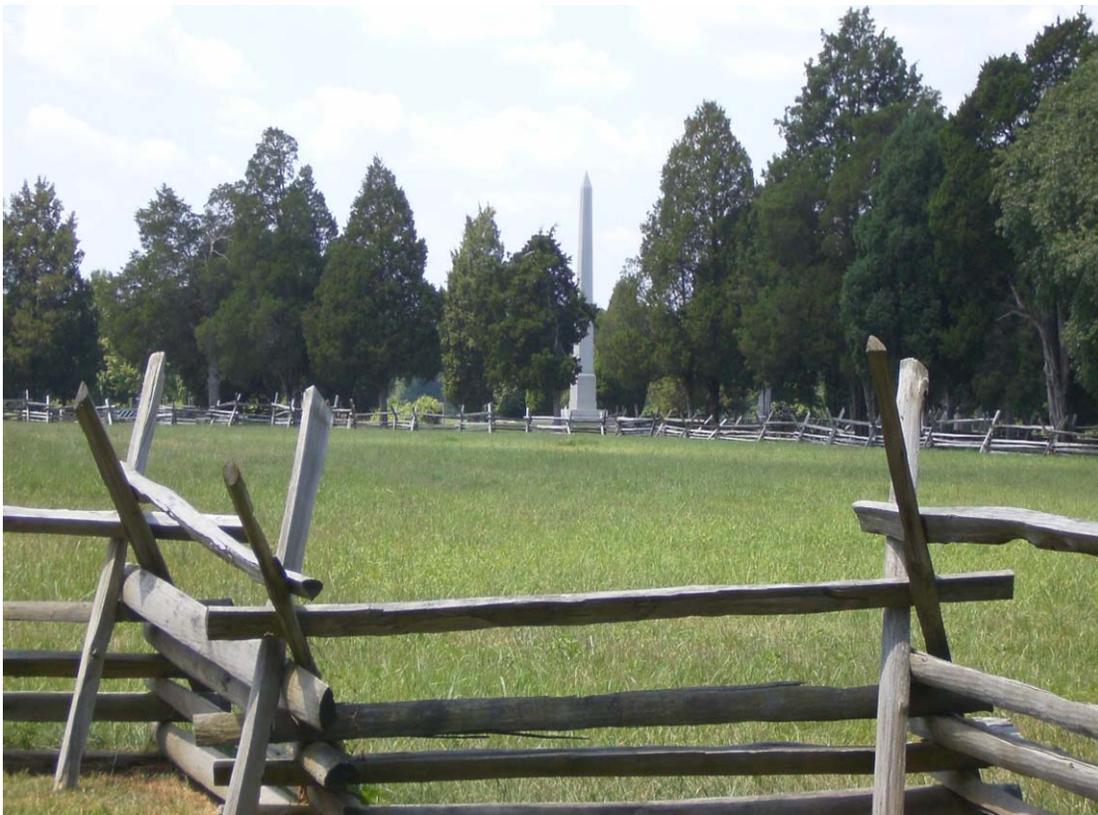




-----National Park Service



Birds Of George Washington Birthplace National Monument

Notes about George Washington Birthplace National Monument & the Birds that it protects

- *George Washington Birthplace National Monument is administered by the National Park Service and encompasses 550 acres*
 - *Within that 550 acres are woodlands, swamplands, open grasslands, freshwater ponds, marshes, estuaries, which are homes to a myriad of birds and other species*
- *Primary purpose of the park is to protect & interpret, the land, image, & resources that are associated with George Washington*
 - *There are plenty of bird-watching and/or wildlife-oriented adventures, information, rules, regulations, and other important details can be answered at the Visitor Center!!!*
- *The following list contains the names of 218 different bird species that have been observed and inventoried by the National Park Service*
- *Please report, however, if you find any new species of birds while at the park, by telling a member of the staff at the Visitor Center!!*

Any other questions, hours of operations, fees, regulations can be attained by calling:

(804)-224-1732

And Remember... "Take only pictures... Leave only footprints"

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Birds of George Washington Birthplace National Monument

Seasons- Spring (March-May), Summer (June-Aug.), Fall (Sept.-Nov.), Winter (Dec.-Feb.)

Nester-means has nested in park

Status Breakdown- Abundant (Usually found in numbers), Common (usually found in habitat),

Uncommon (possible but often missed), Occasional (seen several times each season), Rare (seen every few years), Introduced (Not native)

Loons

Common Loons-(Commonly found in spring, fall, & winter) eerie yodel/wail sounding, males larger



Red-Throated Loon-(rare & would be found in spring, fall, & winter) more slender & smallest of the loons & distinctive in size, behavior, vocalizations, locomotion then other loons & usually found at higher latitude



Grebes

Pied-billed grebe- (commonly found in spring, fall, & winter & rare in summer) a medium sized stocky brown bird with a loud cuckoo like call



Horned Grebe- (uncommon to the area, but possible in spring, fall, & winter) small, sexes look alike, loud nasal "aarhh" descending in pitch, usually silent in winter



Cormorants

Double-Crested Cormorant – (commonly found in spring, summer, & winter & abundant in fall) most numerous & widespread in N. America, large dark water bird, sexes alike, deep guttural grunts & growing in numbers & being blamed for declines in fish farms



Bitterns, Herons, & Egrets

American Bittern- (rare in spring, fall, & winter) stocky, well camouflaged heron likely to keep under cover, sexes alike, a deep pumping “oong-ka-choonk” booming call



Least Bittern- (rare in spring, summer, & fall) tiny heron, well camouflaged, one of the most difficult marsh birds to spot, females have more muted colors, esp. black in the mantle & crown



(Male)



(Female)

Great Blue Heron- (commonly found in spring, summer, fall, & winter) largest & most widespread heron in N. America & can be found along the ocean shoreline or small inland pond, large gray bird, sexes look alike, & call a deep hoarse croak



Great Egret- (commonly found in spring, summer, & fall & rare in winter) large white heron, found across much of the world, sexes appear alike & deep croak when disturbed & other low calls around nest



Snowy Egret- (commonly found in spring, summer, & fall & rare in winter) small, active white heron, black legs & yellow feet identify it quickly, sexes look alike, & loud, nasal squawk in aggression or territorial defense



Little Blue Heron- (rare in spring & uncommon (possible) in spring & fall) smallish heron, only heron where newborns look drastically different (1st yr birds are pure white) & (adults are blue), sexes similar with females being slightly smaller, loud & nasal squawk in aggression or territorial defense



Tricolor Heron- (occasional (seen several times each season) in spring, summer, & fall) medium-sized heron, sexes look alike, soft, nasal moaning



© William L. Newton/CLO

Cattle Egret- (uncommon in spring, summer, & fall) small white heron of pastures & roadsides more at home foraging in grass than water, follows tractors, cattle, horses to catch insects they stir, sexes similar, & quiet away from breeding colony & quiet, throaty “rick-rack”



© Lee Kuhn/CLO

Green-Backed Heron- (uncommon in spring, commonly found in summer & fall) a small, stocky bird usually found in wet spots around USA, sexes similar but female slightly smaller, duller (color), and lighter & flight or alarm call an explosive “skeow” & also a series of “kuk-kuk-kuk” notes



© J.R. Woodward/CLO

Black-Crowned Night Heron- (uncommon, but possible, in summer, fall, & winter) found on 5 continents most widespread heron in the world, most active at dusk or night, feeding where other herons do during the day, sexes similar, females slightly smaller, & has a loud harsh squawk call



© William L. Newton/CLO

Yellow-Crowned Night Heron- (rare in spring, summer, & fall) nocturnal heron of southern swamps & coasts, sexes look alike, a loud harsh squawk



Ibis

Glossy Ibis- (rare in spring, summer, & fall) the White-faced Ibis is a western replacement for the Glossy Ibis, with a long down-curved bill, sexes look alike, with a nasal moaning “urm” with croaks & rattles at breeding colony



Geese, Swans, & Ducks

Great White-Fronted Goose- (occasionally spotted in spring, fall, & winter) commonly found west of Mississippi River in large flocks in wetlands & croplands, sexes look alike, male slightly larger, & call a high-pitched laughing or yelping, consisting of 2 or 3 notes



Snow Goose- (occasionally found in spring, fall, & winter) medium sized goose, very large, high-flying, and noisy flock, sexes look alike, male larger with a noisy loud nasal “whouk”, calls at any hour, in any season, from any location



Canada Goose- (a nester, abundant in spring, fall, & winter & common in summer) most familiar & widespread goose in N. America, found in all waters, sexes look alike, a loud “honk” sound, this is the type of goose found in urban areas too



© B. L. Sullivan

Mute Swan- (nester, but introduced to area & not native, commonly found in spring, fall, & winter, & uncommon in summer) introduced into N. America to grace the ponds of estates & parks, their aggressive behavior threatens native waterfowl in regions where they have escaped and set up breeding populations, sexes look alike, male slightly larger & with larger knob on bill, not mute calls quiet & don't carry, a snorting “heorr”, hisses aggressively & wings make noise in flight



