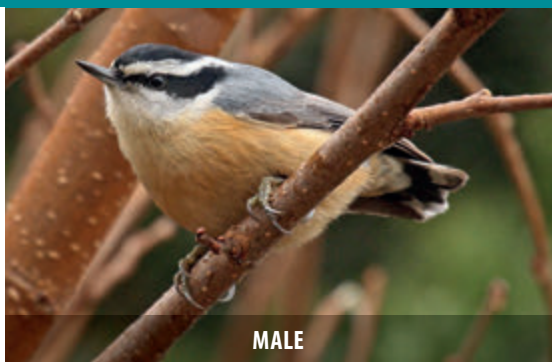
**HABITAT** Ruby-crowned Kinglets breed in tall, dense conifer forests such as spruce, fir, and tamarack. In winter and during migration, also look for them in shrubby habitats, broadleaf forests, parks, and suburbs.

A tiny bird overflowing with energy, the **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** forages frantically through the lower branches of shrubs and trees. Its habit of constantly flicking its wings is a key identification clue. This bird lays a large clutch of eggs—up to 12 in a single nest. The entire clutch may weigh as much as the female herself.

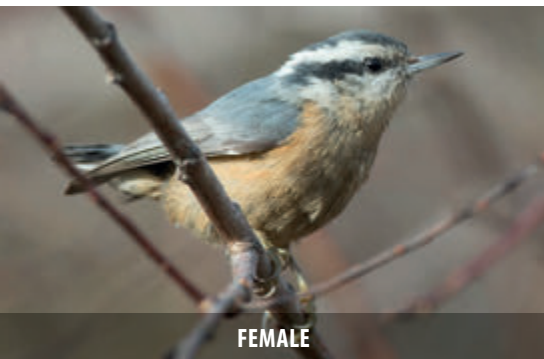




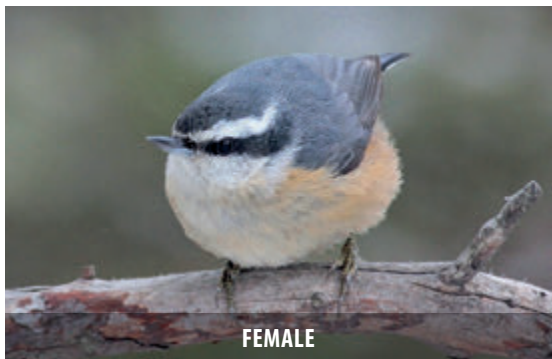
MALE



MALE



FEMALE



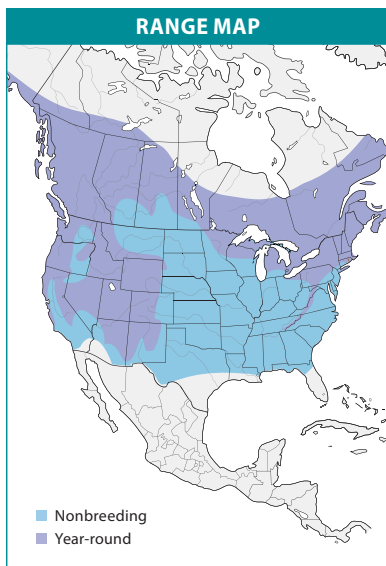
FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Red-breasted Nuthatches are small, compact songbirds with slightly upturned, pointed bills, extremely short tails, and almost no neck. The body is plump or barrel-chested, and the short wings are very broad. It is slightly smaller than a sparrow.

**COLOR PATTERN** Both sexes are blue gray above. Males have cinnamon underparts, while the females' are a peach color. The male has a black cap, white stripe above the eye, and black stripe through the eye. The female's dark head markings are gray. Immature and adult birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Red-breasted Nuthatches creep up, down, and sideways over trunks and branches, probing for food in crevices and under flakes of bark. They don't lean against their tail as woodpeckers do. Their flight is short and bouncy.

**HABITAT** Red-breasted Nuthatches live mainly in coniferous forests. Eastern populations use some broadleaf woods. During some winters, they may "irrupt" or move far south of their normal range.



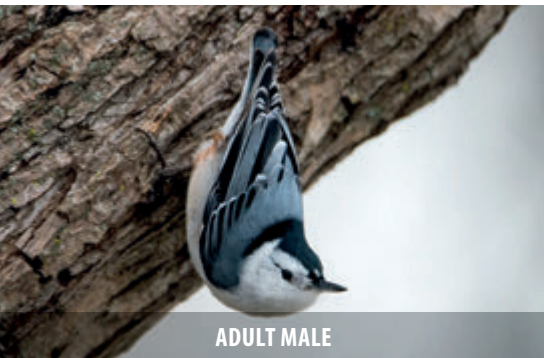
The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** is a tiny, active songbird of northern woods and western mountains. It travels through the canopy with chickadees, kinglets, and woodpeckers but sticks to tree trunks and branches, searching for hidden food. Its excitable *yank-yank* call sounds like a tiny horn honking in the treetops.



ADULT MALE



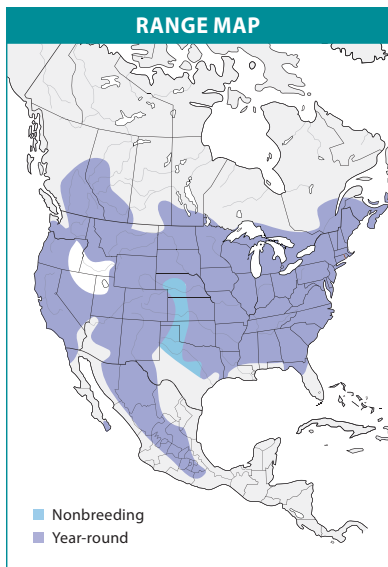
ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE



**SIZE & SHAPE** The White-breasted Nuthatch is small, with a large head and almost no apparent neck. The tail is very short, and the long, narrow, sharp bill is straight or slightly upturned. It is sparrow-sized.

**COLOR PATTERN** White-breasted Nuthatches are gray blue on the back, with a frosty white face and underparts. The lower belly and under the tail are often chestnut. The black or gray cap (male or female, respectively) and nape make it look like this bird is hooded. Size of the hood varies by region.

**BEHAVIOR** Like other nuthatches, they creep along trunks, probing into furrows with their bills and often turning sideways or upside down as they forage. Unlike woodpeckers, they don't use their tails to brace against a vertical trunk.

**HABITAT** Look for White-breasted Nuthatches in mature broadleaf woods, woodland edges, parks, wooded suburbs, and backyards. They're rarely found in coniferous woods, where Red-breasted Nuthatches are more likely.

A common feeder bird, the **White-breasted Nuthatch** is an active, agile little bird with an appetite for insects and large, meaty seeds. It gets its common name from its habit of jamming large nuts and acorns into tree bark, then whacking them with its sharp bill to "hatch" out the seed from the inside.

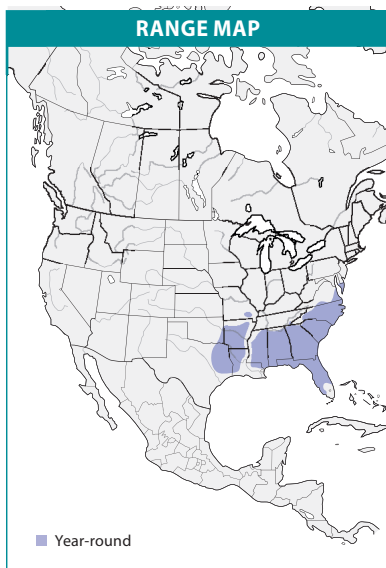


**SIZE & SHAPE** The Brown-headed Nuthatch is a tiny, compact bird with a large head. It appears rather round thanks to its short tail, legs, and neck. It also has a chisel-like bill that looks a little too big for its body. It is smaller than a sparrow.

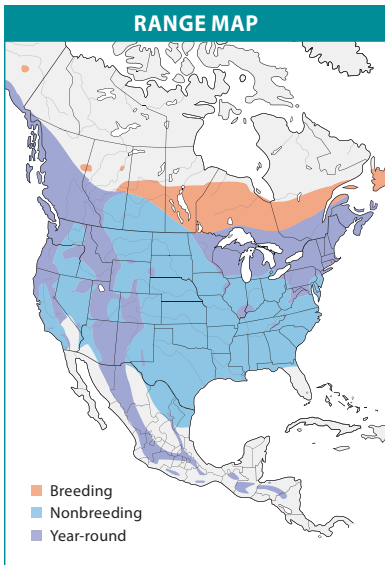
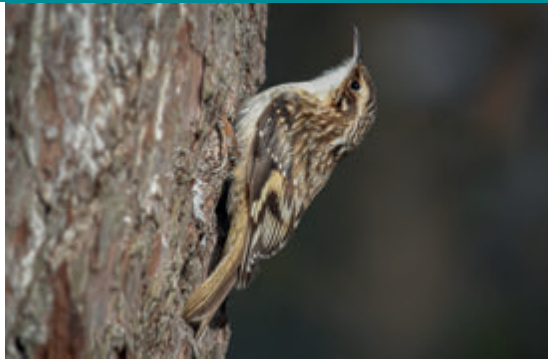
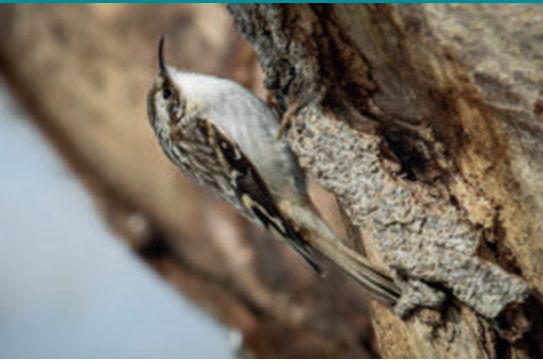
**COLOR PATTERN** Brown-headed Nuthatches are bluish gray with a clean brown cap neatly set off from the whitish face and throat. The underparts are pale grayish white. Males, females, and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Nuthatches zigzag up and down tree trunks and branches high in the canopy, squeaking as they go. Although they aren't very loud, there's usually more than one in a group calling, so they won't go unheard.

**HABITAT** Brown-headed Nuthatches live in or around pine forests of the southeastern U.S., especially in open, mature forests of loblolly, shortleaf, slash, and longleaf pine where natural fire patterns have been maintained.



Look for **Brown-headed Nuthatches** in southern pine forests, deftly climbing on pine trunks and branches. They cling to bark with their strong feet rather than leaning on their tails like a woodpecker. These social birds travel in noisy family groups; offspring from previous years may help their parents raise young.



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Brown Creeper is a tiny and delicate songbird with a long, spine-tipped tail, slim body, and a slender, decurved bill.

**COLOR PATTERN** Streaked brown and buff above, with their white underparts usually hidden against a tree trunk, Brown Creepers blend easily into bark. Their brownish heads show a broad, buffy stripe over the eye. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Brown Creepers search for small insects and spiders by hitching upward in a spiral around tree trunks and limbs. They move with short, jerky motions using their stiff tails for support. To move to a new tree, they fly weakly to its base and resume climbing up. Brown Creepers sing a high, warbling song.

**HABITAT** Look for these birds in broadleaf or coniferous forests with large, live trees. In summer, they're often among hemlock, pine, fir, and cypress. In winter, they use a wider variety of wooded habitats, parks, and yards.

Listen for the piercing call of the **Brown Creeper**, a tiny woodland bird with an affinity for the biggest trees it can find. They spiral up stout trunks and main branches, probing crevices and picking at loose bark with their slender, downcurved bills. They build hammock-shaped nests behind peeling bark.



**BREEDING MALE**



**BREEDING MALE**



**ADULT FEMALE / NONBREEDING MALE**



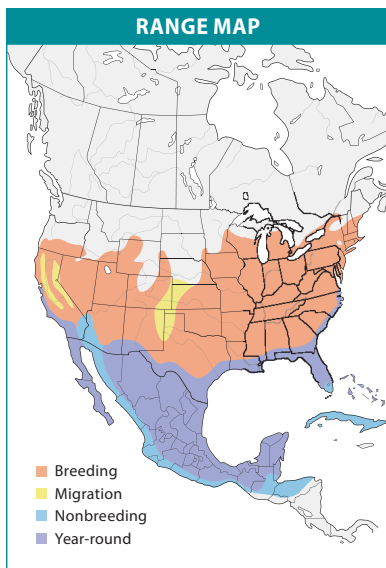
**FEMALE / NONBREEDING MALE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are tiny, slim songbirds with long legs, a long tail, and a thin, straight bill.

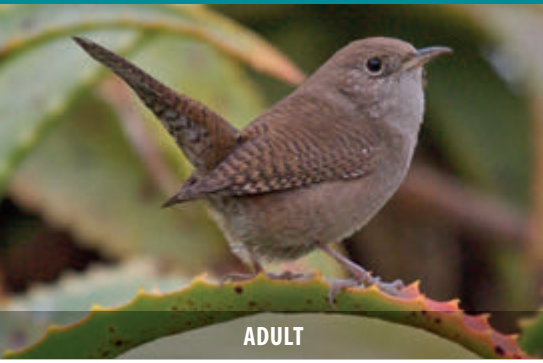
**COLOR PATTERN** These blue-gray birds have pale gray underparts and a mostly black tail with white edges. The face is highlighted by white eyerings. In summer, males sport a black 'V' on their foreheads. Young birds tend to be brownish gray.

**BEHAVIOR** The energetic Blue-gray Gnatcatcher rarely slows down, fluttering after small insects among shrubs and trees with its tail cocked at a jaunty angle. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers often take food from spiderwebs and also abscond with strands of webbing for their tiny nests, which are shaped like tree knots.

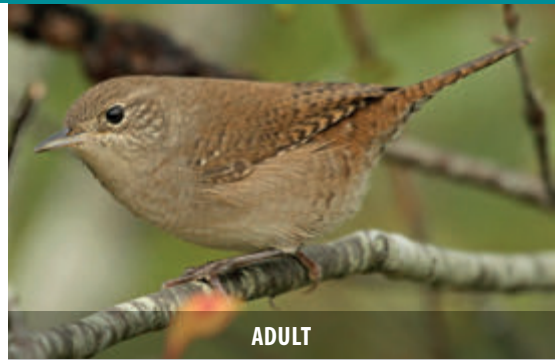
**HABITAT** In the East, gnatcatchers breed in broadleaf forests and near forest edges. In the West, look for them in shorter woodlands and shrublands including pinyon-juniper and oak woodlands.



The tiny **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** makes itself known in broadleaf forests by its soft but insistent calls and constant motion. It forages in dense outer foliage for insects and spiders, flicking its tail from side to side to scare up prey. Pairs use spiderweb and lichens to build small, neat nests, which sit on top of branches.



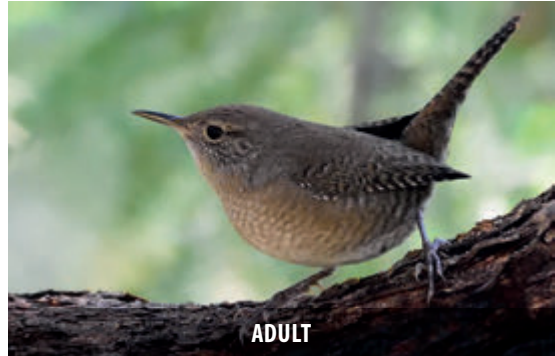
ADULT



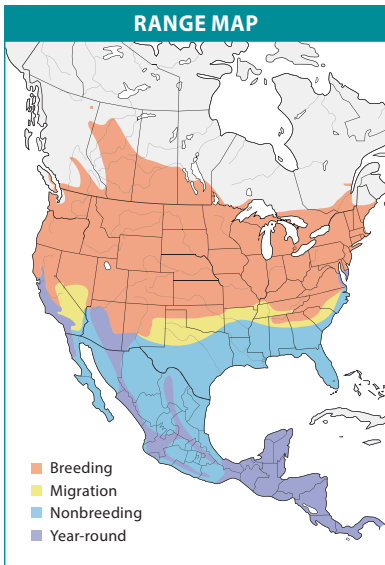
ADULT



ADULT / IMMATURE



ADULT



- Breeding
- Migration
- Nonbreeding
- Year-round

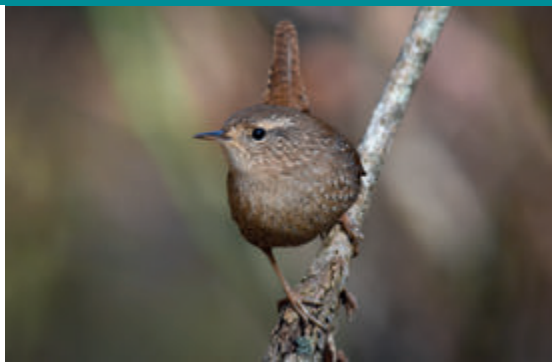
**SIZE & SHAPE** The House Wren is small and compact, with a flat head and fairly long, thin, curved bill. It has short wings and a longish tail that it keeps either cocked above the line of the body or slightly drooped. Juveniles and late-summer molting adult birds may have little or no tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** The House Wren is subdued brown overall with darker barring on the wings and tail. The pale eyebrow that is characteristic of so many wren species is much fainter or completely lacking in House Wrens.

**BEHAVIOR** Bubbly and energetic, House Wrens hop or flit quickly through tangles and low branches. They call attention to themselves year-round with harsh scolding chatter and, in spring and summer, frequent singing.

**HABITAT** House Wrens live in habitats featuring trees, shrubs, and tangles interspersed with clearings. They thrive around humans, often exploring the nooks and crannies in houses, garages, and play spaces.

A plain brown bird with an effervescent voice, the **House Wren** is a common backyard bird. Listen for its rush-and-jumble song in summer to find it zipping through foliage, snatching at insects. House Wrens will use nestboxes, but you may also find their twig-filled nests in old cans, boots, or boxes in your garage.

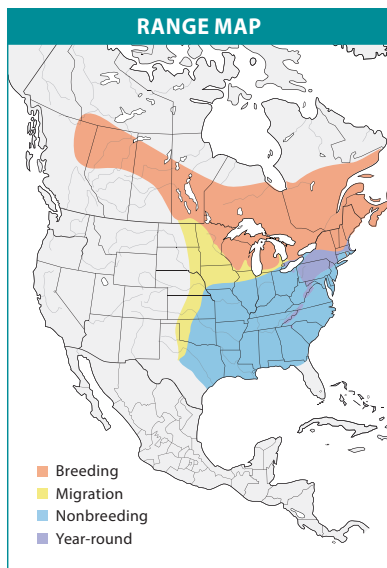


**SIZE & SHAPE** The Winter Wren is a plump round ball with a stubby tail, usually held straight up. Its bill is small and thin, in keeping with its diminutive appearance. It is larger than a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, smaller than a Carolina Wren.

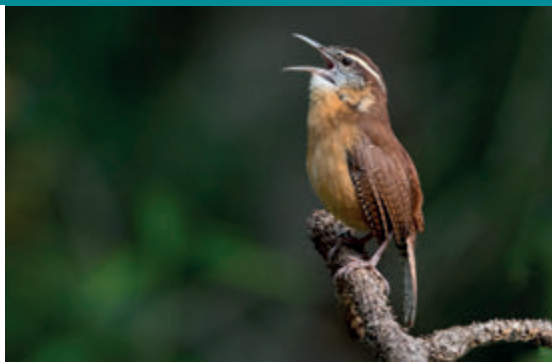
**COLOR PATTERN** Look closely to see the Winter Wren's dark brown barring on the wings, tail, and belly. It has a pale tan eyebrow stripe above the eye and a plain brown cap. Its unmarked throat and barred belly are a paler tan than the back. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Winter Wrens hop through the understorey, investigating upturned roots and decaying logs for food. They often bob their heads or entire bodies when standing still. In flight, they rapidly beat their tiny wings to move short distances between cover.

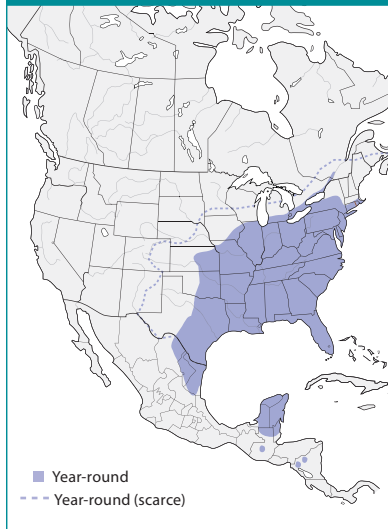
**HABITAT** Winter Wrens use both broadleaf and coniferous forests with plenty of downed logs, standing dead trees, larger trees, and understorey vegetation. They are often more common in areas near streams.



In the tangled understorey of eastern forests, listen for the tiny **Winter Wren**, shaking as it sings its astoundingly loud song. It habitually holds its tiny tail straight up and bounces up and down. This rather weak flier hops and scampers among fallen logs, inspecting upturned roots and vegetation for insects.



## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Carolina Wren is a small but chunky bird with a round body and long tail, often cocked upward. The head is large with little apparent neck, and the distinctive long, slender, and downcurved bill marks it as a wren.

**COLOR PATTERN** Both sexes are a bright reddish brown above and warm buffy orange below, with a long, white eyebrow stripe, dark bill, and white throat. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** The Carolina Wren scoots up and down tree trunks in search of insects and fruit. It explores yards, garages, and woodpiles, sometimes nesting there. It often cocks its tail upward while foraging and holds it down when singing. This wren defends its territory with constant singing and will aggressively chase off intruders.

**HABITAT** Look for Carolina Wrens singing or calling from dense vegetation in wooded areas, especially in forest ravines and neighborhoods. They move low through tangled understorey, and frequent backyard brush piles and areas with vines and bushes.

Although the **Carolina Wren** is a shy bird that can be hard to see, it delivers an amazing number of decibels for its size. Follow its *teakettle-teakettle* and other piercing exclamations through backyard or forest, and you may be rewarded with glimpses of this bird's rich cinnamon plumage and long, upward-cocked tail.

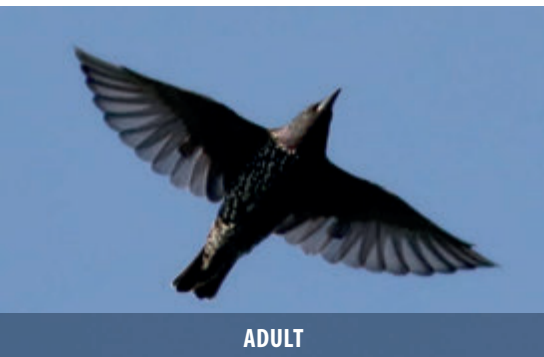




BREEDING ADULT



NONBREEDING ADULT



ADULT



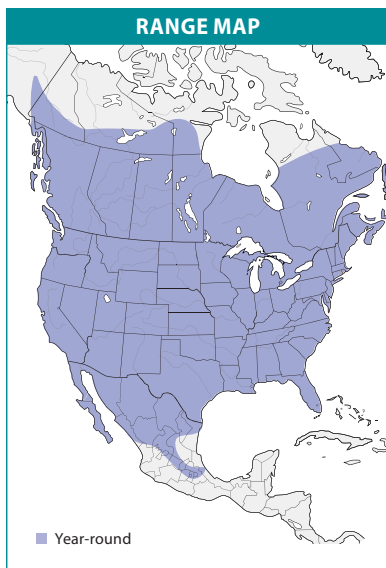
JUVENILE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Starlings are chunky and blackbird-sized, with short tails and long, slender bills. In flight, their wings are short and pointed. They are larger than sparrows but smaller than robins.

**COLOR PATTERN** At a distance, starlings look black. In summer, they are iridescent purplish green with yellow beaks, and in fresh winter plumage, they are brown and covered in brilliant white spots that look like stars in a night sky (giving them their name). Juveniles are pale brown overall.

**BEHAVIOR** Boisterous starlings travel in large groups, often with blackbirds and grackles. They race across fields, peck down and probing the grass for food; or sit high on wires or trees. They make a bewildering variety of sounds, from thin whistles, to rattles, to imitations of birds, including Red-tailed Hawks, American Robins, and others.

**HABITAT** Starlings are common in towns, suburbs, farms, and countryside near human settlements. They feed on lawns, fields, sidewalks, and in parking lots. They perch and roost high on wires, trees, and buildings.



All **European Starlings** in North America descended from 100 birds released in New York's Central Park in the early 1890s by a group who wanted America to have all the birds mentioned by Shakespeare. Today, more than 200 million starlings range from Alaska to Mexico and are largely considered pests.



ADULT / IMMATURE



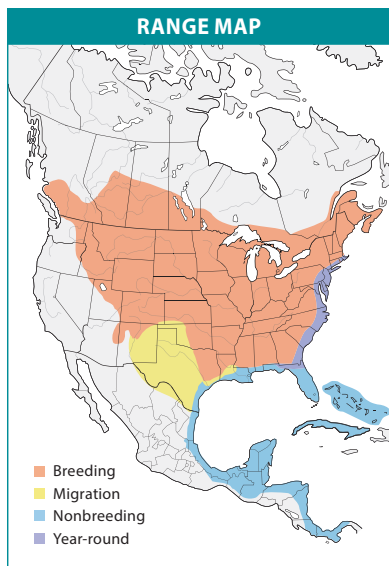
ADULT / IMMATURE



JUVENILE



ADULT / IMMATURE



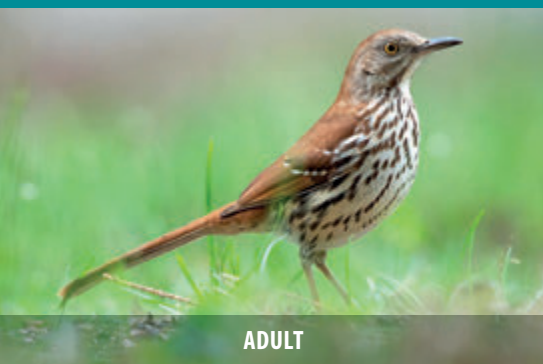
**SIZE & SHAPE** The Gray Catbird is a medium-sized, slender songbird with a long, round-tipped tail and a narrow, straight bill. Catbirds are fairly long-legged and have broad, rounded wings.

**COLOR PATTERN** Catbirds give the impression of being entirely slate gray. Looking closer, you may see the small black cap, blackish tail, and rich rufous-brown patch under the tail. Adult and immature birds look alike.

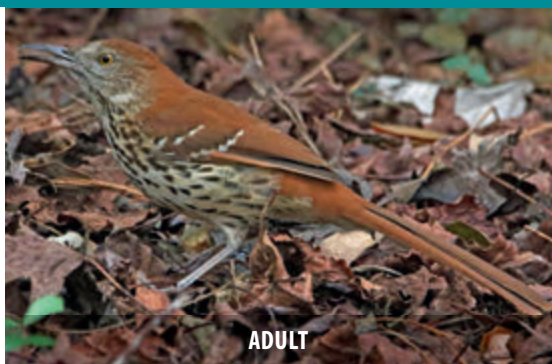
**BEHAVIOR** Catbirds are secretive but energetic, hopping and fluttering from branch to branch through tangles of vegetation. Singing males sit atop shrubs and small trees. Catbirds are reluctant to fly across open areas, preferring quick, low flights over vegetation.

**HABITAT** Look for Gray Catbirds in dense tangles of shrubs, small trees, and vines, along forest edges, streamside thickets, old fields, and fence rows. They are often found in backyards that have shrubs or thickets.

Start learning bird calls by listening in thickets and vine tangles for the **Gray Catbird**, whose catty *mew* is unforgettable. They are relatives of mockingbirds and thrashers, and they share that group's vocal abilities, copying the sounds of other species and stringing them together to make their own song.



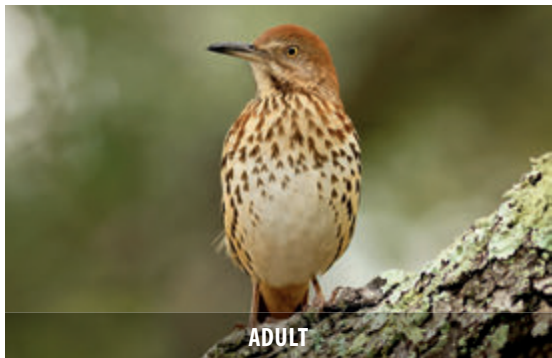
ADULT



ADULT



JUVENILE



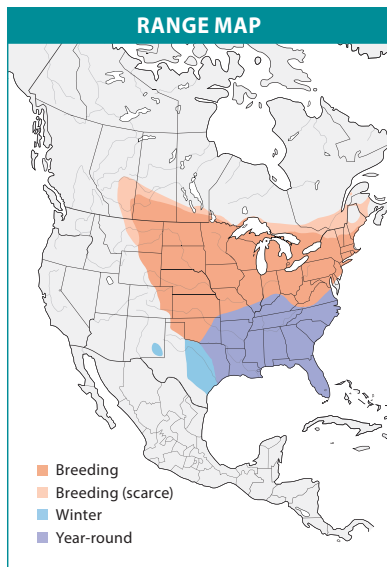
ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** Brown Thrashers are fairly large, slender songbirds with long proportions. They have long sturdy legs, and a long and slightly downcurved bill. The long tail is often cocked upward.

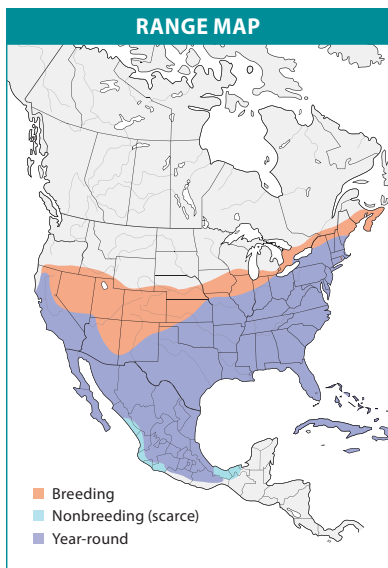
**COLOR PATTERN** Brown Thrashers are foxy brown birds with heavy, dark streaking on their whitish underparts. The face is grayish brown, and the wings show two black-and-white wingbars. They have bright yellow eyes. Juveniles are paler brown with a scalloped-looking back and a paler head.

