# Peterson

Field Guide to Birds



Foreword by Lee Allen Peterson



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#### Key to Range Maps

Many maps include comments on population increases and declines, extralimital occurrences, and regular winter or summer ranges outside

North America. Migration routes are not depicted in these maps, but side notes sometimes include information on migration. Maps are likewise not filled in with solid color if the species is considered rare, very rare, casual, accidental, and/or a vagrant. Migrants can often be found in suitable habitat in those areas that lie between summering/breeding areas and wintering/nonbreeding areas.

- Red: summer range
- Blue: winter range
- Purple: year-round range
- Red dash line: approximate limits of irregular summer range and/or post-breeding dispersal
- Blue dash line: approximate limits of irregular winter range
- ..... Purple dash line: approximate limits of irregular year-round range
- Striped area: pelagic range

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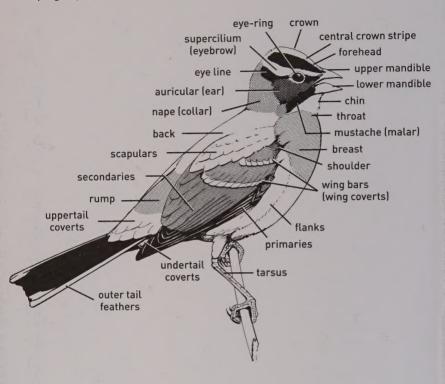
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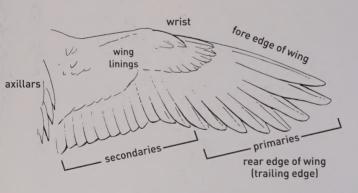
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#### Undersurface of wing



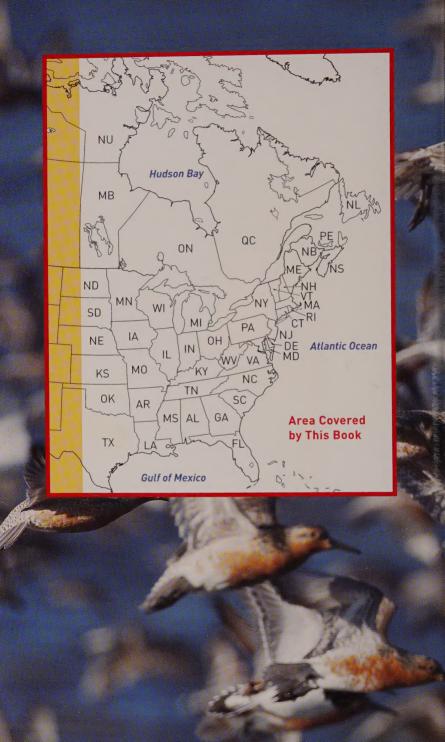
On the upper surface of the secondaries, some waterfowl have a bright-colored patch, called a *speculum*.



PETERSON FIELD GUIDE

## BIRDS

of Eastern and Central North America



PETERSON FIELD GUIDE
TO

## BIRDS

of Eastern and Central North America

SIXTH EDITION

ROGER TORY PETERSON



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT BOSTON NEW YORK 2010

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM

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#### Photographs by Jeffrey A. Gordon

Key to photographs: i: Scarlet Tanager; ii-iii: Red Knots and Ruddy Turnstones;
 vi: Prairie Warbler; vii: Purple Sandpiper; ix: Brown-headed Nuthatch; xii:
 Arctic Tern; xiii: Red-winged Blackbird; xv: Blue Grosbeak; xvi: Horned Lark;
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THE LEGACY OF AMERICA'S GREAT NATURALIST AND CREATOR of this field guide series, Roger Tory Peterson, is preserved through the programs and work of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History (RTPI), located in his birthplace of Jamestown, New York. RTPI is a national nature education organization with a mission to continue the legacy of Roger Tory Peterson by promoting the teaching and study of nature and to thereby create knowledge of and appreciation and responsibility for the natural world. RTPI also preserves and exhibits Dr. Peterson's extraordinary collection of artwork, photography, and writing.

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Sometime in my early teens I became intensely interested in bird watching. True, I had already spent a significant amount of time watching and learning about birds—not surprising, given the household in which I was raised—but it grew into an extremely focused pursuit. I spent countless hours wandering woods and slogging through salt marshes near our home in Old Lyme, Connecticut, searching for new birds. In the process, I managed to wear out several copies of the Peterson Field Guide—and I had a great time. I also acquired a much deeper understanding of my surroundings. I think most people get their start in natural history this way. In fact, I can remember someone assuring me that, at one time, virtually all the heads of the top environmental organizations in this country got their starts with a Peterson Field Guide in hand.

Being able to recognize and identify birds is crucial to our awareness of the world around us. My father used the comings and goings of birds as both a biological clock and a litmus test for the condition of the environment. The arrival and departure of migrating birds signaled to him changes in both weather and climatic conditions. The increase or decrease in the population of certain species gave him insight into the overall health of the environment—changes for either good or ill. As his friend Bob Lewin once noted, "Roger was always interested in numbers." Whether it was counting the number of moths on our screen door or the number of flamingos on a lake in Africa, the results were equally significant.

Dad always likened the process of writing a field guide to serving a prison sentence. The projects are always lengthy, and the spatial and visual constraints pronounced. Unlike stream of consciousness, field guide writing seems more akin to composing a telegram—fitting the maximum amount of information into a minimal amount of space. Likewise, the illustration can never be free and loose; it must always be tightly controlled, showing the essence of the bird in question. In both these endeavors, Dad excelled. Someone once confided

to me that Dad's rendition of a robin was not only a robin, but the perfect robin. Somehow he was able to convey a bird outside of a specific moment in time and place: the robin idealized, with feathers neatly patterned and plump. His results were all the more remarkable when one watched how they were achieved. He worked mostly from memory, using only a dry, beat-up specimen of the bird for details of anatomy and occasionally a photograph or two. Somehow he was able to piece together an image of the bird as it should have been. Not just any robin, but all robins.

Dad's innovative approach was the product of a rich variety of influences. He was born in Jamestown, a small town in upstate New York known primarily for farming and light manufacture. His first foray into art was encouraged by his seventh-grade schoolteacher, and much of what he learned about birds was either self-taught or picked up from those around him. His family could not afford to send him to college, so he put himself through art school in New York City instead. This was fortuitous, as his time in New York shaped much of what was to come. There he found inspiration from such luminaries in the birding world as Louis Agassiz Fuertes and Ludlow Griscom, and he fell in with a group of avid young birders who called themselves the Bronx County Bird Club, many of whom went on to prominent careers in the biological sciences.

In 1929, Bill Vogt, Bronx County Bird Club member and editor of *Audubon* magazine's precursor, *Bird-Lore*, suggested that Dad combine his expertise in art and bird identification to create a field guide. This was at a time when definitive identification was more often made with a shotgun and dissecting knife than a pair of binoculars. The Peterson system of identification, relying on arrows to point out differences in similar-looking species, seems both simple and obvious in hindsight. At the time, however, it was an enormous innovation. Suddenly the average person could confidently identify the birds around him with just a pair of binoculars and one small book. Birding went from being the slightly odd pursuit of an eccentric few to being one of the largest spectator sports in America today. The repercussions have been enormous.

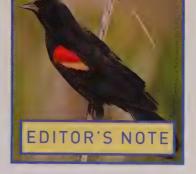
Each of Dad's many skills and talents was noteworthy in and of itself, but pieced together, they made him truly unique. His skills as an artist were unquestioned. His early artistic training caused him to emphasize the visual rather than the technical—an especially useful trait when trying to design an identification guide for the uninitiated. At the same time, he was a lifelong student of birds and had a tremendous reservoir of technical information. Many consider him to have been one of the finest field naturalists of his era. His writing style was simple, direct, and entertaining, reducing complex information to the essential bones without losing a certain lyrical quality, synthesizing scattered information into original observation.

Less frequently mentioned, but well known to his peers, was his extraordinarily acute sense of hearing. Yale University School of Medicine tested his hearing late in his life and found it to be exceptional—well into the 99th percentile of human capability—allowing him to register frequencies far above the norm. Bird walks with him were always a source of wonder. He was forever hearing and identifying distant birds that the rest of us could barely discern. I am still amazed by his uncanny ability to render bird calls into written English so that they're immediately recognizable. Overlaying all this was his incredible focus. For 70 or more years, his single overriding pleasure was the pursuit and identification of birds, to which he brought inspirational energy, skill, and enthusiasm.

In the foreword to the fifth edition of A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America, Robert Bateman referred to Dad's lifework as causing ever-expanding "ripples on a pond." This is apt. More than anything else, Dad thought of himself as a teacher. His greatest wish was to pass along his love of birds and the outdoors, to imbue the rest of us with the same sense of wonder and environmental responsibility that he himself derived from watching birds. His childhood interest, like mine, had morphed into something larger. While birds always remained his focus, they were the most visible aspect of a much greater ecological system. For him, they acted as the early warning system for the overall condition of the environment. By opening up the world of birds through his field guides, he hoped our relationship with nature would shift from one of exploitation to one of stewardship. In this, he has had more than a little success. With each new field guide owner, our world becomes a little richer, a little more full of promise. It may indeed be as Bateman says: "Roger Tory Peterson's life has been one of the most important lives of the last 100 years."

-LEE ALLEN PETERSON





In the past 75 years, ever since Roger Tory Peterson's pioneering Field Guide to the Birds changed the way we look at birds and jumpstarted the environmental movement, many birders have grown up using their Peterson Field Guide, and the book holds a special place in their hearts. Today, however, there are more field guides than ever, and more on the way. The Peterson guide is still set apart by its original concept. The Peterson Identification System is a powerful tool, just as useful and easy to understand today as it was when the first Peterson Field Guide was published. In 2008, we honored the centennial of Roger Peterson's birth with a new edition combining eastern and western North America. It was not simply a commemoration but a useful, up-to-date resource. This new edition for eastern North America is based on the considerable updating that was done for the North American guide and additionally incorporates changes introduced in the Fiftieth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds, released in 2009.

Revisions include an update of the taxonomy (to include, for example, splits, such as Canada and Cackling geese, and name changes, such as Oldsquaw to Long-tailed Duck). Birds newly recorded in North America, such as Fea's Petrel, Black-tailed and Yellow-legged gulls, and La Sagra's Flycatcher, are included. The text has been revised to accurately reflect our current knowledge of birds. The range maps are all new. The art has been updated where necessary. New paintings were done for birds that didn't previously occur in North America and for figures that Peterson painted over or discarded as he adapted the plates from one book to another. For some birds, the information we have about them is better than what was available when Peterson was painting, so a few of his paintings have been replaced with new ones; others have been digitally enhanced.