© Kevin T.Karlson

Tundra Swan- (commonly found in spring & fall & abundant in winter) frequently seen during migration, sexes look alike, males slightly larger & call a goose-like honking



© Kevin T.Karlson

Wood Duck (nester, uncommon, but possible in spring, summer, & fall) colorful, one of few that nest in trees, male brightly patterned, female dull gray brown, females make a loud “oo-eek, oo-eek” sound when disturbed & taking flight, male has thin, rising & falling zeeting whistle



(Male) © Hoss Firooznia



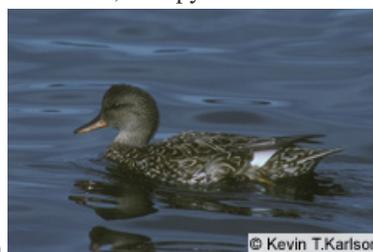
(Female) © William L.Newton/CLO

Gadwall- (uncommonly found spring, fall, & winter) common duck of lakes & ponds, males patterned in subtle gray, brown, & black; females dull gray-brown w/o black hind end, a raspy “reb” call



(Male)

© Marie Read



(Female)

© Kevin T.Karlson

American Wigeon- (uncommon in spring, fall, & winter) an increasingly abundant duck, male brightly patterned with white flanks & white crown stripe; female dull gray & rusty brown, high squeaky whistle resembling squeaky toy, females quack



(Male)

© Marie Read



(Female)

© Marie Read

American Black Duck- (uncommon in spring, summer, & fall & abundant in winter) shows clear affinities with the mallard, populations did decline rapidly but have come back due to conservation & protection procedures, male slightly larger, bill colors of males & females differ, a raspy "quack"



(Male)

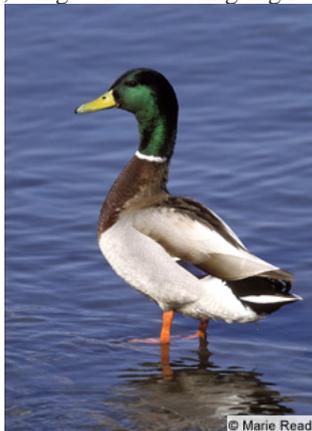
© Lang Elliott/CLO



(Female)

© Lang Elliott/CLO

Mallard- (nester, commonly found in spring, summer, fall, & winter) one of the most familiar ducks, where it wasn't naturally has been introduced, male has bright green head & pale body, female dull brown all over, females give loud series of quacks, males make softer, rasping, "rab" also a grunt & whistle during display, wings whistle during flight



(Male)

© Marie Read



(Female)

© Christopher Crowley/CLO

Blue-Winged Teal- (occasional in spring & fall) reveals powder-blue wing patch in flight, male has large crescent on front of face & white patch on rear flank, female dull gray-brown, male's call is a loud, high whistle or a nasal bleat, females give loud, evenly spaced quacks



© William L. Newton/CLO

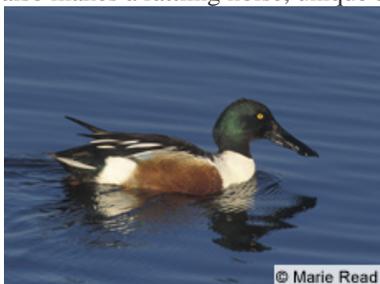
(Male)



© William L. Newton/CLO

(Female)

Northern Shoveler- (commonly found in spring & winter) most distinctive of the dabbling ducks, breeding male is gaudy, with a dark green head, black bill, white chest, & chestnut flanks, females are subtly colored & patterned overall, in gray, brown, & black, males gives a nasal bray in full courtship, females makes various quacks, also makes a rattling noise, unique among dabbling ducks, upon taking flight



(Male)

© Marie Read



(Females)

© Mary Tremaine/CLO

Northern Pintail- (occasionally found in spring, fall, & winter) distinctive silhouette, slim & long-necked, males are boldly patterned with white chest & long tail; female dull brown, males make wheezy mewling notes & a whistle, females quack



(Male)

© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO



(Females)

© Kevin T. Karlson

Gren-Winged Teal- (uncommon in spring & fall & occasional in winter) a small brightly patterned duck, breeding male boldly patterned w/ gray & reddish; female dull mottled brown, males give single-noted whistle, females give shrill quack



(Male)

© William L. Newton/CLO



(Females)

© William L. Newton/CLO

Canvasback- (occasionally in winter) large diving duck, sloping profile distinguishes it from other ducks, breeding male boldly patterned with red head & white body; female drabber & more subtly marked in brown & gray



(Male)

© Kevin T. Karlson



(Females)

© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO

Redhead-(rare in spring, fall, & winter) bright red head, breeding male boldly patterned with red head & black ends; females more subtly marked in grays & browns & male courtship calls a catlike “meow”



(Male)

© Stephen W. Kress/CLO



(Females)

© Kevin T.Karlson

Ring-Neck Duck- (commonly seen in spring & winter & occasionally in the fall) usually silent, makes courting calls soft & growly, white ring around its bill usually identifies it, breeding males bold black & white; female drab brown with white eye ring



(Male)

© Michael J.Hopiak/CLO



(Females)

© Michael J.Hopiak/CLO

Greater Scaup- (uncommon in spring, fall, & winter) breeding males bold black & white, females drabber & more brown with white patch at base of bill, males make soft, fast whistle & females make hoarse, raspy “arr-arr-arr” sound



(Male)

© Uve F.Hublitz/CLO



(Female)

© Arthur Morris / Birds As Art

Lesser Scaup- (common in spring, fall, & winter) abundant & widespread diving duck in N. America, breeding male bold black & white, female drabber & more brown with white patch at base of bill, males make faint whistled “whe-o” in courtship, females make grating “garf, garf” sound



(Male)

© Marie Read



(Female)

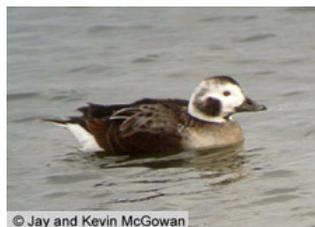
© Stan Smith/CLO

Long-Tailed Duck-(occasionally in spring, fall, & winter) aka Oldsquaw, male has very long black central tail feathers & is cleanly marked black & white, females has short tail & is patterned in smudgy black, white, & brown, males bill often has a pink band near the tip; female’s bill is uniformly dark gray, males make loud nasal, seemingly incessant call, “owowoolee” call a soft “gut-gut” call when feeding, or barks when alarmed



(Male)

© Arthur Morris / Birds As Art



(Female)

© Jay and Kevin McGowan

Hooded Merganser-(commonly in spring, fall, & winter) small fish-eating duck, frequently seen on shallow waters, males boldly patterned with black & white crest, female is smaller & grayish brown with shorter crest, silent except in courtship when males give a deep rolling frog-like sound, wings produce a loud whistling in flight



(Male)

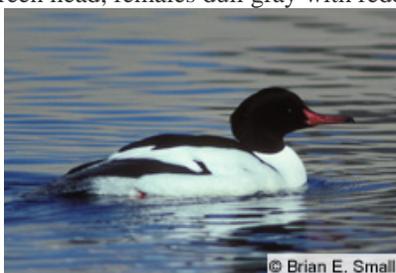
© William L.Newton/CLO



(Female)

© William L.Newton/CLO

Common Merganser-(uncommon in spring & fall & rare in winter) large diving duck, bill has toothy projections along edges that help duck hold onto slippery fish prey, male boldly patterned with white sides, black back, & green head, females dull gray with reddish head & white chin



(Male)

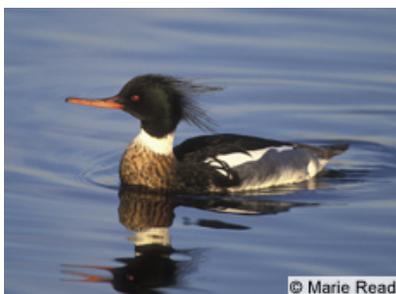
© Brian E. Small



(Female)

© Brian E. Small

Red-Breasted Merganser-(common in spring, fall, & winter) prefers salt water more than other two mergansers, large diving duck, males boldly patterned with white & gray sides, black back, reddish chest, white neck, & green head, females dull gray with reddish head & shaggy double crest, silent except in courtship when males make a cat-like “yeow, yeow” sound, females make a harsh “gruk” sound



(Male)

© Marie Read



(Female)

© William L.Newton/CLO

Ruddy Duck-(common in spring, fall, & winter) member of “stiff-tailed ducks” spiky tale that it usually hold straight up, males with bright white cheeks, reddish in breeding plumage, female browner with dark line through cheek patch, usually silent except in courtship, males make series of muffled popping noises



(Male)

© Kevin T.Karlson



(Female)