**BEHAVIOR** Brown Thrashers skulk in shrubby tangles or below dense cover, but are more noticeable when they sing loud, complex songs from shrubs and treetops. They also make a distinctive, harsh *tsuck* note.

**HABITAT** Scrubby fields, dense regenerating woods, and forest edges are the primary habitats of Brown Thrashers. They rarely venture far from thick undergrowth into which they can easily retreat.



It can be tricky to glimpse a **Brown Thrasher** in tangled shrubbery, but once you do you may wonder how such a boldly patterned, gangly bird could stay so hidden. The only thrasher species east of Texas, Brown Thrashers are exuberant singers, with one of the largest repertoires of any North American songbird.



**SIZE & SHAPE** This medium-sized songbird is more slender than a robin and has a longer tail. Mockingbirds have small heads, a long, thin bill with a hint of a downward curve, and long legs. Their wings are short, rounded, and broad, making the tail seem particularly long in flight.

**COLOR PATTERN** Mockingbirds are gray overall, paler on the breast and belly, with two white wingbars on each wing. A white patch in each wing is often visible on perched birds, and in flight these become large white flashes. The white outer tail feathers are also flashy in flight. Juveniles have spotted breasts.

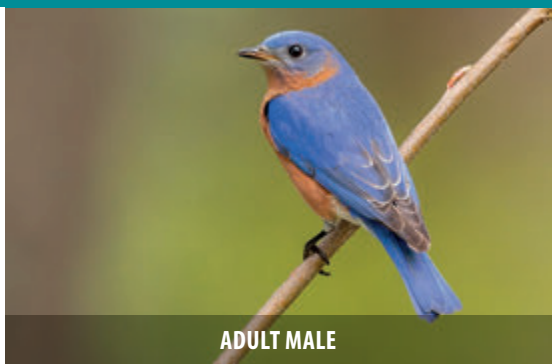
**BEHAVIOR** The Northern Mockingbird enjoys making its presence known. It sits conspicuously on fences or wires, or runs and hops along the ground. Found alone or in pairs, mockingbirds aggressively chase off intruders.

**HABITAT** Look for Northern Mockingbirds in towns, suburbs, backyards, parks, forest edges, and open land at low elevations.

If you've been hearing an endless string of 10 or 15 different birds singing outside your house, you might have a **Northern Mockingbird** in your yard. These slender-bodied gray birds sing almost endlessly, even sometimes at night, and flagrantly harass birds that intrude on their territories.



ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



JUVENILE



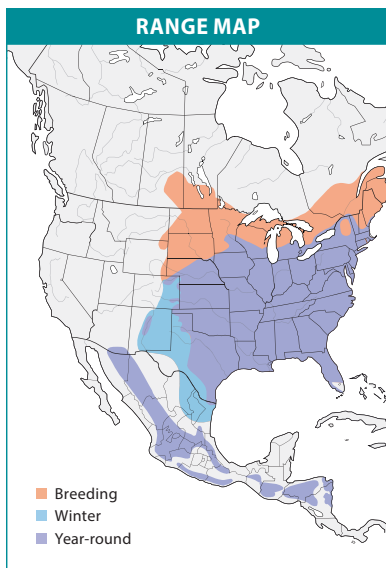
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Eastern Bluebird is a small thrush with a big, rounded head, large eye, plump body, and alert posture. The wings are long, but the tail and legs are fairly short. The bill is short and straight.

**COLOR PATTERN** Male Eastern Bluebirds are vivid blue above and rusty or brick red below. Blue in birds always depends on the light, and males often look plain gray brown from a distance. Females are grayish above with bluish wings and tail, and a subdued orange-brown breast. Juveniles have spotting on their back and chest with variable amounts of blue in the wings and tail.

**BEHAVIOR** Eastern Bluebirds perch erect on wires, posts, and low branches in open country, scanning the ground for prey. They drop to the ground onto insects to feed, or, in fall and winter, perch in trees to gulp down berries.

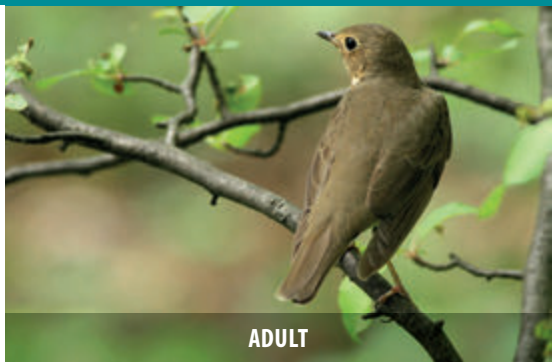
**HABITAT** Eastern Bluebirds live in open country with scattered trees and sparse ground cover, such as frequently burned pine savannas, forest openings, pastures, agricultural fields, parks, spacious backyards, and golf courses.



In summer, look for **Eastern Bluebirds** on telephone wires or perched on a nest box, calling out in a short, wavering voice or abruptly dropping to the ground after an insect. Marvelous birds to see in binoculars, male Eastern Bluebirds are brilliant blue on the back and head, and warm red brown on the breast.



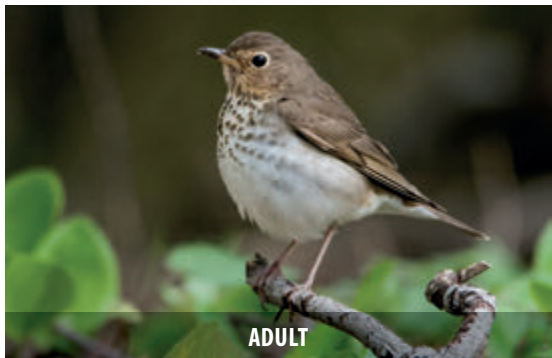
ADULT



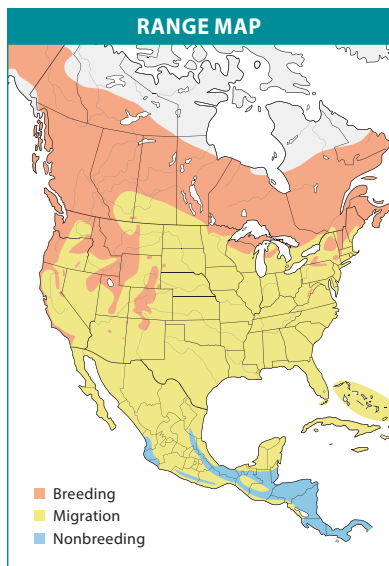
ADULT



ADULT



ADULT



**SIZE & SHAPE** Swainson's Thrushes are medium-sized, slim songbirds with round heads and short, straight bills. Their fairly long wings and medium-length tail can make the back half of the bird appear long.

**COLOR PATTERN** Swainson's Thrushes are brownish above with distinct buffy spectacles. White underparts have brown spotting on the throat and breast. The white throat is bordered by a dark brown stripe. The wings and tail are the same color as the back. Immature birds have pale wingbars that are lacking in adults.

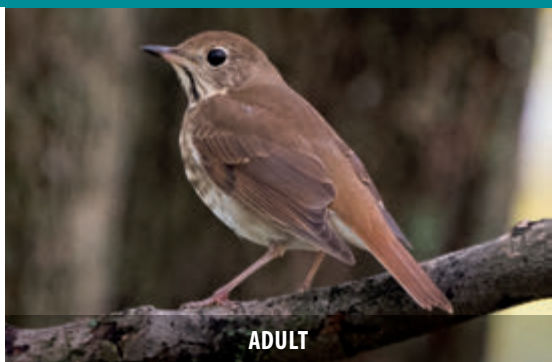
**BEHAVIOR** Swainson's Thrushes are shy but vocal birds that skulk in the shadows of their dark forest-interior habitat. They forage for insects and other arthropods on or near the ground. On migration, particularly in fall, they also eat small fruits such as wild cherries and Virginia creeper.

**HABITAT** This bird is rarely found far from closed-canopy forest. Breeding habitat is usually a mix of broadleaf and coniferous forest.

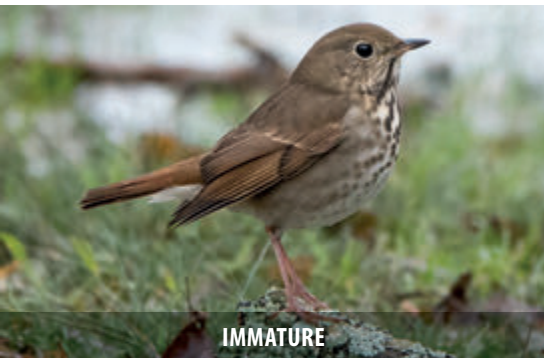
More likely heard than seen, **Swainson's Thrushes** enliven summer mornings and evenings with their upward-spiraling, flutelike songs. When flying overhead at night during spring and fall migration, they emit soft, bell-like *peep* calls which may be mistaken for frogs.



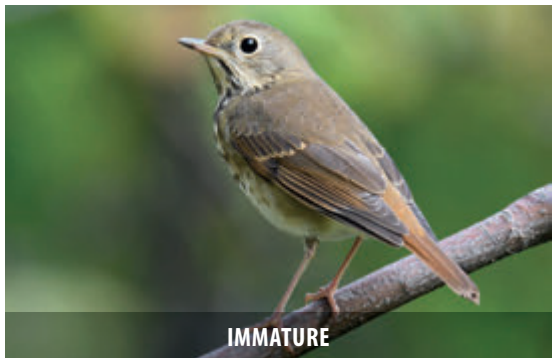
ADULT



ADULT



IMMATURE



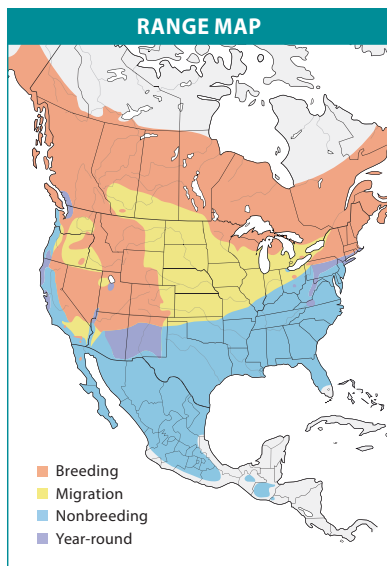
IMMATURE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Hermit Thrushes have a chunky shape similar to an American Robin, but they are smaller. They stand upright, often with the slender, straight bill slightly raised. Like other thrushes, the head is round and the tail fairly long.

**COLOR PATTERN** The Hermit Thrush is soft brown on the head and back, with a distinctly warm, reddish tail. The underparts are pale with distinct spots on the throat and smudged spots on the breast. Look closely for a thin, pale eyering. Immature birds have pale wingbars that are lacking in adults.

**BEHAVIOR** Hermit Thrushes hop and scrape in leaf litter while foraging. They perch low to the ground and often wander into open areas such as forest clearings. They have a habit of raising the tail and then lowering it slowly.

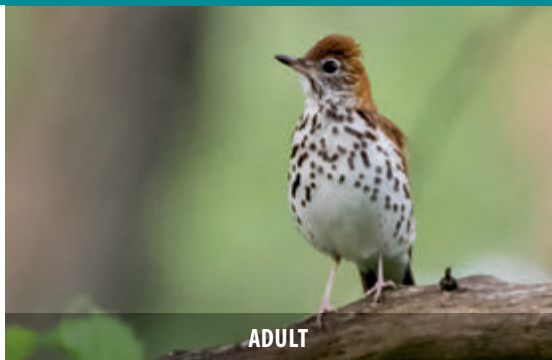
**HABITAT** Hermit Thrushes breed in open areas inside boreal forests, broadleaf woods, and mountain forests. In winter, they often occupy lower elevation forests with dense understory and berry bushes.



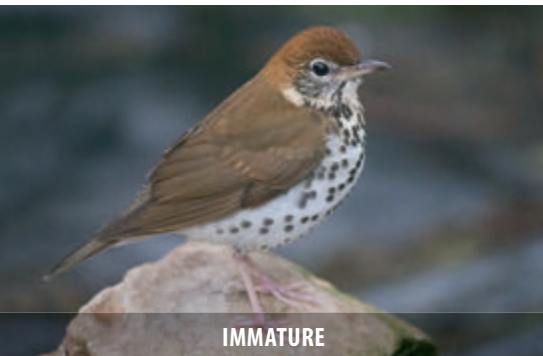
An unassuming bird with a lovely, melancholy song, the **Hermit Thrush** lurks in the understories of far northern forests in summer and is a frequent winter companion across much of the U.S. and Mexico. It forages on the forest floor by rummaging through leaf litter or seizing insects with its bill.



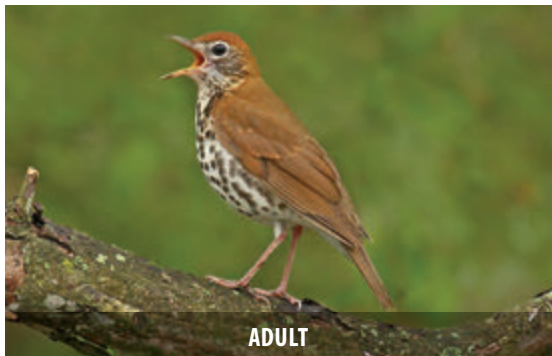
ADULT



ADULT



IMMATURE



ADULT

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Wood Thrush's plump body, medium-length tail, straight bill, big head, and upright posture give it the profile of a scaled-down American Robin.

**COLOR PATTERN** Wood Thrushes are warm reddish brown above and white with bold, black spots on their underparts. Juveniles show a somewhat muted version of the same pattern, plus a faint wingbar. All have a bold, white eyering.

**BEHAVIOR** The reclusive Wood Thrush hops through leaf litter on the forest floor, probing for insects, bobbing upright between spurts of digging and leaf-turning. The male's clear, flutelike song echoes through forest in spring and early summer at dawn and dusk. Both sexes make distinctive, machine-gun-like alarm notes.

**HABITAT** The Wood Thrush breeds in broadleaf and mixed forests in the eastern U.S., where there are large trees, shade, and abundant leaf litter for foraging. It winters in lowland tropical forests in Mexico and Central America.

The **Wood Thrush's** loud, flute-clear *ee-oh-lay* song rings through the broadleaf forests of the eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada in summer. This reclusive bird stays camouflaged as it scabbles for leaf-litter invertebrates deep in the forest, though it pops upright frequently to peer about, revealing a boldly spotted white breast.

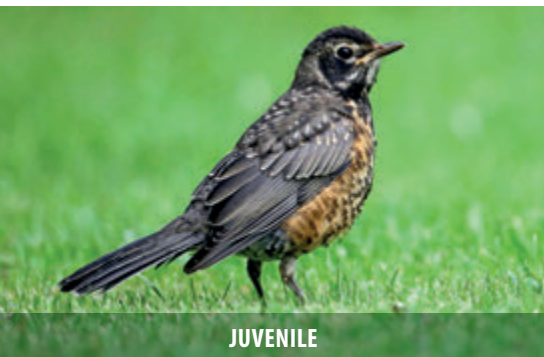




ADULT MALE (SPRING / SUMMER)



ADULT FEMALE / IMMATURE MALE (FALL / WINTER)



JUVENILE



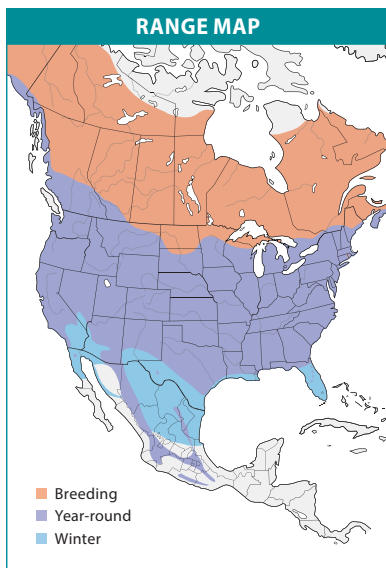
ADULT FEMALE (SPRING / SUMMER)

**SIZE & SHAPE** American Robins are among the largest songbirds with a round body, long legs, and fairly long tail. Robins are among the largest of the North American thrushes and are a good reference point for comparing the size and shape of other birds, too.

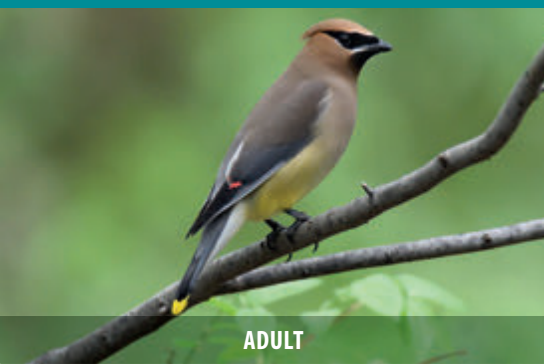
**COLOR PATTERN** American Robins are gray-brown birds with warm orange underparts and dark heads. Compared with males, females sometimes have paler heads that contrast less with the gray back. In fall and winter, birds are covered with pale feather edges. Juveniles are spotted.

**BEHAVIOR** American Robins are industrious birds that bound across lawns or stand erect, beak tilted upward, to survey their environs. When alighting, they habitually flick their tails downward several times. In fall and winter, they form large flocks and gather in trees to roost or eat berries.

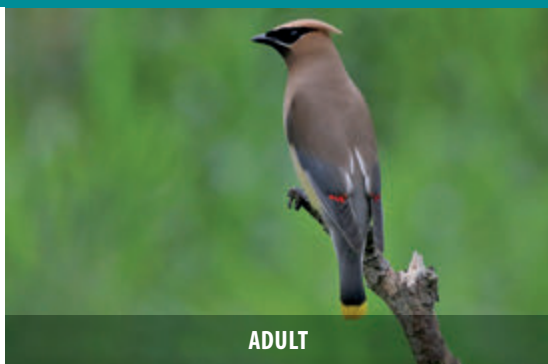
**HABITAT** You'll find American Robins on lawns, fields, and in city parks, as well as more wild places like forests and mountains up to near treeline, recently burned forests, and tundra.



Quintessential early birds, **American Robins** are common across temperate North America, where they are often seen tugging earthworms from lawns. Robins are popular for their cheery song, and appearance at the end of winter. They are also at home in wild areas, like mountain forests and the Alaskan wilderness.



ADULT



ADULT

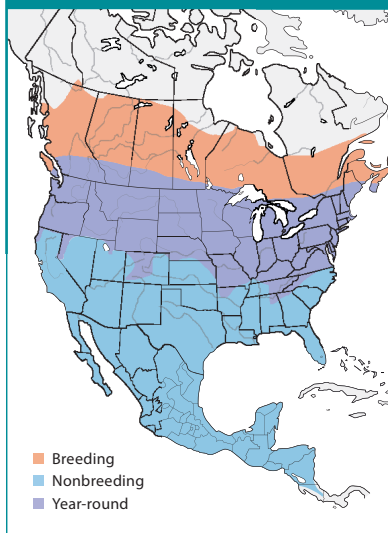


JUVENILE



IMMATURE (FIRST YEAR)

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Cedar Waxwing is a medium-sized, sleek bird with a large head, short neck, and short, wide bill. Its crest often lies flat, and its wings are broad and pointed, like a starling's. The tail is fairly short and square-tipped.

**COLOR PATTERN** Cedar Waxwings have a pale brown head and chest fading to gray wings with red, waxy tips that are not always easy to see. The belly is pale yellow, and the gray tail has a bright yellow tip, which may be orange due to diet. The face has a narrow black mask outlined in white. Immature birds lack the red tips on their wings. Juveniles are streaky below.

**BEHAVIOR** These social birds live in flocks when not nesting. They sit in fruiting trees, swallowing berries whole or plucking them with a brief, fluttering hover. They also course over water for insects, flying like tubby, slightly clumsy swallows.

**HABITAT** Cedar Waxwings live in broadleaf or coniferous forests, old fields, and sagebrush, especially near water. They're increasingly common in towns and suburbs, where ornamental fruit trees flourish.

In fall, **Cedar Waxwings** gather by the hundreds to eat berries, filling the air with their high, thin whistles. In summer, you'll find them flitting about over rivers in pursuit of flying insects, where they show off dazzling aeronautics for a forest bird. To attract them to your yard, plant native trees and shrubs that bear small fruits.



BREEDING MALE



NONBREEDING MALE



JUVENILE



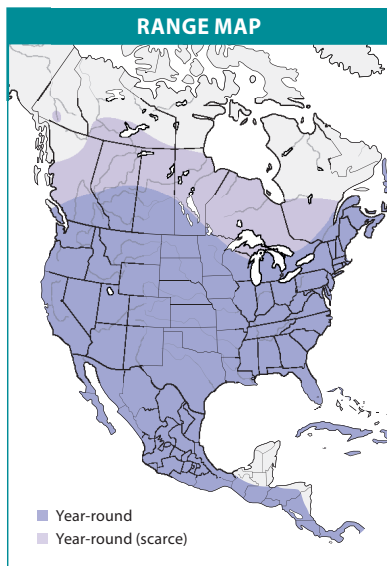
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Introduced from Europe, House Sparrows aren't related to North American sparrows. They're chunkier and fuller in the chest, with a larger, rounded head, shorter tail, and stouter bill than most American sparrows.

**COLOR PATTERN** Males have a gray forehead, white cheeks, a black bib, and a rufous neck, although urban birds can be dull and grubby. Females are a buffy brown with dingy underparts. The backs of both are striped with buff, black, and brown.

**BEHAVIOR** House Sparrows flutter from eaves or hidden nests and hang around parking lots and outdoor cafés, waiting for crumbs. Their noisy, sociable *cheep cheep* calls are familiar wherever they are found.

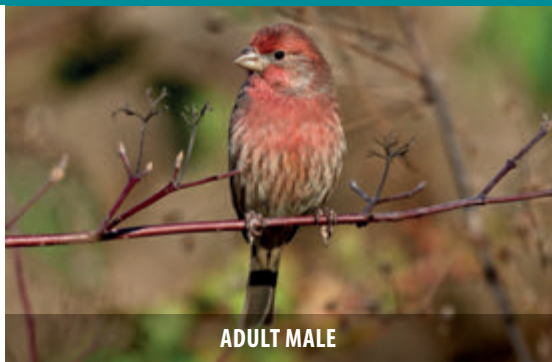
**HABITAT** Look for House Sparrows on city streets, taking handouts in parks and zoos, or cheeping from a perch on trees in your yard. They are absent from undisturbed forests and grasslands, but common around farmsteads.



The **House Sparrow** was introduced into Brooklyn, New York, in 1851. By 1900, it had spread to the Rocky Mountains. Today they are some of our most common birds. They aggressively defend their nest holes and sometimes evict native birds from them. These include Eastern Bluebirds, Purple Martins, and Tree Swallows.



ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE

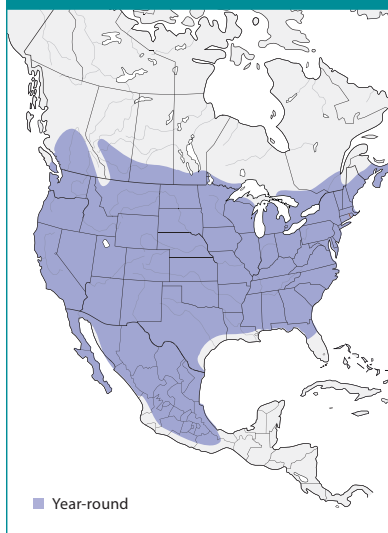


ADULT MALE (YELLOW VARIANT)



ADULT FEMALE

## RANGE MAP



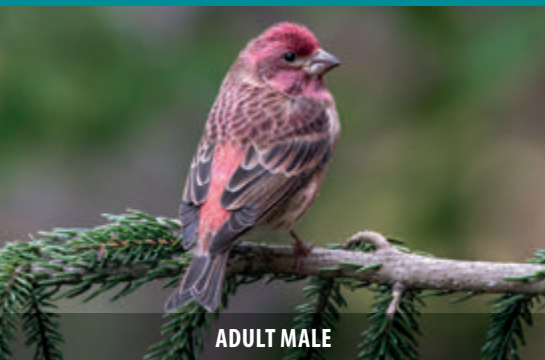
**SIZE & SHAPE** House Finches are small with fairly large bills and somewhat long, flat heads. Wings are short, making the tail seem long. Tails have a relatively shallow notch when compared to other finches.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males are rosy red around the face and upper breast, with a streaky brown back, belly, and tail. In flight, the red rump is conspicuous. Adult females aren't red; they are plain grayish brown with thick, blurry streaks. Some adult males are decidedly more yellow than red. This is due to diet and may be temporary.

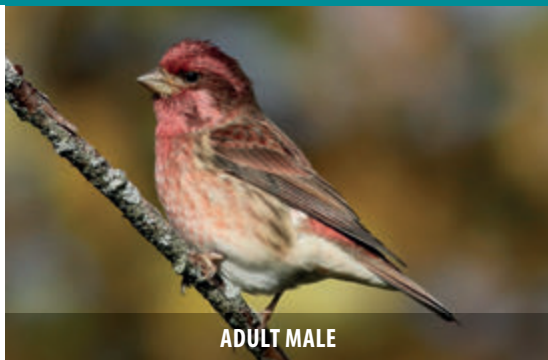
**BEHAVIOR** House Finches are gregarious birds that collect at feeders or perch high in nearby trees. They move fairly slowly and sit still as they crush seeds with rapid bites. Their flight is bouncy, like that of many finches.

**HABITAT** House Finches frequent city parks, backyards, urban centers, farms, and forest edges across the continent. In the West, you'll also find them in their native habitats of deserts, grassland, chaparral, and open woods.

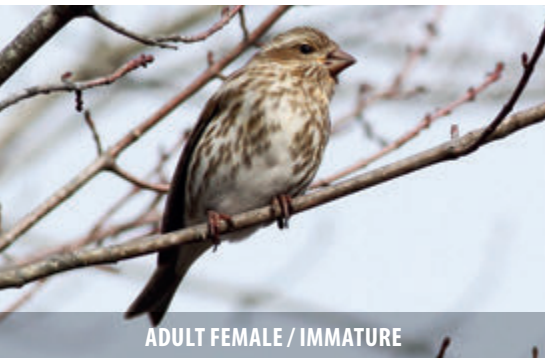
The **House Finch** is a recent introduction from western into eastern North America (and Hawaii), but it has received a warmer reception than other arrivals like the European Starling and House Sparrow. That's partly due to the cheerful, long, twittering song, which can now be heard across much of the continent.



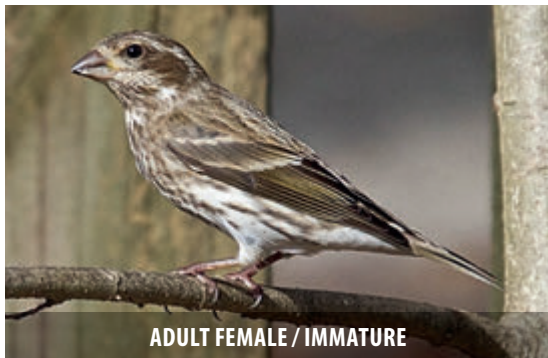
ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE / IMMATURE



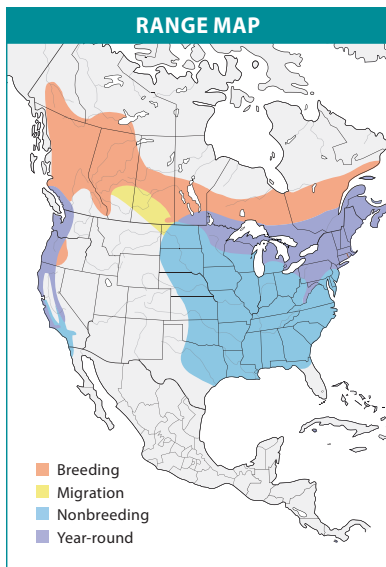
ADULT FEMALE / IMMATURE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Among small forest birds like chickadees, kinglets, and nuthatches, Purple Finches are large and chunky. Their powerful, conical beaks are larger than any sparrow's. The tail seems short and is notched at the tip.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult male Purple Finches are pinkish red on the head and breast, mixing with brown on the back and white on the belly. Female and immature birds have no red and are coarsely streaked below, with strong facial markings, including a whitish eyestripe.

**BEHAVIOR** Purple Finches readily come to feeders for black oil sunflower seeds. You'll also see them in forests, foraging high up in trees. In winter, they'll eat seeds from plants and stalks in weedy fields. Their flight is undulating.

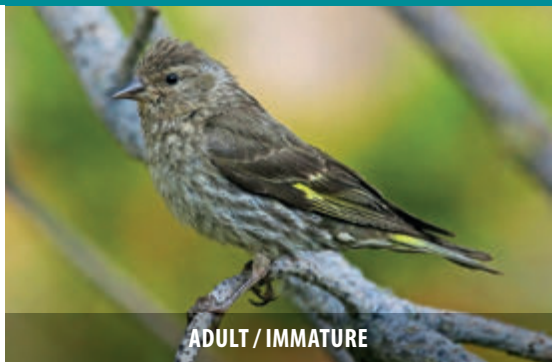
**HABITAT** In winter, look for Purple Finches in old fields, forest edges, and backyards. In summer, they prefer moist, cool coniferous forests. You'll also find them in mixed forests, along wooded streams, and in tree-lined suburbs.



Roger Tory Peterson famously described the **Purple Finch** as a "sparrow dipped in raspberry juice." Separating them from House Finches requires a careful look, but the reward is a delicately colored, cleaner version of the House Finch. In forests, you're likely to hear their warbling song from the highest parts of trees.



