

# Birds of Bolivar Peninsula

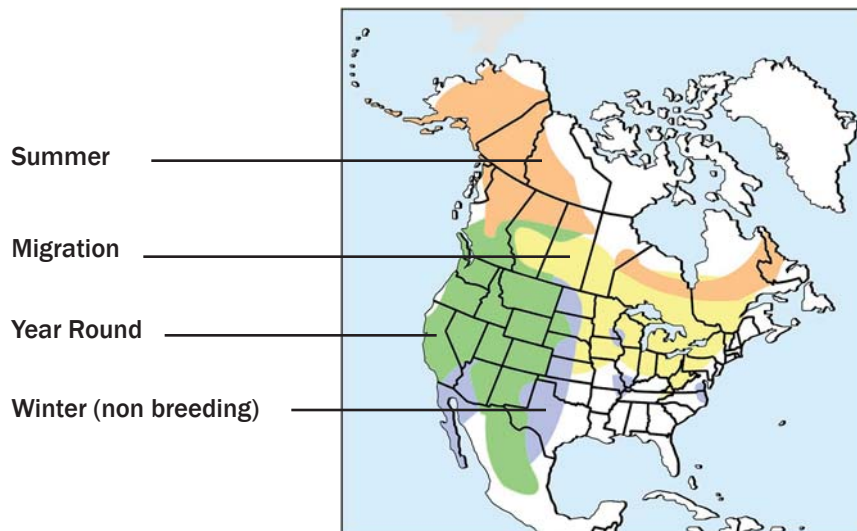
Houston Audubon Society



[www.houstonaudubon.org](http://www.houstonaudubon.org)

## How to Use This Book

**Range Maps:** The Range maps are color coded to show where and when to expect each bird to occur. The maps cover ranges of birds living in North America, including the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Each map shows four ranges: orange for summer, blue for winter, yellow for migration, and green for year round. Because birds do not stay strictly inside these boundaries, you may find them wandering far from ranges assigned in this guide, particularly during migration. In some cases, a bird may be so rare that its sightings appear as small dots on the map; a bird may be seen in a certain area, and then disappear shortly after it has been spotted. When a bird is so rare that its range cannot be drawn, the map area will read “No Map Available”.



## Definitions and Conventions

**Common Name:** Birds are organized by common name, sex or seasonal or age variation, such as Abert's Towhee Breeding Male, American Robin Female California Gull 1st Winter. The Latin species name, Order, and Family name are located under the common name, for example: Abert's Towhee Breeding Male *Pipilo aberti* Order: PASSERIFORMES Family: Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**Family Name and Color:** The top of every page has a unique color bar associated with each family name.)

**General:** The general heading gives an overview of basic identification details. It describes the coloring of the body, any distinctive marks found in the head, tail, and underparts and the coloring differences between sexes and juveniles. Example: American Kestrel is the smallest North American hawk. Dainty falcon with two distinct black facial stripes and rust-brown tail and back. Male has slate-blue wings and black-spotted underparts. Female has rust-brown wings, narrow tail bands, and rust-streaked underparts.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Describes what the bird eats during different seasons. Example: In the summer, American Kestrels hunt in the early morning and evening, eating large insects like grasshoppers. During winter months, they hunt throughout daylight hours and eat small mammals such as mice, sandpiper chicks, lizards, scorpions, and amphibians.

**Breeding and Nesting:** Describes breeding, nesting, egg-laying, and incubation. Example: American Kestrel: For up to six weeks before egg laying, females are promiscuous, mating with two or three males. Once a female settles with one mate, the pair mates frequently until eggs are laid. Typically, three to seven white or light pink eggs are laid. Incubation is carried out primarily by the female, and lasts approximately 29-30 days; however, the male will occasionally take over the duties.

**Similar Species:** Distinguishes birds that closely resemble the bird in question. Example: American Kestrel: The Sharp-shinned Hawk is similar in size, but has rounded wings and is patterned differently. The Merlin is larger with broader-based wings, lacks rust tones on back and wing coverts, has a single mustache mark, and is strongly checkered under wings.

**Flight Pattern:** How the bird flies. For example: “American Kestrel: Soars on thermals. Several rapid wing beats followed by a glide. Often hovers on rapidly beating wings”

**Song:** Describes the bird’s vocalization in a mnemonic form. Example: American Kestrel alarm call is a loud, quick klee-klee-klee or killy, killy, killy.

**Range and Habitat:** Describes where the bird breeds, residence and migration patterns, and preferred habitats such as chaparral, brushy oak, woodlands, and so on. Example: American Kestrel breeds from Alaska and the Northwest Territories east through the Maritime Provinces and south throughout the continent. It winters north to British Columbia, Great Lakes, and New England. Preferred habitat includes towns and cities, parks, farmlands, and open country.

**Info Box:** Contains basic physical parameters including body length, wingspan, weight, coloring, and patterns. Units are given in metric and English..

All information contained in this field guide is derived from the WhatBird database found at <http://www.whatbird.com>. This database includes a state of the art parametric search engine that allows identification of any one of over 800 bird species or variations found in North America with just a few clicks. There is also a bird forum where our ornithologists will help you identify birds that you cannot find with the search engine.

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## AMERICAN WIGEON

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** American Wigeon: Medium dabbling duck, brown body with white crown, large green ear patch extending to back of head, buff washed breast and sides, and white belly. White shoulder patches visible in flight. Black-tipped pale blue bill. Swift direct flight, strong wing beats. Flies in tight flocks.

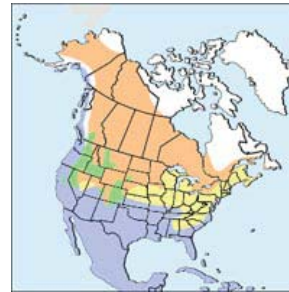
**Foraging and Feeding:** American Wigeon: Opportunistic and aggressive feeder, often foraging in open water by stealing materials brought to the surface by diving ducks and coots. Feeds primarily on leafy aquatic plants, grass, and agricultural crops; also takes insects and other aquatic invertebrates.



**Breeding and Nesting:** American Wigeon: Six to twelve creamy white eggs are laid in a down-lined nest made of grass, often several hundred yards from water. Incubation ranges from 22 to 25 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with strong wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** American Wigeon: Breeds from Alaska, northern Manitoba and southern Quebec south to Nevada, the Dakotas, and the Great Lakes region, rarely farther east. Spends winters mainly along the Pacific, Atlantic, and Gulf coasts. Marshes, ponds, and shallow lakes are preferred habitats.



**Species:** *Anas americana*

**Length Range:** 46 - 58 cm (18 - 23 in)

**Weight:** 771 g (27.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 76 - 89 cm (30 - 35 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Stable

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Large, colorful duck with bright red bill, pink-red legs and feet. Shows white wing patch, black belly, reddish-brown breast, neck and back. Face, foreneck are gray, white eye ring. Feeds on aquatic plants, cultivated grains, seeds. Direct flight on rapid wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Feeds mainly on seeds of grasses and sorghum. Searches for food primarily at night in shallow water or on land. May eat a few invertebrates.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Mainly nests in tree cavities but may also nest on the ground with little material added to form a nest cup. Lays twelve to sixteen white eggs that are incubated by both parents for about 28 days. Chicks begin to fly at 56 days but remain with the parents for at least 144 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Steady direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Occurs in freshwater and estuarine wetlands and marshes along the Texas Gulf Coast and also in southern Arizona.



**Species:** *Dendrocygna autumnalis*  
**Length Range:** 46 - 53 cm (18 - 21 in)  
**Weight:** 816 g (28.8 oz)  
**Wingspan Range:** 86 - 91 cm (34 - 36 in)  
**Breeding Type:** Solitary nester  
**Breeding Population:** Uncommon and local

**Back Pattern:** Solid  
**Belly Pattern:** Solid  
**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLUE-WINGED TEAL

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Blue-winged Teal: Small dabbling duck, purple-gray head, distinct white crescent on face. Upperparts are scaled buff, dark brown; underparts are pale brown with numerous dark spots. Wings have green speculum, pale blue shoulder patch visible in flight. Fast direct flight with steady wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Blue-winged Teal: Diet includes aquatic invertebrates, aquatic vegetation, and seeds; forages in shallow water and mudflats.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Blue-winged Teal: Six to fifteen white to olive eggs are laid in a ground hollow filled with grass and weeds and lined with down. Nest is built by the female and usually hidden in tall grass near water. Incubation ranges from 22 to 27 days and is carried out by the female. Young fly in 35 to 49 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with steady quick wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Blue-winged Teal: Breeds in northern prairies and parklands of central North America and spends winters from Central America and the Caribbean south to Peru and northeastern Brazil. Preferred nesting habitats include wetland areas within grasslands, such as marshes, ponds, and lakes. Winter habitats are mostly swamps and shallow wetlands.



**Species:** *Anas discors*

**Length Range:** 38 - 43 cm (15 - 17 in)

**Weight:** 408 g (14.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 58 - 79 cm (23 - 31 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common in the East, Uncommon in the West

**Back Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled



## BUFFLEHEAD

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Bufflehead: Small diving duck, mostly white with glossy green-black to purple-black head and back. Head has large white patch behind eye. The wings are dark with white patches visible in flight. Feeds on aquatic plant seeds and insects, larvae, and snails. Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.



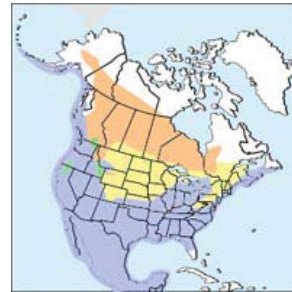
**Foraging and Feeding:** Bufflehead: Diet includes insects, crustaceans, mollusks, and seeds. Forages in open, shallow water and dives from the surface for food.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Bufflehead: Eight to ten creamy yellow, light olive buff or pale buff eggs are laid in a nest made of down built in an abandoned woodpecker hole up to 20 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 28 to 33 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Bufflehead: Breeds in Alaska and in Canada east to western Quebec, and south in the mountains to Washington and Montana. Spends winters along the Atlantic to northern Florida and across the southern U.S., and south to Mexico and the Gulf coast. Preferred habitats include lakes, ponds, saltwater bays, and estuaries.



**Species:** *Bucephala albeola*

**Length Range:** 33 - 41 cm (13 - 16 in)

**Weight:** 454 g (16 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 51 - 61 cm (20 - 24 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Declining

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## CANADA GOOSE

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Canada Goose: Large, long-necked goose with dark upperparts and paler underparts grading to white on vent. The head and neck are black with white chin bar. Body is usually gray-brown, although varies from dark brown to gray in different races. White semi-circle above black tail is visible in flight.

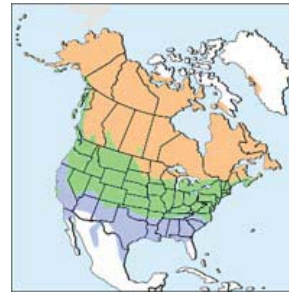
**Foraging and Feeding:** Canada Goose: Eats a variety of grass when foraging terrestrially; also feeds on agricultural crops such as wheat, beans, rice, and corn. Sometimes tips like puddle ducks when feeding on aquatic plants such as wild celery, sea lettuce, and sago pondweed.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Canada Goose: Four to seven white eggs are laid in a large nest made of grass and moss, lined with down, and built on the ground near water or on a muskrat lodge; sometimes uses an abandoned Osprey or Bald Eagle nest in a tree. Incubation ranges from 25 to 30 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong deep wing beats. Flies in V formation in migration. Strong powerful direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Canada Goose: Breeds from Alaska east to Baffin Island and south to California, Illinois, and Massachusetts. Spends winters south to northern Mexico and the Gulf coast.; also a widespread resident in city parks and on reservoirs. Preferred habitats include lakes, bays, rivers, marshes, and stubble fields.



**Species:** *Branta canadensis*

**Length Range:** 64 - 114 cm (25 - 45 in)

**Weight:** 3810 g (134.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 190 cm (75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Common to abundant

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Barred or banded

## CANVASBACK

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Canvasback: Large, flashy diving duck with pale gray body and black breast, tail. Head is red-brown with long, sloping profile and long, dark bill. Eye is red. Legs and feet are gray. Feeds primarily on aquatic plants. Rapid direct flight with strong wing beats. Flies high, usually in V formations.

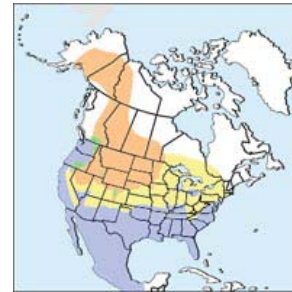
**Foraging and Feeding:** Canvasback: Feeds on aquatic vegetation, particularly wild celery, and mollusks. Forages in open water by diving from the surface; feeds by day or night.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Canvasback: Seven to twelve gray olive or green olive eggs are laid in a floating nest made of reeds and grass anchored to stems of marsh plants. Incubation ranges from 23 to 29 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift, sometimes erratic, direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Canvasback: Breeds from Alaska south and east to Nebraska and Minnesota. Spends winters in coastal regions and interior west from British Columbia south and east from Massachusetts south to the Gulf coast and in Mississippi Valley. Nests on marshes; winters on lakes, bays, and estuaries.



**Species:** *Aythya valisineria*

**Length Range:** 48 - 61 cm (19 - 24 in)

**Weight:** 1270 g (44.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 71 - 91 cm (28 - 36 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## COMMON GOLDENEYE

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Common Goldeneye: Medium diving duck, white-striped black upperparts, white underparts. Head is iridescent green-black with white circular patch between yellow eyes and dark gray bill. Wings are dark with large white patches conspicuous in flight. Legs and feet are yellow. Swift, direct flight.

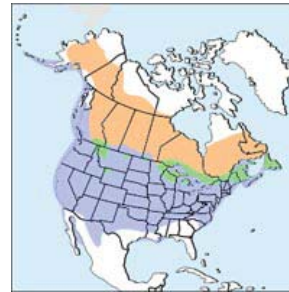
**Foraging and Feeding:** Common Goldeneye: Feeds on insects, crustaceans, mollusks, small fish, and aquatic plants; forages by diving from the surface.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Common Goldeneye: Five to nineteen pale green or gray green eggs are laid in a down-lined tree cavity; often uses the same cavity in successive years. Nest is usually located near a pond, lake, or river, but may be found in woodlands up to a mile from water. Incubation ranges from 28 to 32 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with strong wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Common Goldeneye: Breeds in Alaska and across Canada to Newfoundland and the Maritime Provinces, and south to mountains of Montana and Great Lakes. Spends winters in much of the U.S., wherever water is open. Breeds on wooded lakes and ponds; winters mainly on coastal bays and estuaries.



**Species:** *Bucephala clangula*

**Length Range:** 41 - 51 cm (16 - 20 in)

**Weight:** 998 g (35.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 64 - 81 cm (25 - 32 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Fulvous Whistling-Duck: Large, long-legged, long-necked duck with dark brown back and white V-shaped rump patch. Head and underparts are buff with white throat and vent. The white-edged side and flank feathers form a striking border between sides and back. Tail is black with white undertail coverts.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Fulvous Whistling-Duck: Feeds almost exclusively on aquatic vegetation, rice, and seeds of marsh plants; forages day and night.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Fulvous Whistling-Duck: Twelve to fourteen white eggs are laid in a shallow cup of grass lined with down. Nest is built on the ground in dense vegetation or floats on the water. Incubation ranges from 24 to 26 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct heronlike flight with slow deep wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Fulvous Whistling-Duck: Breeds in southern California, coastal Texas and Louisiana, and southern Florida; winters along the east coast of Mexico. Preferred habitats include shallow freshwater marshes, lakes, and flooded agricultural fields.



**Species:** *Dendrocygna bicolor*

**Length Range:** 46 - 53 cm (18 - 21 in)

**Weight:** 726 g (25.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 91 cm (36 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to locally common

**Back Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## GADWALL

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Gadwall: Large dabbling duck with finely barred gray body, black rump and undertail coverts, white belly, and rust-brown shoulders. Head and neck are gray-brown; bill is gray. Wings have black-bordered white speculum most visible in flight. Legs and feet are yellow. Fast direct flight.

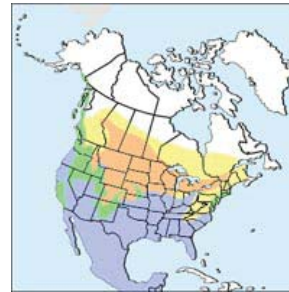
**Foraging and Feeding:** Gadwall: Feeds on pondweeds, naiads, widgeon grass, watermilfoil, algae, seeds, and aquatic invertebrates; forages in deeper water than most other dabbling ducks.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Gadwall: Seven to fifteen creamy white eggs are laid in a nest made of grass and weeds, lined with down, and usually hidden in dense weeds or grass near water. Incubation ranges from 24 to 27 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Fast direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Gadwall: Breeds near seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands, mainly in the shortgrass, tallgrass, and mixed prairie regions of the U.S. and Canada. Spends winters in southern two-thirds of the U.S., with greatest concentrations found in the Central and Mississippi Flyways; also a common winter visitor to Guatemala. Preferred habitats include large, shallow ponds with lots of marsh plants.



**Species:** *Anas strepera*

**Length Range:** 48 - 58 cm (19 - 23 in)

**Weight:** 998 g (35.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 79 - 91 cm (31 - 36 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Yes but uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

## GREATER SCAUP

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Greater Scaup: Large diving duck with glossy green-black head, white sides and belly, black tail, neck and breast, barred gray flanks and back. Eyes are yellow. Bill is blue-gray with a black tip. Feeds on insects, plants, vertebrates and mollusks. Rapid direct flight with strong rapid wing beats.



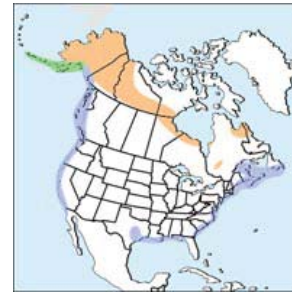
**Foraging and Feeding:** Greater Scaup: Eats mollusks and aquatic plants obtained by diving and swimming underwater.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Greater Scaup: Builds a nest of decaying plant material and down very close to the water and sometimes floating on water. Five to eleven dark olive buff eggs are incubated by the female for 24 to 28 days. One brood per year.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with strong rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Greater Scaup: Found in Alaska, northern Canada and along both north American coasts and sometimes along the gulf coasts. Prefers ponds, marshes and lakes.



**Species:** *Aythya marila*

**Length Range:** 44 cm (17.5 in)

**Weight:** 953 g (33.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 81 cm (32 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Greater White-fronted Goose: Medium goose with dark-brown body. Underparts are barred and flecked with black; belly and undertail coverts are conspicuously white. Front of face has a white patch. Bill is usually pink. Legs are orange. Steady direct flight with rapid wing beats. Flies in V formation.

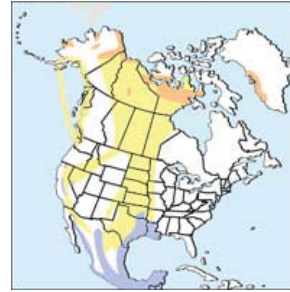
**Foraging and Feeding:** Greater White-fronted Goose: Feeds mostly on grass, sedges, aquatic plants, berries, and grains; occasionally eats insects and mollusks.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Greater White-fronted Goose: Three to six buff, creamy white, or light pink eggs are laid in a down-lined grassy depression on tundra. Incubation ranges from 22 to 28 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Steady direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Greater White-fronted Goose: Breeds in Alaska, far-northern Canada, and Greenland. Spends winters from coastal British Columbia to California, in New Mexico, and along the Gulf coast in Texas and Louisiana; more rarely on the east coast and in the interior. Breeds on marshy tundra; winters on marshes and bays.



**Species:** *Anser albifrons*

**Length Range:** 66 - 86 cm (26 - 34 in)

**Weight:** 2722 g (96 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 135 - 157 cm (53 - 62 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Barred or banded



## GREEN-WINGED TEAL

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Green-winged Teal: Small dabbling duck with pale, gray-barred sides and buff breast with a white bar down the side. Head is chestnut-brown with green ear patch. Bill is dark gray and legs and feet are olive-gray to gray-brown. Speculum is flashy green bordered with brown above and white below.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Green-Winged Teal: Eats seeds, aquatic plants, insects, mollusks, crustaceans, and tadpoles found while foraging in and adjacent to mudflats or while dabbling in shallow water.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Green-Winged Teal: Six to eighteen creamy white, light olive, or buff eggs are laid in a down-lined ground depression in tall grass, often several hundred yards from water. Incubation ranges from 20 to 24 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift, sometimes erratic, direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Green-Winged Teal: Breeds in northern Alaska, Manitoba, and Quebec south to California, Colorado, Nebraska, and New York. Spends winters in southern states and along the coasts. Preferred habitats include marshes, ponds, and marshy lakes.



**Species:** *Anas crecca*

**Length Range:** 30 - 41 cm (12 - 16 in)

**Weight:** 363 g (12.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 51 - 64 cm (20 - 25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Increasing

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## HOODED MERGANSER

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Hooded Merganser: Small merganser with black upperparts and white underparts with two black bars on side of breast; red-brown flanks. Crest shows large white patch when raised, white stripe extending backwards from the eye when lowered. Dark wings have white shoulder patches visible in flight.



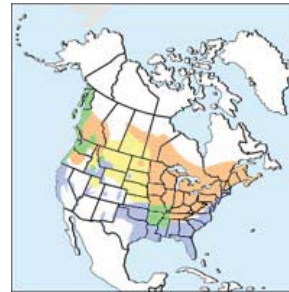
**Foraging and Feeding:** Hooded Merganser: Forages underwater, diving from the surface and capturing fish with its serrated and hooked bill; also feeds on crayfish, snails, frogs, insects, aquatic plants, and seeds.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Hooded Merganser: Six to eighteen white eggs are laid in a hollow tree, stump, or other natural cavity lined with down. Nest is usually near water and 10 to 20 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 32 to 33 days and is carried out by the female; once the female begins to incubate, the male abandons her.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapid direct flight with fast wing beats. Flies silently and swiftly.

**Range and Habitat:** Hooded Merganser: Breeds and winters in the Great Lakes region, eastern Canada, and the Pacific northwest. Preferred habitats include small forest pools, millponds, swamps, and beaver ponds.



**Species:** *Lophodytes cucullatus*

**Length Range:** 41 - 48 cm (16 - 19 in)

**Weight:** 680 g (24 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 61 - 66 cm (24 - 26 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Increasing

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## LESSER SCAUP

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Lesser Scaup: Medium diving duck with finely barred gray back and gray-washed white underparts. Head, neck, and breast are black with purple gloss. Eye is yellow. Bill is blue-gray. Wings are black with large, white patches; tail is black. Dives for food. Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

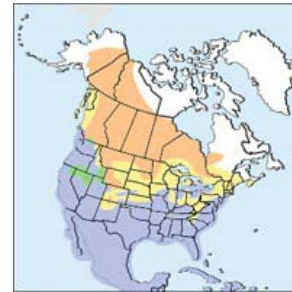
**Foraging and Feeding:** Lesser Scaup: Feeds on seeds, aquatic vegetation, crustaceans, mollusks, aquatic insects, and small fish; forages by diving.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Lesser Scaup: Six to fifteen olive or olive buff eggs are laid in a down-lined cup of grass hidden in vegetation, often located some distance from water. Incubation ranges from 21 to 28 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Lesser Scaup: Breeds from interior Alaska and northern Canada south to Colorado, Iowa, and occasionally farther east. Spends winters regularly along coasts south from British Columbia and Massachusetts to Gulf of Mexico; also inland south of Colorado and the Great Lakes. Preferred habitats include ponds and marshes; during migration and in winter is found on lakes, rivers, and ponds, and in the southern states on saltwater.



**Species:** *Aythya affinis*

**Length Range:** 38 - 46 cm (15 - 18 in)

**Weight:** 862 g (30.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 61 - 84 cm (24 - 33 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Declining slightly

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## LONG-TAILED DUCK

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Long-tailed Duck: Small diving duck, black upperparts, head, neck, breast, wings; back is black and brown mottled; white flanks, belly, undertail coverts. Black tail has long, pintail-like central feathers that are often submerged when swimming. Pale gray mask, black bill with dark pink saddle.

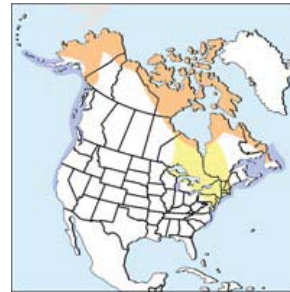
**Foraging and Feeding:** Long-tailed Duck: Feeds on aquatic plants, shrimp, and insects; dives from the surface to forage underwater.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Long-tailed Duck: Five to eleven olive buff, olive gray, or green yellow eggs are laid in a hollow of grass and down hidden in low vegetation or among rocks. Incubation ranges from 23 to 25 days and is carried out by the female. Young start to fly at 35 to 40 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight often with erratic side-to-side turns of body.

**Range and Habitat:** Long-tailed Duck: Breeds from Alaska east across most of northern Canada. Spends winters along the Pacific coast from the Bering Sea south to California; from Greenland, eastern North America, and Labrador south, including the Great Lakes, to South Carolina. Preferred habitats include a variety of coastal waters, mostly deeper waters of straits, bays, harbors, channels, and fiords. Other habitats include estuaries, offshore waters, mudflats, and rarely, large lakes and rivers.



**Species:** *Clangula hyemalis*

**Length Range:** 38 - 56 cm (15 - 22 in)

**Weight:** 953 g (33.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 66 - 79 cm (26 - 31 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## MALLARD

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Mallard: Medium-sized dabbling duck with gray body and chestnut-brown breast. The head is green and neck ring is white. Bill is yellow-green. Wing speculum is white-bordered metallic purple-blue. The tail is dark with distinct white edges and two curled black feathers. Legs and feet are orange.

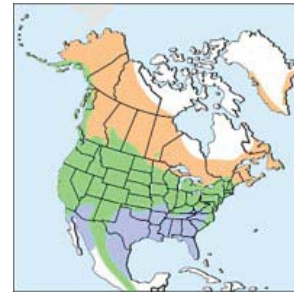
**Foraging and Feeding:** Mallard: Dabbles in shallow freshwater for vegetation, insects, mollusks, and crustaceans. Often forages for food in fields and woodlots.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Mallard: Five to fourteen green or gray buff eggs are laid in a down-lined nest, usually built on the ground, sometimes far from water; occasionally nests in trees. Incubation ranges from 26 to 30 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with strong wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Mallard Duck: Breeds from Alaska and Quebec south to southern California, Virginia, Texas, and northern Mexico. Spends winters throughout the U.S. and south to Central America and the West Indies. Preferred habitats include ponds, lakes, marshes, small river bends, bays, ditches, and city ponds.



**Species:** *Anas platyrhynchos*

**Length Range:** 58 cm (23 in)

**Weight:** 1089 g (38.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 76 - 102 cm (30 - 40 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## MOTTLED DUCK

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Mottled Duck: Medium dabbling duck with dark brown mottled body, feathers usually show distinct multi-toned chevrons, buff-brown face and unmarked neck, darker crown and eye line. Speculum is blue-green bordered with black and fine white bars. Bill is bright yellow; legs and feet are orange.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Mottled Duck: Dabbles in shallow marshes and ponds for mollusks, crustaceans, snails, insects, fish, seeds, and aquatic vegetation. Also feeds on grass, grain, and berries.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Mottled Duck: Monogamous. Ground nest consists of scrape in dry area of marsh, usually near water. Nest built by female, concealed by surrounding vegetation, lined with down, breast feathers. Eight to twelve unmarked creamy to green white eggs. Female incubates for 25 to 27 days. Prosocial young, fledge at 60 to 70 days, attended by female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with strong wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Mottled Duck: Breeds from Texas to Florida, introduced to South Carolina coast. Non-migratory, year-round resident of coastal marshes, both freshwater and estuarine. Forages in rice and agricultural fields, particularly in autumn. Occasionally found inland.



**Species:** *Anas fulvigula*

**Length Range:** 51 - 56 cm (20 - 22 in)

**Weight:** 1043 g (36.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 76 cm (30 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common in coastal range

**Back Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

**Belly Pattern:** Mottled

**Breast Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

## NORTHERN PINTAIL

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Northern Pintail: Large, dabbling duck. Gray and black upperparts, white neck, underparts, gray sides. Head, throat, and nape are brown; a white stripe divides front and back of neck. Gray wings have green speculum bordered with brown above and white below. Tail is black, long, and pointed.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Northern Pintail: Feeds primarily on vegetation, algae, seeds, and insects; forages in shallow water by dabbling.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Northern Pintail: Three to twelve olive green, olive buff, or cream eggs are laid in a shallow ground nest made of grass and lined with down, often some distance from water. Incubation ranges from 22 to 25 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Northern Pintail: Breeds from Alaska and Labrador south to California, Nebraska, and Maine. Spends winters south to Central America and the West Indies; also in Eurasia. Preferred habitats include marshes, prairie ponds, tundra, and sometimes salt marshes.



**Species:** *Anas acuta*

**Length Range:** 53 - 74 cm (21 - 29 in)

**Weight:** 1043 g (36.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 74 - 89 cm (29 - 35 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Widespread, Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## NORTHERN SHOVELER

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Northern Shoveler: Medium dabbling duck. White breast, white-bordered black back, rufous-brown underparts and sides. Head and neck are iridescent green, large bill is black and eyes are yellow. Wings have large, pale blue shoulder patches, white bars, green speculum. Legs and feet are orange.



**Foraging and Feeding:** Northern Shoveler: Feeds on tiny crustaceans, mollusks, insects, seeds, fish, and aquatic vegetation; forages by dabbling in shallow water.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Northern Shoveler: Six to nineteen olive buff or green gray eggs are laid in a down-lined cup of grass concealed in vegetation, often far from water. Incubation ranges from 21 to 27 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight with powerful rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Northern Shoveler: Breeds from Alaska and northern Manitoba south to California, Nebraska, and Wisconsin; local and uncommon in the Great Lakes area and the northeast. Spends winters from Oregon across the southern half of the U.S. to the Gulf Coast, north to New Jersey, and south to Central America. Preferred habitats include marshes and prairie potholes; sometimes found on salt or brackish marshes.



**Species:** *Anas clypeata*

**Length Range:** 43 - 51 cm (17 - 20 in)

**Weight:** 635 g (22.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 69 - 84 cm (27 - 33 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to abundant

**Back Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Red-breasted Merganser: Medium-sized diving duck with black upperparts, gray sides, rust-brown breast, and white belly. Head, double crests, and neck are green and the neck ring is white. Bill is long, thin, and bright orange. Feet and legs are orange. Feeds mostly on fish, which it finds by diving.



**Foraging and Feeding:** Red-breasted Merganser: Eats mostly fish; forages by diving from the surface to pursue prey underwater; groups often hunt cooperatively, herding fish into shallow water where they are easier to catch.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Red-breasted Merganser: Five to sixteen olive buff or green buff eggs are laid in a down-lined depression concealed under a bush or in a brush pile. Incubation ranges from 29 to 35 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Red-breasted Merganser: Breeds in Alaska and across northern Canada to Newfoundland and south to the Great Lakes. Spends winters chiefly along the coasts from Alaska south to California, from Maritime Provinces south to Florida, and along the Gulf Coast. Preferred habitat for breeding includes wooded lakes and tundra ponds; found mainly on saltwater during winter.



**Species:** *Mergus serrator*

**Length Range:** 41 - 66 cm (16 - 26 in)

**Weight:** 1134 g (40 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 79 - 89 cm (31 - 35 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Widespread

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## REDHEAD

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Redhead: Medium diving duck, gray back and sides, black upper back, breast, rump, and tail, and white belly. Head and neck are rufous-brown, and blue-gray bill is black-tipped; eyes are yellow. Feeds mostly on aquatic vegetation. Rapid direct flight with strong wing beats, flies in V formation.

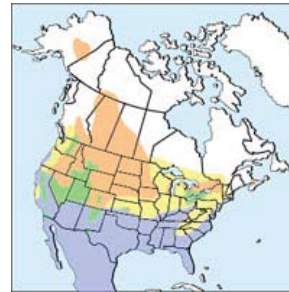
**Foraging and Feeding:** Redhead: Feeds on seeds, rhizomes, and tubers of pondweeds, wild celery, water lilies, grass, and wild rice; also eats mollusks, aquatic insects, and small fish; forages by diving from the water surface.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Redhead: Nine to fourteen pale olive, buff, or dull white eggs are laid in a shallow cup of plant material lined with down, built in tall vegetation near water. Incubation ranges from 23 to 29 days and is carried out by the female. Sometimes lays eggs in nests of other waterbirds.

**Flight Pattern:** Flies in V formation in migration. Rapid direct flight with fast wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Redhead: Breeds in the northern prairies of the U.S. and Canada and intermountain marshes of the west. Spends winters mostly in Texas and Mexico. Nests in marshes, open lakes, and bays; often winters on saltwater.



**Species:** *Aythya americana*

**Length Range:** 46 - 56 cm (18 - 22 in)

**Weight:** 1179 g (41.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 74 - 89 cm (29 - 35 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Brood parasite

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## RING-NECKED DUCK

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Ring-necked Duck: Medium-sized diving duck. Black upperparts, weakly tufted, purple-black head. Neck, upper breast, tail are black, lower breast and belly are white, sides are pale gray. Cinnamon collar is hard to see in the field. Dark wings have black-tipped gray flight feathers visible in flight. Blue-gray bill, white ring, black tip. Blue-gray bill, white ring, black tip.

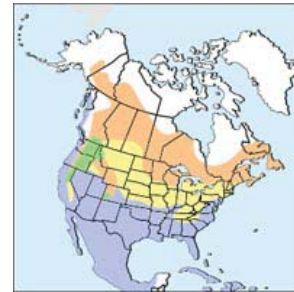
**Foraging and Feeding:** Ring-necked Duck: Eats mostly aquatic plants and seeds, but also feeds on insects, mollusks, worm, and crustaceans; forages by diving from the water surface.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Ring-necked Duck: Six to fourteen olive, gray, olive brown, or green buff eggs are laid in a down-lined ground nest concealed in vegetation near the edge of a pond. Incubation ranges from 25 to 29 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Ring-necked Duck: Breeds from Alaska, Manitoba, and Newfoundland south to California, Arizona, the Great Lakes, and Maine. Spends winters from Washington south along the Pacific coast, east through the southwest and the Gulf Coast states and north to New England. Found on wooded lakes, ponds, and rivers; seldom seen on saltwater except in the southern states.



**Species:** *Aythya collaris*

**Length Range:** 36 - 46 cm (14 - 18 in)

**Weight:** 726 g (25.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 61 - 76 cm (24 - 30 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Widespread, Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## ROSS'S GOOSE

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Ross's Goose: Small, white goose with black primary feathers and stubby gray-based red-orange bill. Red-orange legs and feet. Eats mostly fresh grasses and grains, often in the company of Snow Geese. Rapid direct flight with strong wing beats. Flies in a V formation. North America's smallest goose.

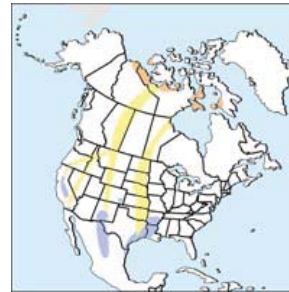
**Foraging and Feeding:** Ross's Goose: Feeds on grass, sedges, and small grains, particularly waste wheat and barley during winter months.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Ross's Goose: Four or five white eggs are laid on the ground in a grass nest lined with down and built on a small lake or river island; nests in loose colonies. Incubation ranges from 21 to 24 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapid direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Ross's Goose: Breeds on tundra in northeastern Mackenzie and on Southampton Island in Hudson Bay. Spends winters mainly in California, but now occurs in increasing numbers in the lower Mississippi Valley and on the east coast. Found in salt and freshwater marshes during winter.



**Species:** *Chen rossii*

**Length Range:** 53 - 66 cm (21 - 26 in)

**Weight:** 1678 g (59.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 119 - 137 cm (47 - 54 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Rare to uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## RUDDY DUCK

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Ruddy Duck: Small duck, bright red-brown body; black cap extends below the eyes and onto the nape, contrasting sharply with white face; heavy bill is blue. Tail is black, often held erect when swimming. Some males show all black head, lacking white cheek patches. Direct flight on rapid wing beats.

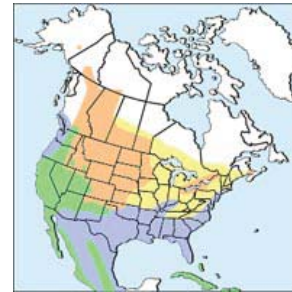
**Foraging and Feeding:** Ruddy Duck: Feeds on pondweeds, wild celery, algae, seeds, aquatic insects, shellfish, and crustaceans; forages on the water surface and by diving.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Ruddy Duck: Five to seventeen creamy white eggs, nest stained, are laid in a floating nest made of dry stems lined with down and concealed in reeds or bulrushes. Incubation ranges from 23 to 26 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Ruddy Duck: Breeds from British Columbia, Mackenzie, and Quebec south to California, southern New Mexico, and southern Texas, with occasional breeding farther east. Spends winters on coasts north to British Columbia and Massachusetts and as far inland as Missouri. Preferred breeding habitats include freshwater marshes, marshy lakes, and ponds. Found in marshes and shallow coastal bays during winter.



**Species:** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

**Length Range:** 36 - 41 cm (14 - 16 in)

**Weight:** 590 g (20.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 53 - 61 cm (21 - 24 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## SNOW GOOSE

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Snow Goose: Large goose with two color phases. White phase is all white with black wing tips. Blue phase has white head and neck, blue-gray upperparts, gray-brown breast and sides, white belly. Pink bill, black lower mandible. Pink legs, feet. Strong direct flight in bunched flocks or U formations.

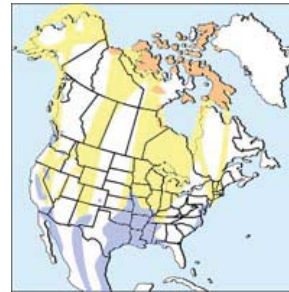
**Foraging and Feeding:** Snow Goose: Diet consists of salt grass, wild millet, spikerush, feathergrass, panic grass, seashore paspalum, delta duck potato, bulrush, cordgrass, cattail, ryegrass, and wild rice; cultivated rice is a very important food on wintering grounds in Texas and Louisiana.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Snow Goose: Three to five white eggs are laid in a ground nest sparsely lined with down; nests in colonies on tundra. Incubation ranges from 23 to 25 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Snow Goose: Breeds in the Arctic regions of North America and extreme eastern Siberia. In the west, spends winters on the Pacific coast from southern British Columbia south to Baja California; also mid-Atlantic coast and the Gulf Coast from Mississippi to Texas. Breeds on tundra; wintering habitats include salt marshes and marshy coastal bays and also freshwater marshes and adjacent grain fields.



**Species:** *Chen caerulescens*

**Length Range:** 64 - 79 cm (25 - 31 in)

**Weight:** 2381 - 2438 g (84 - 86 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 135 - 152 cm (53 - 60 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Very common, Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Barred or banded

## SURF SCOTER

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Surf Scoter: Medium diving duck, entirely black except for white patches on forehead and nape. Bill is orange, black, and white. Eyes are white. Legs and feet are orange. Dives for food, primarily mollusks and crustaceans. Rapid direct flight with strong wing beats. Flies in straight line formation.

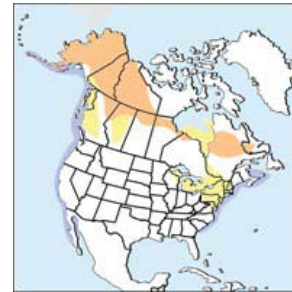
**Foraging and Feeding:** Surf Scoter: Feeds mainly on mollusks, crustaceans, aquatic insects, small fish, aquatic plants, and seeds; forages by diving from the surface.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Surf Scoter: Five to eight pale buff, light pink or buff white eggs are laid in a down-lined depression hidden under a bush or in marsh vegetation, not necessarily near water. Incubation is carried out by the female and ranges from 25 to 30 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapid direct flight. Strong deep wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Surf Scoter: Breeds in Alaska and across northern Canada to Labrador. Spends winters mainly along coasts, from Alaska south to California and from Newfoundland south to Florida, and rarely to Texas. Breeds on northern lakes and spends winters almost entirely on the ocean and in large coastal bays.



**Species:** *Melanitta perspicillata*

**Length Range:** 43 - 53 cm (17 - 21 in)

**Weight:** 998 g (35.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 76 - 91 cm (30 - 36 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Common to abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WOOD DUCK

Geese and Ducks (Anatidae)

**General:** Wood Duck: Small tree duck with brown back, white throat, purple-brown breast with white flecks grading to white belly; buff-yellow flanks. Crested head is green and purple with white stripes; white throat has two bars, one extends as a partial collar, the other extends behind and below eyes.

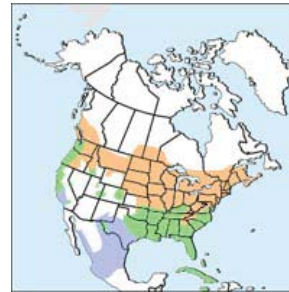
**Foraging and Feeding:** Wood Duck: Feeds on vegetation, insects, snails, tadpoles, and salamanders; forages while swimming.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Wood Duck: Nine to fifteen creamy white or pale buff eggs are laid in a tree cavity lined with down. Incubation ranges from 25 to 37 days and is carried out by the female. Young can fly at 56 to 70 days. Occasionally produces two broods per year.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Wood Duck: Breeds across most of central and eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada and along the Pacific coast from California to British Columbia. Preferred habitats include wooded swamps and freshwater marshes.



**Species:** *Aix sponsa*

**Length Range:** 43 - 51 cm (17 - 20 in)

**Weight:** 680 g (24 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 71 - 76 cm (28 - 30 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Increasing

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled



## NORTHERN BOBWHITE

Quails (Odontophoridae)

**General:** Northern Bobwhite: Medium, morphologically variable quail, most with unique head pattern of white face and throat, dark eyestripe, rufous-brown (eastern and Great Plains) or black (Florida) center stripe on top of head. Body shows a mottled combination of black, brown, rufous-brown, and gray.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Northern Bobwhite: Feeds on a variety of seeds, by ground foraging, occasionally consumes green vegetation and insects. Seed diet extremely diverse, includes wheat, corn, soybeans, legumes, pine and oak mast, and grasses.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Northern Bobwhite: Monogamous and solitary. Both sexes build scrape nest of grasses, weeds, dead vegetation. Female usually incubates fourteen to sixteen cream eggs alone for 23 days, males have been documented incubating occasionally. Precocial, downy young are able to walk and find insect food almost immediately upon hatching. Family groups may stay together through late winter.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates series of rapid stiff wing beats with short glides.

**Range and Habitat:** Northern Bobwhite: Found in a variety of early successional brushy, forested, and agricultural habitats throughout much of the eastern U.S.



**Species:** *Colinus virginianus*

**Length Range:** 22 - 27 cm (8.5 - 10.5 in)

**Weight:** 179 g (6.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 33 cm (13 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Declining, Common locally

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## COMMON LOON

Loons (Gaviidae)

**General:** Common Loon: Large loon, white-spotted, black upperparts and white underparts. Head, neck are green-black with white-streaked neckbands. Bill is black and thick. Eyes are red-brown. Dives for small fish and crustaceans. Direct flight on strong deep wing beats, head, neck and feet extend beyond body.

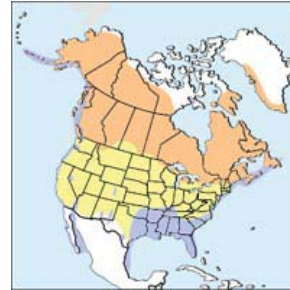
**Foraging and Feeding:** Common Loon: Eats mostly fish and occasionally crustaceans such as crayfish; forages by diving from the surface and chasing down prey underwater.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Common Loon: One to three olive green to dark brown eggs, with dark brown spots, are laid in a nest made of vegetation near deep water, allowing parents to swim to and from it undetected by predators; eggs remain exposed and uncovered when parents leave the nest to forage. Incubation ranges from 26 to 31 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapid direct flight. Strong deep wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Common Loon: Breeds from the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, and northern Canada south to California, Montana, and Massachusetts; also breeds in Greenland and Iceland. Spends winters along the Great Lakes, and the Gulf, Atlantic, and Pacific coasts. Preferred nesting habitat is on forested lakes and rivers; winters mainly on coastal bays and oceans.



**Species:** *Gavia immer*

**Length Range:** 71 - 91 cm (28 - 36 in)

**Weight:** 4128 g (145.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 127 - 147 cm (50 - 58 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## EARED GREBE

Grebes (Podicipedidae)

**General:** Eared Grebe: Small grebe with black upperparts, dark chestnut-brown flanks, white underparts. Head and neck are black, orange feathers on face. Eyes are red. Black legs and feet. Forages by diving and swimming underwater. Feeds on aquatic insects and crustaceans. Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

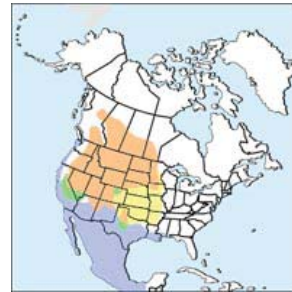
**Foraging and Feeding:** Eared Grebe: Feeds on aquatic insects, small crustaceans, and fish; forages at the water surface or by diving and swimming underwater.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Eared Grebe: One to nine white to light blue eggs are laid on a floating nest made of vegetation in a marsh. Usually nests in dense colonies. Incubation ranges from 20 to 22 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Eared Grebe: Breeds from British Columbia, southern Manitoba and the Dakotas south to California and New Mexico. Spends winters on the Pacific, Gulf, and Atlantic (rare) coasts, and occasionally on open water in the interior southwest and Texas. Preferred habitats include marshy lakes and ponds; open bays and ocean during the winter.



**Species:** *Podiceps nigricollis*

**Length Range:** 30 - 33 cm (12 - 13 in)

**Weight:** 292 g (10.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 57 cm (22.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## PIED-BILLED GREBE

Grebes (Podicipedidae)

**General:** Pied-billed Grebe: Medium-sized, stocky grebe with brown upperparts, paler brown underparts with barred sides and flanks, and distinct white undertail coverts. Chin is black and bill is white with central black ring. Eyes are dark. Feeds on aquatic insects and vegetation, small fish and crustaceans.

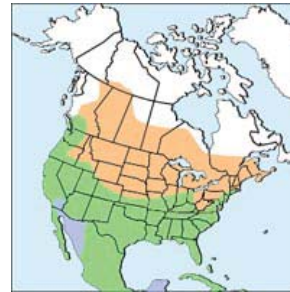
**Foraging and Feeding:** Pied-billed Grebe: Eats aquatic vegetation, insects, fish, and crustaceans; forages by diving from the surface and swimming underwater.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Pied-billed Grebe: Two to ten light blue eggs are laid in a well-hidden floating nest made of dead marsh vegetation anchored to emergent plants. Incubation ranges from 23 to 27 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Pie-billed Grebe: Breeds from British Columbia, southern Mackenzie, and Nova Scotia southward. Spends winters in the southern states or wherever water remains open. Preferred habitats include marshes and ponds.



**Species:** *Podilymbus podiceps*

**Length Range:** 30 - 38 cm (12 - 15 in)

**Weight:** 442 g (15.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 57 cm (22.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Very common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## NORTHERN GANNET

Booby and Gannets (Sulidae)

**General:** Northern Gannet: Very large seabird. White overall with black primaries and long pointed wings. Light yellow wash on crown of head extending down nape may be visible. Bill, legs, and feet are gray. Dives for fish and squid. Alternates rapid wing beats with short glides. Soars to great heights.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Northern Gannet: Pelagic species, feeds on fish, especially mackerel and herring, and squid. Steadily flaps and glides into the wind above water scanning for prey. Dives into water from heights averaging 30 to 50 feet, rarely up to 90 feet. Reinforced skull helps dampen diving impact on the head. Dives produce little or no splash.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Northern Gannet: Monogamous colonial nester often with long term pairing. Male and female build nest of grass and seaweed on coastal rocky cliff, ground or rocky island. Nest may be reused in subsequent years with material being added to repair it. Female lays one light blue egg that becomes nest stained. Both sexes incubate egg for 42 to 44 days and tend altricial nestlings until fledging at 84 to 97 days.

**Flight Pattern:** alternates series of wing beats with long to short glides, dives into water

**Range and Habitat:** Northern Gannet: Pelagic species found on the Atlantic coast. Often seen from shore, also may be found far from shore in open ocean. Breeds on coasts of north eastern Canada. Winters from Maine to Texas-Mexico border along Atlantic and Gulf coasts.



**Species:** *Morus bassanus*

**Length Range:** 89 - 102 cm (35 - 40 in)

**Weight:** 2948 g (104 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 165 - 180 cm (65 - 71 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Very common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN

Pelicans (Pelecanidae)

**General:** American White Pelican: Huge, white seabird, enormous outstretched wings show black primaries, outer secondaries in flight. Bill, legs are bright orange, upper bill develops a fibrous keel during breeding season. Slow, deep wing beats. Soars high on thermals. Flies in straight line or V formation.

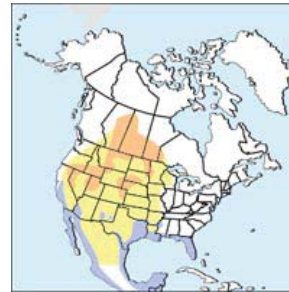
**Foraging and Feeding:** American White Pelican: Feeds mostly on fish while swimming, snatching prey with large bill; groups may concentrate prey by herding. An adult pelican can consume up to 4 lbs of food each day. Unlike the Brown Pelican, this bird does not plunge dive for food.



**Breeding and Nesting:** American White Pelican: Nests in colonies, laying one or two white eggs on a low mound built from mud and debris. Nesting colonies are usually located on marshy islands, but occasionally on rocky islands in desert lakes. Incubation ranges from 29 to 36 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong, slow deep wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** American White Pelican: Breeds from British Columbia and Mackenzie south to northern California, Utah, and Manitoba; also breeds along the Gulf Coast. Spends winters in the southern U.S. south to Panama. Preferred habitats include shallow lakes and coastal lagoons.