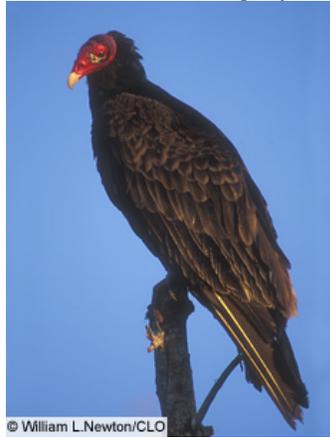
© Brian E. Small

American Vultures

Black Vulture-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) more southern of two common species, flaps wings frequently when soaring, more social than Turkey Vulture (travels in large flocks) sexes look alike, usually silent, can make soft hisses & barks



Turkey Vulture-(nester, abundant in spring, summer, fall, & winter) seldom flaps wings while soaring, sexes appear similar, but females are slightly larger, usually silent, makes hiss at carcasses, roosts, & nest



Osprey, Eagles, & Hawks

Osprey-(nester, common in spring, summer, & fall) one of largest birds of prey in N. America eats almost exclusively fish & one of most widespread birds in the world, sexes similar, females larger & tends to have fuller & darker chest band, calls are short, chirping whistles



Bald Eagle-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) national bird, no longer on the Endangered Species List, reclassified in 1995 as Threatened, sexes alike in plumage, female larger, call high-pitched whistling or piping



© William L. Newton/CLO (In flight)



© William L. Newton/CLO

Sharp-shinned Hawk-(nester, common in spring, fall, & winter, uncommon in summer) small hawk, sexes similar in plumage, female is substantially larger (greatest disparity in American hawks, females almost 2x large as male), call a series of sharp “kik” notes



© Johann Schumacher/CLO

Cooper's Hawk-(uncommon in spring, summer, fall, & winter) medium-sized hawk built for fast flight thru obstacles in forests, sexes similar in plumage, female larger, alarm call a series of sharp “cak”s



© Marie Read

Red-shouldered Hawk-(nester, common in spring summer, fall, & winter) common forest-dwelling hawk, most vocal American hawk, sexes look alike, female larger, call a loud “kee-aah” w/ second note descending in pitch & often given repeatedly



Broad-Winged Hawk-(common in spring & fall, uncommon in summer) small & stocky, sexes look alike, female slightly larger; call a thin high whistled “kee-eee”



Red-Tailed Hawk-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) most common & widespread hawk in N. America, sexes look alike, female larger & call is a raspy, scraping, screamed, “kree-eee-ar”



Falcons

American Kestrel-(common in spring, fall, & winter & rare in summer) perhaps most colorful raptor in world, most common in N. America, males have blue-gray wings & a lightly colored spotted chest & belly, the female is larger & has rufous wings barred with black & streaking on chest, loud series of “klee-klee-klee” notes when excited



(Male)

© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO

(Female)



© Uve F. Hublitz/CLO

Merlin-(rare in spring & fall) small falcon & least well-marked of American falcons, sexes similar but males slightly smaller & has gray on back, female brown, has a high call of “kee, kee, kee”



© B. L. Sullivan

Peregrine Falcon-(rare in spring & fall) powerful & fast-flying, restoration efforts made it a regular, though uncommon sight in urban areas after pesticides almost killed them off in mid-20th century, sexes similar in plumage, female larger & more heavily marked, alarm call a loud series of harsh “kak, kak, kak” sounds



© Erwin & Peggy Bauer

Turkey & Quail

Wild Turkey-(nester, uncommon in spring, summer, fall, & winter) eliminated from much of its range by 1900 intro. programs have been successful (even introducing it to regions wasn't at before), was important food source of Native Americans, males larger with much more prominent beard, head, & neck completely bare & often bluish, males display an explosive gobble & its call a rather nasal yelp



(Male)

© Bob Schmitz/CLO



(Female)

© Marie Read

Northern Bobwhite-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) small chicken-like bird an important game bird, sexes similar but males have bold black & white face pattern, female w/ duller brown & buff, has a loud call with ringing “b, Bob, white” sound & also a clear “ho-y-poo” call



(Male)

© Tim Gallagher/CLO



(Female)

© Tim Gallagher/CLO

Rails, Gallinules, & Coots

Clapper Rail-(common in spring, summer, fall, & uncommon in winter) abundant in saltwater marshes & mangrove swamps, sexes look alike, males slightly larger, calls a short series of clacking or grunting noises



© Marie Read

King Rail-(rare in spring, fall, & winter) large rail of freshwater marshes, decline rapidly in much of its range in last 40 years, sexes look alike, but males slightly larger, calls include a long series of evenly spaced clacks, a short series of deep grunting notes, & a clack & trill



© L.B.Wales/CLO

Virginia Rail-(rare in spring, fall, & winter) secretive bird of freshwater marshes, remains hidden in dense vegetation, & posses many adaptations for moving thru habitat, sexes similar, males slightly larger, long sequences of pig-like grunts & also a repeated “kid-dik” make up its sounds



© B. L. Sullivan

American Coot-(rare in spring & winter * & occasional in fall) often mistaken for a duck, common water bird, its all black & white chicken-like beak distinguishes it from ducks, sexes alike, calls a scratchy, clucking noises & series of “kuk-kuk-kuk” notes



© Marie Read

Plovers

Semipalmated Plover-(rare in spring & fall) shorebird most common plover seen in migration, sexes similar but female slight larger & with brown feathers in crown, mask, & chestband, & with more distinct white eyestripe, call a short two-noted whistle “chu-wee”



© Tim W. Gallagher/CLO

Killdeer-(common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) most common of American plovers & commonly pretends to have a broken wing to lure predators from their nest, sexes look alike, loud piercing “kil-deer” call



Stilts

Black-necked Stilt-(occasional in summer) black & white bird with long striking red legs, sexes similar but females have brown tinge to back & slightly smaller legs, has a sharp yipping call that is given continuously when disturbed



American Avocet-(occasional in summer) elegant profile & striking coloration, sexes similar, but female slightly smaller, with shorted & more curved bill, call a repeated high-pitched “kleek”



Sandpipers & “Their Allies”

Solitary Sandpiper-(uncommon in spring & fall) although not entirely “solitary” does not migrate in flocks like other shorebirds do, sexes look alike, female slightly larger, a high-pitched whistled “weet, weet” call



Spotted Sandpiper-(uncommon in spring & rare in fall) most widespread breeding sandpiper in N. America, sexes alike in plumage, females are larger & have larger spots that extend farther down lower belly, has a high-pitched whistled “weet” call uttered singly or in pairs



Greater Yellowlegs-(uncommon in spring & fall) announces presence with piercing alarm calls, sexes alike & has three or four-noted “dew-dew-dew” calls



Lesser Yellowlegs-(uncommon in spring & fall) readily shows off its yellow legs which give it the name, sexes alike, two-noted short whistled “tu-tu”



Sanderling-(uncommon in fall, rare in winter) most commonly seen in flocks chasing receding waves then retreating when they return, sexes look similar, with male averaging brighter, call a soft “wick-wick” twittering in flocks & on breeding grounds male gives frog-like calls in flight



Pectoral Sandpiper-(uncommon in spring & fall) medium-sized chunky bird, sexes look alike, males slightly larger & a harsh “churk” call & when in courtship a hollow hooting, interspersed with growling & squawking notes



Dunlin-(common in spring & fall, rare in winter) familiar shorebird around the world, sexes similar, female slightly larger, has a raspy “krree” call



© Arthur Morris / Birds As Art

Wilson’s Snipe-(uncommon in spring, fall, & winter) common shorebird of wet, grassy spots & has a very long bill that’s used to probe mud for its food, sexes look similar but females have longer bills & shorter tails, display a harsh “tuk-a-tuk-a-tuk” call & a winnowing hollow “hu-hu-hu” sound, also makes a rasping “scaipe” when flushed



© Isidor Jeklin/CLO

American Woodcock-(uncommon in spring, summer, & fall, & rare in winter) shorebird that lives in forests. & most frequently spotted at dusk when male’s chirping & aerial displays attract attention, camouflaged pretty well on forest floor during the day, sexes look alike, females slightly larger, silent except for male display & twittering of wings in flight, display involves wing twittering interspersed with harsh “peents”



© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO

Gulls & Terns

Laughing Gull-(common in spring, summer, & fall) smallish with black head, forges in parking lots & dumps & breeding on dredge spoil islands (human habitat modifications), sexes look alike, males slightly larger, very vocal, common call a loud series of laughing notes



© O.S. Pettingill/CLO

Bonaparte’s Gull-(rare in spring) small, graceful gull with bright white patches on wings, sexes look alike, call a buzzy “keh-keh” sound



Ring-Billed Gull-(common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) familiar “parking lot” gull & many of these “seagulls” only see freshwater in their lives, sexes alike in plumage



Herring Gull-(common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) the quintessential basic “seagull”, sexes alike in plumage, males larger, calls are loud, clear bugling



Great Black-Backed Gull-(common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) largest gull in the world & primarily a coastal species, sexes alike in plumage, male larger, has a deep swallowed “woah” call



Least Tern-(uncommon in spring, summer, & fall) smallest of American terns & found nesting on sandy beaches along southern US coasts & major river systems, sexes look alike, has a sharp alarm call of “zwreep” & also a high-pitched “kee-zink, kee-zink” call