Peterson was an innovator. If he were a young bird watcher today, there's a good chance he would be at the forefront of new birding technology. In this book, we've included a URL (www.petersonfield

guides.com) where readers can access a set of video podcasts that are easy to use, educational, and fun. These supplements to the book cover key individual species, popular groupings of birds, and such topics as how to use range maps, identification basics, and bird topography. Jeffrey Gordon and Bill Thompson III created the video podcasts, which we hope will enhance your enjoyment of birds and bird watching.

When Roger Tory Peterson died, we lost a uniquely talented artist and naturalist. He had a profound influence on a vast number of young naturalists, however, who have devoted their lives to birds and other animals, the environment, education, art, and other vocations and avocations. The team of expert birders who brought a wealth of knowledge to the creation of the Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America worked diligently to enhance Peterson's legacy while ensuring that all of the content was current and highly useful for today's birder. Paul Lehman and Bill Thompson III revised all the text. Michael O'Brien painted the new species, laid out the plates, directed the digital work, and consulted editorially. Paul Lehman supplied the information for the new range maps, graphic artist Larry Rosche created the maps digitally, and Marshall Iliff reviewed them all. Michael DiGiorgio did the digital enhancements of the art and executed the layout of the plates digitally. Kimball Garrett reviewed and revised some of the voice descriptions.

For this sixth edition of the *Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Eastern and Central North America*, Michael O'Brien took on the bulk of the work, creating plate-by-plate species lists, fine-tuning the text for eastern North America, and reviewing the plates. Paul Lehman reviewed the text and updated the range maps. Michael DiGiorgio painstakingly executed the digital layout of the plates. At Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Anne Chalmers, Teresa Elsey, Katrina Kruse, Jill Lazer, Sara Shaffer, and Taryn Roeder all played critical roles in producing this book.

At a time when environmental concerns are paramount, it's essential that we as readers revisit the sources that inspired and deepened our appreciation of the natural world. Roger Tory Peterson's voice is for the generations, and it's with tremendous pride that we present it to you, revitalized and as relevant as always.

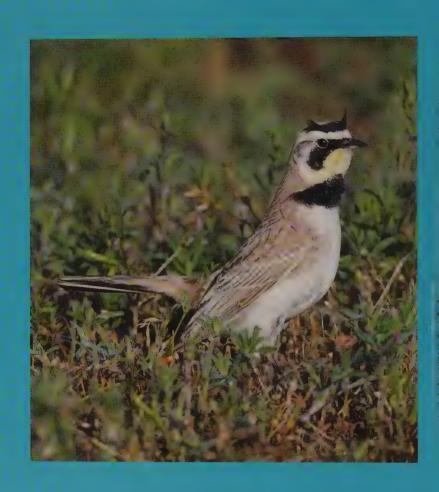
-LISA A. WHITE

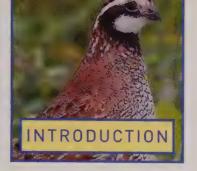


PETERSON FIELD GUIDE

BIRDS

of Eastern and Central North America





#### How to Identify Birds

Veteran birders will know how to use this book. Beginners, however, should spend some time becoming familiar in a general way with the illustrations. The plates, for the most part, have been grouped in taxonomic sequence. However, in cases where there is a great similarity of shape and action, similar-appearing birds may be grouped outside their strict taxonomic order. This should aid in field identification and not frustrate the true taxonomist to any great degree.

Birds that could be confused are grouped together when possible and are arranged in identical profile for direct comparison. The arrows point to outstanding field marks, which are explained opposite. The text also gives aids such as voice, actions, and habitat, not visually portrayable, and under a separate heading discusses species that might be confused. The general range is not described for most species in the text. The annotated three-color range maps in the back of the book (pp. 338–423) provide detailed range information. Thumbnail versions of the maps also appear next to the species accounts for quick reference.

In addition to the plates of birds normally found in the region covered in this field guide, there are also plates depicting accidentals from Eurasia, the sea, and the Tropics, as well as some of the exotic escapes that are sometimes seen.

#### What Is the Bird's Size?

Acquire the habit of comparing a new bird with some familiar "yard-stick"—a House Sparrow, robin, pigeon, etc.—so that you can say to yourself, "Smaller than a robin, a little larger than a House Sparrow." The measurements in this book represent lengths in inches (with centimeters in parentheses) from bill tip to tail tip of specimens on their backs as in museum trays. For species that show con-

siderable size variation, a range of measurements is given. For less variable species, only one measurement is given.

#### What Is Its Shape?

Is it plump like a starling (left) or slender like a cuckoo (right)?



#### What Shape Are Its Wings?

Are they rounded like a bobwhite's (left) or sharply pointed like a Barn Swallow's (right)?



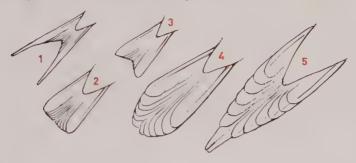
#### What Shape Is Its Bill?

Is it small and fine like a warbler's (1), stout and short like a seed-cracking sparrow's (2), dagger-shaped like a tern's (3), or hook-tipped like a bird of prey's (4)?



#### What Shape Is Its Tail?

Is it deeply forked like a Barn Swallow's (1), square-tipped like a Cliff Swallow's (2), notched like a Tree Swallow's (3), rounded like a Blue Jay's (4), or pointed like a Mourning Dove's (5)?



#### How Does It Behave?

Does it cock its tail like a wren or hold it down like a flycatcher? Does it wag its tail? Does it sit erect on an open perch, dart after an insect, and return as a flycatcher does?



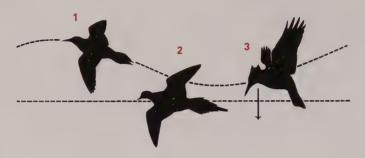
#### Does It Climb Trees?

If so, does it climb upward in spirals like a creeper (left), in jerks like a woodpecker (center) using its tail as a brace, or go down headfirst like a nuthatch (right)?



How Does It Fly?

Does it undulate (dip up and down) like a flicker (1)? Does it fly straight and fast like a dove (2)? Does it hover like a kingfisher (3)? Does it glide or soar?



#### Does It Swim?

Does it sit low in the water like a loon (1) or high like a gallinule (2)? If a duck, does it dive like a scaup or a scoter (3) or dabble and upend like a Mallard (4)?



#### Does It Wade?

Is it large and long-legged like a heron or small like a sandpiper? If one of the latter, does it probe the mud or pick at things? Does it teeter or bob?



#### What Are Its Field Marks?

Some birds can be identified by color alone, but most birds are not that easy. The most important aids are what we call field marks, which are, in effect, the "trademarks of nature." Note whether the breast is spotted as in a thrush (1), streaked as in a thrasher (2), or plain as in a cuckoo (3).



#### Tail Pattern

Does the tail have a "flash pattern"—a white tip as in the Eastern Kingbird (1), white patches in the outer corners as in the Eastern and Spotted towhees (2), or white sides as in the juncos (3)?



#### Rump Patch

Does it have a light rump like a Cliff Swallow (1) or flicker (2)? Northern Harrier, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and several shorebirds also have distinctive rump patches.



Eye Stripes and Eye-ring

Does the bird have a stripe above, through, or below the eye, or a combination of these stripes? Does it have a striped crown? A ring around the eye, or "spectacles"? A "mustache" stripe? These details are important in many small songbirds.



#### Wing Bars

Do the wings have light wing bars or not? Their presence or absence is important in recognizing many warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. Wing bars may be single or double, bold or obscure.



#### Wing Pattern

The basic wing pattern of ducks (shown below), shorebirds, and other water birds is very important. Notice whether the wings have patches (1) or stripes (2), are solidly colored (3), or have contrasting black tips.



#### Bird Songs and Calls

Using sounds to identify birds can be just as useful as using visual clues. In fact, in many situations, birds are much more readily identified by sound than by sight. The species accounts here include a brief entry on voice, with interpretations of these songs and calls, in an attempt to give birders some handle on the vocalizations they hear. Authors of bird books have attempted, with varying success, to fit songs and calls into syllables, words, and phrases. Musical notations, comparative descriptions, and even ingenious systems of symbols have also been employed. To supplement this verbal interpretation, there are recording collections available for nearly every region of the world and for individual groups of birds. The Peterson Birding by Ear CDs provide a step-by-step method for learning how to develop your listening and identification skills. Preparation in advance for particular species or groups greatly enhances your ability to identify them. Some birders do a majority of their birding by ear, and there is no substitute for actual sounds—for getting out into the field and tracking down the songster and committing the song to memory. However, an audio library is a wonderful resource to return home to when attempting to identify a bird heard in the field. Many such collections can now be taken into the field on digital audio devices. Caution: If using recordings to attract birds, limit the number of playbacks, and do not use them on threatened species or in heavily birded areas.

#### **Bird Nests**

The more time you spend in the field becoming familiar with bird behavior, the more skilled you'll become at finding bird nests. It is as exciting to keep a bird nest list as it is to keep a life list. Remember, if you happen to find a nest during the breeding season, leave the site as undisturbed as possible. Back away, and do not touch the nest, eggs, or young birds. Often squirrels, raccoons, and several other mammals, grackles, and cowbirds are more than happy to have you "point out" a nest and will raid it if you disrupt the site or call attention to it. Many people find young birds that have just left the nest and may appear to be alone. Usually they are not lost but are under the watchful eye of a parent bird and are best left in place rather than scooped up and taken to a foreign environment. In the winter, nest hunting can be great fun and has little impact, as most nests will

never be used again. They are easy to see once the foliage is gone, and it can be a challenge to attempt to identify the maker. Books such as *A Field Guide to Birds' Nests* and *A Field Guide to Western Birds' Nests*, both in the Peterson Field Guide series, will expand your ornithological expertise.

#### Conservation

Birds undeniably contribute to our pleasure and quality of life. But they also are sensitive indicators of the environment, a sort of "ecological litmus paper," and hence more meaningful than just chickadees and cardinals that brighten the suburban garden, grouse and ducks that fill the sportsman's bag, or rare warblers and shorebirds that excite the field birder. The observation and recording of bird populations over time lead inevitably to environmental awareness and can signal impending changes.