**Species:** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

**Length Range:** 152 - 160 cm (60 - 63 in)

**Weight:** 6985 g (246.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 244 - 279 cm (96 - 110 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BROWN PELICAN

Pelicans (Pelecanidae)

**General:** Brown Pelican: Large, unmistakable seabird, gray-brown body, dark brown, pale yellow head and neck, oversized bill. Black legs, webbed feet. Feeds on fish by plunge diving and scooping them up with pouch. Powerful flight alternates flaps with short glides. Flies close to the water in straight line.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Brown Pelican: Eats mostly menhaden, accounting for over 90 % of diet, but also preys on pigfish, pinfish, herring, sheepshead, silversides, mullet, top minnows, and crustaceans, usually prawns. Plunge dives to catch fish.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Brown Pelican: Lays two to four white eggs in a nest made of reeds, grass, straw, and sticks, and built in a tree; or builds a ground nest consisting of a shallow scrape lined with feathers and a surrounding rim of soil 4 to 6 inches high. Usually nests in colonies. Incubation ranges from 28 to 30 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Graceful. Powerful flight with deliberate wing beats alternating with short glides.

**Range and Habitat:** Brown Pelican: Pacific, Atlantic, and Gulf coasts north to Nova Scotia, occasionally found inland. Preferred habitats include sandy coastal beaches and lagoons, waterfronts and pilings, and rocky cliffs.



**Species:** *Pelecanus occidentalis*

**Length Range:** 122 - 127 cm (48 - 50 in)

**Weight:** 3720 g (131.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 198 - 213 cm (78 - 84 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT Cormorants (Phalacrocoracidae)

**General:** Double-crested Cormorant: Medium cormorant with iridescent black body and orange throat pouch. Western birds have white feather tufts over each eye in early summer. Pale bill is long and hooked. Black legs and feet. Feeds on fish, amphibians and crustaceans. Strong direct flight, soars on thermals.

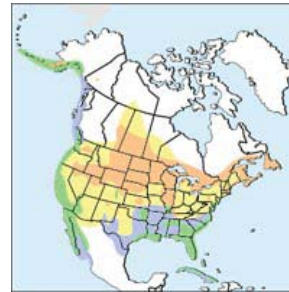
**Foraging and Feeding:** Double-crested Cormorant: Diet consists mostly of fish, but also eats crustaceans and amphibians. Forages by diving from the surface and swimming underwater to catch prey, propelled by its webbed feet, not wings.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Double-crested Cormorant: Male has an elaborate courtship dance in which he presents the female with material to build a nest or marks out a nesting site. Two pale blue eggs are laid in a nest built of twigs or seaweed. Incubation ranges from 28 to 30 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong powerful direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Double-crested Cormorant: Breeds locally from Alaska, Manitoba, and Newfoundland south to Mexico and Bahamas. Spends winters mainly on coasts north to Alaska and southern New England. Preferred habitats include lakes, rivers, swamps, and coasts.



**Species:** *Phalacrocorax auritus*

**Length Range:** 81 cm (32 in)

**Weight:** 1814 g (64 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 132 cm (52 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## NEOTROPIC CORMORANT

Cormorants (Phalacrocoracidae)

**General:** Neotropic Cormorant: Small, long-tailed cormorant. Black upper and lowerparts may show blue gloss. Long hooked yellow-gray bill with yellow "v" shaped gular pouch edged in white. Legs and feet are black. Feeds on fish, crustaceans and amphibians. Flies low over water with strong rapid wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Neotropic Cormorant: Feeds on variety of fish, frogs, tadpoles and other aquatic organisms. Dives in pursuit of prey from water's surface. The only cormorant known to occasionally plunge dive from above water's surface. Cooperative feeding has also been documented.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Neotropic Cormorant: Monogamous and colonial. Male chooses nest site and brings materials to female who builds nest in the fork of a tree, rarely on ground. Nest is made of sticks, twigs, grasses, and leaves. Both sexes incubate two to six pale blue eggs for 23 to 26 days and tend young who become independent around 11 weeks.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight with powerful rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Neotropic Cormorant: Fairly common in U.S. range. Found primarily in Louisiana, Texas, and along the Rio Grande valley into New Mexico. Inhabits saltwater bays and inlets, and freshwater lakes and ponds.



**Species:** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

**Length Range:** 64 - 66 cm (25 - 26 in)

**Weight:** 1270 g (44.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 102 cm (40 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Common in range

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## ANHINGA

Anhinga (Anhingidae)

**General:** Anhinga: Large, dark waterbird with long tail, snake-like neck, small head, red eyes, and long olive-brown bill. Body is green-black overall with silver-gray feathers appearing speckled and grizzled on upper back and forewings. AKA snakebird and water turkey. Often soars like a raptor.

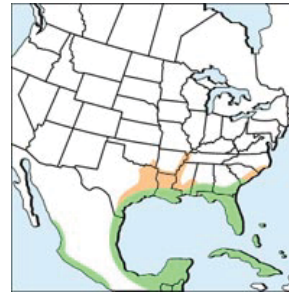
**Foraging and Feeding:** Anhinga: Feeds primarily on fish; also eats aquatic invertebrates. Targets slower-moving species of fish and stalks them underwater, striking snake-like with long neck and spearing prey with pointed bill. Prey is eaten above water after tossing it off the bill and positioning it for swallowing headfirst.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Anhinga: Two to five white to pale blue eggs are laid in a loose nest made of sticks and lined with grass and leaves. Incubation ranges from 25 to 29 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong graceful direct flight. Often soars like a raptor.

**Range and Habitat:** Anhinga: Breeds near Atlantic and Gulf coasts from North Carolina to Texas, in Florida, and in Mississippi Valley north to southern Missouri and Kentucky. Spends winters along the Gulf Coast north to South Carolina. Also occurs in tropical America. Preferred habitats include freshwater and coastal water bodies with thick vegetation and large trees, which it uses for roosting and nesting.



**Species:** *Anhinga anhinga*

**Length Range:** 89 cm (35 in)

**Weight:** 1225 g (43.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 114 - 122 cm (45 - 48 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD

Frigatebirds (Fregatidae)

**General:** Magnificent Frigatebird: Large black seabird, orange throat patch inflates into a huge bright red-orange balloon when in courtship display. Long bill is gray, hooked. Wings are long and narrow. Tail is forked; legs and feet are dark gray. Eats fish, crustaceans, jellyfish. High soaring flight.

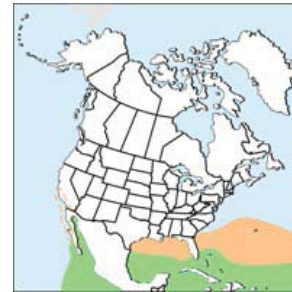
**Foraging and Feeding:** Magnificent Frigatebird: Eats small fish, squid, jellyfish, crustaceans, hatchling sea turtles, young terns, birds, and their eggs; also scavenges for scraps around fishing boats and docks. Forages by shallow plunge diving or snatching food from the surface; chases terns and forces them to drop their catch.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Magnificent Frigatebird: One, rarely two, white eggs are laid in a flimsy platform made of sticks, grass, and stems, usually built in a mangrove, other tree, or bush, 2 to 20 feet above the ground or water; sometimes nests on the ground. Incubation ranges from 40 to 50 days and is carried out by both parents. Most females do not breed every year.

**Flight Pattern:** Graceful. Very high effortless soaring flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Magnificent Frigatebird: During breeding season, found in coastal Florida and in tropical Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In non-breeding season, occurs from the coast of North Carolina south to Florida and west to Texas; also on the coast of California. Preferred habitats include ocean coasts, bays, and islands; nests on mangrove islands.



**Species:** *Fregata magnificens*

**Length Range:** 94 - 104 cm (37 - 41 in)

**Weight:** 1270 g (44.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 208 - 239 cm (82 - 94 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Rare to casual

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## AMERICAN BITTERN

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets (Ardeidae)

**General:** American Bittern: Medium, secretive, heron-like wading bird with stout body and neck, and relatively short legs. Upperparts are streaked brown and buff and underparts are white with brown streaks. Throat is white with black slashes on sides of neck. Strong direct flight with deep rapid wing beats.

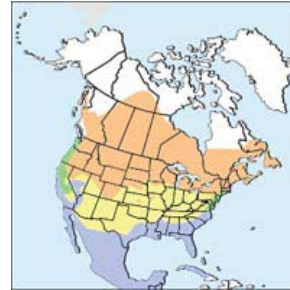
**Foraging and Feeding:** American Bittern: Feeds on insects, amphibians, crayfish, and small fish and mammals. When foraging, it relies on stealth while waiting motionlessly for prey to pass by, at which time it darts forward to seize the prey in its bill.



**Breeding and Nesting:** American Bittern: Usually considered monogamous, but sometimes exhibits polygamy. Female chooses nest site and builds the nest, usually in dense emergent vegetation over water. Nest is constructed of reeds, sedges, cattails, and other vegetation. Two to seven pale brown or olive buff eggs are laid and incubated for 24 to 28 days by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight with deep rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** American Bittern: Breeds from southeastern Alaska, Manitoba, and Newfoundland south to California, New Mexico, Arkansas, and the Carolinas. Spends winters from coastal British Columbia, Illinois, and along the Atlantic coast to Long Island, and south to Costa Rica (rarely) and Greater Antilles. Preferred habitats include freshwater wetlands with tall emergent vegetation.



**Species:** *Botaurus lentiginosus*

**Length Range:** 58 cm (23 in)

**Weight:** 726 g (25.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 107 - 127 cm (42 - 50 in)

**Breeding Type:** Solitary nester. May be polygamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common, Declining in the South

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets (Ardeidae)

**General:** Black-crowned Night-Heron: Medium-sized, stocky heron with short neck and legs, black upperparts, gray wings, and white to pale gray underparts. Stout black bill, red eyes, and yellow legs. Feeds on small invertebrates, crustaceans, vertebrates, mammals, eggs and young of other birds, and plants.

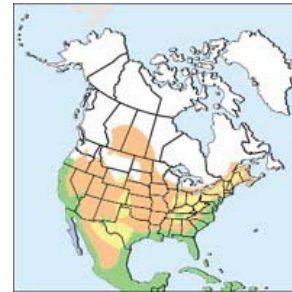
**Foraging and Feeding:** Black-crowned Night-Heron: Usually feeds in the evening or early morning. Diet consists of fish, leeches, earthworms, insects, crayfish, mussels, squid, amphibians, lizards, snakes, rodents, birds, eggs, carrion, plant materials, and garbage at landfills. Usually a solitary forager, it strongly defends its feeding territory.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Black-crowned Night-Heron: One to seven pale blue or green eggs are laid in a flimsy platform lined with roots and grass, built near the trunk of a tree or in branches. Usually nests in colonies. Incubation ranges from 21 to 26 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with slow steady wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Black-crowned Night-Heron: Breeds throughout the U.S. (except Rocky Mountain region) to southern South America. Spends winters in southern half of U.S. Preferred habitats include swamps, streams, rivers, marshes, mud flats, and the edges of lakes that have become overgrown with rushes and cattails.



**Species:** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

**Length Range:** 64 - 71 cm (25 - 28 in)

**Weight:** 862 g (30.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 112 - 114 cm (44 - 45 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Stable or increasing in most areas

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## CATTLE EGRET

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets (Ardeidae)

**General:** Cattle Egret: Medium, stocky egret with white body and pale orange-brown patches on head, neck and back. Eyes, bill and legs are orange. This is the only white egret with both a yellow bill and yellow legs. Feeds primarily on insects disturbed by livestock. Direct flight on quick steady wing beats.

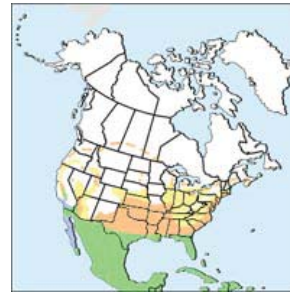
**Foraging and Feeding:** Cattle Egret: Eats mostly grasshoppers, crickets, spiders, flies, frogs, and moths. Commonly associates with livestock or large wild game, feeding on insects disturbed by grazing; also follows tractors in fields. Forages in small groups or singly, walking in a steady strut, darting forward and stabbing quickly with bill to catch prey.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Cattle Egret: One to nine pale blue or blue green eggs are laid in a nest made of sticks and vegetation; nests in colonies and sometimes reuses an old nest; often steals materials from neighbors. Eggs are incubated for approximately 24 days by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Cattle Egret: Breeds throughout much of the U.S.; less dependent on aquatic habitats than other egrets, preferring grassy fields.



**Species:** *Bubulcus ibis*

**Length Range:** 48 - 53 cm (19 - 21 in)

**Weight:** 337 g (11.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 91 - 97 cm (36 - 38 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** North American population increasing

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## GREAT BLUE HERON

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets (Ardeidae)

**General:** Great Blue Heron: Large, elegant heron with blue-gray back, black sides, and gray-and-white striped belly. Long neck is gray with black-bordered white throat stripe. Head has white face, cap, and black crest. Upper mandible is dark, while lower mandible is yellow. Direct flight on steady wing beats.

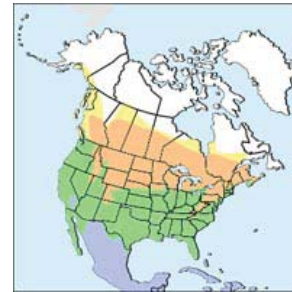
**Foraging and Feeding:** Great Blue Heron: Diet consists of fish, frogs, salamanders, lizards, snakes, shrimps, crabs, crayfish, dragonflies, grasshoppers, and aquatic insects; forages while wading, often belly-deep, impaling prey with its sharp, spear-like bill; active night and day.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Great Blue Heron: Two to seven pale blue or blue green eggs are laid on a shallow platform of sticks lined with finer material, usually built in a tree but sometimes on the ground, or concealed in a reed bed; often nests in colonies. Incubation ranges from 25 to 30 days and is carried out by both adults.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with slow steady wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Great Blue Heron: Breeds locally from coastal Alaska, south-central Canada, and Nova Scotia south to Mexico and West Indies. Spends winters as far north as southern Alaska, central U.S., and southern New England. Preferred habitats include lakes, ponds, rivers, and marshes.



**Species:** *Ardea herodias*

**Length Range:** 117 - 132 cm (46 - 52 in)

**Weight:** 2586 g (91.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 196 - 208 cm (77 - 82 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Widespread, Stable and common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## GREAT EGRET

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets (Ardeidae)

**General:** Great Egret: Large, white heron with yellow eyes. Bill is yellow, may appear orange when breeding. Black legs and feet. Long feather plumes extend from the back to beyond the tail during breeding season. Feeds on fish, frogs, insects, snakes and crayfish. Buoyant direct flight on steady wing beats.

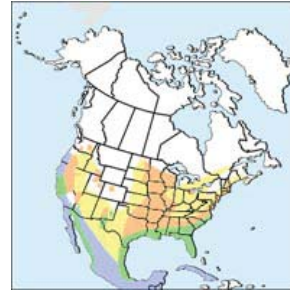
**Foraging and Feeding:** Great Egret: Feeds mainly on crayfish, shrimp, aquatic insects, frogs, fish, crabs, and snails. Occasionally eats lizards, snakes, salamanders, mice, and moles; forages while wading.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Great Egret: One to six pale blue or blue green eggs are laid in a nest constructed of sticks, twigs, and stems of marsh plants, with little or no lining, and built in a medium-sized tree 20 to 40 feet above the ground; often nests in colonies. Incubation ranges from 23 to 26 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Buoyant direct flight with deep steady wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Great Egret: Breeds locally from Oregon south to western Mexico and from Minnesota to the Mississippi Valley and southeast U.S.; also occurs along the Atlantic coast north to southern New England. Spends winters regularly from Oregon south through the southwest, Texas, and Gulf coast states to Mexico, and on the Atlantic coast north to New Jersey. Preferred habitats include fresh and salt marshes, marshy ponds, and tidal flats.



**Species:** *Ardea alba*

**Length Range:** 94 - 104 cm (37 - 41 in)

**Weight:** 907 g (32 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 140 cm (55 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Expanding northward

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## GREEN HERON

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets (Ardeidae)

**General:** Green Heron: Small heron with gray-green upperparts. Head, neck, upper breast are chestnut-brown, belly is paler brown. Head has green-black cap with small crest. Throat is white and neck has white central stripe. Bill is two-toned with dark upper mandible and yellow lower mandible. Direct flight.

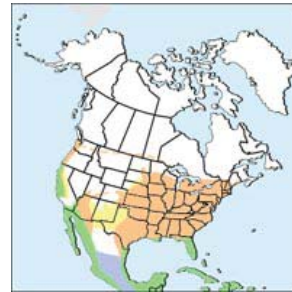
**Foraging and Feeding:** Green Heron: Diet consists of frogs, fish, snails, tadpoles, crayfish, crabs, crickets, dragonflies, water bugs, small snakes, and mice. Stands motionless with head cocked and neck extended waiting for prey; sometimes dives into the water to catch fish.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Green Heron: Two to seven pale green or blue green eggs are laid in a flat nest made of sticks and leaves, usually built in a tree near water 10 to 15 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 19 to 21 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with slow steady arched wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Green Heron: Breeds across most of the U.S.; spends winters in the southern U.S. south to Venezuela, Panama, and the West Indies. Preferred habitats include shoreline habitats along rivers, oceans, lakes, and ponds.



**Species:** *Butorides Virescens*

**Length Range:** 46 - 56 cm (18 - 22 in)

**Weight:** 213 g (7.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 66 cm (26 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Stable and common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## LEAST BITTERN

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets (Ardeidae)

**General:** Least Bittern: Very small, secretive heron with black cap and back, and white throat and belly. Wings have conspicuous pale brown patches visible in flight. The bill, legs and feet are yellow. Feeds on fish, insects, small amphibians, crustaceans and invertebrates.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Least Bittern: Diet consists of small fish, frogs, tadpoles, salamanders, leeches, slugs, crayfish, dragonflies, aquatic bugs, and occasionally shrews and mice.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Least Bittern: Two to seven pale blue to green eggs are laid in a platform nest made of dead and living plant stems, and built about a foot above the water, usually at the base of dried, emergent vegetation. Incubation ranges from 17 to 20 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak direct flight with slow labored wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Least Bittern: Breeds in wetland areas throughout the eastern U.S. and along the Pacific coast. Spends winters from the southern states south to Colombia. Found in dense marshlands supporting cattails and reeds.



**Species:** *Ixobrychus exilis*

**Length Range:** 28 - 36 cm (11 - 14 in)

**Weight:** 85 g (3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 41 - 46 cm (16 - 18 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Declining

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## LITTLE BLUE HERON

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets (Ardeidae)

**General:** Little Blue Heron: Medium heron with slate-gray body and purple-blue head and neck. Eyes are yellow and bill is dark gray with black tip. Legs and feet are dark. The only dark heron species in North America in which the juvenile is white. Feeds on small crustaceans, vertebrates, and large insects.

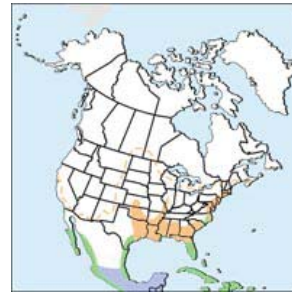
**Foraging and Feeding:** Little Blue Heron: Diet consists of fish, frogs, lizards, snakes, turtles, and crustaceans such as fiddler crabs, crayfish, and shrimp, aquatic insects, and spiders. When swamps and marshes become dry, it eats grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, and other grassland insects; forages by wading in shallow water.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Little Blue Heron: One to six pale blue-green eggs are laid in a flimsy stick nest, usually built 3 to 15 feet above the ground or water. Eggs are incubated for 22 to 24 days by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with steady quick wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Little Blue Heron: Found along the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to Florida, but is most abundant along the Gulf of Mexico; also found in the West Indies and along both Mexican coasts south to South America. Prefers freshwater habitats such as ponds, lakes, marshes, swamps, and lagoons; sometimes found on marine coastlines.



**Species:** *Egretta caerulea*

**Length Range:** 61 - 74 cm (24 - 29 in)

**Weight:** 366 g (12.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 102 - 104 cm (40 - 41 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Increasing, Expanding

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## REDDISH EGRET

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets (Ardeidae)

**General:** Reddish Egret: Medium egret with blue-gray body and shaggy, pale rufous head and neck. Bill is pink with dark tip. Legs are blue-gray. White morph has all-white plumage, black-tipped pink bill, and blue-gray legs. Feeds on fish, frogs and crustaceans. Direct flight with buoyant steady wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Reddish Egret: Eats fish, frogs, and crustaceans. Forages by wading rapidly in shallow water with wings raised, casting a shadow to cut down on glare.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Reddish Egret: Two to seven pale blue-green eggs are laid in a stick nest built in a mangrove, low bush, or on the ground. Incubation ranges from 25 to 26 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with buoyant steady wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Reddish Egret: Locally resident in extreme southern Florida and along the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana; also occurs in Mexico and the West Indies. Preferred habitats include marshes, shallow bays, and lagoons.



**Species:** *Egretta rufescens*

**Length Range:** 69 - 81 cm (27 - 32 in)

**Weight:** 451 g (15.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 117 cm (46 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Rare to uncommon, increasing gradually

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## SNOWY EGRET

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets (Ardeidae)

**General:** Snowy Egret: Medium-sized, totally white egret with a long slender black bill with yellow lores. The eyes are yellow and legs are black while feet are bright yellow. The head, neck and back have long, lacy plumes during breeding season. Generally silent and feeds on crustaceans, insects, and fish.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Snowy Egret: Eats small fish, crustaceans, and insects, but also takes small reptiles and amphibians; forages by walking slowly or standing motionless in water and striking at prey.

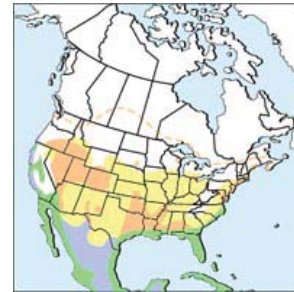


SNOWY EGRET

**Breeding and Nesting:** Snowy Egret: Lays two to six pale blue-green eggs in a platform nest built primarily of twigs and built in a tree, usually about 7 feet above the ground; occasionally nests in marsh grass and rarely on the ground. Both parents incubate eggs for 18 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Buoyant flight with steady fast wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Snowy Egret: Breeds locally from Oregon and California east to New England, mainly along coasts. Spends winters regularly from California, Arizona, and Virginia south to the West Indies and South America. Preferred habitats include marshes, ponds, swamps, and mudflats.



**Species:** *Egretta thula*

**Length Range:** 56 - 69 cm (22 - 27 in)

**Weight:** 371 g (13.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 97 - 114 cm (38 - 45 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Expanding northward, Increasing

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## TRICOLORED HERON

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets (Ardeidae)

**General:** Tricolored Heron: Medium heron, blue-gray upperparts, head, neck, wings, paler rump, white stripe on foreneck, white belly. Also has white plumes on back of head and rust-brown plumes on lower neck, back during the breeding season. Bill and legs are olive-brown. Direct flight on steady wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Tricolored Heron: Prey consists primarily of small fish, but includes crustaceans, reptiles, amphibians, insects, snails, and other invertebrates. Often stands or wades belly-deep in water; crouches with legs bent when stalking in shallows.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Tricolored Heron: Three or four light blue green eggs are laid on a platform nest made of stems and twigs, occasionally lined with grass; nests in mixed-species rookeries on coastal islands, although some may nest in swamp forests. Both parents incubate eggs for about 21 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with steady quick wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Tricolored Heron: Breeds in southeastern New Mexico and Texas, on the Gulf Coast, and along the Atlantic coast north to southern Maine (rarely). Spends winters along the coast from Texas and New Jersey south to northern South America and West Indies. Preferred habitats include swamps, bayous, coastal ponds, salt marshes, mangrove islands, mudflats, and lagoons



**Species:** *Egretta tricolor*

**Length Range:** 61 - 66 cm (24 - 26 in)

**Weight:** 414 g (14.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 91 cm (36 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Declining

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets (Ardeidae)

**General:** Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Medium-sized, stocky heron with gray body and brown-and-white mottled wings. Face is black and white; crown is pale yellow and sweeps back as a plume. Eyes are large and red. Bill is heavy and black. Legs and feet are yellow. Direct flight with steady, deep wing beats.

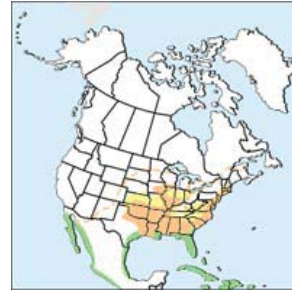
**Foraging and Feeding:** Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Food consists primarily of crustaceans, but also eats small fish, reptiles, amphibians, eels, insects, and mollusks; forages in open water, mud flats, and in partially submerged vegetation.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Two to eight pale blue green eggs are laid in a nest made of sticks built in a tree or occasionally on the ground; nests singly or in small colonies, sometimes with other heron species. Incubation ranges from 21 to 25 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with deep steady wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Breeds from southern New England to Florida and west to Texas, mainly near coasts but in the interior north to Minnesota and along Mississippi River and its larger tributaries. Spends winters along the Gulf Coast and on Atlantic coast north to South Carolina. Preferred habitats include wooded swamps and coastal thickets.



**Species:** *Nyctanassa violacea*

**Length Range:** 56 - 71 cm (22 - 28 in)

**Weight:** 726 g (25.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 107 - 112 cm (42 - 44 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Stable

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## GLOSSY IBIS

Ibises (Threskiornithidae)

**General:** Glossy Ibis: Medium wading bird, iridescent bronze and red-brown overall with thin band of white feathers around bare dark blue face and long, down curved, gray bill. Eyes are dark, legs are yellow-gray. Alternates several shallow rapid wing beats and short glides. Flies in straight line formation.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Glossy Ibis: Diet consists of crayfish and other invertebrates, as well as frogs, fish, and plants; eats crabs on the coast. Forages by probing mud with its long bill; often forages in flocks of dozens to hundreds of birds.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Glossy Ibis: One to five pale blue or green eggs are laid in a shallow cup of reeds, lined with grass, and built in a low bush, usually in a marsh. Nests in large colonies, often with other wading birds. Eggs are incubated for 21 days by both parents. Juveniles leave the nest in as soon as 8 days but do not fly until 28 days old.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with purposeful wingbeats and short glides, characteristic profile due to outstretched drooping neck and slightly droopy legs.

**Range and Habitat:** Glossy Ibis: Most common in marshes and wetlands along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts; occasionally wanders inland. Scattered populations occur in and around the Caribbean Basin on the Yucatan Peninsula and northern Venezuela; also widespread in Eurasia, southeast Asia, Pacific Islands, Africa, and Australia.



**Species:** *Plegadis falcinellus*

**Length Range:** 58 cm (23 in)

**Weight:** 539 - 624 g (19 - 22 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 91 cm (36 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## ROSEATE SPOONBILL

Ibises (Threskiornithidae)

**General:** Roseate Spoonbill: Large ibis, pink body, white upper back, neck. Long bill, gray and spatulate. Head is bare and olive-green. Feeds while wading in shallow water, sweeping its bill back and forth. Sensitive nerve endings snap bill shut when prey is found. Alternates steady wing beats, short glides.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Roseate Spoonbill: Eats minnows, small crustaceans, bits of plants, and insects; forages by swishing its spoon-like bill from side to side in shallow, muddy water.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Roseate Spoonbill: One to five brown spotted white eggs are laid in a bulky nest made of sticks and built in a low bush or tree. Incubation ranges from 22 to 24 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Steady flapping wing beats alternating with short glides.

**Range and Habitat:** Roseate Spoonbill: Found on the coasts of Texas, Louisiana, and southern Florida; also in the American tropics. Preferred habitats include mangroves, saltwater lagoons, and large, shallow lakes.



**Species:** *Platalea ajaja*

**Length Range:** 76 - 102 cm (30 - 40 in)

**Weight:** 1474 - 1503 g (52 - 53 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 127 - 135 cm (50 - 53 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common, but local

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WHITE IBIS

Ibises (Threskiornithidae)

**General:** White Ibis: This coastal species is white overall with pink facial skin, bill, and legs that turn scarlet during breeding season. Black tips on the primary feathers are only seen in flight. Flies in straight line formation with neck and legs outstretched, roosts high in trees and bushes at night.

**Foraging and Feeding:** White Ibis: Eats mainly aquatic crustaceans and insects. Forages by probing in shallow water with their long, decurved bills.



**Breeding and Nesting:** White Ibis: Two to four pale blue to green-white eggs with brown blotches laid in a nest made of sticks and reeds by the female with materials gathered by the male. Usually in a tree over water. Monogamous and usually nests in colonies with other wading birds.

**Flight Pattern:** Flap and glide with rapid wing beats in a straight line.

**Range and Habitat:** White Ibis: Prefers coastal salt marshes, swamps, and mangroves. Found along the Gulf Coast, mid-Atlantic coast and Mexican coast and has become common in some city parks. Breeds as far north as Virginia and casual as far north as New Jersey, mid-west and Southwest.



**Species:** *Eudocimus albus*

**Length Range:** 53 - 69 cm (21 - 27 in)

**Weight:** 1043 g (36.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 53 - 69 cm (21 - 27 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Common to abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WHITE-FACED IBIS

Ibises (Threskiornithidae)

**General:** White-faced Ibis: Medium wading bird, iridescent bronze-brown overall, thin band of white feathers around bare red face, long, down curved bill. Red eyes, legs, feet. Feeds on invertebrates, frogs, fish. Alternates several shallow rapid wing beats and short glides. Flies in straight line formation.

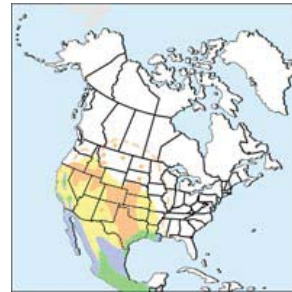
**Foraging and Feeding:** White-faced Ibis: Diet consists of crayfish and other invertebrates, as well as frogs and fish. Coastal birds forage in salt marshes and include crabs in diet; feeds by probing mud with its long bill.



**Breeding and Nesting:** White-faced Ibis: Two to five pale blue green to dark turquoise eggs are laid in a shallow cup of reeds lined with grass and built in a low marsh bush. Incubation ranges from 17 to 26 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Several rapid shallow wing beats followed by glide.

**Range and Habitat:** White-faced Ibis: Breeds from Oregon sporadically east to Minnesota and south to southeastern New Mexico and Texas, and east to coastal Louisiana. Spends winters from southern California and the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana to El Salvador. Preferred habitats include salt and fresh marshes in the west, and coastal marshes and brushy islands in Louisiana and Texas.



**Species:** *Plegadis chihi*

**Length Range:** 51 - 66 cm (20 - 26 in)

**Weight:** 726 g (25.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 91 - 97 cm (36 - 38 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WOOD STORK

Storks (Ciconiidae)

**General:** Wood Stork: Large, odd wading bird, mostly white except for black flight feathers and tail. Upper neck and head are featherless and dark gray. The bill is thick, long, and curved downward. Legs and feet are gray black. Alternates between strong wing beats and gliding. Soars on thermals and updrafts.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Wood Stork: Eats small fish, tadpoles, frogs, and crayfish. Hunts by wading with its bill open just under the water surface, snapping it shut when encountering prey.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Wood Stork: Lays two to five white eggs in nest made of twigs, vines, and moss, built at the top of tall tree; nests in colonies. Incubation ranges from 27 to 32 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates between strong flapping flight and gliding. Rides high on thermals.

**Range and Habitat:** Wood Stork: Breeds in Florida and Georgia; very rarely elsewhere along the coast from South Carolina to Texas. Wanders as far as California and Massachusetts, though very rarely. Breeding habitat is chiefly in cypress swamps; also in mangroves.



**Species:** *Mycteria americana*

**Length Range:** 89 - 114 cm (35 - 45 in)

**Weight:** 2722 g (96 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 165 cm (65 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLACK VULTURE

Vultures (Cathartidae)

**General:** Black Vulture: Large raptor, black overall, short, featherless neck, pale bill, short and squared tail, long, pale gray legs and feet. Gray-black skin on head and neck is wrinkled. White-tipped wings, held horizontal in flight. Soars on thermals, must flap its wings more often than a Turkey Vulture.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Black Vulture: Diet consists primarily of carrion. Sometimes attacks and kills prey.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Black Vulture: Two blue to gray-green eggs marked with brown and lavender are laid in a cave, hollow log, stump, tree trunk, or abandoned building, with no nest materials added. Incubation ranges from 37 to 48 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Soars on thermals. Several quick deep wing beats followed by a glide.

**Range and Habitat:** Black Vulture: Resident in southeastern U.S. and Texas, south to the tropics; preferred habitats include open country, but breeds in woodlands and thickets.



**Species:** *Coragyps atratus*

**Length Range:** 58 - 69 cm (23 - 27 in)

**Weight:** 2177 g (76.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 137 - 152 cm (54 - 60 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## TURKEY VULTURE

Vultures (Cathartidae)

**General:** Turkey Vulture: Medium vulture, mostly black with red, featherless head and upper neck. Wings are held in a shallow V in flight. One of the few birds of prey that is able to use its sense of smell to find food. They are attracted to the smell of mercaptan, a gas produced by the beginnings of decay.

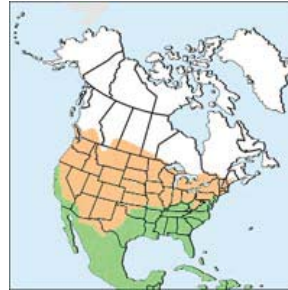
**Foraging and Feeding:** Turkey Vulture: Feeds on carrion; forages by soaring, finding animal carcasses by sight or smell.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Turkey Vulture: One to three creamy white eggs, often marked with brown, are laid in a rock crevice, hollow tree, or fallen hollow log, with no nest materials added. Incubation ranges from 38 to 41 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Circles with wings in shallow V.

**Range and Habitat:** Turkey Vulture: Breeds from southern British Columbia, central Saskatchewan, the Great Lakes, and New Hampshire southward. Spends winters in the Southwest and eastern U.S. northward to southern New England. Preferred habitats include deciduous forests, woodlands, and scrublands; often seen over adjacent farmlands.



**Species:** *Cathartes aura*

**Length Range:** 66 - 81 cm (26 - 32 in)

**Weight:** 1452 g (51.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 173 - 183 cm (68 - 72 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## OSPREY

Osprey (Pandionidae)

**General:** Osprey: Large raptor, dark brown upperparts contrast with white underparts, faint breast band. Small, white head has dark crown, eyestripe. Dark bill. Wings held at a distinct angle in flight, with underwing showing barred flight feathers and diagnostic dark patches on forewing. Gray legs and feet.

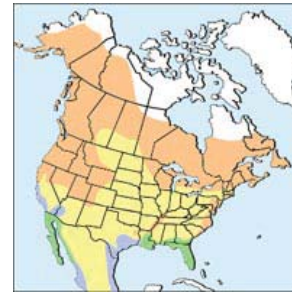
**Foraging and Feeding:** Osprey: Feeds exclusively on fish, usually twice daily, in mid-morning and late afternoon. Forages by flying over water, hovering once prey is spotted, then diving into the water feet-first to grasp prey; sometimes lays on the water and rests, but eventually takes off to find a perch to eat its meal.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Osprey: Three pink or white eggs, marked with olive and brown, are laid in a bulky nest made of sticks built in a large tree; sometimes nests in loose colonies. Incubation ranges from 35 to 40 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Sometimes soars on thermals. Deep, slow wing beats alternate with glides.

**Range and Habitat:** Osprey: Worldwide distribution except Antarctica; found near large bodies of water.



**Species:** *Pandion haliaetus*

**Length Range:** 53 - 61 cm (21 - 24 in)

**Weight:** 1406 g (49.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 137 - 183 cm (54 - 72 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Common in coastal range, uncommon inland.

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## BROAD-WINGED HAWK

Kites, Eagles and Hawks (Accipitridae)

**General:** Broad-winged Hawk: Medium hawk, dark brown, mottled upperparts and brown-barred, white underparts. Pale underwings with black margins visible in flight. Tail is dark banded. Feeds on amphibians, reptiles, small mammals and birds, large insects. Flap-and-glide flight, soars on thermals and updrafts.

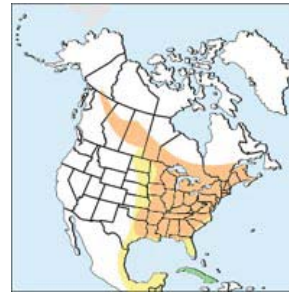
**Foraging and Feeding:** Broad-winged Hawk: Diet consists of insects, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds. Mammals are eaten entirely, while frogs and snakes are skinned, and birds are plucked. Hunts from a perch, swooping down to capture prey on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Broad-winged Hawk: Two to four white to pale blue eggs, sometimes marked with brown, are laid in a nest made of dead sticks and fresh sprigs, lined with bark chips, and built in the crotch of a deciduous tree. Sometimes renovates nests of other species. Incubation ranges from 28 to 31 days and is carried out by the female; male brings food to her during incubation.

**Flight Pattern:** Soars on thermals. Several rapid shallow wing beats followed by glide.

**Range and Habitat:** Broad-winged Hawk: Occurs north from Alberta east to Nova Scotia, south through North Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa to eastern Texas, through the Gulf coast to northern Florida; not found west of the Rockies. Preferred habitats include dense deciduous and mixed woodlands, often near openings created by roads, trails, or wetlands.



**Species:** *Buteo platypterus*

**Length Range:** 33 - 48 cm (13 - 19 in)

**Weight:** 420 g (14.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 81 - 99 cm (32 - 39 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common in E. US & S. Canada

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Barred or banded



## COOPER'S HAWK

Kites, Eagles and Hawks (Accipitridae)

**General:** Cooper's Hawk: Medium, agile hawk with dark blue-gray back and white underparts with many fine rufous bars. Cap is darker than upperparts. Eyes are red. The tail is long with thick black-and-white bands. Legs and feet are yellow. Alternates rapid wing beats and short glides, often soars on thermals.

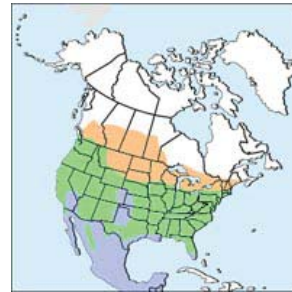
**Foraging and Feeding:** Cooper's Hawk: Feeds mostly on birds, but also takes small mammals. Perches, waits, and quickly swoops down to seize prey; also pursues prey on the ground, half running, and half flying; known for raiding poultry yards.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Cooper's Hawk: Lays four to five brown spotted, pale blue or green eggs in a stick nest high in a deciduous tree, usually 20 to 60 feet above the ground; returns to the same area to nest year after year. Female incubates eggs for approximately 28 days however, male has been known to assist.

**Flight Pattern:** Soars on thermals. Rapid wing beats followed by short glide.

**Range and Habitat:** Cooper's Hawk: Breeds from southern Canada to southern U.S. Prefers patchy deciduous and mixed forests.



**Species:** *Accipiter cooperii*

**Length Range:** 36 - 53 cm (14 - 21 in)

**Weight:** 349 g (12.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 69 - 91 cm (27 - 36 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to rare, Stable or increasing in most areas

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Barred or banded

## MISSISSIPPI KITE

Kites, Eagles and Hawks (Accipitridae)

**General:** Mississippi Kite: Small kite, dark gray upperparts, pale gray underparts and head. Eyes are red. Upperwings are dark gray with pale gray patches. Tail is long and black. Feeds on large flying insects. Buoyant flight with steady wing beats, alternates several wing strokes with short to long glides.

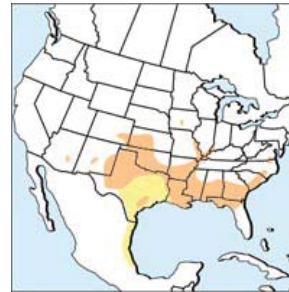
**Foraging and Feeding:** Mississippi Kite: Feeds extensively on large insects including grasshoppers, cicadas, beetles, and dragonflies; also takes lizards, frogs, and fish; catches insects on the wing.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Mississippi Kite: One to three lightly spotted, white to pale blue eggs are laid in a minimally refurbished abandoned crow's or other nest. Eggs are incubated by both parents for about 30 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Buoyant flight with steady wingbeats. Sometimes alternates several wing strokes with short to long glides.

**Range and Habitat:** Mississippi Kite: Nests locally in the U.S. from Kansas, Iowa, Tennessee and South Carolina south to north-western Florida, and the Gulf coast to eastern Texas. Some occasionally winter in Florida. Prefers open country that supports flying insects; also found in forests.



**Species:** *Ictinia mississippiensis*

**Length Range:** 33 - 43 cm (13 - 17 in)

**Weight:** 357 g (12.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 86 - 94 cm (34 - 37 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## NORTHERN HARRIER

Kites, Eagles and Hawks (Accipitridae)

**General:** Northern Harrier: Large hawk with gray upperparts, distinct white rump, and white underparts with spotted breast. Hooked bill is dark, yellow at base. Eyes are yellow. Wings are long, gray above, and white below with black tips. Legs, feet are yellow. Alternates several deep wing beats with glides.

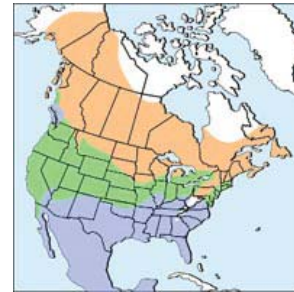
**Foraging and Feeding:** Northern Harrier: Eats mostly mice, but also takes insects and small reptiles. Glides close to ground when hunting, diving down quickly to capture prey.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Northern Harrier: Three to nine pale blue eggs, sometimes spotted with brown, are laid in a ground nest made of sticks and lined with grass, usually built on a raised mound of dirt or a clump of vegetation; often nests in loose colonies of 15 to 20 pairs. Incubation ranges from 31 to 32 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Several deep wing beats alternate with long glides.

**Range and Habitat:** Northern Harrier: Breeds from Alaska to the northern U.S. Spends winters from the southern U.S. to Central America. Preferred habitats include open fields, savannas, meadows, and marshes.



**Species:** *Circus cyaneus*

**Length Range:** 41 - 61 cm (16 - 24 in)

**Weight:** 357 g (12.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 97 - 122 cm (38 - 48 in)

**Breeding Type:** Solitary nester. Some monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Declining

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

Kites, Eagles and Hawks (Accipitridae)

**General:** Red-shouldered Hawk: Large hawk with brown upperparts and head. Underparts are white with rust-red barring. The wings are finely barred above with red-brown shoulders and pale below with red-brown wash and dark tips. Tail is dark with thick white bands.

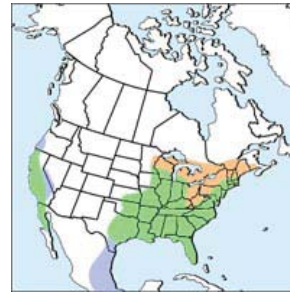
**Foraging and Feeding:** Red-shouldered Hawk: Diet of consists of small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and large insects. Hunts while perched or soaring.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Red-shouldered Hawk: Two to six brown marked, white to blue eggs are laid in a large stick nest lined with finer materials and built in a tree. Eggs are incubated for 28 days by both sexes.

**Flight Pattern:** Soars on thermals. Fairly rapid stiff wing beats. Soars on flat wings and glides on slightly drooped wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Red-shouldered Hawk: Resident in the eastern woodlands and west of the Rocky Mountains; also in New England and the Great Lakes region during the summer.



**Species:** *Buteo lineatus*

**Length Range:** 43 - 61 cm (17 - 24 in)

**Weight:** 499 g (17.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 81 - 127 cm (32 - 50 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Barred or banded

## RED-TAILED HAWK

Kites, Eagles and Hawks (Accipitridae)

**General:** Red-tailed Hawk: Large, highly variable hawk with brown upperparts, head and throat. The underparts are pale with brown streaks. Wings are pale below with dark bar at leading edge and dark tips. The tail is red-brown with dark terminal band. Legs and feet are yellow. Soars on thermals and updrafts.

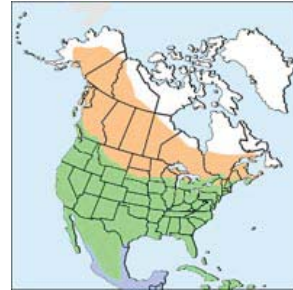
**Foraging and Feeding:** Red-tailed Hawk: Eats mostly small mammals, but also takes birds and reptiles; male Red-winged Blackbirds are often eaten because of their vulnerability when guarding nests.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Red-tailed Hawk: Two to three white to pale blue eggs, sometimes spotted with brown, are laid in a nest constructed from twigs, lined with pine needles and bark, and built in a large tree. Eggs are incubated for about 30 days by both parents; male may bring female food while she is on the nest.

**Flight Pattern:** Soars on thermals. Several rapid strong wing beats followed by glide. Sometimes hangs on updrafts.

**Range and Habitat:** Red-tailed Hawk: Found in Alaska and Canada south to Panama. Found in open country, woodlands, prairie groves, mountains, plains, farmlands, and roadsides.



**Species:** *Buteo jamaicensis*

**Length Range:** 48 - 64 cm (19 - 25 in)

**Weight:** 1043 g (36.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 117 - 147 cm (46 - 58 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Very common

**Back Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Belly Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

Kites, Eagles and Hawks (Accipitridae)

**General:** Sharp-shinned Hawk: Small hawk with blue-gray upperparts and rufous bars on white underparts. Eyes are dark red. Wings are short and rounded. Tail is long and squared with heavy bars. Legs and feet are yellow. Flight consists of rapid wing beats followed by a short glide. Often soars on thermals.

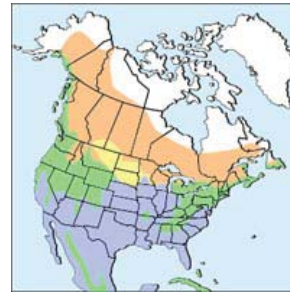
**Foraging and Feeding:** Sharp-shinned Hawk: Diet consists of mostly small birds, but includes small mammals, lizards, and insects; female takes larger prey than male.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Sharp-shinned Hawk: Four to five brown marked, white to light blue eggs are laid in a large nest built of twigs and built on a low branch in a conifer or deciduous tree. Incubation is carried out by the female and ranges from 34 to 35 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Buoyant flight with several rapid wing beats between glides.

**Range and Habitat:** Sharp-shinned Hawk: Breeds throughout the U.S. as far north as Canada. Spends winters from northern U.S. to Argentina. Found in deciduous, coniferous, or mixed forests.



**Species:** *Accipiter striatus*

**Length Range:** 25 - 36 cm (10 - 14 in)

**Weight:** 102 g (3.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 51 - 71 cm (20 - 28 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Barred or banded

## SWAINSON'S HAWK

Kites, Eagles and Hawks (Accipitridae)

**General:** Swainson's Hawk: Large hawk, dark brown upperparts, white throat, rufous upper breast, pale buff underparts. Tail is gray with faint bars, dark terminal band, and white trailing edge. Yellow legs, feet. Alternates series of powerful deep wing beats with long glides. Soars on thermals and updrafts.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Swainson's Hawk: Diet consists of insects, small mammals and birds, and occasional reptiles and amphibians.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Swainson's Hawk: Lays two to four white to light blue green eggs, marked with light brown, in a nest made of sticks and branches built in a tree, shrub, on the ground, or on top of a utility pole. Both parents incubate eggs for about 30 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Soars on thermals. Alternates series of powerful deep wing beats with long glides.

**Range and Habitat:** Swainson's Hawk: Breeds on the western plains of North America and southwest Canada from Texas to the Yukon. In the winter, most fly south to the pampas of Argentina, a distance of more than 5,000 miles. Preferred habitats include prairies, plains, and other wide-open ranges with minimal tree cover; commonly seen perched on poles or fence posts.



**Species:** *Buteo swainsoni*

**Length Range:** 48 - 51 cm (19 - 20 in)

**Weight:** 907 g (32 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 117 - 147 cm (46 - 58 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Very common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

Kites, Eagles and Hawks (Accipitridae)

**General:** Swallow-tailed Kite: The largest of North America kites, has black upperparts which contrast with white head and underparts. In flight it shows long pointed wings with black flight feathers and white wing linings. Has a 15-16 inch-long black tail with deep fork. The neck, breast and belly are white.

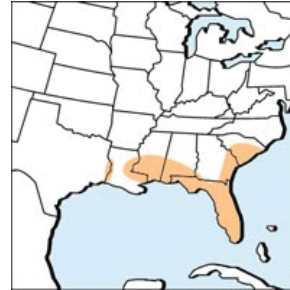
**Foraging and Feeding:** Swallow-tailed Kite: This bird feeds on insects such as bees, dragonflies, crickets, cicadas, and beetles. Also consumes small snakes, lizards, frogs, and small birds, which are often taken from the treetops. All prey are captured with feet while in flight by gleaning from surface of vegetation, reaching within or underneath foliage, or snatching flying insects with barely perceptible strikes of the feet. Adults eat food while flying.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Swallow-tailed Kite: Two to three white eggs with brown and lavender markings, often concentrated at the large end, are laid in a nest of sticks, twigs, moss, and pine needles. Nest is built by both sexes and placed in the treetop, 60-130 feet above ground, concealed by thick foliage. Nest is lined with leaves and lichen. Incubation ranges from 24 to 28 days and is carried out by both sexes. These birds have one brood per year.

**Flight Pattern:** Soars on thermals and updrafts. Buoyant flight with deep slow wing beats and glides.

**Range and Habitat:** Swallow-tailed Kite: Breeds mainly on or near coasts from Texas east to Florida, and north to South Carolina; local farther inland in Gulf states. Winters in American tropics. Also breeds in tropics. Inhabits swamps, marshes, river bottoms, and glades in open forests.



**Species:** *Elanoides forficatus*

**Length Range:** 48 - 64 cm (19 - 25 in)

**Weight:** 442 g (15.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 114 - 127 cm (45 - 50 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## WHITE-TAILED KITE

Kites, Eagles and Hawks (Accipitridae)

**General:** White-tailed Kite: Small hawk with gray upperparts, black shoulders, and white face and underparts. Eyes are red, bill is black. Underwings are white and gray with dark patches at bend. Tail is square, pale gray, and shorter than folded wings. Legs and feet are gray. Soars on thermals and updrafts.

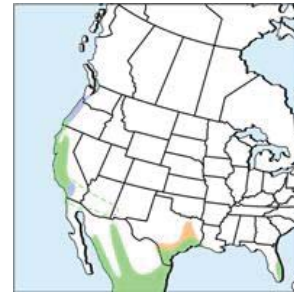
**Foraging and Feeding:** White-tailed Kite: Diet consists of voles, field mice, pocket gophers, ground squirrels, shrews, small birds, small snakes, lizards, frogs, grasshoppers, crickets, and beetles; hunts while hovering, often pausing to study the ground before swooping down on prey.