© B. L. Sullivan

Caspian Tern-(uncommon in spring & fall & rare in summer) as large as a big gull & largest tern in world, sexes look alike, has a raspy call of “kowk” & juvenile begging call a high-pitched whistle & heard frequently during migration & in winter



© Brian E.Small

Common Tern-(rare in spring & fall) most widespread tern in N. America, sexes look alike, has a short call of “kip” & a harsh “kee-arr” call



© Arthur Morris/Birds As Art

Forster's Tern-(common in spring & fall & occasional in summer) one of several medium-sized terns similar in appearance, but, the comma-shaped black patch in winter plumage is distinctive, sexes look alike, common call a descending “kerr” with a threat call a harsh “zaar” sound



© Marie Read

Royal Tern-(common in spring, summer, & fall) large, orange-billed tern found only along ocean beaches, sexes look alike, & has a loud, rolling “keer-reet” call



© William L. Newton/CLO

Pigeons & Doves

Rock Dove-(nester, introduced to region & not native, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) common sight in urban areas throughout the world, first introduced in America in the early 1600s, sexes look alike, but, male averages larger & more iridescence on neck, a rolling song of “coo, rooc’too-coo”



© Christopher Crowley/CLO

Mourning Dove-(nester, abundant in spring, summer, fall, & winter) abundant & widespread throughout N. America, sexes similar, males slightly larger & slightly more colorful, with bluish crown & pink chest, song a plaintive “ocoo-OOH, Ooo-Ooo-Ooo” & wings whistle in flight



(Male) © Michael J. Hopiak/CLO



(Female) © Kevin T. Karlson

Cuckoos

Black-Billed Cuckoo-(rare in spring, summer, & fall) common but secretive & heard more than seen, breeding season calls throughout the night, sexes similar in plumage, females slightly larger, fast rhythmic series of two to five notes on the same pitch & with a brief pause between each set “cu-cu-cu-cu, cu-cu-cu-cu”



© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO

Yellow-Billed Cuckoo-(uncommon in spring, summer, & fall) common but slow moving & secretive bird of woodlands, loud call heard more then seen, sexes similar in plumage, females average slightly larger, a throaty song of “ka, ka, ka, ka, ka, kow, kowp, kowp, kowp” & also makes single coos



© Kevin T. Karlson

Barn Owls

Barn Owl-(rare in spring, summer, fall, & winter) one of most widely distributed birds in the world & on every continent except Antarctica, sexes similar in plumage, females are larger, darker, & more spotted below, call is a drawn-out hissing scream



© Brian E. Small

Typical Owls

Eastern Screech Owl-(nester, uncommon in spring, summer, fall, & winter) found in almost every habitat in Eastern US, sexes alike in plumage, females larger, two common songs, one a descending, whistling, whinny & two a whistled trill on one pitch, call is hoots, barks, & screeches



© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO

Great Horned Owl-(uncommon in spring, summer, fall, & winter) one of most widespread & common owls in N. America, sexes alike in plumage; female larger, call a deep hooting “hoo-h’Hoo—hoo-hoo” young make a loud rasping screech



© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO

Barred Owl-(nester, uncommon in spring, summer, fall, & winter) large owl of extensive woodlands, familiar for distinctive “who cooks for you, who cooks for you all” hooting, sexes alike in plumage, females larger, resonant series of eight or nine hoots, “hoo-hoo-to-hoo, hoo-hoo-to-hoo-aw” & also a raucous jumble of cackles, hoots, caws, & gurgles



© Peter R. Stettenheim/CLO

Short-Eared Owl-(rare in spring, summer, fall, & winter) widely distributed owls in the world, a bird of open grasslands, sexes similar in plumage, females slightly larger with darker back & more rust on chest, call a scratchy barking



© B. L. Sullivan

Goatsuckers

Common Nighthawk-(common in spring, uncommon in summer & winter) floppy flight, white patches, & erratic flight make it look like a big bat with headlights, sexes similar in plumage, female with smaller white wing patch, browner underneath, and lacking white tail stripe of male, call a nasal “peent” booming sound made with wings during display dive



Chuck-Will's Widow-(occasional in spring & winter & common in spring & fall) well known for its continuous singing of its name at dusk, sexes similar, male with white in tail, female without, a loud call of "Chuck will's widow" with the first "chuck" being quiet & inaudible at a distance



Whip-Poor-Will-(rare in spring, fall, & winter) nocturnal habits it's rarely seen & cryptic coloring keeps it hidden during the day, loud calling at dusk makes it well known whenever it breeds, sexes similar, but male has white tips to tail & females have buff tail tips, song an emphatic "Whip-poor-will" with the accent & the first & third syllables & a tremolo in the second, call note a short, quiet, "quirt", claps wings to defend territory



Swifts

Chimney Swift-(common in spring, fall, & winter) nicknamed "flying cigar" & rarely seen perched, sexes alike, high-pitched musical chip notes strung together into a rapid twitter



© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO

Hummingbirds

Ruby-Throated Hummingbird-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) only species of hummingbird that breeds in Eastern N. America, male with red throat, female with white, females also have white tips to tail feathers & are larger, rapid squeaky chipping, humming sound comes from wings



(Male)

© Isidor Jeklin / CLO



(Female)

© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO

Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) common waterside bird, often seen hovering before it plunges headfirst into water to catch fish, female with red chest band & flanks, male without, call a loud, harsh rattle



(Male)

© Marie Read



(Female)

© Isidor Jeklin/CLO

Woodpeckers

Red-Headed Woodpecker-(occasional in spring, summer, fall, & winter) one of the most aggressive members of the family, sexes alike, call a loud “tchur-tchur”



© Bill Dyer/CLO

Red-Bellied Woodpecker-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) most common woodpecker in SE US, familiar sight at birdfeeders & in backyards, male with red hood extending to forehead, female with red nape only, call a raspy loud “kwir” also shorter “chat” notes



(Male) © Gary W. Carter/CLO



(Female) © Marie Read

Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker-(common in spring, summer, & fall & occasional in winter) widespread species of small woodpeckers a “keystone” species b/c its existence is vital to the maintenance of the community (makes shallow holes in trees to get sap that other birds exploit) chin & throat red in male, white in female, call a nasal mewling “me-ah”, drumming a distinctive slow irregular tapping, easily imitated by tapping on a tree with at stick



(Male) © Lang Elliott/CLO



(Female) © Lang Elliott/CLO

Downy Woodpecker-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) smallest & most common American woodpecker & lives in a variety of habitats, male with a red patch on back of head, female with black patch, call note a sharp “pik” & also a harsh rattle of whinny



(Male)

© Bill Marchel/CLO



(Female)

© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO

Hairy Woodpecker-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) comes readily to birdfeeders & lives in a variety of habitats, widespread resident woodpecker of N. America, male with red patch on back of head, female with black patch, call note a sharp “peek” & also a harsh rattle, drum is very fast, with abrupt beginning & end



(Male)

© J.R. Woodward/CLO



(Female)

© Kevin T. Karlson

Northern Flicker-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) common ant-eating woodpecker of open areas, male with black or red mustache stripe, female without mustache stripe or has a brown one, a long series of loud “wik-wik-wik” notes makes up its call, also has a softer “wik-a-wik-a-wik-a” & a strong single-note “peah”



(Male) © Isidor Jeklin/CLO

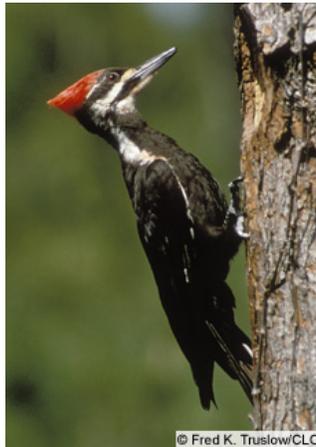


(Female) © Fred K. Truslow/CLO

Pileated Woodpecker-(nester, uncommon in spring, summer, fall, & winter) nearly as large as a crow, largest woodpecker in N. America, sexes similar, male has red crown & forehead & red in black mustache stripe, female has gray to yellow-brown forehead & no red in mustache stripe, call a loud & ringing “kuk-kuk-kuk”, drumming loud & resonant



(Male) © Warren Greene/CLO



(Female) © Fred K. Truslow/CLO

Tyrant Flycatchers

Eastern Wood-Pewee-(nester, common in spring, summer, & fall) one of the hallmark species of the Eastern deciduous forest, persistent “pee-ah-wee” sound distinguishes this otherwise overlooked bird, sexes alike in plumage, male slight larger, sound is a slurred & whistled “pee-ah-wee” rising on last note & also has a downslurred “wee-ur”



© Michael J Hopiak/CLO

Acadian Flycatcher-(common in spring, summer, & fall) usually first noticed by its explosive “peet-sah” call, sexes alike, song is an explosive “peet-sah” or “flee-sick” & call note a sharp “peet”



© Greg W. Lasley/CLO

Least Flycatcher-(common in spring, summer, & fall) one of smallest & most common flycatchers in N. America, sexes alike, song a harsh & two-noted “che-bek”