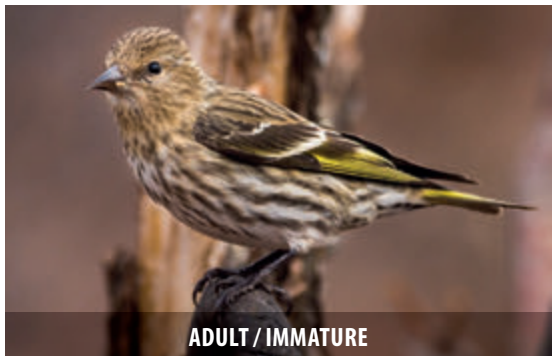
ADULT MALE (GREEN MORPH)



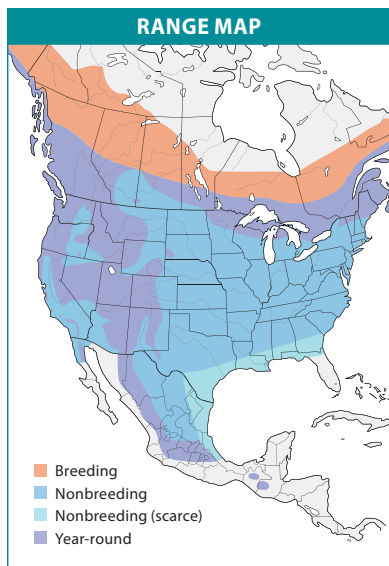
ADULT / IMMATURE



ADULT / IMMATURE



ADULT / IMMATURE



**SIZE & SHAPE** Pine Siskins are very small songbirds with sharp, pointed bills and short, notched tails. Their uniquely shaped bill is more slender than that of most finches. In flight, look for their forked tails and pointed wingtips.

**COLOR PATTERN** Pine Siskins are brown and very streaky birds with subtle yellow edgings on wings and tails. Flashes of yellow can erupt as they take flight, flutter at branch tips, or display during mating. The occasional adult male is washed with green, but this is rare. Adults and immatures look mostly similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Pine Siskins often visit feeders in winter or cling to branch tips of pines and other conifers, sometimes hanging upside down to pick at seeds. They forage in tight flocks and twitter incessantly to each other, even in flight.

**HABITAT** Pine Siskins prefer coniferous or mixed coniferous-deciduous forests with open canopies, but they'll forage in weedy fields, scrubby thickets, or yards and gardens. They flock at feeders in woodlands and suburbs.

Flocks of tiny **Pine Siskins** may monopolize your thistle feeder one winter and be absent the next. This nomadic finch ranges widely and erratically across the continent each winter in response to seed crops. These brown-streaked acrobats flash yellow wing markings as they flutter while feeding or explode into flight.

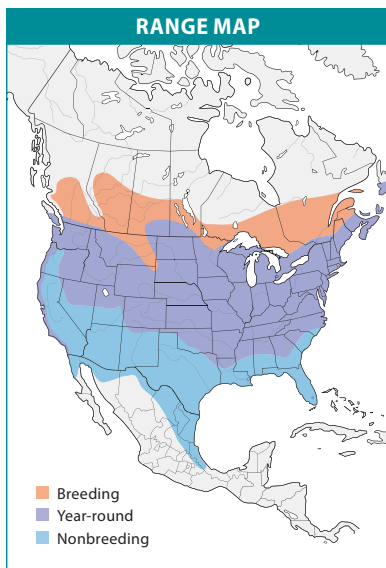
**BREEDING MALE****NONBREEDING MALE****BREEDING FEMALE****NONBREEDING FEMALE / IMMATURE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** The American Goldfinch is a small finch with a short, conical bill and small head, long wings, and short, notched tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males in spring and early summer are bright yellow with a black forehead, black wings with white markings, and white patches both above and beneath the tail. Adult females in spring and summer are duller yellow beneath, olive above. Nonbreeding winter birds are drab, unstreaked brown, with blackish wings and two pale wingbars. Immature birds have buffy wingbars on dark wings.

**BEHAVIOR** Active and acrobatic little finches that cling to weeds and seed socks, American Goldfinches sometimes mill about in large numbers at feeders or on the ground beneath them. They fly with a bouncy, undulating pattern and often call in flight, drawing attention to themselves.

**HABITAT** Their main natural habitats are weedy fields and floodplains, where plants such as thistles and asters are common. They're also found in cultivated areas, roadsides, orchards, and backyards. They show up at feeders any time of year, but most abundantly during winter.



The **American Goldfinch** is our only finch that molts its body feathers twice a year, once in late winter and again, in late summer. The brightening yellow of male goldfinches is a welcome mark of approaching spring. Among the strictest vegans in the bird world, they select an entirely plant-based diet.



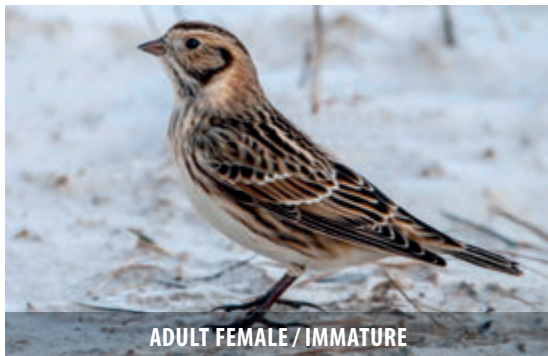
BREEDING MALE



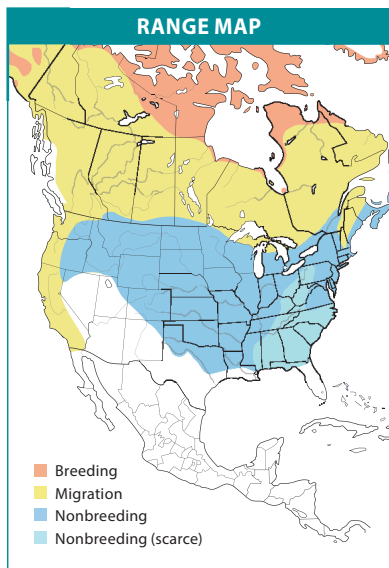
BREEDING MALE



NONBREEDING MALE/IMMATURE MALE



ADULT FEMALE/IMMATURE



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Lapland Longspur is a sparrow-sized bird with a short, thick, pointed bill. It is quite compact, with a large head and a relatively short tail. The wings are relatively long.

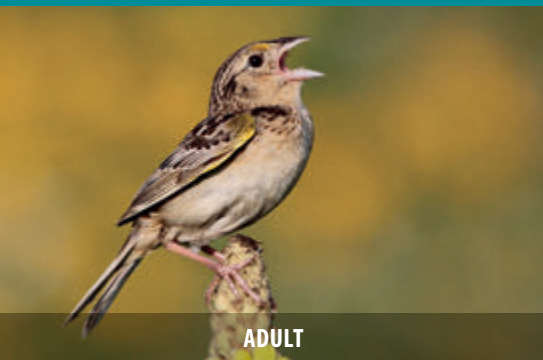
**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding males have a bold black face bordered by a white line and a rufous patch on the back of the neck. Females are similar but lack the black face and look similar to a nonbreeding male. In winter, both sexes retain an echo of the face pattern but are overall pale brown and streaked. In all plumages, the tail is dark with white outer edges.

**BEHAVIOR** Lapland Longspurs walk or run across open landscapes, taking cover by crouching motionless on the ground, depending on camouflage to conceal them. Flushed birds often fly quite high and settle far from their original position.

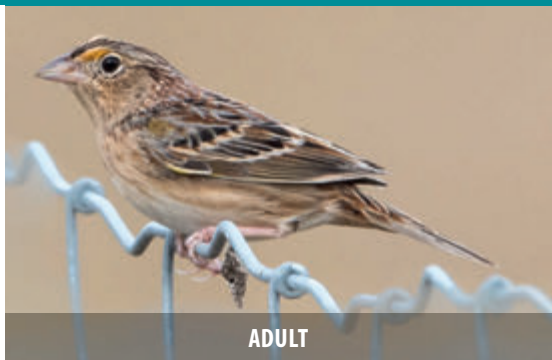
**HABITAT** The Lapland Longspur breeds in Arctic tundra in wet meadows, grassy tussocks, and scrub. In migration and winter, look for them further south in plowed fields, stubble, and open grasslands.

The **Lapland Longspur** breeds in the High Arctic with continual daylight during the summer, and a breeding male may sing at any hour of the day. Despite the lack of a real dawn, the male tends to sing most in the early morning. Longspur refers to the elongated claw of the hind toe.





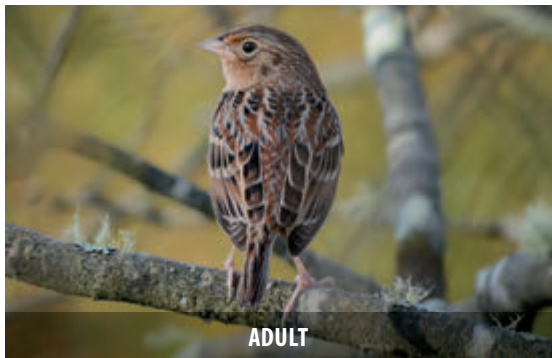
ADULT



ADULT



JUVENILE



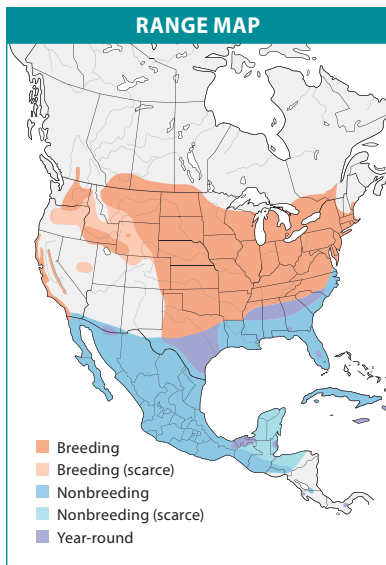
ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Grasshopper Sparrow is small with a distinctive compact shape. The head is large and has a flat crown, with a conspicuous bill, and the tail is very short. It is among the smallest birds in its habitat.

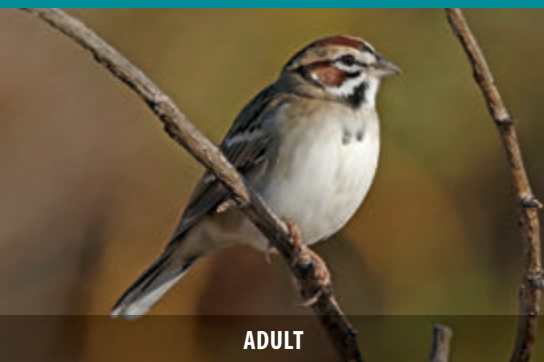
**COLOR PATTERN** The Grasshopper Sparrow is a brown and tan bird with light streaking. The belly is white, but the entire breast is buffy. The back is mottled tan, black, and chestnut and isn't as streaky as other sparrows. The face is relatively plain with a conspicuous white eyering. They often show a yellow spot between the eye and bill (the lore) and on the bend of the wing. Juveniles have a band of streaks across the breast.

**BEHAVIOR** Grasshopper Sparrows stay close to the ground, preferring to run or walk rather than fly. During the breeding season, males sing from exposed perches near the tops of grass stalks or along barbed wire fences.

**HABITAT** This species breeds in open grasslands, prairies, hayfields, and pastures, typically with some bare ground. They usually avoid breeding in grasslands with shrub cover, but may inhabit them on migration and in winter.



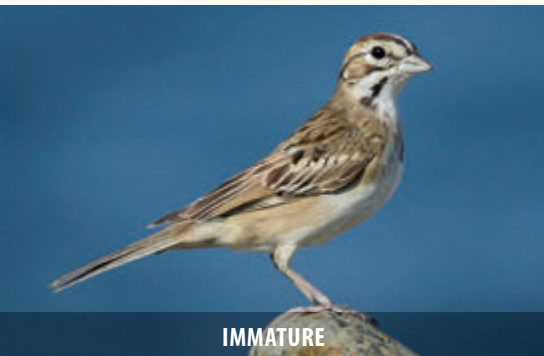
When not singing a quiet, insectlike song from atop a stalk in a weedy pasture, the **Grasshopper Sparrow** disappears into grasses, running along the ground rather than flying. Appropriately, grasshoppers are the primary prey. Adults prepare them for chicks by vigorously shaking the legs off the insects.



ADULT



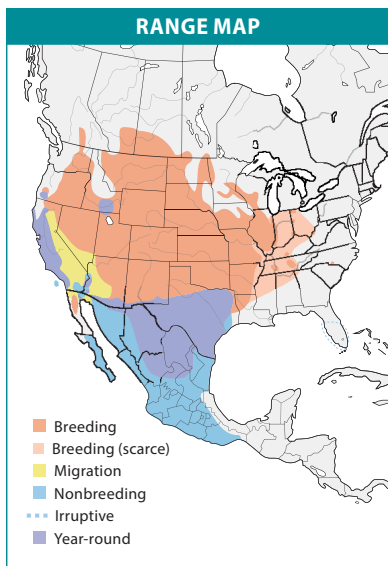
ADULT



IMMATURE



ADULT



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Lark Sparrow is large and long-tailed (for a sparrow). When perched, it often looks long-bodied with a thin neck and a round head.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adults have a very striking head pattern with a chestnut crown and cheek patch, a pale stripe over the eye, and a strong black malar or mustache stripe. Note the black spot in the center of the white breast. Immature Lark Sparrows have similar face patterns but lack the chestnut coloration in the crown and cheek.

**BEHAVIOR** Lark Sparrows usually feed on the ground for seeds and insects and will fly into trees and shrubs when disturbed. During the breeding season, males sing from elevated perches.

**HABITAT** Lark Sparrows breed in open grassy habitats like orchards, fallow fields, woodlands, mesquite grasslands, savanna, and sagebrush steppe. In migration and winter, look for them in pine-oak forest, thorn scrub, and agricultural areas.

This large, brown sparrow's harlequin facial pattern and white tail spots make it a standout among sparrows. Male **Lark Sparrows** sing a melodious jumble of churrs, buzzes, and trills. Their unusual courtship involves a hopping and crouching display, unlike other sparrows.

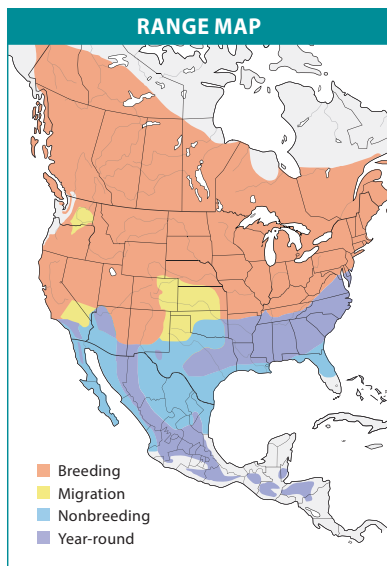
**BREEDING ADULT****NONBREEDING ADULT****JUVENILE****NONBREEDING ADULT**

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Chipping Sparrow is a tiny, slender, fairly long-tailed sparrow with a bill that is a bit small compared to those of some other sparrows.

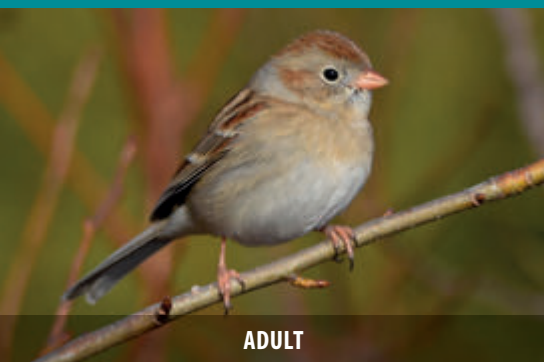
**COLOR PATTERN** Summer Chipping Sparrows look clean and crisp, with frosty underparts, pale faces, a black line through the eyes, and a bright rusty crown to top them off. In winter, Chipping Sparrows are a subdued buff brown with darkly streaked upperparts. The black line through the eye is still visible, and the cap is a warm but more subdued reddish brown. Juveniles have streaked underparts and a streaked brown crown.

**BEHAVIOR** Chipping Sparrows feed on the ground, take cover in shrubs, and sing from the tops of small trees. You'll often see loose groups of them flitting up from open ground. When singing, they cling to high outer limbs.

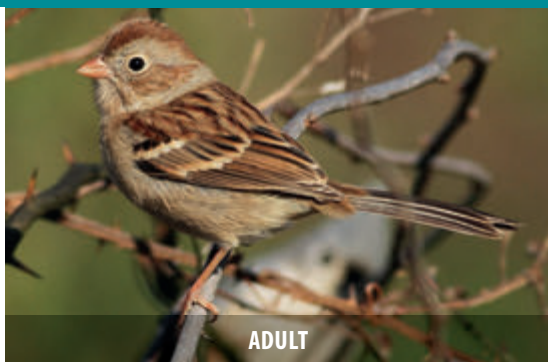
**HABITAT** Look for Chipping Sparrows in open woodlands and forests with grassy clearings across North America, all the way up to the highest elevations. You'll also see them in parks, along roadsides, and in your backyard.



A crisp, pretty sparrow whose bright rufous cap provides a splash of color and makes adults fairly easy to identify. **Chipping Sparrows** are common across much of North America wherever trees are interspersed with grassy openings. Their loud, trilling songs are one of the most common sounds of spring.



ADULT



ADULT

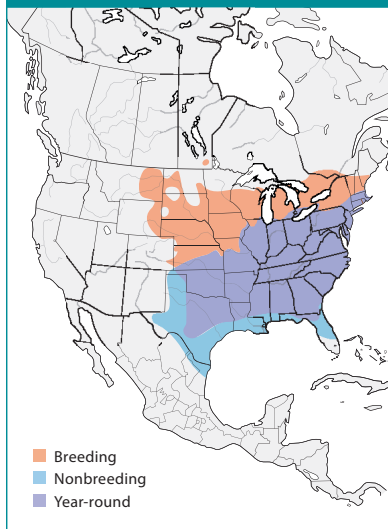


JUVENILE



ADULT

## RANGE MAP



- Breeding
- Nonbreeding
- Year-round

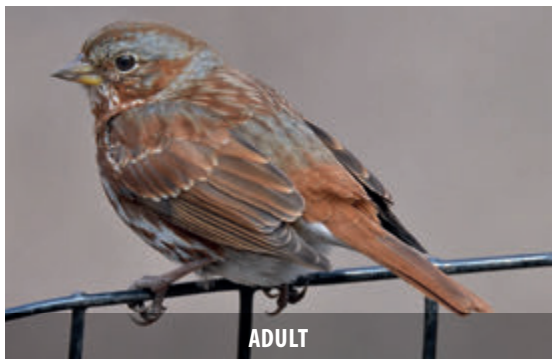
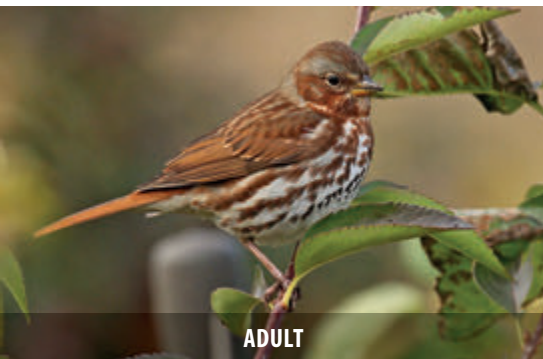
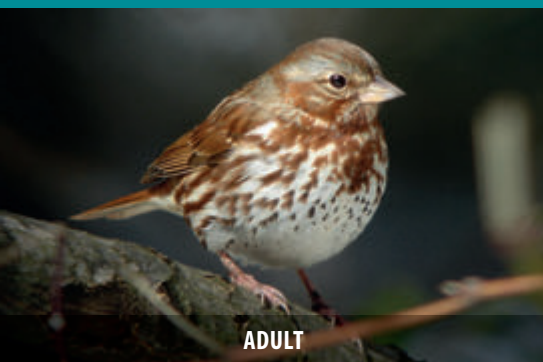
**SIZE & SHAPE** Field Sparrows are small, slender sparrows with relatively short, conical bills, rounded heads, and somewhat long tails.

**COLOR PATTERN** Field Sparrows have a gray face with a distinct white eyering, pink conical bill, and rusty crown and eyeline. Underparts are pale gray with buff-orange highlights. The back is brown with black streaks, and the rump and tail are gray. Some birds, especially in the western portion of the range, lack rusty tones. Juveniles are streaky.

**BEHAVIOR** Field Sparrows would be easily overlooked but for the sweet accelerating song of territorial males. Individuals and small flocks quietly feed near the ground, flushing into shrubby cover when disturbed.

**HABITAT** Field Sparrows are so-called “old-field” specialists; look for them in areas of tall grass and brush that are growing up into small trees and shrubs, especially near thorny shrubs such as roses and briars.

The clear, bouncing-ball trill of the **Field Sparrow** is a familiar summer sound in brushy fields and roadsides of the East and Midwest. Though still common, Field Sparrows have declined sharply in the last half-century, partly because of the expansion of suburbs, where Field Sparrows will not nest.

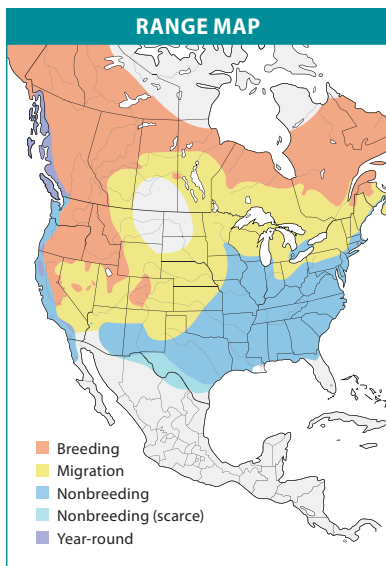


**SIZE & SHAPE** Fox Sparrows are large, round-bodied sparrows with stout bills and medium-length tails.

**COLOR PATTERN** Fox Sparrows vary greatly across their range. “Red” Fox Sparrows, widely distributed across the boreal forest of northern North America, are rusty above with some pale gray on the head and rufous splotches on the underparts.

**BEHAVIOR** Fox Sparrows spend a lot of time on the ground, using their sturdy legs to kick away leaf litter in search of insects and seeds. They rarely venture far from cover, and often associate with other sparrows. In spring and summer, listen for their sweet, whistled song from scrub or forest; also, pay attention for a sharp *smack* call.

**HABITAT** Fox Sparrows breed in coniferous forest and dense mountain scrub. They spend winters in scrubby habitat and forest, when they are most likely to be seen kicking around under backyard bird feeders.



Typically seen sending up a spray of leaf litter as they kick around in search of food, **Fox Sparrows** are dark, splotchy sparrows of dense thickets. Named for the rich red hues that many Fox Sparrows wear, this species is nevertheless one of our most variable birds; they range from foxy red to gray to dark brown.



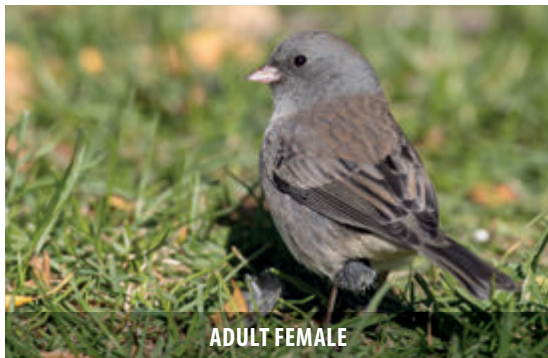
ADULT MALE



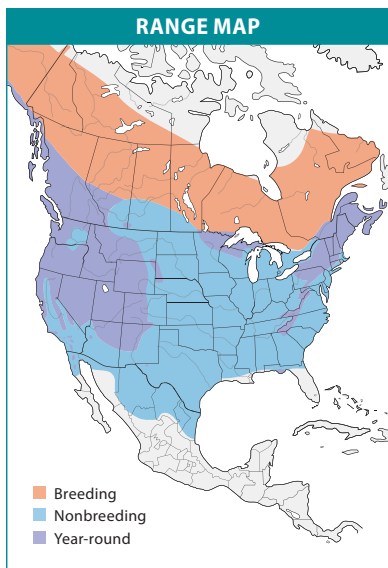
ADULT FEMALE



ADULT FEMALE



ADULT FEMALE



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Dark-eyed Junco is a medium-sized sparrow with a rounded head, a short, stout bill, and a fairly long tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** All juncos have pale bills and white outer tail feathers that they flash in flight. In the Southeast, the male “Slate-colored” form is mostly gray with a white belly. Female and immature birds of this form are more variable, and can be much browner than males. Juveniles are streaky.

**BEHAVIOR** Dark-eyed Juncos hop around the bases of trees and shrubs in forests or venture onto lawns looking for seeds. They give high *chip* notes while foraging or as they take short, low flights through cover.

**HABITAT** Dark-eyed Juncos breed in coniferous or mixed-coniferous forests across the United States. During winter, you’ll find them in open woodlands, fields, parks, roadsides, and backyards.

**Dark-eyed Juncos** are neat, even flashy little sparrows that flit about forest floors of the western mountains and Canada, then flood the rest of temperate North America for winter. They’re easy to recognize by their crisp (though extremely variable) markings and the bright white tail feathers they habitually flash in flight.



ADULT (DARK-LORED)



IMMATURE (DARK-LORED)



ADULT (GAMBEL'S)



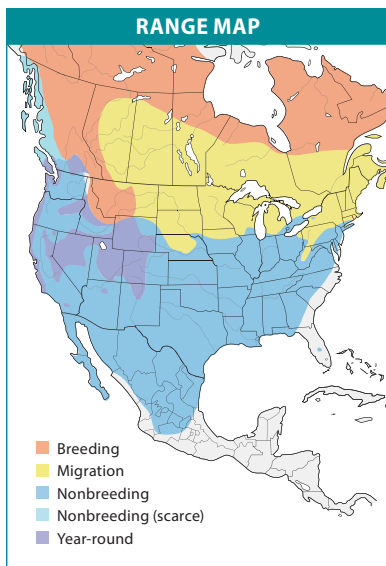
IMMATURE (GAMBEL'S)

**SIZE & SHAPE** The White-crowned Sparrow is a large sparrow with a small bill and a long tail. The head can look either distinctly peaked or smooth and flat, depending on the bird's posture and activity.

**COLOR PATTERN** White-crowned Sparrows are gray-and-brown birds with large, bold, black-and-white stripes on the head. Dark-lored forms have pink bills and black between the bill and the eye. The Gambel's form has an orange bill and is pale between the bill and the eye. Young birds have rusty brown stripes on a gray head. Juveniles are streaky.

**BEHAVIOR** White-crowned Sparrows stay low near brushy habitat, hopping on the ground or on branches, usually below waist height. They're also found on open ground but will quickly retreat to nearby shrubs or trees to hide.

**HABITAT** White-crowned Sparrows live where safe tangles of brush mix with open or grassy ground for foraging. In much of the United States, they're most common in winter; they're found year-round in parts of the West.



**White-crowned Sparrows** appear in droves each winter over much of North America, gracing gardens and trails. Flocks scurry through brushy borders, overgrown fields, and backyards. As spring approaches, they start singing their sweet but buzzy song before and during migration.



ADULT (WHITE-STRIPED)



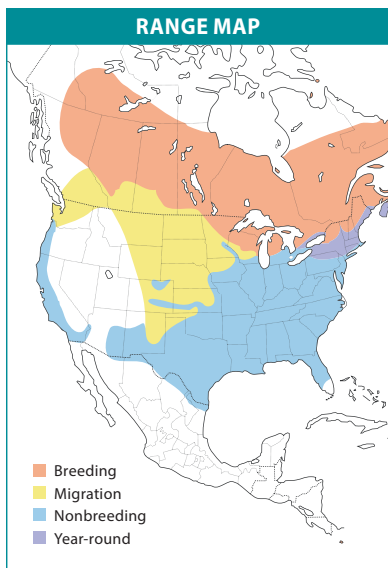
ADULT (WHITE-STRIPED)



ADULT (TAN-STRIPED)



ADULT (TAN-STRIPED)



**SIZE & SHAPE** The White-throated Sparrow is a large, full-bodied sparrow with a fairly prominent bill, rounded head, long legs, and long, narrow tail.

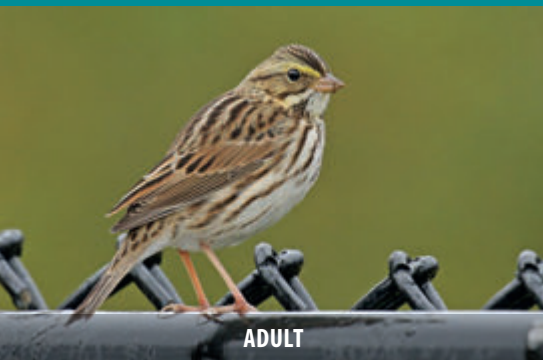
**COLOR PATTERN** White-throated Sparrows are brown above and gray below. The “white-striped” form has a black-and-white-striped crown, bright white throat, and yellow between the eye and the gray bill. A second “tan-striped” form has a buff-on-brown face. The two forms persist because they almost always mate with a bird of the opposite morph.

**BEHAVIOR** White-throated Sparrows stay near the ground, scratching through leaves in search of food, often in flocks. In spring, look for them in bushes eating fresh buds. They sing their distinctive songs frequently, even in winter.

**HABITAT** Look for these sparrows in woods and forest edges, in regrowth following logging or fires, and at pond and bog edges. In winter, you can find them in thickets, overgrown fields, parks, and woodsy suburbs.

Crisp facial markings make the **White-throated Sparrow** an attractive bird as well as a hopping, flying anatomy lesson. There’s the black eyestripe, the white crown and eyebrow stripe, the yellow lores, and the white throat bordered by a black whisker, or malar stripe. Listen for their pretty, wavering whistle of *Oh-sweet-Canada*.





ADULT



ADULT



ADULT (IPSWICH)



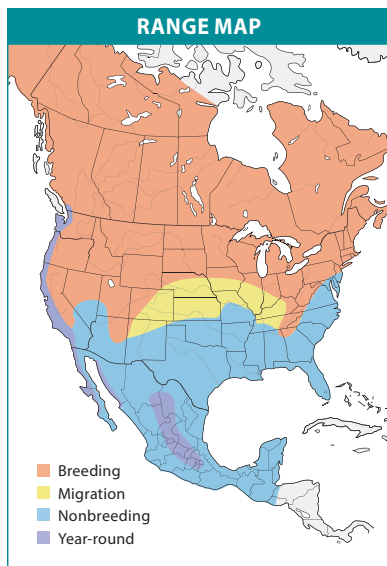
ADULT (IPSWICH)

**SIZE & SHAPE** Savannah Sparrows are small sparrows with short, notched tails. The head appears small for the plump body, and the crown feathers often flare up to give the bird's head a small peak. The thick-based bill, perfectly shaped for eating seeds, is small for a sparrow.