**Breeding and Nesting:** White-tailed Kite: Three to six white eggs with brown blotches are laid in a loose nest made of thin twigs. Male brings most of the material, which is then worked into the nest by the female. Female incubates eggs for about 30 days, with male sometimes assisting; male feeds her on or near the nest during incubation.

**Flight Pattern:** Slow measured deep wing beats. Soars on thermals and updrafts.

**Range and Habitat:** White-tailed Kite: Common in northwest Africa, southern Asia, the East Indies, Arabia, and Africa south of the Sahara. Also occurs on west coast of the U.S. and in parts of Mexico. Preferred habitats include open savannah, cultivated highlands, grassy plains, and semi-desert grasslands.



**Species:** *Elanus leucurus*

**Length Range:** 38 - 43 cm (15 - 17 in)

**Weight:** 340 g (12 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 102 - 107 cm (40 - 42 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies

**Breeding Population:** Common but local

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## AMERICAN KESTREL

Falcons (Falconidae)

**General:** American Kestrel: Smallest North American hawk, has two distinct black facial stripes, rust-brown tail and back, slate-blue wings, black-spotted underparts. Eats bats, rodents, insects, frogs, small reptiles, and birds. Alternates several rapid wing beats with glides, also hovers. Soars on thermals.

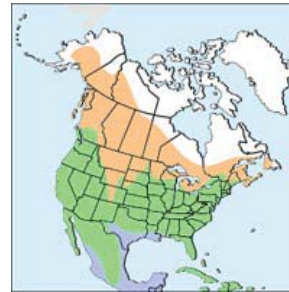
**Foraging and Feeding:** American Kestrel: Hunts in early morning and evening in summer, eating mostly large insects such as grasshoppers. During winter months, hunts throughout daylight hours and eats small mammals, birds, and amphibians.



**Breeding and Nesting:** American Kestrel: Female is promiscuous, mating with two or three males prior to settling with a single mate. Three to seven white or pale pink eggs are laid, usually in a tree cavity. Incubation ranges from 29 to 30 days and is carried out by the female; however, the male occasionally takes over incubation duties.

**Flight Pattern:** Soars on thermals. Several rapid wing beats followed by a glide. Often hovers on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** American Kestrel: Breeds from Northwest Territories and Alaska east through Maritime Provinces and south throughout most of the continent. Usually winters north to British Columbia, Great Lakes, and New England. Preferred habitats include towns, cities, parks, farmlands, and open country.



**Species:** *Falco sparverius*

**Length Range:** 23 - 30 cm (9 - 12 in)

**Weight:** 111 g (3.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 51 - 64 cm (20 - 25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## CRESTED CARACARA

Falcons (Falconidae)

**General:** Crested Caracara: Large, ground-dwelling falcon, black body, finely barred tail, wing panels and upper breast. Head crest is black, facial skin is red, and large bill is blue-gray and hooked. Legs are long and yellow. Strong steady wing beats alternated with long to short glides. Soars on thermals.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Crested Caracara: Diet includes carrion, small turtles, turtle eggs, fish, insects, frogs, lizards, snakes, small birds, and small mammals. When pursuing larger prey, a pair sometimes works together; has been observed feeding on carrion with vultures.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Crested Caracara: One to four brown marked, white or light pink eggs are laid in a bulky nest made of vines and sticks, usually built in a cabbage palm tree. Eggs are incubated for 32 days by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong steady deep wing beats. Often alternates series of wing beats with long to short glides. Sometimes soars on thermals.

**Range and Habitat:** Crested Caracara: Found from Baja California to eastern Texas, south to Panama. Preferred habitats include prairies, savannas, desert scrub, and seashores.



**Species:** *Caracara cheriway*

**Length Range:** 51 - 64 cm (20 - 25 in)

**Weight:** 953 g (33.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 114 - 122 cm (45 - 48 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Declining, Fairly common to rare

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Barred or banded

## MERLIN

Falcons (Falconidae)

**General:** Merlin: Small falcon with blue-gray upperparts, white to pale brown underparts with dark streaks. Throat, eye-ring, line above eye are white. Dark gray bill, cere is yellow. Tail is brown or black barred with white tips. Pacific race is dark gray. Prairie race is light gray. Taiga race is a mixture.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Merlin: Preys mainly on small birds such as larks, swallows, finches, and occasionally ptarmigan; also eats small mammals, lizards, snakes, and insects, especially dragonflies.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Merlin: Two to seven white eggs sometimes marked with red brown are laid in a tree cavity without nesting materials added; occasionally uses a rocky ledge or abandoned crow nest. Incubation ranges from 28 to 32 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Merlin: Breeds from Alaska east through Mackenzie to Newfoundland and south to Wyoming, Montana, and northeastern Maine. Spends winters mainly in the southern U.S. north along the west coast up to British Columbia and on the east coast to southern New England. Preferred habitats include coniferous forests.



**Species:** *Falco columbarius*

**Length Range:** 28 - 33 cm (11 - 13 in)

**Weight:** 162 g (5.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 58 - 66 cm (23 - 26 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## PEREGRINE FALCON

Falcons (Falconidae)

**General:** Peregrine Falcon: Medium robust falcon with blue-gray upperparts, plain breast, heavily barred sides, belly, and leggings. Head has a black hood and sideburns. Yellow fleshy eye ring. Yellow legs and feet. Feeds primarily on birds which it takes in midair after a steep, swift dive from above them.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Peregrine Falcon: Preys mostly on birds, including doves, pigeons, shorebirds, waterfowl, and passerines; also eats small reptiles and mammals. Often soars to hunt, diving to stun its prey in midair.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Peregrine Falcon: Two to six buff or white eggs, heavily marked with brown and red, are laid in a nest, often built by other species, set high on a cliff or tall building. Incubation ranges from 28 to 32 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Peregrine Falcon: Breeds from Alaska and the Canadian arctic south locally through the mountainous west, and sparingly in the east. Spends winters on coasts north to British Columbia and Massachusetts. Preferred habitats include tundra, savannas, coasts, mountains, and tall buildings.



**Species:** *Falco peregrinus*

**Length Range:** 41 - 51 cm (16 - 20 in)

**Weight:** 590 g (20.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 109 - 117 cm (43 - 46 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common on tundra

**Back Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## AMERICAN COOT

Rails and Coots (Rallidae)

**General:** American Coot: Medium-sized, chicken-like swimming bird, dark gray to black overall, short, white bill and undertail coverts. Toes are lobed, not webbed. Upper edge of frontal shield is red, but usually only visible at close range. Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats, feet protrude past tail.

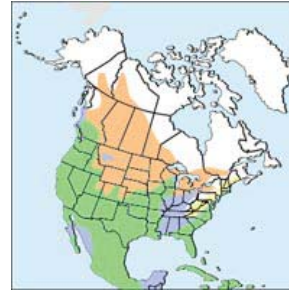
**Foraging and Feeding:** American Coot: Feeds on plant materials, aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, snails, worms, and sometimes bird eggs; forages by tipping, diving from the surface, or walking along shorelines.



**Breeding and Nesting:** American Coot: Two to twelve black and brown marked, pink to buff eggs are laid on a shallow platform of dead leaves and stems, usually on water but anchored to a clump of reeds. Incubation ranges from 21 to 25 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats. Feet protrude beyond tail.

**Range and Habitat:** American Coot: Breeds from British Columbia, western Canada, and New York locally southward. Usually spends winters north to British Columbia, Kansas, Illinois, and Massachusetts. Preferred habitats include open ponds and marshes. Found on coastal bays and inlets, often occurring in large rafts during winter.



**Species:** *Fulica americana*

**Length Range:** 38 cm (15 in)

**Weight:** 726 g (25.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 58 - 71 cm (23 - 28 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Common to abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLACK RAIL

Rails and Coots (Rallidae)

**General:** Black Rail: Smallest North American rail, mostly dark gray or nearly black with white-speckled back, belly, flanks. Nape and upper back are chestnut-brown. Eyes are red. Eats seeds of aquatic plants, grasses and grains, insects and small marine crustaceans. Weak fluttering flight with legs dangling.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Black Rail: Feeds on seeds of aquatic plants, grass, insects, and isopods (small crustaceans).



**Breeding and Nesting:** Black Rail: Four to thirteen brown-spotted, pale pink to white eggs are laid in a deep cup of finely woven soft grass, sedges, or other available vegetation. Nest is usually concealed in a clump of green grass, with grass arched over so it is hidden. Both parents incubate the eggs for about 28 days. Sometimes produces two broods per year.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering floppy flight with legs dangling.

**Range and Habitat:** Black Rail: Nests on marshes and open grasslands from southern New England to the Gulf coast states. Spends winters from the southern Atlantic coast states south to Central America. Preferred habitats include marshes, swamps, and wet meadows.



**Species:** *Laterallus jamaicensis*

**Length Range:** 15 cm (6 in)

**Weight:** 34 g (1.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 28 cm (11 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to rare

**Back Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## CLAPPER RAIL

Rails and Coots (Rallidae)

**General:** Clapper Rail: Large, noisy marsh bird, gray or brown upperparts, vertical white-barred flanks and belly, buff or rust-brown breast. Bill is long, slightly decurved. Gray legs, feet. Feeds at low tide on mudflats or hidden in salt marsh vegetation. Flight is low and fluttering over short distances.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Clapper Rail: Feeds mainly on crayfish, small crabs, small fish, frogs, slugs, snails, insects, and seeds; forages on the ground and while wading in shallow water.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Clapper Rail: Five to twelve brown marked, buff to olive eggs are laid in a nest made of rushes, sedges, and cord grass, and hidden in tall vegetation. Incubation ranges from 20 to 23 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Low fluttering flight over short distances with legs dangling.

**Range and Habitat:** Clapper Rail: Breeds along Atlantic, Gulf, and California coasts; spends winters north to central California and New Jersey. Preferred habitats include coastal saltwater marshes.



**Species:** *Rallus longirostris*

**Length Range:** 36 - 41 cm (14 - 16 in)

**Weight:** 323 g (11.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 48 - 53 cm (19 - 21 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## COMMON MOORHEN

Rails and Coots (Rallidae)

**General:** Common Moorhen: Medium, chicken-like marsh bird with gray-brown back and slate-gray head, neck, breast, and belly. Upper flanks show distinct white line. Yellow-tipped red bill is short with red frontal plate extending onto forehead. Tail is white below. Long legs and unwebbed feet are yellow-green.

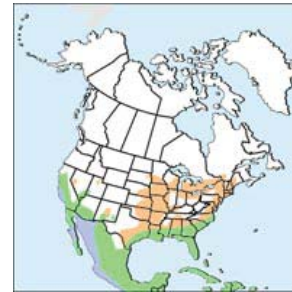
**Foraging and Feeding:** Common Moorhen: Feeds on freshwater plants, seeds, and small invertebrates. Forages while swimming or walking in shallows or atop floating vegetation; active day and night. Swallows sand and gravel to help grind food.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Common Moorhen: Two to thirteen buff eggs with red brown or olive spots are laid in a well-rimmed cup nest constructed of dead vegetation and lined with grass and leaves. Nest is usually located over the water and anchored to stems of emergent vegetation, but is occasionally built on the ground or in a low shrub. Both parents incubate the eggs for 18 to 21 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift strong direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Common Moorhen: Breeds over much of North America through Central America and northern South America. Spends winters from the southern Atlantic states to South America. Prefers habitat with large areas of open water; common near reservoirs, ponds, freshwater marshes, and flooded grasslands.



**Species:** *Gallinula chloropus*

**Length Range:** 33 - 38 cm (13 - 15 in)

**Weight:** 340 g (12 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 51 - 58 cm (20 - 23 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary to semicolonial

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## KING RAIL

Rails and Coots (Rallidae)

**General:** King Rail: Large rail with long, orange-based bill. Brown and red-brown mottled upperparts. Underparts are orange-brown with strongly barred black, white flanks. Prominent chestnut-brown patch on wing is visible on standing and flying birds. Feeds in shallow water or mudflats exposed at low tide.

**Foraging and Feeding:** King Rail: Feeds among floating or emergent vegetation in freshwater marshes and swamps. Generally stays well hidden as it feeds, but may stray onto open shorelines and edges of mudflats as it searches for aquatic insects and crustaceans. Also feeds on frogs, clams, and seeds of marsh plants.



**Breeding and Nesting:** King Rail: Lays six to fifteen brown spotted, buff eggs in intricate woven nest well hidden among dense marsh plants. Nest has woven canopy over it and a sloping entrance ramp. Both sexes incubate for 21 to 23 days, and the precocial young leave nest within hours after hatching. Both parents feed chicks until they start finding their own food after about 3 weeks.

**Flight Pattern:** Quick short feeble flights on short wings.

**Range and Habitat:** King Rail: Prefers freshwater marshes along the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts from Texas to New York.



**Species:** *Rallus elegans*

**Length Range:** 38 cm (15 in)

**Weight:** 414 g (14.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 51 cm (20 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## PURPLE GALLINULE

Rails and Coots (Rallidae)

**General:** Purple Gallinule: Medium, chicken-like marsh bird with purple-blue upperparts washed with iridescent green, deep blue underparts. Forehead is pale blue; bill is red and yellow-tipped. Undertail coverts are white. Legs are yellow with very long toes. The flight is labored and slow with dangling legs.

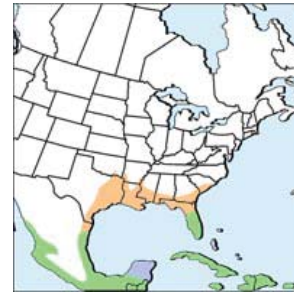
**Foraging and Feeding:** Purple Gallinule: Diet consists of invertebrates, frogs, aquatic vegetation, seeds, and berries; forages while walking along the shoreline, wading, and swimming.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Purple Gallinule: Five to ten pink or buff eggs marked with brown are laid in a nest made of dead stems and leaves, and built low above the water among dense rushes. Incubation ranges from 22 to 25 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift strong direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Purple Gallinule: Found in the south Atlantic and Gulf states, and casually as far northward as Maine, New York, Wisconsin, and south throughout the West Indies, Mexico, Central America, and northern South America to Brazil. Preferred habitats include lakes, pools, waterways, and wet marshes.



**Species:** *Porphyrio martinica*

**Length Range:** 27 cm (10.5 in)

**Weight:** 258 g (9.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 53 cm (21 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Casual

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## SORA

Rails and Coots (Rallidae)

**General:** Sora: Small rail with dark gray-brown upperparts with black-and-white streaks. Breast is gray and flanks and belly are dark gray with white bars. Gray head has a darker crown and nape, and black face, chin, and throat. Bill is yellow with dark tip. Low, weak, and floppy flight over short distances.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Sora: Diet consists of mollusks, insects, snails, seeds of marsh plants, and duckweed. Snails and insects are picked from the ground and vegetation, or caught by probing soft mud with its bill.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Sora: Ten to twelve buff eggs with brown and gray blotches are laid in a shallow basket of cattails, dry leaves, grass, and reeds, and attached to stalks of dense, living vegetation; nest is usually built over or adjacent to water. Both parents incubate the eggs for 18 to 20 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak labored floppy flight for short distances and low over vegetation with legs dangling.

**Range and Habitat:** Sora: Breeds from southeastern Alaska, east to Newfoundland, and south locally to northwestern Baja California, southern New Mexico, eastern Colorado, southern Missouri, central Ohio, and Maryland. Spends winters regularly from central California, east to southern Texas and the Gulf Coast, and south through Central America to portions of South America. Preferred habitats include freshwater marshes, flooded fields, swamps, and slough borders.



**Species:** *Porzana carolina*

**Length Range:** 20 - 25 cm (8 - 10 in)

**Weight:** 74 g (2.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 30 - 37 cm (12 - 14.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Back Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## VIRGINIA RAIL

Rails and Coots (Rallidae)

**General:** Virginia Rail: Medium rail with brown-and-black mottled upperparts, white throat, rust-brown breast, and black-and-white barred belly. Head has black crown, gray face, and white eyebrows. Bill is long, red-brown, and curved down. Legs are orange-brown. Tail is short, black above, and white below.

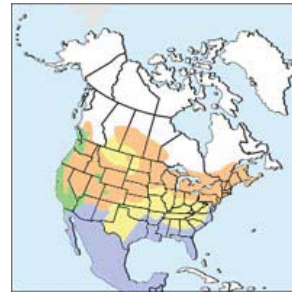
**Foraging and Feeding:** Virginia Rail: Diet includes insects and other invertebrates, aquatic plant seeds, and duckweed; forages on the ground or in shallow water.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Virginia Rail: Five to thirteen brown-spotted, white to buff eggs are laid on a pile of matted reeds and layers of aquatic vegetation and grass. Usually nests in a dry area, but occasionally over mud or water. Both parents incubate eggs for about 20 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering floppy flight with legs dangling.

**Range and Habitat:** Virginia Rail: Breeds locally from southern British Columbia to Newfoundland, and south to northwestern Baja California, southern Arizona, west-central Texas, Missouri, Ohio, North Carolina, central Mexico, and South America. Spends winters from southern British Columbia to northern Baja California, and north to the Gulf Coast and North Carolina. Preferred habitats include freshwater marshes, mostly with cattails, reeds, and deep grass.



**Species:** *Rallus limicola*

**Length Range:** 23 - 25 cm (9 - 10 in)

**Weight:** 88 g (3.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 33 - 37 cm (13 - 14.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## YELLOW RAIL

Rails and Coots (Rallidae)

**General:** Yellow Rail: Small rail with pale yellow-striped, dark brown upperparts. White throat, buff breast, flanks, and belly are barred black-and-white. Head has buff face with dark brown cap, eye patches. Bill is short, yellow. Wings are dark with large white patches visible in flight. Short black tail.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Yellow Rail: Diet includes snails, beetles, grasshoppers, aquatic bugs, dragonfly nymphs, damselfly nymphs, spiders, crayfish, slugs, leeches, tadpoles, small fish, arrowhead, smartweed, pondweed, bur reed, bristle grass, wheat, oats, bulrush, grass, and spikerush.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Yellow Rail: Seven to ten creamy buff eggs, sometimes spotted with red brown, are laid in a woven cup nest of dead grasses built above the water, typically on a tussock. Incubation ranges from 16 to 18 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flights of short duration.

**Range and Habitat:** Yellow Rail: Breeds from the Maritime Provinces westward to Alberta and the southern part of the Northwest Territories, northern Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Oregon. Migrates along the Atlantic coast to South Carolina and Florida, spending winters along the entire Gulf Coast, from Florida to south Texas. Breeding grounds include large, wet meadows or shallow marshes with sedges and grasses. Winters on salt marshes, rice fields, and damp meadows.



**Species:** *Coturnicops noveboracensis*

**Length Range:** 15 - 18 cm (6 - 7.25 in)

**Weight:** 51 g (1.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 25 - 33 cm (10 - 13 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to rare

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## SANDHILL CRANE

Cranes (Gruidae)

**General:** Sandhill Crane: Large wading bird with gray body, white cheeks, chin, upper throat, and bright red cap. Bill is dark and eyes are yellow. Legs and feet are black. Direct, steady flight on heavy and labored wing beats. Slow downstroke, rapid and jerky upstroke. Flies in V or straight line formation.

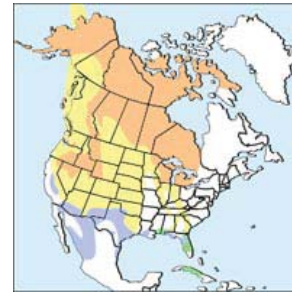
**Foraging and Feeding:** Sandhill Crane: Eats grains, berries, small mammals, insects, snails, reptiles, and amphibians. Uses bill to probe for subsurface food and glean seeds and other foods; forages on land or in shallow marshes.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Sandhill Crane: Two buff or olive eggs spotted with olive or brown are laid in a ground nest lined with stems and twigs, and built near water. Incubation ranges between 28 and 32 days and is carried out by both parents during the day, but only by the female at night.

**Flight Pattern:** Heavy, labored, steady wing beats with slow downstroke. Rapid jerky upstroke.

**Range and Habitat:** Sandhill Crane: Breeds from Siberia and Alaska east across Arctic Canada to Hudson Bay and south to western Ontario, with isolated populations in the Rocky Mountains, northern prairies, Great Lakes region, and in Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida. Spends winters in California's Central Valley, and across southern states from Arizona to Florida. Preferred habitats include large freshwater marshes, prairie ponds, and marshy tundra; also found on prairies and grain fields during migration and in winter.



**Species:** *Grus canadensis*

**Length Range:** 86 - 122 cm (34 - 48 in)

**Weight:** 3357 g (118.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 185 - 229 cm (73 - 90 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Mates for life

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER

Plovers (Charadriidae)

**General:** American Golden-Plover: Medium sandpiper with black face, underparts. Back is dark brown with yellow spots; has a white S-shaped mark along head and sides. Markings provide camouflage to blend in with tundra breeding grounds. Bill is black, thin, and short. Swift direct flight on rapid wing beats.

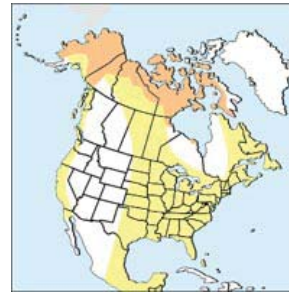
**Foraging and Feeding:** American Golden-Plover: Diet consists mainly of mosquitoes, butterflies, other insects, small mollusks, and crustaceans.



**Breeding and Nesting:** American Golden-Plover: Three to four black- and brown-spotted, white to buff eggs are arranged in a circle with narrow ends pointing to the center to help keep them warm. Incubation lasts 27 days and is carried out by both parents in turn; male by day, female at night. Nest is a scrape on the ground in tundra, lined with moss and leaves.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with steady quick wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** American Golden-Plover: Among the widest ranging birds in the world, this species breeds on tundra from Alaska east to Baffin Island and migrates south over the Atlantic Ocean from Canadian Maritimes to South America; some birds winter on islands in Pacific and appear along west coast during migration. Preferred habitats include shores and prairies.



**Species:** *Pluvialis dominica*

**Length Range:** 25 - 28 cm (10 - 11 in)

**Weight:** 145 g (5.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 46 - 56 cm (18 - 22 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Yes but uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

Plovers (Charadriidae)

**General:** Black-bellied Plover: Medium-sized shorebird with black upperparts vividly marked with a white spot on each feather. Face, throat, and belly are black. White forehead and crown, extends over eye and down back, sides of neck. Black armpit and white rump, vent, and wing stripe are visible in flight.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Black-bellied Plover: Principal foods include small crabs, sandworms, mollusks, and crustaceans.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Black-bellied Plover: Three to five dark brown-spotted, gray, green, brown or white eggs are laid in a shallow depression lined with moss, lichens, and grass. Incubation ranges from 26 to 27 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight with powerful rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Black-bellied Plover: Breeds in northwestern Alaska and Arctic Canada. Spends winters mainly along the coasts from British Columbia and Massachusetts southward. Breeds on tundra; spends winters on beaches, mudflats, marshes, lakeshores, and plowed fields.



**Species:** *Pluvialis squatarola*

**Length Range:** 29 - 33 cm (11.5 - 13 in)

**Weight:** 221 g (7.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 56 - 64 cm (22 - 25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to common on coasts

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## KILLDEER

Plovers (Charadriidae)

**General:** Killdeer: Large banded plover, brown upperparts and white underparts, two distinct black bands cross upper breast. White stripes on wings are visible in flight. Tail and rump show rust-brown in flight. Black bill, pink-brown legs and feet. Wavering, erratic flight, capable of swift, direct flight.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Killdeer: Diet consists of various aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, mostly insects; also eats berries; forages on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Killdeer: Three to five buff eggs with brown markings are laid in a shallow ground depression lined with grass, often in gravelly areas. Incubation ranges from 24 to 28 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Flies in erratic wavering manner.

**Range and Habitat:** Killdeer: Breeds from Alaska east to Newfoundland and southward. Spends winters north to British Columbia, Utah, the Ohio Valley, and Massachusetts; also found in South America. Preferred habitats include open areas such as plowed fields, golf courses, and short-grass prairies.



**Species:** *Charadrius vociferus*

**Length Range:** 23 - 27 cm (9 - 10.5 in)

**Weight:** 91 g (3.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 48 - 53 cm (19 - 21 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

## PIPING PLOVER

Plovers (Charadriidae)

**General:** Piping Plover: Small, pale sand-colored plover, showy black bands on head, neck. White upertail with white-edged black tip. Short bill has bright orange base and black tip. Legs are bright orange. Eats fly larvae, beetles, crustaceans and marine worms. Feeds higher on the beach than other plovers.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Piping Plover: Finds food by sight. Runs a few steps, pauses briefly, then runs a few more steps or chases prey. Hunts on dry sand, wet sand, and mud at water's edge. Eats a wide variety of small insects and invertebrates.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Piping Plover: Lays three to four pale buff eggs marked with brown and black in simple scrape of sand on an open beach, often near a clump of grass. Both parents incubate for 26 to 28 days. Chicks leave nest within hours of hatching and can feed themselves. Female often departs soon after, leaving male to guard young as they grow.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight with fast wingbeats.

**Range and Habitat:** Piping Plover: Nearly always found in open sandy areas near water, including ocean and lakeside beaches or river sandbars. Found along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, moving north to breed and south for winter. Also breeds in the upper Midwest.



**Species:** *Charadrius melodus*

**Length Range:** 18 cm (7.25 in)

**Weight:** 54 g (1.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 48 cm (19 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## SEMIPALMATED PLOVER

Plovers (Charadriidae)

**General:** Semipalmated Plover: Small plover, gray-brown upperparts and white underparts. Forehead and faint eyebrows are white, while face and collar are black. Bill is orange with black tip. Wings have white stripes visible in flight. Tail is brown with white edges. Orange legs, feet. Strong direct flight.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Semipalmated Plover: Eats insects, crustaceans, and mollusks; forages on mudflats or in shallow water, running and scanning for food in short bursts.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Semipalmated Plover: Three to four buff to olive brown eggs marked with brown or black are laid in a ground depression. In sandy areas, nest is lined with shell fragments and pebbles; on tundra, it is lined with plants. Both parents incubate eggs for 23 to 25 days. Young fly at 23 to 31 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapidly beating wings. Strong direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Semipalmated Plover: Breeds on sandy or mossy tundra from Alaska to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Spends winters on mudflats, salt marshes, and lakeshores along coastal California and the Carolinas south.



**Species:** *Charadrius semipalmatus*

**Length Range:** 17 - 19 cm (6.5 - 7.5 in)

**Weight:** 48 g (1.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 36 - 39 cm (14 - 15.25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

## SNOWY PLOVER

Plovers (Charadriidae)

**General:** Snowy Plover: Small plover, pale brown upperparts, white underparts. Dark patches on either side of upper breast (partial breast band), behind eye, and on white forehead. Bill, legs, and feet are black. Wings have white stripes visible in flight. Dark tail has white edges. Dark gray legs and feet.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Snowy Plover: Feeds on small crustaceans and soft-bodied invertebrates. Forages in wet sand and surf-cast kelp, in dry, sandy areas above the high tide, on saltpans, on spoil sites, and along the edges of salt marshes, salt ponds, and lagoons; sometimes probes in sand or gleans from vegetation.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Snowy Plover: Two or three pale buff eggs with black or gray marks and spots are laid in a shallow ground depression lined with shell fragments or grass. Nest is built by the male. Both male and female incubate eggs for 24 to 32 days. Young fly at 26 to 31 days; raises one or two broods per year.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Snowy Plover: Occurs along the west coast from Washington to Baja California and along the Gulf Coast from Florida to the Yucatan Peninsula. Preferred habitats include sandy coastal beaches and shallow alkaline lakes.



**Species:** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

**Length Range:** 15 - 18 cm (6 - 7 in)

**Weight:** 40 g (1.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 33 - 36 cm (13 - 14 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. May be polygamous

**Breeding Population:** Declining, Rare

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WILSON'S PLOVER

Plovers (Charadriidae)

**General:** Wilson's Plover: Medium plover, gray-brown upperparts and cap. Underparts are white except for black upper breast band. Head has black forehead patch and white eyebrows joining above bill. Wings are dark with white stripes visible in flight. White tail with faint brown central strip and dark tip.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Wilson's Plover: Eats mostly crustaceans, such as fiddler crabs, crayfish, and shrimp, but also feeds on mollusks, marine worms, and insects. Usually forages on beaches or around ponds left by high tides.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Wilson's Plover: Two or three brown and black marked, buff eggs are laid in a depression in the sand lined with broken shells, grass, and debris, usually built from several to as much as 100 feet back from the water; always well above normal high tide. Both parents incubate eggs for 23 to 25 days. Young are precocial and can fly at 21 days old.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Wilson's Plover: Breeds in the U.S. along the Atlantic coast from Maryland to Florida, and along the Gulf Coast from Florida to south Texas. Spends winters along both coasts of Florida and along the coast of south Texas. Resident throughout Central America and the Caribbean to northern South America. Preferred habitats include open sand or shell beaches and tidal mudflats.



**Species:** *Charadrius wilsonia*

**Length Range:** 18 - 20 cm (7 - 8 in)

**Weight:** 54 g (1.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 36 - 41 cm (14 - 16 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

## AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)

**General:** American Oystercatcher: Large shorebird with white underparts, brown upperparts, black hood, long, bright red-orange needle-shaped bill. White wing patches visible in flight. Yellow eyes surrounded by orange eye-rings. Legs and feet are pink. Feeds on mussels and other bivalves. Rapid direct flight.

**Foraging and Feeding:** American Oystercatcher: Feeds on a variety of mollusks particularly bivalves, occasionally fish. Probes into sand or chisels prey from rocks. Hammers or stabs shells with long pointed bill to pry them open.



**Breeding and Nesting:** American Oystercatcher: Monogamous solitary or loose colonial nester of sandy oceanic coasts and mudflats. Female and male build scrape nest of sand lined with vegetation and/or small pebbles. Female lays one to four buff gray eggs with dark brown speckles. Both sexes incubate for 23 to 28 days, and rear precocial young. Nestlings are down covered after hatching, leave nest soon after, and are independent by about 35 days of age.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats low over water.

**Range and Habitat:** American Oystercatcher: Found exclusively along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, Pacific coast of Mexico, and coast of the Gulf of California. Occasionally strays to coasts along southern California. Prefers sandy beaches, mudflats, and occasionally rocky shores where mollusk prey can be found.



**Species:** *Haematopus palliatus*

**Length Range:** 43 - 53 cm (17 - 21 in)

**Weight:** 635 g (22.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 81 cm (32 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial or solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common in coastal range

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## AMERICAN AVOCET

Avocets and Stilts (Recurvirostridae)

**General:** American Avocet: Long-legged shorebird with long, thin, upcurved bill and distinctive black-and-white back and sides. Head and neck are bright rust-brown during summer. Legs and feet are gray. Feeds on insects, crustaceans, and invertebrates. Strong direct flight with neck extended.

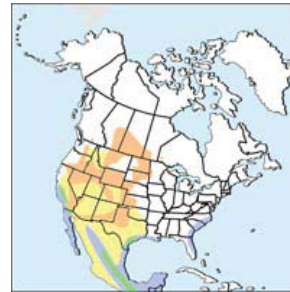
**Foraging and Feeding:** American Avocet: Feeds by thrusting bill underwater and swinging it from side to side along the bottom to stir up aquatic insects. Also eats crustaceans and other aquatic animals and plants.



**Breeding and Nesting:** American Avocet: Three to four pale olive buff eggs, spotted with brown and black, are laid in a shallow depression sparsely lined with grass on a beach or mudflat. Incubation ranges from 22 to 29 days and is carried out by both parents. Often nests in loose colonies.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** American Avocet: Breeds from interior Washington, Saskatchewan, and Minnesota south to California and Texas. Spends winters on the west coast north to California, on the Gulf Coast, and in Florida. In fall, this bird is a regular visitor on the Atlantic coast. Preferred habitats include freshwater marshes and shallow, marshy lakes. Breeds locally in salt or brackish marshes; often moves to coasts during winter.



**Species:** *Recurvirostra americana*

**Length Range:** 46 - 51 cm (18 - 20 in)

**Weight:** 315 g (11.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 69 - 97 cm (27 - 38 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## BLACK-NECKED STILT

Avocets and Stilts (Recurvirostridae)

**General:** Black-necked Stilt: Large shorebird with sharply contrasting black upperparts and white underparts. Long, thin, upcurved bill. Red eyes with white eye-rings, and white patch above. Legs are extremely long and red-pink. Feeds on insects, fish, worms, small crustaceans and seeds. Swift direct flight.

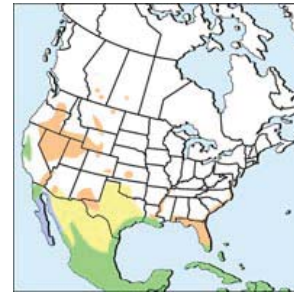
**Foraging and Feeding:** Black-necked Stilt: Feeds on tadpoles, mollusks, water beetles and other aquatic insects, snails, small fish, flying insects, and seeds.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Black-necked Stilt: Three to five brown-spotted, yellow or buff eggs are laid in a shallow ground depression lined with grass or shell fragments, usually in a marsh; nests in loose colonies. Incubation ranges from 22 to 25 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Black-necked Stilt: Breeds along coasts from Oregon and Delaware southward, and locally in western interior states east to Idaho, Kansas, and Texas. Spends winters along the Pacific coast north to central California, Florida, and other Gulf coast states. Preferred habitats include salt marshes, shallow coastal bays, and freshwater marshes.



**Species:** *Himantopus mexicanus*

**Length Range:** 36 - 39 cm (14 - 15.5 in)

**Weight:** 167 g (5.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 64 - 69 cm (25 - 27 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## AMERICAN WOODCOCK

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** American Woodcock: Medium, stocky sandpiper with buff-brown underparts and dark-streaked gray-brown upperparts. Head shows black bars rather than the stripes of most other sandpipers. Eyes are black and very large; bill is dull yellow with a black tip and is long and stout. Pale gray legs and feet.

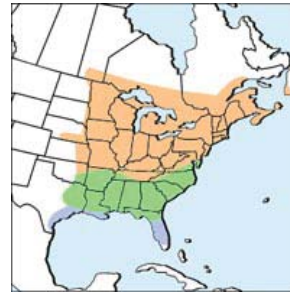
**Foraging and Feeding:** American Woodcock: Feeds by probing in soft soil with its long sensitive bill. Eats primarily earthworms but also burrowing insect larvae. May rock gently back and forth while feeding, a behavior that is thought to startle worms so they move.



**Breeding and Nesting:** American Woodcock: Famous for the male's elaborate courtship flights that are called "sky dances." Every evening and sunrise for months, males gather in open wet fields to launch into high twisting flights with musical twittering notes and chirping calls. Females visit these dancing grounds and mate with one of the males, then nest solitarily on the ground in overgrown fields. Lays four buff or red brown eggs spotted with brown and purple. Incubation is 20-22 days, and chicks leave the nest within hours of hatching, and start feeding themselves after the first week.

**Flight Pattern:** If flushed suddenly from the ground the woodcock will rise vertically with noisy twittering wings, then fly off with rapid, zigzagging flight. Courtship flight involves an upward spiraling flight then rapid fluttering descent.

**Range and Habitat:** American Woodcock: Found in open woodlands and moist overgrown fields from southern Canada to the Gulf Coast.



**Species:** *Scolopax minor*

**Length Range:** 28 cm (11 in)

**Weight:** 176 g (6.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 46 cm (18 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BAIRD'S SANDPIPER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Baird's Sandpiper: Medium sandpiper with scaled, gray-brown upperparts, white underparts, and dark-spotted, gray-brown breast. Crown, face, and neck are buff with fine, dark brown streaks. Rump is white with dark central stripe extending through the center of gray-brown tail. Black legs and feet.

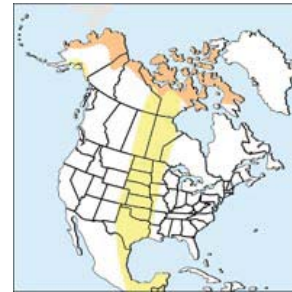
**Foraging and Feeding:** Baird's Sandpiper: Diet consists primarily of insects, spiders, and small crustaceans; forages by picking food items off relatively dry substrates such as baked mud, sand, or grass.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Baird's Sandpiper: Four dark brown-spotted, pink to olive eggs are laid in a small hollow on dry tundra. Both parents incubate eggs for 22 days. Young fly in 16 to 20 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Baird's Sandpiper: Breeds in the Arctic from eastern Siberia and Alaska to northwestern Greenland. Spends winters in South America, migrating mostly through the interior of North America; uncommon on Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Preferred habitats include freshwater marshes, riverbanks, and lakesides; less frequent on coastal and brackish marshes and adjacent grasslands.



**Species:** *Calidris bairdii*

**Length Range:** 18 - 20 cm (7 - 8 in)

**Weight:** 40 g (1.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 38 - 41 cm (15 - 16 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Medium sandpiper, buff wash over entire body except for white vent. Upperparts are black-spotted and streaked, underparts are slightly scaled. Shows white wing linings in flight. Has white eye-ring and black bill. Legs are yellow. Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

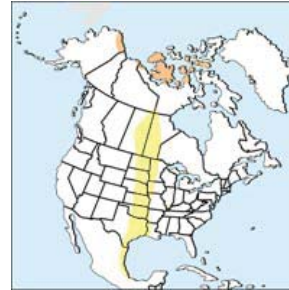
**Foraging and Feeding:** Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Diet includes insects, spiders, and seeds. Usually forages on the ground in grassy fields; rarely forages beside water.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Four white, buff, or olive eggs with brown blotches are laid on the ground in a small cup of vegetation lined with grass or moss. Incubation ranges from 19 to 21 days and is carried out by the female; young fly at about 21 days old.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Breeds in Alaska and western Canadian Arctic, migrating through the midwest and occurring rarely on the Atlantic or Pacific coasts. Preferred habitats include grasslands and prairies, plowed fields, turf farms, wet rice fields; nests on Arctic tundra.



**Species:** *Tryngites subruficollis*

**Length Range:** 19 - 22 cm (7.5 - 8.5 in)

**Weight:** 71 g (2.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 41 - 43 cm (16 - 17 in)

**Breeding Type:** Promiscuous

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## DUNLIN

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Dunlin: Medium-sized sandpiper with black-streaked, red-brown upperparts, conspicuous black belly patch, and streaked breast. The black bill is long and slightly decurved. Legs and feet are black. Wades in shallows and uses bill to probe and pick up food. Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

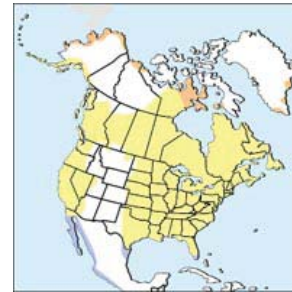
**Foraging and Feeding:** Dunlin: Diet consists of insects, marine worms, small crustaceans, snails, and small fish. Wades in shallows and uses its bill to probe and pick up food; probes with a rapid up and down stitching motion.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Dunlin: Four olive, blue green or buff eggs marked with brown and gray are laid in a grass clump on a dry hummock on the open tundra. Incubation ranges from 20 to 23 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Dunlin: Breeds from western and northern Alaska east to Hudson Bay. Spends winters along coasts from southern Alaska and Massachusetts southward; also in Eurasia. Nests on tundra and winters on beaches, mudflats, sand flats, inland lakes, and river shores.



**Species:** *Calidris alpina*

**Length Range:** 19 - 22 cm (7.5 - 8.5 in)

**Weight:** 54 g (1.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 37 - 40 cm (14.5 - 15.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## GREATER YELLOWLEGS

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Greater Yellowlegs: Large sandpiper with mottled brown, gray, and white upperparts. Underparts are white with dark streaks, spots. Bill is slightly upturned. Legs are long and bright yellow. Long barred tail and white rump are conspicuous in flight. Swift direct flight, sometimes at great heights.

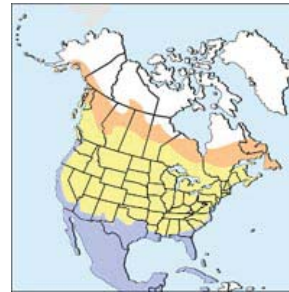
**Foraging and Feeding:** Greater Yellowlegs: Eats small aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, small fish, frogs, seeds, and berries. Forages in shallow water and mudflats; sometimes snatches insects out of the air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Greater Yellowlegs: Three to four brown and gray blotched, buff eggs are laid in a slight ground depression in a damp open spot. Eggs are incubated for 23 days by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering mothlike flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Greater Yellowlegs: Breeds from south-central Alaska to Newfoundland. Spends winters mainly along coasts from Washington State and Virginia southward, and along the Gulf coast. Breeds on tundra and marshy ground; frequents pools, lakeshores, and tidal mudflats on migration.



**Species:** *Tringa melanoleuca*

**Length Range:** 36 cm (14 in)

**Weight:** 170 g (6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 58 - 66 cm (23 - 26 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## LEAST SANDPIPER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Least Sandpiper: Small sandpiper, brown-scaled upperparts, rust-brown crown. Breast, throat are dark-spotted; belly, undertail are white. Wings have thin, white stripes visible in flight. Black line on rump extends onto tail. Legs and feet are yellow-green. Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

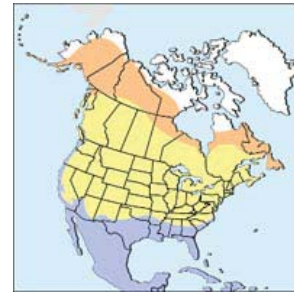
**Foraging and Feeding:** Least Sandpiper: Feeds on insects, seeds, and aquatic invertebrates; also eats crustaceans, marine worms, and mollusks on the coast. Usually feeds in a communal area distant from nesting grounds; forages by gleaning and probing on mudflats and beaches.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Least Sandpiper: Three or four dark brown-spotted, olive pink or buff eggs are laid in a ground depression lined with grass and moss. Incubation ranges from 19 to 23 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Least Sandpiper: Breeds from Alaska to Labrador and, in the east, south to Nova Scotia and, recently, Massachusetts. Spends winters from the southern U.S. to central South America and the West Indies. Frequents sandy beaches and exposed tidal flats.



**Species:** *Calidris minutilla*

**Length Range:** 15 cm (6 in)

**Weight:** 23 g (0.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 28 - 30 cm (11 - 12 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## LESSER YELLOWLEGS

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Lesser Yellowlegs: Large sandpiper with gray and black mottled upperparts, white underparts and streaked upper breast and sides. Bill is straight and uniformly dark gray. White lower rump and dark-barred tail are visible in flight. Legs are long and yellow. Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Lesser Yellowlegs: Feeds on aquatic insects and other invertebrates; usually forages on mudflats or in shallow water.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Lesser Yellowlegs: Three to four buff to yellow or gray eggs with brown blotches are laid on a pile of leaves and vegetation near water. Incubation ranges from 22 to 23 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Lesser Yellowlegs: Breeds from western Alaska and Canada east to western Quebec. Spends winters on coasts from southern California and Virginia southward, and along the Gulf coast. Preferred habitats include coastal mudflats, pans and lagoons, inland lakes, ponds, rivers, sewage works, and flooded grasslands.



**Species:** *Tringa flavipes*

**Length Range:** 25 - 28 cm (10 - 11 in)

**Weight:** 82 g (2.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 48 - 56 cm (19 - 22 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked



## LONG-BILLED CURLEW

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Long-billed Curlew: Very large sandpiper with brown mottled upperparts, buff-brown underparts with dark streaks and spots. Bill is very long, decurved. Cinnamon-brown underwings visible in flight. Feeds by probing mud with bill or dunking head under water. Direct flight, steady, strong wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Long-billed Curlew: Feeds on insects such as grasshoppers, beetles, and butterflies, worms, crustaceans, and mollusks; also takes small vertebrates, including the eggs and young of other birds.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Long-billed Curlew: Three to five brown and olive spotted, pale olive buff eggs are laid in a grass-lined nest built in a ground hollow. Incubation ranges from 27 to 30 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Steady, strong wing beats in direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Long-billed Curlew: Breeds from southern Canada to northern California, Utah, northern New Mexico, and Texas. Spends winters from California, Texas, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Florida southward. Breeding habitat includes plains and prairies. During migration, frequents lake and river shores, mudflats, salt marshes, and sandy beaches.



**Species:** *Numenius americanus*

**Length Range:** 58 cm (23 in)

**Weight:** 544 g (19.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 91 - 102 cm (36 - 40 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial.  
Semicolonial

**Breeding Population:** Widespread

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Long-billed Dowitcher: Large, stocky sandpiper with dark, mottled upperparts, dark cap and eyestripe, short white eyebrow, and red-brown underparts with lightly barred flanks. Bill is long, dark, and dagger like. Legs and feet are yellow-green. Swift direct flight, rapid wing beats.

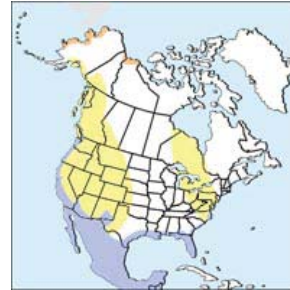
**Foraging and Feeding:** Long-billed Dowitcher: Feeds primarily on insect larvae, earthworms, crustaceans, moss, plant parts, seeds, and snails. Probes in shallow water and on mudflats with a fast, repetitive up-down motion of its bill; frequently plunges head below the water.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Long-billed Dowitcher: Four brown to olive eggs with brown and gray blotches are laid in a shallow, elevated ground scrape lined with grass and moss, often built near water. Eggs are incubated for 20 days and is carried out by both parents during the first week, and then just by the male.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Long-billed Dowitcher: Breeds in western Alaska and northwestern Canada. Spends winters along the coast from Washington and Virginia south to Guatemala. During breeding season lives on tundra; found on mudflats, marshes, and edges of freshwater ponds and marshes during winter.



**Species:** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

**Length Range:** 28 - 32 cm (11 - 12.5 in)

**Weight:** 99 g (3.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 46 - 51 cm (18 - 20 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Small colonies

**Breeding Population:** Common to uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

## MARBLED GODWIT

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Marbled Godwit: Large sandpiper with black-marked, dark brown upperparts, lightly barred, chestnut-brown underparts. Long pink bill has black tip, is slightly upcurved. Pale brown underwings visible in flight. Feeds on crustaceans, mollusks, worms, insects, seeds, berries. Swift and direct flight.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Marbled Godwit: Eats worms, mollusks, crustaceans, and insects. Forages by probing on mudflats and in shallow water; also chases insects in shoreline vegetation.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Marbled Godwit: Three to five green to olive eggs lightly marked with brown are laid in a slight ground depression lined with grass. Incubation ranges from 21 to 23 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Marbled Godwit: Breeds on the central plains from Saskatchewan to Minnesota. Spends winters on the coast from California and Virginia southward and along the Gulf coast. During breeding season, found on grassy plains and during migration, visits salt marshes, tidal creeks, mudflats, and sea beaches.



**Species:** *Limosa fedoa*

**Length Range:** 46 - 48 cm (18 - 19 in)

**Weight:** 320 g (11.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 81 cm (32 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Barred or banded

## PECTORAL SANDPIPER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Pectoral Sandpiper: Medium sandpiper with scaled, dark brown upperparts, heavily streaked brown breast, plain white belly. Crown, eyestripe are dark brown. Faint wing-bar and black rump with white edges are visible in flight. Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats. Zigzag pattern when flushed.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Pectoral Sandpiper: Feeds mainly on insects, also eats small crustaceans, seeds, and spiders.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Pectoral Sandpiper: Four white to olive buff eggs blotched with dark brown are laid in a cup of grass and leaves hidden on the ground. Female incubates the eggs for 21 to 23 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Pectoral Sandpiper: Breeds on arctic tundra from Alaska to Hudson Bay; also found in Siberia. Spends winters in South America. Preferred habitats include marshes and grassy pools.



**Species:** *Calidris melanotos*

**Length Range:** 20 - 23 cm (8 - 9 in)

**Weight:** 99 g (3.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 38 - 41 cm (15 - 16 in)

**Breeding Type:** Promiscuous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## PURPLE SANDPIPER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Purple Sandpiper: Medium sandpiper, upperparts are scaled gray-brown, crown is dark, and white underparts are streaked. Bill is dark with a yellow base and slightly decurved. Wings have large white stripes visible in flight; tail has dark central stripe above and is white below.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Purple Sandpiper: Picks food from rocks among crashing waves. Feeds mainly on crustaceans, insects, and small mollusks.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Purple Sandpiper: Lays three to four olive buff eggs blotched with brown or black in a small hollow in the ground. Male makes up to 5 nest scrapes, female finishes one and may line it with bits of vegetation. Incubation takes about 21 to 22 days and is carried out by both sexes. Young fly at 21 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Flies swiftly with shallow wingbeats low over water.

**Range and Habitat:** Purple Sandpiper: Breeds on rocky tundra in far northern Canada, winters on rocky shorelines along the entire Atlantic Coast.



**Species:** *Calidris maritima*

**Length Range:** 23 cm (9 in)

**Weight:** 77 g (2.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 43 cm (17 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## RED KNOT

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Red Knot: Medium-sized sandpiper with black, brown and gray scaled upperparts, red-brown face, neck, breast and sides, and white lower belly. Wings show white bars in flight. Bill is black and slightly curved. Eats insects, larvae, mollusks and crabs. Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Red Knot: Feeds on marine and freshwater invertebrates such as aquatic insects, small mollusks, and various kinds of worms; also eats seeds. Forages on the ground, probing sandy beaches with its bill.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Red Knot: Three to four pale olive buff eggs spotted with brown and black are laid in a ground depression lined with lichens, leaves, and moss, usually built near water. Incubation ranges from 21 to 23 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Red Knot: Breeds on islands in the arctic regions of Canada. Spends winters along Pacific and Atlantic coasts from California and Massachusetts south to South America; also found in Europe and Asia. Nests on tundra; found on tidal flats, rocky shores, and beaches during migration and winter.