© Isidor Jeklin/CLO

Eastern Phoebe-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & occasional in winter) most familiar flycatcher in N. America, constantly wags its tail, sexes alike, song is two rough, whistled notes “fee-bee” with the second note rasping or with a stuttered more whistley second note “fee-b-be-bee” & has a call that is a clear chip



© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO

Great Crested Flycatcher-(nester, common in spring, summer, & fall) treetop hunter of deciduous forests & suburban area & easier to hear than see, sexes alike in plumage, male slightly larger, call is a strong, rising, “wee-eeep” & also has a noisy grating call



© Marie Read

Eastern Kingbird-(nester, common in spring, summer, & fall) widespread & common despite its name, it is a large & dark flycatcher, sexes alike in plumage, however, males like to sit more upright & to keep its crown feathers in a slight crest, whereas females, can raise her crest, but tends to keep her head more

rounded & to sit more horizontally on perch, song a series of high-pitched, sputtering notes followed by a downslurred buzzy “zeer, Ti-t-t-ti-zeer” & also utters the “zeers” alone



Vireos

White-Eyed Vireo-(uncommon in spring, summer, & fall) small & secretive bird of shrubby areas, most noticeable by its explosive song then looks, sexes look alike, song is loud, short, rapid, & harsh & has sharp chips at beginning and end & also has a short “zip” & a harsh “mew”



Yellow-Throated Vireo-(uncommon in spring & summer & rare in fall) bird of open deciduous forests, most colorful of Vireo family in N. America, sexes alike, song a broken series of burry 2 & 3 syllable phrases



Red-Eyed Vireo-(nester, common in spring, summer, & fall) one of the most common birds of the Eastern forests, heard more than seen, singing continuously (like song of American Robin broken into segments), sexes alike in plumage, males slightly larger on average, song is a broken series of slurred notes, each phrase usually ends in either a downslur or an upswing, as if the bird is asking a question & then answering it, over & over, has a cat-like call of “myaah”



Jays & Crows

Blue Jay-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) familiar sight at birdfeeders, abundant in the Eastern US & expanding in the West, uses food & shelter provided by humans, sexes alike, very vocal & makes a variety of calls, the most frequent is a harsh "jeer" & also has clear whistled notes & gurgling sounds



American Crow-(nester, abundant in spring, summer, fall, & winter) widespread, common, & easily recognizable, sexes alike in plumage, males slight larger on average, common call is the harsh "caw" but, also has a variety of rattles, coos, & clear notes



Fish Crow-(nester, common in spring & summer & uncommon in fall & winter) one of few birds found exclusively in US, very similar to more abundant American Crow (voice distinguishes it from American Crow), sexes alike, nasal "awp" or double-noted "uh-uh" is its call



Larks

Horned Lark-(nester, uncommon in spring, summer, fall, and winter) only lark native to North America, sexes similar, but female slightly larger & duller, song a series of high, musical tinkling notes a single or double-syllable notes of "weet" or "su-weet"



(Male)



(Female)

Martins & Swallows

Purple Martin-(common in spring, summer, & fall) largest North American swallow, males are dark, female dingy below, song a series of musical chirps interspersed with raspy twitters



© Kevin T. Karlson

Tree Swallow-(nester, abundant in spring & fall & uncommon in summer) common in open fields & marshes, adults similar in appearance; yearling female & juveniles brown, song a series of repeated whistles & twitters



© Marie Read

Northern Rough-Winged Swallow-(occasionally in spring & summer & uncommon in fall) name derives from the outer wing feathers which have small hooks/points on their leading edges, sexes appear similar, but, in the hand males can be identified from more pronounced hooks on the leading edges of the wing feathers, territorial males gives a series of short relatively low-pitched rising “brtt” or “jrtr” notes



© Michael DeJong

Bank Swallow-(rare in spring & fall & uncommon in summer) sexes look alike, song is a harsh twittering, nests in streamside banks hence its name derives from



© Lang Elliott/CLO

Barn Swallow-(nester, common in spring, summer, & fall) in our farm workshop, long forked tail, nest almost exclusively on man-made structures, sexes look similar, males are deeper chestnut on underparts & have long tail streamers, song a twittery series of squeaky notes often with dry rattle in the middle



© Fred K. Truslow/CLO

Chickadees & Titmice

Carolina Chickadee-(nester, abundant in spring, summer, fall, & winter) sexes alike & calls suggest name “chick-a-dee-dee” & song is whistled four to six notes w/ first & third higher & second & fourth lower- “fee-bee-fee-bay”



© Kevin T. Karlson

Tufted Titmouse-(nester, abundant in spring, summer, fall, & winter) sexes alike, sound a loud whistled “peter, peter, peter, peter” & call a scratchy chickadee like “tsee-day-day-day” & also fussy scolding notes



© H. Mayfield/CLO

Nuthatches & Creepers

Red-Breasted Nuthatch-(occasionally in spring, fall, & winter) characteristic of spruce & fir forests, top of males head black, female's blue-gray & female is also paler underneath & has a narrower eyestripe, call a nasally bleating like a toy horn, a series of short "annk" sounds



(Male)

© Isidor Jeklin / CLO



(Female)

© Kevin T. Karlson

White-Breasted Nuthatch-(nester, uncommon in spring, summer, fall, & winter) common in deciduous forests & wooded suburbs, sexes similar; male with a black cap, female with gray cap, song a series of soft & nasally "what, what, what" notes with a soft "yank" call



(Male)

© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO



(Female)

© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO

Brown-Headed Nuthatch-(occasional in spring, summer, fall, & winter) found almost exclusively in USA, restricted to pine forests of SE states, sexes alike, calls are high-pitched & squeaky, like that of a rubber toy duck



© Brian E. Small

Brown Creeper-(nester, uncommon in spring, summer, fall, & winter) camouflaged, it creeps up & down trees looking for food, sexes look alike, males are slightly larger & with slightly longer bill, musical phrase of four to nine high clear notes, varying by region & from individual to individual & a very high-pitched “see” sound



Wrens

Carolina Wren-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) sings one of loudest per volume songs of any bird, common bird in urban area, sexes look alike, male slightly larger, a loud song, repeated series of several whistled notes; “tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle”, calls include loud chatter & a rising & falling “cheer”



House Wren-(nester, occasional in spring, summer, & fall) common sight in backyards across USA, takes over birdhouses & restricts all other birds from usage , sexes alike, song a bubbling musical series of complicated whistled notes & thrills & a sharp call “chek”



Winter Wren-(occasional in spring, fall, & winter) only wren found outside the Americas, inhabits moist forests, sexes look alike, a remarkable continuous stream of melodious notes & thrills lasting 5-10 seconds, songs vary by region, call a sharp or husky note, uttered singly or in pairs



Marsh Wren-(rare in spring, summer, & fall) sings all day & night, sexes look alike, male is larger, song a gurgling, rattling thrill



Kinglets & Gnatcatchers

Golden-Crowned Kinglet-(uncommon in spring & fall, common in winter) frequently found in coniferous forests, sexes similar, males have orange center to yellow crown but this part is often hidden, song a series of rising thin, high-pitched notes, followed by a lower musical warble & call a short series (usually three) of very high-pitch “tsee, tsee, tsee” notes



(Male)

(Female)



© Donald Waite/CLO

Ruby-Crowned Kinglet-(uncommon in spring, fall, & winter) one of N. America’s smallest birds, recognized by constant wing-flicking, sexes similar, female w/o red crown, song a jumble of notes, starting with two or three high “tsees” followed by five or six lower “tur” notes & ending with repeated “tee-dee-lett” phrases, call a quick “di-dit”



(Male)

© Kevin T. Karlson

(Female)



© Brian E. Small

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher-(nester, common in spring, summer, & fall) found in deciduous forest & scrublands, sexes similar, breeding males slightly darker gray & with black line from bill to behind eyes, song soft, complex series of rambling jumbles & a thin nasal “spee” call



Bluebirds and Thrushes

Eastern Bluebird-(nester, abundant in spring, summer, fall, & winter) males dark blue with bright reddish chest & females drab gray-blue with duller reddish chest, song a rich warbling whistle broken into short phrases “tu-wheet-tudu” & also has a dry chatter



(Male)



(Female)

Hermit Thrush-(uncommon in spring, fall, & winter) only one of genus to spend winter in N. America & changes diet (entirely insects-summer: equal amt. insects/fruit-winter) sexes alike, song a melodious, fluty warble, mostly on one pitch starting with a clear whistled note



Wood Thrush-(nester, common in spring, summer, & fall) one of most common woodland birds in E USA & seldom seen outside dense woodlands, sexes alike, song a series of yodeled phrases with a pause in between each phrase & complex flute-like notes “ee-oh-lay” & calls a rapid “pit-pit-pit”, nocturnal flight call an emphatic buzzy “heeh” either on one tone or slightly descending



Veery-(uncommon in spring & fall) tiny thrush of damp deciduous forests, least spotted of all American spotted thrushes but easiest to identify, sexes alike song a resonating ethereal “da-veer-ur, vee-ur veer, veer, descending slightly in pitch, call note is a nasal “phew” or “veer”