**COLOR PATTERN** Savannah Sparrows are generally brown above with dark streaks. They are white below with thin brown or black streaks on the breast and flanks. They usually show a small yellow mark above and in front of the eye. The shade of brown varies regionally. The "Ipswich" form is paler overall.

**BEHAVIOR** Savannah Sparrows forage on or near the ground. When flushed, they usually fly up, flare their short tails, and circle before landing a few yards away. Males sing from exposed, low perches such as fence posts.

**HABITAT** Savannah Sparrows breed on tundra, grasslands, marshes, and farmland. On their winter range, they stick to the ground or in low vegetation in open areas; look for them along the edges of roads adjacent to farms.



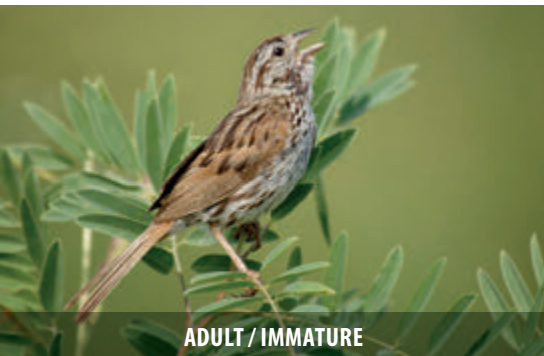
**Savannah Sparrows** are understated but distinctive, with a short tail, small head, and a telltale yellow spot before the eye. They're one of the most abundant songbirds in North American grasslands and fields, and in summer, their soft but distinctive insectlike song drifts lazily over farm fields and grasslands.



ADULT / IMMATURE



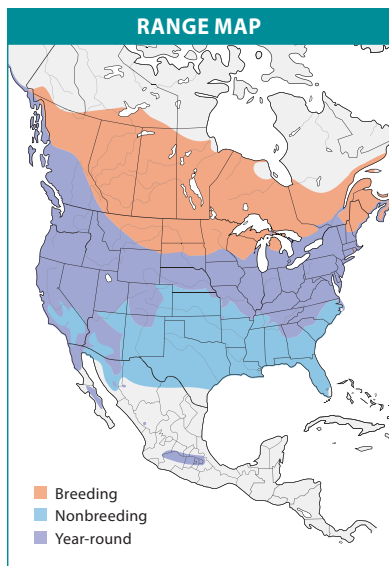
ADULT / IMMATURE



ADULT / IMMATURE



JUVENILE



**SIZE & SHAPE** Song Sparrows are medium-sized and fairly bulky sparrows. For a sparrow, the bill is short and stout and the head fairly rounded. The tail is long and rounded, and the wings are broad.

**COLOR PATTERN** Song Sparrows are brown with thick streaks on a white chest and flanks. The head is an attractive mix of warm red brown and slate gray, though these shades, and the amount of streaking, vary across its range. Adult and older, immature birds look similar. Juvenile birds have fine streaking on the breast.

**BEHAVIOR** Song Sparrows flit through dense vegetation, occasionally moving onto open ground after food. Flights are short, with a characteristic downward pumping tail. Males sing from exposed perches.

**HABITAT** Look for Song Sparrows in nearly any open habitat, including marsh edges, overgrown fields, backyards, desert washes, and forest edges. Song Sparrows commonly visit bird feeders and build nests in residential areas.

The **Song Sparrow** is one of the most familiar North American sparrows. Don't let its bewildering variety of regional plumage differences deter you: if you see a streaky sparrow in an open, shrubby or wet area, perched on a low shrub and leaning back to sing a stuttering, clattering song, this is probably your bird.



BREEDING ADULT



NONBREEDING ADULT / IMMATURE



NONBREEDING ADULT / IMMATURE



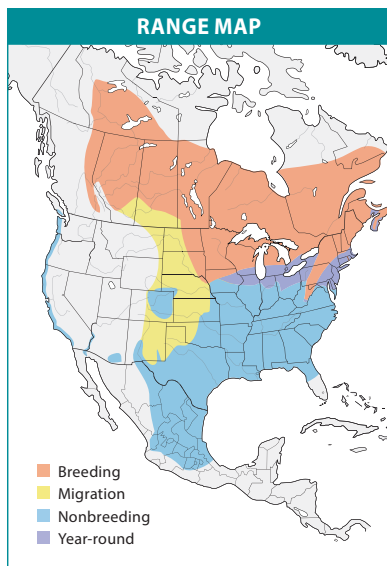
NONBREEDING ADULT / IMMATURE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Swamp Sparrow is a medium-sized sparrow with a short, conical bill, a compact, robust body, and a moderately long tail. The overall shape is quite similar to the widespread Song Sparrow.

**COLOR PATTERN** Swamp Sparrows look dark overall, especially in dim or shadowy habitats, where they often remain concealed. Closer views reveal a bright rusty crown and wings, a grayish breast with a whitish throat, and a gray nape. Immature and nonbreeding birds have blurry streaks on the chest and have a plain brown, not reddish brown, cap.

**BEHAVIOR** Swamp Sparrows perch and forage in vegetation near the ground or water surface, where their rather long legs—longer than those of Song or Lincoln's Sparrows—enable them to forage well. They typically forage near the water's edge or in brushy patches within the habitat.

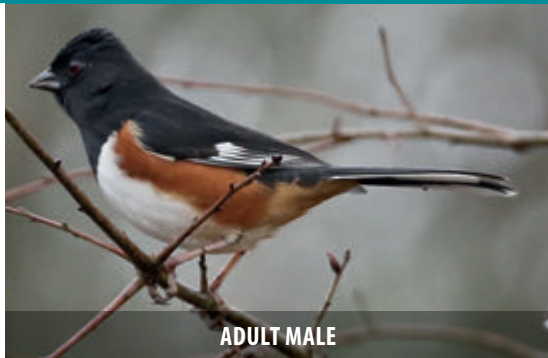
**HABITAT** Swamp Sparrows are almost always seen near water, even during migration, although migrants sometimes use wet fields and brambles and other low, dense cover.



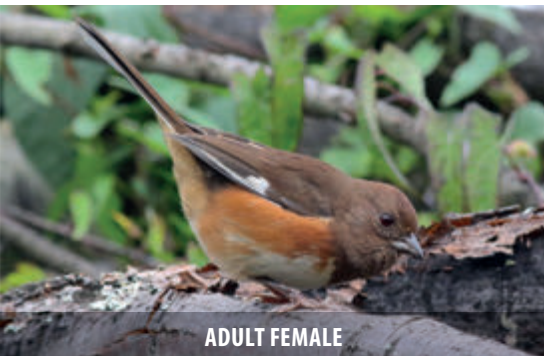
**Swamp Sparrows** provide sweet accompaniment to spring mornings in boreal bogs, sedge swamps, cattail marshes, and wet brushy meadows. Their clear, mellifluous trills resonate in wetlands from central Canada to the eastern United States, where Swamp Sparrows are fairly common but hidden among aquatic plants.



ADULT MALE



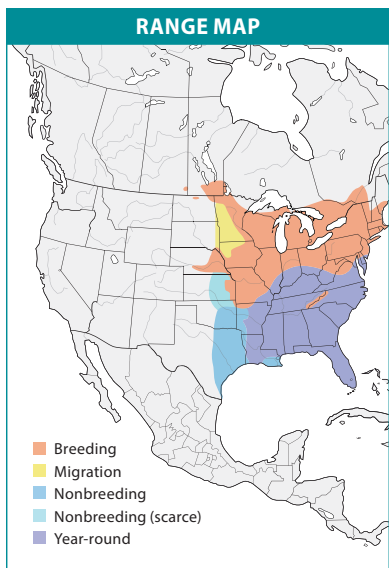
ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE



JUVENILE



**SIZE & SHAPE** Towhees are a kind of large sparrow. Look for their thick, triangular, seed-cracking bill as a tip-off they're in the sparrow family. Also notice the chunky body and long, rounded tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** Males are a bold sooty black above and on the breast, with warm rufous sides and white on the belly. Females have the same pattern, but are rich brown where the males are black. Juveniles are brownish and heavily streaked from hatching into their first fall. Some birds in the Southeast have pale eyes instead of dark or reddish eyes.

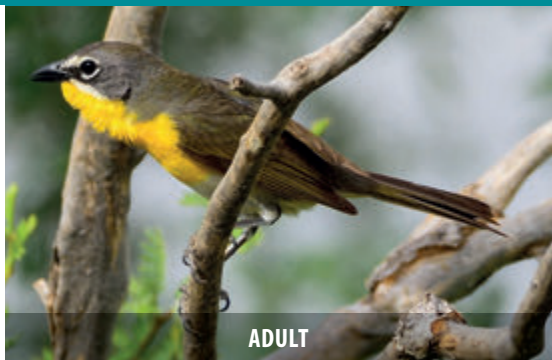
**BEHAVIOR** Eastern Towhees spend most of their time on the ground, scratching at leaves with both feet at the same time, in a kind of backwards hop. They spend lots of time concealed beneath thick underbrush. You may see this bird more often when it climbs into shrubs and low trees to sing.

**HABITAT** Look for Eastern Towhees at forest edges and in overgrown fields, woodlands, and scrubby backyards or thickets. The most important habitat qualities seem to be dense shrub cover with plenty of leaf litter.

**Eastern Towhees** are birds of the undergrowth, where their rummaging makes more noise than you would expect for their size. If you can get a clear look at it, it's a strikingly marked, oversized sparrow, feathered in bold black or chocolate brown and warm chestnut. Their *chewink* calls let you know how common they are.



ADULT



ADULT



ADULT



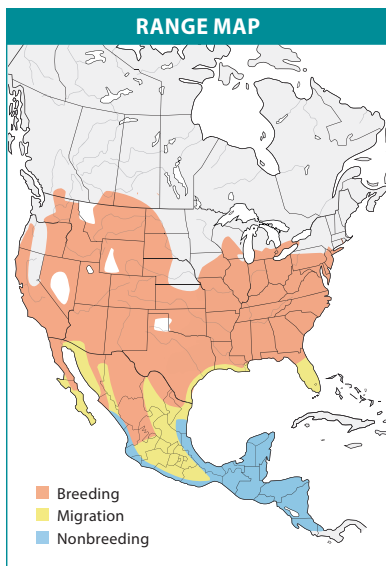
IMMATURE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Yellow-breasted Chat is a small songbird about the size of a sparrow. It has a long tail, large head, and a relatively thick, heavy bill.

**COLOR PATTERN** Chats are olive green above with a bright yellow breast. The face is gray, with a white eyering that connects to the bill, forming “spectacles.” They also have a white mustache stripe. The lower belly is white. Immature birds are duller overall.

**BEHAVIOR** Yellow-breasted Chats are loud birds that tend to skulk in low, thick brush. In spring, males may sing from an exposed perch, but otherwise these birds will typically stay well hidden. Calls include a low, chattering scold.

**HABITAT** Yellow-breasted Chats live in thickets and other dense, regrowing areas such as bramble bushes, clearcuts, powerline corridors, and shrubs along streams.



The **Yellow-breasted Chat** offers a cascade of song in the spring, when males deliver streams of whistles, cackles, chuckles, and gurgles with the fluidity of improvisational jazz. It's seldom seen or heard during the rest of the year, when both males and females skulk silently in the shadows of dense thickets.



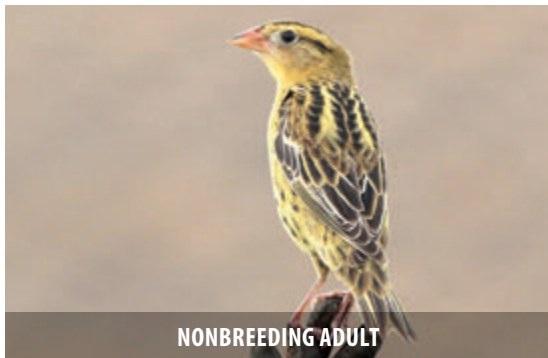
BREEDING MALE (SUMMER)



BREEDING MALE (EARLY SPRING)

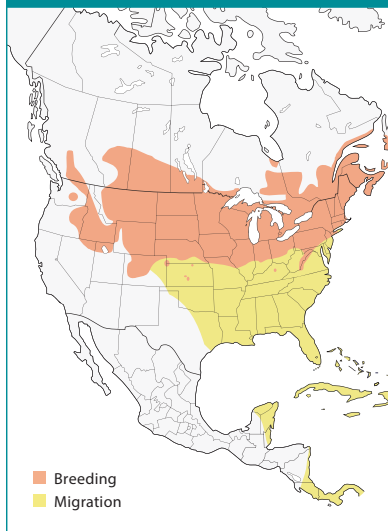


BREEDING FEMALE



NONBREEDING ADULT

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Bobolinks are small songbirds with large, somewhat flat heads, short necks, and short tails. They are related to blackbirds and orioles, and they have a similar shaped, sharply pointed bill.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding male Bobolinks are mostly black with a white back and rump, and a rich buffy nape. Females and nonbreeding males are buffy brown, streaked with dark brown on the back and flanks. They have bold brown stripes on the crown but the nape is plain. The bill is pinkish.

**BEHAVIOR** In spring, males give display flights low over grasslands, fluttering their wings while singing. Otherwise, Bobolinks hide in tall grasses or brush, clinging to seed heads or foraging on the ground. They often migrate in large flocks.

**HABITAT** Bobolinks favor tall grasslands, uncut pastures, overgrown fields and meadows, and the continent's remaining prairies. While molting and on migration, look for them in marshes and in agricultural fields, particularly rice fields.

Perched on a grass stem or displaying in flight over a field, breeding male **Bobolinks** are striking. No other North American bird has a white back and black underparts (sometimes described as a backwards tuxedo). Added to this are the male's straw-colored patch on the head and his bubbling, virtuosic song.



BREEDING ADULT



BREEDING ADULT



BREEDING ADULT



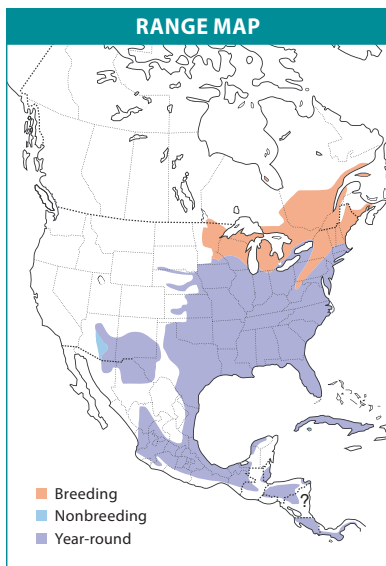
NONBREEDING ADULT / IMMATURE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Eastern Meadowlarks are chunky, medium-sized songbirds with short tails and long, spear-shaped bills. In flight, their rounded wings, short tails, and long bills help set them apart from other grassland songbirds.

**COLOR PATTERN** Eastern Meadowlarks are pale brown marked with black, with bright yellow underparts and a bold black V across the chest. The tail is barred brown in the center and extensively white on the edges. Nonbreeding and immature birds are duller overall.

**BEHAVIOR** Eastern Meadowlarks are hard to see as they walk on the ground concealed by grasses or crops. In summer, males sing beautiful, melancholic whistles from exposed perches, especially fence posts.

**HABITAT** Eastern Meadowlarks live in farm fields, native grasslands, and wet fields. They will breed in many kinds of grassy areas as long as they can find about six acres in which to create a territory.



The sweet, lazy whistles of **Eastern Meadowlarks** waft over summer grasslands and farms in eastern North America. The birds themselves sing from fenceposts and telephone lines or stalk through the grasses, probing the ground for insects with their long, sharp bills.



ADULT MALE



IMMATURE MALE



ADULT FEMALE



ADULT FEMALE



**SIZE & SHAPE** Orchard Orioles are slim songbirds with medium-length tails, rounded heads, and a straight, sharply pointed bill. They are sparrow-sized and small for an oriole.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males are black above and rich reddish chestnut below. They have a black head and throat, with a reddish chestnut patch at the bend of the wing. Females are greenish yellow with two white wingbars and no black. Immature males look like females, but have black around the bill and throat; they may be blotched with orange and chestnut on the head and breast.

**BEHAVIOR** Orchard Orioles forage for insects in the tops of trees. They also drink nectar from flowers and, in fall, eat berries and other fruits. They sometimes visit hummingbird feeders or eat orange slices or jelly at feeding stations.

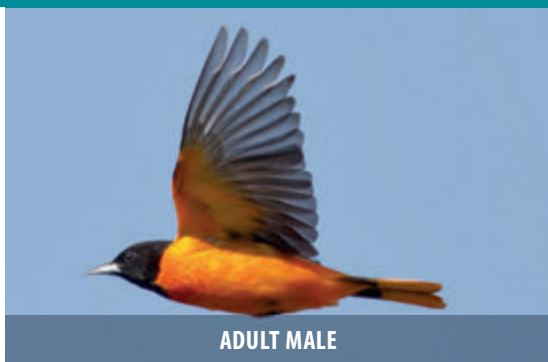
**HABITAT** Orchard Orioles spend summers in open woodlands and areas of scattered trees across the eastern United States. Look for them along river edges, in pastures, parks, and orchards.

The **Orchard Oriole** swaps the typical flame orange of other orioles for a deep, burnished russet. Hopping among riverine shrubs or scattered trees, male Orchard Orioles sing a whistled, chattering song to attract yellow-green females. Orchard Orioles nest in groups, often with multiple nests in a single tree.





ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE



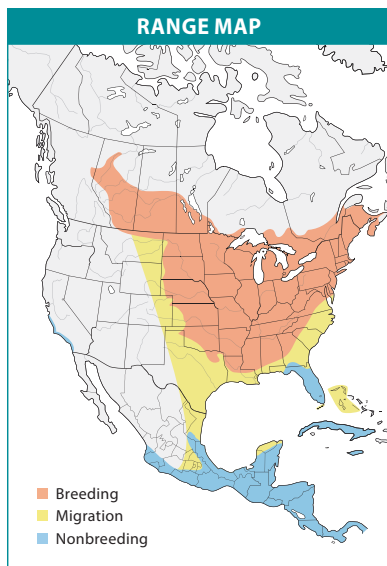
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Baltimore Orioles are medium-sized, sturdy songbirds with a thick neck and long legs. Look for their long, thick-based, pointed bills, a hallmark of the blackbird family.

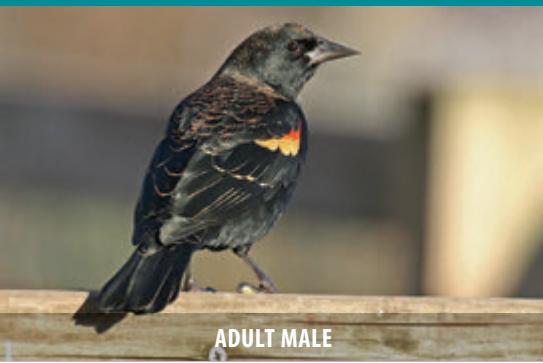
**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males are flame orange and black, with a solid black head and one white bar on their black wings. Females and immature males are yellow orange on the breast, grayish on the head and back, with two bold white wingbars and a yellow tail. Adult females plumage is highly variable, ranging from a brownish to yellowish head and back.

**BEHAVIOR** Baltimore Orioles are more often heard than seen as they feed high in trees, searching for insects, flowers, and fruit. You may also spot them lower down, plucking fruit from vines and bushes or sipping from hummingbird feeders. Watch for the male's slow, fluttering flights between treetops and listen for their characteristic *wink* or chatter calls.

**HABITAT** Look for Baltimore Orioles high in leafy broadleaf trees, but not in deep forests. They're found in open woodlands, forest edges, orchards, parks, and backyards.



The rich, whistling song of the **Baltimore Oriole**, echoing from treetops near homes and parks, heralds spring in portions of the U.S. and Canada. Look way up to find the male's orange plumage blazing from high branches. You might also spot the female weaving her remarkable hanging nest from slender fibers.



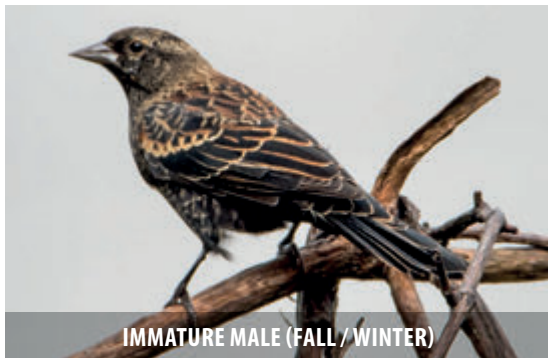
ADULT MALE



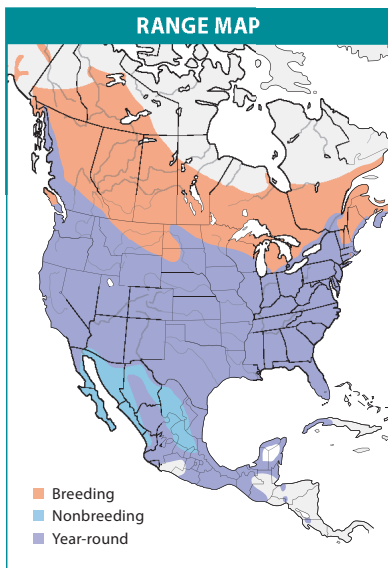
BREEDING MALE



ADULT FEMALES



IMMATURE MALE (FALL / WINTER)



**SIZE & SHAPE** A stocky, broad-shouldered blackbird with a slender, conical bill and a medium-length tail. Red-winged Blackbirds often show a hump-backed silhouette while perched; males often sit with tail slightly flared.

**COLOR PATTERN** Male Red-winged Blackbirds are an even glossy black with red-and-yellow shoulder badges. The superficially sparrow-like females are crisply streaked and dark brownish overall, paler on the breast, and often show a whitish eyebrow. Immature and nonbreeding males have rufous feather edges.

**BEHAVIOR** Male birds sit on high perches and belt out a *conk-la-ree!* song all day long. Females skulk through vegetation for food and quietly weave their remarkable nests. In winter, they gather in huge mixed flocks to eat grains. Males display by holding their wings out to show off their red shoulder patches.

**HABITAT** Look for these birds in freshwater and saltwater marshes, along watercourses, and water hazards on golf courses, as well as drier meadows and old fields. In winter, you can find them at crop fields, feedlots, and pastures.

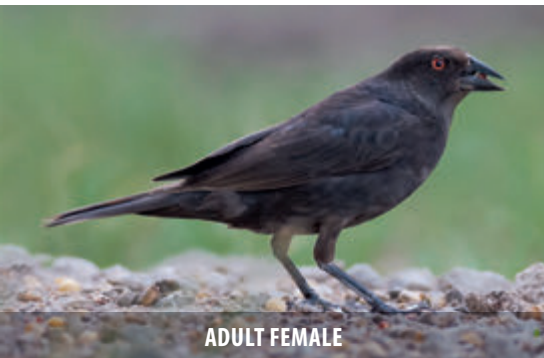
One of the most abundant birds in North America, the **Red-winged Blackbird** is a familiar sight atop cattails, along roadsides, and on telephone wires. Males have scarlet-and-gold shoulder patches they can puff up or hide. Their *conk-la-ree!* songs are happy indications of the return of spring.



ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE (L) AND ADULT MALE (R)



ADULT FEMALE



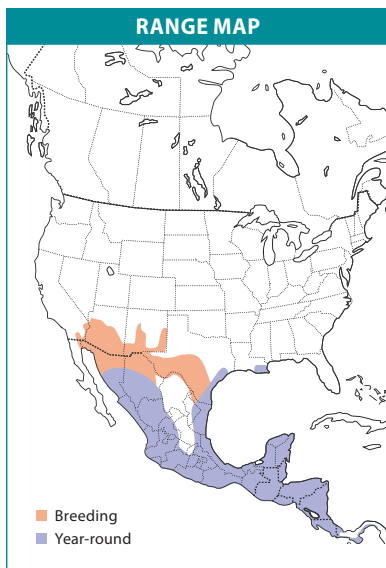
JUVENILE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Bronzed Cowbird is a solidly built songbird with a thick-based, sharply pointed, slightly curved bill. Males have a thick neck, especially when they fluff out the feathers of the nape during displays.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males are black with a bronze sheen. The wings are bluish at close range. Females in the eastern part of the range are blackish; in the western part of the range, they are gray brown. Adults have vivid red eyes; these are dark in juveniles.

**BEHAVIOR** Bronzed Cowbirds forage in flocks, mostly on the ground, searching for seeds, grains, and insects. Males perform a “helicopter” display. Both sexes search for other birds in the process of building nests; the female lays eggs in other birds’ nests.

**HABITAT** Bronzed Cowbirds can be found in open habitats such as chaparral, mesquite bosques, coastal prairie, farmland, pasture, golf courses, lightly wooded canyons, and riparian corridors.



A bull-necked bird of open country, the **Bronzed Cowbird** forages for seeds and grains on the ground, usually in flocks. Like their relatives, the smaller Brown-headed Cowbirds, these unusual birds are “brood parasites”—they lay their eggs in other birds’ nests, leaving the hosts to care for their young.



ADULT MALE



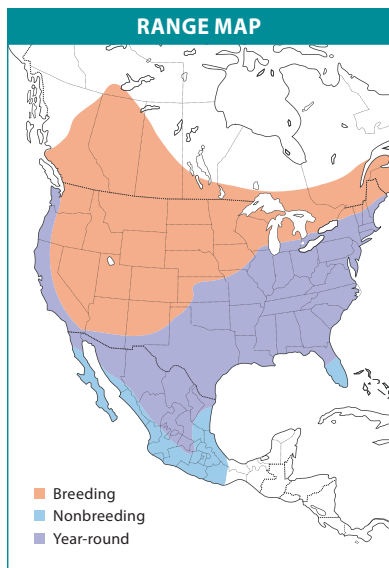
ADULT MALE



JUVENILE



ADULT FEMALE



**SIZE & SHAPE** Brown-headed Cowbirds are smallish blackbirds, with a shorter tail and thicker head than most other blackbirds. The bill is much shorter and has a thicker base than other blackbirds. In flight, look for the shorter tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** Male Brown-headed Cowbirds have glossy black plumage and a rich brown head that looks black in low light or at distance. Females are gray-brown birds, lightest on the head and underparts, with fine streaking on the belly. Juveniles are brown overall with a scaly-looking back and streaked underparts.

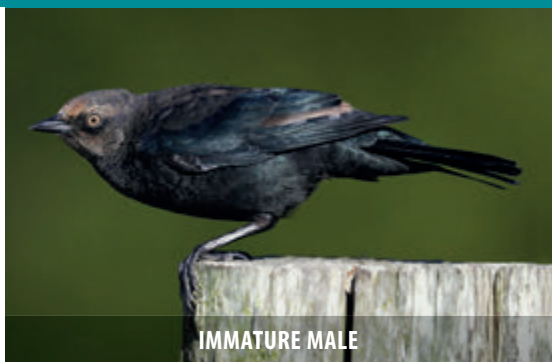
**BEHAVIOR** Brown-headed Cowbirds feed on the ground in mixed flocks of blackbirds and starlings. Brown-headed Cowbirds are noisy, making a multitude of clicks, whistles, and chattering calls, in addition to a gurgling song.

**HABITAT** Brown-headed Cowbirds favor open habitats, such as fields, pastures, meadows, forest edges, and lawns. When not displaying or feeding on the ground, they often perch high on prominent tree branches.

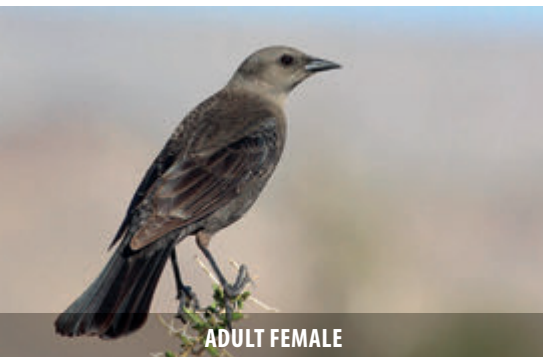
Female **Brown-headed Cowbirds** forgo building nests in favor of producing eggs, sometimes over three dozen a summer. Eggs are laid in the nests of other birds; young are raised by foster parents, often at the expense of the hosts' chicks. Their numbers and range have grown as forests are fragmented.



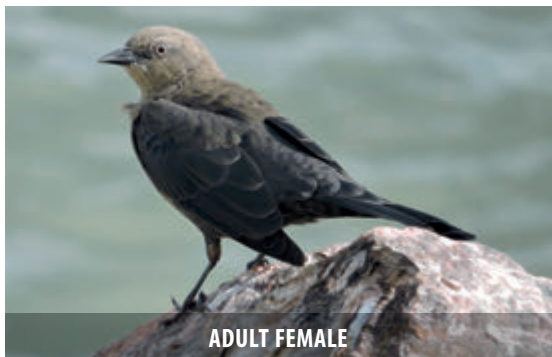
ADULT MALE



IMMATURE MALE



ADULT FEMALE



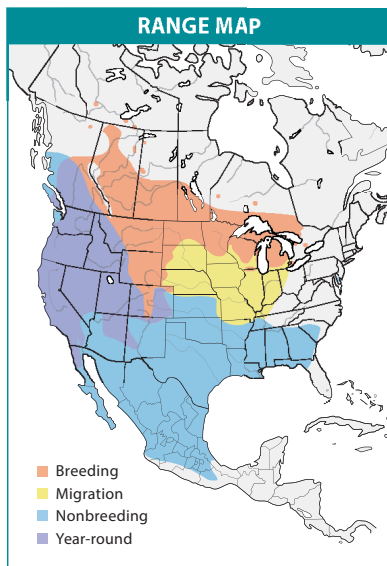
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Brewer's Blackbird is a long-legged, robin-sized songbird with a fairly long tail balanced by a full body, round head, and long, thick-based beak. In perched birds, the tail appears widened and rounded toward the tip.