**Species:** *Calidris canutus*

**Length Range:** 25 - 28 cm (10 - 11 in)

**Weight:** 125 g (4.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 51 cm (20 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Gregarious

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## RUDDY TURNSTONE

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Ruddy Turnstone: Medium sandpiper, red-brown upperparts, white rump and underparts. Face and breast are black-marked. Bill is short, dark, and slightly upturned. Wings have a unique brown, black, and white pattern visible in flight. Tail is white with black terminal band. Legs and feet are orange.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Ruddy Turnstone: Feeds mainly on insects, particularly midges, and some plant material in summer. Eats mollusks, crustaceans, and even carrion in winter; forages on seashores, turning over stones and other debris with its bill.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Ruddy Turnstone: Two to four olive to olive buff eggs marked with brown and black are laid in a ground hollow lined with bits of grass and dead leaves, often built under a low bush. Incubation ranges from 21 to 23 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Ruddy Turnstone: Breeds on coastal tundra in northwestern Alaska and on islands of Canadian Arctic. Spends winters on coasts from Connecticut and Oregon southward to the Gulf Coast; also found in Eurasia.



**Species:** *Arenaria interpres*

**Length Range:** 23 - 25 cm (9 - 10 in)

**Weight:** 111 g (3.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 43 - 46 cm (17 - 18 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## SANDERLING

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Sanderling: Medium-sized sandpiper with dark-spotted, rufous upperparts, breast and white underparts. Wings have conspicuous white stripes visible in flight. Bill, legs, and feet are black. Feeds on crustaceans, mollusks, isopods, worms, plants and insects. Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Sanderling: In spring, diet includes insects, spiders, and vegetation; probes for marine invertebrates within ½ inch of mud surface.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Sanderling: Three to four black and brown-spotted, olive green or brown eggs are laid in a ground hollow lined with grass and lichens. Incubation ranges from 24 to 31 days and is carried out by the male.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Sanderling: Breeds in high Arctic tundra from Alaska eastward to Baffin Island. Spends winters along coasts from British Columbia and Massachusetts southward to southern South America. Preferred habitats include ocean beaches, sandbars, mudflats, and lake and river shorelines.



**Species:** *Calidris alba*

**Length Range:** 20 cm (8 in)

**Weight:** 119 g (4.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 38 cm (15 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial.  
Polyandrous

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled



## SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Semipalmated Sandpiper: Small sandpiper with scaled gray-brown upperparts, white underparts, and fine streaks on the breast and sides. The black bill is short, stout and straight. Feeds on insects, worms, small mollusks and crustaceans. Legs and feet are black. Swift flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Semipalmated Sandpiper: Feeds on insects and crustaceans; forages on mudflats.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Semipalmated Sandpiper: Two to four brown blotched, white to olive buff eggs are laid in a ground hollow lined with grass. Incubation ranges from 18 to 22 days and is carried out by both parents. Female abandons young after few days. First flight is at 14 to 19 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Semipalmated Sandpiper: Breeds in lower Arctic regions from western Alaska to Labrador. Migrates through the interior and along the Atlantic coast to reach its wintering grounds, which extend from the southern U.S. to South America. Preferred habitats include shorelines and mudflats.



**Species:** *Calidris pusilla*

**Length Range:** 15 - 18 cm (6 - 7 in)

**Weight:** 31 g (1.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 28 - 33 cm (11 - 13 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Short-billed Dowitcher Breeding Adult: Large sandpiper, upperparts mottled gray, black, brown and red-brown, white rump, red-brown underparts with heavy spots, and bars (east and west coast birds have heavier barred and spotted, paler underparts and often show white bellies). Strong direct flight.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Short-billed Dowitcher: Diet consists mostly of insects, but also eats eggs of king and horseshoe crabs; probes mud by jabbing its long bill up and down.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Short-billed Dowitcher: Four brown-speckled, buff green or brown eggs are laid in a ground depression lined with grass and moss. Eggs are incubated for 21 days by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong powerful direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Short-billed Dowitcher: Breeds in southern Alaska, central interior Canada, and northern Quebec. Spends winters along coasts of California and Virginia southward. Preferred habitats include mudflats, creeks, salt marshes, and tidal estuaries.



**Species:** *Limnodromus griseus*

**Length Range:** 27 - 30 cm (10.5 - 12 in)

**Weight:** 108 g (3.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 46 - 56 cm (18 - 22 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## SOLITARY SANDPIPER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Solitary Sandpiper: Medium sandpiper, pale-spotted, dark brown back and rump, white underparts with streaks on neck and sides. Head is dark, eye-ring is bold white. Tail is black with conspicuous black-and-white barred edges. Bill, legs, and feet are olive-green. Direct flight is light and buoyant.

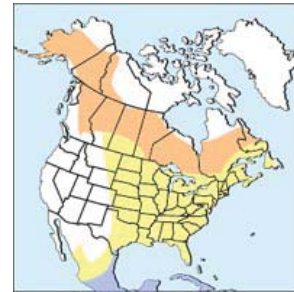
**Foraging and Feeding:** Solitary Sandpiper: Feeds mostly on terrestrial and aquatic insects, spiders, frogs, worms, and crustaceans. Forages in shallow water with its pliable, sensitive-tipped bill; wades to breast level and actively picks and jabs at prey.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Solitary Sandpiper: Four to five olive eggs marked with brown are laid in an abandoned Rusty Blackbird, Bohemian Waxwing, Gray Jay, or American Robin nest; occasionally builds own cup-shaped nest. Incubation ranges from 23 to 24 days and is carried out by the female. Young fly at 17 to 20 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Light buoyant swallowlike direct flight Often zigzags on takeoff.

**Range and Habitat:** Solitary Sandpiper: Breeds in wooded northland of Canada and Alaska. Spends winters from the southern states and the West Indies south to central South America. Preferred habitats include swampy margins of brackish pools, freshwater ponds, and woodland streams.



**Species:** *Tringa solitaria*

**Length Range:** 20 - 23 cm (8 - 9 in)

**Weight:** 48 g (1.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 38 - 43 cm (15 - 17 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common on breeding grounds

**Back Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## SPOTTED SANDPIPER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Spotted Sandpiper: Medium sandpiper, olive-brown upperparts, white underparts with bold black spots. Eyestripe is white. Wings have white stripes visible in flight. Tail is barred. Dull yellow legs. Low direct flight, wings flap in shallow arcs, producing clipped, stiff wing beats on drooping wings.

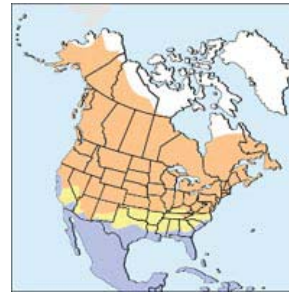
**Foraging and Feeding:** Spotted Sandpiper: Eats insects, fish, worms, mollusks, crustaceans, and spiders. Forages on the ground or in shallow water; often dips its food in the water before eating.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Spotted Sandpiper: Three to five brown, green, pink or buff eggs blotched with brown are laid in a ground depression lined with grass or moss. Incubation ranges from 20 to 24 days and is carried out by the male.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight low over water.

**Range and Habitat:** Spotted Sandpiper: Breeds from northern Alaska and Canada across most of the continent to southern U.S. Spends winters along the Pacific coast south from British Columbia and across southern states south to South America. Preferred habitats include ponds, streams, and other waterways, both inland and along coasts.



**Species:** *Actitis macularia*

**Length Range:** 19 cm (7.5 in)

**Weight:** 40 g (1.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 33 - 36 cm (13 - 14 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester.  
Polyandrous

**Breeding Population:** Widespread

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## STILT SANDPIPER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Stilt Sandpiper: Medium sandpiper with gray-brown upperparts, white rump, heavily barred white underparts. Head has a dark cap, white eyebrows, and brown ear patches. Bill is long, black, and curved down at tip. Legs are long and gray-green. Powerful, direct flight on long, rapidly beating wings.

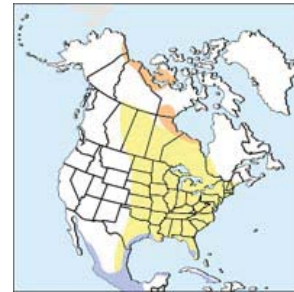
**Foraging and Feeding:** Stilt Sandpiper: Feeds on insects, small snails, and small seeds; forages by probing in soft mud on mudflats or while wading in shallow water.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Stilt Sandpiper: Four cream, pale green or olive eggs spotted with brown are laid in a ground nest made of grass and built in a relatively open area on dry tundra; occasionally nests next to a shrub. Incubation ranges from 19 to 21 days and is carried out by both parents. Young fly at 17 to 18 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight with powerful rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Stilt Sandpiper: Breeds from northeastern Alaska to northeastern Manitoba and northernmost Ontario. Spends winters in South America and casually north to Florida and southern California. Preferred habitats include sedge meadows interrupted by old beach ridges, eskers, or other elevated areas dominated by dwarf birch, heaths, willows, crowberries, and dryads.



**Species:** *Calidris himantopus*

**Length Range:** 19 - 22 cm (7.5 - 8.5 in)

**Weight:** 60 g (2.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 38 - 43 cm (15 - 17 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Back Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Barred or banded

## UPLAND SANDPIPER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Upland Sandpiper: Large bird, dark-spotted, brown upperparts, black rump. White chin, neck, throat. Breast and sides streaked with dark chevrons, white belly. Dark cap, white eye-rings. Bill is thin, olive-brown, decurved at tip. Wedge-shaped tail has dark center and barred edges visible in flight.

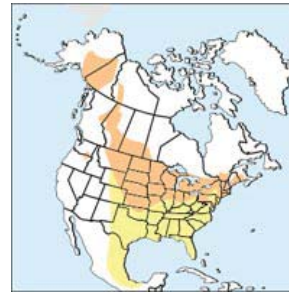
**Foraging and Feeding:** Upland Sandpiper: Feeds on insects, centipedes, millipedes, spiders, earthworms, and snails; occasionally eats waste grains and other seeds.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Upland Sandpiper: Four pale buff to pink buff eggs, speckled with red brown, are laid in a ground depression lined with dry grass. Incubation ranges from 21 to 27 days and is carried out by both parents. Young fly at about 30 to 31 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Upland Sandpiper: Breeds from central Maine west through Canada to southern Alaska; southeast to northern Utah, northwestern Oklahoma, and northern Texas, and east to central Tennessee, Virginia, and Maryland. Spends winters in South America from southern Brazil to south-central Argentina. Preferred habitats include large fallow fields, pastures, and grassy areas.



**Species:** *Bartramia longicauda*

**Length Range:** 28 - 33 cm (11 - 13 in)

**Weight:** 136 g (4.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 43 - 51 cm (17 - 20 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WESTERN SANDPIPER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Western Sandpiper: Small sandpiper, chestnut-brown, scaled upperparts, white underparts dotted with rows of dark chevrons. Head streaked with brown wash on face. Bill is dark and decurved at tip. Thin white stripes visible on dark wings in flight. Black legs and feet, partial webbing between toes.

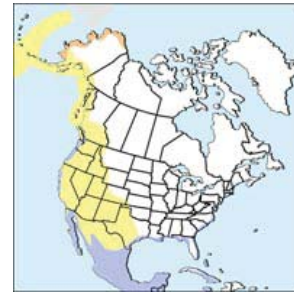
**Foraging and Feeding:** Western Sandpiper: Diet consists of small crustaceans, minnows, earthworms, and aquatic insects. Probes mudflats and shallows for prey.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Western Sandpiper: Three to five red brown-spotted, buff eggs are laid in a grass-lined depression on either wet or dry tundra. Incubation ranges from 18 to 21 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Western Sandpiper: Breeds in northern and western Alaska. Spends winters mainly along the coast from California and Virginia southward to South America. Preferred habitats include shores, mudflats, grassy pools, and wet meadows.



**Species:** *Calidris mauri*

**Length Range:** 15 - 18 cm (6 - 7 in)

**Weight:** 23 g (0.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 30 - 36 cm (12 - 14 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Common to abundant

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## WHIMBREL

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Whimbrel: Large, long-legged sandpiper, brown and white mottled upperparts and buff underparts with faint streaks on sides and flanks. Crown is white-striped black and neck is long and streaked. Bill is long, black, and decurved. Tail and rump are brown and black barred. Legs and feet are blue-gray.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Whimbrel: Feeds on insects, snails, slugs, crabs, shrimp, mollusks, and worms. Probes deeply into mud and moves as it feeds. Also picks off food found on the ground. Sometimes takes large prey, tearing it into pieces small enough to eat.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Whimbrel: Three to five olive to buff eggs tinted with brown and lavender are laid in a shallow depression lined with soft grasses, mosses, and lichens. Both parents incubate the eggs for about 28 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with strong fast wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Whimbrel: Breeds in the Arctic and winters in Africa, southern North America, South America, and south Asia. Preferred habitats include tundra, marshes, prairies, shorelines, and mud flats.



**Species:** *Numenius phaeopus*

**Length Range:** 43 - 46 cm (17 - 18 in)

**Weight:** 354 g (12.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 79 - 84 cm (31 - 33 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Belly Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled



## WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** White-rumped Sandpiper: Small sandpiper, brown and black scaled upperparts, distinct white rump. Neck and upper breast are white with brown streaks. Streaked head has white eyebrows, dark eyestripes. Thin white stripes on dark wings visible in flight. Tail is rounded and black. Dark legs and feet.

**Foraging and Feeding:** White-rumped Sandpiper: Feeds on insects, marine worms, mollusks, crustaceans, leaches, seeds, and other vegetation.



**Breeding and Nesting:** White-rumped Sandpiper: Three to four brown marked, olive to light green eggs are laid in a ground nest made of lichens, moss, and leaves. Incubation ranges from 21 to 22 days and is carried out by the female. Young fly at 16 to 17 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight with deep rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** White-rumped Sandpiper: Breeds in northern Alaska and Canadian Arctic. Long-distance migrant, wintering as far south as the outer islands of Antarctica. During migration, found in mudflats, flooded fields, shallow marshes, beaches, and sandbars.



**Species:** *Calidris fuscicollis*

**Length Range:** 18 - 20 cm (7 - 8 in)

**Weight:** 34 g (1.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 36 - 41 cm (14 - 16 in)

**Breeding Type:** Polygamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## WILLET

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Willet: Large sandpiper with mottled gray-brown upperparts, white rump and lightly streaked and barred white underparts. Broad white stripes on black wings are visible in flight. Tail is white with dark brown tip. Legs are blue-gray. Flight is short and low, alternates rapid wing beats with glides.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Willet: Feeds on mollusks, crustaceans, insects, and small fish; forages by picking food from shallows and probing mud with tip of its bill.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Willet: Four to five brown marked, gray to pale olive eggs are laid in a nest lined with weeds or bits of shell built in a depression on open ground or in a grass clump. Incubation ranges from 22 to 29 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Short low flight with series of rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Willet: Breeds from central Canada to northeastern California and Nevada and along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts south from Nova Scotia. Spends winters along coasts from Oregon and the Carolinas southward. Preferred habitats include mud banks, tides, coasts and coastal lagoons.



**Species:** *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*  
**Length Range:** 33 - 41 cm (13 - 16 in)  
**Weight:** 215 g (7.6 oz)  
**Wingspan Range:** 61 - 79 cm (24 - 31 in)  
**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Semicolonial

**Back Pattern:** Mottled  
**Belly Pattern:** Solid  
**Breast Pattern:** Mottled

## WILSON'S PHALAROPE

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Wilson's Phalarope: Medium sandpiper, gray-brown upperparts, red-brown streaks on back, shoulders. White underparts with red-brown markings on upper sides. Gray crown, white face, black eye-line that continues down neck. Black needle-like bill. Gray wings with dark flight feathers. White tail, rump.

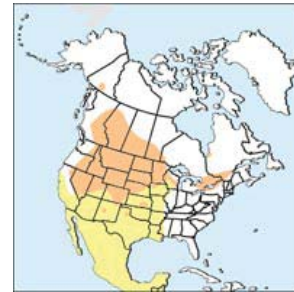
**Foraging and Feeding:** Wilson's Phalarope: Feeds on larvae of mosquitoes and crane flies, brine shrimp, and seeds of various aquatic plants. Generally forages by probing mud with its bill; also forages while swimming, sometimes in circles to create a vortex, bringing small invertebrates to the surface.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Wilson's Phalarope: Four buff eggs with brown blotches are laid in a ground scrape lined with fine grass. Incubation ranges from 18 to 21 days and is carried out by the male.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Wilson's Phalarope: Breeds in wetlands scattered throughout interior western North America and winters in South America. Preferred habitats include grassy borders of shallow lakes, marshes, reservoirs, and inland saltwater lakes. Found in inland saline lakes of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru during winter.



**Species:** *Phalaropus tricolor*

**Length Range:** 20 - 23 cm (8 - 9 in)

**Weight:** 68 g (2.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 36 - 41 cm (14 - 16 in)

**Breeding Type:** Loose colonies. May be polygamous

**Breeding Population:** Declining slightly, Abundant to very common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WILSON'S SNIPE

Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)

**General:** Wilson's Snipe: Medium sandpiper, brown and black mottled upperparts, buff stripes on back. White underparts, dark bars on sides, flanks. Heavily streaked head, neck, breast. Yellow-green legs, feet. Formerly considered a subspecies of the Common Snipe, which has 14 tail feathers to the Wilson's 16.

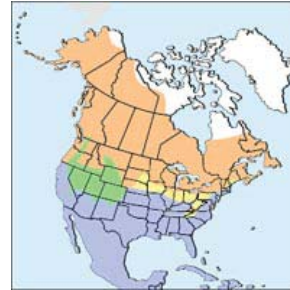
**Foraging and Feeding:** Wilson's Snipe: Feeds on insects and earthworms taken from mud by probing with its long bill.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Wilson's Snipe: Four olive to brown eggs with brown splotches and spots are laid in a ground scrape lined with grass. Incubation ranges from 18 to 20 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Zigzag flight on takeoff followed by direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Wilson's Snipe: Breeds in northern U.S. and Canada. Spends winters as far south as northern South America. Prefers freshwater marshes and swamps, frequents open landscapes.



**Species:** *Gallinago gallinago*

**Length Range:** 25 - 28 cm (10 - 11 in)

**Weight:** 128 g (4.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 43 - 51 cm (17 - 20 in)

**Breeding Type:** Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Declining

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## BLACK SKIMMER

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Black Skimmer: Odd-looking, tern-like bird with black upperparts and white underparts. Bright red bill with black tip, lower mandible longer than upper. Long, slim wings are dark above and silver-gray below. Tail is white with black central feathers. Legs, feet are red. Direct flight.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Black Skimmer: Feeds on fish and shrimp. Forages by flying low with open bill, dipping the lower mandible into the water and slicing through the surface; upon sensing a fish, the bird snaps its upper bill shut, seizing its prey.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Black Skimmer: Four to five blue or pink eggs with brown, lavender, and gray marks are laid in a simple scrape on the ground or depression in vegetation. Incubation ranges from 21 to 23 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Buoyant graceful flight with nearly constant wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Black Skimmer: Breeds along Atlantic and Gulf coasts from Massachusetts and Long Island to Florida and Texas. Spends winters north to southern California and Virginia; also in Central and South America. Preferred habitats include sandy or gravelly bars and beaches, shallow bays, estuaries, and salt marsh pools.



**Species:** *Rynchops niger*

**Length Range:** 46 - 48 cm (18 - 19 in)

**Weight:** 349 g (12.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 107 - 127 cm (42 - 50 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Small colonies

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLACK TERN

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Black Tern: Small tern with black head, bill and underparts. Back, wings, and tail are silver-gray. Vent is white; legs and feet are dark red but may appear black. Bouyant direct flight with deep rapid wing beats, hovers for insects. Uneven foraging flight. Plunge dives on occasion.

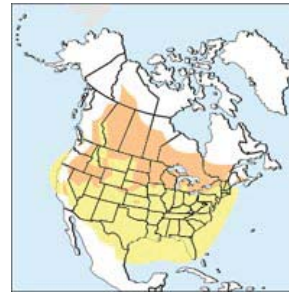
**Foraging and Feeding:** Black Tern: Feeds on insects, crayfish, small mollusks, and fish. Forages by seizing prey at or near the water surface, darting quickly into the water from the air with the bill pointed down; also catches insects in air, especially during swarms.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Black Tern: Two to four buff to olive eggs with black, brown and green blotches are laid in a floating nest made of dead plants. Nest is sometimes built on top of a muskrat house. Incubation ranges from 17 to 22 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Buoyant flight with steady fast wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Black Tern: Nests across northern U.S. and southern Canada; spends winters in South America. Preferred habitats include lakes, ponds, marshes, and coastal areas.



**Species:** *Chlidonias niger*

**Length Range:** 23 - 25 cm (9 - 10 in)

**Weight:** 65 g (2.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 51 - 61 cm (20 - 24 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BONAPARTE'S GULL

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Bonaparte's Gull: Medium gull with black head and bill, gray back and wings, white underparts and tail. White outer primaries with black trailing edges are visible in flight. Legs are red-orange. Catches fish by wading and diving. Light and direct flight with rapid wing beat, ternlike.

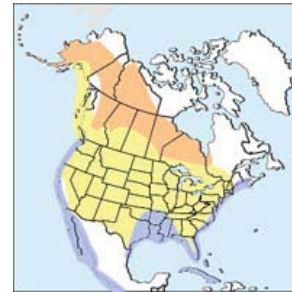
**Foraging and Feeding:** Bonaparte's Gull: Feeds mostly on insects picked from the water surface or rotting vegetation along shorelines during breeding season. Diet shifts to small fish, crustaceans, marine worms, and other invertebrates in winter. Forages by picking food from the water surface while swimming or flying with dangling feet; also makes shallow plunge dives.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Bonaparte's Gull: Two to four brown blotched, olive to buff eggs are laid in a nest made of sticks and twigs, lined with grass and moss, and built near or over water; typically builds nest in a tree rather than on the ground. Both parents incubate eggs for 24 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Light buoyant flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Bonaparte's Gull: Breeds across northern North America from western Alaska to Hudson Bay. Spends winters along Atlantic and Pacific coasts and Gulf of Mexico. Preferred habitats include large lakes, rivers, and marshlands.



**Species:** *Larus philadelphia*

**Length Range:** 30 - 36 cm (12 - 14 in)

**Weight:** 213 g (7.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 84 - 91 cm (33 - 36 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester. Small colonies

**Breeding Population:** Stable and common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## CASPIAN TERN

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Caspian Tern: Large, stocky tern with pale gray upperparts, white underparts. Cap is black and may appear weakly crested; large bill is coral-red. Undersides of primaries are gray. Tail is white, relatively short, and slightly forked; legs are black. Hovers above water before diving.

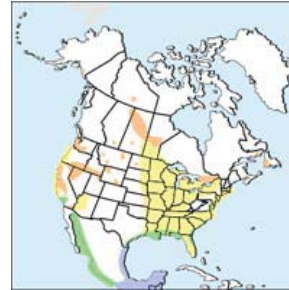
**Foraging and Feeding:** Caspian Tern: Eats mostly fish such as mullet and menhaden. Plunge dives or catches fish at surface while flying above; steals food from other birds.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Caspian Tern: One to five brown marked, pink buff eggs are laid in a shallow depression in sand, often lined with shell fragments and grass. Incubation ranges from 20 to 28 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong flight. Swift graceful flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Caspian Tern: Breeds in scattered colonies from Mackenzie, Great Lakes, and Newfoundland south to the Gulf coast and Baja California. Spends winters north to California and North Carolina. Also breeds in Eurasia, Africa, and Australia. Preferred habitats include sandy or pebbly shores of lakes and large rivers and along coasts.



**Species:** *Hydroprogne caspia*

**Length Range:** 48 - 58 cm (19 - 23 in)

**Weight:** 635 g (22.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 127 - 140 cm (50 - 55 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial. Rarely solitary

**Breeding Population:** Stable

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## COMMON TERN

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Common Tern: Medium tern, medium gray upperparts, pale gray underparts, glossy black cap and nape. Wings are dark-tipped and have dark leading edge on forewing. Red bill is black-tipped. Legs are red and tail is deeply forked and elongated. Direct flight, hovers above water before diving for prey.

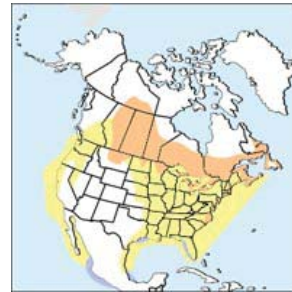
**Foraging and Feeding:** Common Tern: Feeds primarily on small fish up to four inches in length; also takes shrimp and aquatic insects; forages by striking the water in shallow plunge dives or skimming the surface.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Common Tern: One to three buff to brown eggs spotted with dark brown and black are laid in a simple scrape built above the high tide line in sand, gravel, shells, or seaweed, and lined with vegetation. Incubation ranges from 21 to 27 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Light buoyant flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Common Tern: Breeds in North America along the Atlantic coast from the northern Maritime Provinces of Canada to South Carolina, and occasionally in the Gulf of Mexico or on large inland lakes. Spends winters from southernmost breeding areas on the Atlantic coast to northern Ecuador and Brazil. Preferred habitats include sand and shell beaches, grassy uplands, and rocky inland shores.



**Species:** *Sterna hirundo*

**Length Range:** 33 - 41 cm (13 - 16 in)

**Weight:** 119 g (4.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 76 - 79 cm (30 - 31 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## FORSTER'S TERN

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Forster's Tern: Medium tern, pale gray upperparts, black cap, white underparts. Bill is orange, black tip. Wings are pale gray with paler primaries. Tail is pale gray, deeply forked with dark inner edge, white outer edge. Orange legs, feet. Hovers above water before diving for prey.

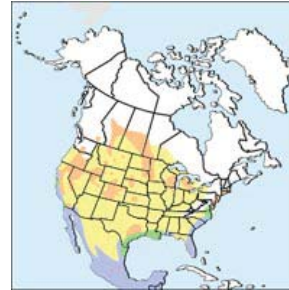
**Foraging and Feeding:** Forster's Tern: Diet consists mostly of fish, but also eats insects, small crustaceans, mollusks, frogs, and tadpoles. Catches fish at surface or by plunge diving into water from a perch or a hover; catches insects on the wing or on the water surface; reportedly eats dead fish and frogs exposed by receding ice; occasionally eats bird eggs.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Forster's Tern: One to four olive or buff eggs with brown or olive marks are laid on a large platform of dead grass, lined with finer grass, and usually built on a mass of dead marsh vegetation. Incubation ranges from 23 to 25 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Shallow slow graceful flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Forster's Tern: Breeds along the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to Texas and in interior Alberta and California east to the Great Lakes. Spends winters along the coasts from California and Virginia southward. In the west, prefers freshwater marshes, whereas in the east, prefers salt marshes.



**Species:** *Sterna forsteri*

**Length Range:** 36 - 38 cm (14 - 15 in)

**Weight:** 159 g (5.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 76 - 79 cm (30 - 31 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies

**Breeding Population:** Declining

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## FRANKLIN'S GULL

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Franklin's Gull: Medium gull, gray back, white underparts. Head is black, white eye-ring; bill is orange, black spot near tip. Wings are short with white-bordered or spotted black tips. The legs are red-orange. Strong direct flight with deep wing beats. Soars on thermals and updrafts.

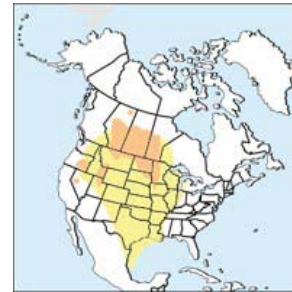
**Foraging and Feeding:** Franklin's Gull: Feeds mostly on insects in summer, also eats earthworms, crustaceans, mollusks, small fish, and seeds. Forages in agricultural fields and meadows for grasshoppers and cutworms; catches dragonflies, mayflies and other flying insects in mid-air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Franklin's Gull: Three buff, olive or brown eggs with brown and black markings are laid on a floating platform built above the water and lined with fine grass and plant down. Incubation ranges from 18 to 25 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight with deep rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Franklin's Gull: Breeds on marshes, sloughs, and wetlands around lakes from southern Canada to South Dakota and Iowa; also in scattered marshes in the west. Migrates to southeast and winters mainly along west coast of South America.



**Species:** *Larus pipixcan*

**Length Range:** 33 - 38 cm (13 - 15 in)

**Weight:** 281 g (9.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 91 cm (36 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## GLAUCOUS GULL

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Glaucous Gull: Large, white gull with pale gray back. Eyes are yellow. Bill is yellow with red spot on lower mandible. Wings are white-edged and white tipped. Legs and feet are pink. An active predator of seabird nesting colonies. Slow, steady wing beats. Soars on thermals and updrafts.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Glaucous Gull: Feeds mostly on eggs and young of other birds during summer; also eats fish, invertebrates, refuse, insects, and berries. Forages by wading, plunge diving, and stealing food from other seabirds.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Glaucous Gull: Two to three light brown or olive eggs with dark brown blotches are laid in a cliff nest lined with moss and grass. Incubation ranges from 27 to 28 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Soars on thermals and updrafts. Slow steady wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Glaucous Gull: Breeds in Alaska and northern Canada. Spends winters along the coast south to California (rarely) and Virginia; rarely found in the Great Lakes and the Gulf coast. Preferred habitats include shores of lakes, rivers, and coast, as well as refuse dumps and sewage outflows.



**Species:** *Larus hyperboreus*

**Length Range:** 66 - 76 cm (26 - 30 in)

**Weight:** 1542 g (54.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 142 - 152 cm (56 - 60 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## GULL-BILLED TERN

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Gull-billed Tern: Lightest North American tern. Black cap that extends below eyes, down nape; pale gray upperparts that are darker at the wingtips; short, stout black bill and black legs, feet; long wings with very long outer primaries. Direct flight with graceful, shallow wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Gull-billed Tern: Flies over farm fields or marshes to catch insects, its main diet. Over water, swoops to catch small prey; also eats frogs, crustaceans, and earthworms.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Gull-billed Tern: Monogamous; colonial or solitary. Often nest at periphery of other tern species' colonies. Nest on open ground, often concealed in debris among shells, built by both sexes; one to four pink buff to yellow eggs lightly spotted with dark brown. Incubation ranges from 22 to 23 days and is carried out by both sexes. Young fledge in 28-35 days. One brood per year.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with easy, graceful, shallow wingbeats.

**Range and Habitat:** Gull-billed Tern: Fairly common, but local; Salton Sea and San Diego County in California, and along Atlantic Coast.



**Species:** *Gelocheidon nilotica*

**Length Range:** 33 - 36 cm (13 - 14 in)

**Weight:** 232 g (8.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 84 - 86 cm (33 - 34 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial or solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common in range

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## HERRING GULL

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Herring Gull: Large gull, pale gray back and wings with black tips, white head, neck breast. White tail and underparts. Bill is yellow with red spot near tip; legs are pink. Strong steady flight with deep wing beats. Soars on thermals and updrafts. Most widespread North American Gull.

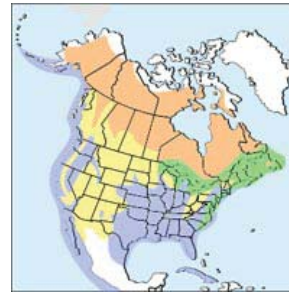
**Foraging and Feeding:** Herring Gull: Feeds mostly on aquatic invertebrates and small fish; gleans the ground for insects and worms; scavenges dead fish and garbage at landfills; also eats bird eggs and young.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Herring Gull: Two to three gray, green, blue, or brown eggs with brown, lavender, and black streaks are laid in a shallow ground scrape lined with plants and sticks. Incubation ranges from 23 to 27 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong steady flight with deep wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Herring Gull: Breeds from Alaska east across northern Canada to Maritime Provinces, south to British Columbia, north-central Canada, and Great Lakes, and along Atlantic coast to North Carolina. Winters in all but its northernmost breeding areas; also along coasts, rivers, and lakes in the southeast and west from southern Alaska south to Baja California; also found in Eurasia. Nests on open beaches, islands, or shorelines; stays on large lakes, wetlands, rivers, landfills and public areas during migration and winter.



**Species:** *Larus argentatus*

**Length Range:** 56 - 66 cm (22 - 26 in)

**Weight:** 1225 g (43.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 137 - 147 cm (54 - 58 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## LAUGHING GULL

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Laughing Gull: Medium gull, gray back, white underparts. Head has black hood, neck is white, and bill is red. Wings are gray and white-edged and black at tips; tail is white. Legs and feet are black. Slow flight with deep wing beats. Soars on updrafts. Named for its laughterlike call.

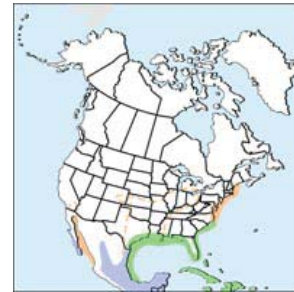
**Foraging and Feeding:** Laughing Gull: Feeds on fish, crabs, snails, insects, eggs, and chicks.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Laughing Gull: Three olive to buff eggs marked with brown are laid in a ground nest lined with grass and weed stems, and built on sand or in a salt marsh. Eggs are incubated for 20 days by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Slow flight with deep wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Laughing Gull: Lives mainly on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the U.S., ranging from Maine down through Florida and Texas. Spends winters regularly north to Virginia, in smaller numbers farther north. Found in salt marshes, lagoons, and coastal beaches.



**Species:** *Larus atricilla*

**Length Range:** 38 - 43 cm (15 - 17 in)

**Weight:** 326 g (11.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 102 - 107 cm (40 - 42 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## LEAST TERN

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Least Tern: Small tern, slate-gray upperparts, white underparts. Crown, nape are black and forehead is white. Black leading edge of outer wing conspicuous in flight. Tail is forked. Bill and feet are yellow. Fast smooth flight with rapid wing beats. Hovers briefly before dipping down to seize prey.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Least Tern: Feeds on small fish; forages by skimming the water surface or diving from the air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Least Tern: One to three buff to pale green eggs marked with black, gray or brown are laid in a scrape in sand, shells, or gravel and lined with small shells or other debris. Incubation ranges from 20 to 25 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Bouyant graceful fast flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Least Tern: Breeds along California coast, along rivers in Mississippi Valley, and coastally from Maine south to Florida and the Gulf coast. Spends winters from Baja California south to southern Mexico; also along coasts of South America. Preferred habitats include broad, level expanses of open sandy or gravelly beach, dredge spoil and other open shoreline areas, and more rarely, inland on broad river valley sandbars.



**Species:** *Sterna antillarum*

**Length Range:** 20 - 23 cm (8 - 9 in)

**Weight:** 43 g (1.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 51 cm (20 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common, but local

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## RING-BILLED GULL

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Ring-billed Gull: Medium gull with gray upperparts and white underparts. Head is white and bill is yellow with black ring near tip. Wings are gray above, tipped black with white spots, and white below. Yellow legs and feet. Strong direct flight on deep wing beats, soars on thermals.

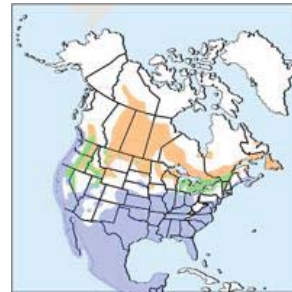
**Foraging and Feeding:** Ring-billed Gull: Mostly scavenges, but also eats fish, rodents, small aquatic animals, bird chicks and eggs, and sometimes grasshoppers. Frequents landfills, garbage dumps, plowed fields, and parking lots; follows ships for refuse dumped overboard. Forages on the ground or snatches food from the water surface while in flight.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Ring-billed Gull: Two to four olive to brown eggs marked with lavender, gray and brown are laid in a hollow on the ground, sometimes lined with grass or debris; nests in colonies, often with other gulls or terns, usually on islands in lakes. Incubation ranges from 21 to 28 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Soars on thermals. Strong direct flight with deep rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Ring-billed Gull: Breeds locally south to California, northern Great Plains, and southern prairie provinces of Canada, Great Lakes region, Canadian Maritimes, and northern New England. Spends winters on coasts, rivers, and lakes from southern New England south to Cuba, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast, and from British Columbia to southern Mexico.



**Species:** *Larus delawarensis*

**Length Range:** 46 - 48 cm (18 - 19 in)

**Weight:** 544 g (19.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 122 cm (48 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial. Some polygamous

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## ROYAL TERN

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Royal Tern: Large tern, pale gray upperparts; white face, neck, and underparts. Head has spiky, black crest and cap, and heavy, bright orange bill. Wings are black-tipped above and black-edged below; tail is deeply forked. Legs and feet are black. Hovers before plunge diving for prey.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Royal Tern: Feeds on small fish and aquatic invertebrates, including crabs, squid, and shrimp. Plunge dives to capture prey; occasionally pirates fish from other birds, especially Brown Pelicans.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Royal Tern: One to four creamy buff to brown eggs with red brown markings are laid in a depression in sand or a cup of dead grass, usually built on a sandy or rocky island. Incubation ranges from 20 to 31 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with deep steady wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Royal Tern: Breeds along coast from Maryland to Texas, wandering further south in summer. Spends winters from North Carolina and California southward. Prefers saltwater habitats such as coastal areas, beaches, bays, offshore areas; rarely found inland.



**Species:** *Sterna maxima*

**Length Range:** 46 - 53 cm (18 - 21 in)

**Weight:** 454 g (16 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 107 - 112 cm (42 - 44 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common, Declining

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## SANDWICH TERN

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Sandwich Tern: Only medium-sized tern with long slender black bill tipped with yellow; upperparts are very pale gray, nearly white, and underparts are white. The black crown has a short black crest. White tail is deeply forked; legs and feet are black. Direct flight, hovers before diving for fish.



**Foraging and Feeding:** Sandwich Tern: Prefers to feed at sea; Usually hovers, then dives from great heights to catch prey under water. Eats small fish, squid and shrimp.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Sandwich Tern: Monogamous; colonial, often mixed with other terns, especially Royal Terns. Simple nest on coastal beaches and islands, in the open above tidemark, unlined or lined with debris; One to three white to pink eggs with brown, black, and gray markings. Incubation ranges from 21 to 29 days and is carried out by both sexes; first flight at 28 to 32 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Powerful direct flight, strong and graceful with wings held slightly crooked. Usually hovers before diving for fish.

**Range and Habitat:** Sandwich Tern: Atlantic coast north to Virginia, and entire Gulf Coast.



**Species:** *Sterna sandvicensis*

**Length Range:** 34 - 41 cm (13.5 - 16 in)

**Weight:** 207 g (7.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 86 - 91 cm (34 - 36 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Common in range

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## THAYER'S GULL

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)

**General:** Thayer's Gull: Large gull, gray upperparts, white head, tail, underparts. Bill is yellow with red spot near the end of the lower mandible. Wings are gray with white-spotted, dark gray tips. Legs are dark pink. Direct flight, strong, steady wing beats, soars on thermals or updrafts.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Thayer's Gull: Diet consists mostly of carrion and fish, but also eats bird eggs; forages by plunge diving or walking along shorelines.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Thayer's Gull: Two to three gray, green, or brown eggs are laid in a ground depression lined with mosses, grass, or lichens, and sheltered by rocks or shrubbery. Incubation ranges from 23 to 27 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight with steady wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Thayer's Gull: Nests on high rocky cliffs in the Arctic islands and north coast of Northwest Territories. In winter, usually found in bays, meadows, and beaches on the Pacific coast, from central British Columbia to the Baja Peninsula, but occasionally wanders east to the Great Lakes.



**Species:** *Larus thayeri*

**Length Range:** 58 - 64 cm (23 - 25 in)

**Weight:** 1089 g (38.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 140 cm (55 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Yes but uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## PARASITIC JAEGER

Skuas and Jaegers (Stercorariidae)

**General:** Parasitic Jaeger Dark Morph: Medium jaeger with brown body, darker cap, and pale underwing patches near tips. Pale form has white underparts with brown breast band; intermediates between dark and light morphs occur. Diamond-shaped tail has elongated, pointed central feathers. Black bill, legs, feet.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Parasitic Jaeger Dark Morph: Eats small and medium-sized birds, bird eggs, insects, fish, rodents, and carrion. Hunts cooperatively, with one chasing a bird near the ground while another flies above to intercept dodges; also, one distracts incubating parent while the other makes off with an egg. Sometimes harasses other birds, forcing them to release small fish or other food held in their bills or crops.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Parasitic Jaeger Dark Morph: Two brown to green or blue eggs with brown spots are laid in a shallow ground depression lined with plant material. Incubation ranges from 25 to 28 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates several deep flaps with glides. Fast wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Parasitic Jaeger Dark Morph: Breeds on coasts of Alaska, as well as coastal and inland tundra regions of northern Canada; also found in Greenland, Iceland, Scandinavia, and northern Russia. Spends winters on tropical oceans of the southern hemisphere.



**Species:** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

**Length Range:** 38 - 53 cm (15 - 21 in)

**Weight:** 422 g (14.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 91 cm (36 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common, Stable

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## POMARINE JAEGER

Skuas and Jaegers (Stercorariidae)

**General:** Pomarine Jaeger Dark Morph: Large jaeger, dark brown except for white patches near underwing tips and sides of undertail. Light morph has white neck, pale yellow collar, white lower breast, mottled breast band, sides. Thick bill, pale at base. Tail has two long central feathers twisted vertically.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Pomarine Jaeger Dark Morph: Subsists almost entirely on lemmings on its breeding grounds. At sea, feeds on small or weak birds, scavenges, and pursues gulls and terns, forcing them to disgorge their food, which it snatches up in mid-air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Pomarine Jaeger Dark Morph: Two olive to brown eggs with dark brown blotches are laid in a shallow ground depression lined with plant material. Incubation ranges from 25 to 27 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong steady flight with deep wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Pomarine Jaeger Dark Morph: Circumpolar species of the Arctic tundra. Winters mostly offshore in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, near the West Indies; also off coasts of Africa, southeast Australia, and Central and South America; sometimes found near Hawaii.



**Species:** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

**Length Range:** 51 - 58 cm (20 - 23 in)

**Weight:** 635 g (22.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 122 cm (48 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Small colonies

**Breeding Population:** Casual

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## COMMON GROUND-DOVE

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

**General:** Common Ground-Dove: Small, rounded dove with plain gray-brown back and scaled pink-gray head and breast. Eyes are red and bill is orange-red with black tip. The wings show rufous primaries in flight. Tail is short. Legs and feet are pink. Forages on ground. Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Common Ground-Dove: Feeds on seeds, berries, and occasionally insects; forages on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Common Ground Dove: Two or three white eggs are laid in a nest on or close to the ground, often hidden in a tuft of grass or among weeds. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapid direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Common Ground-Dove: Resident in southern parts of California, Arizona, and Texas, and east to southern North Carolina. Preferred habitats include fields, gardens, farmlands, and roadsides.



**Species:** *Columbina passerina*

**Length Range:** 15 - 18 cm (6 - 7 in)

**Weight:** 31 g (1.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 - 25 cm (8.75 - 10 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Mates for life

**Breeding Population:** Declining

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

## EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

**General:** Eurasian Collared-Dove: Medium dove, pale gray overall with darker cinnamon-brown wash over back. Nape is ringed with half-black collar that does not extend to throat. Wings are mottled gray with dark primaries. Tail is long, broad, edged with white (black near base). Pink legs, feet.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Eurasian Collared-Dove: Eats mostly seeds, some greens, soft fruits, and garbage. Forages on the ground but also picks berries from bushes.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Eurasian Collared-Dove: Two white eggs are laid in a nest made of twigs and dry stalks, and built from 6 to 7 feet above the ground in a tree, shrub, or sometimes balcony or eave of a building. Incubation ranges from 14 to 18 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift strong direct flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Eurasian Collared-Dove: Native of India, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar; also widespread in Europe. Introduced to the U.S.; occurs from Florida to Texas, and may be displacing native doves.



**Species:** *Streptopelia decaocto*

**Length Range:** 28 - 33 cm (11 - 13 in)

**Weight:** 153 g (5.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 46 - 48 cm (18 - 19 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## INCA DOVE

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

**General:** Inca Dove: Small dove with scaled, pale gray-brown upperparts, white throat, and scaled, pale buff (often with pink wash) underparts. The tail is long and squared with a black-bordered gray center and edged in white. Black bill, pink legs and feet. Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Inca Dove: Eats small dried seeds; forages on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Inca Dove: Two to seven white eggs are laid in a nest made of twigs, stems, and leaves, lined with grass, and built from 5 to 20 feet above the ground in a tree or shrub. Incubation ranges from 12 to 15 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Inca Dove: Resident from southwest U.S. to tropical America. Frequents open country with scattered trees or scrubby growth, generally in arid or semi-arid locations around cultivated areas, farmlands, parks, and gardens.



**Species:** *Columbina inca*

**Length Range:** 19 - 22 cm (7.5 - 8.5 in)

**Weight:** 48 g (1.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 30 - 33 cm (12 - 13 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

**Belly Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

**Breast Pattern:** Scaled or Scalloped

## MOURNING DOVE

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

**General:** Mourning Dove: Medium-sized dove with gray-brown upperparts and pink-brown underparts. Eyes are dark with a small, black spot beneath. Bill is dark. Wings are gray-brown with black spots and dark primaries. Tail is long and pointed with black-edged white tips on outer feathers. Swift direct flight.

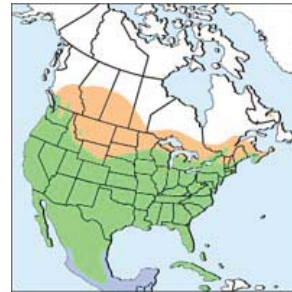
**Foraging and Feeding:** Mourning Dove: Eats seeds, waste grain, fruits, and insects. Usually forages on the ground, but occasionally in trees and shrubs.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Mourning Dove: Two white eggs are laid in a loosely made nest made of sticks and twigs built in a low bush or tree, or sometimes on the ground. Eggs are incubated for 14 days by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift strong direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Mourning Dove: Breeds from southeastern Alaska, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick southward to Mexico and Panama. Spends winters north to the northern U.S. Favorite habitats include open fields, parks, and lawns with many trees and shrubs.



**Species:** *Zenaida macroura*

**Length Range:** 30 cm (12 in)

**Weight:** 122 g (4.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 43 - 48 cm (17 - 19 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Increasing

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## ROCK PIGEON

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

**General:** Rock Pigeon: Large, highly variably colored dove; wild form has gray body, dark blue-gray head, neck, breast, and white rump. Wings are gray with two black bars. Tail is gray and rounded with dark terminal band. Forages on ground, eats grass, seeds, grains, clover and berries. Swift direct flight.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Rock Pigeon: Eats mostly seeds, but also takes fruits and berries; subsists on scraps in urban and suburban areas; forages on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Rock Pigeon: Two white eggs are laid in a crude nest lined with sticks and debris, built on a window ledge, building, bridge, or cliff. Incubation ranges from 16 to 19 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Rock Pigeon: Native to Eurasia; introduced and established in most of North America from central Canada southward. Found in agricultural lands, open shrub, and urban areas.



**Species:** *Columba livia*

**Length Range:** 33 - 36 cm (13 - 14 in)

**Weight:** 369 g (13 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 61 - 64 cm (24 - 25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WHITE-WINGED DOVE

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

**General:** White-winged Dove: Medium-sized, stout dove with gray-brown upperparts, gray underparts, and small, back crescent below eye. The wings are dark gray with broad white stripes. Tail is short and brown with white corners. Bill is gray. Legs and feet are red. Fast direct flight with rapid wing beats.

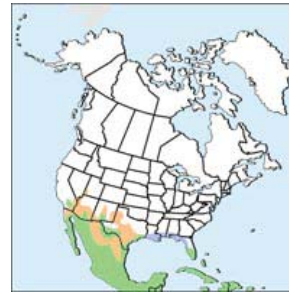
**Foraging and Feeding:** White-winged Dove: Feeds on seeds, grains, and fruits; forages on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** White-winged Dove: Two creamy buff eggs are laid on a frail platform made of loose twigs set in a low bush. Incubation ranges from 13 to 14 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapid direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** White-winged Dove: Breeds in the southwestern U.S. and southern Texas. Spends winters south of the U.S. or in small numbers on the Gulf Coast east to Florida. Preferred habitats include open country with dense thickets of shrubs and low trees as well as in suburban and agricultural areas.



**Species:** *Zenaida asiatica*

**Length Range:** 28 - 30 cm (11 - 12 in)

**Weight:** 153 g (5.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 43 - 46 cm (17 - 18 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Small colonies

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO

Cuckoos and Roadrunners (Cuculidae)

**General:** Black-billed Cuckoo: Medium cuckoo with brown upperparts, white underparts. Eye-ring is red and decurved bill is black. Tail is long with faint white, dark-eyed spots underneath. Feeds primarily on caterpillars, also eats insects, small fish, mollusks and fruits. Makes low flights of short duration.

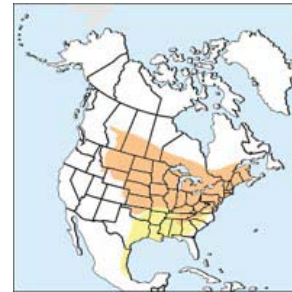
**Foraging and Feeding:** Black-billed Cuckoo: Feeds primarily on insects, particularly caterpillars.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Black-billed Cuckoo: Two to five darkly marked, blue-green eggs are laid in a flimsy, shallow nest made of twigs, lined with grass and plant down, and built within a few feet of the ground in a dense thicket. Incubation ranges from 10 to 14 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Often flies low and makes short flights from tree to another.

**Range and Habitat:** Black-billed Cuckoo: Breeds from Alberta and Montana east to Maritime Provinces, and south to northern Texas, Arkansas, and South Carolina. Spends winters in South America. Preferred habitats include moist thickets in low overgrown pastures and orchards; also occurs in thicker undergrowth and sparse woodlands.



**Species:** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

**Length Range:** 28 - 30 cm (11 - 12 in)

**Weight:** 102 g (3.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 38 - 43 cm (15 - 17 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## GROOVE-BILLED ANI

Cuckoos and Roadrunners (Cuculidae)

**General:** Groove-billed Ani: Medium-sized black bird with iridescent blue and green overtones, with a very long tail (half the length of the bird). Bill is huge, with arched ridge and narrow grooves. Feeds on insects, ticks, spiders, lizards, fruits, berries and seeds. Flies low to the ground.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Groove-billed Ani: Forages by following livestock to catch insects disturbed by grazing; sometimes picks ticks from the backs of cattle. Also takes fruits, berries, small lizards, frogs, and snakes.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Groove-billed Ani: Three to four pale blue eggs are laid in a nest made of sticks, lined with fresh vegetation, and built from 5 to 15 feet above the ground in a low tree or shrub. Incubation ranges from 13 to 14 days and is carried out by both parents; alpha male may incubate at night.