To this end, please help the cause of wildlife conservation and education by contributing to or taking part in the work of the following organizations: The Nature Conservancy (4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203; www.nature.org), National Audubon Society (700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003; www .audubon.org), Defenders of Wildlife (1130 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036; www.defenders.org), Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History (311 Curtis Street, Jamestown, NY 14701; www.rtpi.org), National Wildlife Federation (11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston, VA 20190; www.nwf.org), World Wildlife Fund (1250 24th Street NW, PO Box 97180, Washington, DC 20090; www .wwf.org), Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850; www.birds.cornell.edu), Ducks Unlimited (One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, TN 38120; www.ducks.org), BirdLife International (Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, U.K.; www.birdlife.org), Partners in Flight (www .partnersinflight.org), American Bird Conservancy (PO Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198; abcbirds.org), as well as your local land trust and natural heritage program and your local Audubon and ornithological societies and bird clubs. These and so many other groups that have come into the forefront of bird conservation in the last 20 years merit your support.

#### The Maps and Ranges of Birds

The ranges of many species have changed markedly over the past 50 or more years. Some species are expanding because of protection given them, changing habitats, bird feeding, or other factors. Some "increases" may simply be the result of more field-guide-educated birders being in the field, helping to more thoroughly document bird populations and distributions. Other avian species have diminished alarmingly and may have been extirpated from major parts of their range. The primary culprit here has been habitat loss, although other factors such as increased competition or predation from other species may sometimes be involved. Species that are in serious decline in North America run the gamut, from Ivory Gull to Lesser Prairie-Chicken and Loggerhead Shrike to Bewick's Wren, Rusty Blackbird, and Red Knot.

Successful introductions of some species, such as Trumpeter Swan and Eurasian Collared-Dove, have resulted in self-sustaining, growing populations (the latter was introduced to the Bahamas, then arrived in the U.S. on its own). And a good number of additional vagrant species — out-of-range visitors from faraway lands — continue to be found (such as a Red-footed Falcon in Massachusetts). Some species that were formerly thought to occur only exceptionally have, over the past several decades, become much more regular visitors (such as Lesser Black-backed Gull) and sometimes even local breeders (such as Clay-colored Thrush). It is not always certain if such changes in status are the result of actual population increases or if they merely reflect better observer coverage and advances in field identification skills.

Range maps need to be of sufficient size to denote adequate detail and to include written information on such topics as population trends and extralimital occurrences. Thus, the range maps in this guide have been purposely placed near the back of the book where they can be reproduced in a large size not possible in the main body of the text. The maps are organized taxonomically, following the order published by the American Ornithologists' Union. In addition, thumbnail versions of the same maps are placed in the main text next to the species accounts to provide a quick overview of a species' range without needing to turn the page. The key to the range maps is located on page 337 and also on the inside of the front cover, for quick reference.

Range maps don't depict how abundant a particular species is

within its range. The following list defines terms of abundance used throughout the book. The definitions presume you're in the habitat and season in which a species would occur.

**Common:** Always or almost always encountered daily, usually in moderate to large numbers.

Fairly common: Usually encountered daily, generally not in large numbers.

**Uncommon:** Occurs in small numbers and may be missed on a substantial number of days.

Scarce: Present only in small numbers or difficult to find within its normal range.

Rare or very rare: Annual or probably annual in small numbers but still largely within its normal range.

**Casual:** Beyond its normal range; occurs at somewhat regular intervals but usually less frequently than annually.

**Accidental:** Beyond its normal range; one record or a very few records.

Vagrant: Beyond its normal range.

Local: Limited geographic range within the U.S. and Canada.

Introduced: Not native; deliberately released.

**Exotic:** Not native; either released or escaped. A term used especially for species that are present in limited numbers and may or may not be breeding. Other species, such as House Sparrow and European Starling, were also introduced but are so well established that, in the sense used here, they are no longer considered exotic.

**Unestablished exotic:** Nonnative releasee or escapee that does not have a naturalized breeding population, though some may be breeding in very localized areas.

#### **Habitats**

Gaining a familiarity with a wide range of habitats will greatly enhance your overall knowledge of the birds in a specific region, increase your skills, and add to your enjoyment of birding. It is unlikely you will ever see a meadowlark in an oak woodland or a Wood Thrush in a meadow. Birders know this, and if they want to go out to run up a large day list, they do not remain in one habitat but shift

from site to site based on time and species diversity for a given type of habitat.

A few birds do invade habitats other than their own at times, especially on migration. A warbler that spends the summer in Maine might be seen, on its journey through Florida, in a palm. In cities, migrating birds often have to make the best of it, like the American Woodcock found one morning on the window ledge of a New York City office. Strong weather patterns can also alter where a bird happens to appear. Hurricanes, for example, can be a disaster for many species. As these violent storms sweep over the ocean, the eye can often "vacuum" up oceanic species that seek shelter in its calmness. Upon reaching land, these normally offshore species are faced with an entirely strange habitat and account for sightings such as a Yellownosed Albatross heading up the Hudson River, a White-tailed Tropicbird in downtown Boston, and numbers of storm-petrels on an inland reservoir in Virginia.

Most species, however, are quite predictable for the major portion of their lives, and for the birder who has learned where to look, the rewards are great.

To start, familiarize yourself with individual habitat types. Become familiar with the dominant plant types that are indicators — for example, oak-beech woods, grass-shrub meadows, salt- or freshwater wetlands — and keep accurate records of what species you find in each. In a short time you will have a working knowledge of the predominant species in each habitat, and this will help you with identification by allowing you to anticipate what might be found there.

The seasonal movements of birds at your sites will provide an overview of migrant species that come through at a given time and will be a reference point for future visits during these migration periods. A forest dotted with migrant warblers in spring may revert to relative quiet accented by the repetitive calls of a Red-eyed Vireo or the drawn-out call of an Eastern Wood-Pewee in midsummer.

Be sure not to overlook cities and towns, where well-adapted species can be found. Peregrine Falcons have shown remarkable adaptability, nesting on strategic ledges in the walled canyons of many cities. The fertile grounds for hunting Rock Pigeons and European Starlings seem to suit this raptor quite well.

Ecotones are edges where two habitat types interface—a forest and a shrub meadow, for example. As this is not a gradual change, ecotones offer habitat for species from both of the adjoining areas and are therefore rich in bird life.

The changes in habitat over the years will also affect your favorite birding areas. Fields turn to shrubby lots and then woodlands. Bobwhite and meadowlarks may move on, but Indigo Buntings and Field Sparrows establish themselves. This dynamic is normal in the natural world. However, humankind's alterations to this process have had a great impact. Forest fragmentation is an example. As land development continues, it is affecting numerous species. A sudden disruption has a more drastic effect than a slow change, which allows for adaptation. As we divide up habitat with roadways, we have created a greater edge effect, and this allows Brown-headed Cowbirds to penetrate into forest areas where they would not have ventured in the past. They now parasitize many more species than before, and such parasitization is leading to marked declines in total numbers of many species. This forest fragmentation is also affecting the success rate of nestling fledging by increasing the numbers of some predators and by altering prime habitat requirements for obtaining food to raise the young.

Some species are obligates to a specific habitat type, and searching these areas greatly improves your chances of finding such birds. These include Golden-crowned Kinglet nesting in coniferous woodlands and Kirtland's Warbler in Michigan, which breeds only in jack pine woodlands of a specific height. Even in migration, many species remain faithful to selected habitats, such as waterthrushes along watercourses. Running or dripping water has proven to be an important attractant for migrating land birds, and in areas where fresh water is scarce, a water drip can be a gold mine for migrant warblers and other passerines.

#### Subspecies and Geographic Variation

Many species of birds inhabit wide geographic areas. The Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), for example, breeds throughout North America, from Mexico north into Alaska. In such a wideranging species, there are geographic subsets within the population that show distinct local plumage patterns and song variants. When the distinct geographic forms of a species reach a point when the population is dominated by individuals that are recognizably different from typical individuals of the "parent" species, the local group is formally designated a subspecies of the parent species. The subspecies is named by attaching a third, subspecific name to the scientific name of the species. Thus, the pale Savannah Sparrow of Sable Island, NS (wintering along the Atlantic Coast) is called *Passerculus* 

sandwichensis princeps, to distinguish that form from another subspecies. (In this case, it is also known by the common name "Ipswich" Sparrow.) With at least 14 recognizable subspecies, the Savannah Sparrow ranks high among North American birds in the number of its geographic varieties.

Often a subspecific group is so distinct from the parent species that several members can be easily recognized in the field by bird watchers. A good example of this is the Dark-eved Junco (Junco hyemalis). With 12 subspecies, at least 5 are easily discerned: the "Oregon," "Pink-sided," "White-winged," "Slate-colored," and "Grayheaded" (of these, only "Slate-colored" and "Oregon" are regular in the East). For the birder, identification of subspecies can add greater challenges to birding and, when documented, valuable information, especially when subspecies are reclassified to full species status. Such has been the case, for example, with the splitting of Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Ammodramus audacutus) into Saltmarsh Sparrow (A. caudacutus) and Nelson's Sparrow (A. nelsoni). The differences between Bicknell's Thrush (Catharus bicknelli) and Gray-cheeked Thrush (C. minimus) illustrate how subtle the field marks can be between species and why they had been relegated to subspecific status. The shifting of this line between subspecies and species is ongoing. Recording data on location and numbers can prove helpful in completing a picture of a species' distribution or even a new species that has been overlooked

In this edition, species that have distinct subspecies that are easily recognized, such as Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) and Dark-eyed Junco, have been represented. When in the field, challenge yourself to discern the subspecies. It will increase your visual and listening skills and add a new level of understanding and enjoyment of birds.





PLATES

### GEESE, SWANS, AND DUCKS Family Anatidae

Web-footed waterfowl. RANGE: Worldwide.

#### GEESE

Large, gregarious waterfowl; heavier bodied, longer necked than ducks; bills thick at base. Noisy in flight; some fly in lines or V formations. Sexes alike. Geese are more terrestrial than ducks, often grazing. FOOD: Grasses, seeds, waste grain, aquatic plants.



#### GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Uncommon M3

Anser albifrons (see also p. 22)

28 in. (71 cm). No other wild goose in our area has yellow or orange feet. Gray-brown with pink bill; Greenland breeding subspecies has orange-yellow bill and darker head and neck. Adult with white patch on front of face and variable black bars on belly. Immature: Dusky with pinkish bill, yellow or orange feet. May be confused with some domestic barnyard geese. VOICE: High-pitched tootling, kah-lah-a-luk, in chorus. HABITAT: Marshes, prairies, agricultural fields, lakes, bays; in summer, tundra.