**COLOR PATTERN** Males are glossy black all over with a staring yellow eye and a purple sheen on the head grading to greenish on the body. Females are plainer brown, darkest on the wings and tail, and they have dark eyes.

**BEHAVIOR** Brewer's Blackbirds feed on open ground in parks and busy streets. Their long legs give them a head-jerking, chickenlike walk. In flocks, they rise and fall as they fly. When landing, birds may circle slowly before settling.

**HABITAT** Look for Brewer's Blackbirds in open habitats of the West, such as coastal scrub, grasslands, riversides, meadows, as well as lawns, golf courses, parks, and city streets.



A bird to be seen in the full sun, the male **Brewer's Blackbird** is a glossy combination of black, midnight blue, and metallic green. Females are a staid brown. Common in much of the West, you'll see these ground-foraging birds on sidewalks, in city parks, and chuckling in flocks atop shrubs, trees, and reeds.



ADULT MALE (PURPLE)



ADULT MALE (BRONZED)

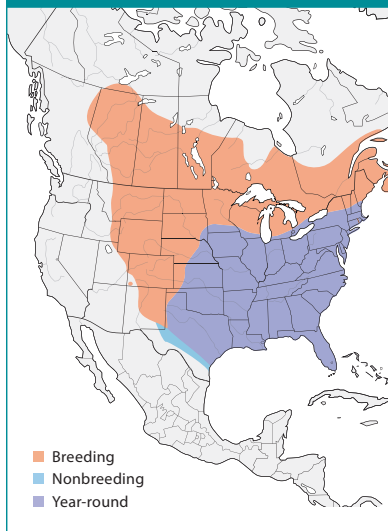


JUVENILE



ADULT FEMALE (BRONZED)

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Common Grackles are large, lanky blackbirds with long legs. The head is flat, and the bill is longer than in most blackbirds, with the hint of a downward curve. In flight, wings appear short in comparison to the tail, which is very long and hangs down in the middle.

**COLOR PATTERN** Common Grackles appear black from afar, but up close, iridescent colors and a golden eye come into focus. Some birds in the East are more purple overall than bronze. Females are less glossy and have shorter tails than males. Juveniles are all dark brown with dark eyes and shorter tails.

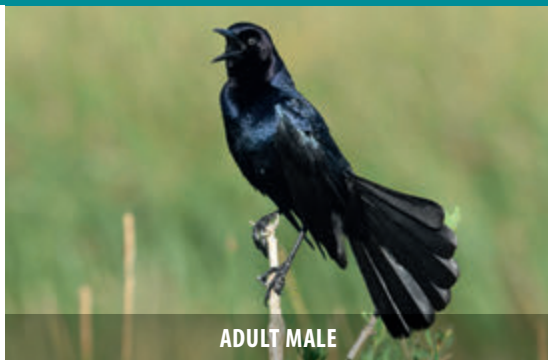
**BEHAVIOR** Common Grackles form large flocks, flying or foraging on lawns and in agricultural fields. They strut on their long legs, pecking for food rather than scratching. At feeders, they dominate smaller birds. Their flight is direct, with stiff wingbeats.

**HABITAT** Common Grackles thrive around agricultural fields, feedlots, city parks, and suburban lawns. They're also common in open habitats including woodland, forest edges, meadows, and marshes.

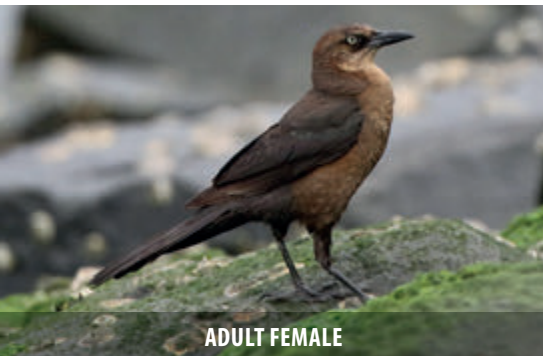
**Common Grackles** are blackbirds that look like they've been slightly stretched. They're taller and have a longer tail than a typical blackbird, with a longer, more tapered bill and glossy, iridescent bodies. Grackles walk around lawns and fields on their long legs or gather in noisy groups high in trees, typically conifers.



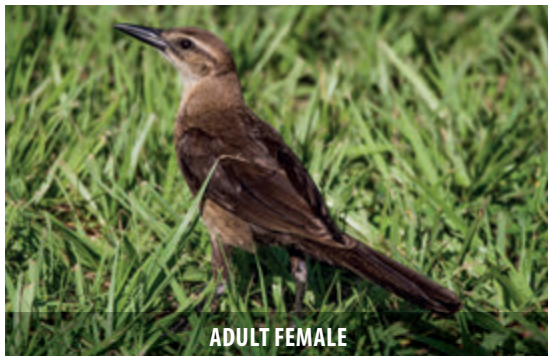
ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE



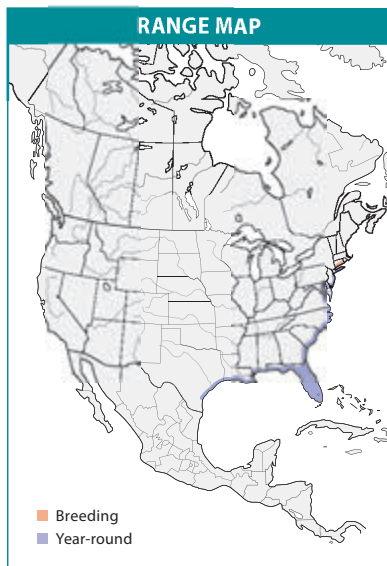
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Boat-tailed Grackles are huge, lanky songbirds with rounded crowns, long legs, and fairly long, pointed bills. Males have very long tails that make up almost half their body length. The center of the tail hangs below the rest, creating a V shape. Females are considerably smaller.

**COLOR PATTERN** Males are glossy black overall. Females are dark brown above and russet below, with a face pattern made up of a pale eyebrow, dark cheek, and pale “mustache” stripe. Eye color is a bright yellow but in the Southeast, some birds have dark eyes.

**BEHAVIOR** These scrappy blackbirds are supreme omnivores, feeding on everything from seeds and human food scraps to crustaceans scavenged from the shoreline.

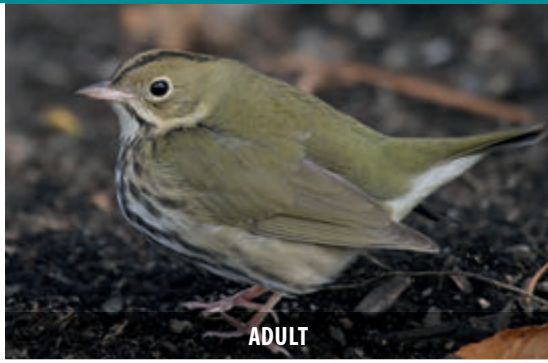
**HABITAT** Boat-tailed Grackles are a strictly coastal species through most of their range; however, they live across much of the Florida peninsula, often well away from the immediate coast.



Blue-black **Boat-tailed Grackle** males are hard to miss with their ridiculously long tails on display from marsh grasses or telephone wires. The dark brown females are half the size of males and almost look like a different species. They often scavenge trash and hang out in busy urban areas, away from predators.



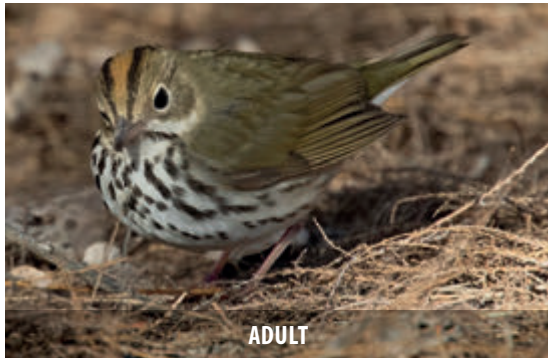
ADULT



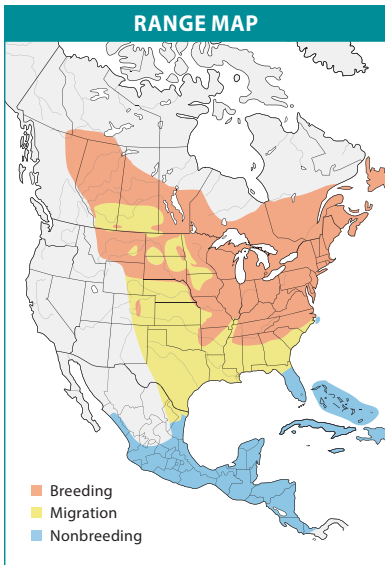
ADULT



ADULT



ADULT



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Ovenbird is a chunky, larger-than-average warbler, but still smaller than a Song Sparrow. It has a round head and a fairly thick bill for a warbler. Its jaunty tail is often cocked upward.

**COLOR PATTERN** Ovenbirds are olive green above and boldly streaked below, with bold black-and-orange crown stripes and a white eyering. Like several other terrestrial, or near-terrestrial, warblers, they have pink legs.

**BEHAVIOR** Ovenbirds spend much of their time foraging on the ground in leaf litter, with a herky-jerky, wandering stroll unlike that of most terrestrial songbirds. It is one of the few songbirds that habitually sings in the heat of midafternoon, as well as in dark of night.

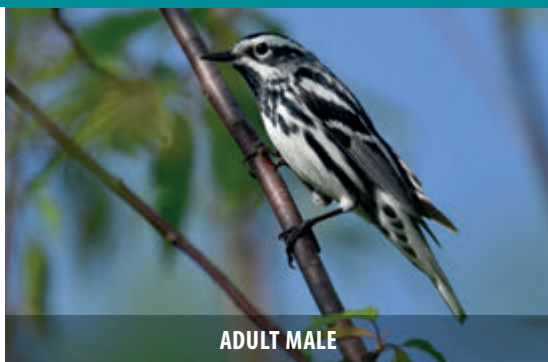
**HABITAT** Ovenbirds breed in closed-canopy forests. You may find them in most forest types, from rich oak or maple woods to dry pine forest, although they avoid wet or swampy areas.

In summer, the **Ovenbird's** rapid-fire, surprisingly loud *teacher-teacher-teacher* song rings out in hardwood forests from the Mid-Atlantic states to northeastern British Columbia. Its nest, a leaf-covered dome resembling an old-fashioned outdoor oven, gives the Ovenbird its name.





ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



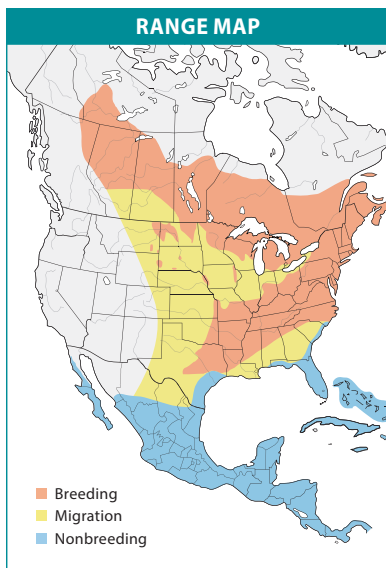
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Black-and-white Warblers are medium-sized warblers. They have a fairly long, slightly downcurved bill. The head often appears somewhat flat and streamlined, with a short neck. The wings are long, and the tail is short.

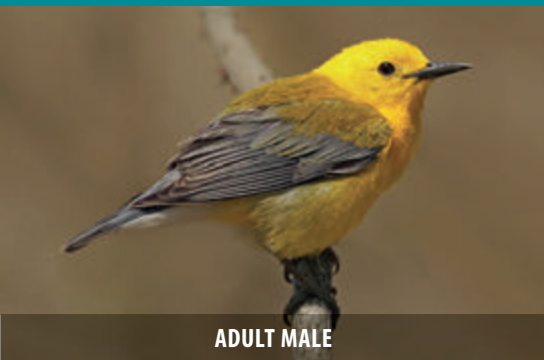
**COLOR PATTERN** These birds are boldly striped in black and white, with black wings highlighted by two wide, white wingbars. Adult males have more obvious black streaking, particularly on the underparts and cheek. Females (especially immatures) are paler, with less streaking and usually a wash of buff on the flanks. The undertail coverts have distinctive large black spots.

**BEHAVIOR** Black-and-white Warblers act more like nuthatches than warblers, foraging for hidden insects in the bark of trees by creeping up, down, and around branches and trunks.

**HABITAT** Broadleaf forest and mixed forest are the preferred summer habitats of Black-and-white Warblers, usually with trees of mixed ages. On migration, look for them in any forest or woodlot.



The **Black-and-white Warbler's** thin, squeaky song is one of the first signs that spring birding has sprung. They creep along tree trunks and branches like a nimble nuthatch, probing the bark for insects with its slightly curved bill. Though usually seen in trees, they build their little cup-shaped nests on the forest floor.



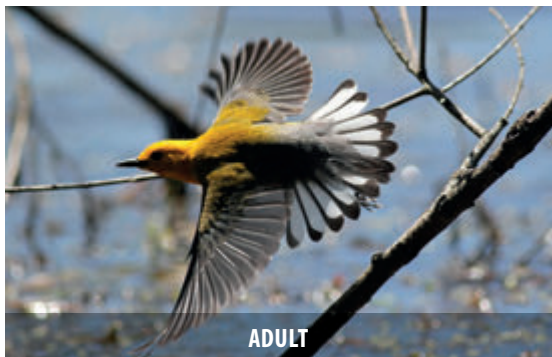
ADULT MALE



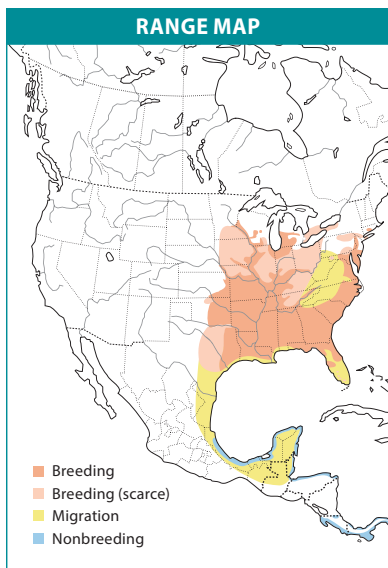
ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE / IMMATURE



ADULT



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Prothonotary Warbler is a large, heavy-bodied warbler with a big head and bill. It has shorter legs, a shorter tail, and a heavier and longer bill than other warblers. It is sparrow-sized.

**COLOR PATTERN** This bird is bright golden yellow with blue-gray wings and tail and a yellow-olive back. Its beady black eye stands out on its solid yellow face. It has white in and under the tail. Females are duller than males.

**BEHAVIOR** This warbler often forages above standing or slow-moving water. It slowly hops along branches, twigs, and along fallen trees, keeping low or dropping to the ground in search of food. It flies between trees and shrubs with heavy wingbeats in an undulating pattern.

**HABITAT** Prothonotary Warblers breed in wooded swamps, flooded bottomland forests, and wooded areas near streams and lakes. They prefer forests that are flat and shady with standing dead trees that have old woodpecker holes for nests.

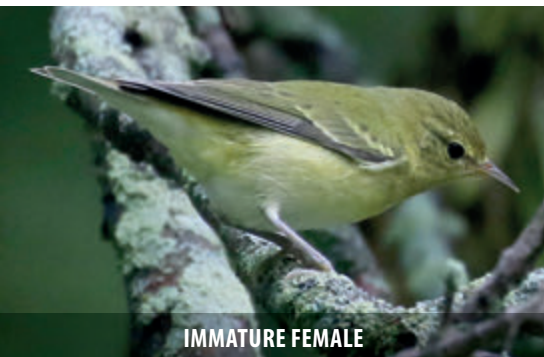
The brilliant **Prothonotary Warbler** bounces along branches like a golden flashlight in the dim understorey of swampy woodlands. This golden ray of light is unique among warblers with its beady black eye and blue-gray wings. It is also one of two warblers that build their nests in holes in standing dead trees.



BREEDING MALE



NONBREEDING ADULT



IMMATURE FEMALE



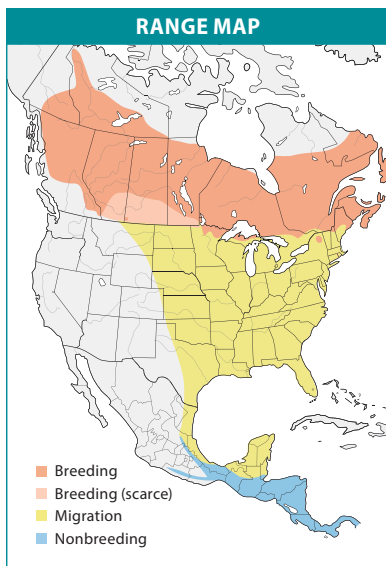
NONBREEDING ADULT

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Tennessee Warbler is small and stocky for a warbler, with a short tail and a thin and sharply pointed bill.

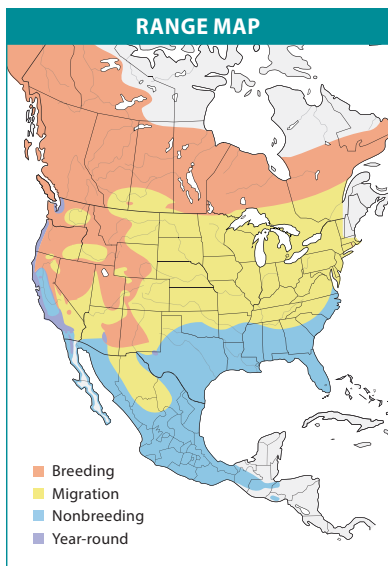
**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding males have a gray head with a white line over the eye, contrasting with a green back and no wingbars. The underparts are whitish all the way through the undertail coverts. Females and nonbreeding males are more greenish, with less contrast between head and back. Occasionally these warblers are very olive yellow all over, except for white undertail coverts.

**BEHAVIOR** Tennessee Warblers forage on slender branches high in the forest canopy, feeding primarily on insects. On their breeding grounds, a primary food is a small caterpillar called spruce budworm.

**HABITAT** Tennessee Warblers breed in coniferous or mixed broadleaf-coniferous forest across Canada. On migration they can occur in most types of forests and woodlands. They winter in second-growth tropical forests, such as shade-grown coffee plantations.



The **Tennessee Warbler** is a dainty warbler that breeds in the boreal forests of Canada. Females and nonbreeders are easily confused with species like Orange-crowned Warblers, but they always show white undertail coverts. They eat mostly small caterpillars and benefit from spruce budworm outbreaks.



**SIZE & SHAPE** Orange-crowned Warblers are small songbirds, smaller than a sparrow. Compared with other warblers, they have noticeably thin, sharply pointed bills. They have short wings and short, square tails.

**COLOR PATTERN** Orange-crowned Warblers are plain yellowish or olive, with a faint pale stripe over the eye, blackish line through the eye, and pale broken eyering. The undertail coverts are bright yellow. The orange crown may become visible if the bird is agitated, but is not often seen. Adult and immature birds look similar.

**BEHAVIOR** Orange-crowned Warblers forage in dense shrubbery and low trees. They tend to be unobtrusive, but their low foraging habits can help you spot them. They often give a high, faint contact call while foraging.

**HABITAT** Orange-crowned Warblers breed in dense broadleaf shrubs, usually within or adjacent to forest. During migration, you may find them in any habitat, though they still show a preference for dense, low vegetation.

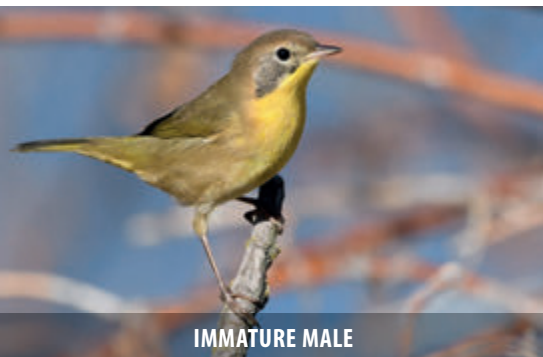
**Orange-crowned Warblers** aren't the most dazzling warblers, but they're useful to learn. These grayish to olive-green birds have few bold markings. There's rarely any sign of an orange crown, which is usually only visible when the bird is excited. They are one of the few warblers that are more common in the West than the East.



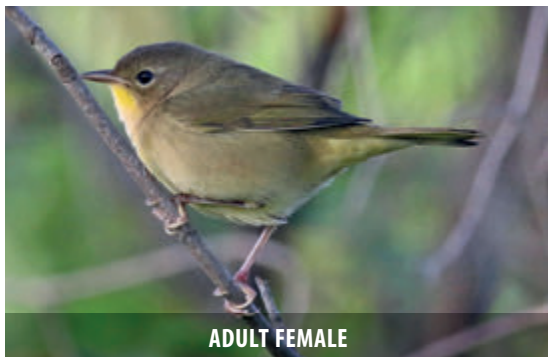
ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



IMMATURE MALE



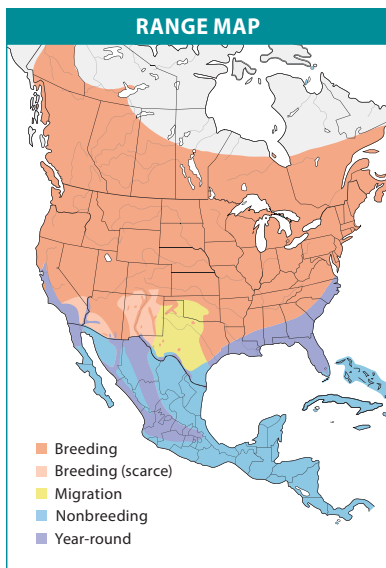
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Common Yellowthroats are small songbirds with chunky, rounded heads and medium-length, slightly rounded tails. They are smaller than sparrows.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males are bright yellow below, with a sharp black face mask and olive upperparts. A whitish line sets off the black mask from the head and neck. Immature males show traces of the full mask of adult males. Females are a plain olive brown, usually with yellow brightening the throat and under the tail. They lack the black mask.

**BEHAVIOR** Common Yellowthroats spend much of their time skulking low to the ground in dense thickets and fields, searching for small insects and spiders. Males sing a distinctive, rolling *wichety-wichety-wichety* song. During migration, this is often the most common warbler found in fields and forest edges.

**HABITAT** Yellowthroats live in open areas with thick, low vegetation, ranging from marsh to grassland to open pine forest. During migration, they use an even broader suite of habitats, including backyards and forests.



A broad black mask lends a touch of highwayman's mystique to the male **Common Yellowthroat**. Look for these furtive warblers skulking through tangled vegetation, often at the edges of marshes and wetlands. Yellowthroats are vocal, and their songs and distinctive call notes reveal their presence.



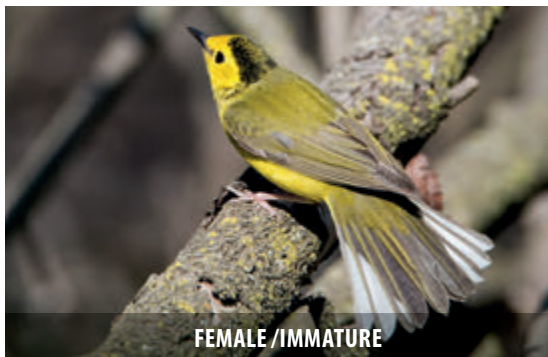
ADULT MALE



FEMALE /IMMATURE



FEMALE /IMMATURE



FEMALE /IMMATURE

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Hooded Warblers are small songbirds with a straight, sharp bill. Compared to other warblers, they are heavy-bodied and thick-necked.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males are olive green above and bright yellow below with a black hood and throat, a yellow forehead, and yellow cheeks. Females and immatures have similar coloring without the black hood, although some adult females show an outline of a hood. Note the large black eye and white outer tail feathers that it often flashes.

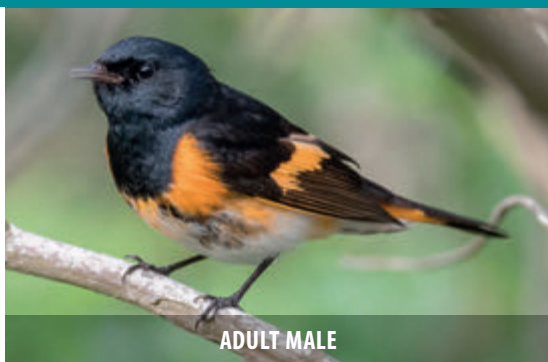
**BEHAVIOR** This warbler spends much of its time in the understory, flitting between shrubs. It tends to stay at least partially hidden in understory vegetation, jumping up to take insects or picking them from foliage.

**HABITAT** Hooded Warblers are found in mature broadleaf forests with a dense understory, but they also use smaller forest patches, as long as there is a shrubby understory.

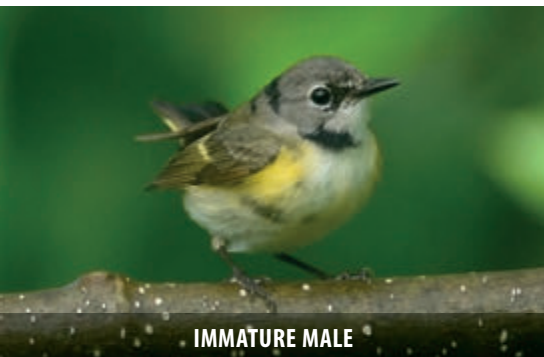
The **Hooded Warbler** flits through shrubby understories in eastern forests, flicking its tail to show off its white tail feathers. The flashes of white may startle insects into taking flight, so they are more likely to be caught and devoured by this colorful warbler.



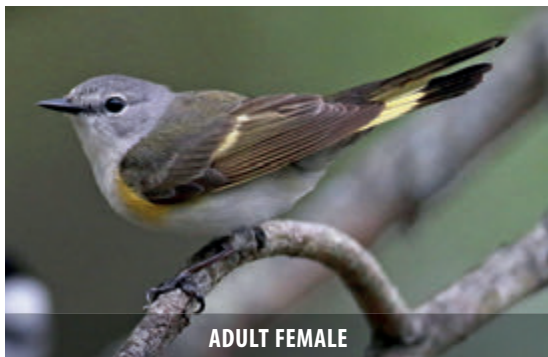
ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



IMMATURE MALE



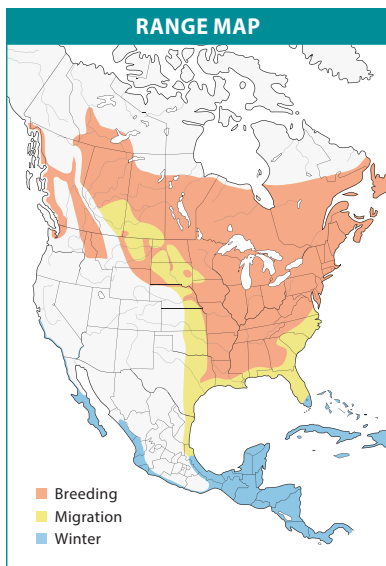
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** A medium-sized warbler with a relatively wide, flat bill and fairly long, expressive tail. In flight, it has a deep chest, slim belly, and long, somewhat club-shaped tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males are mostly black with bright orange patches on the sides, wings, and tail. The belly is white. Females and immature males replace the orange with yellow or a yellowish orange. They have a gray head and underparts, with olive back and wings, and dark gray tail. Immature males are variably splotted with black.

**BEHAVIOR** American Redstarts are incredibly active insectivores. They rapidly spread their cocked tails, which often startles insect prey into flushing, whereupon the bird darts after it, attempting to catch it in the air.

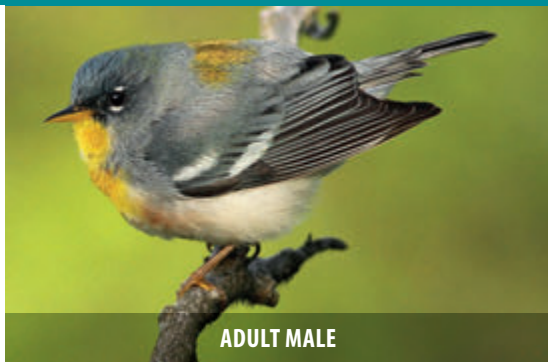
**HABITAT** American Redstarts breed in open wooded habitats that are primarily broadleaf. In migration, they can be found in nearly any treed habitats. Its tropical winter habitat is in woodlands and open forest at lower and middle elevations, such as shade-grown coffee plantations.



True to its Halloween-themed color scheme, the **American Redstart** seems to startle its prey out of the foliage by flashing a strikingly patterned tail and wing feathers. A lively bird that hops among tree branches in search of insects, these sweet-singing warblers nest in open woodlands across much of North America.



ADULT MALE



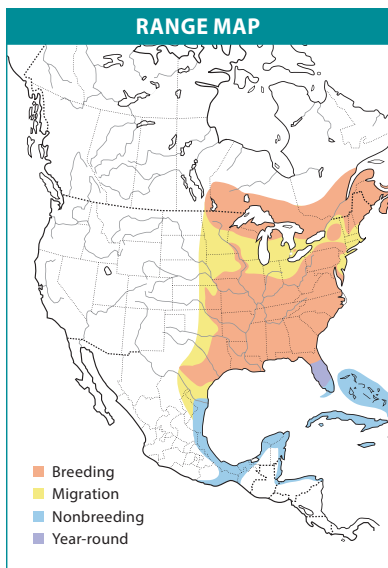
ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE / IMMATURE



ADULT FEMALE



**SIZE & SHAPE** Northern Parulas are small songbirds with a short tail and a thin, pointy bill. They are plump little warblers slightly larger than a kinglet.

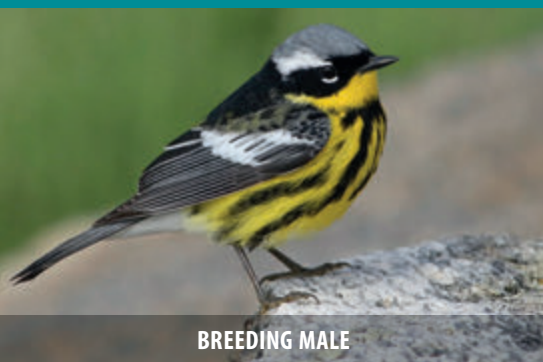
**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males are blue gray with a yellow-green back patch and two white wingbars. A chestnut band separates its yellow throat and chest. Adult females lack the breast band. Both sexes have white eye crescents. Immature birds lack the chestnut band.