**Flight Pattern:** Flies low to the ground, alternating between rapid shallow wing beats and short glides.

**Range and Habitat:** Groove-billed Ani: Resident in lower Rio Grande Valley; also occurs in American tropics. Preferred habitats include semi-open habitats, avoiding unbroken forests, including overgrown fields, thickets, and woodland edges.



**Species:** *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

**Length Range:** 30 - 36 cm (12 - 14 in)

**Weight:** 88 g (3.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 41 - 46 cm (16 - 18 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Communal

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

Cuckoos and Roadrunners (Cuculidae)

**General:** Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Medium cuckoo, gray-brown upperparts and white underparts. Bill is mostly yellow. Wings are gray-brown with rufous primaries. Tail is long and has white-spotted black edges. Gray legs, feet. Feeds primarily on hairy caterpillars, also insects, larvae, small fruits, and berries.

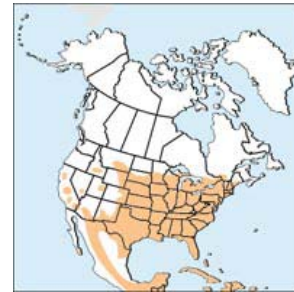
**Foraging and Feeding:** Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Mainly feeds on hairy caterpillars and cicadas; also eats other insects, bird eggs, snails, small vertebrates such as frogs and lizards, berries, and some fruits; forages in trees.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Yellow-billed Cuckoo: One to five light blue green to yellow green eggs are laid in a flimsy saucer of twigs built in a bush or small sapling. Incubation ranges from 9 to 11 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with steady quick wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Breeds from central California, Minnesota, and southern New Brunswick southward. Spends winters in South America. Preferred habitats include moist thickets, willows, overgrown pastures, and orchards.



**Species:** *Coccyzus americanus*

**Length Range:** 28 - 33 cm (11 - 13 in)

**Weight:** 102 g (3.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 38 - 43 cm (15 - 17 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BARN OWL

Barn Owl (*Tytonidae*)

**General:** Barn Owl: Medium-sized owl with glaring white, heart-shaped facial disk, no ear tufts, and long legs. Upperparts are orange-brown with fine white spots and dark bars. Underparts are white with small black spots. Feeds primarily on small mammals, also takes small birds. Slow silent mothlike flight.

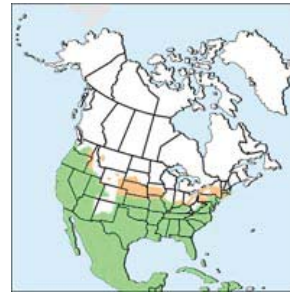


**Foraging and Feeding:** Barn Owl: Feeds on small mammals such as mice, voles, and shrews; also consumes small birds.

**Breeding and Nesting:** Barn Owl: Mates for life; because life expectancy is 2 years or less, reproductive rate is higher than that of other owls. Lays from 2 to 12 round, white eggs, usually more when prey is abundant. Builds nest inside barns, silos, church steeples, abandoned buildings, and hollow trees.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong flight. Slow steady shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Barn Owl: Occurs on every continent except Antarctica. Found in a vast range of habitats, from rural to urban, but prefers warm climates with mild winters. Nearby open grassland is essential; rarely found in deep forests or mountains.



**Species:** *Tyto alba*

**Length Range:** 36 - 51 cm (14 - 20 in)

**Weight:** 397 - 510 g (14 - 18 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 107 - 112 cm (42 - 44 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common, Widespread

**Back Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled



## GREAT HORNED OWL

True Owls (Strigidae)

**General:** Great Horned Owl: Large owl with dark brown, gray-brown mottled upperparts and dark barred underparts. Head has distinct ear tufts and rufous facial disk. Throat and upper breast are white and may have dark spots. Northern birds are paler and grayer. Strong, silent, direct, flap and glide flight.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Great Horned Owl: Hunts primarily at night, preying on rabbits, woodchucks, mice, rats, squirrels, skunks, ducks, quail, and occasionally geese or turkeys. Like many owls, it eats small prey whole and regurgitates indigestible parts such as hair, feathers, and bones in the form of pellets.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Great Horned Owl: One to five dull white eggs are laid in an abandoned nest made by hawks or crows. Eggs are incubated for 28 to 35 days, mostly by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flap and glide flight. Strong silent wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Great Horned Owl: Found throughout the forests of North, Central, and South America, from the Arctic to the Straits of Magellan. Preferred habitats include coniferous, mixed, and deciduous woodlands, areas along cliffs and rocky canyons, and forest openings.



**Species:** *Bubo virginianus*

**Length Range:** 46 - 64 cm (18 - 25 in)

**Weight:** 1361 g (48 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 91 - 152 cm (36 - 60 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common, Widespread

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## SHORT-EARED OWL

True Owls (Strigidae)

**General:** Short-eared Owl: Medium owl, light and dark brown mottled upperparts and dark-streaked, pale buff underparts. Head has large, round, pale buff facial disk with fine, brown tinges, black around eyes, and small ear tufts. Eyes are yellow and bill is black. Flight is erratic with flopping wing beats.

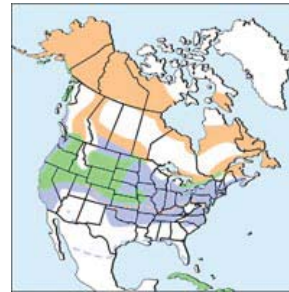
**Foraging and Feeding:** Short-eared Owl: Eats voles, mice, shrews, ground squirrels, pocket gophers, pocket mice, moles, rats, small rabbits, and muskrats; also takes small birds and large insects; forages mostly at night.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Short-eared Owl: Lays three to eleven white eggs in a ground nest lined with grass and downy feathers; nest is usually built on a slight ridge or mound with enough vegetation for concealment. Female incubates eggs for 25 to 29 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Bouyant flight. Erratic flight with flopping wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Short-eared Owl: Occurs on every continent except Australia and Antarctica; prefers open spaces such as grasslands, prairies, agricultural fields, salt marshes, estuaries, mountain meadows, and tundra.



**Species:** *Asio flammeus*

**Length Range:** 33 - 43 cm (13 - 17 in)

**Weight:** 315 g (11.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 91 - 112 cm (36 - 44 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Sometimes forms small colonies

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common, Declining

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW

Nighthawks and Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)

**General:** Chuck-will's-widow: Large nightjar with entire body complexly mottled with brown, gray, and black. Collar is white, throat is brown, and breast patch is dark brown. The tail is white-edged. Legs and feet are brown. Feeds at night, mostly on insects. Bouyant, silent flight with flicking wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Chuck-will's-widow: Feeds on flying insects and reportedly takes small birds and bats, usually during migration; forages in flight except during summer molt, when it feeds on the ground for insects and amphibians.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Chuck-will's-widow: Two pink or buff eggs with purple, gray or brown markings are laid on the bare ground or dead leaves. Incubation ranges from 20 to 24 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Bouyant flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Chuck-will's-widow: Breeds from Kansas, Indiana, and Long Island south to Gulf coast states. Spends winters chiefly in the tropics, but a few winter in Florida and along the Gulf coast. Open woodlands and clearings near agricultural country are preferred habitats.



**Species:** *Caprimulgus carolinensis*

**Length Range:** 28 - 33 cm (11 - 13 in)

**Weight:** 119 g (4.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 62 - 65 cm (24.5 - 25.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## COMMON NIGHTHAWK

Nighthawks and Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)

**General:** Common Nighthawk: Medium nightjar with white-speckled, dark upperparts, black-and-white barred underparts, mottled breast, white throat. Wings are long, dark gray with white bars, nearly covering tail when folded. Gray-brown legs and feet. Darting erratic flight with frequent changes of direction.

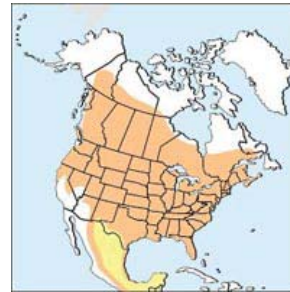
**Foraging and Feeding:** Common Nighthawk: Feeds on mosquitoes, flying ants, moths, beetles, and other insects. Forages day or night on the wing, up to 600 feet above the ground, with its enormous mouth surrounded by bristles ideally suited for aerial capture; alternates slow, full wing beats with bursts of quick shallow beats while hunting. Sometimes feeds on insects attracted to lights. Drinks in flight, skimming the water surface with lower mandible.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Common Nighthawk: Lays two white to pale olive buff eggs, spotted with brown and gray, in a small ground depression or, in cities, on flat gravel rooftops. Female incubates eggs for approximately 19 days. Young are semi-precocial and start to fly at around 23 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Slow steady wing beats. Darting flight on long pointed wings with erratic twists and turns and changes of direction.

**Range and Habitat:** Common Nighthawk: Breeds throughout the U.S. Winters are spent in South America. Well-adapted to urban life: flat-topped gravel roofs provide nesting habitat and lighting systems around buildings serve as foraging areas for insects.



**Species:** *Chordeiles minor*

**Length Range:** 20 - 25 cm (8 - 10 in)

**Weight:** 62 g (2.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 53 - 61 cm (21 - 24 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Declining slightly

**Back Pattern:** Mottled

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## WHIP-POOR-WILL

Nighthawks and Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)

**General:** Whip-poor-will: Medium-sized nightjar with gray-brown-black mottled upperparts and pale gray-black underparts. Throat is black; eyebrows and neckband are white. Tail is long and rounded with large white corner patches. Brown legs and feet. Erratic mothlike flight, flies close to the ground at night.

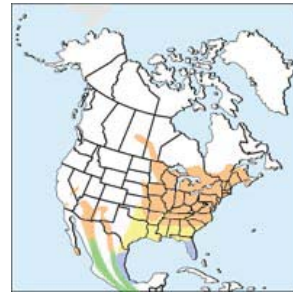
**Foraging and Feeding:** Whip-poor-will: Feeds on flying insects, usually at night, finding prey by sight and sound. Small bill opens into a huge, gaping maw when it flies after prey. Foraging results in erratic flight that includes wheeling, circling, gliding, and hovering.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Whip-poor-will: Two gray-and-brown scrawled, white eggs are laid in a shallow depression among dead leaves, often in younger growth near a woodland edge. Incubation ranges from 19 to 20 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Erratic mothlike flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Whip-poor-will: Breeds from Saskatchewan and Maritime Provinces south to Kansas, northern Louisiana, and northern Georgia, and in Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas. Spends winters in Florida and along the Gulf Coast southward to Panama. Prefers open woodlands with well-spaced trees.



**Species:** *Caprimulgus vociferus*

**Length Range:** 23 - 25 cm (9 - 10 in)

**Weight:** 57 g (2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 41 - 50 cm (16 - 19.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Yes but uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Barred or banded

## CHIMNEY SWIFT

Swifts (Apodidae)

**General:** Chimney Swift: Medium-sized swift, uniformly dark brown with slightly paler throat and upper breast. Inconspicuous spines extend past web at tips of tail feathers. Bill, legs and feet are black. Flight is rapid and batlike on swept-back wings, alternates with gliding. Soars on thermals and updrafts.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Chimney Swift: Feeds on insects; forages in flight, sometimes quite high. Drinks by skimming the water surface in flight.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Chimney Swift: Two to seven white eggs are laid in a nest made of twigs cemented together with saliva and fastened to inner wall of a chimney or, rarely, in a cave or hollow tree. Incubation ranges from 19 to 21 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapid batlike flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Chimney Swift: Breeds from southeastern Saskatchewan, southern Manitoba, central Ontario, southern Quebec, and Nova Scotia south to Gulf coast states. Spends winters in the tropics. Nests and roosts in chimneys and feeds entirely on the wing over forests, open country, and towns.



**Species:** *Chaetura pelagica*

**Length Range:** 14 cm (5.5 in)

**Weight:** 23 g (0.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 30 - 32 cm (12 - 12.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial or solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD

Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)

**General:** Black-chinned Hummingbird: Medium hummingbird with metallic green upperparts, gray underparts, white breast, green-washed flanks. Head appears black overall with white spot behind eye; cap is very dark green. Throat is iridescent violet; bill is long and slightly decurved. Forked tail is dark green with black outer tail feathers.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Black-chinned Hummingbird: Diet consists of nectar, pollen, insects, and sugar water from feeders; prefers nectar from flowers of tree tobacco, scarlet larkspur, and desert ocotillo.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Black-chinned Hummingbird: One to three white eggs are laid in a nest made of fluffy plant wool and lichens woven together with spider webs and built in a shrub or low tree. Incubation ranges from 13 to 16 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift strong direct flight. Can fly backward.

**Range and Habitat:** Black-chinned Hummingbird: Breeds from British Columbia south to Mexico and central Texas. Spends winters in Mexico. Preferred habitats include mountain and alpine meadows, woodlands, canyons with thickets, chaparral, and orchards.



**Species:** *Archilochus alexandri*  
**Length Range:** 9 - 10 cm (3.5 - 3.75 in)  
**Weight:** 3 g (0.1 oz)  
**Wingspan Range:** 10 - 13 cm (4 - 5 in)  
**Breeding Type:** Polygamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid  
**Belly Pattern:** Solid  
**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)

**General:** Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Medium hummingbird, iridescent green upperparts, head, flanks. Underparts are pale gray, paler breast, green wash on sides, belly; throat is bright red with black chin. Tail is dark, forked. Feeds primarily on nectar. Direct and hovering flight with very rapid wing beats.

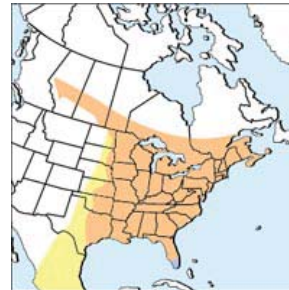
**Foraging and Feeding:** Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Feeds mostly on nectar, but also eats insects and spiders; preferred flowers include honeysuckle, petunias, nasturtiums, and lilacs, but is often attracted to red-flowered species. Consumes twice its body weight each day.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Two white eggs are laid in a nest woven from plant down, held together with spider silk, covered with lichens, and saddled to a tree branch, usually in a forest clearing. Eggs are incubated for 11 to 16 days by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Up to 75 rapid wing beats per second.

**Range and Habitat:** Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Breeds from southern Canada to the Gulf Coast; only hummingbird that breeds east of the Mississippi River. Spends winters mainly in the tropics and rarely on the Gulf Coast. Found in woodlands, orchards, and gardens.



**Species:** *Archilochus colubris*

**Length Range:** 8 - 10 cm (3 - 3.75 in)

**Weight:** 3 g (0.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 11 - 11 cm (4.25 - 4.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)

**General:** Rufous Hummingbird: Medium hummingbird, bright rufous-brown overall with white breast and ear patch, red-orange throat, and green shoulders. Rounded tail is rufous with black edges. Some males show green on back and head. Feeds on insects and nectar. Direct and hovering flight with rapid wing beats.

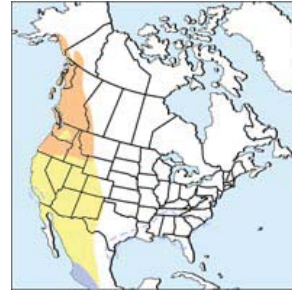
**Foraging and Feeding:** Rufous Hummingbird: Eats mostly nectar, but also sap from sapsucker wells, insects, and spiders. Attracted to honeysuckle, scarlet sage, horsemint, and black locust; also red, tubular flowers. Consumes up to 3 times its body weight daily.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Rufous Hummingbird: Two white eggs are laid in a lichen-covered cup nest made of plant down and spider webs, attached to a horizontal branch. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Hovers when feeding.

**Range and Habitat:** Rufous Hummingbird: Breeds from southeastern Alaska, British Columbia, southwestern Alberta, and western Montana south to Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and northern California. Spends winters mainly in Mexico and occurs in small numbers along the Gulf Coast during migration and in winter. Preferred habitats include forests, riparian shrub, lowland stream bottoms, foothill brushlands, coasts, and high-mountain meadows.



**Species:** *Selasphorus rufus*

**Length Range:** 10 cm (3.75 in)

**Weight:** 3 g (0.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 12 cm (4.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Polygamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BELTED KINGFISHER

Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)

**General:** Belted Kingfisher: Medium kingfisher, distinct, bushy crest, white collar, and large, black dagger-like bill. Upperparts are blue-gray and underparts are white. The male has blue-gray breast band. Legs and feet are gray. Slow direct flight with erratic pattern. Hovers above water to search for prey.

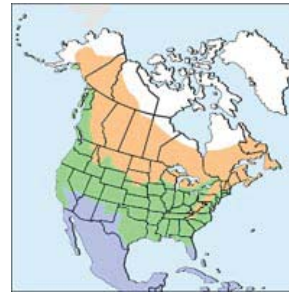
**Foraging and Feeding:** Belted Kingfisher: Eats fish, occasionally too long to swallow completely, accounting for sightings of fish tails sticking out from the bill; when fish are scarce, feeds on mollusks, crustaceans, insects, amphibians, reptiles, young birds, small mammals, and berries. Plunge dives for prey.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Belted Kingfisher: Five to eight white eggs are laid in a nesting cavity at the end of a long tunnel excavated by the parents, usually in a riverbank of sand or clay. Incubation ranges from 22 to 24 days and is carried out by both parents, with the female sitting through the night, and the male taking her place in the early morning hours.

**Flight Pattern:** Slow direct flight with somewhat erratic pattern. Hovers above water.

**Range and Habitat:** Belted Kingfisher: Breeds from Alaska eastward across southern Canada and south throughout most of U.S. Spends winters on the Pacific coast north to southeastern Alaska, and throughout the south, north to the Great Lakes and along the Atlantic coast to New England. Preferred habitats include rivers, lakes, and saltwater estuaries.



**Species:** *Ceryle alcyon*

**Length Range:** 28 - 37 cm (11 - 14.5 in)

**Weight:** 147 g (5.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 56 - 66 cm (22 - 26 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Slight decline

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Barred or banded

## DOWNY WOODPECKER

Woodpeckers (Picidae)

**General:** Downy Woodpecker: The smallest woodpecker in North America. Has a white back, black nape and black wings with white spotting. Underparts are white. Face is white with black stripes. Hindcrown patch is red. Tail is black with black-spotted or barred white outer tail feathers. Bill is black and short.

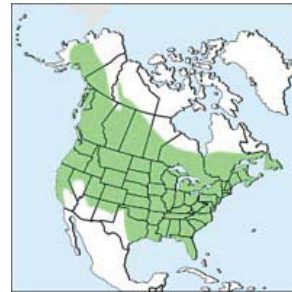
**Foraging and Feeding:** Downy Woodpecker: Diet consists of insects and seeds; male forages higher in tree than female; feeds on suet at feeders.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Downy Woodpecker: Three to seven white eggs are laid in a bare hole in a tree. Eggs are incubated for approximately 12 days by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapidly beating wings. Undulating flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Downy Woodpecker: Resident from Alaska across Canada and south throughout the U.S. except in the southwest. Preferred habitats include woodlands, parks, and gardens.



**Species:** *Picoides pubescens*

**Length Range:** 17 - 18 cm (6.75 - 7 in)

**Weight:** 28 g (1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 28 - 30 cm (11 - 12 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Widespread

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## NORTHERN FLICKER

Woodpeckers (Picidae)

**General:** Northern Flicker: Medium woodpecker, black-barred brown back, white rump, black tail. Underparts are black-spotted pale brown with black crescent on breast. Face is gray with brown crown and forehead. Legs and feet are gray. There is a Red-shafted (shown here) and a Yellow-shafted race.

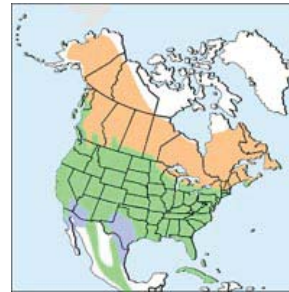


**Foraging and Feeding:** Northern Flicker: Diet consists primarily of ants; also eats other insects, berries, and fruits; forages in trees, shrubs, and on the ground.

**Breeding and Nesting:** Northern Flicker: Three to twelve white eggs are laid in a cavity in a tree, utility pole, or birdhouse; usually excavates nest cavities in dead or diseased tree trunks or large branches. Incubation ranges from 11 to 16 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Several rapid wing beats and then a pause with wings folded at sides producing up-and-down flight pattern.

**Range and Habitat:** Northern Flicker: Resident from Alaska east through Manitoba to Newfoundland and south throughout the U.S. Northernmost birds are migratory. Prefers forest edges and open woodlands approaching savannas.



**Species:** *Colaptes auratus*

**Length Range:** 32 - 36 cm (12.75 - 14 in)

**Weight:** 71 g (2.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 48 - 53 cm (19 - 21 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

Woodpeckers (Picidae)

**General:** Red-bellied Woodpecker: Medium woodpecker, black-and-white barred upperparts, pale gray-brown underparts with indistinct red wash on belly. Head has bright red crown and nape, pale brown face. White rump, white wing patches, and white-barred central tail feathers are visible in flight.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Red-bellied Woodpecker: Eats insects, fruits, vegetables, seeds, and sap from sapsucker drill wells.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Red-bellied Woodpecker: Three to eight white eggs are laid in tree cavity built by both parents, or in an abandoned hole of other woodpeckers. Incubation ranges from 11 to 14 days and is carried out by both parents (male at night, female during the day).

**Flight Pattern:** Undulating flight with fairly rapid wing beats interspersed with periods of roller-coaster flight with wings folded.

**Range and Habitat:** Red-bellied Woodpecker: Breeds from South Dakota, Great Lakes, and southern New England south to the Gulf Coast and Florida. Northernmost birds sometimes migrate south for winter. Inhabits open and swampy woodlands; comes into parks during migration and to feeders in winter.



**Species:** *Melanerpes carolinus*

**Length Range:** 23 - 27 cm (9 - 10.5 in)

**Weight:** 68 g (2.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 38 - 46 cm (15 - 18 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

Woodpeckers (Picidae)

**General:** Red-headed Woodpecker: Medium-sized woodpecker with black upperparts and tail, and white underparts and rump. The head, throat, and upper breast are dark red. Wings are black with large white patches. Bill, legs and feet are black. This is the only woodpecker in the east with a completely red head.

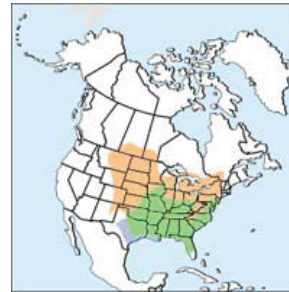
**Foraging and Feeding:** Red-headed Woodpecker: Eats insects, spiders, millipedes, and centipedes, seeds, various nuts, and berries; forages by hunting from low perches, flying down to ground to pick up prey or nuts.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Red-headed Woodpecker: Four to seven white eggs are laid in a cavity drilled in a limb of a living or dead tree, mostly by the male. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong flight with slow steady shallow wing beats. Sallies for flying insects, then returns to same or nearby perch.

**Range and Habitat:** Red-headed Woodpecker: Breeds from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Quebec south to Florida and the Gulf Coast; scarce in northeastern states. Spends winters in southern part of breeding range.



**Species:** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

**Length Range:** 22 - 23 cm (8.5 - 9.25 in)

**Weight:** 71 g (2.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 41 - 46 cm (16 - 18 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Yes but uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

Woodpeckers (Picidae)

**General:** Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Medium woodpecker, black-and-white mottled upperparts, white rump, yellow-washed white underparts. Red throat, black border. Red crown, black-and-white striped face, neck. Dark wings have white shoulder patch. Black tail has black-barred, white center stripe.

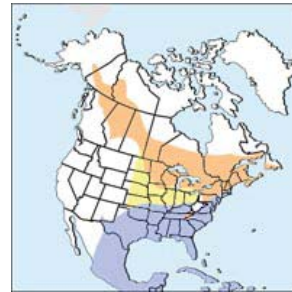
**Foraging and Feeding:** Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Feeds on sap, insects, fruits, and berries. Hammers trees for insects; also creates sap wells in bark to collect sap and trap insects; sometimes catches insects in mid-air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Four to seven white eggs are laid in a tree cavity lined with wood chips. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by both parents (male at night, female during the day).

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates several rapid shallow wing beats with short glides.

**Range and Habitat:** Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Breeds across Canada east of the Rockies to southern Labrador and Newfoundland south to the northern U.S. from North Dakota to New York and Connecticut and south through the Appalachians to northwest Georgia. Spends winters in the southeastern U.S., the West Indies, and in middle and high altitudes of Central America as far south as Panama. Preferred habitats include deciduous and mixed woods in foothills and lower montane regions.



**Species:** *Sphyrapicus varius*

**Length Range:** 20 - 23 cm (8 - 9 in)

**Weight:** 51 g (1.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 41 - 46 cm (16 - 18 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies.  
Small colonies

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## ACADIAN FLYCATCHER

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Acadian Flycatcher: Small flycatcher with olive-gray upperparts, pale gray throat, distinctive pale yellow eye-ring, white lower breast, yellow belly, undertail coverts. Wings are olive-gray with two buff wing bars. Long broad-based bill with yellow-orange lower mandible. Black legs, feet.

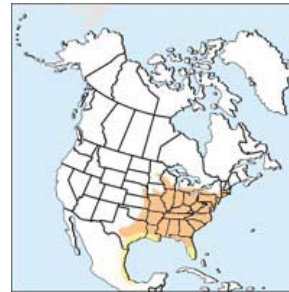
**Foraging and Feeding:** Acadian Flycatcher: Eats a wide variety of flying insects. Perches in shade on lower to mid-level branches in thick trees to await food, then dashes out to snatch insect in mid-air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Acadian Flycatcher: Two to four brown-spotted, creamy white eggs are laid in a sloppy cup nest made of sticks, grass, dried stems, bits of bark, and cobweb. Nest is lined with grass, hair, and plant down, and built on a horizontal limb well out from the trunk. Incubation ranges from 13 to 15 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flight with shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Acadian Flycatcher: Breeds from southern Minnesota east through southern New England, south to the Gulf Coast and central Florida. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include beech, maple, and hemlock forests, usually under the canopy but also in clearings, often in wooded ravines.



**Species:** *Empidonax virescens*

**Length Range:** 15 cm (5.75 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## ALDER FLYCATCHER

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Alder Flycatcher: Small flycatcher with olive-brown upperparts, white underparts, and indistinct white eye-ring. Wings are olive-brown with two white or pale bars. Bill is short with orange lower mandible. Black legs and feet. Weak fluttering direct flight with shallow, rapid wing beats.

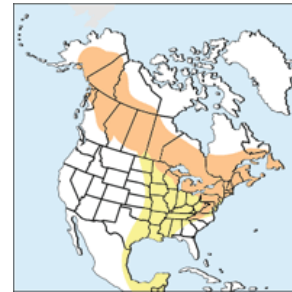
**Foraging and Feeding:** Alder Flycatcher: Feeds on insects, berries, and a few seeds. Frequently hovers and snatches flying prey from the air; also gleans insects, berries, and seeds from vegetation.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Alder Flycatcher: Three to four brown-spotted, white eggs are laid in a cup-shaped nest made from bark, weeds, stems, and grass and lined with plant down or other soft materials. Nest is built in a shrub or tree 1 to 4 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering direct flight with shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Alder Flycatcher: Breeds from Alaska east through Manitoba to Newfoundland and south to British Columbia, Great Lakes region, and southern New England. Spends winters in tropics. Preferred habitats include alder and birch thickets near riparian areas, swamps, bogs, and ponds.



**Species:** *Empidonax alnorum*

**Length Range:** 15 cm (5.75 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 - 23 cm (8 - 9 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Stable

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Ash-throated Flycatcher: Medium flycatcher with gray-brown upperparts, pale gray throat and breast, and gray-brown tail with rufous highlights. The pale yellow belly distinguishes this species from other *Myiarchus* flycatchers. Bill, legs, and feet are black. Strong flight with shallow wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Ash-throated Flycatcher: Feeds on insects, flying from perch to capture them in flight or taking them on the ground; occasionally eats fruits, berries, and small lizards.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Ash-throated Flycatcher: Three to seven brown-streaked, white eggs are laid in a loose cup of grass, rootlets, and stems built in a natural tree cavity less than 20 feet above the ground. Sometimes nests in an abandoned woodpecker hole; may displace smaller birds from an occupied cavity. Nest is lined with fur, hair, and sometimes snakeskin. Female incubates eggs for about 15 days; often leaves nest for hours at a time, especially during the hottest part of the day.

**Flight Pattern:** Fairly strong flight with shallow wing beats. Hovers before dipping to catch prey.

**Range and Habitat:** Ash-throated Flycatcher: Breeds as far north as Oregon and Washington, as far east as central Texas, and as far south as central Mexico. Preferred habitats include open woodlands, streamside thickets, oak scrub, dry plains spotted with trees or cacti, and deserts.



**Species:** *Myiarchus cinerascens*

**Length Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Weight:** 28 g (1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 36 cm (14 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## EASTERN KINGBIRD

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Eastern Kingbird: Large flycatcher, blue-black back, wings, black tail with white terminal band, white underparts. Head is black, has inconspicuous red crown feathers visible when bird is displaying. Black bill, legs, feet. Fluttering stiff-winged direct flight with shallow wing beats.

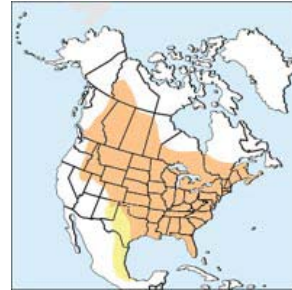
**Foraging and Feeding:** Eastern Kingbird: Feeds on insects and fruits; often forages by hovering and pouncing on prey on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Eastern Kingbird: Three to five white to pale pink eggs marked with brown, lavender, and gray are laid in a cup nest made of weeds, twigs, and grass, lined with grass and animal hair, and built far to midway out on a horizontal tree or shrub branch; also nests in cavities and human-made structures. Incubation ranges from 16 to 18 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Fluttering direct flight with shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Eastern Kingbird: Breeds from British Columbia across interior Canada to Maritime Provinces and south to northern California, central Texas, the Gulf coast, and Florida. Spends winters in the tropics. Inhabits open woodlands, clearings, rural roadsides, farms, orchards, edges of fields, streams, and suburbs.



**Species:** *Tyrannus tyrannus*

**Length Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Weight:** 43 g (1.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 36 - 38 cm (14 - 15 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## EASTERN PHOEBE

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Eastern Phoebe: Small flycatcher with dark gray-brown upperparts and slightly darker wings and tail. Underparts are pale with hint of olive-brown or yellow on sides and breast. Bill, legs, and feet are black. Feeds on insects, small fish, berries and fruit. Weak fluttering bouyant flight.

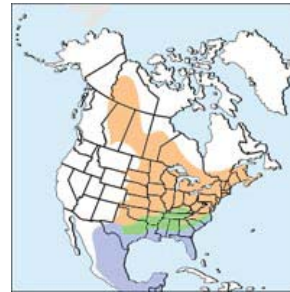
**Foraging and Feeding:** Eastern Phoebe: Feeds on insects, small fish, berries, and fruits. Forages from atop tree branches and other perches, flying out to catch prey in mid-air; also gleans food from foliage, on the ground, and at the water surface.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Eastern Phoebe: Two to eight white eggs with occasional red brown spots are laid in a nest made of mud pellets covered with moss and lined with grass, weeds, leaves, hair, and feathers. Nest is normally built on top of an old nest, or attached to a building. Incubation is about 16 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak buoyant fluttering flight with shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Eastern Phoebe: Breeds north of the Mason-Dixon Line in North America; spends winters as far north as the Ohio River.



**Species:** *Sayornis phoebe*

**Length Range:** 18 cm (7 in)

**Weight:** 20 g (0.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 29 cm (11.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Eastern Wood-Pewee: Small flycatcher, gray-olive upperparts, pale gray underparts. Bill is dark except for yellow base of lower mandible. Wings are dark with two white bars. Black legs, feet. Feeds on insects, spiders and berries. Slow fluttering direct flight on shallow wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Eastern Wood-Pewee: Feeds on small flying insects, including flies, bees, butterflies, wasps, and beetles. Sallies out from an exposed perch to capture prey, usually returning to the same perch; occasionally takes insects from the ground or vegetation.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Eastern Wood-Pewee: Two to four white eggs with brown and purple blotches are laid in a shallow cup of woven grass, weeds, wool, bark strips, twigs, roots, mosses, pine needles, and leaves camouflaged with spider webs and lichens. Nest is built on a horizontal limb well out from trunk, frequently on a dead twig of a living tree. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Slow flight with shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Eastern Wood-Pewee: Breeds from eastern Great Plains to the Atlantic Ocean, ranging from southern Canada (Saskatchewan to the Maritime Provinces) to northern Florida, the Gulf coast and central Texas. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include northern hardwood, pine-oak, oak-hickory, bottomland hardwood, southern pine savannah, and midwestern forests; also found in orchards, parks, roadsides, and suburban areas.



**Species:** *Contopus virens*

**Length Range:** 16 cm (6.25 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 27 cm (10.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Great Crested Flycatcher: Large, crested flycatcher with olive-green upperparts. Head, throat, and upper breast are gray, belly is yellow, and undertail coverts are lemon-yellow. Bill is heavy and black. Wings are dark with rufous patches. Tail is rufous. Swift buoyant direct flight.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Great Crested Flycatcher: Eats variety of large insects, including beetles, crickets, katydids, caterpillars, moths, and butterflies; also eats fruits and berries; forages by flying from a perch to snatch insects from foliage, mid-air, or on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Great Crested Flycatcher: Four to eight white to buff eggs marked with brown, olive, and lavender are laid in a nest filled and lined with grass, weeds, bark strips, rootlets, feathers, fur, snake skin, onion skin, and cellophane. Nest is usually built in a cavity, abandoned hole of another bird, or bird box.

**Flight Pattern:** Fairly swift buoyant direct flight. Hawks insects in flight, returning to perch. Hovers over foliage or ground then dips for food.

**Range and Habitat:** Great Crested Flycatcher: Breeds from south-central and southeastern Canada to the Gulf coast. Spends winters in southern Florida; also in tropics.



**Species:** *Myiarchus crinitus*

**Length Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Weight:** 34 g (1.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 30 - 36 cm (12 - 14 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## LEAST FLYCATCHER

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Least Flycatcher: Small flycatcher with olive-gray upperparts, gray breast, and pale yellow belly. Eye-ring is white. The bill has pale lower mandible with dark tip. Legs and feet are black. Feeds on insects, spiders, berries and seeds. Weak fluttering direct flight with shallow wing beats.

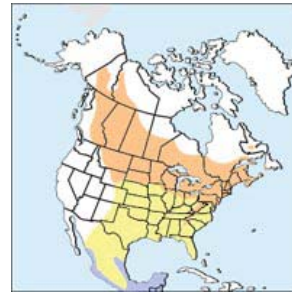
**Foraging and Feeding:** Least Flycatcher: Feeds on insects, some spiders, and a few berries and seeds; forages from branches and foliage by perching to spot prey, and then flying out to catch it in mid-air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Least Flycatcher: Three to six creamy white eggs are laid in a nest made of grass, bark strips, twigs, lichens, and plant fibers, bound by spider or caterpillar webs, and built in a tree or shrub 2 to 60 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 17 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering direct flight with shallow wing beats. Sallies to take insects in-flight and returns to same or nearby perch.

**Range and Habitat:** Least Flycatcher: Breeds from southern Yukon to northern Saskatchewan and New Brunswick, south to southern British Columbia, northeastern Wyoming, eastern Nebraska, southern Missouri, south-central Indiana, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, and to southern Appalachians; winters from northern Mexico to Nicaragua. Widely distributed in open country; prefers shade trees and orchards in villages and city parks, and along rural roadsides and woodland borders.



**Species:** *Empidonax minimus*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5.25 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 19 - 22 cm (7.5 - 8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Small colonies. Semicolonial

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: Large, heavy-billed flycatcher with dark olive-brown upperparts, streaked olive-brown sides, and white underparts. Head has slight crest and faint white eye-ring. Wings are dark with two pale bars. Dark tail is relatively short, broad, and slightly notched. Black legs, feet.

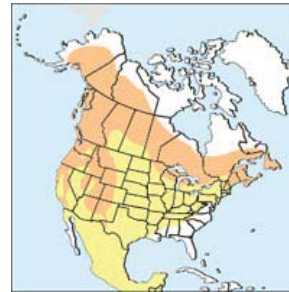
**Foraging and Feeding:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: Diet consists mostly of flying insects, including bees, wasps, flying ants, moths, grasshoppers, and dragonflies; catches food in mid-air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: Three to four brown and gray spotted, white to pink eggs are laid in a twig nest lined with lichens, mosses, and grass, and built near the end of a branch among the foliage well up in an evergreen tree. Incubation ranges from 14 to 17 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: Breeds in Alaska, east across Canada to northern New England, and south to the mountains of California, Arizona, and New Mexico. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include boreal spruce and fir forests, usually near openings, burns, ponds, and bogs.



**Species:** *Contopus cooperi*

**Length Range:** 19 cm (7.5 in)

**Weight:** 31 g (1.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 33 cm (13 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Medium flycatcher with pale gray upperparts and head, white underparts and throat, salmon-pink sides and flanks, and dark brown wings with white edges. Tail is long and scissor-like, black above with white outer edges and white below with black inner edges.

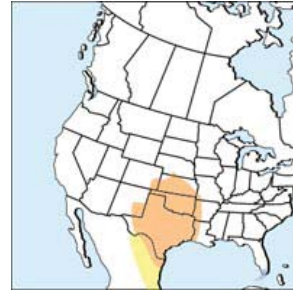
**Foraging and Feeding:** Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Eats insects, especially grasshoppers and crickets. Perches on branch, utility wire, or fence, flying down to capture prey on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Three to six white eggs with red, brown, olive, and gray blotches are laid in a nest made of twigs, lined with rootlets, grass, weeds, and hair, and built from 7 to 40 feet above the ground in a tree, shrub, utility pole, post, building, or other man-made structure. Incubation ranges from 14 to 17 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Light buoyant direct flight with shallow wing beats. Hovers briefly over prey before dipping to pick it up.

**Range and Habitat:** Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Breeds from eastern Colorado and Nebraska south to Texas and western Louisiana. Spends winters south of U.S.-Mexico border; a few in southern Florida. Preferred habitats include open country along roadsides and on ranches with scattered trees and bushes; often seen on fence posts and utility wires.



**Species:** *Tyrannus forficatus*

**Length Range:** 29 - 38 cm (11.5 - 15 in)

**Weight:** 43 g (1.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 36 - 39 cm (14.25 - 15.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Accidental to casual

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## VERMILION FLYCATCHER

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Vermilion Flycatcher: Small, stocky flycatcher, gray-black upperparts and scarlet-red crown, throat, and underparts. Face has thick, black eye-line. Wings and tail are gray-black; tail has thin white tip. Weak fluttering flight on shallow wing beats. Hovers in display flight and when foraging.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Vermilion Flycatcher: Feeds on insects; forages by flying from perch to catch prey in mid-air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Vermilion Flycatcher: Two to four white eggs with brown, gray and lavender spots are laid in a shallow cup of twigs, weed stalks, grass, and bark, lined with down, and built on a horizontal tree branch 8 to 55 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 14 to 15 days and is carried out by the female; usually has two broods per year.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flight with shallow wing beats. Hovers when feeding. Sallies from perch to catch insects in the air.

**Range and Habitat:** Vermilion Flycatcher: Breeds from southeastern California east to western Texas and south into the tropics. Spends winters in southern part of breeding range, but wanders as far east as the Gulf Coast. Found in wooded or brushy areas near water.



**Species:** *Pyrocephalus rubinus*

**Length Range:** 15 - 17 cm (5.75 - 6.5 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 30 - 33 cm (12 - 13 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WESTERN KINGBIRD

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Western Kingbird: Large flycatcher, gray upperparts, darker head, white throat and upper breast, and yellow lower breast and belly. Wings are brown. Tail is black with white edges. Feeds on insects, fruits and berries. Buoyant fluttering flight on shallow wing beats. Hovers over prey and dips down.

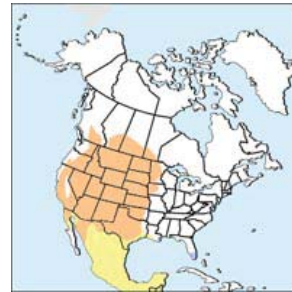
**Foraging and Feeding:** Western Kingbird: Diet consists of insects and berries. Catches and feeds on insects while making long sallies over open fields.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Western Kingbird: Three to seven white eggs marked with brown, lavender and black, are laid in a stick nest lined with plant fibers and built in a tree or bush. Incubation ranges from 18 to 19 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Buoyant fluttering flight with shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Western Kingbird: Breeds throughout the west, from southern Canada south to Mexico, east to Great Plains. Regular fall migrant on the Atlantic coast and winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include open country such as ranches, roadsides, streams, and ponds with trees.



**Species:** *Tyrannus verticalis*

**Length Range:** 22 cm (8.75 in)

**Weight:** 40 g (1.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 38 - 41 cm (15 - 16 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WILLOW FLYCATCHER

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Willow Flycatcher: Small flycatcher, brown-olive upperparts, white throat contrasting with paler breast, white to pale yellow belly. Head has darker cap, faint white eye rings. Dark wings with two white bars. Feeds on insects, spiders, berries. Weak fluttering flight with shallow rapid wing beats.

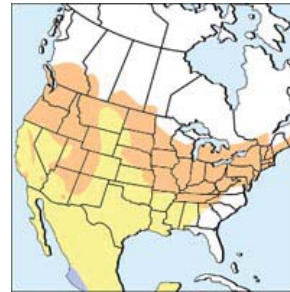
**Foraging and Feeding:** Willow Flycatcher: Feeds on insects; forages in flight, sometimes picking insects from foliage.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Willow Flycatcher: Two to four brown spotted, white to pale buff eggs are laid in a neat, compact cup of plant down and fibers built in a low bush or sapling. Incubation ranges from 12 to 15 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flight with shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Willow Flycatcher: Breeds from southern British Columbia, Alberta, North Dakota, New York, and Maine south to central California, Nevada, the southwest, Arkansas, and Virginia. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include swampy thickets, upland pastures, and old abandoned orchards; also occurs along wooded lakeshores and streams.



**Species:** *Empidonax traillii*

**Length Range:** 15 cm (5.75 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 - 23 cm (8 - 9 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

**General:** Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Small flycatcher with olive-green upperparts, yellow underparts, and olive-green wash on breast. Spectacles are pale yellow. The wings are dark with two white bars. Feeds on a variety of insects and spiders. Weak fluttering flight with shallow rapid wing beats.

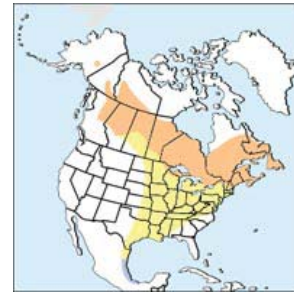
**Foraging and Feeding:** Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Feeds on a variety of insects, including, beetles, moths, tent caterpillars, flies, ants, and some spiders.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Three to five white eggs with brown spots at large end are laid in a nest made of twigs, rootlets, weeds, and moss, and lined with thin rootlets, grass, and fresh leaves. Nest is usually built two feet or less above the ground, atop a hillock of moss or upturned stumps among roots of fallen trees.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flight with shallow rapid wing beats. Sallies from perch to hawk insects and returns to the same or nearby perch.

**Range and Habitat:** Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Breeds from central Canada and Newfoundland south to Great Lakes region, northern New York, northern New England, and Maritime Provinces. Spends winters from Mexico to Panama.



**Species:** *Empidonax flaviventris*

**Length Range:** 14 cm (5.5 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

Shrikes (Laniidae)

**General:** Loggerhead Shrike: Medium shrike with gray upperparts and paler gray underparts. Mask is black and throat is white. Bill is heavy and slightly hooked. Wings are black with white patches. Tail is long, black, and white-edged. Low, swift flight, alternates rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

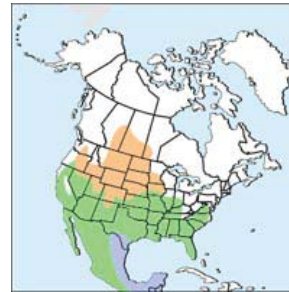


**Foraging and Feeding:** Loggerhead Shrike: Feeds on small vertebrates and invertebrates; hunts from a low perch in a tree, shrub, or power line, often catching prey on the ground. Maintains a food larder; impales prey on thorns or barbed wire.

**Breeding and Nesting:** Loggerhead Shrike: Four to seven white to gray eggs, marked with gray, brown or black, are laid in a bulky nest made of twigs and grass, lined with plant down and feathers, and set in a thorny shrub or tree. Incubation ranges from 16 to 17 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapid flight with quick wing strokes.

**Range and Habitat:** Loggerhead Shrike: Breeds from southern British Columbia, central Alberta, central Saskatchewan, southern Manitoba, southern Ontario, and southern Quebec, south throughout the U.S. Spends winters in the southern half of its breeding range. Preferred habitats include grasslands, orchards, and open areas with scattered trees.



**Species:** *Lanius ludovicianus*

**Length Range:** 23 cm (9 in)

**Weight:** 48 g (1.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 32 - 33 cm (12.5 - 13 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLUE-HEADED VIREO

Vireos (Vireonidae)

**General:** Blue-headed Vireo: Medium-sized vireo with olive-green upperparts, white underparts, and yellow flanks. Head has blue-gray hood, white spectacles, and white throat. The wings are dark with two white or pale yellow bars. Weak, fluttering flight with rapid wing beats. May hover briefly.

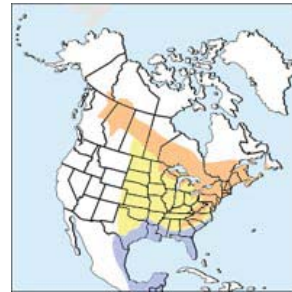
**Foraging and Feeding:** Blue-headed Vireo: Feeds mostly on insects, but eats berries in winter. Gleans insects from treetops and branches or flies out to catch insects in mid-air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Blue-headed Vireo: Three to five white eggs with black and brown markings at large end are laid in a cup nest made of twigs, grass, shredded bark, stems, spider webs, and cocoons. Nest is lined with grass and hair and built in a tree or bush 4 to 30 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Blue-headed Vireo: Breeds from Connecticut (and southward along crest of the Alleghenies) northward to New Brunswick and Manitoba; Spends winters from Florida southward. Preferred habitats include coniferous and mixed forests.



**Species:** *Vireo solitarius*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5.25 in)

**Weight:** 17 g (0.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## PHILADELPHIA VIREO

Vireos (Vireonidae)

**General:** Philadelphia Vireo: Medium vireo with olive-green upperparts and yellow-washed to yellow underparts. The head has a gray cap, dark eyes, and white-bordered black eye-line. Wings are olive-green with very faint wing-bars. Undertail coverts yellow. First discovered near Philadelphia in 1842.

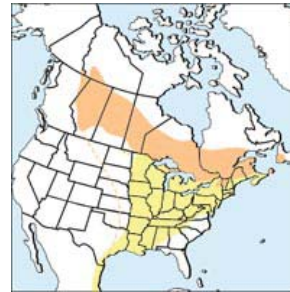
**Foraging and Feeding:** Philadelphia Vireo: Eats mostly insects, some fruits, and berries. Forages slow and deliberately in low to mid-level vegetation, often hanging upside down to pick off insects; sometimes forages while hovering.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Philadelphia Vireo: Three to five white eggs with brown and black speckles at larger end are laid in a nest made of grass, moss, lichens, and plant down, and hung by spider silk and insect webbing. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Relatively weak fluttering flight with rapid wing beats. Hovers briefly when foraging to pick insects off foliage, bark, or branches.

**Range and Habitat:** Philadelphia Vireo: Breeds in southern Canada and northernmost U.S. Winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include open second-growth woodlands, old clearings, burned-over areas, and thickets along streams and lakes.



**Species:** *Vireo philadelphicus*

**Length Range:** 12 - 13 cm (4.75 - 5.25 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 - 23 cm (8 - 9 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Yes but uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## RED-EYED VIREO

Vireos (Vireonidae)

**General:** Red-eyed Vireo: Medium vireo with olive-brown upperparts and white underparts. Head has a gray cap, white eyebrow, black eyestripe, and red eyes. Blue-gray legs and feet. Alternates short glides with series of rapid wingbeats. May hover briefly to pick berries or insects from foliage.

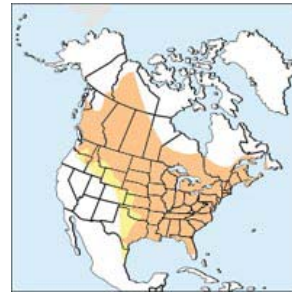
**Foraging and Feeding:** Red-eyed Vireo: Consumes large quantities of insects, especially caterpillars of gypsy moths and fall webworms; also eats fruits in winter; gleans insects from tree foliage, sometimes hovering while foraging.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Red-eyed Vireo: Three to five white eggs with black and brown spots at larger end are laid in a cup nest made of bark, grass, spider webs, and other plant materials, and suspended in the fork of a horizontal branch 2 to 60 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 11 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates several rapid shallow wing beats with short glides.

**Range and Habitat:** Red-eyed Vireo: Breeds from British Columbia, Ontario, and Gulf of Saint Lawrence south to Oregon, Colorado, the Gulf Coast, and Florida. Spends winters in the tropics. Inhabits mature deciduous woodlands; also found in shade trees in residential areas.



**Species:** *Vireo olivaceus*

**Length Range:** 15 cm (6 in)

**Weight:** 17 g (0.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 25 cm (10 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Declining

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WARBLING VIREO

Vireos (Vireonidae)

**General:** Warbling Vireo: Small vireo, gray to olive-gray upperparts, white underparts; sides sometimes washed with yellow. Eyes are dark brown, have thick, white eyebrows and faint, dark eye-lines. Gray wings and tail. Legs and feet are blue-gray. Has the largest breeding range of any North American vireo.

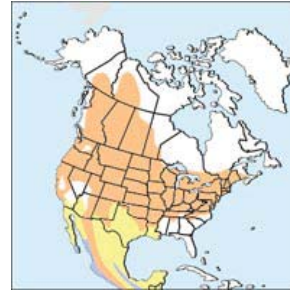
**Foraging and Feeding:** Warbling Vireo: Diet consists almost entirely of insects, some spiders, and a few berries; forages for food in tops of trees.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Warbling Vireo: Three to five black and brown spotted, white eggs are laid in a well made pendant-shaped nest of bark strips and plant down fastened to a forked twig, usually near the top of a tall tree. Both parents incubate eggs for approximately 12 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flights of short duration.