#### SNOW GOOSE

Locally common M4

Chen caerulescens (see also p. 22)

White morph: 25–33 in. (64–84 cm). White with black primaries. Head often rust-stained from feeding in muddy or iron-rich waters. Bill pink with black "lips." Feet pink. Base of bill curves back slightly toward eye. Immature: Pale gray; dark bill and legs. Dark morph ("Blue" Goose): 25–30 in. (64–76 cm): Dark with white head. Intermediates with white morph of Snow are frequent. Immature: Similar to young Greater White-fronted Goose, but feet and bill dark. VOICE: Loud, nasal, double-noted houck-houck, in chorus. SIMILAR SPECIES: Ross's Goose. HABITAT: Marshes, grain fields, ponds, bays; in summer, tundra.



ROSS'S GOOSE Chen rossii (see also p. 22) Uncommon M5 23 in. (58 cm). Like a small Snow Goose, but neck shorter, head rounder (steeper forehead). Bill with gray-blue or purple-blue base, stubbier (with vertical border between base and facial feathering), lacking distinctive "grinning black lips"; warts at bill base difficult to see. Immature: Whiter than young Snow Goose. Rare "Blue" morph shows more extensively dark neck, whiter wing patches than "Blue" Snow Goose. Hybrids with Snow Goose occur. VOICE: Higher than Snow, suggesting Cackling Goose. SIMILAR SPECIES: Snow Goose. HABITAT: Same as Snow Goose.





BRANT Branta bernicla (see also p. 22) Locally common M6 24–26 in. (59–66 cm). A small black-necked goose. Has white stern, conspicuous when it upends, whitish flanks, and band of white on neck (absent in immature). Travels in large irregular flocks. Eastern subspecies, "Pale-bellied" Brant (B. b. hrota), has light belly, less contrasty flanks, and two separated neck patches. Pacific Coast subspecies, "Black" Brant (B. b. nigricans), a very rare visitor to East Coast, has dark belly and complete white band across foreneck. VOICE: Throaty cr-r-r-ruk or krr-onk, krrr-onk. SIMILAR SPECIES: Foreparts of Canada and Cackling geese not black to waterline, and those species have large white face patch. Brant is more strictly coastal. HABITAT: Salt bays, estuaries; in summer, tundra.

BARNACLE GOOSE Branta leucopsis Vagrant 26–27 in. (66–69 cm). Similar in size to Brant. Has white sides and black chest to waterline, strongly contrasting with white belly. Note white face encircling eye. Back distinctly barred. Some reports likely represent escapees. VOICE: Like Snow Goose, but higher-pitched, doglike barks. SIMILAR SPECIES: Canada Goose larger and brownbodied (not gray), lacks barring, has dark face. Brant has all-dark head. RANGE: Casual winter visitor from Greenland and Europe to Atlantic Coast; accidental farther west. Provenance of some birds in question. HABITAT: Ponds, lakes; grazes in fields, often with Canada Greese.



CACKLING GOOSE Branta hutchinsii Uncommon M7 23–32 in. [58–81 cm]. Recently elevated to full-species rank separate from very similar Canada Goose. VOICE: High, cackling yel-lik. SIMILAR SPECIES: Told from Canada by smaller size, shorter neck, smaller, rounder head (steeper forehead), stubbier bill, and higher-pitched voice. Distinction between larger Cacklings and smaller Canadas subtle. HABITAT: Lakes, marshes, fields; in summer, tundra. Seen as often with flocks of Snow Geese as with Canadas.



**CANADA GOOSE** Branta canadensis (see also p. 22) Common M8 30–43 in. [76–109 cm]. The most widespread goose in N. America. Note black head and neck, or "stocking," that contrasts with pale breast and white chin strap. Flocks travel in strings or in Vs, "honking" loudly. Substantial variation in size and neck length exists among populations. **VOICE**: Deep, musical honking or barking, karonk or ka-lunk. Small subspecies (and Cackling Goose) have higherpitched calls. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Cackling Goose. **HABITAT**: Lakes, ponds, bays, marshes, fields. Resident in many areas, frequenting parks, lawns, golf courses.



### SWANS

Huge, long-necked all-white swimmers. Young are pale gray-brown. Sexes alike. Feed by immersing head and neck or by "tipping up." FOOD: Aquatic plants, seeds.



MUTE SWAN Cygnus olor Fairly common, local M9 60 in. [152 cm]. Introduced from Europe. Often swims with S curve in neck; wings often arched over back. Black-knobbed orange bill tilts down. Wingbeats make a "whooshing" sound. Immature: Dingy, with pinkish bill. VOICE: Not mute but makes hissing sounds, weak bugling. HABITAT: Ponds, fresh and salt; coastal lagoons, salt bays.



TUNDRA SWAN Uncommon to locally common M11

Cygnus columbianus (see also p. 22) 52–53 in. (132–135 cm). Our most widespread native swan. Often heard long before a high-flying flock can be spotted. Bill black, usually with small yellow basal spot. Immature: Dingy, with mostly pinkish bill. VOICE: Mellow, high-pitched cooing: woo-ho, woo-woo, woo-ho. SIMILAR SPECIES: Trumpeter and Mute swans. HABITAT: Lakes, large rivers, bays, estuaries, grain fields; in summer, tundra.



**TRUMPETER SWAN** *Cygnus buccinator* **Uncommon, local M10** 58–60 in. (147–152 cm). Larger than Tundra Swan, with longer, heavier, *all-black bill*, which has *straight ridge* recalling Canvasback. Black on lores wider, *embracing eyes* and lacking yellow spot (some Tundras also lack this spot). Bill base forms *V shape* on forehead. *Immature:* Keeps dusky body color later into first spring and summer than does Tundra. **VOICE:** *Deeper, more nasal calls* than Tundra Swan. **HABITAT:** Lakes, ponds, large rivers; in winter, also bays, grain fields, marshes.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS

Formerly called "tree ducks," these long-necked, long-legged waterfowl are closely related to geese. Named for their high-pitched calls. Gregarious. FOOD: Seeds of aquatic plants and grasses.



FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK Uncommon, local M2

Dendrocygna bicolor (see also p. 42)

20 in. (51 cm). Note tawny body, dark back, pale side stripes, black underwings, white band on rump. VOICE: Squealing sturred whistle, ka-whee-oo. SIMILAR SPECIES: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, female Northern Pintail. HABITAT: Freshwater marshes, ponds, irrigated land. Seldom perches in trees.



BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK Locally common M1

Dendrocygna autumnalis

21 in. (53 cm). Rusty with black belly, bright coral red bill, pink legs. Broad white wing patch. Immature: Has gray bill and legs. VOICE: Four- or five-part high-pitched squealing whistle. HABITAT: Ponds, freshwater marshes; often nests in manmade boxes; frequently perches in trees.



## GEESE AND SWANS IN FLIGHT

6	CANADA GOOSF Branta canadensis	p. 18
	BRANT Branta bernicla Small; black head and neck, white stern.	p. 18
	GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE Anser albifrons  Adult: Gray-brown neck, black bars or splotches on belly.  Immature: Dusky, with light bill and feet.	p. 16
	TUNDRA SWAN Cygnus columbianus Very long neck. Adult: Plumage entirely white.	p. 20
	<b>SNOW GOOSE (WHITE MORPH)</b> Chen caerulescens Adult: White with black primaries.	p. 16
	SNOW GOOSE (DARK MORPH, "BLUE" GOOSE)  Chen caerulescens  Adult: Dark body, white head.  Immature: Dusky, with dark bill and feet.	p. 16
	ROSS'S GOOSE Chen rossii Smaller, slightly shorter necked and shorter billed than Goose.	p. 16 Snow



Many geese and swans fly in line or V formation.



## DABBLING DUCKS

Feed by dabbling and upending; sometimes feed on land. Take flight directly into air. Most species have an iridescent speculum on secondaries above. Sexes not alike; in midsummer, males molt into drab "eclipse" plumage, usually resembling females. FOOD: Aquatic plants, grain, small aquatic life, insects.

MUSCOVY DUCK Cairina moschata

Scarce, local

Male 32 in. (81 cm); female 28 in. (66 cm). Black, gooselike duck with large white wing patch and underwing coverts. *Male:* Bare, knobby, red face. *Female:* Duller, may lack facial knobs. Domestic Muscovies vary in pattern; often show much white. **Voice:** Usually silent. Occasionally utters a soft quack or hiss. **RANGE:** Native of tropical America (Mex. to n. Argentina). Recent colonizer of lower Rio Grande Valley, TX. Feral populations well established in FL and near Brownsville, TX. **HABITAT:** Freshwater ponds and backwaters; wooded river corridors of Rio Grande in TX.



**WOOD DUCK** Aix sponsa (see also p. 40) Fairly common M12 18–19 in. (45–49 cm). Highly colored; often perches in trees. In flight, white belly contrasts with dark breast and wings. Note also the long, almost square, dark tail; short neck; and angle at which bill points downward in flight. Male: Bizarre face pattern, sweptback crest, and rainbow iridescence unique. In eclipse, more like female but with brighter bill and suggestion of breeding head pattern. Female: Dull-colored; note dark crested head and white eye patch. VOICE: Male, hissing jeeeeeeb, with rising inflection. Female, a loud, rising squeal, oo-eek, and sharp crrek, crrek. HABITAT: Wooded swamps, rivers, ponds, marshes.



EURASIAN WIGEON Anas penelope

Rare M14

19–20 in. (48–51 cm). Male: Note red-brown head, buff crown. A gray-sided wigeon with rufous-pinkish breast. Female: Very similar to female American Wigeon, but in many Eurasians head is tinged with rust or orange-buff; in others it is not. Surest point is dusky (not white) axillars, or "wingpits." VOICE: Male, a long whistle, wheeee-oo. Female, a purr or quack. HABITAT: Same as American Wigeon, with which it is usually found.



AMERICAN WIGEON

Fairly common M15

Anas americana (see also p. 40)

19–20 in. (48–51 cm). In flight, recognized by large white patch on forewing. (Similarly placed blue patch of Northern Shoveler and Blue-winged Teal often appears whitish.) When swimming, rides high, picking at water like a coot. Often grazes on land. Male: Warm brownish; head pale gray with green eye patch. Note white crown (nicknamed "Baldpate"). Female: Brown; gray head and neck; whitish belly and forewing. VOICE: Male, a three-part whistled whooa whee-whew. Female, qua-ack. SIMILAR SPECIES: Told from female Gadwall and Northern Pintail by whitish patch on forewing, small bluish bill. See Eurasian Wigeon. HABITAT: Marshes, lakes, bays, fields, grass.





(dabblers)





(divers)





lddy Duck whistling-ducks (diver) (dabblers)



GADWALL Anas strepera (see also p. 40) Fairly common M13 19–20 in. [48–51 cm]. Male: Gray with brown head, black rump, white speculum. When swimming, wing patch may be concealed. Belly white, feet yellow. Female: Brown, mottled, with white speculum, yellow feet, orange sides on dark bill. VOICE: Male, a low, reedy bek; a whistling call. Female, a nasal quack. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female told from female Mallard by steeper forehead, wing pattern, more nasal call. HABITAT: Lakes, ponds, marshes.