**BEHAVIOR** These warblers flit mostly through the upper levels of the forest and subcanopy, but on migration, they also forage in the understory. They flutter at branch tips, quickly plucking insects. Males are very vocal during spring migration.

**HABITAT** In the southern part of their range, parulas are common in broadleaf forests, but in the northern part, they also use coniferous forests. They build their nests with Spanish "moss" or "old man's beard" lichen. In winter, look for them in scrub, forests, and plantations.

A small warbler of the upper canopy, the **Northern Parula** flutters at the edges of branches, plucking insects. It breeds in forests laden with Spanish "moss" or beard lichens, from Florida to the boreal forest. Males hop through branches singing a rising buzzy trill that pinches off at the end.

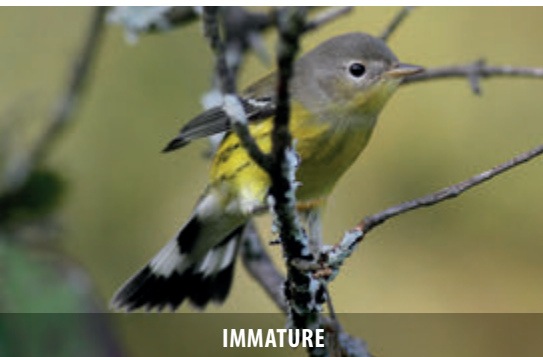




BREEDING MALE



NONBREEDING ADULT



IMMATURE



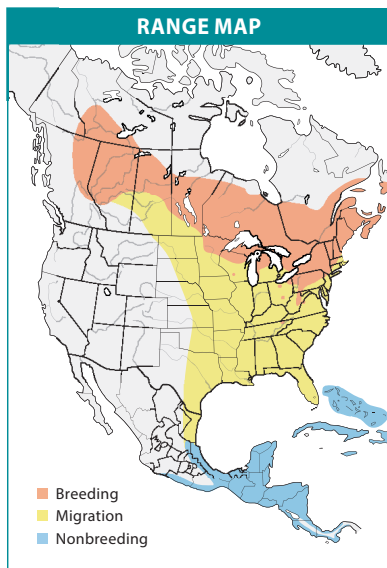
BREEDING FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Magnolia Warbler is a small songbird with a small bill and a medium-length tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males in breeding plumage have a black mask and necklace. They are gray and black with a white wing patch and a yellow throat and belly. Immatures have a gray head, white eyering, gray band across the neck, and two white wingbars. Adult females and nonbreeding males are intermediate. In all plumages, note the yellow rump and the unique undertail pattern: white at the base and black at the tip.

**BEHAVIOR** Magnolia Warblers often forage low in the understory, picking insects from the undersides of leaves. During migration, they forage higher in the canopy with other warblers. They flash their tails, exposing white spots, similar to the behavior of an American Redstart.

**HABITAT** Magnolia Warblers breed in dense stands of young conifer trees, especially spruce in the north and hemlock in the south. During migration, they forage in dense areas along forest edges, woodlots, and parks.



Many male warblers are black and yellow, but **Magnolia Warblers** take it up a notch, sporting a bold black necklace complete with long tassels, a black mask, and a standout white wing patch. These boreal warblers breed in dense stands of conifers and stop off in all types of forests during migration.



ADULT MALE



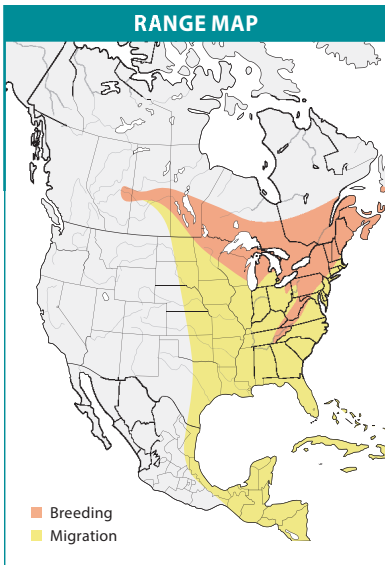
IMMATURE MALE (FIRST YEAR)



ADULT FEMALE



IMMATURE FEMALE



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Blackburnian Warbler is medium-sized with a short, thin, pointed bill, trim body, and medium-length tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** The breeding male, with a vivid orange face and throat, is unmistakable. Females and immatures show hints of this coloration, but more important are the pale "train tracks" on the back and the triangular facial pattern of black (or gray); these features are present in all plumages.

**BEHAVIOR** Blackburnian Warblers pick insects and their larvae from high in treetops, where they often search entire branches from base to tip by hopping and creeping along them, looking up at the underside of leaves and inside clumps of dead leaves. They also pluck insects from the underside of leaves by hovering (known as "hover-gleaning") and occasionally catch insects in flight.

**HABITAT** Blackburnian Warblers breed in coniferous and mixed coniferous-broadleaf forest. Migrants are attracted to similar habitats (cemeteries with tall conifers in particular) but can appear in almost any environment with trees.

No birder can forget their first breeding male **Blackburnian Warbler**: the intricate black-and-white plumage set off by flame-orange face and throat and an impossibly high-pitched flourish at the end of the song. They spend winters in South America in open forests including shade-grown coffee plantations.



ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE (GOLDEN)



IMMATURE FEMALE (FIRST YEAR)



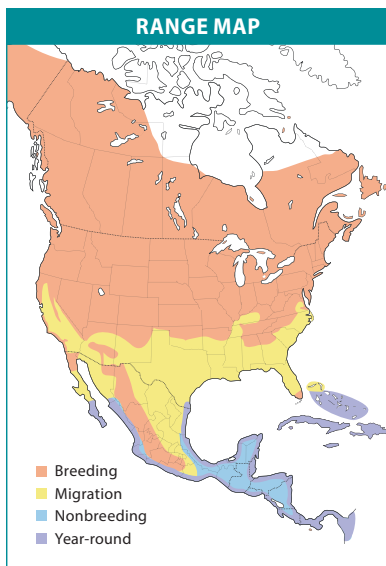
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Yellow Warblers are small, evenly-proportioned songbirds with medium-length tails and rounded heads. For a warbler, the straight, thin bill is relatively large.

**COLOR PATTERN** Yellow Warblers are uniformly yellow birds. Males are a bright, egg-yolk yellow with reddish streaks on the underparts. Females are yellow overall with a yellow-green back and mostly unstreaked yellow underparts. Both sexes flash yellow patches in the tail. The face is unmarked, accentuating the large black eye. Immatures are duller overall, and some can be almost entirely grayish.

**BEHAVIOR** Look for Yellow Warblers near the tops of tall shrubs and small trees. They forage with quick hops along small branches to glean caterpillars and other insects. Males sing a sweet, whistled song from high perches.

**HABITAT** Yellow Warblers breed in shrubby thickets and woods, particularly along watercourses and in wetlands. They are found in willows, alders, and cottonwoods across North America and up to 9,000 feet elevation in the West. In winter, they mainly occur in mangrove forests of Mexico and Central and South America.



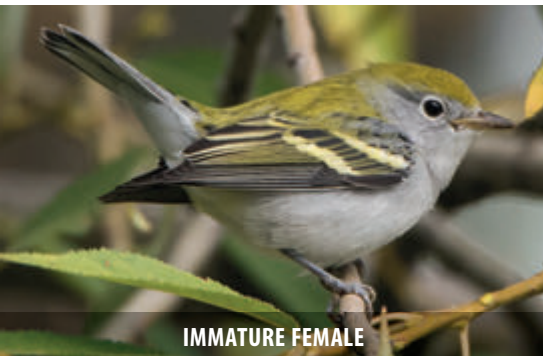
Few warblers combine brilliant color and easy viewing quite like the **Yellow Warbler**. In summer, the buttery yellow males sing their sweet, whistled song from willows, wet thickets, and roadsides across much of North America. Yellow Warblers eat mostly insects, so they don't come to backyard feeders.



BREEDING MALE



NONBREEDING MALE

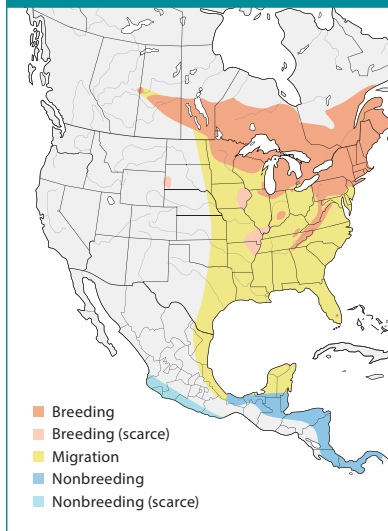


IMMATURE FEMALE



BREEDING FEMALE

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Chestnut-sided Warbler is slim with a relatively long tail that it often holds cocked, or raised above the body line, which makes the tail appear longer still.

**COLOR PATTERN** Breeding adults are crisp gray and white with a yellow crown, black face markings, and rich chestnut flanks. Males are more richly marked than females. Nonbreeding adults and immatures are bright lime green above with a neat white eyering, two wingbars, and pale gray-to-white underparts.

**BEHAVIOR** Chestnut-sided Warblers flit and hop along slender branches, carefully inspecting the undersides of broadleaf leaves. Look for them moving through saplings and shrubs with tail raised and drooping wings.

**HABITAT** Chestnut-sided Warblers nest in broadleaf regrowth and regenerating thickets, as well as stunted highland oak forest at the southern end of their breeding range. In winter, look for them in brushy, successional, and mature forested habitats of Mexico and Central America.

The crisply plumaged **Chestnut-sided Warbler** thrives in regrowing forests, thickets, and other disturbed areas. Look for them in saplings, tail cocked, and listen for males singing *pleased, pleased, pleased to meetcha!* In fall, they head to shade-grown coffee plantations and second-growth forest in Central America.



ADULT MALE



IMMATURE MALE



ADULT FEMALE



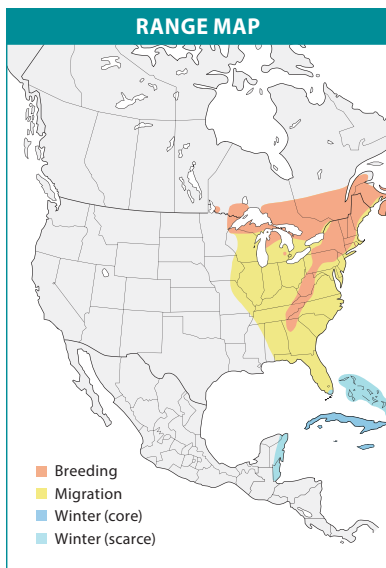
IMMATURE FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Black-throated Blue Warblers are small, well-proportioned birds with sharp, pointed bills. They are fairly large and plump for a warbler.

**COLOR PATTERN** Males are midnight blue above and white below with black on the throat, face, and sides. Females are plain grayish olive overall, although some individuals have blue tints on the wings and tail. Adults of both sexes have a characteristic small white patch on the wing, sometimes called a “handkerchief.” Immature females may lack this white mark.

**BEHAVIOR** Black-throated Blue Warblers forage in the understory and lower canopy of forests, where they pick insects from the undersides of leaves. Males sing to defend their breeding territories and aggressively chase away rival males.

**HABITAT** Black-throated Blue Warblers are found in larger tracts of hardwood and mixed hardwood-coniferous forests with a shrubby understory.



A uniquely colored, midnight-blue bird of tangled understories, the male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** sings a relaxed, buzzy *I-am-so-la-zee* on warm summer days in eastern hardwood forests. The olive-gray adult females have a unique white square on the wing that readily separates them from other female warblers.



**BREEDING ADULT (WESTERN)**



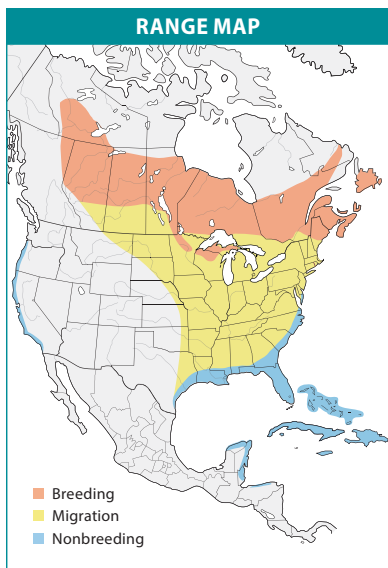
**NONBREEDING ADULT (WESTERN)**



**BREEDING ADULT (YELLOW)**



**NONBREEDING ADULT (YELLOW)**



**SIZE & SHAPE** Palm Warblers are medium-sized warblers and may have a fuller looking belly. They stand more upright than most warblers. Their tails and legs are longer than most warblers, contributing to the pipitlike shape.

**COLOR PATTERN** All Palm Warblers have brown backs; faint, messy streaking below; yellow undertail coverts; and, in breeding plumage, rusty caps. "Yellow" Palm Warblers, found only from Quebec and the Maritimes to the southeast U.S., are olive-tinged above and extensively yellow below; breeding males have chestnut streaking. The more widespread "Western" Palm Warbler is less yellow overall with a whitish belly and gray-brown streaking.

**BEHAVIOR** Look for this bird's near-constant tail-wagging. They forage on open ground or in low vegetation, rather than in forest canopy like other warblers, although they do sing from high perches in trees and shrubs.

**HABITAT** In migration and winter, these birds use weedy fields, forest edges, fence rows, and areas with scattered trees and shrubs. They breed in the boreal forest of the far north, in bogs with coniferous trees and thick ground cover.

The **Palm Warbler** walks on the ground, wagging its tail. They breed mainly in Canada's boreal forest, but are seen most during migration or on wintering grounds, foraging in the open. Look for two forms: an eastern subspecies that's bright yellow below, and a more western subspecies with a pale belly.



ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



IMMATURE FEMALE



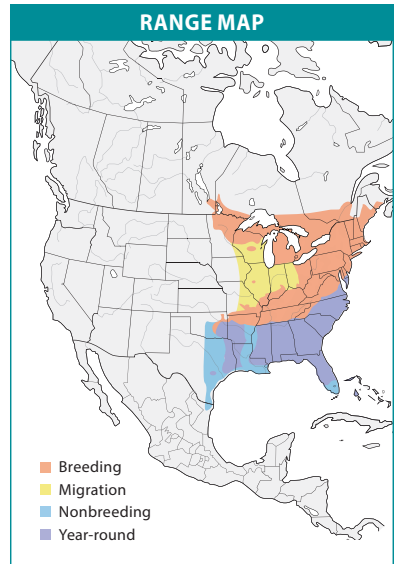
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Pine Warblers are hefty, long-tailed warblers with stout bills. The tip of the tail usually appears to have a central notch. They are slightly smaller than sparrows.

**COLOR PATTERN** Pine Warblers are yellowish birds with olive backs, whitish bellies, and two prominent white wingbars on gray wings. Adult males are brightest; females and immatures are more subdued. Overall, Pine Warblers don't show the strong patterns of other warblers, but the face can look weakly "spectacled," with a pale, broken eyering connected to a pale stripe in front of the eye. Some immature females are gray overall, lacking any yellow coloration.

**BEHAVIOR** Pine Warblers are hard to see as they often stay high up in pines. They occasionally forage on the ground or come to feeders. Males sing even, rich trills from the tops of pines.

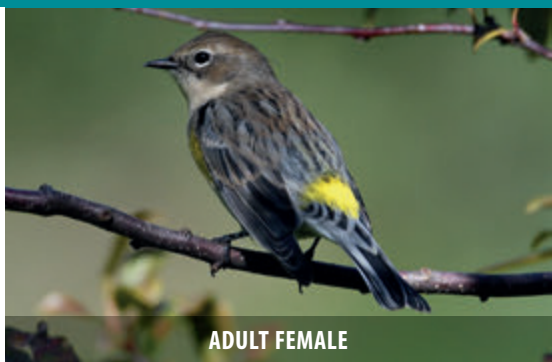
**HABITAT** Pine Warblers are well named—they spend most of their time in pine trees. This can be in pine forests or in broadleaf woods mixed with pine. In winter, they may visit backyard bird feeders for seeds and suet.



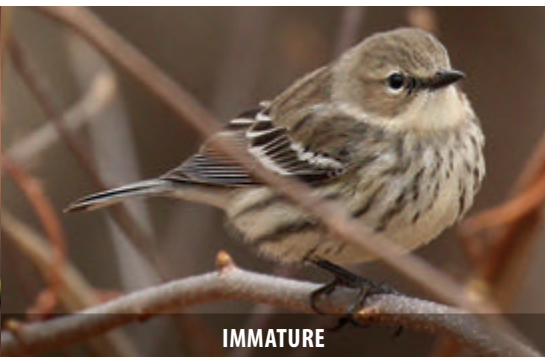
True to its name, the **Pine Warbler** is common in many eastern pine forests and is rarely seen away from pines. These yellowish warblers are hard to spot. Listen for their steady, musical trill, which sounds very like a Chipping Sparrow or Dark-eyed Junco, which are also common piney-woods sounds through much of the year.



ADULT MALE



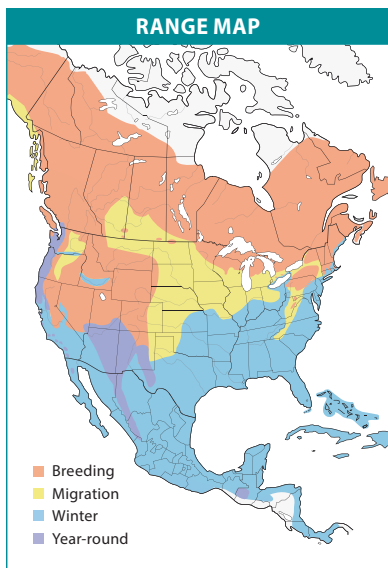
ADULT FEMALE



IMMATURE



ADULT FEMALE



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Yellow-rumped Warbler is a small songbird, although fairly large and full-bodied for a warbler. It has a large head, sturdy but slender bill, and a fairly long, narrow tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males have a black mask, a white throat, yellow patches on their sides, and a yellow rump. Females are duller than males. Immature birds are overall brown, with a pale throat patch that wraps up around the bottom of the ear, and brown streaks below. They may have some yellow patches like the adults, or none at all.

**BEHAVIOR** Yellow-rumped Warblers forage in outer branches at middle heights. They often fly out to catch insects in midair. In winter, they spend lots of time eating berries from shrubs, and often travel in large flocks.

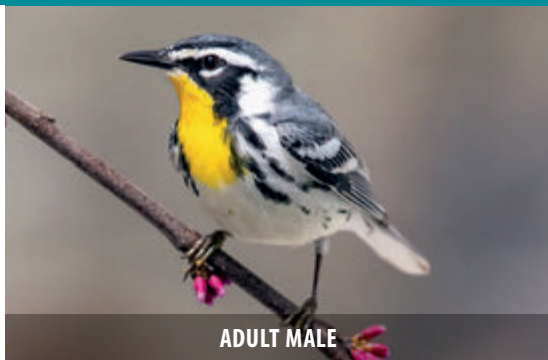
**HABITAT** In summer, they live in open coniferous forests and forest edges, and to a lesser extent in broadleaf forests. In fall and winter, they move to open woods and shrubby habitats, including coastal areas, parks, and residential areas.

**Yellow-rumped Warblers** are impressive in the sheer numbers with which they flood the continent each fall, filling shrubs and trees with distinctive chirps. In spring, they molt to reveal a mix of bright yellow, charcoal gray, black, and bold white.





ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE



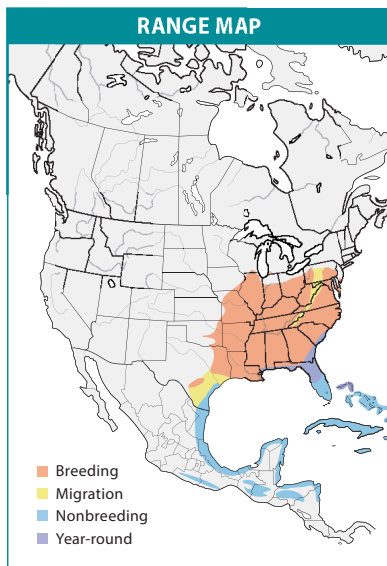
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Yellow-throated Warblers are small, well-proportioned birds with sharp, pointed bills. Compared to other warblers, they are a bit more heavy-bodied with a longer and thicker bill. Note the blunt, slightly notched tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** Males have a gray back, yellow throat, and black side streaks, as well as a black triangle below the eye and a white eyebrow. Some birds in the Southeast have yellow lores. They have a white belly, tail, and two white wingbars. Females and first-year males are duller overall.

**BEHAVIOR** These warblers forage by hopping along tree branches, probing into cracks, crevices, bundles of pine needles, and Spanish moss, much like a Brown Creeper or Black-and-White Warbler.

**HABITAT** Yellow-throated Warblers are found in pine forests, sycamore-bald cypress swamps, and woodlands near streams, especially areas with tall trees and an open understory.



In spring and summer, the well-named **Yellow-throated Warbler** shows off its bright yellow throat in the canopy of forests in the southeastern United States. They tend to stick to the tops of the trees, so you might only get a glimpse of their undersides; look for the bright white belly and slightly notched white tail.



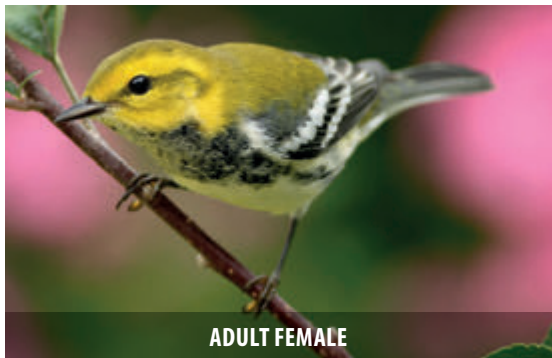
ADULT MALE



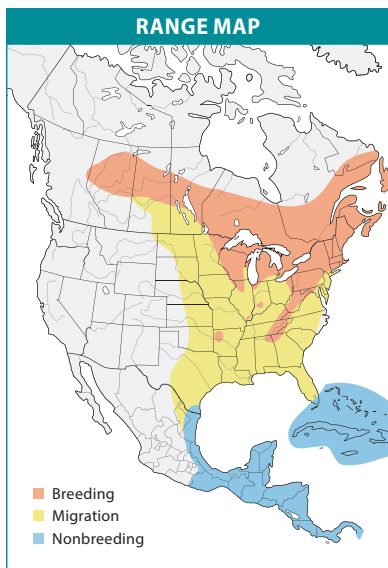
ADULT MALE



IMMATURE FEMALE



ADULT FEMALE



**SIZE & SHAPE** The Black-throated Green Warbler is a medium-sized warbler similar in size and shape to many others in the *Setophaga* genus. It is plump with a seemingly large head, a thick, straight bill, and a medium-length tail.

**COLOR PATTERN** Male birds are olive green above and white below, with yellow faces and a black throat, black streaks on the flanks, and two white wingbars. Females and immatures are duller and have less black on the throat. Streaking can be crisp or messy. All plumages have a yellow band across the lower belly.

**BEHAVIOR** Active and agile, Black-throated Green Warblers primarily forage for small insects hiding in the bases of the leaves of tall trees. Breeding males sing on exposed perches where their bright head is conspicuous.

**HABITAT** The Black-throated Green Warbler occurs in a wide variety of forest habitats. They nest in conifer forests in the northwest of their range, mixed hardwoods forests in the southern Appalachians, and cypress swamps on the mid-Atlantic Coast.

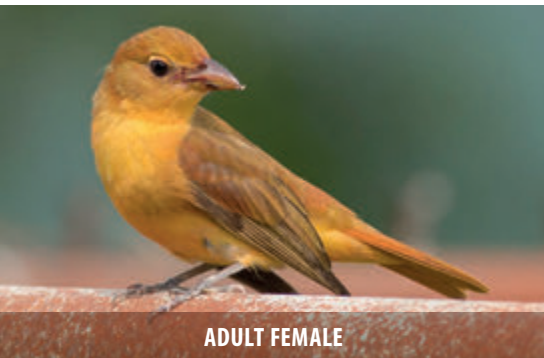
Delicate, lemon-faced canopy dwellers, **Black-throated Green Warblers** are common breeders from northern boreal forests to hardwoods and cypress swamps of the southeastern U.S., and even cypress swamps. Its persistent song, sometimes transcribed as *trees trees I love trees*, is easy for birders to remember.



ADULT MALE



IMMATURE MALE



ADULT FEMALE



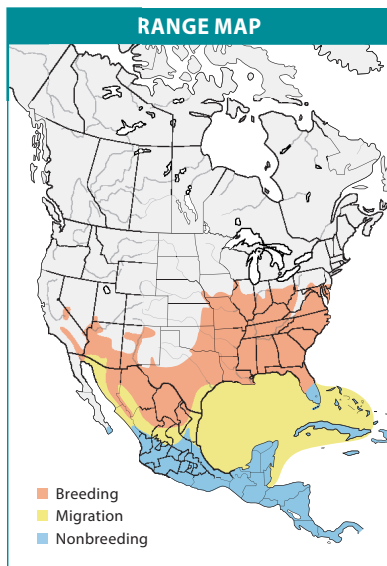
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Summer Tanagers are medium-sized, chunky songbirds with a big body, large head, and fairly long tail. They have a large, thick, blunt-tipped bill. They are slightly smaller than robins.

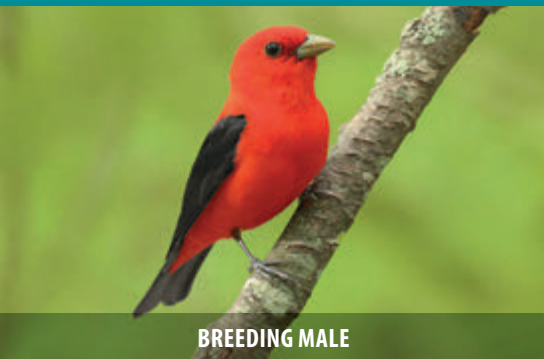
**COLOR PATTERN** Adult male Summer Tanagers are entirely bright red. Females and immature males are bright yellowish green—more yellow on the head and underparts, and slightly greener on the back and wings. The bill is pale. Molting immature males can be patchy yellow and red. Some (presumably older) females develop a strong orange/pinkish wash.

**BEHAVIOR** Summer Tanagers stay high in the forest canopy, where they catch insects midair, or move slowly along branches to glean food. Males have a song similar to an American Robin; both sexes give a distinctive *pit-ti-tuck* call.

**HABITAT** Summer Tanagers breed near gaps and edges of open forests, especially broadleaf or mixed pine-oak woodlands. In the Southwest, look for them along streams among willows, cottonwoods, mesquite, or saltcedar.



The only completely red bird in North America, the male **Summer Tanager** is eye-catching in the forest canopy. The female is harder to spot, though both sexes have a very distinctive chuckling call note. All year long, they specialize in catching bees and wasps on the wing.



BREEDING MALE



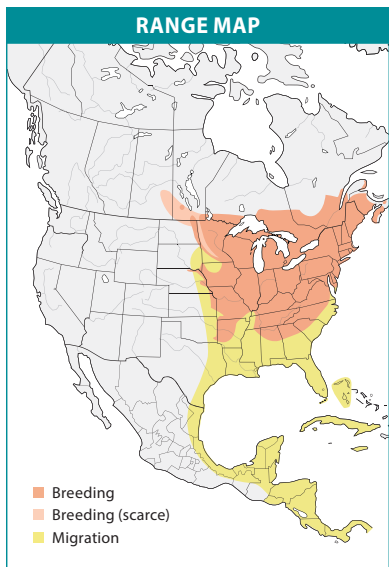
ADULT MALE (LATE SUMMER / FALL)



ADULT FEMALE / IMMATURE FEMALE



NONBREEDING MALE



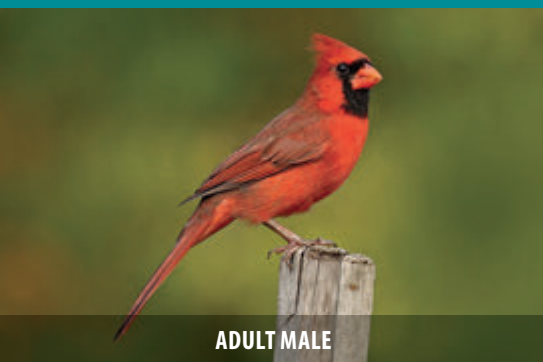
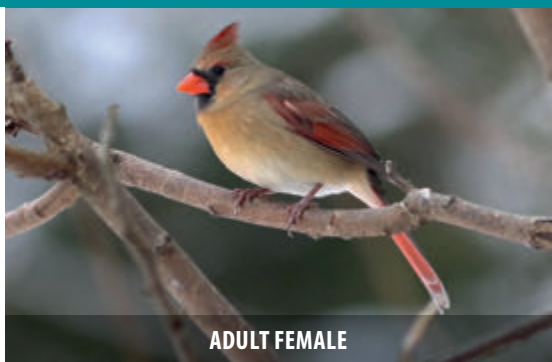
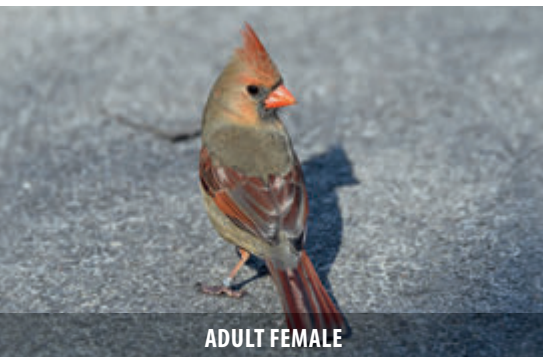
**SIZE & SHAPE** Scarlet Tanagers are medium-sized songbirds with fairly stocky proportions. They have thick, rounded bills suitable both for catching insects and eating fruit. The head is fairly large, and the tail is somewhat short and broad.