American Robin-(nester, abundant in spring, summer, fall, & winter) most widespread thrush in N. America thanks to tolerance for human-modified habitats, sexes look similar; female paler, esp. on head, a musical whistled phrase “cheerily, cheer up, cheer up, cheerily, cheer up” song & call note a sharp “chup”, also a very high-pitched thin whistling note



(Male)

© B. L. Sullivan

(Female)

Mockingbirds & Thrashers

Gray Catbird-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) a secret & curious skulker of dense thickets, heard more than seen, sexes alike, song is a low slow series of warbled notes ranging from whistle to squeaks, often including imitations of songs & calls of other birds, notes not given multiple times, has a raspy “mew” & chattered “chek-check-chek” call



© Michael J.Hopiak/CLO

Northern Mockingbird-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) the “American Nightingale” known for long, complex songs, sexes look alike, song is a series of varied phrases, with each phrase repeated many times in a row & includes much mimicry of other bird’s songs & calls & has a harsh dry “chew:” call



© Michael J.Hopiak/CLO

Brown Thrasher-(nester, common in spring, summer, & fall, & uncommon in winter) one of largest song repertoires of any N. American bird, sexes look alike, song is a long series of variable phrases separated by pauses, phrases usually uttered twice, includes mimicked calls of other birds & has a call sounding like a “tchuck” (like a smacking kiss)



Starlings

European Starling-(introduced, nester, abundant in spring, summer, fall, & winter) first introduced in Central Park, NYC in early 1890s, has become one of the most numerous birds on N. American continent, at the expense of native birds that have come in conflict with starling for nesting holes, sexes similar, song is a rather quiet series of rattles & whistled notes, often containing a mimicry of other birds, flight call a purring “purrrp”



Pipits

American Pipit-(rare in spring, fall, & winter) small, slender, drab bird of open country, distinguished by its thin bill & habit of bobbing its tail (differs it from sparrow) sexes look alike, male slightly larger, song a series of high, jangling notes, call a quick, dry “pip-it”



Waxwings

Cedar Waxwing-(common in spring, fall, & winter) one of the most frugivorous birds in N. America, many aspects of its life can be traced to its dependence upon fruit, sexes nearly alike, calls are very high-pitched “bzeee” notes



Wood Warblers

Blue-Winged Warbler-(uncommon in spring & rare in fall) brightly colored but easily overlooked, expanded northward throughout 20th century, female similar to male but duller in coloration; wingbars not as pronounced, eyeline grayer & crown more olive, has a raspy “bee-buzz” (like an inhale & exhale) & also has a long high buzz with twittering notes at start & finish



© Marie Read

Golden-Winged Warbler-(rare in spring & fall) small, strikingly marked warbler, which is now losing ground with the reforestation & spread of the Blue-Winged Warbler, female similar to the male, mask & bib gray instead of black, wing patch smaller, & sometimes two wingbars instead of patch, song a high buzzy “zee-bee-bee-bee”



© Isidor Jeklin/CLO

Tennessee Warbler-(rare in spring & fall) dainty warbler, eats the budworm, so population fluctuates depending on that food source, sexes similar, females duller with less gray on head & more yellow on chest, song a loud, spitting three or two part series of trills, with the middle series composed of two-note syllables & third part faster, higher, & louder



© Arthur Morris / Birds As Art



© Brian E. Small

(Male) (Female)

Orange-Crowned Warbler-(rare in spring & fall) small, drab Warbler, more prominent in Western US where it can be one of the most numerous migrant warblers, numbers decrease as it moves eastward, sexes similar, females tend to be duller, with crown patch absent or less distinct, song a fast thrill, changing in pitch at end & its call a sharp “chip”



Nashville Warbler-(rare in spring & fall) small, sprightly bird of second-growth forests, nests on the ground & eats primarily insects, sexes similar, females slightly duller, song is loud & musical, with a distinctive two-part pattern, with several 2-note phrases followed by a thrill & the call note is a very dry chip



Northern Parula Warbler-(uncommon in spring & summer & occasional in fall) small warbler of the upper canopy, southern population nests primarily in Spanish moss & northern population nests in old man beard lichen, sexes similar, females slightly duller & usually lacks breast band, song a rising buzzy trill with a final sharp note or a series of buzzy notes



(Male)



(Female)

Yellow Warbler-(uncommon in spring, occasional in summer, & rare in fall) most warblers are yellow, the Yellow Warbler is the most extensive yellow of all warbler species, male bright yellow with reddish streaks on chest & female duller with red streaks absent or reduced, variable but the most common is a rapid musical song, “sweet-sweet-I’m-so-sweet” sounding



(Male)



(Female)

Chesnut-Sided Warbler-(rare in spring & fall) common bird of second growth & scrubby forests, very distinctive in appearance, sexes similar, breeding plumaged female duller with greener back, paler face, & less extensive chestnut sides, the non-breeding female has no chestnut on sides, song is a series of musical notes, usually accented at the end “pleased, pleased, pleased to MEETCHA” sounding



(Male)

© Marie Read (Female)



(Non-breeding)

© Brian E. Small

Magnolia Warbler-(uncommon in spring & fall) no real information on nesting behavior, handsome & familiar warbler of northern forests, breeding male has a bold black & white facial pattern, wingbars fused into a broad white panel & heavy black streaks down the sides & flanks, female is duller with mostly gray face & modest streaks on the sides, short song & weak whistled “weta, weta, WETA” & call is a very nasally “zic”



(Male)

© Isidor Jeklin/CLO (Female)

© Kevin T. Karlson



(Non-Breeding)

© Brian E. Small

Cape May Warbler-(uncommon in spring & fall) fortunes of population tied to the availability of spruce budworms (main source of food), winters in West Indies where it collects nectar with unique curled & semitubular tongue, male bright yellow with chestnut cheeks & white wing patches & female is duller & without chestnut cheeks & white wing patches, song a thin, high-pitched note repeated 4 to 8 times & call note is a high chip



(Male)

© Kevin T. Karlson (Female)

© Bill Dyer/CLO

Black-Throated Blue Warbler-(uncommon in spring & fall) a bird of the deep forest & seen in many habitats during migration, male dark blue on back with black face & sides, female dull greenish gray with

light underparts & a weak, cream-colored eyestrip, song a series of 3 to 7 buzzy notes with the last slurred upward “zoo, zoo, zoo, zoo, zee”



(Male) © Bill Dyer/CLO (Female)



© Bill Dyer/CLO

Yellow-Rumped Warbler-(common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) most common Warbler in N. America, most conspicuous & constant yellow rump out of all other warblers, female similar to male but duller & w/o black markings, song a slow musical trill, usually rising or falling at the end, its call is distinctive “chek” sounding



(Male) © Marie Read



© John Heidecker/CLO

(Female)

Yellow-Throated Warbler-(occasional in spring & summer & uncommon in fall) one of the “southeastern” warblers & is a bird of tall trees, sexes similar, female duller, song a series of clear, slurred notes, dropping slightly in pitch, call a loud, sharp “chip”



© Brian E. Small

Blackburnian Warbler-(rare in spring & fall) bird of coniferous forests of North East US, male brightly colored & female patterned similarly but duller, song is thin & very high pitched “zip, zip, zip, zip, titititi, tsee” & “teetsa, teetsa, teetsa, teetsa” sounding



(Male) © Brian E. Small (Female)



© Mike Danzenbaker

Pine Warbler-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) characteristic name as it is a warbler of Eastern Pine woodlands & rarely found in deciduous vegetation except in migration, sexes similar, females duller & with more brownish back, song is a musical trill



© Brian E. Small (Male)



© Kevin T. Karlson (Female)

Prairie Warbler-(uncommon in summer & fall) found in scrubby fields & forests throughout Eastern & South Central US (not on prairies, however) sexes similar, males have rufous streak on back & females lack such streaks & have olive not blacks streaks, & overall females are duller colored, song is a rapid series of ascending buzzes, their calls are varied & most common one is a “chek” note



© Marie Read (Male)



© Kevin T.Karlson (Female)

Palm Warbler-(uncommon in spring & fall) recognized by its tail wagging habit showing off its yellow under tail, breeds in bogs & winters primarily in Southern US & Caribbean, sexes similar, song is a weak trill & has a thin “tsip” or sharp “chip” call



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Blackpoll Warbler-(common in spring & fall) one of the most common birds of northern boreal forest, flies all the way to S. America to spend winters, breeding male with black cap & white cheeks, females lack cap & is duller, song a very high-pitched “tsit, tsit, tsit, tsit, tsit, tsit”



© Brian E. Small (Male)



© Brian E. Small (Female)

Cerulean Warbler-(rare in spring & fall) small bird of deciduous forest treetops, it is hard to see, foraging higher in the canopy than other warblers, male bright sky blue, females blue-green, buzzy notes ending in a higher-pitched trill, sounding like “zee zee zee, zizizizi, eeet”



© Bill Dyer/CLO (Male)



© Brian E. Small (Female)