#### AMERICAN BLACK DUCK

Fairly common M16

Anas rubripes (see also p. 42)

22–23 in. (55–58 cm). A dusky duck that flashes white wing linings in flight. Note violet wing patch with thin white trailing edge. Sexes similar. Hybridizes with Mallard. VOICE: Similar to Mallard. SIMILAR SPECIES: Mallard, Mottled Duck. HABITAT: Marshes, bays, estuaries, ponds, rivers, lakes.



MOTTLED DUCK Anas fulvigula

Fairly common M18

22–23 in. (55–58 cm). Like a pale brownish version of American Black Duck. Note tan head, unstreaked buffy throat, and unmarked yellow bill with dark spot at base of "lips." Sexes similar. Darker than female Mallard and lacking black on bill and broad white border to speculum. VOICE: Very similar to Mallard's. SIMILAR SPECIES: American Black Duck, Mallard. HABITAT: Marshes, ponds.



MALLARD (nas platyrhynchos (see also p. 42) Common M17 22–23 in. [55–59 cm]. Male: Note green head, white neck ring, grayish body, chestnut chest, white tail, blue speculum. Female: Mottled brown with whitish tail. Dark bill patched with orange, feet orange. In flight, shows white bar on both sides of blue speculum. VOICE: Male, yeeb; a low kwek. Female, boisterous quacking. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female Gadwall, American Black Duck, Mottled Duck. HABITAT: Marshes, wooded swamps, grain fields, ponds, rivers, lakes, bays, city parks.

"MEXICAN" MALLARD Anas platyrhynchos diazi Uncommon, local 20–21 in. {51–54 cm}. This subspecies of Mallard was formerly regarded as a distinct species called Mexican Duck. Intergrades with Mallard are frequent. Both sexes very similar to female Mallard but darker overall with grayish brown tail, thinner speculum borders; male's bill yellowish. RANGE: Resident in Mex. north to U.S. border, just reaching our area along Rio Grande in sw. TX. HABITAT: Ponds.



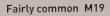
NORTHERN PINTAIL

Fairly common M22

Anas acuta (see also p. 40)

Male 25–26 in. (63–66 cm); female 20–21 in. (51–54 cm). Male: Slender, slim-necked, with long, needle-pointed tail. A conspicuous white point runs onto side of dark head. Female: Mottled brown; note slender neck, gray bill. In flight both sexes show a single light border on rear edge of speculum. VOICE: Male, a double-toned whistle: prrip, prrip; wheezy notes. Female, a low quack. SIMILAR SPECIES: Compare female's overall shape and bill with those of other dabbling ducks. HABITAT: Marshes, prairies, ponds, takes, salt bays.







#### **BLUE-WINGED TEAL**

Anas discors (see also p. 40)

15–16 in. (38–41 cm). A half-sized dabbling duck. *Male:* Note *white facial crescent* and large *chalky blue* patch on *forewing.* Molting males hold eclipse plumage late in year, resemble females. *Female:* Brown, mottled; dark eye line; partial eye-ring; pale loral spot; blue on forewing. *VOICE:* Male, quiet whistled peeping notes. Female, a high quack. *SIMILAR SPECIES:* Cinnamon and Green-winged teal. *HABITAT:* Ponds, marshes, mudflats, flooded fields.



#### CINNAMON TEAL Anas cyanoptera

Scarce M20

16–17 in. (41–43 cm). *Male:* A small, *dark chestnut* duck with large chalky blue patch on forewing. Adult has *red eye*, which it retains in eclipse plumage. In flight suggests Blue-winged Teal. *Female:* Very similar to female Blue-winged but tawnier; bill slightly larger (more shoveler-like), face pattern duller. *Juvenile:* Even more similar to female Blue-winged, with slightly smaller bill, somewhat bolder face pattern than adult female Cinnamon. **VOICE:** Like Blue-winged. **HABITAT:** Marshes, freshwater ponds, flooded fields. Just reaches our area on Great Plains.



#### NORTHERN SHOVELER

Fairly common M21

Anas clypeata (see also p. 40)

18–19 in. (46–49 cm). The long *spoon-shaped bill* gives this duck a front-heavy look. When swimming, it sits low, with bill angled toward or in water, straining water. *Male: Rufous* belly and sides; *white breast*; pale blue patch on forewing; orange feet. *Female:* Brown. Note large spatulate bill, blue-gray forewing patch, white tail, orange feet. Bill color variable. **VOICE:** Male, a soft *thup-thup*. Female, short quacks. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cinnamon Teal. **HABITAT:** Marshes, ponds, sloughs; in winter, also salt bays.



**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** 

Common M23

Anas crecca (see also p. 40)

14–15 in. (36–39 cm). Teal are small, fly in tight flocks. Greenwingeds lack light wing patches (speculum deep green). Male: Small, compact, gray with brown head (a green head patch shows in sunlight). On swimming birds, note vertical white mark near shoulder, butter-colored streak near tail. Female: A small speckled duck with green speculum, pale sides of undertail coverts. Eurasian subspecies (A. c. crecca), a very rare winter visitor along Atlantic Coast, has horizontal rather than vertical white stripe above wing, bolder light borders to eye patch. Female similar to American subspecies. VOICE: Male, a high, froglike dreep. Female, a sharp quack. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female Blue-winged and Cinnamon teal slightly larger and larger-billed, have light blue wing patches; in flight, males show dark belly. Green-winged has white belly, broader dark border to underwing. HABITAT: Marshes, bays, mudflats, flooded fields.



### DIVING DUCKS

Often grouped into "sea ducks" and "bay ducks," but many are found on lakes and rivers and breed in marshes. All dive; dabbling ducks rarely do. Legs close to tail; hind toe with a paddlelike flap (lacking in dabblers). Must patter across surface of water while getting airborne. Sexes not alike. FOOD: Small aquatic animals and plants. Seagoing species eat mostly mollusks and crustaceans.



CANVASBACK Aythya valisineria (see also p. 46) Uncommon M24 21–22 in. [53–56 cm]. Male: Very white looking, with black chest and chestnut red head sloping into long blackish bill. Female: Pale grayish brown, with long, sloping head profile. VOICE: Male, in courtship, cooing notes. Female, raspy krrrr. SIMILAR SPECIES: Redhead. HABITAT: Lakes, salt bays, estuaries; in summer, marshes and lakes.



**REDHEAD** Aythya americana (see also p. 46) Uncommon M25 19–20 in. (48–51 cm). Male: Gray; black chest and round rufous head. Female: Brown overall with round head. Both sexes have gray wing stripe. VOICE: Male, in courtship, a harsh catlike meow; a deep purr. Female, soft krrr notes. SIMILAR SPECIES: Canvasback has sloping forehead; male paler. See female Ring-necked Duck, scaup. HABITAT: Lakes, salt bays, estuaries; in summer, marshes and ponds.



#### RING-NECKED DUCK

Fairly common M26

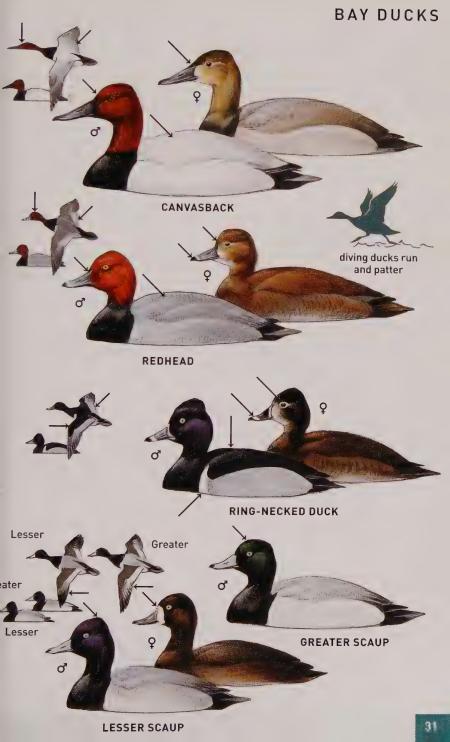
Aythya collaris (see also p. 46)
17–17½ in. (43–46 cm). Male: Note black back, vertical white mark before wing. Female: Very dark with peaked crown, light eye-ring, light ring on bill. Both sexes with gray wing stripe. VOICE: Female a quacking growl: arrp-arrp-arrp. Male in courtship gives a low-pitched whistle. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female Redhead paler with rounder crown. Female scaup have distinct white face and wing patches. HAB-ITAT: Wooded lakes, ponds; in winter, also rivers, bays.

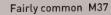


**GREATER SCAUP** Aythya marila (see also p. 46) Common M27 18–18½ in. [46–48 cm]. Very similar to Lesser Scaup. Both sexes slightly larger, with more gently rounded or flat-topped head, bill slightly wider with larger black tip (nail), and white wing stripe longer, extending onto primaries. Male: Whiter on sides than Lesser; head glossed mainly with green rather than purple. Female (not shown): Averages slightly paler brown than Lesser; identify by size, shape, and wing stripe. VOICE: Male, in display, soft, wheezy whistles. Female, raspy scaup-scaup. SIMILAR SPECIES: Lesser Scaup, Ringnecked Duck, Redhead. HABITAT: Lakes, rivers, bays, estuaries, nearshore ocean waters; in summer, tundra and taiga ponds.



**LESSER SCAUP** Aythya affinis (see also p. 46) Common M28  $16\frac{1}{2}-17$  in. (42–44 cm). Both sexes with peaked rear crown (in relaxed pose only; flatter when active) and wing stripe restricted to secondaries. Male: Head glossed with purple. Flanks finely barred. Female: Dark brown, with white patch near bill. **Voice**: Male, in display, a soft whistle. Female, a loud scaup. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Greater Scaup, Ringnecked Duck, Redhead. **HABITAT**: Lakes, bays, estuaries, nearshore ocean waters; in summer, marsh and taiga ponds.





#### COMMON GOLDENEYE



Bucephala clangula (see also p. 46)

18½–19 in. (47–49 cm). Male: Note large, round white spot before eye. White looking, with black back and puffy, green-glossed head that appears black at a distance. In flight, short-necked; wings whistle or "sing," show large white patches. Female: Gray, with white collar and dark brown head; wings with large square white patches that may show on closed wing. VOICE: Wings "whistle" in flight. Courting male has harsh nasal double note, suggesting pee-ik of Common Nighthawk. Female, a harsh gaak. SIMILAR SPECIES: Barrow's Goldeneye. Male scaup have black chest. Male Common Merganser long, low, with different bill. HABITAT: Forested lakes, rivers; in winter, also lakes, salt bays, seacoasts.