**COLOR PATTERN** In spring and summer, adult males are a brilliant red with black wings and tails. Females and immatures are olive yellow with darker olive wings and tails. After breeding, adult males molt to plumage similar to the female, but with black wings and tail.

**BEHAVIOR** Scarlet Tanagers spend much of their time skulking among the wide leaves of deciduous trees in the forest canopy, where they are hard to see. They sing a burry, rambling song and give a distinctive, harsh *chick-burr* call.

**HABITAT** Scarlet Tanagers breed in broadleaf and mixed broadleaf-coniferous forests in eastern North America. They are sensitive to habitat fragmentation, so look for them in large, undisturbed tracts of forest.

Male **Scarlet Tanagers** are among the most blindingly gorgeous birds in an eastern forest in summer. They're also one of the most frustratingly hard to find as they stay high in the forest canopy, singing rich, burry songs. The yellowish green females can be even harder to spot until you key in on this bird's *chick-burr* call note.

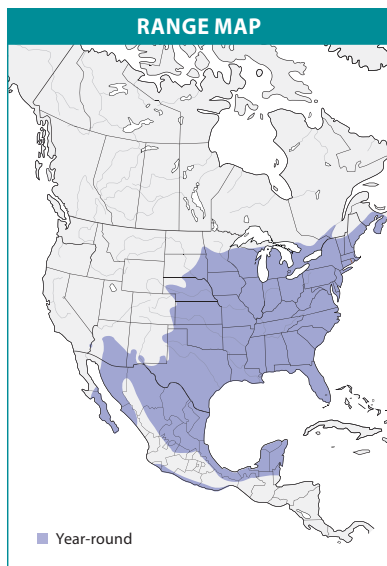
**ADULT MALE****ADULT FEMALE****ADULT FEMALE****JUVENILE**

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Northern Cardinal is a medium-sized, long-tailed songbird with a short, very thick bill and a prominent pointed crest. Cardinals often sit with a hunched-over posture and with the tail pointed straight down.

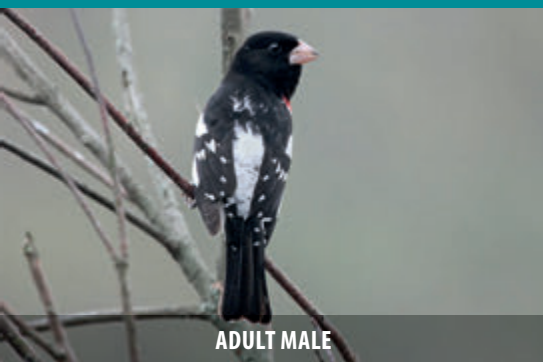
**COLOR PATTERN** Males are red all over, with a reddish bill and black area around the bill. Adult females are brown overall with red tinges in the wings, tail, and crest, and black around the red-orange bill. Fledglings lack the black face and red bill.

**BEHAVIOR** Northern Cardinals tend to sit low in shrubs and trees and forage on or near the ground, often in pairs. They are common at bird feeders but inconspicuous away from them, at least until you learn their loud, metallic *chip* note.

**HABITAT** Northern Cardinals live in open or fragmented habitat such as backyards, parks, woodlots, and shrubby forest edges, nesting in dense tangles of shrubs and vines. They're almost never found in large forest interiors.



The male **Northern Cardinal** is a conspicuous red; the female is brown with a sharp crest and red accents. Cardinals don't migrate, and the male doesn't molt into a dull plumage, so it's still breathtaking in winter's backyards. In summer, the sweet, whistled song is one of the first sounds of morning.



ADULT MALE



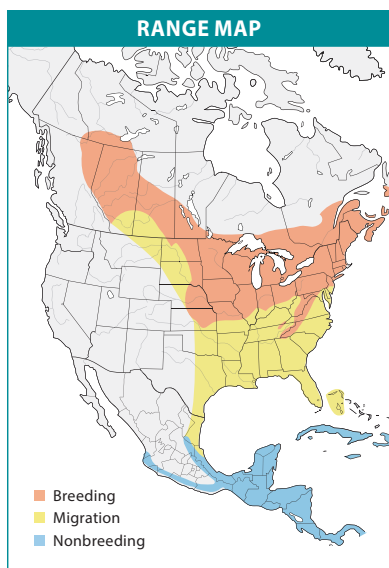
ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE



IMMATURE MALE



**SIZE & SHAPE** Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are stocky, medium-sized songbirds with oversized triangular bills. They are broad-chested, with a short neck and a medium-length, squared tail. They are slightly smaller than robins.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males are black and white with brilliant red from the throat to the center of the breast. Females and young are streaky brown, with a bold whitish stripe over the eye. Both sexes have white patches in the wings and tail. Immature males look like a cross between a male and female with a white eyebrow and a smaller red breast patch.

**BEHAVIOR** These chunky birds tend to sing from high in trees and may remain on the same perch for long periods. The sweet, rambling song of both sexes is familiar in eastern forests; the sharp *chink* calls are also very distinctive.

**HABITAT** Rose-breasted Grosbeaks breed in eastern coniferous and broadleaf forests and are most common in regenerating woodlands along forest edges and in parks. During migration, they gravitate to fruiting trees.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** build such flimsy nests that eggs are often visible from below through the nest bottom. This bird's sweet, robinlike song has inspired many a bird watcher to pay tribute to it, calling it "entrancingly beautiful" and "far superior" to the songs of the American Robin and the Scarlet Tanager.



BREEDING MALE



BREEDING MALE



NONBREEDING MALE



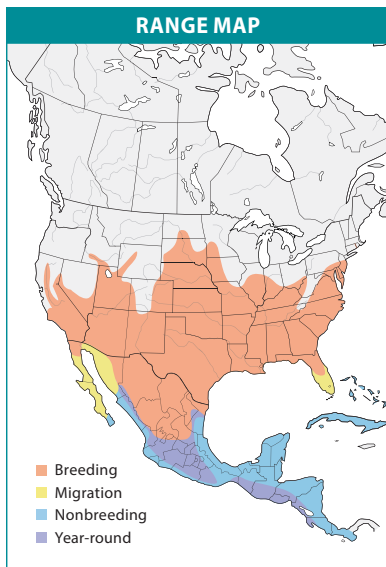
ADULT FEMALE

**SIZE & SHAPE** The Blue Grosbeak is a stocky songbird with a very large, triangular bill that seems to cover the entire front of its face, from throat to forehead. It is slightly larger than a House Sparrow.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males are a deep, rich blue with a tiny black mask in front of the eyes, chestnut wingbars, and a black-and-silver beak. Females are primarily rich cinnamon brown, paler underneath, with bluish tails. Nonbreeding males are patchy blue and cinnamon overall with chestnut wingbars.

**BEHAVIOR** Blue Grosbeaks are unobtrusive despite their bright colors, although in summer males frequently sing their pleasant, rich, warbling songs. Often they sing while perched at high points in the shrubs and small trees of their generally open or shrubby habitats. Listen for their loud, almost metallic *chink* call and watch for this species' odd habit of twitching its tail sideways.

**HABITAT** Blue Grosbeaks like old fields growing back into woodland. They breed in a mix of grass, forbs, and shrubs, with a few taller trees. In dry areas, they often use the shrubby growth along watercourses.



**Blue Grosbeaks** have expanded northward in the United States in the past century or two, possibly taking advantage of forest clearing. In the southern part of the Blue Grosbeak's breeding range, each mated pair may raise two broods of nestlings per year.



ADULT MALE (LATE WINTER / EARLY SPRING)



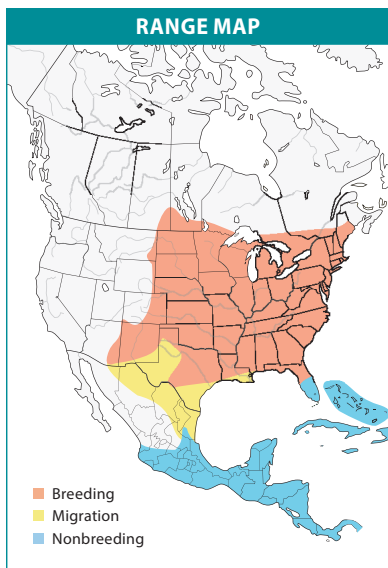
BREEDING MALE



ADULT FEMALE



JUVENILE



**SIZE & SHAPE** Indigo Buntings are small (roughly sparrow-sized), stocky birds with short tails and short, thick, conical bills. In flight, the birds appear plump with short, rounded tails.

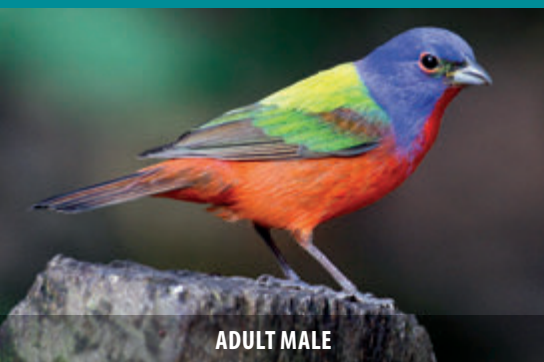
**COLOR PATTERN** An Indigo Bunting breeding male is blue all over, with richer blue on his head and a shiny, silver-gray bill. Females are brown with faint streaking on the breast, a whitish throat, and sometimes a touch of blue on the wings, tail, or rump. Juveniles resemble adult females but have crisp wingbars. In fall and winter, adult males have buffy feather edges covering the blue.

**BEHAVIOR** Male Indigo Buntings sing from treetops, shrubs, and telephone lines all summer. This species can be attracted to backyards with thistle or nyjer seed. While perching, they often swish their tails from side to side.

**HABITAT** Look for Indigo Buntings in weedy and brushy areas, especially where fields meet forests. They love forest edges, hedgerows, overgrown patches, and brushy roadsides.

All-blue male **Indigo Buntings** are common, widespread birds that whistle their songs through the late spring and summer across much of the eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada. Look for them in weedy fields and shrubby areas near trees, singing atop the tallest perch or foraging for seeds and insects in low vegetation.





ADULT MALE



FEMALE / IMMATURE



FEMALE / IMMATURE



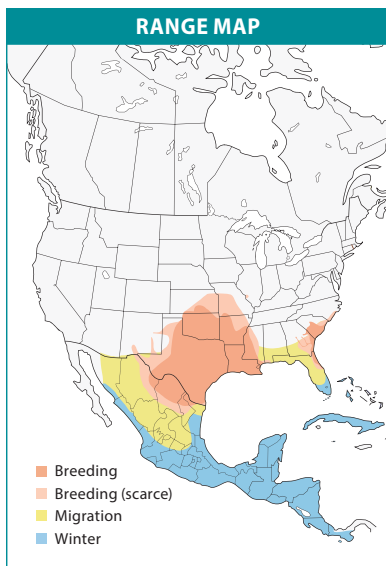
JUVENILE

**SIZE & SHAPE** Painted Buntings are small, sparrow-sized songbirds with stubby, thick bills that are perfectly shaped for eating seeds.

**COLOR PATTERN** Adult males are stunningly colored with blue heads, red underparts, and green backs. Females and immatures are bright greenish above and yellowish below, with a pale eyering. Though they are basically unpatterned, their overall color is greener and brighter than similar songbirds. Juveniles are drab and more gray but show some green on the rump.

**BEHAVIOR** Painted Buntings forage on the ground in dense cover, among grasses, or at seed feeders. Sometimes they venture out into grass to forage on seeds. On migration they form loose flocks with other seed-eating birds. Breeding males often perch out in the open to sing their jumbled, sweet songs.

**HABITAT** Painted Buntings breed in dense brush, often adjacent to thick, grassy areas or woodland edges. During migration and winter, they favor dense, weedy habitats as well as the understory of semiopen forest.



With their vivid fusion of blue, green, yellow, and red, male **Painted Buntings** seem to have flown from a child's coloring book. Females and immatures are a distinctive bright green with a pale eyering. They are often sold illegally as cage birds, which puts pressure on their breeding populations.



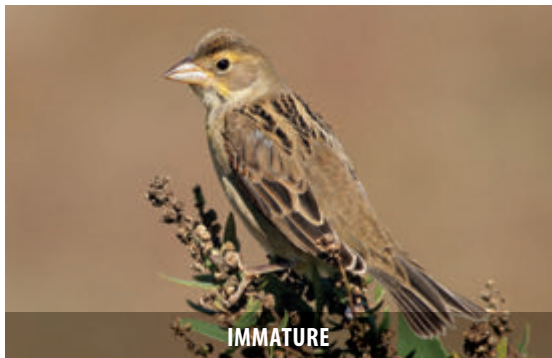
ADULT MALE



ADULT MALE

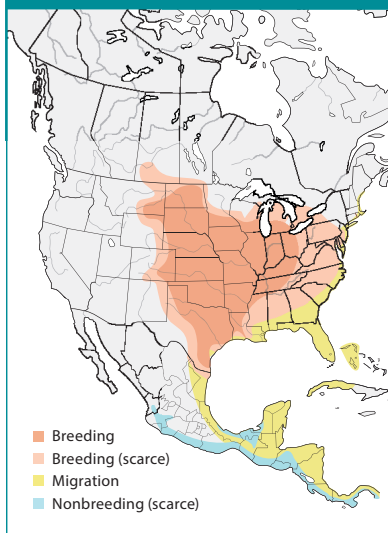


ADULT FEMALE



IMMATURE

## RANGE MAP



**SIZE & SHAPE** Dickcissels are compact and sparrowlike, with a full chest, a large, thick bill, and a relatively short tail. They are slightly larger than sparrows.

**COLOR PATTERN** Males are gray on the head with a yellow face and chest, crossed with a black V at the throat. The back is streaked brown and black, with reddish brown shoulders. Females are duller and lack the black V on the chest. Note the yellow eyebrow stripe. Immatures are browner, without the cool gray or bright yellow tones.

**BEHAVIOR** Dickcissels perch on stalks or shrubs, and sometimes fences, to pluck seeds. They also walk or hop on the ground, foraging for seeds. They will chase intruders with twisting flights that end with the birds fighting on the ground.

**HABITAT** In all seasons, Dickcissels are most commonly found in tall grasslands, including prairies, hayfields, lightly grazed pastures, and roadsides.

The curt song of the **Dickcissel** sounds like the bird's name, and it's part of the soundtrack of the North American prairies. They are erratic wanderers—common across the middle of the continent, and a pleasant surprise whenever they turn up in pastures and fields elsewhere in the United States.

## IMAGE CREDITS

**Front matter photos:** p. 11 Mallard ©Greg Gillson/Macaulay Library; p. 12 bird watcher ©Jill Leichter; p. 16 White-throated Sparrow ©Keenan Yakola/Macaulay Library; p. 18 Terns on a beach ©Jay McGowan/Macaulay Library; p. 19 Hairy Woodpecker ©Herb Elliott/Macaulay Library, Downy Woodpecker ©Evan Lipton/Macaulay Library; p. 20 Wilson's Warbler ©Ad Konings/Macaulay Library; p. 21 Lesser Scaup ©Brian L. Sullivan/Macaulay Library, Red-winged Blackbird ©Jonathan Eckerson/Macaulay Library; p. 22 Purple Finch ©Jay McGowan/Macaulay Library, House Finch ©Andrew Simon/Macaulay Library; p. 26 Herring Gulls ©Jay McGowan/Macaulay Library; p. 28 Ruby-throated Hummingbird ©Ian Davies/Macaulay Library; p. 31 binoculars ©Ivonne Wierink/Shutterstock; p. 32 birdfeeder ©Le Do/Shutterstock, scope ©Chokniti Khongchum/Shutterstock; p. 34 birders ©Jill Leichter; p. 35 Wood Thrush ©Ryan Schain/Macaulay Library; p. 36 camera ©EML/Shutterstock; p. 37 Sanderling ©Ryan Schain/Macaulay Library; p. 38 Rose-breasted Grosbeak ©Kevin J. McGowan/Macaulay Library; p. 39 American Goldfinch ©Kevin J. McGowan/Macaulay Library; p. 42 American Goldfinch ©Daniel Irons/Macaulay Library; p. 43 garden path ©Hannamariah/Shutterstock, bee ©Per-Boge/Shutterstock; p. 47 (top to bottom) ©NWStock/Shutterstock; ©spline\_x/Shutterstock, ©Sarah Marchant/Shutterstock; p. 48 (top to bottom) ©motorolka/Shutterstock, ©ntstudio/Shutterstock; p. 49 (top to bottom) ©Tiger Images/Shutterstock, ©Jiang Zhongyan/Shutterstock, ©Roman Tsubin/Shutterstock, ©Mirek Kijewski/Shutterstock; p. 50 (top to bottom) ©Egor Rodynchenko/Shutterstock, ©matin/Shutterstock; p. 51 Blackburnian Warbler ©Terence Zahner/Macaulay Library; p. 52 birdhouse ©Feng Yu/Shutterstock; p. 64 Northern Cardinal ©Linda Petersen; p. 65 child and binoculars ©Pigprox/Shutterstock; p. 66 Song Sparrow nest ©Bob Vuxinic; p. 67 parade ©Karen Purcell; p. 68 cat ©Claudia Paulussen/Shutterstock; p. 69 Orange-crowned Warbler ©Brian L. Sullivan/Macaulay Library, cup of coffee ©Alina Rosanova/Shutterstock. All other photos are ©Shutterstock.

**Front matter illustrations:** p. 17 House Finch and silhouette ©Liz Clayton Fuller, Bartels Science Illustrator; How Big is It? ©Bird Academy; p. 24, 25, 29, 30 illustrations ©Cornell Lab of Ornithology; pp. 44, 45 feeder illustrations ©Virginia Greene/Bartels Science Illustrator; pp. 52–55 birdhouse illustrations ©NestWatch.

**Photos in the *Guide to Species* section** were primarily sourced from the Macaulay Library, a collection of photos and sound recordings contributed by citizen scientists from all over the world. The diagram on the right shows placement for photos in the book. We are especially grateful to the following Macaulay Library photographers who each contributed over 25 photographs to this series: Sue Barth, Shawn Billerman, Darren Clark, Ian Davies, Matt Davis, Herb Elliott, Paul Fenwick, Greg Gillson, Daniel Irons, Ad Konings, Alex Lamoreaux, Evan Lipton, Scott Martin, Jay McGowan, Ollie Oliver, Arlene Ripley, Ryan Schain, Brian L. Sullivan, Christopher Wood, and Terence Zahner. All photos are ©the photographer/Macaulay Library, except those marked with an asterisk.



### Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

1. Ryan Shaw
2. Ian Davies
3. Sean Fitzgerald
4. Ian Davies

### Snow Goose

1. Jay McGowan
2. Matt Brady
3. Marky Mutchler
4. Ryan Schain

### Canada Goose

1. Liam Wolff
2. Jay McGowan
3. Paul Fenwick
4. Louis Hoeniger

### Muscovy Duck

1. Melissa James
2. Kathryn Young
3. Adam Jackson
4. Eric Hoffstein

### Wood Duck

1. Ryan Schain
2. Jay McGowan
3. Ollie Oliver
4. Paul Fenwick

### Blue-winged Teal

1. Brad Imhoff
2. Jay McGowan
3. Jay McGowan
4. George Armistead

### Northern Shoveler

1. Arlene Ripley
2. Christopher Wood
3. Paul Fenwick
4. Ryan Schain

### Gadwall

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Ryan Schain
3. Melissa James
4. Terence Zahner

### American Wigeon

1. Greg Gillson
2. Greg Gillson
3. Greg Gillson
4. Matt Davis

### Mallard

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Greg Gillson
3. Evan Lipton
4. Evan Lipton

### American Black Duck

1. Jay McGowan
2. Ian Davies
3. Sue Barth
4. Christopher Wood

### Mottled Duck

1. Ian Davies
2. Ian Davies
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Dan Vickers

### Northern Pintail

1. Louis Hoeniger
2. Scott Martin
3. Ryan Schain
4. Amanda Guercio

### Canvasback

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Alex Lamoreaux
3. Matt Davis
4. Ian Davies

### Redhead

1. Matt Davis
2. Greg Gillson
3. Jay McGowan
4. Jay McGowan

### Greater Scaup

1. Russ Morgan
2. Ian Davies
3. John D. Reynolds
4. Brian L. Sullivan

### Lesser Scaup

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Dorian Anderson
3. Ryan Schain
4. Dorian Anderson

### Ruddy Duck

1. Arlene Ripley
2. Ryan Schain
3. Liam Wolff
4. Louis Hoeniger

### Northern Bobwhite

1. Jeff Maw
2. Don Danko
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Shawn Billerman

### Wild Turkey

1. Andrew Simon
2. Ian Davies
3. Jay McGowan
4. Doug Hitchcock

### Ruffed Grouse

1. Doris Ratchford
2. Max Malmquist
3. Luke Seitz
4. Shawn Billerman

### Pied-billed Grebe

1. Ryan Schain
2. Matt Davis
3. Matt Davis
4. Paul Fenwick

### Rock Pigeon

1. Ryan Schain
2. Matt Davis
3. Sue Barth
4. Dan Vickers

### Eurasian Collared-Dove

1. Jay McGowan
2. Steven G. Mlodinow
3. Louis Hoeniger
4. Ryan Schain

**Common Ground Dove**

1. Melissa James
2. Jeff O'Connell
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Alex Lamoreaux

**White-winged Dove**

1. Evan Lipton
2. Arlene Ripley
3. Don Sterba
4. William Byers

**Mourning Dove**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Terence Zahner
3. Arlene Ripley
4. Nick Pulcinella

**Greater Roadrunner**

1. Jerry Ting
2. Matt Davis
3. Nancy Christensen
4. Ad Konings

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

1. Sue Barth
2. Jay McGowan
3. Ryan Schain
4. Dan Vickers

**Black-billed Cuckoo**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Sue Barth
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Christopher Sloan

**Common Nighthawk**

1. Jane Mann
2. Jay McGowan
3. Herb Elliott
4. Mark Ludwick

**Chimney Swift**

1. Janet Rathjen
2. Katherine Edison
3. Brian L. Sullivan
4. Steve Calver

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

1. Ian Davies
2. Jay McGowan
3. Ad Konings
4. Alex Lamoreaux

**Rufous Hummingbird**

1. Kent Leland
2. Matthew Pendleton
3. Matt Davis
4. Paul Fenwick

**Buff-bellied Hummingbird**

1. Jay McGowan
2. Alex Lamoreaux
3. Ian Davies
4. Alisha Flanary

**Sora**

1. Marky Mutchler
2. Ad Konings
3. Brad Imhoff
4. Matt Davis

**Common Gallinule**

1. Sean Fitzgerald
2. Matt Davis
3. Matt Davis
4. Matt Davis

**American Coot**

1. Brad Imhoff
2. Melissa James
3. Ad Konings
4. August Davidson-Onsgard

**Purple Gallinule**

1. Christopher Wood
2. Luke Seitz
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Alex Lamoreaux

**Limpkin**

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. David Wilson
3. Melissa James
4. Melissa James

**Sandhill Crane**

1. Paul Fenwick
2. Paul Fenwick
3. Matt Davis
4. Ad Konings

**Black-necked Stilt**

1. Sean Fitzgerald
2. Dorian Anderson
3. Shawn Billerman
4. Alex Lamoreaux

**American Oystercatcher**

1. Terence Zahner
2. Ryan Schain
3. Evan Lipton
4. Evan Lipton

**Black-bellied Plover**

1. Matt Davis
2. Dorian Anderson
3. Sue Barth
4. Paul Fenwick

**Killdeer**

1. Jay McGowan
2. Brian L. Sullivan
3. Jay McGowan
4. Ollie Oliver

**Long-billed Curlew**

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Brian L. Sullivan
3. Brian L. Sullivan
4. Brian L. Sullivan

**Marbled Godwit**

1. Matt Davis
2. Dorian Anderson
3. Kent Leland
4. Brian L. Sullivan

**Ruddy Turnstone**

1. Jay McGowan
2. Jay McGowan
3. Ryan Schain
4. Shawn Billerman

**Sanderling**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Matt Davis
3. Paul Fenwick
4. David Wilson

**Western Sandpiper**

1. Ian Davies
2. Ian Davies
3. Matthew Pendleton
4. Brian L. Sullivan

**Spotted Sandpiper**

1. Matt Brady
2. Ian Davies
3. Jay McGowan
4. Ad Konings

**Willet**

1. Evan Lipton
2. Evan Lipton
3. Steve Calver
4. Patrick Maurice

**Laughing Gull**

1. Jay McGowan
2. Ollie Oliver
3. Adam Jackson
4. Shawn Billerman

**Ring-billed Gull**

1. Paul Fenwick
2. Liam Wolff
3. Herb Elliott
4. Jay McGowan

**Herring Gull**

1. Darren Clark
2. Brian L. Sullivan
3. Evan Lipton
4. Christopher Wood

**Great Black-backed Gull**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Evan Lipton
3. Nick Pulcinella
4. Alex Lamoreaux

**Least Tern**

1. Jonathan Eckerson
2. Dorian Anderson
3. Dorian Anderson
4. Paul Fenwick

**Caspian Tern**

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Jay McGowan
3. Paul Fenwick
4. Herb Elliott

**Black Tern**

1. Paul Fenwick
2. Melissa James
3. Daniel Irons
4. Ryan Schain

**Common Tern**

1. Doug Hitchcox
2. Doug Hitchcox
3. Jay McGowan
4. Melissa James

**Forster's Tern**

1. August Davidson-Onsgard
2. Steve Tucker
3. Ryan Schain
4. David Wilson

**Royal Tern**

1. Paul Fenwick
2. Ian Davies
3. Ryan Schain
4. Shawn Billerman

**Black Skimmer**

1. Bryan Calk
2. Dorian Anderson
3. Ian Davies
4. Chris S. Wood

**Red-throated Loon**

1. Bryan Calk
2. Brian L. Sullivan
3. Ryan Schain
4. Dorian Anderson

**Common Loon**

1. Brad Imhoff
2. Matt Davis
3. Brian L. Sullivan
4. Patrick Maurice

**Wood Stork**

1. Patrick Maurice
2. Ian Davies
3. Andrew Simon
4. Dan Vickers

**Northern Gannet**

1. Chris Sayers
2. Jay McGowan
3. David Disher
4. Jay McGowan

**Anhinga**

1. Alex Lamoreaux
2. Dan Vickers
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Liam Wolf

**Double-crested Cormorant**

1. Evan Lipton
2. Terence Zahner
3. Steve Kolbe
4. Jane Mann

**American White Pelican**

1. Jerry Ting
2. Paul Fenwick
3. Herb Elliott
4. Gordon W. Dimmig

**Brown Pelican**

1. Daniel Irons
2. Alex Lamoreaux
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Brad Imhoff

**Great Blue Heron**

1. Herb Elliott
2. Daniel Irons
3. Terence Zahner
4. Shawn Billerman

**Great Egret**

1. Jonathan Eckerson
2. Melissa James
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Matt Davis

**Snowy Egret**

1. Evan Lipton
2. Jay McGowan
3. Jay McGowan
4. Melissa James

**Little Blue Heron**

1. Ad Konings
2. Ryan Schain
3. Greg Gillson
4. Alex Lamoreaux

**Tricolored Heron**

1. Paul Fenwick
2. Ian Davies
3. Daniel Irons
4. Scott Martin

**Cattle Egret**

1. Steve Kolbe
2. Brian L. Sullivan
3. Samuel Paul Galick
4. Steve Calver

**Green Heron**

1. Evan Lipton
2. Brad Imhoff
3. Evan Lipton
4. Paul Fenwick

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**

1. Ad Konings
2. Matt Davis
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Evan Lipton

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**

1. Evan Lipton
2. Paul Fenwick
3. Evan Lipton
4. Ad Konings

**White Ibis**

1. Melissa James
2. Ryan Schain
3. Ian Davies
4. Jay McGowan

**Glossy Ibis**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Evan Lipton
3. Brad Imhoff
4. Alex Lamoreaux

**Roseate Spoonbill**

1. Darren Clark
2. Paul Fenwick
3. Jay McGowan
4. Steve Calver

**Black Vulture**

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Ian Davies
3. Kathryn Young
4. David Wilson

**Turkey Vulture**

1. Louis Hoeniger
2. Paul Fenwick
3. Ryan Shaw
4. Brian L. Sullivan

**Osprey**

1. Matt Davis
2. Matt Davis
3. Jay McGowan
4. Melissa James

**Swallow-tailed Kite**

1. Melissa James
2. Jason Collins
3. Courtenay Harding
4. Jeff O'Connell

**Mississippi Kite**

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Arlene Ripley
3. Brian Smith
4. Jim Merritt

**Northern Harrier**

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Matt Davis
3. Brian L. Sullivan
4. Brian L. Sullivan