(Male)

Black & White Warbler-(uncommon in spring & fall) distinctive in both plumage & behavior, common in summer in Eastern US & Canada, has an extensive winter range from Florida to Venezuela to Colombia, sexes similar, but face & throat are black in male & white in female, song a series of very high, two-syllable phrases, resembling the sound of a squeaky wheel, “wee-see-wee-see-wee-see” & has a very sharp call note



(Male)

© Isidor Jeklin/CLO



(Female)

© Bill Dyer/CLO

American Redstart-(common in spring & fall & rare in summer) boldly-patterned warbler of second growth woods, frequently flashes its orange & black wings & tail to flush insects (their prey) out of foliage, adult male black, orange, & white, female is gray, yellow, & white, song is variable, series of high notes, some with accented ending note, “Wee-see-wee-see-wee-see”, most characteristic is “tsee, tsee, tsee, tsee, tsway”



(Male)

© Kevin T. Karlson



(Female)

© Kevin T. Karlson

Prothonotary Warbler-(uncommon in spring, summer, & fall) brilliant, yellow-orange bird of South Eastern wooded swamps, sexes similar, female slightly duller & less golden, a loud, ringing “tweet, tweet, tweet, tweet” sounds makes up its call



(Male)

© B. L. Sullivan



(Female)

© Kevin T. Karlson

Worm-Eating Warbler-(rare in spring & fall) small, drab, however elegantly marked bird of Eastern deciduous forests & often found on steep slopes with dense understory, feeds largely on caterpillars (worms), sexes alike, song a rapid, dry trill, often insect-like



© Kevin T. Karlson

Swainson's Warbler-(rare in spring, summer, & fall) one of the most secretive & less observed of all N. American birds, were not for its loud, ringing song, the presence of this bird would go undetected in many areas, sexes alike, song a series of loud, ringing, descending slurred whistles, ending in 4 or 5 jumbled notes “So, so, so, so, sweet-to-hear” sounding



Ovenbird-(common in spring, summer, & fall) small, inconspicuous bird of the forest floor, yet one of the most characteristic birds of the Eastern forests, hard to see, but recognized by its loud song, sexes alike, a loud, ringing, “cher, teacher, teacher, teacher” is its song



Northern Waterthrush-(rare in spring & fall) bird of Northern forests, can be seen bobbing its tail near wet spots in park or back yards, sexes look alike, song is loud & ringing, starts with several phrases on one pitch, followed by an accelerating jumble of short, rapid phrases dropping slightly in pitch, has a call of a sharp, metallic “chink”



Louisiana Waterthrush-(uncommon in spring & fall & rare in summer) bird of forest streams & looks more like a sparrow or thrush than the warbler it really is, recognized by loud ringing call & constant bobbing of its tail, sexes alike, song is loud & ringing, starts with two to five slightly descending, clear whistled notes followed by a complex jumble of short & rapid phrases, its call is a sharp & metallic “chip”



Kentucky Waterthrush-(uncommon in spring & fall & rare in summer) * see last two Waterthrush for details on Kentucky Waterthrush, as it is similar,



(Picture taken from http://www.drakebayholiday.com/drake_bay_rainforest_chalet_birds_3.htm)

Common Yellowthroat-(common in spring, summer, & fall) skulking masked warbler of wet thickets, heard more than seen, male with black mask, female dull, song a musical, “wich-i-ty, wich-i-ty, wich-i-ty” & call note a distinctive sharp “tchat”



(Male) © Isidor Jeklin/CLO



(Female) © Kevin T. Karlson

Hooded Warbler-(uncommon in spring, summer, & fall) small bird of Eastern Hardwood forests, prefers forests that have some shrub understory, male with extensive black hood& bib, female w/o hood or bib, or with limited black, song a loud, clear whistled “ta-wit-ta-wit tee-yo” sounding



(Male) © Kevin T. Karlson



(Female) © Kevin T. Karlson

Wilson’s Warbler-(rare in spring & fall) common warbler of willow thickets in Western US & Canada, sexes similar, but, female does not have black cap or has a broken one, a series of loud, rapid, chatter-like notes, dropping downward in pitch toward the end, not especially musical in quality & also has a soft, nasal call sound of “chip”



(Male) © Arthur Morris / Birds As Art



(Female) © Brian E. Small

Canada Warbler-(rare in spring & fall) colorful, active Warbler of Northern forests, one of last Warblers to arrive north in spring & one of the first to leave in fall, sexes similar, female duller with less distinct black marking on head & breast, male with black necklace, sides of face, & forehead, song is loud & clear, first with a chirp then followed by a series of short warbling noises



(Male) © Betty Darling Cottrille/CLO



(Female) © Betty Darling Cottrille/CLO

Yellow-Breasted Chat-(common in spring, summer, & fall) easily overlooked (despite bright yellow chest & loud song) b/c of its skulking nature & denseness of its brushy haunts, long considered largest wood-warbler, genetic date suggests its not even in the warbler family, sexes similar, breeding female has gray, not black in front of eyes, song a collection of whistles, cackles, mews, catcalls, caw notes, chuckles, rattles, squawks, gurgles, & pops, along with a sharp “chuck” call



© Arthur Morris / Birds As Art

Tanagers

Summer Tanager-(common in spring, summer, & fall) only fully red bird in N. America & specializes in eating bees & wasps, a bird of Southern forests, male bright red, female greenish yellow, song is a slurred series of whistled notes interspersed with short pauses, usually contains one set that can be interpreted as “peanut-butter” & also a call that is a harsh, clicking “pit-i-tuck”



© Kevin T. Karlson

(Male)



© Kevin T. Karlson

(Female)

Scarlet Tanager-(occasional in spring, summer, & fall) striking, black-winged red bird, it is a bird of the Eastern forest interior, despite brilliant coloring, often overlooked b/c of its secretive behavior & preference for the forest canopy, breeding male bright scarlet with black wings & tail, female & nonbreeding male are olive-green with black wings & tail, song is a series of short, burry syllables, reminiscent of a robin with a sore throat, also has a springy “chik-burr” call



© Kevin T. Karlson

(Male)



© Kevin T. Karlson

(Female)

Sparrows

Eastern Towhee-(common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) one of the largest sparrows, can be seen using its vigorous double-footed scratching techniques below bird feeders, male has black hood, back, wings, & tail, whereas females, are dead-leaf brown where the male is black, song is made of several introductory notes followed by a loud trill, “drink-your-tee” sounding, its call is an upwardly inflected “chewink” or “toweew”



© Tim Gallagher/CLO

(Male)



© Tim Gallagher/CLO

(Female)

American Tree Sparrow-(rare in spring, fall, & winter) common winter visitor in backyards, where it forages & nests on the ground (contrary to its name) but does breed above tree line, sexes alike, song a series of thin, high, sweet whistled notes & its call is a hard “tseet” sound



Chipping Sparrow-(common in spring, summer, & fall & rare in winter) common small sparrow of yards, gardens, & forest openings, sexes appear similar, female averages duller & often with crown flecked with dark brown, song a loud mechanical trill



Field Sparrow-(common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) common, drab, sparrow of bushy pastures & old fields, sexes alike, males slightly larger, song a series of clear whistled notes, increasing in rate until they become a trill, much in the same pattern as a bouncing ball



Vesper Sparrow-(occasional in spring, summer, & fall & rare in winter) large sparrow that inhabits grasslands & fields, sexes look alike, song consists of two to four long, clear notes followed by musical slurs & trills & its calls include a sharp chirp



Savannah Sparrow-(occasional in spring & fall & rare in winter) found in various open habitats, sexes look alike, song consists of several short notes followed by two or more high, thin, long buzzes & its various calls include a sharp, high chip, & a slow series of repeated notes



Grasshopper Sparrow-(nester, occasional in spring, summer, & fall) takes its name not only from its diet but also its insect-like song, sexes look alike, song is two staccato notes followed by a long, insect-like buzz, its second song sometimes delivered in flight, is a long series of short buzzy notes, also has a staccato double or triple ticking note



Fox Sparrow-(uncommon in spring, fall, & winter) large, boldly striped sparrow of scrubby boreal forest & mountain chaparral, draws attention to itself when kicking backward with both feet in ground litter to uncover food, sexes look alike, song a series of clear musical notes & sliding whistles



Song Sparrow-(common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) common bird of backyards across N. America, one of the most persistent singers throughout spring & summer, sexes look alike, song is a varied series of two to six phrases, usually, starting with several clear notes & then including buzzes, trills, or other complex notes & its call is a husky “chimp”



Swamp Sparrow-(uncommon in spring, fall, & winter) does live in swamps-owning up to its name, but also found in wide range of other wetland habitats, sexes similar, but breeding male has brighter chestnut cap, song is a slow trill consisting of two or more pitches repeatedly sung essentially at the same time & call is a metallic chip



© Michael J.Hopiak/CLO

White-Throated Sparrow-(common in spring, summer, fall, & abundant in winter) found in urban areas more frequently than most sparrows, breeds most exclusively in Canada but common in fields & hedgerows throughout Eastern US, sexes similar in plumage, males slightly larger, song is a slow series of usually five clear whistles that changes pitch once, on either the second or third note often described as “Old Sam Peabody” or “Oh Sweet Canada” & its call note is a distinctive “tseep”