BARROW'S GOLDENEYE Bucephala islandica

18 in. (46 cm). Male: Note white facial crescent. Similar to Common Goldeneye, but blacker above; head glossed with purple (not green); nape puffier; shows dark "spur" on shoulder toward waterline. Female: Similar to female Common; head slightly darker, with steeper forehead and suggestion of puffy nape, bill shorter and more triangular, less white in wing. Bill may become all orangey yellow, often a good field mark but subject to seasonal change. Female Common Goldeneye often has band of yellow on bill. VOICE: Usually silent. Courting male, a grunting kuk, kuk. Female near nest, a soft coo-coo-coo. Wings of both species whistle in flight. SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead. HABITAT: Wooded lakes, ponds; in winter, lakes and rivers, protected coastal waters.



BUFFLEHEAD Bucephala albeola (see also p. 46) Common M36 13½–14 in. [34–36 cm]. Small. Male: Mostly white with black back; puffy head with large, bonnetlike white patch. In flight, shows large white wing patch. Female: Dark and compact, with white cheek spot, small bill, smaller wing patch. VOICE: Male, in display, a hoarse rolling note. Female, a harsh ec-ec-ec. SIMILAR SPECIES: Male Hooded Merganser has spikelike bill, dark sides. See female Black Scoter and nonbreeding adult male Ruddy Duck. See also Long-tailed Duck. HABITAT: Lakes, ponds, rivers; in winter, also salt bays.

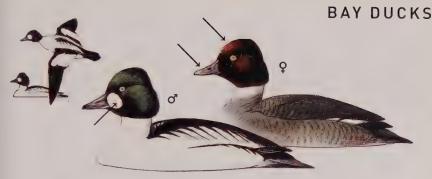


RUDDY DUCK

Fairly common M42

Oxyura jamaicensis (see also p. 46)

15 in. (38 cm). Small, chubby; note white cheek and dark cap. Often cocks long tail upward. Flight "buzzy." Can barely walk on land. Breeding male: Rusty red with white cheek, black cap, large, strikingly blue bill. Nonbreeding male: Gray with white cheek, gray bill. Female: Similar to nonbreeding male, but duskier cheek crossed by dark line. VOICE: Courting male, a sputtering chick-ik-ik-ik-k-k-kurrrr, accompanied by head bobbing. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female Bufflehead, Black Scoter, Masked Duck (rare). HABITAT: Freshwater marshes, ponds, lakes; in winter, also salt bays, harbors.



**COMMON GOLDENEYE** 

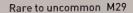


**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE** 



**BUFFLEHEAD** 







KING EIDER

Somateria spectabilis (see also p. 44)

22 in. (56 cm). Male: Note black back and protruding orange bill-shield. Female: Warm brown, weak eye-ring and thin stripe curving down behind eye, flanks barred with crescent-shaped marks. Note facial profile and dark bill. Immature male: Dusky, with light breast, orangey bill. VOICE: Courting male, a low crooning phrase. Female, grunting croaks. SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Eider larger, with flatter head profile, longer bill-lobe before eye; male Common has white back, female has evenly barred flanks, grayer bill. Immature male Common has grayish bill, often some white on back. HABITAT: Rocky coasts, ocean. Nests on tundra.



#### COMMON EIDER

Fairly common M30

Somateria mollissima (see also p. 44)

24–25 in. (61–64 cm). This bulky, long-necked duck is oceanic, living in flocks near shoals. *Male:* Note *black belly and white back.* Forewing and back white; head white with black crown, greenish nape. *Female:* Large, brown, *closely barred, with pale eyebrow;* long, flat facial profile. *Immature male:* At first brownish, becoming dusky with some white on breast and back. **VOICE:** Male, a moaning *ow-ooo-urr.* Female, a grating *kor-r-r.* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** King Eider. Female scoters smaller, lack heavy dark barring of female eiders. Compare eclipse male eider in flight with White-winged Scoter. **HABITAT:** Rocky coasts, shoals; in summer, also islands, tundra.



#### HARLEQUIN DUCK

Uncommon M31

Histrionicus histrionicus (see also p. 44)

16–17 in. (41–44 cm). A smallish, dark sea duck with a long tail. *Male:* Spectacularly patterned: slaty with chestnut sides and odd white patches and spots. *Female:* A small dusky duck with three round white spots on each side of head; no wing patch. *Immature male:* Similar to female. **VOICE:** Usually silent. Male, a squeak; also *gwa gwa gwa.* Female, *ek-ek-ek.* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Bufflehead has white wing patch and only one face spot. Female scoters larger, with larger bills. **HABITAT:** Turbulent mountain streams in summer; rocky coastal waters in winter.



LONG-TAILED DUCK (OLDSQUAW)
Clangula hyemalis (see also p. 44)

Fairly common M35

Male 21–22 in. [53–56 cm]; female 16 in. [41 cm]. The only sea duck combining much white on body and unpatterned dark wings. Male has pink on bill. It flies in bunched, irregular flocks, rocking side to side as it flies. Nonbreeding male: Note needlelike tail, pied pattern, dark cheek. Breeding male: Dark with white flanks and belly. Note white eye patch. Nonbreeding female: Dark unpatterned wings, white face with dark cheek spot. Breeding female: Similar but darker. Immature: Lacks long tail feathers. VOICE: Talkative; a musical ow-owdle-ee or owl-omelet. SIMILAR SPECIES: Bufflehead. In flight, sometimes confused with alcids because of white body, dark wings, and rapid wingbeats. HABITAT: Ocean, harbors, large lakes; in summer, tundra pools and lakes.



### SCOTERS

Scoters are heavy, blackish sea ducks seen in large flocks along ocean coasts. They often fly in thin line formation. They are usually in flocks, either single species or mixed, so look them over carefully. Scoters are usually silent but during courtship and mating may utter low whistles, croaks, or grunting noises; wings whistle in flight. FOOD: Mainly mollusks, crustaceans.



WHITE-WINGED SCOTER Uncommon to fairly common M33
Melanitta fusca (see also p. 44)

21 in. (53 cm). White-winged, largest of the three scoters, has a long bill feathered to nostril. On water, white wing patch is often barely visible or fully concealed (wait for bird to flap or fly). Male: Black, with a "teardrop" of white near eye; bill orange with black basal knob. Female: Sooty brown, with white wing patch and two light oval patches on face (sometimes obscure; patches more pronounced on young birds). VOICE: Usually silent. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other scoters. HABITAT: Salt bays, ocean; in summer, lakes.



#### SURF SCOTER

Fairly common M32

Melanitta perspicillata (see also p. 44)

19–20 in. (48–51 cm). The "skunkhead-duck." *Male:* Black, with *white patches* on crown and nape. Heavy, sloping bill patterned with orange, black, and white. *Female:* Dusky brown; dark crown; two light spots on each side of head (sometimes obscure; more evident on young birds), one mostly vertical, the other more horizontal. *VOICE:* Usually silent. A low croak; grunting sounds. *SIMILAR SPECIES:* Female White-winged Scoter slightly larger overall, has more extensive feathering on bill, more horizontal, oval face patches, and white wing patch (may not show until bird flaps). Black Scoter has rounder head profile (more like Redhead, whereas Surf Scoter more like Canvasback) and has more silvery flight feathers; female and immature have entirely pale cheeks. *Habitat:* Ocean, salt bays; in summer, lakes.



#### BLACK SCOTER

Fairly common M34

Melanitta nigra (see also p. 44)

18½–19 in. (47–48 cm). *Male:* An all-black sea duck. Bright *orange-yellow knob* on bill ("butter nose") is diagnostic. In flight, underwing shows two-toned effect (silvery gray and black), more pronounced than in other two scoters. *Female:* Sooty; *entirely light cheeks* contrast with dark cap. **VOICE:** Usually silent. Male, melodious cooing notes. Female, growls. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Some young male Surf Scoters may lack head patches and appear all black, but they have round black spot at base of higher-sloping bill. Female and immature scoters of other two species have smaller light spots on side of head, not entirely pale cheeks. Female Black Scoter may suggest non-breeding adult male Ruddy Duck. **HABITAT:** Seacoasts, bays; in summer, tundra and taiga ponds.





### MERGANSERS

Long-lined, slender-bodied diving ducks with spikelike bill, saw-edged mandibles. Most species have a crest. In flight, bill, head, neck, and body are on a horizontal axis. Sexes not alike. FOOD: Chiefly fish.



#### COMMON MERGANSER.

Fairly common M40

Mergus merganser (see also p. 40)
24–25 in. [62–64 cm]. In flight, lines of these slender ducks follow the winding courses of rivers. Whiteness of adult males and merganser shape (bill, neck, head, and body held horizontally) identify this species. Male: Note long whitish body, black back, green-black head. Bill and feet red; breast tinged rosy peach. Female and immature: Gray with crested rufous head contrasting with white chin and clean white chest; large square white wing patch. VOICE: Male, in display, low staccato croaks. Female, a guttural karrr. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female Red-breasted Merganser very similar to female Common. Note distinct cut-off of rusty head and neck from breast in Common; this is diffuse in Red-breasted. Female mergansers, which are rusty-headed, suggest male Canvasback or Redhead, but those have black chest, no crest, different bill. HABITAT: Wooded lakes, ponds, rivers; in winter, open lakes, rivers, rarely coastal bays.



## RED-BREASTED MERGANSER Mergus serrator (see also p. 40)

Common M41

22½–23 in. (56–58 cm). *Male:* Rakish; black head glossed with green and *crested*; breast at waterline dark rusty, separated from head by wide white collar; bill and feet red. Female and immature: Gray, with crested, dull rusty head that blends into color of neck; large white wing patch; red bill and feet. **VOICE:** Usually silent. Male, a hoarse croak. Female, karrr. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Male Common Merganser whiter, without collar and breast-band effect; lacks crest. In female Common, white chin and chest sharply delineated from brighter rufous head and pale gray body. Common's bill slightly thicker at base. **HABITAT:** Woodland and coastal lakes, open water; in winter, also bays, tidal channels, nearshore ocean waters.