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**

1. Max Malmquist
2. Matt Davis
3. Greg Gillson
4. Louis Hoeniger

**Cooper's Hawk**

1. Evan Lipton\*
2. Ryan Schain
3. Sue Barth
4. Alan Versaw

**Bald Eagle**

1. Sue Barth
2. Chris S. Wood
3. Scott Martin
4. Jay McGowan

**Red-shouldered Hawk**

1. Ad Konings
2. Liam Wolff
3. Gordon W. Dimmig
4. Ian Davies

**Red-tailed Hawk**

1. Herb Elliott
2. Jonathan Eckerson
3. Terence Zahner
4. August Davidson-Onsgard

**Eastern Screech-Owl**

1. Andrew Simon
2. Ryan Schain
3. Jay McGowan
4. Ryan Schain

**Great Horned Owl**

1. Ad Konings
2. Terence Zahner
3. Ryan Schain
4. Lawrence Haller

**Burrowing Owl**

1. Martina Nordstrand
2. Darren Clark
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Ken Oeser

**Barred Owl**

1. Luke Seitz
2. Alex Lamoreaux
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Jay McGowan

**Belted Kingfisher**

1. John D. Reynolds
2. Louis Hoeniger
3. William Higgins
4. Matthew Pendleton

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

1. Jay McGowan
2. Alex Lamoreaux
3. Ryan Schain
4. Dan Vickers

**Red-headed Woodpecker**

1. Steve Calver
2. Jay McGowan
3. Jay McGowan
4. Jay McGowan

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**

1. Steve Calver
2. Scott Martin
3. Scott Martin
4. Sue Barth

**Downy Woodpecker**

1. Evan Lipton
2. Steve Calver
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Jay McGowan

**Hairy Woodpecker**

1. Sue Barth
2. Joe Wing
3. Christopher Wood
4. Sue Barth

**Pileated Woodpecker**

1. David Wilson
2. Jay McGowan
3. Shawn Billerman
4. Shawn Billerman

**Northern Flicker**

1. Ian Davies
2. Warren Lynn
3. Christopher Wood
4. Sue Barth

**American Kestrel**

1. Matthew Pendleton
2. Sue Barth
3. Dorian Anderson
4. Ad Konings

**Peregrine Falcon**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Brian L. Sullivan
3. Jay McGowan
4. Ryan Schain

**Monk Parakeet**

1. Jay McGowan
2. Jay McGowan
3. Marya Moosman
4. Shawn Billerman

**Eastern Wood-Pewee**

1. Daniel Irons
2. Linda Petersen\*
3. Ian Davies
4. Terence Zahner

**Least Flycatcher**

1. Jay McGowan
2. Ian Davies
3. Terence Zahner
4. Russ Morgan

**Eastern Phoebe**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Jay McGowan
3. Ian Davies
4. Jay McGowan

**Vermilion Flycatcher**

1. Matt Davis
2. Brian L. Sullivan
3. Louis Hoeniger
4. Evan Lipton

**Great Crested Flycatcher**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Keenan Yakola
3. Steve Kolbe
4. Shawn Billerman

**Eastern Kingbird**

1. Scott Martin
2. Josh Ketry
3. Jay McGowan
4. Russ Morgan

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**

1. Ryan Shaw
2. Evan Lipton
3. Jay McGowan
4. Lawrence Haller

**Yellow-throated Vireo**

1. Andrew Simon
2. Adam Jackson
3. Jay McGowan
4. Sue Barth

**Blue-headed Vireo**

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Shawn Billerman
3. Steve Calver
4. Linda Petersen\*

**Warbling Vireo**

1. Sue Barth
2. Jay McGowan
3. Jay McGowan
4. Jay McGowan

**Red-eyed Vireo**

1. Gordon W. Dimmig
2. Scott Martin
3. Evan Lipton
4. Ryan Schain

**Loggerhead Shrike**

1. Matthew Pendleton
2. Matt Davis
3. Dorian Anderson
4. Evan Lipton

**Blue Jay**

1. Scott Martin
2. Patrick Maurice
3. Jay McGowan
4. Dan Vickers

**Florida Scrub-Jay**

1. Alex Lamoreaux
2. Davey Walters
3. Liam Wolff
4. Tom Lally

**American Crow**

1. Alan Versaw
2. Steve Kolbe
3. Steven G. Mlodinow
4. Sue Barth

**Fish Crow**

1. Alex Lamoreaux
2. Shawn Billerman
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Tom Lally

**Common Raven**

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Brian L. Sullivan
3. Greg Gillson
4. Matt Davis

**Carolina Chickadee**

1. Daniel Irons
2. Ryan Shaw
3. Kathryn Young
4. Steve Calver

**Black-capped Chickadee**

1. Scott Martin
2. Greg Gillson
3. Brian L. Sullivan
4. Terence Zahner

**Tufted Titmouse**

1. Evan Lipton
2. Evan Lipton
3. Scott Martin
4. Ryan Schain

**Horned Lark**

1. Alan Versaw
2. Linda Petersen\*
3. Sue Barth
4. Ad Konings

**Purple Martin**

1. Bryan Calk
2. Mark Ludwick
3. Alex Lamoreaux
4. Terence Zahner

**Tree Swallow**

1. Greg Gillson
2. Phil McNeil
3. Matt Davis
4. Noah Strycker

**Barn Swallow**

1. Alex Lamoreaux
2. Paul Fenwick
3. Brian L. Sullivan
4. Arlene Ripley

**Cliff Swallow**

1. Dorian Anderson
2. Dan Vickers
3. Dorian Anderson
4. Herb Elliott

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Luke Seitz
3. Gates Dupont
4. Ian Davies

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

1. Jay McGowan
2. Brian L. Sullivan
3. Matt Davis
4. Luke Seitz

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

1. Scott Martin
2. Ryan Schain
3. Christopher Wood
4. Shawn Billerman

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Evan Lipton
3. Sue Barth
4. Ian Davies

**Brown-headed Nuthatch**

1. Ian Davies
2. Daniel Irons
3. Steve Calver
4. Andrew Simon

**Brown Creeper**

1. Scott Martin
2. Scott Martin
3. Scott Martin
4. Adam Jackson

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Davey Walters
3. Noah Strycker
4. Alex Lamoreaux

**House Wren**

1. Matt Brady
2. Ryan Schain
3. Evan Lipton
4. Ad Konings

**Winter Wren**

1. Terence Zahner
2. Scott Martin
3. Scott Martin
4. Ryan Schain

**Carolina Wren**

1. Evan Lipton
2. Melissa James
3. Ryan Schain
4. Daniel Irons

**European Starling**

1. Matt Davis
2. Ryan Schain
3. Jay McGowan
4. Linda Petersen\*

**Gray Catbird**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Bryan Calk
3. Jay McGowan
4. Evan Lipton

**Brown Thrasher**

1. Brad Imhoff
2. David Wilson
3. Melissa James
4. Linda Petersen\*

**Northern Mockingbird**

1. Ian Davies
2. Sue Barth
3. Arlene Ripley
4. Evan Lipton

**Eastern Bluebird**

1. Brad Imhoff
2. Brad Imhoff
3. Terence Zahner
4. Jay McGowan

**Swainson's Thrush**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Evan Lipton
3. Terence Zahner
4. Sue Barth

**Hermit Thrush**

1. Sue Barth
2. Sue Barth
3. Sue Barth
4. Terence Zahner

**Wood Thrush**

1. Evan Lipton
2. Sue Barth
3. Ian Davies
4. Ryan Schain

**American Robin**

1. Christopher Wood
2. Evan Lipton
3. Jay McGowan
4. David Wilson

**Cedar Waxwing**

1. Terence Zahner
2. Jay McGowan
3. Jane Bain
4. Evan Lipton

**House Sparrow**

1. Evan Lipton
2. Louis Hoeniger
3. Paul Fenwick
4. Ad Konings

**House Finch**

1. Scott Martin
2. Jay McGowan
3. Paul Fenwick
4. Ryan Schain

**Purple Wren**

1. Jeff Maw
2. Jay McGowan
3. Evan Lipton
4. Matt Brady

**Pine Siskin**

1. Matthew Pendleton
2. Matt Davis
3. Luke Seitz
4. Jim Merritt

**American Goldfinch**

1. Don Danko
2. Ian Davies
3. Linda Petersen\*
4. Daniel Irons

**Lapland Longspur**

1. Ian Davies
2. Ian Davies
3. Andrew Simon
4. Andrew Simon

**Grasshopper Sparrow**

1. Ian Davies
2. Melissa James
3. Matt Davis
4. Scott Martin

**Lark Sparrow**

1. Matt Davis
2. Paul Fenwick
3. Scott Martin
4. Brian L. Sullivan

**Chipping Sparrow**

1. Evan Lipton
2. Daniel Irons
3. Jay McGowan
4. Jay McGowan

**Field Sparrow**

1. Daniel Irons
2. Evan Lipton
3. Ian Davies
4. Dan Vickers

**Fox Sparrow**

1. Jay McGowan
2. Ian Davies
3. Ryan Schain
4. Terence Zahner

**Dark-eyed Junco**

1. Scott Martin
2. Daniel Irons
3. Jack and Shirley Foreman
4. Ian Davies

**White-crowned Sparrow**

1. Linda Petersen\*
2. Sue Barth
3. Daniel Irons
4. Jay McGowan

**White-throated Sparrow**

1. Jay McGowan
2. Keenan Yakola
3. Adam Jackson
4. Shawn Billerman

**Savannah Sparrow**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Bryan Calk
3. August Davidson-Onsgard
4. Evan Lipton

**Song Sparrow**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Shawn Billerman
3. Linda Petersen\*
4. Linda Petersen\*

**Swamp Sparrow**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Ryan Schain
3. Ryan Schain
4. Ryan Schain

**Eastern Towhee**

1. Melissa James
2. Steve Calver
3. Shawn Billerman
4. Melissa James

**Yellow-breasted Chat**

1. Bryan Calk
2. Ad Konings
3. Ad Konings
4. Ryan Schain

**Bobolink**

1. Ollie Oliver
2. Greg Gillson
3. Shawn Billerman
4. Shawn Billerman

**Eastern Meadowlark**

1. Marky Mutchler
2. Dan Vickers
3. Jay McGowan
4. Steve Calver

**Orchard Oriole**

1. Bryan Calk
2. Sue Barth
3. Jay McGowan
4. Ryan Schain

**Baltimore Oriole**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Steve Kolbe
3. Ryan Schain
4. Linda Petersen

**Red-winged Blackbird**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Jonathan Eckerson
3. Dan Vickers
4. Sue Barth

**Bronzed Cowbird**

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Brian L. Sullivan
3. Nic Allen
4. Mark Burns

**Brown-headed Cowbird**

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Arlene Ripley
3. Shawn Billerman
4. Linda Petersen\*

**Brewer's Blackbird**

1. Brian L. Sullivan
2. Matt Davis
3. Shawn Billerman
4. Jack Bushong

**Common Grackle**

1. Melissa James
2. Christopher Wood
3. Jay McGowan
4. Evan Lipton

**Boat-tailed Grackle**

1. David Wilson
2. Caleb Strand
3. Jay McGowan
4. Tom Lally

**Ovenbird**

1. August Davidson-Onsgard
2. Ryan Schain
3. Don Blecha
4. Arlene Ripley

**Black-and-white Warbler**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Daniel Irons
3. Ryan Schain
4. Ryan Schain

**Prothonotary Warbler**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Sue Barth
3. Steve Calver
4. Jay McGowan

**Tennessee Warbler**

1. Chris S. Wood
2. Sue Barth
3. Jay McGowan
4. Patrick Maurice

**Orange-crowned Warbler**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Paul Fenwick
3. Ryan Schain
4. Ryan Schain

**Common Yellowthroat**

1. Paul Fenwick
2. Brad Imhoff
3. Darren Clark
4. Shawn Billerman

**Hooded Warbler**

1. Evan Lipton
2. Jay McGowan
3. Steve Tucker
4. Sue Barth

**American Redstart**

1. August Davidson-Onsgard
2. Ian Davies
3. Daniel Irons
4. Jay McGowan

**Northern Parula**

1. Sue Barth
2. Evan Lipton
3. Ian Davies
4. Jay McGowan

**Magnolia Warbler**

1. Kennan Yakola
2. Sue Barth
3. Jay McGowan
4. Brian Smith

**Blackburnian Warbler**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Sue Barth
3. Ian Davies
4. Jay McGowan

**Yellow Warbler**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Alex Lamoreaux
3. Sue Barth
4. Ryan Schain

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

1. Keenan Yakola
2. Evan Lipton
3. Sue Barth
4. Jay McGowan

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**

1. Chris S. Wood
2. Ian Davies
3. Ian Davies
4. Cathy Sheeter

**Palm Warbler**

1. Alex Lamoreaux
2. Sue Barth
3. Ryan Schain
4. Ryan Schain

**Pine Warbler**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Evan Lipton
3. Ryan Schain
4. Ryan Schain

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**

1. Sue Barth
2. Terence Zahner
3. Ryan Schain
4. Evan Lipton

**Yellow-throated Warbler**

1. Dan Vickers
2. Brad Imhoff
3. Liam Wolff
4. Luke Seitz

**Black-throated Green Warbler**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Caleb Strand
3. Doug Hitchcox
4. Linda Petersen\*

**Summer Tanager**

1. Matt Brady
2. Sue Barth
3. Paul Fenwick
4. Brad Imhoff

**Scarlet Tanager**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Jay McGowan
3. Brian Smith
4. Terence Zahner

**Northern Cardinal**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Shawn Billerman
3. Terence Zahner
4. Terence Zahner

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

1. Ryan Schain
2. Warren Lynn
3. Terence Zahner
4. Jay McGowan

**Blue Grosbeak**

1. Daniel Irons
2. Arlene Ripley
3. David Disher
4. Arlene Ripley

**Indigo Bunting**

1. Sue Barth
2. Ryan Schain
3. Shawn Billerman
4. Alex Lamoreaux

**Painted Bunting**

1. Dan Vickers
2. Scott Martin
3. Sue Barth
4. Mary McSparen

**Dickcissel**

1. Alex Lamoreaux
2. Jim Merritt
3. Luke Seitz
4. Evan Lipton

## INDEX

- A**  
*Accipiter*  
  *cooperii*, 162  
  *striatus*, 161  
*Actitis macularius*, 122  
*Agelaius phoeniceus*, 249  
*Aix sponsa*, 76  
*Amazilia yucatanensis*, 106  
*Ammodramus savannarum*, 232  
*Anas*,  
  *acuta*, 84  
  *fulvigula*, 83  
  *platyrhynchos*, 81  
  *rubripes*, 82  
**Anhinga**, 139  
*Anhinga anhinga*, 139  
*Anser caerulescens*, 73  
*Antigone canadensis*, 112  
*Apelocoma coerulescens*, 194  
*Aramus guarana*, 111  
*Archilochus colubris*, 104  
*Ardea*  
  *alba*, 144  
  *herodias*, 143  
*Arenaria interpres*, 119  
*Athene cucularia*, 168  
*Aythya*  
  *affinis*, 88  
  *americana*, 86  
  *marila*, 87  
  *valisineria*, 85
- B**  
*Baeolophus bicolor*, 200  
**Blackbird**,  
  Brewer's, 252  
  Red-winged, 249  
**Bluebird**, Eastern, 220  
**Bobolink**, 245  
**Bobwhite**, Northern, 90  
*Bombycilla cedrorum*, 225  
*Bonasa umbellus*, 92  
*Branta canadensis*, 74  
*Bubo virginianus*, 167  
*Bubulcus ibis*, 148  
**Bunting**,  
  Indigo, 279  
  Painted, 280  
*Buteo*  
  *jamaicensis*, 165  
  *lineatus*, 164  
*Buorides virescens*, 149
- C**  
*Cairina moschata*, 75  
*Calcarius lapponicus*, 231  
*Calidris*  
  *alba*, 120  
  *mauri*, 121  
**Canvasback**, 85  
**Cardinal**, Northern, 276  
*Cardinalis cardinalis*, 276  
**Catbird**, Gray, 217  
*Cathartes aura*, 156  
*Catharus*  
  *guttatus*, 222  
  *ustulatus*, 221  
*Certhia americana*, 211  
*Chaetura pelagica*, 103  
*Charadrius vociferus*, 116  
**Chat**, Yellow-breasted, 244  
**Chickadee**,  
  Black-capped, 199  
  Carolina, 198  
*Chlidonias niger*, 130  
*Chondestes grammacus*, 233  
*Chordeiles minor*, 102  
*Circus hudsonius*, 160  
*Coccyzus*  
  *americanus*, 100  
  *erythrophthalmus*, 101  
*Colaptes auratus*, 177  
*Colinus virginianus*, 90  
*Columba livia*, 94  
*Columbina passerina*, 96  
**Common Nighthawk**, 102  
*Contopus virens*, 181  
**Coot**, American, 109  
*Coragyps atratus*, 155  
**Cormorant**, Double-crested, 140  
*Corvus*  
  *brachyrhynchos*, 195  
  *corax*, 197  
  *ossifragus*, 196  
**Cowbird**,  
  Bronzed, 250  
  Brown-headed, 251  
**Crane**, Sandhill, 112  
**Creepers**, Brown, 211  
**Crow**,  
  American, 195  
  Fish, 196  
**Cuckoo**,  
  Black-billed, 101  
  Yellow-Billed, 100  
**Curlew**, Long-billed, 117  
*Cyanocitta cristata*, 193
- D**  
*Dendrocygna autumnalis*, 72  
**Dickcissel**, 281  
*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, 245  
**Dove**,  
  Common Ground, 96  
  Eurasian Collared-, 95  
  Mourning, 98  
  White-winged, 97  
*Dryobates*  
  *pubescens*, 174  
  *villosus*, 175  
*Dyrocopus pileatus*, 176  
**Duck**,  
  American Black, 82  
  Black-bellied Whistling-, 72  
  Mottled, 83  
  Muscovy, 75  
  Ruddy, 89  
  Wood, 76  
*Dumetella carolinensis*, 217
- E**  
**Eagle**, Bald, 163  
**Egret**,  
  Cattle, 148  
  Great, 144  
  Snowy, 145  
*Egretta*  
  *caerulea*, 146  
  *thula*, 145  
  *tricolor*, 147  
*Elanoides forficatus*, 158  
*Empidonax minimus*, 182  
*Eremophila alpestris*, 201  
*Eudocimus albus*, 152  
*Euphagus cyanocephalus*, 252
- F**  
**Falcon**, Peregrine, 179  
*Falco*  
  *peregrinus*, 179  
  *sparverius*, 178  
**Finch**,  
  House, 227  
  Purple, 228  
**Flicker**, Northern, 177  
**Flycatcher**,  
  Great Crested, 185  
  Least, 182  
  Scissor-tailed, 187  
  Vermilion, 184  
*Fulica americana*, 109
- G**  
**Gadwall**, 79  
*Gallinula galeata*, 108



- Gallinule,**  
**Common, 108**  
**Purple, 110**
- Gannet, Northern, 138**
- Gavia**  
*immer*, 136  
*stellata*, 135
- Geococcyx californianus**, 99
- Geothlypis trichas**, 260
- Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray, 212**
- Godwit, Marbled, 118**
- Goldfinch, American, 230**
- Goose,**  
**Canada, 74**  
**Snow, 73**
- Grackle,**  
**Boat-tailed, 254**  
**Common, 253**
- Grebe, Pied-billed, 93**
- Grosbeak,**  
**Blue, 278**  
**Rose-breasted, 277**
- Grouse, Ruffed, 92**
- Gull,**  
**Great Black-backed, 127**  
**Herring, 126**  
**Laughing, 124**  
**Ring-billed, 125**
- H**  
*Haematopus palliatus*, 114  
*Haemorrhous mexicanus*, 227  
*purpureus*, 228  
*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, 163
- Harrier, Northern, 160**
- Hawk,**  
**Cooper's, 162**  
**Red-shouldered, 164**  
**Red-tailed, 165**  
**Sharp-shinned, 161**
- Heron,**  
**Black-crowned Night-, 150**  
**Great Blue, 143**  
**Green, 149**  
**Little Blue, 146**  
**Tricolored, 147**  
**Yellow-crowned Night-, 151**
- Himantopus mexicanus*, 113
- Hirundo rustica*, 204
- Hummingbird,**  
**Buff-bellied, 106**  
**Ruby-throated, 104**  
**Rufous, 105**
- Hydroprogne caspia*, 129  
*Hyalocichla mustelina*, 223
- I**  
**Ibis,**  
**Glossy, 153**  
**White, 152**
- Icteria**  
*virens*, 244
- Icterus**  
*galbula*, 248  
*spurius*, 247
- Ictinia mississippiensis*, 159
- J**  
**Jay,**  
**Blue, 193**  
**Florida Scrub-, 194**
- Junco, Dark-eyed, 237**
- Junco hyemalis*, 237
- K**  
**Kestrel, American, 178**
- Killdeer, 116**
- Kingbird, Eastern, 186**
- Kingfisher, Belted, 170**
- Kinglet,**  
**Golden-crowned, 206**  
**Ruby-crowned, 207**
- Kite,**  
**Mississippi, 159**  
**Swallow-tailed, 158**
- L**  
*Lanius ludovicianus*, 192
- Lark, Horned, 201**
- Larus**  
*argentatus*, 126  
*delawarensis*, 125  
*marinus*, 127
- Leiothlypis celata*, 259  
*peregrina*, 258
- Leucophaeus atricilla*, 124
- Limosa fedoa*, 118
- Limpkin, 111**
- Longspur, Lapland, 231**
- Loon,**  
**Common, 136**  
**Red-throated, 135**
- M**  
**Mallard, 81**
- Mareca**  
*americana*, 80  
*strepera*, 79
- Martin, Purple, 202**
- Meadowlark, Eastern, 245**
- Megaceryle alcyon*, 170
- Megascops asio*, 166
- Melanerpes carolinus*, 173  
*erythrocephalus*, 172
- Meleagris gallopavo*, 91
- Melospiza**  
*georgiana*, 242  
*melodia*, 241
- Mimus polyglottos*, 219
- Mniotilta varia*, 256
- Mockingbird, Northern, 219**
- Molothrus**  
*aeneus*, 250  
*ater*, 251
- Morus bassanus*, 138
- Mycteria americana*, 137
- Myiarchus crinitus*, 185
- Myiopsitta monachus*, 180
- N**  
**Nighthawk, Common, 102**
- Numenius americanus*, 117
- Nuthatch,**  
**Brown-headed, 210**  
**Red-breasted, 208**  
**White-breasted, 209**
- Nyctanassa violacea*, 151
- Nycticorax nycticorax*, 150
- O**  
**Oriole,**  
**Baltimore, 248**  
**Orchard, 247**
- Osprey, 157**
- Ovenbird, 255**
- Owl,**  
**Barred, 169**  
**Burrowing, 168**  
**Eastern Screech-, 166**  
**Great Horned, 167**
- Oxyura jamaicensis*, 89
- Oystercatcher, American, 114**
- P**  
*Pandion haliaetus*, 157
- Parakeet, Monk, 180**
- Parula, Northern, 263**
- Passerculus sandwichensis*, 240
- Passer domesticus*, 226
- Passerella iliaca*, 236
- Passerina**  
*caerulea*, 278  
*ciris*, 280  
*cyanea*, 279
- Pelecanus**  
*erythrorhynchos*, 141  
*occidentalis*, 142

- Pelican,**  
**American White, 141**  
**Brown, 142**  
*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*, 205  
**Pewee, Eastern Wood-, 181**  
*Phalacrocorax auritus*, 140  
*Pheucticus ludovicianus*, 277  
**Phoebe, Eastern, 183**  
**Pigeon, Rock, 94**  
**Pintail, Northern, 84**  
*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, 243  
*Piranga*  
*olivacea*, 275  
*rubra*, 274  
*Platalea ajaja*, 154  
*Plegadis falcinellus*, 153  
**Plover, Black-bellied, 115**  
*Pluvialis squatarola*, 115  
*Podilymbus podiceps*, 93  
*Poecile*  
*atricapillus*, 199  
*carolinensis*, 198  
*Poliophtila caerulea*, 212  
*Porphyrio martinica*, 212  
*Porzana carolina*, 107  
*Progne subis*, 202  
*Protonotaria citrea*, 257  
*Pyrocephalus rubinus*, 184
- Q**  
*Quiscalus*  
*major*, 254  
*quiscula*, 253
- R**  
**Raven, Common, 197**  
**Redhead, 86**  
**Redstart, American, 262**  
*Regulus*  
*calendula*, 207  
*satrapa*, 206  
**Roadrunner, Greater, 99**  
**Robin, American, 224**  
*Rynchops niger*, 134
- S**  
**Sanderling, 120**  
**Sandpiper,**  
**Spotted, 122**  
**Western, 121**  
**Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied, 171**  
*Sayornis phoebe*, 183  
**Scaup,**  
**Greater, 87**  
**Lesser, 88**  
*Seiurus aurocapilla*, 255  
*Selasphorus rufus*, 105
- Setophaga*  
*americana*, 263  
*caerulescens*, 268  
*citrina*, 261  
*coronata*, 271  
*dominica*, 272  
*fusca*, 265  
*magnolia*, 264  
*palmarum*, 269  
*pennsylvanica*, 267  
*petechia*, 266  
*pinus*, 270  
*ruticilla*, 262  
*virens*, 273  
**Shoveler, Northern, 78**  
**Shrike, Loggerhead, 192**  
*Sialia sialis*, 220  
**Siskin, Pine, 229**  
*Sitta*  
*canadensis*, 208  
*carolinensis*, 209  
*pusilla*, 210  
**Skimmer, Black, 134**  
**Sora, 107**  
**Sparrow,**  
**Chipping, 234**  
**Field, 235**  
**Fox, 236**  
**Grasshopper, 232**  
**House, 226**  
**Lark, 233**  
**Savannah, 240**  
**Song, 241**  
**Swamp, 242**  
**White-crowned, 238**  
**White-throated, 239**
- Spatula*  
*clypeata*, 78  
*discors*, 77  
*Sphyrapicus varius*, 171  
*Spinus*  
*pinus*, 229  
*tristis*, 230  
*Spiza americana*, 281  
*Spizella*  
*passerina*, 234  
*pusilla*, 235  
**Spoonbill, Roseate, 154**  
**Starling, European, 216**  
*Sterna*  
*forsteri*, 132  
*hirundo*, 131  
*Sternula antillarum*, 128  
**Stilt, Black-necked, 113**  
**Stork, Wood, 137**  
*Streptopelia decaocto*, 95  
*Strix varia*, 169
- Sturnella magna*, 246  
*Sturnus vulgaris*, 216  
**Swallow,**  
**Barn, 204**  
**Cliff, 205**  
**Tree, 203**  
**Swift, Chimney, 103**
- T**  
*Tachycineta bicolor*, 203  
**Tanager,**  
**Scarlet, 275**  
**Summer, 274**  
**Teal, Blue-winged, 77**  
**Tern,**  
**Black, 130**  
**Caspian, 129**  
**Common, 131**  
**Forster's, 132**  
**Least, 128**  
**Royal, 133**  
*Thalasseus maximus*, 133  
**Thrasher, Brown, 218**  
**Thrush,**  
**Hermit, 222**  
**Swainson's, 221**  
**Wood, 223**  
*Thryothorus ludovicianus*, 215  
**Titmouse, Tufted, 200**  
**Towhee, Eastern, 243**  
*Toxostoma rufum*, 218  
*Tringa semipalmata*, 123  
*Troglodytes*  
*aedon*, 213  
*hiemalis*, 214  
*Turdus migratorius*, 224  
**Turkey, Wild, 91**  
**Turnstone, Ruddy, 119**  
*Tyrannus*  
*forficatus*, 187  
*tyrannus*, 186
- V**  
**Vireo,**  
**Blue-headed, 189**  
**Red-eyed, 191**  
**Warbling, 190**  
**Yellow-throated, 188**  
*Vireo*  
*flavifrons*, 188  
*gilvus*, 190  
*olivaceus*, 191  
*solitarius*, 189  
**Vulture,**  
**Black, 155**  
**Turkey, 156**

**W****Warbler,**

- Black-and-white, 256
- Blackburnian, 265
- Black-throated Blue, 268
- Black-throated Green, 273
- Chestnut-sided, 267
- Hooded, 261
- Magnolia, 264
- Orange-crowned, 259
- Palm, 269
- Pine, 270
- Prothonotary, 257
- Tennessee, 258
- Yellow, 266
- Yellow-rumped, 271
- Yellow-throated, 272

Waxwing, Cedar, 225

White Ibis, 152

Wigeon, American, 80

Willet, 123

Woodpecker,

Downy, 174

Hairy, 175

Pileated, 176

Red-bellied, 173

Red-headed, 172

Wren,

Carolina, 215

House, 213

Winter, 214

**Y**

Yellowthroat, Common, 260

**Z**

*Zenaida*

*asiatica*, 97

*macroura*, 98

*Zonotrichia*

*albicollis*, 239

*leucophrys*, 238

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

These guides were put together with the help of many people. The bird species profiles are derived from the more comprehensive accounts in the *All About Birds Online Bird Guide*, authored by numerous expert contributors throughout the year, with editing and many recent additions made possible by Hugh Powell, Kathi Borgmann, and Ned Brinkley. Maps are based on original *All About Birds* base maps featuring data from NatureServe and updated to reflect known ranges. Early on, Jessie Barry and Ian Davies shared what they would like to see in a new field-guide series. Hugh Powell wrote much of the helpful information on ID at the front of the guides. Tilden Chao provided a selection of photos to begin our search for ID photos. Robyn Bailey, Jenna Curtis, Marilu Lopez Fretts, Holly Grant, Emma Greig, Jay McGowan, Becca Rodomsky-Bish, and Bobby Stickel provided updates on projects and technology. Rachel Lodder's eagle eyes proofread many versions of these books. Caroline Watkins filled spreadsheets and edited copy, assisted with photo permission requests, and hunted down images. Diane Tessaglia-Hymes' design skills brought this project to the finish line with finesse and grace. Miyoko Chu smoothed over the many road bumps along the way, and Brian L. Sockin gave guidance and support. Michael L. P. Retter provided crucial feedback on photographs, range-map adjustments, and copy. Michael's boundless knowledge, enthusiasm, and energy kept the project moving forward.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank every photographer/citizen scientist who contributes photos to the Macaulay Library, the contents of which I scoured for birds of all ages and plumages. For a complete list of image credits, please see pages 282–286. A special thanks to the following photographers who granted use of any of their photographs in this book. I admire their skill and appreciate their generosity: Sue Barth, Shawn Billerman, Jeff Bleam, Matt Brady, Steve Calver, August Davidson-Onsgard, Ian Davies, Matt Davis, Herb Elliott, Paul Fenwick, Fred Forssell, Greg Gillson, Louis Hoeniger, Adam Jackson, Melissa James, Ad Konings, Tom Lally, Alex Lamoreaux, Kent Leland, Evan Lipton, Mark Ludwick, Scott Martin, Patrick Maurice, Jeff Maw, Jay McGowan, Jim Merritt, Marya Moosman, Russ Morgan, Ollie Oliver, Matthew Pendleton, Arlene Ripley, Ryan Schain, Luke Seitz, Andrew Simon, Caleb Strand, Brian L. Sullivan, Usha Tatini, Alan Versaw, Dan Vickers, David Wilson, Liam Wolff, Chris S. Wood, Christopher Wood, Kathryn Young, and Terence Zahner.

Jill Leichter, Editor

Jill Leichter, Editor

# Titles in This Series



 PRINCETON  
press.princeton.edu