**Range and Habitat:** Warbling Vireo: Breeds from British Columbia, southern Mackenzie, Manitoba, and New Brunswick south to northern Mexico, Louisiana, and Virginia. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include deciduous woodlands, especially near streams and in isolated groves and shade trees.



**Species:** *Vireo gilvus*

**Length Range:** 13 - 14 cm (5 - 5.5 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WHITE-EYED VIREO

Vireos (Vireonidae)

**General:** White-eyed Vireo: Medium-sized, secretive vireo with olive-green upperparts, and white underparts with yellow sides and flanks. Spectacles are pale yellow and iris is white. Wings are dark with two white bars. Legs and feet are gray. Flight is fast and direct on short, rounded wings.

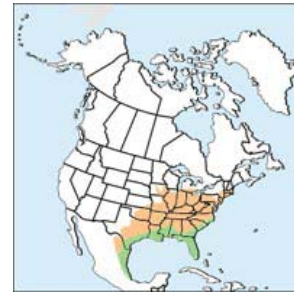
**Foraging and Feeding:** White-eyed Vireo: Eats insects, spiders, and small lizards; also eats seeds and berries in fall and winter. Forages in shrubs or dense undergrowth



**Breeding and Nesting:** White-eyed Vireo: Three to five brown-and-black spotted, white eggs are laid in a deep cup of twigs, rootlets, bark strips, coarse grass, and leaves, and built in a dense thicket 1 to 8 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 16 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapid direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** White-eyed Vireo: Breeds from Nebraska to Massachusetts, south to eastern Mexico and throughout Florida. Winters from the southern Gulf Coast to Central America and from coastal North Carolina, the Bahamas, and Bermuda to the Caribbean. Found in dense thickets, pine flatwoods, cypress swamps, and scrubby edges of roads, canals, and ponds. Avoids urban areas, but may be found in wooded parks and undeveloped areas near and within large cities.



**Species:** *Vireo griseus*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 cm (8 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

Vireos (Vireonidae)

**General:** Yellow-throated Vireo: Large vireo, olive-gray upperparts, gray rump. Throat and breast are bright yellow, belly is white. Eyes are dark. Spectacles are yellow. Wings are dark with two white bars. Legs and feet are black. It is the most colorful member of its family in North America.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Yellow-throated Vireo: Diet is composed of insects, mostly caterpillars; also eats spiders and fruits.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Yellow-throated Vireo: Three to five white to light pink eggs with brown spots at larger end are laid in a cup-shaped nest made of grass and lichens, and suspended from a tree limb 3 to 60 feet above the ground. Both parents incubate eggs for 14 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Fluttering direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Yellow-throated Vireo: Breeds from Manitoba, Minnesota, Ontario, and central New England south to Gulf Coast states. Spends winters in tropics, with a few in southern Florida. Inhabits live oak hammocks, mature pine forests, or mixed turkey oak and pine woodlands. Also occurs in cypress swamps or mixed forests along rivers. Sometimes found in residential areas with mature trees.



**Species:** *Vireo flavifrons*

**Length Range:** 13 - 15 cm (5 - 6 in)

**Weight:** 17 g (0.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 23 - 25 cm (9 - 10 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common in range

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLUE JAY

Crows and Jays (Corvidae)

**General:** Blue Jay: Medium, noisy jay with bright blue upperparts, pale gray underparts, distinct head crest, and neck surrounded with a curious black necklace. Black-barred wings and tail have prominent white patches. Direct flight with steady and bouyant wing beats. Glides between perches or to the ground.

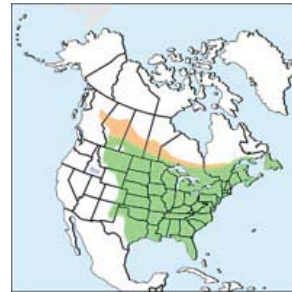
**Foraging and Feeding:** Blue Jay: Feeds on fruits, nuts, seeds, insects, mice, and frogs; sometimes robs other nests for young birds and eggs. Opens nuts by holding them in place with feet and hammering the shell with bill.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Blue Jay: Three to seven brown marked, light blue green or green blue eggs are laid in a coarsely built nest made of sticks, lined with grass, and well concealed in a tree, often a conifer. Incubation ranges from 16 to 18 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with buoyant steady wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Blue Jay: Resident east of the Rockies, from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, but slowly encroaching westward. Preferred habitats include evergreen forests, farmlands, groves, and suburbs.



**Species:** *Cyanocitta cristata*

**Length Range:** 28 cm (11 in)

**Weight:** 85 g (3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 41 cm (16 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Widespread

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## HORNED LARK

Larks (Alaudidae)

**General:** Horned Lark: Medium-sized lark with pale or dark brown upperparts and white underparts. Face and throat are pale yellow to white and mask, cap, and ear tufts are black. Tail is dark with white edges. Forages on ground, usually in open fields. Eats seeds, grains, insects and small mollusks.

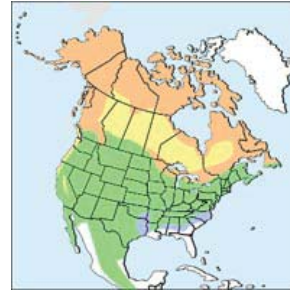
**Foraging and Feeding:** Horned Lark: Eats mostly seeds, insects, and small mollusks; forages in agricultural areas, often standing and walking on roadways.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Horned Lark: Two to five gray or green eggs spotted with brown are laid in a nest made of grass lined with feathers and soft materials and built in a shallow depression, natural or dug by the female. Incubation ranges from 11 to 12 days and is carried out mostly by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** After each wing beat folds wing feathers close to body.

**Range and Habitat:** Horned Lark: Breeds in Alaska and Canadian Arctic, coastal Canada, and south throughout all of the U.S. except southeast. Spends winters from southern Canada southward; also found in Eurasia. Preferred habitats include plains, fields, airports, and beaches.



**Species:** *Eremophila alpestris*

**Length Range:** 18 - 20 cm (7 - 8 in)

**Weight:** 31 g (1.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 32 - 36 cm (12.5 - 14 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BANK SWALLOW

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

**General:** Bank Swallow: Small swallow with brown upperparts, and a brown breast band separating white underparts from white throat and chin. Tail is notched. Brown legs, feet. The smallest North American swallow. Swift, erratic flight, alternating several shallow, rapid wing beats with short to long glides.

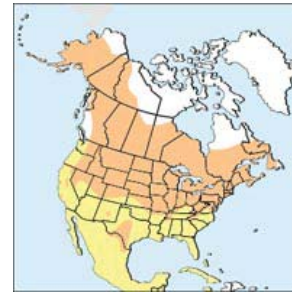
**Foraging and Feeding:** Bank Swallow: Feeds mostly on flying insects such as termites, treehoppers, leafhoppers, beetles, moths, and flies that it captures on the wing. Occasionally preys upon spiders or ants if there is a scarcity of aerial prey; forages singly or in flocks.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Bank Swallow: Three to seven white eggs are laid in a grass and feather nest in a chamber at the end of a deep tunnel, usually near the top of a steep bank. Nests in colonies; nesting banks may sometimes appear riddled with holes. Incubation ranges from 14 to 16 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift erratic fluttering flight on shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Bank Swallow: Breed from Alaska across northern Canada south to California, Texas, and Virginia. Spends winters in the tropics and the Old World. Preferred habitats include riverbanks, creeks, seashores, and lakes.



**Species:** *Riparia riparia*

**Length Range:** 12 cm (4.75 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 25 - 28 cm (10 - 11 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Widespread

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BARN SWALLOW

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

**General:** Barn Swallow: Medium swallow with glittering blue-black upperparts, red-brown forehead, chin and throat. Dark blue-black breast band, belly is white to orange. Tail is deeply forked with long outer streamers. Black legs and feet. It is the most abundant and widely distributed swallow in the world.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Barn Swallow: Diet includes insects such as grasshoppers, crickets, dragonflies, beetles, and moths. Barn swallows are quite opportunistic, and are often found following tractors engaged in plowing or mowing to take advantage of disturbed insects.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Barn Swallow: Four to seven brown marked, white eggs are laid in a solid cup of mud reinforced with grass, lined with feathers and soft plant material, and built under or on a rafter in a building or sheltered ledge. Incubation ranges from 13 to 17 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Graceful. Swift flight with deep wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Barn Swallow: Breeds from Alaska east across Canada to Newfoundland and south throughout most of the U.S.; spends winters in the tropics and Eurasia. Preferred habitats include agricultural lands, suburban areas, marshes, and lakeshores.



**Species:** *Hirundo rustica*

**Length Range:** 17 - 19 cm (6.75 - 7.5 in)

**Weight:** 17 g (0.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 32 - 34 cm (12.5 - 13.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Small colonies

**Breeding Population:** Widespread, Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## CLIFF SWALLOW

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

**General:** Cliff Swallow: Small, stocky swallow, dark blue-gray upperparts, pale orange-brown rump, buff underparts. Forehead is white or buff while throat, sides of face are orange-brown. Crown is blue-black, bill is short and black. Tail is dark and squared. Legs and feet are gray. Catches insects in flight.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Cliff Swallow: Diet consists almost entirely of insects, but will occasionally gorge on berries; forages in flight.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Cliff Swallow: Three to six brown marked, creamy white to light pink eggs are laid in a gourd-shaped nest made of mud, lined with feathers, and built on a sheltered cliff or under an eave. Incubation ranges from 14 to 16 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Soars on thermals and updrafts. Swift graceful flight with slow deep wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Cliff Swallow: Breeds from Alaska, Ontario, and Nova Scotia southward throughout most of U.S. except the southeast; spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include open country near buildings or cliffs, lakeshores, and marshes.



**Species:** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

**Length Range:** 14 cm (5.5 in)

**Weight:** 23 g (0.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 30 cm (12 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Large colonies

**Breeding Population:** Expanding

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

**General:** Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Small, stocky swallow, brown upperparts, paler underparts, pale brown throat. Tail is squared with white undertail coverts. Named for tiny hooks found on outer primary feathers. Swift, graceful flight, alternates several slow, deep wing beats with short or long glides.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Eats insects; forages in flight, taking insects in the air or from the water surface; sometimes forages on the ground. Drinks by skimming the water surface while in flight.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Four to eight white eggs are laid in a burrow or natural cavity; also uses ready-made cavities in bridges, culverts, and other streamside masonry. Eggs are incubated for 12 days by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift graceful flight with slow deep wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Breeds from southeastern Alaska and southern Canada southward throughout the U.S. Spends winters north to southern California, the Gulf Coast, and southern Florida.



**Species:** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

**Length Range:** 14 cm (5.5 in)

**Weight:** 17 g (0.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 28 - 30 cm (11 - 12 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester.  
Small colonies

**Breeding Population:** Increasing

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## PURPLE MARTIN

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

**General:** Purple Martin: Large, vocal swallow with glossy dark purple-blue body and forked tail. It is the largest North American swallow. Black bill, legs and feet. Strong, graceful flight, alternates a few rapid wing beats with long glides. Catches and eats insects in flight and also forages on the ground.

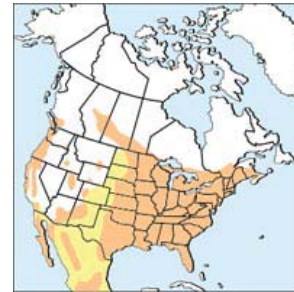
**Foraging and Feeding:** Purple Martin: Feeds on flying insects; catches prey in mid-air, flying at up to 45 mph or more when foraging. Weather unfavorable for insect activity lasting three or more days puts it at risk of starvation.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Purple Martin: Three to eight white eggs are laid in a cavity lined with mud, grass, and other plant material. Most nest in colonies in man-made birdhouses in developed areas and parklands. Incubation ranges from 15 to 18 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong with graceful flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Purple Martin: Breeds from British Columbia, central interior Canada, and Nova Scotia southward, but is absent from the interior western mountains and Great Basin. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include open woodlands, residential areas, and agricultural lands.



**Species:** *Progne subis*

**Length Range:** 18 - 22 cm (7.25 - 8.5 in)

**Weight:** 48 - 57 g (1.7 - 2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 39 - 43 cm (15.5 - 16.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Declining

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## TREE SWALLOW

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

**General:** Tree Swallow: Medium-sized swallow with iridescent blue-green upperparts and white underparts. The wings are dark gray and tail is dark and forked. Black bill, legs and feet. Swift, graceful flight, alternates slow, deep wing beats with short or long glides. Turns back sharply on insects it passes.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Tree Swallow: Feeds mostly on insects caught while in flight; also forages on the ground for insects, spiders, seeds, and berries; may travel long distances to find food.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Tree Swallow: Four to six white eggs are laid in a feather-lined cup of grass built in a tree cavity or nest box. Incubation ranges from 13 to 16 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift graceful flight with slow deep wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Tree Swallow: Breeds from Alaska east through northern Manitoba to Newfoundland and south to California, Colorado, Nebraska, and Maryland. Spends winters north to southern California, the Gulf Coast, and the Carolinas. Preferred habitats include open areas near water, such as fields, marshes, meadows, shorelines, beaver ponds, and wooded swamps with standing dead trees.



**Species:** *Tachycineta bicolor*

**Length Range:** 15 cm (5.75 in)

**Weight:** 20 g (0.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 32 cm (12.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Polygamous. Loose colonies

**Breeding Population:** Increasing, Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Nuthatches (Sittidae)

**General:** Red-breasted Nuthatch: Medium nuthatch with blue-gray upperparts and pale rust-brown underparts. Head has a black cap, white eyebrow, black eyestripe; throat is white. Bill is slightly upturned. Legs and feet are black. Weak fluttering flight, alternates rapid wing beats with wings drawn to sides.

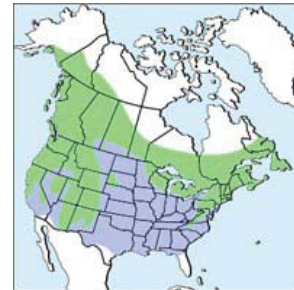
**Foraging and Feeding:** Red-breasted Nuthatch: Eats insects, spiders, egg masses, seeds, and nuts. "Nuthatch" is derived from "nut-hack", a reference to the habit of hacking or pecking open nuts by wedging them in a bark crevice and hammering them open with its bill.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Red-breasted Nuthatch: Four to seven white to light pink eggs, marked with red brown, are laid in a cup of twigs and grass, lined with softer material, and built in a tree cavity. The entrance is usually smeared with pitch, presumably to discourage predators; pitch often gets on the bird's feathers, giving them a messy appearance. Nest is built by both parents, but female does most of the work. Eggs are incubated for approximately 12 days by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flights of short duration, with rapid wingstrokes followed by brief folding of wings to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Red-breasted Nuthatch: Breeds across Canada from southeastern Alaska, Manitoba, and Newfoundland south to southern California, Arizona, the Great Lakes region, and northern New England, and south in Appalachians to North Carolina. Spends winters in breeding range and irregularly south to the Gulf Coast and northern Florida. Preferred habitats include coniferous forests.



**Species:** *Sitta canadensis*

**Length Range:** 11 cm (4.5 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 cm (8 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BROWN CREEPER

Creeper (Certhiidae)

**General:** Brown Creeper: Small, tree-clinging bird with brown-streaked upperparts and white underparts. White line over eye and long, decurved bill are conspicuous. Legs and feet are pink-buff. Feeds on insects, larvae, nuts and seeds. Strong direct flights of short duration on rapid and shallow wing beats.

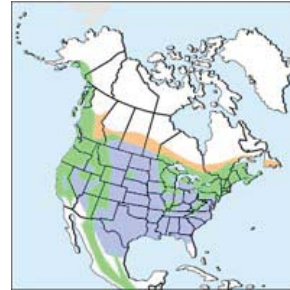
**Foraging and Feeding:** Brown Creeper: Diet consists of various insects, seeds, and some nuts; also come to feeders for suet. Usually forages by creeping along trunks and branches like a woodpecker.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Brown Creeper: Four to eight white eggs, lightly speckled with red brown, are laid in a cup of shredded bark, feathers, sticks, and moss, usually built against a tree trunk behind a peeling slab of bark. Incubation ranges from 13 to 17 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight of short duration.

**Range and Habitat:** Brown Creeper: Breeds from Alaska to Newfoundland and southward to the western and northern U.S. Spends winters in breeding range and south to the Gulf coast and Florida. Preferred habitats include deciduous and mixed woodlands.



**Species:** *Certhia americana*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5.25 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 18 - 20 cm (7 - 8 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## CAROLINA WREN

Wrens (Troglodytidae)

**General:** Carolina Wren: Medium-sized wren with rufous upperparts and buff underparts. Eyebrows are white, wings and tail are dark barred with white flecks. Throat and chin are white. Bill is decurved. Legs and feet are pink-gray. Range expands north when winters are mild and retracts south when harsh.

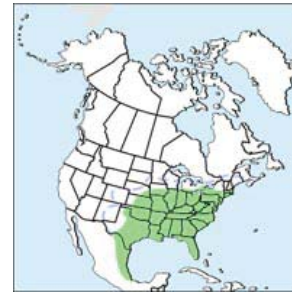
**Foraging and Feeding:** Carolina Wren: Eats mainly spiders and insects; forages on or near the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Carolina Wren: Four to eight white or light pink eggs, marked with brown, are laid in a shallow cup of sticks, leaves, mosses, and finer materials built in a crevice among rocks or, occasionally, on a building. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak and fluttering direct flight, often of short duration, on shallowly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Carolina Wren: Breeds from British Columbia, Montana, and western South Dakota southward.



**Species:** *Thryothorus ludovicianus*

**Length Range:** 15 cm (5.75 in)

**Weight:** 20 g (0.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 19 cm (7.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## HOUSE WREN

Wrens (Troglodytidae)

**General:** House Wren: Small wren (western parkmanii), with brown head, nape, and back showing very fine dark brown bars, faint white eyebrows, and gray-brown underparts with fine brown bars on flanks and below tail. Wings and tail are brown with darker bars. Bill is thin and slightly decurved.

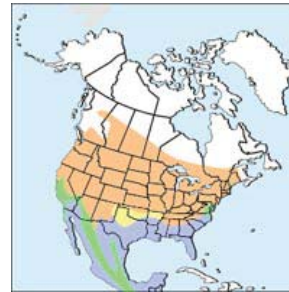
**Foraging and Feeding:** House Wren: Eats insects such as grasshoppers, beetles, crickets, true bugs, and caterpillars; also feeds on spiders, millipedes, and snails; forages by gleaning insects from leaves and shrubs.



**Breeding and Nesting:** House Wren: Five to nine white eggs with brown flecks are laid in a nest made of sticks and grass, lined with feathers and soft materials, and built in a tree cavity, crevice, or nest box. Incubation ranges from 13 to 15 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering direct flight with rapid shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** House Wren: Breeds from southern Canada southward to central California, central New Mexico, northern Arkansas, and northern Georgia. Other forms are found from Mexico southward throughout South America and the West Indies. Spends winters in the southern U.S. and Mexico, from California, Texas, and central Arkansas, to southern Maryland and southward to the Gulf coast and throughout Florida. Preferred habitats include open woodlands, forest edges, forest openings, shrubby areas, farmlands, orchards, residential areas, and suburban parks.



**Species:** *Troglodytes aedon*

**Length Range:** 10 - 13 cm (4 - 5 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 15 - 18 cm (6 - 7 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Polygamous

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## MARSH WREN

Wrens (Troglodytidae)

**General:** Marsh Wren: Small wren with lightly barred, warm brown upperparts, black-and-white triangular patch on upper back, and dull white underparts with pale brown sides. Crown is dark and eyebrows are white. Tail is relatively short and dark-barred. Black bill is long and slender. Legs and feet are black.

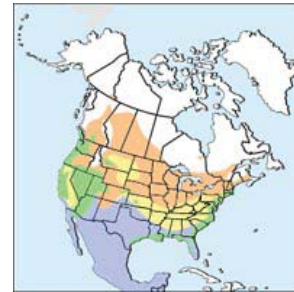
**Foraging and Feeding:** Marsh Wren: Eats insects and other invertebrates. Forages on or near the marsh floor, where it gleans food from vegetation and the water surface. Sometimes forages in thickets or shrub patches near marshes.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Marsh Wren: Three to ten brown eggs, flecked with dark brown, are laid in a globular nest made of reeds and cattails with a side entrance, lined with feathers and cattail down, and anchored to reeds. Incubation ranges from 12 to 16 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flights of short duration.

**Range and Habitat:** Marsh Wren: Breeds from British Columbia, central interior Canada, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia south to Mexico, the Gulf coast, and Florida. Spends winters across the southern tier of states, north to Washington on the west coast and east to New Jersey. Found in a variety of wetland habitats.



**Species:** *Cistothorus palustris*

**Length Range:** 11 - 13 cm (4.5 - 5 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 14 - 18 cm (5.5 - 7 in)

**Breeding Type:** Polygamous. Colonial

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## SEDGE WREN

Wrens (Troglodytidae)

**General:** Sedge Wren: Small wren with white-streaked, brown upperparts and pale buff underparts. Eyebrows are pale brown. Tail is short and barred. Bill is short and the legs and feet are pink. One of the most nomadic territorial birds. In any area it may be abundant one year, absent the next.

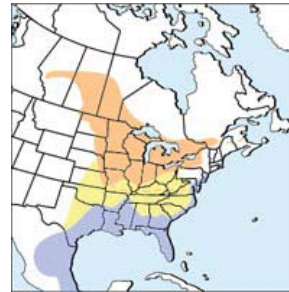
**Foraging and Feeding:** Sedge Wren: Eats mostly insects and spiders; forages while scampering on the ground in wet meadows and in low brush.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Sedge Wren: Four to eight white eggs are laid in a nest made of stems, grass, and sedges, lined with plant down, feathers, and fur, and built up to 2 feet above the ground in grass. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flight with shallow, rapid wing beats alternating several wing strokes with wings being drawn to sides repeatedly.

**Range and Habitat:** Sedge Wren: Breeds in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and New Brunswick south to Kansas, Missouri, and Delaware. Spends winters north to southern Illinois and Virginia. Found in dense marshlands and grasslands.



**Species:** *Cistothorus platensis*

**Length Range:** 11 cm (4.5 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 14 - 15 cm (5.5 - 6 in)

**Breeding Type:** Polygamous

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WINTER WREN

Wrens (Troglodytidae)

**General:** Winter Wren: Tiny wren with barred, dark brown upperparts and pale eyebrows. Brown underparts heavily barred on flanks, belly, and undertail. Tail is short. Bill is dark brown. Legs and feet are brown. Only member of the wren family found outside the Americas, occurring in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

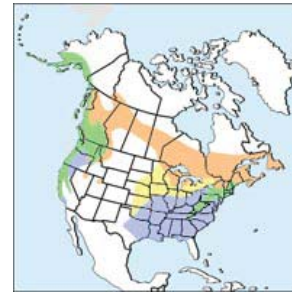
**Foraging and Feeding:** Winter Wren: Feeds on insects and other small invertebrates; forages on the ground and along banks of streams.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Winter Wren: Four to seven white eggs with brown flecks on large end are laid in a bulky nest made of twigs and moss, with an entrance on the side, lined with softer material, and often concealed among upturned roots of a fallen tree. Incubation ranges from 12 to 16 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flights of short duration.

**Range and Habitat:** Winter Wren: Breeds from Alaska and British Columbia east through southern Canada to Newfoundland, and south to California, northern Idaho, the Great Lakes region, and southern New England, and in the mountains to Georgia. Spends winters across much of the southern U.S. south to southern California, the Gulf Coast, and Florida. Dense tangles and thickets in coniferous and mixed forests are preferred habitats.



**Species:** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

**Length Range:** 10 cm (4 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 15 cm (6 in)

**Breeding Type:** Polygamous

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Belly Pattern:** Barred or banded

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

Kinglets (Regulidae)

**General:** Golden-crowned Kinglet: Very small, warbler-like bird, olive-green to gray upperparts and pale breast. Head has bright orange crown patch bordered with yellow and black, white eyebrows and black bill. Tail is short and wings have two bars. Weak fluttering flight on shallow wing beats.

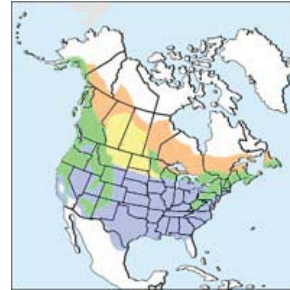
**Foraging and Feeding:** Golden-crowned Kinglet: Eats mainly insects, insect eggs, and seeds; drinks tree sap, sometimes from sapsucker drill wells; forages while moving among branches and leaves, often flicking its wings to flush prey.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Golden-crowned Kinglet: Five to eleven creamy white eggs, splotched brown or gray, are laid in a nest made of lichens and moss, lined with bark chips, rootlets and feathers, and built on a conifer branch from 30 to 60 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 14 to 15 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flight, alternating rapid shallow wing strokes with a brief pull of wings to sides. Hovers over food before dipping down to pick it up with beak.

**Range and Habitat:** Golden-crowned Kinglet: Common from southern Alaska to central Canada and southeast to the Carolinas; spends winters south to Florida and the Gulf coast. Preferred habitats include dense conifer forests; also found in deciduous and mixed forests.



**Species:** *Regulus satrapa*

**Length Range:** 9 - 10 cm (3.5 - 4 in)

**Weight:** 6 g (0.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 17 - 18 cm (6.5 - 7 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

Kinglets (Regulidae)

**General:** Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Medium kinglet, olive-green upperparts and gray-washed, pale yellow underparts. Head has inconspicuous tuft of red crown feathers, white spectacles. Wings are dark with two white bars. Tail is slightly notched and has white edges. Weak fluttering flight on shallow wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Ruby-Crowned Kinglet: Diet consists of insects, insect eggs, fruits, and seeds; forages by gleaning tree trunks, branches, and dense foliage.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Ruby-Crowned Kinglet: Five to eleven creamy white eggs spotted with brown or gray are laid in a nest suspended from twigs below a sheltering and concealing horizontal branch. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flight with shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Ruby-Crowned Kinglet: Breeds from Alaska east across Canada to Newfoundland, south to southern California and New Mexico in the west, and to the Great Lakes region and northern New England in the east. Spends winters south from southern British Columbia and California across the southern tier of states to southern New England. Preferred habitats include coniferous and deciduous forests.



**Species:** *Regulus calendula*

**Length Range:** 11 cm (4.25 in)

**Weight:** 6 g (0.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 17 - 19 cm (6.75 - 7.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Widespread

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER

Old World Warblers and Gnatcatchers (Sylviidae)

**General:** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Small, flycatcher-like perching bird, blue-gray upperparts, white underparts, prominent white eye-ring. Wings are dark. Black tail is long and white-edged. Forages in thickets, trees and shrubs for insects, their eggs and larvae. Weak fluttering flight on shallow wing beats.

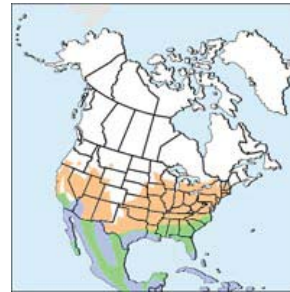
**Foraging and Feeding:** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Eats aphids, hemipterans, beetles, moths, butterflies, flies, ants, bees, wasps, and spiders; forages by moving up and down outer branches of trees or shrubs.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Four or five pale blue eggs, usually with brown flecks, are laid in a small cup nest of plant down and spider webs decorated with lichens and fastened to a horizontal branch at almost any height above the ground. Both parents incubate eggs for 13 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flight with shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Breeds from northern California, Colorado, southern Great Lakes region, southern Ontario, and New Hampshire southward. Spends winters from southern California to the Gulf coast and the Carolinas. Preferred habitats include deciduous woodlands, streamside thickets, live oaks, pinyon-juniper, and chaparral.



**Species:** *Poliophtila caerulea*

**Length Range:** 11 cm (4.25 in)

**Weight:** 6 g (0.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 15 - 17 cm (5.75 - 6.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## AMERICAN ROBIN

Thrushes (Turdidae)

**General:** American Robin: Large, familiar North American thrush, gray-brown upperparts, rich red-brown breast, and white lower belly and undertail coverts. Head appears black with white splotches surrounding the eyes, and throat is white with black streaks. Swift, direct flight on rapidly beating wings.

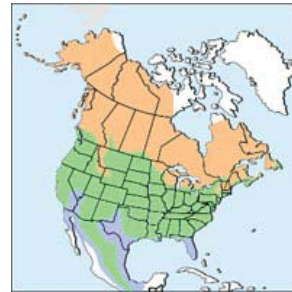
**Foraging and Feeding:** American Robin: Feeds on wild and cultivated fruits, berries, earthworms, and insects such as beetle grubs, caterpillars, and grasshoppers; appears to "listen" to the ground by cocking its head when stalking earthworms.



**Breeding and Nesting:** American Robin: Three to seven pale blue eggs, sometimes flecked with brown, are laid in a well-made cup of mud reinforced with grass and twigs, lined with softer grass, and built in a tree or on a ledge. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female. Robins usually have two broods per season.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift strong direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** American Robin: Breeds from Alaska east to Newfoundland and south to California, Texas, Arkansas, and South Carolina. Usually spends winters north to British Columbia and Newfoundland. Preferred habitats include towns, gardens, open woodlands, and agricultural lands.



**Species:** *Turdus migratorius*

**Length Range:** 25 cm (10 in)

**Weight:** 77 g (2.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 36 - 41 cm (14 - 16 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Widespread, Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## EASTERN BLUEBIRD

Thrushes (Turdidae)

**General:** Eastern Bluebird: Small thrush with bright blue upperparts, rust-brown throat and breast, and white belly and vent. Forages in the open from low branches for insects, earthworms, and spiders. Eats mostly berries and seeds in winter. Slow, direct flight with shallow, jerky wing beats.

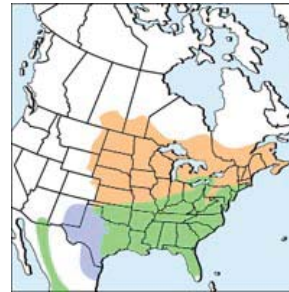
**Foraging and Feeding:** Eastern Bluebird: Feeds on insects, earthworms, snails, and other invertebrates, and is highly dependent upon berries during winter; forages from low perches, usually hawking insects.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Eastern Bluebird: Four to six light blue or white eggs are laid in a loose cup of grass and plant stems built in a natural tree cavity, old woodpecker hole, fence post or bird box; 2 to 50 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Slow flight with shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Eastern Bluebird: Breeds east of Rockies from southeast Canada to Gulf of Mexico; winters in southern portion of breeding range. Inhabits open woodlands, clearings, farmlands, parks, orchards, gardens, fields; often seen along roadsides on utility wires and fences.



**Species:** *Sialia sialis*

**Length Range:** 18 - 20 cm (7 - 7.75 in)

**Weight:** 31 g (1.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 29 - 33 cm (11.5 - 13 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Pairs

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common in range

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH

Thrushes (Turdidae)

**General:** Gray-cheeked Thrush: Small thrush (*minimus*), with olive-brown upperparts, buff-brown breast with brown spots, and white or buff belly. Gray eye-ring is indistinct. Upper mandible is black with pale base, while lower mandible is yellow with black tip. Tail and rump have rust-brown wash.

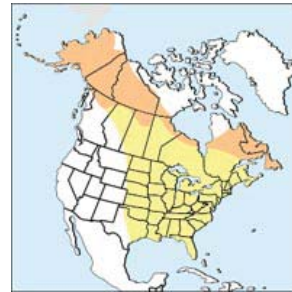
**Foraging and Feeding:** Gray-cheeked Thrush: Eats mostly insects such as beetles, ants, wasps, and caterpillars; also feeds on spiders, crayfish, sow bugs, earthworms, grapes, wild cherries, blackberries, and raspberries. Usually forages on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Gray-cheeked Thrush: Three to six green blue to pale blue eggs, with brown specks, are laid in a nest made of grass, sedges, bark, weed stems, twigs, and moss, lined with grass, leaves, and fine rootlets, and built on low branch of a tree or shrub, up to 10 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 13 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Relatively swift direct flight with somewhat jerky wing strokes.

**Range and Habitat:** Gray-cheeked Thrush: Breeds from northern Alaska across northern Canada to Newfoundland, south to northern British Columbia, northern Ontario, and central Quebec. Spends winters in Central and South America. Preferred habitats include coniferous forests (primarily spruce), tall shrubby areas in taiga, deciduous forests, and open woodlands.



**Species:** *Catharus minimus*

**Length Range:** 17 - 20 cm (6.5 - 8 in)

**Weight:** 34 g (1.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 29 - 34 cm (11.5 - 13.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## HERMIT THRUSH

Thrushes (Turdidae)

**General:** Hermit Thrush: Small thrush, with olive-brown to red- or gray-brown upperparts, black-spotted white underparts and rufous tail. Distinct white eye-ring. Pink legs, feet. Swift direct flight, may hover briefly over prey. Considered to have one of the most beautiful songs of all North American birds. The state bird of Vermont.

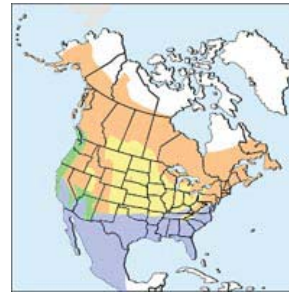
**Foraging and Feeding:** Hermit Thrush: Eats insects, small invertebrates, fruits, and forbs. Forages on both the ground and in vegetation; may move leaf litter with its bill to look for food.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Hermit Thrush: Three to six green blue eggs, sometimes flecked with black, are laid in a well-made cup of moss, leaves, and rootlets concealed on the ground or in a low bush in the forest. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Hermit Thrush: Breeds from central Alaska east to Newfoundland and south to southern California, northern New Mexico, Wisconsin, and Virginia. Spends winters from Washington and southern New England southward. Preferred habitats include coniferous and mixed forests; deciduous woodlands and thickets are favored during migration and winter.



**Species:** *Catharus guttatus*

**Length Range:** 17 cm (6.75 in)

**Weight:** 31 g (1.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 29 cm (11.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## SWAINSON'S THRUSH

Thrushes (Turdidae)

**General:** Swainson's Thrush: Medium-sized thrush (*swainsoni*), with dull olive-brown or olive-gray upperparts, pale buff eye-ring, dark moustache stripe, and brown-spotted buff throat and breast, and white belly. Legs and feet are pink-gray. Flies in a swift, direct flight with rapid wing beats.

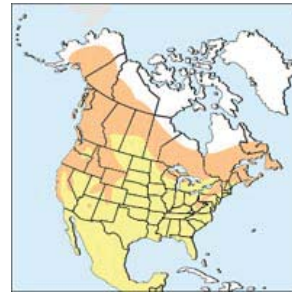
**Foraging and Feeding:** Swainson's Thrush: Eats insects, snails, and earthworms; also takes fruits and berries during fall migration. Forages near the ground, but higher in understory than other thrushes; occasionally catches insects in mid-air. Follows army ant swarms in winter.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Swainson's Thrush: Three to five pale blue eggs, usually flecked with brown, are laid in a nest made of sticks, moss, leaves, plant fibers, and bark, a middle layer of mud, and lined with lichens, dried leaves, and rootlets. Nest is built close to the trunk on a conifer branch, usually from 4 to 20 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Relatively swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Swainson's Thrush: Breeds from Alaska east across Canada to Newfoundland, south to British Columbia, Michigan, and northern New England, and in mountains to southern California, Colorado, and West Virginia. Spends winters in tropics. Prefers coniferous forests and willow thickets.



**Species:** *Catharus ustulatus*

**Length Range:** 15 - 18 cm (6 - 7 in)

**Weight:** 31 g (1.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 28 - 30 cm (11 - 12 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## VEERY

Thrushes (Turdidae)

**General:** Veery: Medium-sized thrush with rust-brown upperparts, indistinct pale gray eye-ring, white underparts, and faint rust-brown spots on the breast. Dark race has gray-brown upperparts and breast spots. The male sings a lovely, ethereal downward-slurring song at sunset. Shy and retiring.

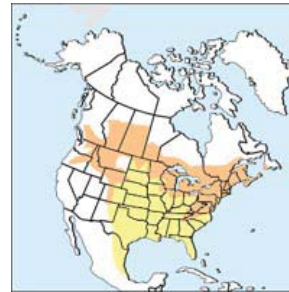
**Foraging and Feeding:** Veery: Eats insects, spiders, berries, and fruits. Forages on the ground and in trees; swoops from low perch to take prey on the ground, or gleans food from branches, foliage, or the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Veery: Three to five pale blue eggs are laid in a cup nest made of grass, stems, twigs, and moss, lined with soft bark and dry leaves, and built atop a platform on dry ground sheltered by shrubs, grass, or weeds; nest is sometimes built in a low tree or shrub. Incubation ranges from 10 to 12 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Relatively swift direct flight with somewhat hesitant motion on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Veery: Breeds from southern British Columbia east to Newfoundland and south to Arizona, South Dakota, Minnesota, New Jersey, and in mountains to Georgia. Spends winters in tropics. Inhabits moist deciduous woodlands; prefers willow thickets along streams in the west.



**Species:** *Catharus fuscescens*

**Length Range:** 18 - 19 cm (7 - 7.5 in)

**Weight:** 31 g (1.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 28 - 29 cm (11 - 11.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## WOOD THRUSH

Thrushes (Turdidae)

**General:** Wood Thrush: Medium thrush, rust-brown upperparts, white underparts with heavy dark brown spots. Eye-rings are white. Black bill has creamy pink base on lower mandible. In the early 1900s, its range began to expand north, forcing the Veery and Hermit thrushes to find another habitat.

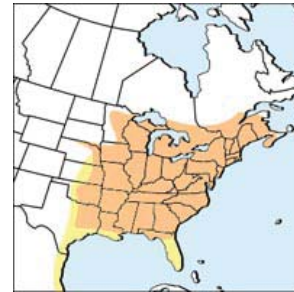
**Foraging and Feeding:** Wood Thrush: Eats various insects, spiders, and fruits; feeds largely on fruits and berries during fall migration; forages on the ground and in low vegetation.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Wood Thrush: Two to five pale blue or blue green eggs are laid in a cup nest made of moss, mud, and dried leaves, lined with fine rootlets, and built 6 to 50 feet above the ground in a tree or shrub. Incubation ranges from 13 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Wood Thrush: Breeds from Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia south to Florida and Gulf of Mexico. Spends winters in tropics. Found in moist, deciduous woodlands with a thick understory; also well-planted parks and gardens.



**Species:** *Hylocichla mustelina*

**Length Range:** 20 - 20 cm (7.75 - 8 in)

**Weight:** 48 g (1.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 33 - 36 cm (13 - 14 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## BROWN THRASHER

Mockingbirds and Thrashers (Mimidae)

**General:** Brown Thrasher: Medium thrasher, rufous upperparts, black-streaked, pale brown underparts. Eyes are yellow. Brown-black bill curves down, lower mandible has pale base. Wings have two white and black bars. Tail is long and red-brown. Legs and feet are brown. Fast flight on shallow, rapid wing beats.

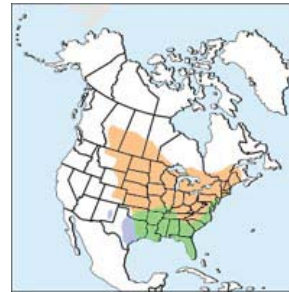
**Foraging and Feeding:** Brown Thrasher: Feeds on insects, small amphibians, fruits, and some grain. Runs quickly on the ground when foraging, turning leaves over with bill to find food.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Brown Thrasher: Two to six white to pale blue eggs, with light brown specks, are laid in a large nest built from sticks, grass, leaves, and rootlets, lined with grass, and built near the ground in a dense, often thorny bush. Incubation ranges from 11 to 14 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Rather fast flight n shallow wing beats. Short flights are made with several rapid wing beats alternated with brief periods with wings pulled to sides;repeated.

**Range and Habitat:** Brown Thrasher: Breeds from southeastern Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and northern New England south to the Gulf coast and Florida. Spends winters in southern part of breeding range.



**Species:** *Toxostoma rufum*

**Length Range:** 29 cm (11.5 in)

**Weight:** 68 g (2.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 32 - 36 cm (12.5 - 14 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## GRAY CATBIRD

Mockingbirds and Thrashers (Mimidae)

**General:** Gray Catbird: Small, shy, dark gray mockingbird with black cap and red-brown undertail coverts. The bill, legs, and feet are black. Forages on ground, shrubs and branches. Feeds mostly on insects and their larvae, spiders, berries and fruits. Swift direct flight on rapid wing beats.

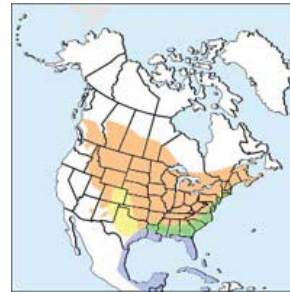
**Foraging and Feeding:** Gray Catbird: Feeds mostly on insects such as beetles, caterpillars, cicadas, crickets, grasshoppers, moths, ants, and aphids; also eats spiders, fruits, berries, and seeds; forages on the ground or in shrubs and low trees.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Gray Catbird: Two to six dark blue green eggs are laid in a nest made of twigs and grass, lined with finer materials, and built in a dense shrub or low tree. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift flight on series of rapidly beating wings. Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Gray Catbird: Breeds from southern Canada to central New Mexico and the Gulf states and in Bermuda. Most spend winters in the southeastern U.S., Panama, and the West Indies, but some winter north to Minnesota and southeastern Canada. Prefers low, dense vegetation or vine tangles at the edges of forests, marshes, and streams; does not occur in forest interiors. Suburban landscapes often contain good habitat for this species.



**Species:** *Dumetella carolinensis*

**Length Range:** 22 - 23 cm (8.5 - 9 in)

**Weight:** 37 g (1.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 28 - 30 cm (11 - 12 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD

Mockingbirds and Thrashers (Mimidae)

**General:** Northern Mockingbird: Medium-sized mockingbird with gray upperparts, paler gray underparts, and thin black mask. Wings are gray-black with two white bars and large white patches visible when spread. The tail is long, gray, and edged with white. Legs and feet are black. Feeds on fruit and insects.

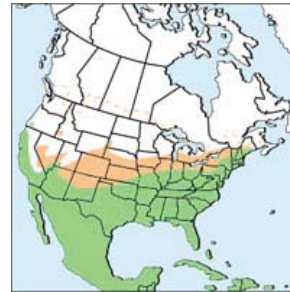
**Foraging and Feeding:** Northern Mockingbird: Diet consists of insects, fruits, crustaceans, and small vertebrates; forages in foliage and on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Northern Mockingbird: Two to six blue green eggs with brown splotches are laid in a bulky cup nest made of sticks and weed stems, and built in a bush or low tree. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Several quick wing strokes alternated with wings pulled to the sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Northern Mockingbird: Breeds from northern California, eastern Nebraska, southern Ontario, and Maritime Canada southward. Spends winters in the southern part of range. Found in residential areas, city parks, farmlands, open country with thickets, and desert brush.



**Species:** *Mimus polyglottos*

**Length Range:** 25 cm (10 in)

**Weight:** 48 g (1.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 33 - 38 cm (13 - 15 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## EUROPEAN STARLING

Starlings (Sturnidae)

**General:** European Starling: Small, chunky, iridescent purple and green blackbird with long, pointed yellow bill, pink legs, and short tail. The feathers on back and undertail show buff edges. Feeds in open areas, normally on the ground. Strong, direct and swift flight on rapidly beating wings.

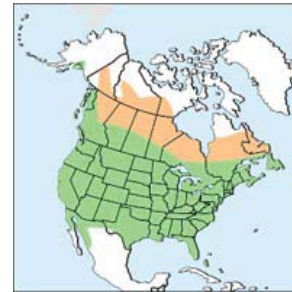
**Foraging and Feeding:** European Starling: Eats seeds, insects, small vertebrates, centipedes, spiders, earthworms, plants, and fruits; commonly takes food discarded by humans.



**Breeding and Nesting:** European Starling: Four to eight pale blue or green eggs, sometimes marked with brown, are laid in a nest made of twigs, grass, forbs, straw, and trash. Nest is lined built in a natural hollow of a tree, bird box, building crevice, or abandoned woodpecker hole. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** European Starling: Native to Eurasia, but widely introduced worldwide. Occurs from Alaska and Quebec south throughout the continent to the Gulf coast and northern Mexico. Preferred habitats include cities, suburban areas, farmlands, and ranches.



**Species:** *Sturnus vulgaris*

**Length Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Weight:** 85 g (3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 39 cm (15.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## AMERICAN PIPIT

Wagtails and Pipits (Motacillidae)

**General:** American Pipit: Small pipit, gray-brown upperparts and pale buff underparts; breast is faintly to darkly streaked. Tail is dark with white edges. Black bill is thin and long. Legs and feet are black. It can be distinguished from sparrows by its longer bill and habit of wagging its tail up and down.

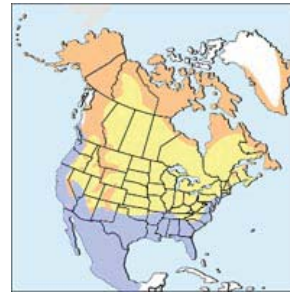
**Foraging and Feeding:** American Pipit: Feeds on insects, spiders, mites, mollusks, crustaceans, and aquatic worms; forages while walking on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** American Pipit: Three to seven gray white eggs, marked with brown, are laid in a cup of grass and twigs built on the ground sheltered by a rock or tussock. Incubation ranges from 13 to 15 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift flight on series of rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** American Pipit: Breeds from northern Alaska, Mackenzie, Canadian Arctic islands, and Newfoundland, south in mountains to California, New Mexico, and northern New Hampshire. Spends winters across the southern states and north to British Columbia and southern New England. Preferred habitats include Arctic and alpine tundra, beaches, barren fields, agricultural lands, and golf courses.



**Species:** *Anthus rubescens*

**Length Range:** 17 cm (6.5 in)

**Weight:** 23 g (0.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 25 - 28 cm (10 - 11 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Widespread

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## SPRAGUE'S PIPIT

Wagtails and Pipits (Motacillidae)

**General:** Sprague's Pipit: Medium pipit with streaked, brown upperparts, buff breast with dark streaks, and white throat and belly. Eyebrows are white. Tail is brown with white edges. Thin, pale bill. Legs are yellow to pale brown. Its plumage blends well among prairie grasses, making it difficult to spot.

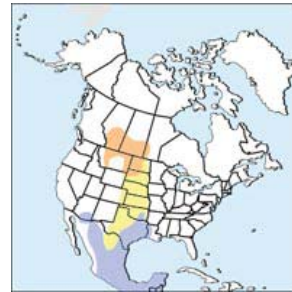
**Foraging and Feeding:** Sprague's Pipit: Feeds on insects and seeds; forages on the ground by walking or running, constantly bobbing its tail.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Sprague's Pipit: Four to six buff or gray eggs marked with brown or gray at larger end are laid in a nest made of grass and twigs, lined with fine materials, and built on the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female; may raise two broods per year.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift flight on series of rapidly beating wings. Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Sprague's Pipit: Breeds from Alberta and Manitoba south to Minnesota and Montana. Spends winters from southern Great Plains east to Mississippi, and in the southwest. Preferred habitats include short-grass fields.



**Species:** *Anthus spragueii*

**Length Range:** 16 - 19 cm (6.25 - 7.5 in)

**Weight:** 26 g (0.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 25 - 28 cm (10 - 11 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to rare

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## CEDAR WAXWING

Waxwings (Bombycillidae)

**General:** Cedar Waxwing: Small waxwing, red-brown upperparts, pale slate-gray rump, buff underparts. Head is crested, has black mask with narrow white band below. Yellow-tipped tail, white undertail coverts. Wings have red wax-like tips on secondaries from which it gets its name. Black bill, legs and feet.

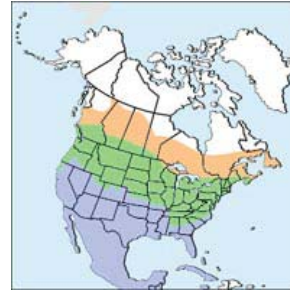
**Foraging and Feeding:** Cedar Waxwing: Diet consists mostly of insects such as carpenter ants, cicadas, caterpillars, scale insects, and cankerworms; also feeds on berries, fruits, maple sap, and flowers. Sometimes becomes intoxicated from eating fermented berries in winter.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Cedar Waxwing: Two to six pale blue gray eggs spotted with brown and black are laid in a bulky cup nest of twigs and grass built in a tree. Incubation ranges from 12 to 16 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong rapid flight with several quick wing strokes.

**Range and Habitat:** Cedar Waxwing: Breeds from southeastern Alaska east to Newfoundland and south to California, Illinois, and Virginia. Spends winters from British Columbia, the Great Lakes region, and New England southward. Preferred habitats include open woodlands, orchards, and residential areas.



**Species:** *Bombycilla cedrorum*

**Length Range:** 18 cm (7 in)

**Weight:** 31 g (1.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 28 - 31 cm (11 - 12.25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial or solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## AMERICAN REDSTART

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** American Redstart: Medium, active warbler with black upperparts and hood, distinctive orange-red patches on wings, sides, and long, fanned tail, and white underparts. Bill, legs, and feet are black. It frequently flashes its colorful wings and tail to flush insects from foliage.

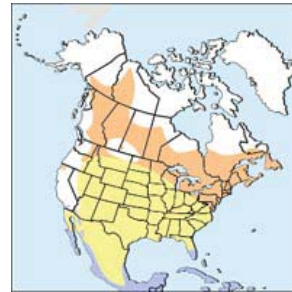
**Foraging and Feeding:** American Redstart: Feeds on insects, spiders, caterpillars, berries, fruits, and seeds. Often pursues flying insects by dropping from perch. Has flycatcher-like bristles around bill and competes for food with the Least Flycatcher, which may aggressively attack redstarts.



**Breeding and Nesting:** American Redstart: Two to five white or pale green eggs, marked with brown and gray, are laid in a compact cup of grass, bark shreds, plant fibers, and spider silk, often decorated with lichens, and lined with fine grass and hair. Nest is usually built in a tree or bush 10 to 20 feet above the ground. Female incubates eggs for 12 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** American Redstart: Breeds from southeastern Alaska east to Newfoundland, and south to northern California, Colorado, Oklahoma, northern Louisiana, and South Carolina. Spends winters in southern Texas and southern California and points south into the tropics. Preferred habitats include second-growth woodlands.