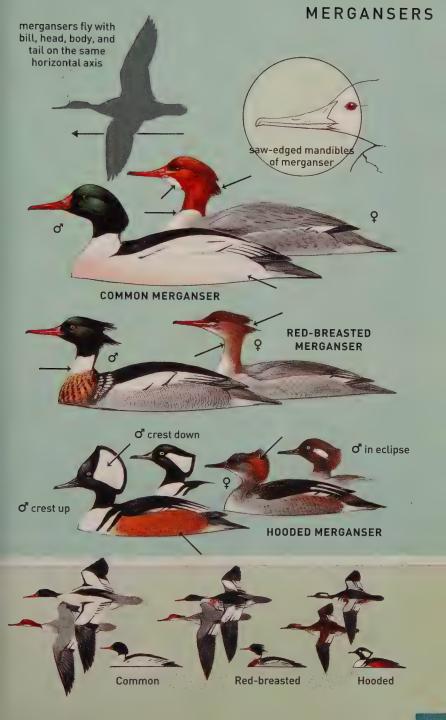


#### HOODED MERGANSER

Uncommon to fairly common M39

Lophodytes cucullatus (see also p. 40)

17–18 in. (43–46 cm). *Male:* Note vertical *fan-shaped white crest*, which may be raised or lowered. Breast white, with two black bars on each side. Wing with white patch; *flanks rusty brown. Female:* Recognized as a merganser by silhouette and spikelike bill; known as this species by its small size, dusky look, and *dark head, bill, and chest.* Note loose *tawny crest.* **VOICE:** In display, low grunting or croaking notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Male Bufflehead chubbier, with *white* sides. Other female mergansers larger and *grayer*, with rufous head, reddish bill. In flight, wing patch and silhouette separate female Hooded Merganser from female Wood Duck. **HABITAT:** Wooded lakes, ponds, rivers; in winter, also tidal channels, protected bays.



## FLIGHT PATTERNS OF DABBLING DUCKS

*Note:* Only males are diagnosed below. Although females are unlike the males, their wing patterns are quite similar. The names in parentheses are common nicknames used by hunters.

NORTHERN PINTAIL (SPRIG) Anas acuta

Underside: Needle tail, white breast, thin neck.	
Topside: Needle tail, neck stripe, single thin white border on	spec-
ulum.	
WOOD DUCK Aix sponsa	p. 24
Underside: White belly, dusky wings, long square tail.	
Topside: Stocky; long dark tail, white border on dark wing.	

p. 26

AMERICAN WIGEON (BALDPATE) Anas americana	p. 24
Underside: White belly, pointed dark tail.	
Topside: Large white shoulder patch.	

NORTHERN SHOVELER (SPOONBILL) Anas clypeata	p. 28
Underside: Dark belly, white breast, white tail, spoon bill.	
Topside: Large pale bluish shoulder patch, spoon bill.	

GADWALL Anas strepera	p. 26
Underside: White belly, white underwing.	
Topside: White patch on rear edge of wing.	

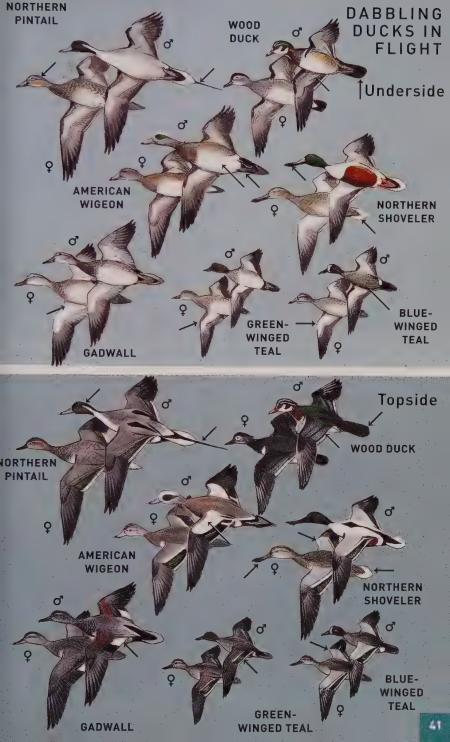
GREEN-WINGE	D TEAL Anas	crecca					p	. 28
Underside: Sma	ıll; light belly,	dark	head,	broad	dark	borders	to	un-
derwing.								

Topside: Small, dark-winged; green speculum.	
BLUE-WINGED TEAL Anas discors	p. 2

Underside: Small; dark belly, narrow dark borders to underwing. Topside: Small; large chalky blue shoulder patch.



upper wing of a dabbling duck showing the iridescent speculum (secondaries)



# FLIGHT PATTERNS OF DABBLING DUCKS AND MERGANSERS

*Note:* Only males are diagnosed below. Although most females are unlike the males, their wing patterns are quite similar. Mergansers have a distinctive flight silhouette. Duck hunters often call mergansers "sheldrakes" or "sawbills."

MALLARD Anas platyrhynchos

Underside: Dark chest, light belly, white neck ring, white tail.

Topside: Dark head, neck ring, two white borders on bluish speculum.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK Anas rubripes p. 26
Underside: Dark body, white wing linings.

Topside: Dark body, paler head, purplish speculum lacks forward border.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK Dendrocygna bicolor p. 20
Underside: Tawny, with blackish wing linings.
Topside: Dark, unpatterned wings; white band on rump.

**COMMON MERGANSER** Mergus merganser p. 38 Underside: Merganser shape; dark head, white body, white wing linings.

Topside: Merganser shape; white chest, large white wing patches.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER Mergus serrator

p. 38
Underside: Merganser shape; dark chest band, white collar.

Topside: Merganser shape; dark chest, large white wing patches.

HOODED MERGANSER Lophodytes cucullatus p. 38
Underside: Merganser shape; dusky wing linings.

Topside: Merganser shape; small white wing patches.





## FLIGHT PATTERNS OF DIVING DUCKS

Note: Only males are diagnosed below.

LONG-TAILED DUCK (OLDSQUAW) Clangula hyemalis	p. 34
Underside: Dark unpatterned wings, white belly.	
Topside: Dark unpatterned wings, much white on body.	

### HARLEQUIN DUCK Histrionicus histrionicus p. 34 Underside: Solid dark below, white head spots, small bill. Tail appears squared off, similar to that of a Wood Duck. Topside: Dark with white marks, small bill, long tail.

# SURF SCOTER Melanitta perspicillata p. 36 Underside: Black body, white head patches (not readily visible from below), sloping forehead.

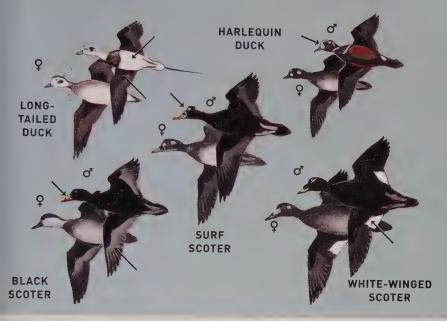
Topside: Black body, white head patches, sloping forehead.

BLACK SCOTER Melanitta nigra	p. 36
Underside: Black plumage, paler flight feathers, rounded	d forehead.
Topside: All-dark plumage. Body slightly smaller and p	pudgier than
Surf Scoter's rounded forehead	

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER Melanitta fusca	p. 36
Underside: Black body, white wing patches.	
Topside: Black body, white wing patches.	

ropside: Black body, white wing patches.	
COMMON EIDER Somateria mollissima	p. 34
Topside: White back, white forewing, black belly.	
VINCEIRED C	

KING EIDER Somateria spectabilis p. 34
Topside: Whitish foreparts, black rear parts.





## FLIGHT PATTERNS OF DIVING DUCKS, ETC.

*Note:* Only males are diagnosed below. The first five all have a black chest. The names in parentheses are common nicknames used by hunters.

CANV	/ASBACK	Aythya valisine	eria	p. 30
		1 1 1	CI	

Underside: Black chest, long profile.

Topside: White back, long profile. Lacks contrasty wing stripe of next four species.

## REDHEAD Aythya americana p. 30 Underside: Black chest, roundish rufous head.

Topside: Gray back, broad gray wing stripe.

## RING-NECKED DUCK Aythya collaris p. 30 Underside: Not safe to tell from scaup overhead; gray wing stripe sometimes evident.

Topside: Black back, broad gray wing stripe.

## GREATER SCAUP (BLUEBILL) Aythya marila p. 30 Underside: Black chest, white stripe showing through wing.

# Topside: Broad white wing stripe (extending onto primaries). \*\*TESSER-SCAUP (BLUEBILL) Aythya affinis p. 30 Topside: Wing stripe.

COMMON GOLDENEYE (WHISTLER) Bucephala clangula p. 32 Underside: Dark wing linings, white wing patches, rounded dark head

Topside: Large white square wing patch, short neck, dark head.

# RUDDY DUCK Oxyura jamaicensis p. 32 Underside: Stubby; white face, dark chest, long tail. Topside: Small; dark with white cheeks, long tail.

BUFFLEHEAD (BUTTERBALL) Bucephala albeola p. 32
Underside: Like a small goldeneye; note head patch.
Topside: Small; large wing patches, white head patch.

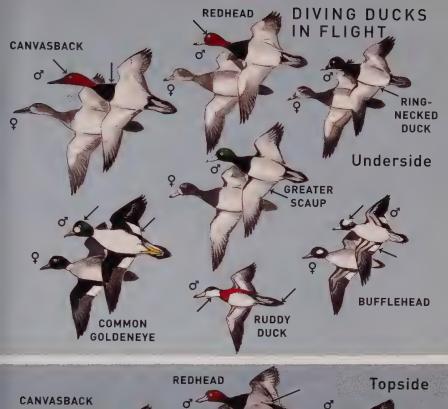
#### Silhouettes of Ducks on Land

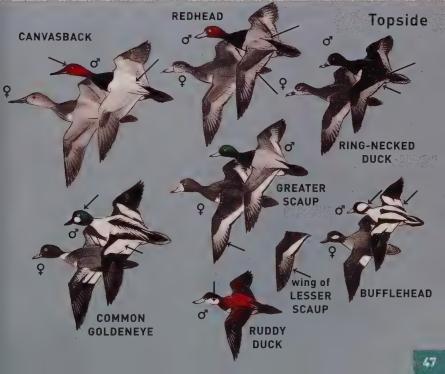


dabbling ducks (dabblers) sea and bay ducks (divers)

mergansers (divers) Ruddy Duck (diver)

whistlingducks (dabblers)





## STRAY WATERFOWL

Vagrant GARGANEY Anas querquedula 151/2 in. (38 cm). Male: Broad white eyebrow stripe, silvery shoulder patch (in flight). Female: Told from Blue-winged and Cinnamon teal by bolder face pattern (shared by Green-winged Teal), gray legs. paler primaries (in flight), and bold white borders on speculum. RANGE: Casual visitor from Eurasia; many records from East Coast, fewer inland.