© J. R. Woodward/CLO

White-Crowned Sparrow-(occasional in spring, summer, fall, & winter) one of the best-studied songbirds in N. America & elegantly marked in gray, brown, black, & white, sexes alike in plumage, males slightly larger, song a series of clear whistles followed by buzzes or trills on different pitches



© Michael J.Hopiak/CLO

Dark-Eyed Junco-(nester, common in spring & fall & abundant in winter) widespread & common sparrow & familiar visitor to bird feeders, comes in several distinctly different looking forms, but all are recognizable by their plain patterning, dark hood, & white outer tail feathers, sexes similar, but females average paler & browner, song is a musical trill, its calls are a hard “tick”, “smack”, & a short twittering trill



(Male)



(Female) © J. R. Woodward/CLO

Grosbeaks, Buntings, & Finches

Northern Cardinal-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) it is the state bird of seven US states & this common bird, brilliantly colored, is a winter fixture at snow-covered birdfeeders, males brilliantly red, females tan, song a series of clear whistles, the first down-slurred & ending in a slow trill, “Cheer, cheer, cheer, what, what, what, what” sounding & its call is a sharp “chip”



(Male) © Marie Read

© J.R.Woodward / CLO
(Female)

Evening Grosbeak-(rare in spring, fall, & winter) large & brightly colored, noticeable winter visitor to birdfeeders & when a flock settles can wipe out a surprisingly large amount of sunflower seeds in short space of time, male bright, female duller, call note a burry chirp



(Male) © Michael J.Hopiak/CLO



(Female) © Marie Read

Blue Grosbeak-(uncommon in spring, summer, & fall) uncommon bird among shrubby habitats across Southern US, male is mostly deep blue, female is brown, song is a long continuous musical warble, similar to that of the Indigo Bunting but without paired phrases & its call is a low buzzy “bzzt” or a loud metallic “tink”



(Male) © Brian E.Small



(Female) © Brian E. Small

Purple Finch-(uncommon in spring, fall, & winter) displaced in most areas by the introduced House Finch, this finch lives primarily in coniferous forests & visits most of Eastern US only in winter (formerly the common red finch at eastern bird feeders), male red, female brown-&-white striped, song a series of warbles, sometimes including imitations of song of other birds & its call notes a short, low “tek” sound



(Male) © Marie Read



(Female) © Marie Read

House Finch-(common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) comes readily to feeders, breeds in close association with people, & often chooses a hanging plant in which to put its nest, male red, female grayish brown with stripes, song a hoarse warble that goes up & down rapidly & its call note is a sharp “cheep” sound



(Male) © Marie Read



(Female) © Lang Elliott/CLO

Pine Siskin-(occasional in spring, fall, & winter) most common of the irruptive “winter finches”, sexes similar but males tend to have more yellow, calls are raspy chattering, most characteristic call is a harsh, grating, upwardly inflected “zreeeeeet” sound



(Male) © J. R. Woodward/CLO



(Female) © Marie Read

American Goldfinch-(abundant in spring & summer & common in fall & winter) familiar & abundant small colorful bird, frequently found in weedy fields & visiting feeders, particularly found of thistles, eating the seeds & using the down to line its nests, summer male is bright yellow with a black cap whereas female is drab olive, sexes similar & drab in winter, song is a long series of twittering & warbling notes, common contact call a “tsee-tsi-tsi-tsit” often given in flight, may be described as “per-chic-o-ree” or “po-ta-to-chip”



(Male) © Jim Wedge/CLO



(Female) © Marie Read

Blackbirds, Orioles, etc.

Bobolink-(uncommon in spring & fall) distinctive bird of open grasslands & only American bird that is black underneath & white on the back, breeding male with black front & white back, female & nonbreeding male drab, striped, & straw-colored, song a rolling, bubbling, jangling series of notes; given in flight, call a harsh “chek”, flight note is a clear “pink” sound



(Male) © Marie Read



(Female) © Marie Read

Red-Winged Blackbird-(nester, abundant in spring, summer, & fall & common in winter) one of the most abundant birds in N. America & found in wetlands & agricultural areas across the continent, male black with red shoulders & females brown & striped all over, song a gurgling “ok-a-lee” sound, whereas its call is a dry “chek” & “cheer” sound



(Male) © Marie Read



(Female) © Marie Read

Rusty Blackbird-(rare in fall & winter) breeds in swampy wooded areas of Canada & Alaska, relatively uncommon, evidently undergone a steady population decline since mid-1960's, in spring & summer male is black & female is gray, both sexes show rusty feather edges in winter, but ground color of male is black, whereas that of female is gray, song consists of two or three notes, followed by a higher, rising note, like the creak of rusty hinges & has a call note that is a harsh “chek” sounding



(Male) © Kevin T. Karlson



(Female) © Brian E. Small

Eastern Meadowlark-(nester, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) clear, melodious whistles are familiar sound across farms & grasslands of the Eastern US, closely related to Western Meadowlark & very hard to distinguish except by voice & location but they do not readily hybridize where ranges meet, sexes similar, females smaller with shorter wings, song consists of plaintive, clear whistles, slurred & nearly always descending at the end & its call notes include a short, abrupt buzz & a rattling chatter



© Kevin T. Karlson

Common Grackle-(nester, abundant in spring, summer, & fall & uncommon in winter) familiar sight in urban lawns, female slightly smaller & less glossy, song a harsh, unmusical “readle-eak” like a rusty gate & has a sharp, harsh call of “chack”



(Male) © Marie Read



(Female) © Kevin T. Karlson

Brown-Headed Cowbird-(nester, common in spring, summer, & fall & uncommon in winter) only brood parasite common across N. America (females lay their eggs in nests of other birds who then raise the young cowbirds), male shiny black with brown head & neck, female plain gray-brown, song a pair of low “glug, glug” notes followed by slurred whistles ending on a very high pitch & its calls include a chatted & a whistled “fee-bee”



(Male) © Marie Read



(Female) © Marie Read

Orchard Oriole-(nester, uncommon in spring & summer & occasional in fall) smallest N. American oriole & can be found nesting in shade trees along streams, rivers, lakes, & on farms & parklands, adult male deep brick red with black head, female all greenish yellow, yearling male yellow with black bib, song a rich, whistled warbling with some guttural notes, ending with a slurred “wheer” & calls include a soft “chuk” & a rapid chatter



(Male) © Kevin T. Karlson



(Female) © Kevin T. Karlson

Northern Oriole-(uncommon in spring, rare in summer & uncommon in fall) the Baltimore Oriole & the Bullock’s Oriole hybridized extensively which gave thought that they were one species-the Northern Oriole- thus both Orioles will have an account below

Baltimore Oriole-brilliant orange & black plumage & eagerly awaited by birders each spring, preference is open areas with tall trees—common habitat of parks & suburban areas now, males brightly colored with black hood, female duller & without solid black hood, song a series of rich whistled notes interspersed with rattles & a chatter as its call



(Male)

© Marie Read (Female)



© Marie Read

Bullock's Oriole- bird of open woodlands in the American West, especially fond of tall trees along rivers & streams, male brightly colored with orange underside & face, black back, head, & throat, female duller, with pale underparts, & w/o black, song a series of rich whistled notes interspersed with rattles & has a chatter as its call



(Male)

© Brian E. Small



(Female)

© Brian E. Small

Weaver Finches

House Sparrow-(nester, introduced, common in spring, summer, fall, & winter) "The Sparrow" to many, it was first introduced into N. America from its native Europe in the 1850s & has successfully spread across the continent, abundant now in urban & agricultural areas, mostly staying near people & their buildings, but also found in remote areas as well, male with reddish back & black bib, female brown with eyestripe, calls a slightly metallic "cheep, chirrup" & has a series of song sounds of cheeps



(Male)

© Lang Elliott/CLO



© Lang Elliott/CLO

This page is devoted to the bird species that have been found in the park since this list was formed on August 10, 2008.

Western Kingbird-conspicuous and aggressive bird of open country & often found around human habitation, sexes alike in plumage, song a series of “kip” notes followed by a series of high-pitched chattering fussy notes & a common sharp “kip” note call



© B. L. Sullivan

Identified by a visitor on September 14, 2008

Bufflehead-smallest diving duck in North America, winters in much of the United States, males have white sides, black back & head, and large white patch on head, females are duller & darker & have gray sides & small white patch on head, usually silent, courtship displays consists of guttural chattering, males may give squeal or growl in late winter or spring; females give a throaty cluck when seeking nests in winter



(Male)

© Marie Read

(Female)



© Michael J. Hopiak/CLO

Identified by a park employee in October 2008

Information:

The information that was used to identify, describe, and picture the bird was done using the following research site:*

"All About Birds." Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds. 2007. 2 June 2008
<http://http://www.birds.cornell.edu/allaboutbirds/>.

Except where otherwise noted