**Species:** *Setophaga ruticilla*

**Length Range:** 11 - 14 cm (4.5 - 5.5 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 cm (8 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BAY-BREASTED WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Bay-breasted Warbler: Medium-sized warbler with dark-streaked gray upperparts and buff underparts with chestnut-brown patches on the chin, throat, breast and flanks. The head has a dark brown crown and black mask. Wings are black with two white bars. It is one of the largest warblers.

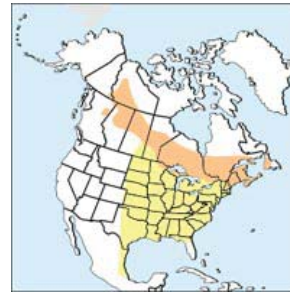
**Foraging and Feeding:** Bay-breasted Warbler: Eats caterpillars, beetles, flies, moths, mayflies, ants, lacewings, and canker worms. Generally gleans prey from mid-level, inner part of conifers, particularly on lichen-covered limbs with little foliage, but readily forages at other heights within the tree and in broad-leaved foliage.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Bay-breasted Warbler: Four to six brown or purple marked, white, green or blue eggs are laid in a loosely built, hair-lined nest made of twigs, grass, and needles set in a conifer as much as 50 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Bay-breasted Warbler: Breeds from northeastern British Columbia east to Maritime Provinces and south to the northern Great Lakes region and northern New England. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include open spruce forests and deciduous woodlands.



**Species:** *Dendroica castanea*

**Length Range:** 14 cm (5.5 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Black-and-white Warbler: Small, black-and-white striped warbler with a white median head stripe bordered by black. Black bill, legs and feet. It forages unlike any other warbler by moving up and down the trunks of trees and crawling under and over branches in a style similar to that of a nuthatch.

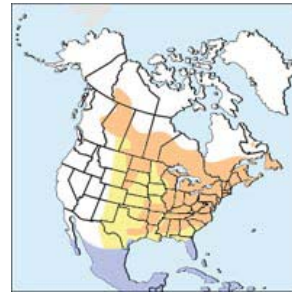
**Foraging and Feeding:** Black-and-white Warbler: Feeds on caterpillars, flies, bugs, beetles, borers, spiders, and arthropod egg masses. The only North American warbler to forage regularly on bark; creeps along branches and trunks from the canopy to the ground, picking and probing with its thin bill.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Black-and-white Warbler: Four to six brown flecked, white to creamy white eggs are laid in a ground nest composed of leaves, grass, and rootlets, and lined with hair and fern down. Nest is set at the base of a tree, stump, or rock. Incubation ranges from 10 to 12 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Black-and-white Warbler: Breeds from southern Mackenzie, northern Alberta, and central Manitoba east to Newfoundland, and south to southern U.S. east of the Rockies. Spends winters from southern parts of Gulf coast states southward. Preferred habitats include primary and secondary forests, chiefly deciduous. During migration occurs in parks, gardens, and lawn areas with trees and shrubs.



**Species:** *Mniotilta varia*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 - 23 cm (8.5 - 9 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Widespread

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Blackburnian Warbler: Medium warbler, yellow-orange head, black cap and cheek patch, and orange throat. Upperparts are black with white stripes and underparts are white with black-streaked flanks. Wings have prominent white patches. The tail is black with white on outer tail feathers.

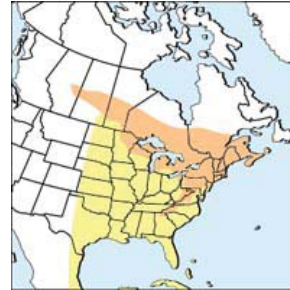
**Foraging and Feeding:** Blackburnian Warbler: Eats caterpillars and beetles, hopping from limb to limb high in tall trees. Also hawks insects, flying from a perch to grab them in mid-air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Blackburnian Warbler: Four to five brown spotted and blotched, white or pale green eggs are laid in a twig nest lined with lichens, mosses, and hair, usually built high in a large conifer. Incubation ranges from 11 to 12 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Blackburnian Warbler: Breeds from Saskatchewan east to Nova Scotia, south to the Great Lakes, southern New England, and in mountains to northern Georgia. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include mixed forests of hemlock, spruce, and various hardwoods.



**Species:** *Dendroica fusca*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 cm (8 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common in coniferous range

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## BLACKPOLL WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Blackpoll Warbler: Medium-sized warbler with black-streaked, gray upperparts, white underparts, and black-streaked white sides. Head has black cap and prominent white cheek patch. Bill is black. Wings are dark with two white bars. Pink legs and feet. Swift, direct flight with rapidly beating wings.

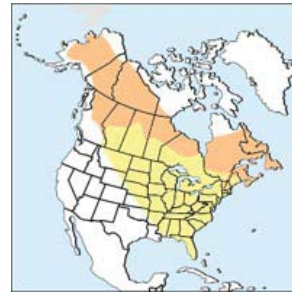
**Foraging and Feeding:** Blackpoll Warbler: Eats aphids, beetles, mosquitoes, ants, wasps, gnats, and spiders. Actively chases insects; sometimes catches flying insects in mid-air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Blackpoll Warbler: Three to five brown or lavender marked, white eggs are laid in a twig-and-grass nest, often lined with feathers, and usually built in a small evergreen tree. Female incubates eggs for about 12 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Blackpoll Warbler: Breeds from Alaska and northern Canada to southern Canada and northern New England. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred breeding habitat is coniferous forests; during migration found chiefly in tall trees.



**Species:** *Dendroica striata*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5.25 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Polygamous

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Black-throated Blue Warbler: Small warbler that is the most strikingly sexually dimorphic of all wood warblers. Male has dark blue upperparts, black throat and mask. White underparts with black sides and white wing patch at base of primaries. Bill, legs and feet are black. The female is olive-brown.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Black-throated Blue Warbler: Feeds on insects and other small invertebrates. During the breeding season, forages from on the ground to high in the forest canopy; male often forages higher than female; locates a high %age of prey from the lower surface of leaves. Small fruits are often eaten during winter.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Black-throated Blue Warbler: Three to five white eggs, marked and flecked with brown and gray, are laid in a nest made of leaves and grass, lined with cobwebs and hair, and set near the ground in a shrub or young tree. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight with series of rapid wing beats alternating with brief periods of wings pulled to side.

**Range and Habitat:** Black-throated Blue Warbler: Breeds from Ontario east to Quebec and Nova Scotia, south to Minnesota, Great Lakes, and Connecticut, and in the mountains to northern Georgia; spends winters in Gulf coast states and the Greater Antilles. Preferred habitats include mixed deciduous and evergreen woodlands with thick undergrowth, especially mountain laurel.



**Species:** *Dendroica caerulescens*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5.25 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 18 - 19 cm (7 - 7.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Black-throated Green Warbler:

Medium-sized warbler with olive-green upperparts, black-streaked flanks, and white underparts. Face is yellow with black eyestripe and bill. Crown is olive green. Throat and upper breast are black. Wings are dark with two white bars. Tail is dark. Black legs and feet.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Black-throated Green Warbler:

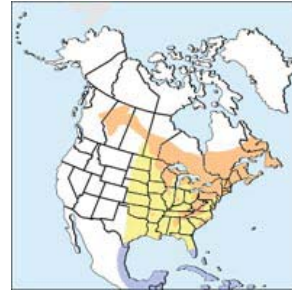
Eats insects, fruits, and seeds.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Black-throated Green Warbler: Three to five brown and purple marked, white or gray eggs are laid in a cup of grass, moss, and plant fibers, lined with hair and feathers, and built on a branch of a conifer. Female incubates eggs for about 12 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Black-throated Green Warbler: Breeds from eastern British Columbia, Ontario, and Newfoundland south to Alberta, Minnesota, Ohio, northern New Jersey, and in the mountains to Georgia. Spends winters from Florida and Texas southward. Preferred habitats include open stands of hemlock or pine.



**Species:** *Dendroica virens*

**Length Range:** 12 - 13 cm (4.75 - 5 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 19 - 20 cm (7.5 - 8 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BLUE-WINGED WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Blue-winged Warbler: Medium-sized warbler with olive-green upperparts and yellow underparts. The head is yellow with thin black eye line and olive-green nape. Wings are dark gray with two white bars. When its range overlaps with the Golden-winged Warbler, it often interbreeds with or displaces it.

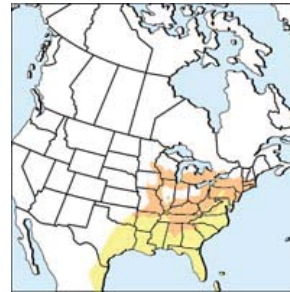
**Foraging and Feeding:** Blue-winged Warbler: Diet consists of insects and spiders; forages in trees and shrubs.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Blue-winged Warbler: Four to seven brown and gray flecked white eggs are laid in a grass-lined cup of dead leaves and fibers, and built on or very near the ground in thick undergrowth. Incubation ranges from 10 to 12 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flights of short duration.

**Range and Habitat:** Blue-winged Warbler: Breeds from Nebraska, central Iowa, southern Wisconsin, southern Ontario, and central New England south through east-central and Atlantic coast states to northern Georgia. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include abandoned fields and pastures grown up to saplings; forest clearings and edges with clumps of catbrier, blackberry, and various bushes and young trees.



**Species:** *Vermivora pinus*

**Length Range:** 12 cm (4.75 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 17 - 19 cm (6.75 - 7.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## CANADA WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Canada Warbler: Small warbler with slate-gray upperparts, bright yellow underparts, black-streaked necklace, and white vent. The eye-ring is yellow to white. Bill is gray. Pink legs and feet. Skulks in low, dense undergrowth beneath mixed hardwoods. Direct flight with quick, fluttering wing beats.

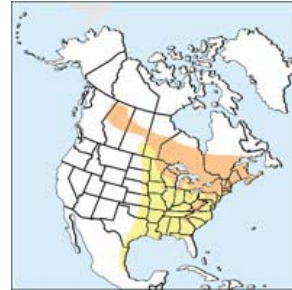
**Foraging and Feeding:** Canada Warbler: Diet consists primarily of flying insects, including mosquitoes, flies, moths, and beetles; also eats small, hairless caterpillars and spiders. Forages in shrubs and lower tree branches of both coniferous and deciduous trees, and occasionally on the ground; most frequently hops along branches, but will catch insects on the wing.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Canada Warbler: Three to five white or buff eggs, marked with brown, purple, and gray, are laid in a nest made of dried leaves and grass built on or near the ground at the base of a stump or in a fern clump. Eggs are incubated for approximately 12 days by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Canada Warbler: Breeds from southern Canada to northern U.S. east of the Rockies, and in the mountains to northern Georgia. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include cool, moist woodlands with abundant undergrowth.



**Species:** *Wilsonia canadensis*

**Length Range:** 13 - 15 cm (5 - 6 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 19 - 22 cm (7.5 - 8.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## CAPE MAY WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Cape May Warbler: Small warbler, olive-yellow upperparts, thick, black streaks on yellow underparts. Bright yellow face, chestnut-brown ear patch, black crown. Wings are dark with large white patches. First collected in Cape May, New Jersey in 1811 and not seen again in that area for over 100 years.

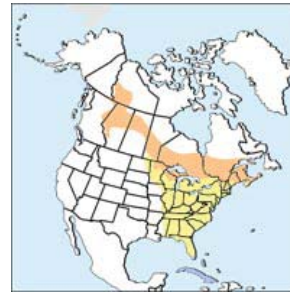
**Foraging and Feeding:** Cape May Warbler: Diet consists mostly of caterpillars, spruce budworms, ants, flies, small bees, spiders, and crickets; also drinks juices of grapes by poking a hole in the grape with bills. Sometimes catches insects on the wing.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Cape May Warbler: Six to nine gray or brown spotted, creamy white eggs are laid in a bulky, compact, twig-and-moss nest lined with grass, fur, and feathers. Incubation ranges from 11 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flights of short duration.

**Range and Habitat:** Cape May Warbler: Breeds from southern Mackenzie, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec south to North Dakota, Michigan, northern New York, Maine, and Nova Scotia. Spends winters in southern Florida and the West Indies. Preferred habitats include open spruce forests, but during migration also found in evergreen or deciduous woodlands, and often parks or suburban yards.



**Species:** *Dendroica tigrina*

**Length Range:** 12 cm (4.75 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 18 cm (7 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Yes but uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## CERULEAN WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Cerulean Warbler: Small warbler with sky-blue, faintly streaked upperparts, black-streaked white flanks. Black band separates white throat and belly. Wings have two bold white bars. Black bill, legs and feet. Prefers to stay high in the crowns of mature deciduous trees, making it difficult to see.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Cerulean Warbler: Feeds on insects, with a preference for caterpillars; usually forages in trees.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Cerulean Warbler: Three to five brown-spotted, white to gray eggs are laid in nest made of bark strips, grass, spider silk, and lichens, and lined with moss and fur. Nest is built by the female and built 15 to 90 feet above the ground, usually on a horizontal branch in a deciduous tree. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Cerulean Warbler: Breeds from extreme southwestern Quebec and southern Ontario west to Minnesota and Nebraska, and south from eastern Texas to North Carolina. Spends winters in montane forests of northern South America. Prefers mature forests with broad-leaved, deciduous species and an open understory; often found near bottomlands and rivers.



**Species:** *Dendroica cerulea*

**Length Range:** 11 - 13 cm (4.5 - 5 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 19 cm (7.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Chestnut-sided Warbler: Medium warbler with black-streaked upperparts, white underparts, and chestnut-brown flanks. The cap is bright yellow and moustache stripe is black. Often cocks its tail high above its back as it feeds. The only North American warbler with pure white underparts in all seasons.

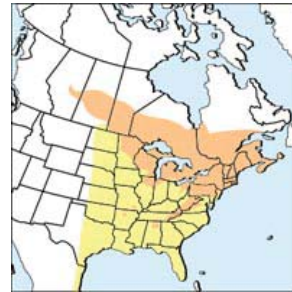
**Foraging and Feeding:** Chestnut-sided Warbler: Feeds mostly on insects and some fruits. Forages alone, searching undersides of leaves, hopping from branch to branch with tail cocked.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Chestnut-sided Warbler: Three to five brown and purple blotched, white to pale green eggs are laid in a grass-and-bark nest lined with hair and rootlets, and built a few feet above the ground in a small tree or bush. Incubation ranges from 11 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flight with shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Chestnut-sided Warbler: Breeds from south-central Canada east to Nova Scotia, south to east-central U.S., and in the Appalachian Mountains. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include young, open, second-growth woodlands and scrub.



**Species:** *Dendroica pensylvanica*

**Length Range:** 13 - 13 cm (5 - 5.25 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 19 - 21 cm (7.5 - 8.25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Common Yellowthroat: Small, skulking warbler with olive-yellow upperparts, bright yellow throat and breast, and pale gray belly. The head has a black mask with a thick white border above, black bill. Legs are pink. Slow weak flight, alternates periods of rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

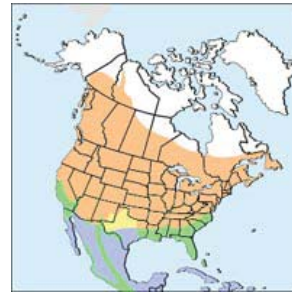
**Foraging and Feeding:** Common Yellowthroat: Eats grasshoppers, dragonflies, beetles, butterflies, and spiders; sometimes feeds on seeds; forages in shrubbery, grass, and weeds.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Common Yellowthroat: Three to six white eggs with brown, gray, and black flecks are laid in a loose nest made of grass, sedge, and bark, lined with rootlets, hair, and fine grass, and concealed on or near the ground in a dense clump of weeds or grass. Eggs are incubated for 12 days by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Common Yellowthroat: Breeds throughout Alaska, Canada, and the U.S. Spends winters in southern states and in the tropics. Preferred habitats include briers, damp brushy places, weeds, or grass along country roads or in agricultural lands; also found in cattails, bulrushes, sedges, and willows near streams, swamps, and marshes.



**Species:** *Geothlypis trichas*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 cm (8 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester. Some polygamous

**Breeding Population:** Common to abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Golden-winged Warbler: Small warbler with gray upperparts and white underparts. Face is white with black mask and throat, and head has a yellow crown. Wings are gray with large yellow patches. Its flight is weak and fluttering, alternates rapid wing beats with periods of wings drawn to its sides.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Golden-winged Warbler: Feeds on insects, especially caterpillars and pupae. Gleans leaves and twigs, concentrating on dead leaf clusters; acrobatic forager, often hanging upside-down like a chickadee.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Golden-winged Warbler: Four to seven creamy white eggs with brown splotches and spots are laid in a cup of dead leaves and fibers set on or near the ground in thick vegetation. Eggs are incubated for approximately 10 days by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Golden-winged Warbler: Breeds from southern Manitoba and New Hampshire south to New Jersey and Iowa, and in the mountains to Georgia. Spends winters from southern Mexico to northern South America. Preferred habitats include abandoned fields and pastures grown to saplings.



**Species:** *Vermivora chrysoptera*

**Length Range:** 12 - 13 cm (4.75 - 5 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 - 21 cm (7.75 - 8.25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to rare, Declining

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## HOODED WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Hooded Warbler: Medium warbler, olive-green upperparts, bright yellow underparts. Head has black hood, and yellow face. The eyes are large and dark and the tail is often spread, displaying large white spots. Bill is black, legs and feet are pink. Makes short, direct flights on rapidly beating wings.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Hooded Warbler: Diet consists of insects and other small arthropods.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Hooded Warbler: Three to five cream eggs with brown spots and blotches, are laid in a grass-lined nest made of dead leaves and plant fibers, and built low in a small tree or shrub. Eggs are incubated for 12 days by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight of short duration on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Hooded Warbler: Breeds from Iowa, Michigan, and southern New England south to the Gulf coast and northern Florida. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include mature, moist forests with luxuriant undergrowth and wooded swamps.



**Species:** *Wilsonia citrina*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5.25 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 cm (8 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## KENTUCKY WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Kentucky Warbler: Medium, ground-dwelling warbler with bright olive-green upperparts and yellow underparts. Head has black mask and sideburns and thick yellow eyebrows. Bill is black, legs and feet are pink. Secretive, heard rather than seen. It is named for the state where it was first discovered.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Kentucky Warbler: Diet includes grubs, plant lice, spiders, caterpillars, and other insect larvae. Sometimes adds a bit of Mexican fruit to its diet during winter. Forages on the ground by rummaging through leaf litter, probing, and tossing with its bill, and scratching with its feet; also feeds in shrubs, vines, and lower parts of trees.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Kentucky Warbler: Three to six white eggs with brown flecks and splotches are laid in a nest made of dead leaves, lined with grass, hair, and rootlets, and built on or near the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Kentucky Warbler: Breeds from Iowa and Indiana east to New Jersey, and south to the southeastern U.S. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include low, moist, rich woodlands with luxuriant undergrowth.



**Species:** *Oporornis formosus*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5.25 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 21 cm (8.25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Louisiana Waterthrush: Large ground-dwelling warbler, dark olive-brown upperparts, heavily streaked white underparts with buff wash on belly and sides. White throat; eyestripe is dark and thick, white eyebrows widen behind eyes. Bill is long and heavy. Tail is short with pale buff undertail coverts.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Louisiana Waterthrush: Eats insects, other invertebrates, small fish, and small frogs. Forages primarily on the ground within the boundary of a stream channel; occasionally searches trees during insect swarms.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Louisiana Waterthrush: Four to six white eggs, with brown and gray specks or blotches, are laid in a grass-lined nest made of dead leaves and moss, and set under the overhang of a stream bank, in a stump cavity, or in exposed tree roots. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Louisiana Waterthrush: Breeds from Minnesota, southern Ontario and central New England south to Texas and Georgia. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include swift-moving brooks on hillsides, river swamps, and along sluggish streams.



**Species:** *Seiurus motacilla*

**Length Range:** 15 cm (6 in)

**Weight:** 20 g (0.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 23 cm (9 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## MAGNOLIA WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Magnolia Warbler: Medium-sized warbler with dark back, yellow rump, and black-streaked yellow underparts. The head has a blue-gray crown, yellow throat, and thick white eyebrows. Wings are dark with two white bars. Tail is dark with white patches and undertail coverts. Bill, legs and feet are black.

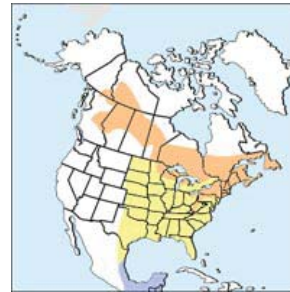
**Foraging and Feeding:** Magnolia Warbler: Eats mostly insects, but also feeds on berries. Gleans insects from undersides of leaves and from bark crevices; frequently spreads its tail, exposing bold white patches.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Magnolia Warbler: Three to five brown marked, white or green eggs are laid in a shallow twig-and-grass nest lined with rootlets. Incubation ranges from 11 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight with series of rapid wing beats alternating with brief periods of wings pulled to side.

**Range and Habitat:** Magnolia Warbler: Breeds from British Columbia across central Canada to the northeastern U.S. and Appalachian mountains south to Virginia. Rare visitor to the west coast; winters in the tropics. Breeds in open stands of young spruce and fir. During migration, it can be found almost any place with shrubbery or trees.



**Species:** *Dendroica magnolia*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 cm (7.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## MOURNING WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Mourning Warbler: Medium-sized warbler with an olive-green back, wings, tail, and gray hood. The underparts are yellow and the upper breast is black. It's named for the way its dark breast and hood resemble a person in mourning. It is one of the latest spring migrants of all North American warblers.

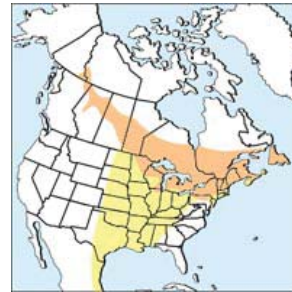
**Foraging and Feeding:** Mourning Warbler: Eats insects and spiders; gleans food from foliage.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Mourning Warbler: Three to five brown-spotted, white to creamy white eggs are laid in a nest made of fibers and leaves, lined with grass and hair, and built on or near the ground. Eggs are incubated for 12 days by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Fairly swift direct flight for short distances.

**Range and Habitat:** Mourning Warbler: Breeds from Alberta to Newfoundland and south to North Dakota and northern New England, and in mountains to Virginia. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include dense thickets of blackberries and briars in forest clearings; also wet woodlands with thick undergrowth.



**Species:** *Oporornis philadelphia*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5.25 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 21 cm (8.25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## NASHVILLE WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Nashville Warbler: Small warbler, olive-green upperparts, yellow underparts, white lower belly. Small chestnut-brown cap, barely noticeable. Gray hood extends to back, eye-ring is white. Two breeding populations, a mid to northeastern one that doesn't wag its tail, and a Pacific Coast one that does.

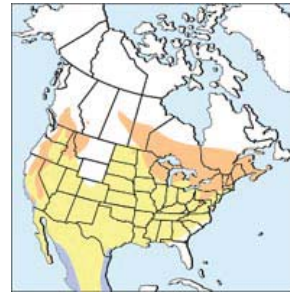
**Foraging and Feeding:** Nashville Warbler: Eats mostly insects; forages by gleaning food from foliage, usually in mid-levels of a forest.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Nashville Warbler: Four or five white to creamy white eggs with small brown spots are laid in a cup of grass, leaves, and roots, lined with pine needles and fine grass, and concealed on the ground at the base of a bush or tussock of grass. Incubation ranges from 11 to 12 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Nashville Warbler: Breeds from British Columbia and northwestern Montana south to central California and central Idaho; and from Manitoba, Quebec, and Nova Scotia, south to Minnesota, northern West Virginia, and western Maryland. Spends winters south of the U.S.-Mexico border. Preferred habitats include thickets in open mixed forests or brushy borders of swamps.



**Species:** *Vermivora ruficapilla*

**Length Range:** 12 cm (4.75 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 18 - 20 cm (7.25 - 7.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## NORTHERN PARULA

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Northern Parula: Small, compact warbler with blue-gray upperparts and bronze-green back patch. Throat and breast are yellow, breast band is chestnut-brown and black, belly and undertail coverts are white. White eye-ring is broken. Wings are blue-gray with two white bars. Tail is noticeably short.

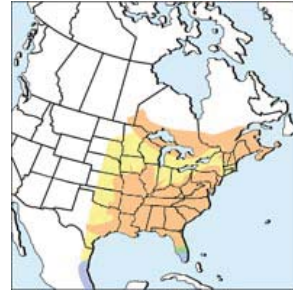
**Foraging and Feeding:** Northern Parula: Feeds on spiders, caterpillars, beetles, moths, ants, wasps, bees, flies, locusts, scale insects, plant lice, lacewings, and mayflies. Commonly gleans tips of foliage, small twigs, and branches high in the canopy; occasionally hovers or hangs upside-down on foliage, and sallies for aerial insects.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Northern Parula: Three to seven white eggs with brown flecks and splotches are laid in a basket-shaped nest woven from grass, bark, and vegetable fibers, and neatly hidden in Spanish moss in the south or in beard moss or Usnea lichens in the north. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift flight of short duration.

**Range and Habitat:** Northern Parula: Breeds from southeastern Canada to the Gulf coast and winters from southern Florida southward into the tropics. Preferred breeding habitat includes wet, chiefly coniferous woods, in swamps, and along lakes and ponds. More widespread during migration.



**Species:** *Parula americana*

**Length Range:** 11 cm (4.25 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 18 cm (7 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

## NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Northern Waterthrush: Large, ground-walking warbler with dark brown upperparts and white to pale yellow underparts with dark, heavy streaks. Eyebrows are thick and vary from pale yellow to white. It flies swiftly in a direct line for short distances. Territorial in both its winter and summer ranges.

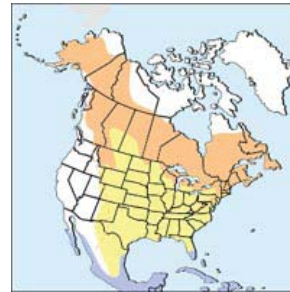
**Foraging and Feeding:** Northern Waterthrush: Eats insects, spiders, snails, small fish, and crustaceans; forages by gleaning foliage, catching insects in flight, and hovering.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Northern Waterthrush: Three to six cream or buff eggs with brown or gray specks and spots are laid in a nest made of moss and set in a bank, at the base of a trunk, or in the roots of an overturned tree. Eggs are incubated for approximately 13 days by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift strong direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Northern Waterthrush: Breeds from Alaska and much of Canada south to the northern U.S. Spends winters in the tropics. Prefers cool, dark, wooded swamps, thickets of bogs, margins of northern lakes, and willow and alder bordered rivers; during the spring and fall migration, often found in thick cover along streams, marshes, and stagnant pools.



**Species:** *Seiurus noveboracensis*

**Length Range:** 15 cm (5.75 in)

**Weight:** 23 g (0.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Orange-crowned Warbler: Small warbler with olive-green upperparts and faintly streaked, yellow underparts. The head has inconspicuous orange crown, broken eye-ring, and dark eye-line. Though it lives and nests in dense foliage close to the ground, the male perches at the tops of tall trees to sing.

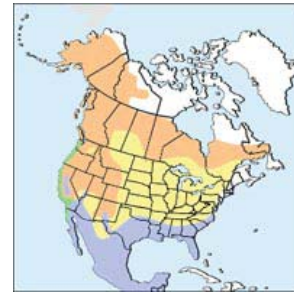
**Foraging and Feeding:** Orange-crowned Warbler: Eats invertebrates, berries, nectar, and sap; regularly feeds at Red-naped Sapsucker wells.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Orange-crowned Warbler: Three to six white eggs with dark red and brown blotches are laid in a large nest made of grass and other plant fibers, lined with fur or feathers, and built on the ground or in a low shrub. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Orange-crowned Warbler: Breeds from Alaska east to Quebec and Labrador, and south to California, Arizona, and New Mexico. Spends winters from southern U.S. into tropics. Preferred habitats include forest edges, especially in low deciduous growth, burns, clearings, and thickets; often seen in riverside willows and scrub oak chaparral during migration.



**Species:** *Vermivora celata*

**Length Range:** 12 - 13 cm (4.75 - 5 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 18 - 20 cm (7 - 8 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## OVENBIRD

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Ovenbird: Medium, ground walking warbler, olive-brown upperparts, heavily spotted white underparts. Head has dull orange central crown stripe edged in black, and a white eye-ring. Wings, tail are olive-green. Name is from its covered nest, the dome and side entrance make it resemble a dutch oven.

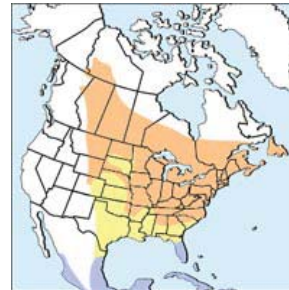
**Foraging and Feeding:** Ovenbird: Feeds on insects, spiders, snails, and worms; also eats seeds and other vegetation during winter; forages while walking on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Ovenbird: Three to six white eggs, flecked with gray or brown, are laid in a domed or oven-shaped nest with a side entrance. Nest is made of dead leaves and plant fibers, lined with grass, and built on the ground. Incubation ranges from 11 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight of short duration on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Ovenbird: Breeds from west-central Canada east to Maritimes, and south to the northern Gulf Coast states and South Carolina. Spends winters from the Gulf Coast and Florida to South America. Preferred habitats include mature, dry forests with little undergrowth.



**Species:** *Seiurus aurocapillus*

**Length Range:** 15 cm (6 in)

**Weight:** 20 g (0.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 23 cm (9 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## PINE WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Pine Warbler: Medium warbler with plain olive-gray upperparts, yellow throat and breast, blurry-streaked sides, and white belly and undertail coverts. Wings are gray with two white bars. It is the only warbler that eats large quantities of seeds, usually pine. One of the earliest breeding warblers.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Pine Warbler: Diet consists of insects, fruits, and seeds; forages in trees and shrubs.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Pine Warbler: Three to five white eggs with brown flecks at large end are laid in a compact, well-concealed nest built among pine needles near the tip of a horizontal branch, usually higher than 20 feet. Eggs are incubated for about 10 days by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Pine Warbler: Breeds from southeastern Manitoba, southern Ontario, and Maine south to eastern Texas, the Gulf Coast, and Florida. Spends winters in the southern states, occasionally north to New England. Prefers pine forests.



**Species:** *Dendroica pinus*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5.25 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## PRAIRIE WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Prairie Warbler: Small warbler, brown-streaked, olive-green upperparts with reddish-brown streaking, bright yellow underparts with black streaks on sides. Head has a yellow-green cap, yellow face, and dark eye, cheek stripes. Found in pine stands, mangroves and overgrown fields rather than prairies.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Prairie Warbler: Eats mostly insects; forages by gleaning foliage, catching insects in mid-air, hovering, clinging to vertical stems, hanging upside down, and feeding on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Prairie Warbler: Four to five white eggs, with brown spots at large end, are laid in a nest made of grass and leaves, lined with hair and feathers, and usually set low in a bush or small tree. Incubation ranges from 11 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Fairly fast flight with rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Prairie Warbler: Breeds from eastern Nebraska, central Wisconsin, southern Ontario, and central New England south to Oklahoma, the Gulf Coast, and Florida; local in many areas. Spends winters in southern Florida and in the tropics. Preferred habitats include mixed pine-oak barrens, old pastures, hillsides scattered with red cedars, open scrub, and mangrove swamps; not often found in prairies.



**Species:** *Dendroica discolor*

**Length Range:** 12 cm (4.75 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 19 cm (7.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester.  
Some polygamous

**Breeding Population:** Declining

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Prothonotary Warbler: Medium-sized warbler with olive-green back and blue-gray wings and tail. Head, neck, and underparts are vibrant yellow and the undertail coverts are white. Bill, legs and feet are black. The only eastern warbler that nests in tree hollows. Once called the Golden Swamp Warbler.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Prothonotary Warbler: Eats mostly insects, but also fruits and seeds; forages in trees, shrubs, and on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Prothonotary Warbler: Four to six pink or cream eggs, spotted with brown and gray, are laid in a tree cavity, stump hole, birdhouse, or other man-made structure, such as a mailbox. The cavity is stuffed with mosses to form a nest cup. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapid direct flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Prothonotary Warbler: Breeds mainly in the southeastern states north to Minnesota, Michigan, and New York. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include wooded swamps, flooded bottomland forests, and streams with dead trees.



**Species:** *Protonotaria citrea*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5.25 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## SWAINSON'S WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Swainson's Warbler: Medium-sized warbler with olive-brown upperparts and pale gray underparts. Head has brown cap, white eyebrows, and dark eye-lines. Wings are plain olive-brown. It hides in dense thickets, where it forages on the ground looking for insects, spiders, and caterpillars.

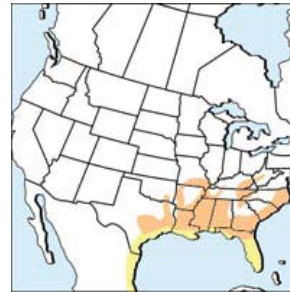
**Foraging and Feeding:** Swainson's Warbler: Eats insects, millipedes, and spiders; forages in shrubs and trees or on the ground, walking and slowly turning over leaves with its bill.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Swainson's Warbler: Two to five white eggs, sometimes with brown speckles, are laid in a nest made of leaves, pine needles, mammal hair, grass, Spanish moss, and rootlets, and built in a bush or vines, 2 to 10 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 13 to 15 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Fairly swift short direct flights on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Swainson's Warbler: In southeast U.S., lives in canebrakes and thickets in swamps and among hardwoods; in the southern Appalachians it is found in laurel and rhododendron thickets of moist, montane forests.



**Species:** *Limnothlypis swainsonii*

**Length Range:** 13 - 14 cm (5 - 5.5 in)

**Weight:** 20 g (0.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon in swamps & moist woodlands.

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## TENNESSEE WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Tennessee Warbler: Small warbler with olive-green upperparts, white underparts, and olive-gray washed sides. Darker head has white eyebrows and dark eyestripes. Wings are plain gray. Tail is short. It spends the summers in Canada and is only found in Tennessee during migration. Eats mostly insects.

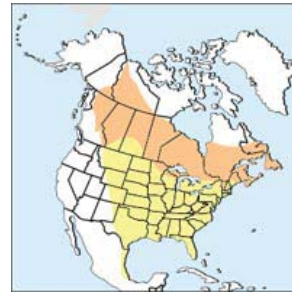
**Foraging and Feeding:** Tennessee Warbler: Diet consists of insects, such as small beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers, and aphids, spiders, sumac seeds, and poison ivy berries; also drinks juices from grapes by poking a hole in the fruit with its bill.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Tennessee Warbler: Four to seven brown spotted, white to creamy white eggs are laid in a nest lined with fine grass and built on the ground, usually well hidden under a shrub or in a moss clump under a tussock. Incubation ranges from 11 to 12 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flight with shallow wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Tennessee Warbler: Breeds from Yukon, Manitoba, and Labrador south to British Columbia, Wisconsin, southern Ontario, and Maine. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include open mixed woodlands in the breeding season; trees and bushes during migration.



**Species:** *Vermivora peregrina*

**Length Range:** 12 cm (4.75 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 19 - 20 cm (7.5 - 8 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WILSON'S WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Wilson's Warbler: Small warbler with olive-green upperparts, bright yellow face and underparts, distinct black cap. It has a long, olive-brown tail which it moves up and down, or in a circular fashion, as it searches for food. It is more common in the West than in the East. Legs and feet are pink.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Wilson's Warbler: Eats mainly insects (especially leafhoppers) and spiders, but occasionally consumes berries.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Wilson's Warbler: Four to seven brown flecked, white to creamy white eggs are laid in a bulky nest made of leaves, rootlets, and moss, lined with hair and fine plant materials, and concealed on the ground in a dense clump of weeds or sedges. Incubation ranges from 10 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift flight of short duration.

**Range and Habitat:** Wilson's Warbler: Breeds from Alaska eastward to Newfoundland and south to southern California, New Mexico, central Ontario, and Nova Scotia. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include moist thickets in woodlands and along streams as well as alder, willow thickets, and bogs.



**Species:** *Wilsonia pusilla*

**Length Range:** 12 cm (4.75 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 19 cm (7.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WORM-EATING WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Worm-eating Warbler: Medium-sized, ground nesting warbler with olive-gray upperparts and pale yellow underparts. Yellow head has black crown stripes and eye-lines. As its name suggests, it eats a steady diet of moth caterpillars and worms. It usually forages in understory vegetation and dead leaves.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Worm-eating Warbler: Feeds on insects, especially caterpillars, spiders, and slugs; forages by walking, hopping, climbing, and hanging among leafy branches in shrubs and low trees.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Worm-eating Warbler: Four to six brown spotted or blotched, white eggs are laid in a ground nest made of dead leaves and lined with moss. Female incubates eggs for 13 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Worm-eating Warbler: Breeds from southeastern Iowa, Ohio, New York, and southern New England south to northeastern Texas, central Gulf Coast states, and eastern North Carolina. Spends winters in the tropics. Dry, wooded hillsides are the preferred habitat of this species.



**Species:** *Helmitheros vermivorus*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5.25 in)

**Weight:** 20 g (0.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## YELLOW WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Yellow Warbler: Small warbler with olive-yellow upperparts and bright yellow underparts with rust-brown streaks on breast, sides. Wings are dark with two white bars. Tail is dark with yellow-tinged edges. Has a wider range than any other North American warbler. Eats insects, larvae, and some fruit.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Yellow Warbler: Feeds mostly on insects and spiders, but will take berries; forages in trees and bushes.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Yellow Warbler: Three to six olive and brown marked, gray, green, or blue eggs are laid in a well-made cup of bark, plant fibers, and down, and built in a small sapling. Incubation ranges from 11 to 12 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Yellow Warbler: Breeds from Alaska east across Canada to Newfoundland and south to southern California, northern Oklahoma, and northern Georgia. Spends winters in southern Florida and the tropics. Preferred habitats include edges of marshes and swamps, willow-lined streams, leafy bogs, thickets, orchards, farmlands, forest edges, and suburban yards and gardens.



**Species:** *Dendroica petechia*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 cm (7.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Widespread

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Yellow-breasted Chat: The largest North American warbler. Has olive-green to olive-gray upperparts, brilliant yellow throat, breast. Belly and undertail are white. Eyes have white spectacles and dark eye patches. Bill is heavy and dark. Wings and tail are olive-green. Bill, legs, and feet are black.

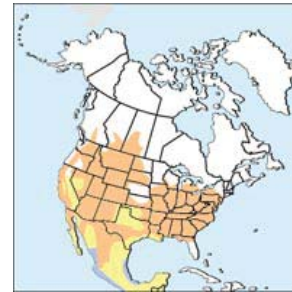
**Foraging and Feeding:** Yellow-breasted Chat: Diet consists primarily of insects, including bees, wasps, ants, grasshoppers, and beetles; also eat berries and wild grapes; forages in trees and shrubs.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Yellow-breasted Chat: Three to six white eggs with rust or violet flecks at large end, are laid in a bulky nest made of bark, grass, and leaves, lined with finer grass, and concealed in a dense bush. Incubation ranges from 11 to 12 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flights of short duration.

**Range and Habitat:** Yellow-breasted Chat: Breeds from British Columbia, Ontario, and (rarely) Massachusetts south to California, the Gulf Coast, and Florida. Spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include dense thickets and brush, often with thorns, streamside tangles, and dry brushy hillsides.



**Species:** *Icteria virens*

**Length Range:** 18 cm (7.25 in)

**Weight:** 26 g (0.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 23 - 25 cm (9 - 10 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Yellow-rumped Warbler: Medium warbler, dark-streaked, blue-gray upperparts, yellow rump. White throat and belly, black breast. The head is black with yellow crown, white eye-rings, and faint eyestripes. Wings are dark with yellow shoulder patches and two white bars. Tail is dark with white corners.

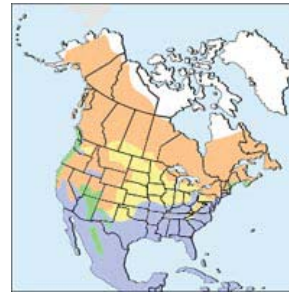
**Foraging and Feeding:** Yellow-rumped Warbler: Feeds mainly on insects in the summer and on berries and fruits in the winter, particularly wax-coated berries of bayberries and wax myrtles; unique gastrointestinal traits allow it to subsist on this unusual food source.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Yellow-rumped Warbler: Three to five brown and gray marked, white to creamy white eggs are laid in a bulky nest made of twigs, rootlets, and grass, lined with hair and feathers, and built in a conifer. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapid flight with quick wing strokes.

**Range and Habitat:** Yellow-rumped Warbler: Breeds from northern Alaska, northern Manitoba, central Quebec, and Newfoundland south and west to northern Mexico and east to Michigan, northern New York, Massachusetts, and Maine. Spends winters from the southern part of its breeding range southward into the tropics. A highly adaptable bird found in a variety of habitats including coniferous forests, mixed woodlands, deciduous forests, pine plantation, bogs, forest edges, and openings. In the winter, it is often found in brushy thickets of bayberry and wax myrtle.



**Species:** *Dendroica coronata*

**Length Range:** 14 cm (5.5 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

**General:** Yellow-throated Warbler: Medium warbler with gray upperparts, yellow throat, chin, and upper breast, white underparts with black spots on sides. Head has black face patch, white eyebrows. Wings are dark with two white bars. Tail is gray with white spots near corners. Bill, legs, and feet are black.



**Foraging and Feeding:** Yellow-throated Warbler: Diet includes beetles, moths, flies, grasshoppers, crickets, and spiders; gleans food from leaves and branches.

**Breeding and Nesting:** Yellow-throated Warbler: Four purple-spotted, pale green eggs are laid in a nest made of grass and bark strips, lined with hair and feathers, and often set in a clump of Spanish moss or in a pine needle bunch. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Fairly swift direct flight for short distances.

**Range and Habitat:** Yellow-throated Warbler: Breeds from Illinois, Ohio, and New Jersey south to Missouri, Texas, the Gulf Coast, and northern Florida. Spends winters from the Gulf Coast states southward. Preferred habitats include forests of pine, cypress, sycamore, and oak, in both swampy places and dry uplands.



**Species:** *Dendroica dominica*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5.25 in)

**Weight:** 9 g (0.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## SCARLET TANAGER

Tanagers (Thraupidae)

**General:** Scarlet Tanager: Medium tanager with brilliant red body, black wings, tail. The only bird in North America with this unique plumage. Heavy bill is yellow-gray. Gray legs and feet. Winter male has dull green upperparts, yellow-green underparts, often interspersed with red during molt.

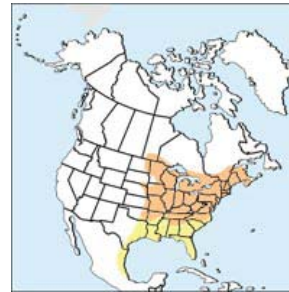
**Foraging and Feeding:** Scarlet Tanager: Feeds on insects, fruits, berries, and buds. Forages high in trees, but may seek prey on the ground, or catch insects in the air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Scarlet Tanager: Two to five blue green eggs marked with brown are laid in a loose nest made of grass, rootlets, forbs, and twigs, lined with fine grass, forbs, and rootlets, and built on a horizontal branch well out from the trunk, 20 to 30 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 13 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Scarlet Tanager: Breeds from extreme southeastern Canada to east-central U.S. Spends winters in northwestern South American tropical forests. Found in deciduous forests, pine-oak woodlands, parks, and suburban areas with large trees.



**Species:** *Piranga olivacea*

**Length Range:** 18 cm (7 in)

**Weight:** 28 g (1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 28 - 30 cm (11 - 12 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## SUMMER TANAGER

Tanagers (Thraupidae)

**General:** Summer Tanager: Large tanager, dark-red overall with a large, pale gray bill. Legs and feet are gray. It is the only entirely red bird in North America. It specializes in eating bees and wasps, which is why it is also known as the bee bird. Swift direct flight with quick wing strokes.

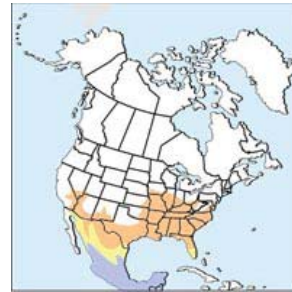
**Foraging and Feeding:** Summer Tanager: Feeds mainly on insects, including bees, wasps, caterpillars, grasshoppers, dragonflies, beetles, and cicadas. Forages in the tops of trees by gleaning from twigs and leaves; occasionally hovers at leaf clusters.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Summer Tanager: Three to five brown marked, light blue or green eggs are laid in a nest made of grass, stems, and moss, lined with fine grass, and built 10 to 35 feet above the ground on a horizontal limb of an oak or pine. Incubation ranges from 11 to 12 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Summer Tanager: Breeds from southern California, Nevada, Nebraska, and New Jersey, south to the Gulf Coast and northern Mexico. Spends winters in tropics. Prefers open oak, hickory, and mixed oak-pine woodlands; also found in parks, orchards, and along roadsides.



**Species:** *Piranga rubra*

**Length Range:** 19 - 20 cm (7.5 - 8 in)

**Weight:** 28 g (1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 28 - 30 cm (11 - 12 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WESTERN TANAGER

Tanagers (Thraupidae)

**General:** Western Tanager: Medium-sized tanager with brilliant red head, bright yellow body, black back, wings, and tail. Wings have two bars: upper bar is yellow, lower bar is white. Legs and feet are gray. Swift direct flight on rapidly beating wings. It was first recorded on the Lewis and Clark expedition.

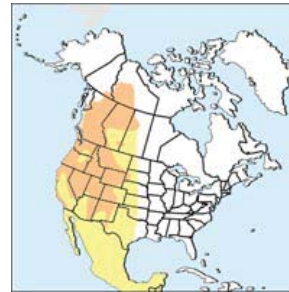
**Foraging and Feeding:** Western Tanager: Eats insects and berries; forages in trees and shrubs, or catches insects in the air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Western Tanager: Three to five brown marked, blue eggs are laid in a frail, shallow saucer nest woven from rootlets, weed stalks, and bark strips, and saddled on a horizontal branch of a Douglas fir, spruce, pine, or oak. Female incubates eggs for about 13 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Western Tanager: Breeds from southern Alaska and Mackenzie southward and winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include open coniferous forests.



**Species:** *Piranga ludoviciana*

**Length Range:** 18 cm (7.25 in)

**Weight:** 28 g (1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 28 - 30 cm (11 - 12 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## CHIPPING SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Chipping Sparrow: Medium, slender sparrow with black-streaked brown back and pale gray underparts. Cap is rufous, nape is gray, throat is white, and face stripes are black-and-white. Black bill. Pink-orange legs and feet. Short flight, alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

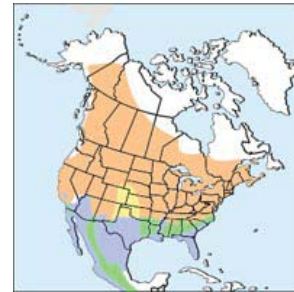
**Foraging and Feeding:** Chipping Sparrow: Feeds on insects and seeds; forages on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Chipping Sparrow: Two to five blue green eggs, marked with dark brown, blue, and black, are laid in a solid cup of grass and stems, usually lined with hair, and built in shrubbery or in a tangle of vines. Incubation ranges from 11 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Short flights with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Chipping Sparrow: Breeds throughout most of the continent from Yukon, Manitoba, and Newfoundland south to California, Texas, northern Florida, and Mexico. Spends winters across southern U.S. southward into Mexico. Preferred habitats include grassy woodland edges, gardens, city parks, brushy pastures, and lawns.



**Species:** *Spizella passerina*

**Length Range:** 14 cm (5.5 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 - 23 cm (8 - 9 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Widespread

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## DARK-EYED JUNCO

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Dark-eyed Junco: Medium sparrow with considerable geographic color variation, although all exhibit a pink bill, dark eyes, white belly, dark-centered tail with white outer feathers. Short flight with white outer tail feathers flashing, alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

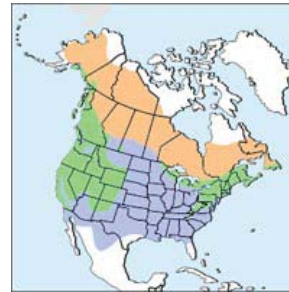
**Foraging and Feeding:** Dark-eyed Junco: Diet includes seeds, berries, insects, and fruits. Forages by gleaning from vegetation and scratching on the ground; may also hawk flying insects. In spring and fall joins mixed-species foraging flocks.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Dark-eyed Junco: Three to six white to blue eggs marked with brown and gray, are laid in a deep, compact nest made of rootlets, shreds of bark, twigs, and mosses, lined with grass and hair, and usually built on or near the ground, protected by a rock ledge, mud bank, tufts of weeds, or a fallen log. Occasionally builds nest in a shrub or low tree less than 20 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 11 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Short flights with white outer tail feathers flashing conspicuously. Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings drawn to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Dark-eyed Junco: Breeds from Alaska east across Canada to Newfoundland, and south to the mountains in Mexico and Georgia. Spends winters south to the Gulf coast and northern Mexico; vagrant in Iceland, British Isles, continental Europe, and east Siberia. Preferred habitats include openings and edges of coniferous and mixed woods. In the winter, frequents fields, roadsides, parks, and suburban gardens.



**Species:** *Junco hyemalis*

**Length Range:** 15 - 17 cm (5.75 - 6.5 in)

**Weight:** 20 g (0.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 23 - 25 cm (9.25 - 10 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## EASTERN TOWHEE

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Eastern Towhee: Large sparrow with black upperparts, hood and upper breast, rufous flanks, and white underparts. Wings are black with white markings, and tail is long and black with white corners. Short, bounding flight, alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Eastern Towhee: Eats insects, acorns, seeds, and berries; forages on the ground or in low vegetation.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Eastern Towhee: Two to six creamy white or gray eggs are laid in a cup nest made of sticks, rootlets, grass, bark, and leaves, and lined with soft grass and animal hair. Nest is built on the ground under a bush or brush pile. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides. Short bouncy flights with tail spread.

**Range and Habitat:** Eastern Towhee: Breeds from southern Saskatchewan east to Maine and south to California and Florida. Spends winters across much of eastern U.S. north to Nebraska and southern New England. Preferred habitats include undergrowth and brushy edges of open woods. Northeastern birds favor young jack pines or second-growth oak forests; southern birds seek scrub oak or palmetto.



**Species:** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

**Length Range:** 18 - 19 cm (7 - 7.5 in)

**Weight:** 43 g (1.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 25 - 28 cm (10 - 11 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## FIELD SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Field Sparrow: Medium sparrow, rufous back with dark streaks, unstreaked, buff breast. Gray-brown rump. Gray head, rufous cap, and white eye-ring. Pink bill, legs and feet. Forages on ground or low shrubbery. Short flights, alternates rapid wing beats with brief periods of wings pulled to the sides.

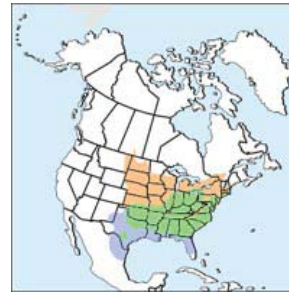
**Foraging and Feeding:** Field Sparrow: Eats seeds and insects; forages on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Field Sparrow: Two to six brown marked, white to pale blue or green eggs are laid in a woven cup-shaped nest made of grass, lined with rootlets or fine grass, and set on or near the ground. Incubation ranges from 10 to 17 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Short flights with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Field Sparrow: Breeds from northern North Dakota, central Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and central New England south to Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, central Texas, and western Colorado. Spends winters south to the Gulf of Mexico and northeastern Mexico; prefers abandoned fields and pastures overgrown with weeds, scattered bushes, and small saplings.



**Species:** *Spizella pusilla*

**Length Range:** 15 cm (5.75 in)

**Weight:** 11 g (0.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 cm (8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## FOX SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Fox Sparrow: Large sparrow, varies from dark or gray-brown in the west, rufous in the east; upperparts may be so dark that back pattern is hard to see. Heavily streaked upperparts, converging at midbreast into a large, dark spot. Rust-brown tail. Bill has dark upper mandible, yellow lower mandible.

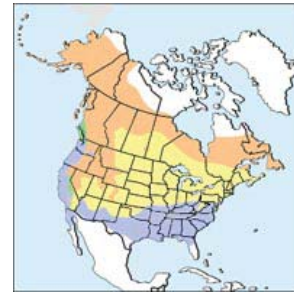
**Foraging and Feeding:** Fox Sparrow: Diet consists of seeds, fruits, berries, insects, spiders, millipedes, and small snails. Forages by double-scratching on the ground and digging small holes by kicking backwards with claws and feet.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Fox Sparrow: Two to five pale green eggs, marked with red brown, are laid in a thick-walled cup of leaves, grass, and moss, and concealed in vegetation on or near the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Short flights with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Fox Sparrow: Breeds from the Aleutians and mainland Alaska east to northern Quebec and Maritimes, and south to southern California and Colorado. Preferred habitats include thickets and edges of coniferous, mixed, or second-growth forests or chaparral.



**Species:** *Passerella iliaca*

**Length Range:** 17 - 19 cm (6.75 - 7.5 in)

**Weight:** 31 g (1.1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 27 - 30 cm (10.5 - 11.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Grasshopper Sparrow: Medium sparrow with brown-streaked upperparts and white underparts. Face, flanks, and breast are plain buff-brown. Head is flat with central white stripe though dark crown. Upper mandible is gray, while lower mandible is yellow. Pink legs and feet. Named for its insectlike song.

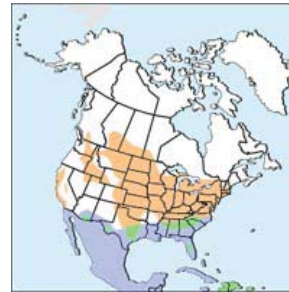
**Foraging and Feeding:** Grasshopper Sparrow: Feeds mostly on insects, including grasshoppers(staple), beetles, caterpillars, and crickets; also eats spiders, earthworms, snails, and seeds; forages on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Grasshopper Sparrow: Three to six creamy white eggs with spots and flecks of red brown are laid in a cup of grass lined with rootlets and hair, and built near or on the ground. Incubation ranges from 11 to 12 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Fluttering wing beats. Rapid undulating flight.

**Range and Habitat:** Grasshopper Sparrow: Breeds from Alaska, Manitoba to New Hampshire; winters in central and southern half of U.S. Inhabits prairie grasslands, pastures, old weedy fields, palmetto scrub, grain fields, and hayfields.



**Species:** *Ammodramus savannarum*

**Length Range:** 11 - 14 cm (4.5 - 5.5 in)

**Weight:** 23 g (0.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 - 22 cm (8 - 8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## HARRIS'S SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Harris's Sparrow: Large sparrow with dark-streaked, brown upperparts and white underparts with dark-streaked sides. Head has stark black crown, face, and throat. Gray cheek patch is marked by a thin, black line. Bill is pink. Alternates rapid wing beats with brief periods of wings pulled to sides.

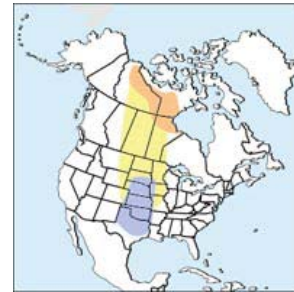
**Foraging and Feeding:** Harris's Sparrow: Diet consists of seeds, berries, insects, spiders, and a few snails; forages primarily on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Harris's Sparrow: Three to five white to pale green eggs with brown markings are laid in a nest made from plant fibers and leaves, lined with grass, and built on the ground or at the base of a bush. Incubation ranges from 12 to 15 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Harris's Sparrow: Breeds in the mixed forest-tundra zones of north-central Canada, from the extreme northwestern reaches of the Northwest Territories to northern Ontario, along the shores of Hudson Bay. Spends winters in central U.S., from South Dakota to south Texas.



**Species:** *Zonotrichia querula*

**Length Range:** 17 - 20 cm (6.75 - 7.75 in)

**Weight:** 40 g (1.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 26 - 30 cm (10.25 - 11.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## LARK SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Lark Sparrow: Medium sparrow with streaked, gray-brown upperparts and buff underparts with black breast spot. Head has black, white, and chestnut-brown stripes. Tail is long and black with white edges. Short, fluttering flight, alternates rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

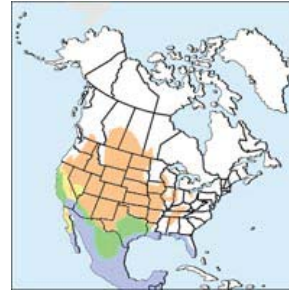
**Foraging and Feeding:** Lark Sparrow: Eats seeds, grasshoppers, and other insects; forages on the ground and low in trees and shrubs, usually in flocks, even during breeding season.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Lark Sparrow: Three to six white to pale gray eggs marked with brown and black are laid on the ground or low in a bush or tree in a bulky cup nest made of sticks, grass, and forbs, and lined with rootlets and grass. Incubation ranges from 11 to 12 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Fluttering wing beats. Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Lark Sparrow: Breeds from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and northern Minnesota, south to California, northern Mexico, Louisiana, and Alabama. Spends winters from southern California to Florida and southward. Preferred habitats include grasslands, semi-open scrublands, agricultural areas, sagebrush and pinyon-juniper woodlands in lowlands and foothills.



**Species:** *Chondestes grammacus*

**Length Range:** 15 - 17 cm (5.75 - 6.75 in)

**Weight:** 28 g (1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 27 - 28 cm (10.5 - 11 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies. Some polygamous

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

## LE CONTE'S SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Le Conte's Sparrow: Small sparrow, brown-streaked back, brown-streaked gray nape, pale gray underparts with streaks on sides, yellow breast. Head is flat, black-capped with a white median line. Face is yellow-orange with gray cheeks, black eye-line forming a T behind eye. Legs, feet are pink-brown.

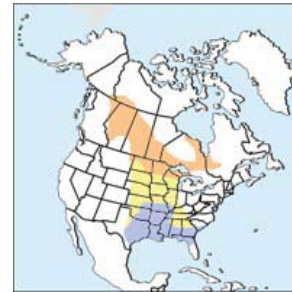
**Foraging and Feeding:** Le Conte's Sparrow: Feeds primarily on insects, seeds, and spiders. Walks and runs on the ground while foraging.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Le Conte's Sparrow: Three to five brown spotted, pale gray eggs, are laid in a nest made of grass, rushes, and stems, and lined with fine plant materials. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Le Conte's Sparrow: Breeds from Mackenzie and central Quebec south to northern Montana, Minnesota, and northern Michigan. Spends winters in southeastern states. Prefers moist grasslands and boggy meadows; stays on dry fields in winter.



**Species:** *Ammodramus leconteii*

**Length Range:** 11 - 13 cm (4.5 - 5.25 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 17 - 18 cm (6.5 - 7.25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Yes but uncommon

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## LINCOLN'S SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Lincoln's Sparrow: Medium sparrow, dark-streaked pale brown upperparts, white underparts with dark streaks. Head has brown crown with gray central stripe, broad gray eyebrows and nape, pale eye-ring, and brown streak extending behind eye. Upper mandible is dark, lower mandible is pale orange-brown.

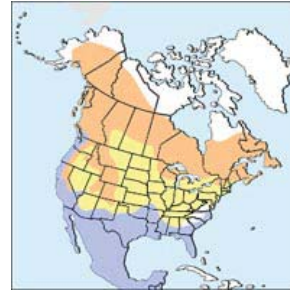
**Foraging and Feeding:** Lincoln's Sparrow: Feeds on insects and seeds; scratches at the ground while foraging.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Lincoln's Sparrow: Three to six pale green eggs with red brown markings are laid in a cup-shaped nest woven from dry grass, lined with fine plant materials and hair, and built on the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Lincoln's Sparrow: Breeds across portions of Alaska and Canada, south to southwestern U.S., central Minnesota, and New England. Spends winters from southern U.S., south to Honduras. Found in shrubby meadows, shoreline forests, bog edges, and wetlands with tall vegetation.



**Species:** *Melospiza lincolnii*

**Length Range:** 13 - 15 cm (5.25 - 6 in)

**Weight:** 23 g (0.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 18 - 22 cm (7.25 - 8.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Small sparrow with brown streaked upperparts. Breast and sides are pale brown with pale streaks; throat, belly, and undertail coverts are white. Head has gray-brown crown and nape, orange-brown face, and gray cheeks. Tail is short and pointed. Pink-gray legs and feet.

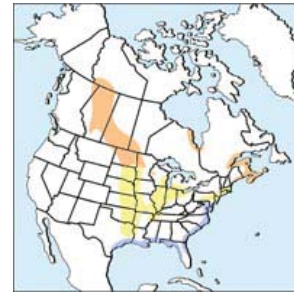
**Foraging and Feeding:** Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Feeds mainly on insects, aquatic invertebrates, and seeds. Forages on the ground or in marsh vegetation; sometimes probes mud.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Three to seven light green eggs with heavy brown spots are laid in an open cup nest made of dry grass and stems, and attached to vegetation close to the ground. Eggs are incubated for 11 days by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Breeds from northern Illinois northward to Dakota and Manitoba; occurs as a migrant on the Atlantic coast, and winters from South Carolina to Texas. Inhabits salt marshes.



**Species:** *Ammodramus nelsoni*

**Length Range:** 12 cm (4.75 in)

**Weight:** 14 - 17 g (0.5 - 0.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 18 cm (7.25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Polygamous. Loose colonies

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## SAVANNAH SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Savannah Sparrow: Small sparrow, dark-streaked, gray-brown upperparts, white underparts, heavy streaks on breast and sides. Head has a brown crown with pale central stripe and pale yellow or white eyebrows. Brown wings have two pale bars. Tail is short and notched. Pink legs and feet.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Savannah Sparrow: Feeds on seeds, insects, spiders, and sometimes snails. Forages on the ground or in low bushes; scratches in dirt and foliage.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Savannah Sparrow: Two to six pale green blue or white eggs marked with brown are laid on the ground in a cup nest made of moss and dry grass, and lined with fine hair, fine grass, and roots. Incubation ranges from 10 to 13 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Savannah Sparrow: Breeds from Alaska east to Labrador and south to New Jersey, Missouri, and northern Mexico. Spends winters regularly north to southeastern Alaska and Massachusetts. Found in salt marshes, grasslands, tundra, mountain meadows, sandy regions, and short-grass prairies.



**Species:** *Passerculus sandwichensis*

**Length Range:** 13 - 16 cm (5.25 - 6.25 in)

**Weight:** 23 g (0.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 - 24 cm (8 - 9.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## SEASIDE SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Seaside Sparrow: Medium sparrow (*maritimus*), streaked olive-gray upperparts, pale buff underparts, streaks on breast, sides. Head has yellow streak between eye, bill. Long bill, thick base. Short, pointed tail. Short flights, alternates rapidly beating wings with wings pulled to sides.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Seaside Sparrow: Eats small snails, insects, crustaceans, and seeds. Forages on the ground, gleaning food as it walks upright like a small rail; also wades in shallow water.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Seaside Sparrow: Three to six white to pale green eggs marked with red brown are laid in a nest made of dried grass and sedges, lined with finer grass, and attached to marsh reeds or set on a clump of grass, from 1 to 5 feet above the ground; sometimes higher. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Short flights low over vegetation on rapidly beating wings with alternating brief periods of wings pulled to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Seaside Sparrow: Resident in coastal marshes of eastern U.S. and the Gulf Coast.



**Species:** *Ammodramus maritimus*

**Length Range:** 13 - 17 cm (5.25 - 6.5 in)

**Weight:** 23 g (0.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 - 22 cm (8 - 8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies

**Breeding Population:** Rare

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## SONG SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Song Sparrow: Medium sparrow, heavily streaked gray-brown upperparts. Dull white underparts have dark central breast spot, thick streaks. Head has brown crown, paler median stripe, pale gray eyebrow, white chin, dark brown moustache stripe. Rust-brown wings. Tail is long, usually tinged rust-brown.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Song Sparrow: Diet consists of seeds, grass, berries, and occasionally insects; also eats crustaceans and mollusks on the coast; forages on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Song Sparrow: Two to six red brown marked, pale green eggs are laid in a cup nest of grass, forbs, leaves, and bark strips, often lined with hair, and usually built on the ground near a grassy tussock or reeds; sometimes builds nest in a bush or tree, 2 to 4 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female; raises up to three broods per season.

**Flight Pattern:** Short flights close to ground, tail pumping up and down.

**Range and Habitat:** Song Sparrow: Breeds from the Aleutians and mainland Alaska east to Newfoundland and south to California, North Dakota, and Carolinas. Spends winters from southern Canada throughout the U.S. to the Gulf Coast and Mexico. Preferred habitats include forest edges, clearings, thickets, and marshes with open grassy feeding areas; also found in undergrowth in gardens and city parks.



**Species:** *Melospiza melodia*

**Length Range:** 15 - 19 cm (5.75 - 7.5 in)

**Weight:** 20 g (0.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 21 - 32 cm (8.25 - 12.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Widespread, Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked



## SWAMP SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Swamp Sparrow: Small sparrow with dark-streaked brown upperparts, gray upper breast, and pale gray, faintly streaked underparts. Head has rust-brown cap with paler median stripe and gray face. The wings are rust-brown with black-and-white streaks. Eats seeds, insects. Pink legs, feet.

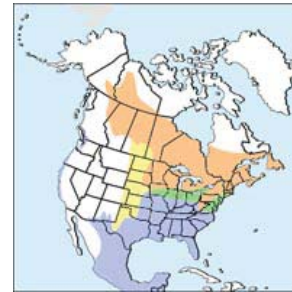
**Foraging and Feeding:** Swamp Sparrow: Feeds on beetles, ants, grasshoppers, crickets, and seeds; forages on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Swamp Sparrow: Three to six pale green eggs marked with red brown are laid in a bulky cup nest made of grass, lined with finer grass, and built in emergent vegetation over water. Incubation ranges from 12 to 15 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Swamp Sparrow: Breeds in Canada and the northern regions of eastern and central U.S., and spends winters in southeastern U.S. and Mexico. Preferred habitats include freshwater marshes, wetlands, bogs, and margins along streams and ponds; also found in salt marshes.



**Species:** *Melospiza georgiana*

**Length Range:** 12 - 15 cm (4.75 - 5.75 in)

**Weight:** 23 g (0.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 19 - 20 cm (7.5 - 8 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Loose colonies

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Spotted or speckled

## VESPER SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** Vesper Sparrow: Medium sparrow, black-streaked gray-brown upperparts, white underparts, and streaked breast and sides. White face has brown cheek patch and white eye-ring. Wings are gray-brown with two pale bars and rufous shoulder patches. Tail is notched and dark with white edges.

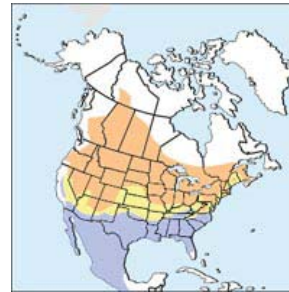
**Foraging and Feeding:** Vesper Sparrow: Feeds on insects during the summer, along with spiders and other small invertebrates. Eats mostly seeds in the winter; forages on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Vesper Sparrow: Two to six creamy white or pale green eggs with brown markings are laid in a cup of grass, weed stalks, and rootlets, built in a scraped-out ground depression, and lined with fine grass and animal hair. Incubation ranges from 11 to 13 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** Vesper Sparrow: Breeds from British Columbia, Ontario, and Nova Scotia south to central California, Texas, Tennessee, and western North Carolina. Spends winters north to central California, Oklahoma, New Jersey, and Long Island. Found in cultivated fields, grasslands, and fallow fields with adjacent farmed areas.



**Species:** *Pooecetes gramineus*

**Length Range:** 14 - 17 cm (5.5 - 6.75 in)

**Weight:** 28 g (1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 25 - 29 cm (10 - 11.25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** White-crowned Sparrow: Medium-sized sparrow with brown-streaked upperparts, small white throat patch, and plain gray underparts. The white crown has distinct black lines. Wings are brown with two pale bars. Short flights, alternates rapid wing beats with brief periods of the wings pulled to sides.

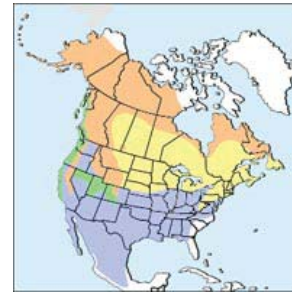
**Foraging and Feeding:** White-crowned Sparrow: Diet includes seeds, buds, grass, fruits, and insects. Forages on the ground by scratching or gleans food from vegetation.



**Breeding and Nesting:** White-crowned Sparrow: Two to six light blue or green eggs marked with red brown are laid in a bulky cup of bark strips, grass, and twigs, lined with grass and hair, and built on a clump of grass or moss, or in a bush or low tree up to 30 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 11 to 14 days and is carried out by the female; raises up to 4 broods per year in the south.

**Flight Pattern:** Short flights with rapid wing beats. Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings drawn to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** White-crowned Sparrow: Breeds from Alaska and Manitoba east to Labrador and Newfoundland, and south into the western mountains to northern New Mexico and central California. Spends winters north to southern Alaska, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, and Maryland. Preferred nesting habitats include dense brush, especially near open grasslands. During winter, occurs in open woods and gardens.



**Species:** *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

**Length Range:** 17 - 19 cm (6.5 - 7.5 in)

**Weight:** 28 g (1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 23 - 26 cm (9.25 - 10.25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

Sparrows (Emberizidae)

**General:** White-throated Sparrow: Medium-sized sparrow with rust-brown striped upperparts, conspicuous white throat, and plain gray underparts. Head has black-and-white striped crown and yellow spots between eyes and bill. Short flights, alternates rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

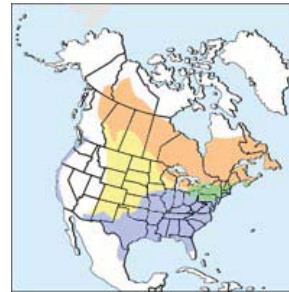
**Foraging and Feeding:** White-throated Sparrow: Feeds on seeds and insects; scratches noisily when foraging, throwing aside leaf litter in search of food. Eats leaf buds of oak, maple, and crabapple trees in early spring.



**Breeding and Nesting:** White-throated Sparrow: Three to six creamy white, blue, or green eggs with red brown markings are laid in a cup nest made of coarse grass, twigs, and pine needles, and lined with fine grass, rootlets, and deer hair. Incubation ranges from 11 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** White-throated Sparrow: Breeds from Mackenzie, central Quebec, and Newfoundland south to North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. Spends winters in much of eastern U.S. and in small numbers in southwestern states. Nests in brushy or semi-open mixed woods, winters on wood lots, scrub lands, gardens, and backyards. Frequently visits bird feeders.



**Species:** *Zonotrichia albicollis*

**Length Range:** 16 - 19 cm (6.25 - 7.5 in)

**Weight:** 26 g (0.9 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 - 25 cm (8.75 - 10 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Striped or streaked

## BLUE GROSBEAK

Cardinals and Grosbeaks (Cardinalidae)

**General:** Blue Grosbeak: Large finch, bright purple-blue body, black face, and two wide, brown wingbars. Dark wings, tail. Hops on ground to forage. Gleans from bushes, weeds and trees. Feeds on insects, snails, grains, seeds and fruits. Swift flight, alternates rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

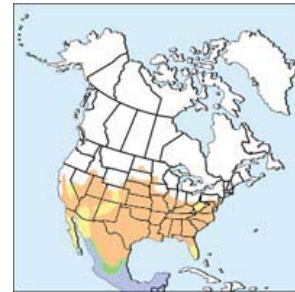
**Foraging and Feeding:** Blue Grosbeak: Diet consists mostly of insects and seeds gleaned from the ground; occasionally eats fruits. Flocks sometimes feed in grain fields or grasslands before migration.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Blue Grosbeak: Three to five light blue eggs, sometimes marked with brown, are laid in a loose cup of grass, weed stems, and leaves concealed in a clump of weeds. Incubation ranges from 11 to 12 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Blue Grosbeak: Breeds from California, Colorado, Missouri, Illinois, and New Jersey southward and spends winters in the tropics. Preferred habitats include brushy, moist pastures, and roadside thickets.



**Species:** *Guiraca caerulea*

**Length Range:** 16 - 19 cm (6.25 - 7.5 in)

**Weight:** 28 g (1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 27 - 29 cm (10.5 - 11.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Uncommon to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## DICKCISSEL

Cardinals and Grosbeaks (Cardinalidae)

**General:** Dickcissel: Medium, stocky, sparrow-like bird with dark gray back, head, and black-streaked shoulders. Gray face, yellow eyestripe and breast. V-shaped bib is black and underparts are white. Wings are brown. Feeds on grains, seeds and insects. Alternates rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Dickcissel: Feeds on seeds, grass, and insects; younger birds consume more insects.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Dickcissel: Three to five pale blue eggs are laid in a cup of plant stems and grass set on or near the ground, usually in a field. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Dickcissel: Breeds from eastern Montana and the Great Lakes region south to Texas and the Gulf coast, locally farther east. Spends winters mainly in the tropics. Preferred habitats include open country in grain or hay fields and in weed patches.



**Species:** *Spiza americana*

**Length Range:** 15 - 18 cm (6 - 7 in)

**Weight:** 28 g (1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 23 - 28 cm (9 - 11 in)

**Breeding Type:** Polygamous

**Breeding Population:** Common to abundant

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## INDIGO BUNTING

Cardinals and Grosbeaks (Cardinalidae)

**General:** Indigo Bunting: Small finch with brilliant, almost iridescent, blue plumage. Crown is darker blue with a purple tint. Wings and tail are black with blue edges. Feeds on insects, larvae, grains, seeds, berries. Short flights low over vegetation, alternates rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

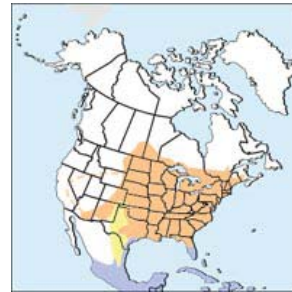
**Foraging and Feeding:** Indigo Bunting: Feeds on seeds, forbs, buds, insects, and berries; forages in trees, shrubs, and on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Indigo Bunting: Three or four white to light blue eggs, sometimes with brown or purple spotting, are laid in a compact woven cup of leaves and grass built in a sapling or bush in relatively thick vegetation, usually within a few feet of the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Short flights with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Indigo Bunting: Breeds from southeastern Saskatchewan east to New Brunswick, and south to central Arizona, central Texas, the Gulf coast, and northern Florida. Spends winters in southern Florida and in the tropics. Preferred habitats include brushy slopes, abandoned farmlands, old pastures and fields grown to scrub, woodland clearings, and forest edges adjacent to fields.



**Species:** *Passerina cyanea*

**Length Range:** 13 - 15 cm (5.25 - 5.75 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 - 23 cm (8 - 9 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## NORTHERN CARDINAL

Cardinals and Grosbeaks (Cardinalidae)

**General:** Northern Cardinal: Large, crested finch with vivid red body. Black mask and chin contrast with heavy, red bill. Forages on ground and in trees and bushes. Feeds on seeds, grains, fruits, insects and snails. Hops instead of walks on ground. Alternates rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Northern Cardinal: Eats seeds, insects, fruits, and snails; forages in trees, bushes, and on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Northern Cardinal: Three to four pale green, blue, or gray eggs with gray, purple, and brown marks are laid in a nest made of twigs, weeds, grass, bark strips, and leaves. Nest is lined with hair and grass, and built in a low tree or bush, or set in tangled twigs or vines, usually less than 5 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out mostly by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides. Short flight just above vegetation or below canopy.

**Range and Habitat:** Northern Cardinal: Resident in eastern U.S. and much of Mexico. Preferred habitats include forest edges, lowlands, and suburban areas.



**Species:** *Cardinalis cardinalis*

**Length Range:** 19 - 23 cm (7.5 - 9.25 in)

**Weight:** 45 g (1.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 25 - 30 cm (10 - 12 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## PAINTED BUNTING

Cardinals and Grosbeaks (Cardinalidae)

**General:** Painted Bunting: Beautiful, medium bunting with bronze-green back and bright red rump and underparts. Head and nape are blue. Red eye-ring. Wings are dark with green shoulder patches. Feeds on seeds, insects and caterpillars. Short, low flight. Alternates rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Painted Bunting: Eats mostly seeds in winter and insects, spiders, and snails in summer. Forages on the ground; also strips seed from grass stalks or snatches insects from spider webs.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Painted Bunting: Three to five light blue eggs with red brown markings are laid in a cup nest made of grass stems, rootlets, and bark strips, lined with moss and hair, and built near the ground in a bush or small tree. Incubation ranges from 11 to 12 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Short flights with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Painted Bunting: Breeds from Missouri and North Carolina south to the southeastern states and west to New Mexico and Oklahoma. Spends winters from the Gulf coast states southward. Preferred habitats include brushy tangles, hedgerows, briar patches, woodland edges, and swampy thickets.



**Species:** *Passerina ciris*

**Length Range:** 13 - 14 cm (5 - 5.5 in)

**Weight:** 23 g (0.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 20 - 22 cm (8 - 8.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK Cardinals and Grosbeaks (Cardinalidae)

**General:** Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Large finch, black head, back, bright red breast, and white rump, sides, belly. The wings are black with white patches above and red, white, black below. Long, slightly notched black tail with white patches. Eats seeds, caterpillars, insects, tree flowers, fruits and berries.

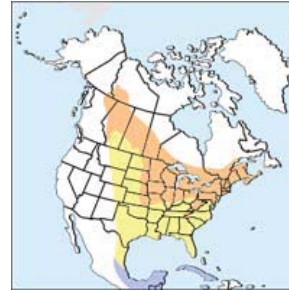
**Foraging and Feeding:** Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Diet consists of fruits, seeds, and insects. Forages on the ground; also hovers when gleaning from foliage.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Three to five light green or blue eggs with red brown markings are laid in a loosely made nest of twigs, grass, and plant fibers, and set in a low tree branch. Incubation ranges from 13 to 14 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Breeds from northeastern British Columbia, southern Manitoba, and Nova Scotia south to southern Alberta, central North Dakota, central Oklahoma, and New Jersey, and in the mountains as far south as northern Georgia; also a regular visitor on the west coast and winters from central Mexico through Central America and into northern South America. Preferred habitats include moist woodlands adjacent to open fields with tall shrubs and old, overgrown orchards.



**Species:** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

**Length Range:** 18 - 22 cm (7 - 8.5 in)

**Weight:** 45 g (1.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 30 - 33 cm (12 - 13 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BALTIMORE ORIOLE

Blackbirds and Orioles (Icteridae)

**General:** Baltimore Oriole: Small oriole, mostly bright orange with black hood and back. Wings are black with orange shoulder patches and strongly white-edged feathers that appear as bars. Black base, center form T-shaped mark on orange tail. Strong swift and direct flight on rapid wing beats.

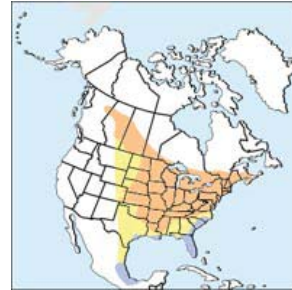
**Foraging and Feeding:** Baltimore Oriole: Feeds primarily on caterpillars, moths, beetles, ants, bugs, scale insects, aphids, and woodborers; also eats fruits, garden peas, and flower nectar. Forages by gleaning prey insects from leaves and twigs.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Baltimore Oriole: Four brown- and black-blotched, pale gray white or blue eggs are laid in a nest woven from long plant fibers, vine bark, hair, and sometimes yarn; lined with hair, wool, and fine grass. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Baltimore Oriole: Breeds from Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia south through eastern Texas, Louisiana, and Virginia. Spends winters in Florida and southern Atlantic coast. Preferred habitats include open woods and shade trees.



**Species:** *Icterus galbula*

**Length Range:** 18 - 21 cm (7 - 8.25 in)

**Weight:** 34 g (1.2 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 29 - 32 cm (11.25 - 12.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BOBOLINK

Blackbirds and Orioles (Icteridae)

**General:** Bobolink: Small, lark-like blackbird, all-black except for buff nape, white rump, and white wing patches. Tertials and wing coverts are lined with buff. Tail feathers are sharply pointed. Legs and feet are gray. Eats caterpillars, insects, seeds and grains. Strong undulating flight.

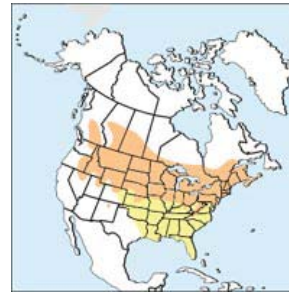
**Foraging and Feeding:** Bobolink: In summer, eats insects and seeds; in winter mostly seeds; forages on the ground and in low vegetation.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Bobolink: Four to seven white eggs blotched with brown, purple, and lavender are laid in a cup of grass lined with fine plant materials. Nest is built in a ground depression covered with tall vegetation. Female incubates eggs for about 13 days.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong undeviating and slightly undulating flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Bobolink: Breeds from southern British Columbia across southern Canada to Nova Scotia and south to eastern Oregon, central Colorado, central Illinois, western Virginia, and western North Carolina. Spends winters in southern South America. Preferred habitats include prairies and meadows; stays on marshes during migration.



**Species:** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

**Length Range:** 16 - 20 cm (6.25 - 8 in)

**Weight:** 48 g (1.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 26 - 32 cm (10.25 - 12.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Polygamous

**Breeding Population:** Fairly common to common

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BRONZED COWBIRD

Blackbirds and Orioles (Icteridae)

**General:** Bronzed Cowbird: Small blackbird (aeneus), brown-black overall with blue sheen on wings and tail. Eyes are red and bill is dark and heavy. Feeds on insects, seeds and grains. Often follows cattle to eat insects that are kicked up. Swift direct and swooping flight with rapid wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Bronzed Cowbird: Eats insects and seeds; forages in flocks on the ground, sometimes turning over pebbles in search of food.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Bronzed Cowbird: Nest parasite; a single light blue green egg is laid in eight to ten nests of other species. Incubation ranges from 10 to 12 days and is carried out by the host species.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift somewhat swooping direct flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Bronzed Cowbird: Breeds in Arizona, California, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Texas.



**Species:** *Molothrus aeneus*

**Length Range:** 17 - 22 cm (6.5 - 8.75 in)

**Weight:** 68 g (2.4 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 25 - 33 cm (10 - 13 in)

**Breeding Type:** Promiscuous. Polyandrous

**Breeding Population:** Common but local

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD

Blackbirds and Orioles (Icteridae)

**General:** Brown-headed Cowbird: Small blackbird with glossy brown head, heavy bill, and dark eyes. The black body has a faint green sheen. Walks on ground to forage and holds tail cocked over back. Feeds on caterpillars, insects, spiders, fruits, grains and seeds. Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

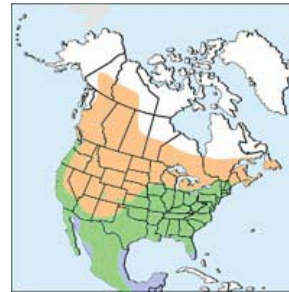
**Foraging and Feeding:** Brown-headed Cowbird: Eats mostly seeds and arthropods. Forages on the ground, but sometimes hawks slow-flying insects.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Brown-headed Cowbird: Nest parasite; usually one brown flecked light blue egg is laid in the nest of another species of bird. As many as thirty-six eggs are laid per nesting season. Incubation ranges from 10 to 13 days and is carried out by the host. Altricial young usually hatch first and outcompete hosts' young.

**Flight Pattern:** Swooping direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Brown-headed Cowbird: Breeds throughout much of southern Canada and the U.S. Spends winters in central and southern parts of breeding range as well as in Florida. Habitat consists of agricultural lands, fields, woodland edges, and suburban areas.



**Species:** *Molothrus ater*

**Length Range:** 18 - 21 cm (7 - 8.25 in)

**Weight:** 48 g (1.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 30 - 35 cm (11.75 - 13.75 in)

**Breeding Type:** Promiscuous

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## COMMON GRACKLE

Blackbirds and Orioles (Icteridae)

**General:** Common Grackle: Medium-sized blackbird with metallic purple sheen on back, head, neck, and breast. Eyes are bright yellow. Central feathers of long, rounded tail are often lowered to show keeled V-shape. Swift, strong direct flight with rapid wing beats, holds tail folded in a V shape while flying.

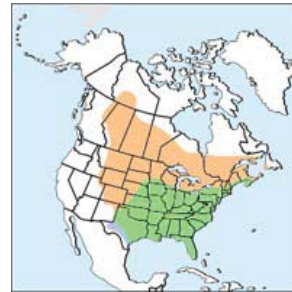
**Foraging and Feeding:** Common Grackle: Diet includes insects, bird eggs and nestlings, lizards, fish, fruits, and seeds.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Common Grackle: Four to seven light brown or green eggs with brown and purple markings are laid in a bulky cup made of twigs, grass, mud, feathers, and occasionally trash. Nest is built in a tree 2 to 12 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong swift direct flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Common Grackle: Resident throughout Florida; breeds throughout North America east of the Rocky Mountains and south of tundra. Inhabits fields, wet meadows, urban areas, shorelines and willow shrublands up to the lower subalpine.



**Species:** *Quiscalus quiscula*

**Length Range:** 28 - 34 cm (11 - 13.5 in)

**Weight:** 128 g (4.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 43 - 47 cm (17 - 18.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Colonial

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## EASTERN MEADOWLARK

Blackbirds and Orioles (Icteridae)

**General:** Eastern Meadowlark: Short ground-dwelling bird with buff- and black-streaked brown upperparts. Head has black-and-white striped crown, white face, black eyestripe and a pointed bill. Throat to belly is yellow, broad black V on breast. Brown tail has white edges and undertail coverts.

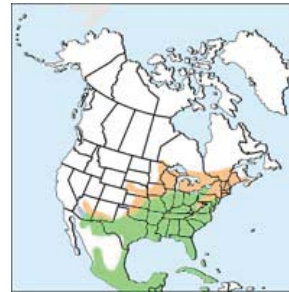
**Foraging and Feeding:** Eastern Meadowlark: Feeds mostly on insects and other invertebrates; also eats seeds and berries. Forages on the ground; finds food by gaping (forcibly opening bill) in soil or in plant stalks to expose hidden prey.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Eastern Meadowlark: Three to seven pale pink eggs with brown and lavender spots are laid in a nest made of dried grass, pine needles, horsehair, and plant stems; nest is domed-shaped with a side entrance and built on the ground in a meadow, crop field, or weedy orchard. Incubation ranges from 13 to 14 days and is carried out by both parents.

**Flight Pattern:** Several rapid wing beats followed by a glide.

**Range and Habitat:** Eastern Meadowlark: Breeds from southeastern Canada through eastern U.S. west to Arizona; resident in the Bahamas and Mexico. Spends winters mostly within breeding range. Preferred habitats include pastures, meadows, grassy fields, prairies, open country, and country roadsides. Often seen singing from fence posts or utility wires.



**Species:** *Sturnella magna*

**Length Range:** 23 - 28 cm (9 - 11 in)

**Weight:** 102 g (3.6 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 34 - 43 cm (13.5 - 17 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid



## GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE

Blackbirds and Orioles (Icteridae)

**General:** Great-tailed Grackle: Large blackbird, iridescent black body and purple sheen. Yellow eyes. Long, keeled tail. Walks on ground, wades in water to forage. Eats snails, insects, frogs, shrimp, small fish and birds, eggs and young of other birds, fruits, berries, seeds and grains. Strong direct flight.

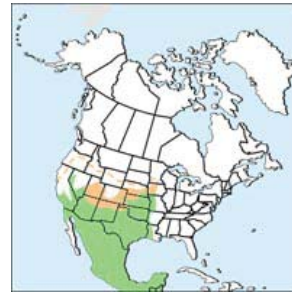
**Foraging and Feeding:** Great-tailed Grackle: Feeds on insects, worms, small vertebrates (including tadpoles, small fish, and lizards), plant matter, and garbage. Forages while walking on the ground and wading in water; also steals food from other birds.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Great-tailed Grackle: Three to four light blue to gray eggs with red purple markings are laid in a nest made of grass, bark, and weeds, and built in a palm or shade tree near water. Incubation ranges from 13 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong swift direct flight on rapidly beating wings.

**Range and Habitat:** Great-tailed Grackle: Resident from California, Colorado, Kansas, and western Louisiana southward. Preferred habitats include open areas with scattered trees, cultivated areas, marshes, parks, and areas around human habitation.



**Species:** *Quiscalus mexicanus*

**Length Range:** 27 - 47 cm (10.5 - 18.5 in)

**Weight:** 190 g (6.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 49 cm (19.25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Polygamous. Colonial

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## ORCHARD ORIOLE

Blackbirds and Orioles (Icteridae)

**General:** Orchard Oriole: Small oriole, black head, back, tail, and chestnut-orange shoulder patches, underparts, rump. Wings are black with single broad white bar; flight feathers have white edges. Feeds on insects, fruits, berries, nectar and flowers. Swift direct flight on rapid wing beats.

**Foraging and Feeding:** Orchard Oriole: Feeds on insects, nectar, flowers, and fruits.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Orchard Oriole: Three to seven pale blue or gray eggs with gray, purple, or brown spots are laid in a woven pouch of grass lined with plant down. Nest is attached to a fork in a tree or bush. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Orchard Oriole: Breeds from southern parts of the Canadian prairie provinces, southern Ontario, central New York, and southern New England south to northern Florida, the Gulf coast, Texas, and central Mexico. Spends winters in Central America and northwestern South America. Inhabits open woodlands, areas of open second-growth, orchards, suburban streets, riparian areas, and scattered groves of trees.



**Species:** *Icterus spurius*

**Length Range:** 15 - 20 cm (6 - 7.75 in)

**Weight:** 20 g (0.7 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 23 - 26 cm (9.25 - 10.25 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Solitary nester.  
Loose colonies

**Breeding Population:** Common to fairly common

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Blackbirds and Orioles (Icteridae)

**General:** Red-winged Blackbird: Small blackbird with jet-black body and bright red shoulder patches edged with yellow on bottom. Runs or hops while foraging on the ground. Eats seeds, grains, berries, fruits, insects, caterpillars, spiders, snails, grubs and mollusks. Strong direct flight on rapid wing beats.

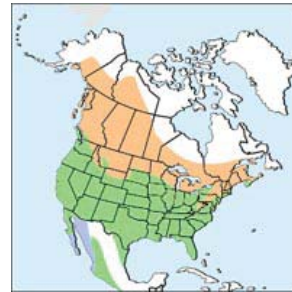
**Foraging and Feeding:** Red-winged Blackbird: Feeds on insects, small fruits, seeds, waste grain, and small aquatic invertebrates. Runs or hops while foraging on the ground. Although regarded as a pest because it eats grain in cultivated fields, the farmer also benefits from consumption of harmful insects.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Red-winged Blackbird: Three to five pale blue green eggs marked with dark brown and purple are laid in a well-made cup of marsh grass or reeds and attached to emergent vegetation or built in a marsh shrub. Incubation ranges from 11 to 12 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight with deep rapid wing beats. Displaying males fly with slow stiff shallow wing beats with epaulettes raised.

**Range and Habitat:** Red-winged Blackbird: Breeds from Alaska east across Canada to Newfoundland and south to northern Baja California, central Mexico, the Gulf Coast, and Florida. Spends winters regularly across the U.S. north to British Columbia, Great Lakes, and Pennsylvania. Preferred habitats include fresh and saltwater marshes, rice paddies, sedge meadows, alfalfa fields, and other croplands.



**Species:** *Agelaius phoeniceus*

**Length Range:** 19 - 24 cm (7.5 - 9.5 in)

**Weight:** 65 g (2.3 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 30 - 37 cm (12 - 14.5 in)

**Breeding Type:** Colonial. Some polygamous

**Breeding Population:** Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

Blackbirds and Orioles (Icteridae)

**General:** Yellow-headed Blackbird: Medium-sized blackbird with black body, bright yellow hood and breast, and distinct white wing patches. Bill, legs and feet are black. Forages in low vegetation and on the ground. Feeds on insects, larvae, snails, seeds, and grains. Strong direct flight on rapid wing beats.

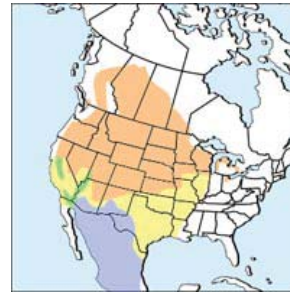
**Foraging and Feeding:** Yellow-headed Blackbird: Diet consists of beetles, weevils, grasshoppers, dragonflies, spiders, ants, and seeds of panic grass, ragweed, smartweed, and pigweed. Forages in low vegetation and on the ground; may hawk insects in the air.



**Breeding and Nesting:** Yellow-headed Blackbird: Three to five dark-marked, pale gray or green eggs are laid in a bulky, deep basket nest woven into emergent vegetation over water. Nest is made with wet vegetation, which tightens as it dries. Incubation ranges from 11 to 13 days and is carried out by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Direct flight with rapid wing beats.

**Range and Habitat:** Yellow-headed Blackbird: Breeds from central British Columbia, northern Alberta, and Wisconsin south to southern California, northern New Mexico, and Illinois. Spends winters in southern U.S. and northern Mexico. Nests in freshwater marshes; during migration and winter prefers open, cultivated lands, fields, and pastures.



**Species:** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

**Length Range:** 20 - 28 cm (8 - 11 in)

**Weight:** 79 g (2.8 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 36 - 43 cm (14 - 17 in)

**Breeding Type:** Polygamous. Colonial

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

Finches (Fringillidae)

**General:** American Goldfinch: Small, noisy finch. Male has a bright yellow body, black cap, wings, and tail, and white rump and undertail coverts. Wings have flashy white patches and bright yellow shoulder bar. Bill is conical. Undulating flight, alternates several rapid wing beats with wings pulled to sides.

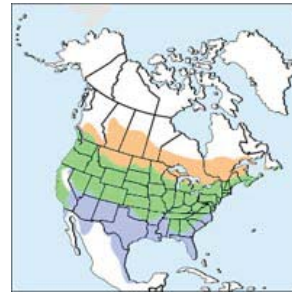
**Foraging and Feeding:** American Goldfinch: Feeds primarily on seeds; prefers hanging onto seed heads rather than feeding on the ground.



**Breeding and Nesting:** American Goldfinch: Four to six pale blue to white blue eggs are laid in a well-made cup of grass, bark strips, and plant down, and built in a small sapling or shrub. Incubation typically ranges from 10 to 12 days and is carried out by the female; male feeds her on the nest.

**Flight Pattern:** Undulating flight. Several rapid wing beats and then a pause.

**Range and Habitat:** American Goldfinch: Breeds from southern British Columbia east to Newfoundland and south to California, Utah, southern Colorado, central Oklahoma, Arkansas, and the Carolinas. Spends winters throughout much of U.S.; prefers brushy thickets, weedy grasslands, and nearby trees.



**Species:** *Carduelis tristis*

**Length Range:** 13 cm (5 in)

**Weight:** 14 g (0.5 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 22 - 23 cm (8.75 - 9 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous

**Breeding Population:** Declining slightly

**Back Pattern:** Solid

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

## HOUSE SPARROW

Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

**General:** House Sparrow: Medium-sized, stocky sparrow with black-streaked brown upperparts and pale gray underparts. Wings are brown with single white bar. Cheeks and crown are pale gray, contrasting with black throat, upper breast, and bill. Legs are shorter and black bill is thicker than in native sparrows.

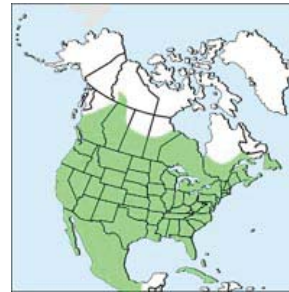
**Foraging and Feeding:** House Sparrow: Diet consists of insects, seeds, and fruits; forages on the ground, in trees and shrubs, usually in urban and rural areas.



**Breeding and Nesting:** House Sparrow: Three to seven blue or green eggs, spotted with gray and brown, are laid in a loose nest made of grass, feathers, strips of paper, string, and similar debris, and built in a man-made or natural cavity; also nests in bird boxes. Incubation ranges from 10 to 14 days and is carried out mostly by the female.

**Flight Pattern:** Swift bounding flight. Alternates several rapid wing beats with brief periods of wings pulled to sides.

**Range and Habitat:** House Sparrow: Native to Britain, northern Scandinavia, and northern Siberia to northern Africa, Arabia, India, and Burma. Introduced and established worldwide except in Antarctica; resident throughout temperate North America. Preferred habitats include cities, towns, and agricultural areas.



**Species:** *Passer domesticus*

**Length Range:** 14 - 17 cm (5.5 - 6.5 in)

**Weight:** 28 g (1 oz)

**Wingspan Range:** 24 - 25 cm (9.5 - 10 in)

**Breeding Type:** Monogamous. Some promiscuous

**Breeding Population:** Widespread, Abundant

**Back Pattern:** Striped or streaked

**Belly Pattern:** Solid

**Breast Pattern:** Solid

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## Credits and Contributors

### Publisher

**Mitchell Waite** Computer book author, publisher, web designer, entrepreneur is best known for writing numerous books on programming and computer technology, as well as innovative titles published by Waite Group Press in the areas of multimedia, fractals, biofeedback, nanotechnology, and virtual reality. Mr. Waite sold his publishing company to Simon and Schuster in 1996. His web site [www.mitchwaite.com](http://www.mitchwaite.com) provides a glimpse into some of his accomplishments.

### Authors and Ornithologists

**David Lukas** David Lukas David has been an avid birder for over 25 years, during which time he has worked on field research projects in Borneo, Peru, Central America, and every western state. As a professional naturalist, he has led hundreds of birding tours, classes, and programs, many of these in the last 3 years with his partner Simone Whitecloud. David is also the author of “Wild Birds of California”, “Watchable Birds of the Great Basin”, the newly revised “Sierra Nevada Natural History”, as well as many magazine articles. His weekly column Field Guide appears in the Los Angeles Times newspaper.

**Simone Whitecloud** A native of New Orleans, Simone Whitecloud moved to the Bay Area in 1996 to obtain a degree in biology from the University of San Francisco. As a freelance naturalist, Simone leads nature walks and teaches workshops for many organizations such as Point Reyes Field Seminars, Yosemite Association, and the National Park Service. She is also on the faculty at the College of Marin.

**Gary Owen Dick** Born in Covington, Louisiana in 1956, Dr. Dick received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Southeastern Louisiana University and Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi. He currently works as an aquatic restorationist and naturalist at the Institute of Applied Sciences, University of North Texas.

**Nataliya Kovalenko** Graduated from the University of Kiev-Mohyla Academy. She has over 10 years experience as a freelance writer and translator.

### Artists and Designers

**Yury Anatolievich Lisyak** Born in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, in 1962. Mr. Lisyak received his B. S. Degree from Dnepropetrovsk National University. He currently works as a freelance artist, graphic designer and illustrator.

**Irina Sergeevna Rud-Volga** Born in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, in 1983 Ms. Rud-Volga received her B.S. from Dnepropetrovsk National University. She currently is continuing her studies to obtain a M.S. degree.

**Samira Viktorovna Belous** Born in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, in 1981 Ms. Belous received her B.S. from Dnepropetrovsk Art College. She currently is continuing her studies at Dnepropetrovsk National University to obtain a M.S. degree



## WAITE CUSTOM GUIDES

### FEATURES OF THIS GUIDE

- ◆ Extensive ID information
- ◆ Full page color illustrations
- ◆ Detailed range maps
- ◆ PDF Table of Contents hyperlinks
- ◆ Each bird on one full page



David Lukas has been an avid birder for over 25 years leading hundreds of birding tours and classes. He is the author of *Wild Birds of California*, *Watchable Birds of the Great Basin*, and the newly revised *Sierra Nevada Natural History*.

Unlike most field guides with postage stamp sized photos, WhatBird guides contain full-page color illustrations of each bird along with the most important identification and behavior information. The book also details the bird's behavior, including foraging, breeding, nesting, vocalization, and migration. Organized into families with each family color coded at the top of the page, there are two tables of contents, one arranged by family name, the other by common name.

All information contained in this field guide is derived from the WhatBird database found at <http://www.whatbird.com>. This database includes a state of the art parametric search engine that allows identification of any one of over 800 bird species or variations found in North America with just a few clicks. There is also a bird forum where our ornithologists will help you identify birds that you cannot find with the search engine.



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Sausalito, CA 94965  
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