MASKED DUCK Nomonyx dominicus Vagrant 13-131/2 in. (33-34 cm). Male: Rusty body with black face, blue bill. Stiff tail feathers held upright at times. Female: Buffy with two distinct face stripes, barred back. SIMILAR SPECIES: Ruddy Duck. RANGE: Very rare, irregular visitor from Mex. and Caribbean to TX and FL; accidental elsewhere. HABITAT: Ponds, marshes with dense vegetation. Often hidden.

Regular vagrant TUFTED DUCK Aythya fuligula 161/2-17 in. (41-43 cm). Male: Differs from male Ring-necked Duck in having thin wispy crest, entirely white sides, and white (not gray) wing stripe: from scaup, by black back, wispy crest. Female: May have faint trace of tuft. Darker back, usually less white on face than female scaup; lacks eye-ring of female Ring-necked; eyes yellow. VOICE: Similar to Ring-necked Duck. RANGE: Regular winter visitor from Eurasia to NL; very rare elsewhere along Atlantic Coast; casual inland. HABITAT: Sheltered ponds, bays, reservoirs. Usually with scaup.

## Unestablished Exotics

Provenance in question **SMEW** Mergellus albellus (Eurasia) 16 in. (41 cm). Scattered reports in East; some probably escapees.

CHINESE GOOSE Anser cygnoides Exotic **EGYPTIAN GOOSE** Alopochen aegyptiacus Exotic

BAR-HEADED GOOSE Anser indicus Exotic

GRAYLAG GOOSE Anser anser Provenance in question

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL Provenance in question

Anas bahamensis

(West Indies) 17 in. (43 cm). Numerous reports from FL: scattered records elsewhere. Most birds are likely escapees.

MANDARIN Aix galericulata Exotic COMMON SHELDUCK Tadorna tadorna

RUDDY SHELDUCK Tadorna ferruginea Provenance in question

Exotic





## CURASSOWS AND GUANS Family Cracidae

Tropical forest birds with long tails. Only one species reaches extreme s. U.S. FOOD: Insects, fruit, leaves, seeds. RANGE: New World Tropics.



PLAIN CHACHALACA Ortalis vetula Fairly common, local M43 22 in. (56 cm). A large olive-brown bird shaped somewhat like a half-grown turkey with a small head. Long, rounded, pale-tipped tail, bare red throat. Difficult to observe; best found in morning when calling raucously from treetops. VOICE: Alarm a harsh chickenlike cackle. Characteristic call a raucous three-syllabled cha-ca-lac, repeated in chorus, especially in morning and evening. SIMILAR SPECIES: Greater Roadrunner. HABITAT: Woodlands, tall brush, well-vegetated residential areas.

## GALLINACEOUS, OR CHICKENLIKE, BIRDS (TURKEYS, PHEASANTS, GROUSE, PARTRIDGES, AND OLD WORLD QUAIL)

Family Phasianidae

Often called "upland game birds." Turkeys are very large, with wattles and fanlike tail. Pheasants (introduced) have long pointed tail. Grouse are plump, chickenlike birds, without long tail. Partridges (of Old World origin) are intermediate in size between grouse and quail. Quail are the smallest. FOOD: Insects, seeds, buds, berries. RANGE: Nearly worldwide.



WILD TURKEY Meleagris gallopavo Fairly common M55 Male 46–47 in. (117–120 cm); female 36–37 in. (91–94 cm). A streamlined version of barnyard turkey, with rusty instead of white tail tips. Male: Head naked; bluish with red wattles, intensified in display. Tail erected like a fan in display. Bronzy iridescent body; barred wings (primaries and secondaries); prominent "beard" on breast. Female and immature: Smaller, with smaller and duller head; less iridescent; less likely to have a beard. VOICE: "Gobbling" of male like domestic turkey's. Alarm pit! or put-put! Flock call keow-keow. Hen clucks to her chicks. HABITAT: Woods, mountain forests, wooded swamps, field edges, clearings. Reintroduced in many areas, and such birds are adapting well to being near people.



RING-NECKED PHEASANT Uncommon to fairly common M47
Phasianus colchicus

Male 31–33 in. [79–84 cm]; female 21–23 in. [53–59 cm]. A large chickenlike bird introduced from Eurasia. Note long pointed tail. Runs swiftly; flight strong, takeoff noisy. *Male:* Highly colored and *iridescent*, with *scarlet wattles* on face and *white neck ring* (not always present). *Female:* Mottled brown, with *long pointed tail.* **voice:** Crowing male gives loud double squawk, *kork-kok*, followed by brief whir of wings. When flushed, harsh croaks. Roosting call a two-syllable *kutuck-kutuck*, etc. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** See prairie-chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse. **HABITAT:** Farms, fields, marsh edges, brush, grassy roadsides. Periodic local releases for hunting.





Fairly common M50 WILLOW PTARMIGAN Lagopus lagopus 15 in. (39 cm). Willow and Rock ptarmigans are fairly similar. In breeding season, Willows are variable, but most males are chestnut brown, redder than any Rock; females are warm buffy brown that can overlap brown of Rock. White of wings retained all year and, in flight, contrast with summer body plumage. Nonbreeding white overall with black tail, the latter retained year-round. There is much variation between various molts. VOICE: Deep raucous calls. Male, a staccato crow, kwow, kwow, tobacco, tobacco, etc., or go-back, go-back. SIMILAR SPECIES: Rock Ptarmigan always has smaller and more slender bill that lacks strong curve on ridge shown by Willow. In winter, male Rock has black mark between eye and bill, lacking in both sexes of Willow. Habitats overlap, but Rock tends to prefer higher, more barren hills. HABITAT: Tundra, willow scrub, muskeg; in winter, sheltered valleys at slightly lower altitudes.



ROCK PTARMIGAN Lagopus muta

14 in. (36 cm). Breeding male is usually browner or grayer than breeding Willow Ptarmigan, lacking rich chestnut around head and neck. Some Rocks may be paler or darker than shown here. Females of the two species are similar, but Rock has smaller bill. Nonbreeding white male Rock has black mark between eye and bill. This is absent in most females, which may be told from female Willow by Rock's smaller bill. VOICE: Croaks, growls, cackles; usually silent. SIMILAR SPECIES: Willow Ptarmigan. HABITAT: Tundra, above timberline in mountains (to lower levels in winter); also near sea level in bleak tundra of northern coasts.



RUFFED GROUSE Bonasa umbellus

17 in. (43 cm). Note short crest, bold flank bars, and fan-shaped tail with broad black band near tip. A large chickenlike bird of brushy woodlands, usually not seen until it flushes with a startling whir. Two color morphs occur: "rusty" with rufous tail and "gray" with gray tail. Rusty birds more common in southern parts of range, gray birds more common northward. VOICE: Sound of drumming male suggests a distant motor starting up. Low muffled thumping starts slowly, accelerating into a whir: Bup . . . bup . . . bup . . . bup . . . bup bup up r-rrrrr. SIMILAR SPECIES: Sharp-tailed and Spruce grouse. HABITAT: Ground and understory of deciduous and mixed woodlands.



SPRUCE GROUSE Falcipennis canadensis

16–17 in. (41–43 cm). Look for this tame, dark grouse in deep coniferous forests of North. Male: Sharply defined black breast, with some white spots or bars on sides and chestnut band on tip of tail. Comb of erectile red skin above eye is visible at close range. Female: Dark rusty or grayish brown, thickly barred, and with black-and-white spotting below; tail short and dark, with rusty tip. VOICE: Female, call an accelerating, then slowing, series of wock notes; also cluck notes. Wing flutter from male's courtship display may sound like distant rumble of thunder. SIMILAR SPECIES: Ruffed Grouse. HABITAT: Coniferous forests, jack pines, muskeg, blueberry patches.







#### SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Tympanuchus phasianellus

17 in. (43 cm). Å pale, speckled-brown grouse of prairies and brushy draws. Note *short pointed tail*, which in display or flight shows *white* at sides. Slight crested look. Marked below by dark bars, spots, and chevrons. Displaying male has yellow eye combs and inflates *purplish* neck sacs. **YOICE:** Cackling *cac-cac-cac*, etc. Courting note a single low *coo-oo*, accompanied by quill-rattling, foot-shuffling. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Prairie-chickens have *rounded*, *dark* tail and are more barred, rather than spotted, below. Female Ring-necked Pheasant has *long pointed* tail. Ruffed Grouse has banded, *fan-shaped* tail and black neck ruff. **HABITAT:** Prairies, agricultural fields, forest edges, clearings, coulees, open burns and clear-cuts in coniferous and mixed forests.



#### GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN

Uncommon, local M53

Tympanuchus cupido

17 in. (43 cm). A henlike bird of prairies. Brown, heavily barred. Note rounded dark tail (black in male, barred in female). Courting males in communal "dance" inflate orange neck sacs, show off orangey yellow eye combs, and erect black hornlike neck feathers. VOICE: "Booming" male in dance makes a hollow oo-loo-woo, suggesting sound made by blowing across a bottle mouth. SIMILAR SPECIES: Lesser Prairie-Chicken. Sharp-tailed Grouse, often called "Prairie-Chicken," slightly paler overall, has more spots or chevrons on underparts, and has more pointed, white-edged tail. Female Ringnecked Pheasant slightly larger, has long pointed tail. HABITAT: Native tallgrass prairie, now very localized; agricultural land.



#### LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN

Scarce, local M54

Tympanuchus pallidicinctus

16 in. (41 cm). A small, pale brown prairie-chicken; best identified by range. Male's neck sacs are dull purplish or plum colored (not yelloworange as in Greater Prairie-Chicken). Breast barring usually paler and thinner than Greater's. VOICE: Male's courtship "booming" not as rolling or loud as Greater Prairie-Chicken's. Both sexes give clucking, cackling notes. SIMILAR SPECIES: Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sharp-tailed Grouse. HABITAT: Sandhill country (sage and bluestem grass, oak shrublands).

### PRAIRIE GROUSE





GRAY PARTRIDGE Perdix perdix

Uncommon M46

12½-13 in. (32-34 cm). Introduced from Europe. A rotund gray-brown partridge, larger than a quail; note short *rufous* tail, *rusty face*, chestnut bars on sides. Male has dark U-shaped splotch on belly. **VOICE**: Loud, hoarse *kar-wit*, *kar-wit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Northern Bobwhite. **HABITAT**: Cultivated land, hedgerows, bushy pastures, meadows.

CHUKAR Alectoris chukar

Exotic

13½-14 in. (34–36 cm). A popular game bird from Asia. Recently released or escaped birds occasionally seen in the East. Like a large quail; gray-brown with bright red legs and bill; light throat bordered by clean-cut black "necklace." Sides boldly barred. Tail rufous. VOICE: Series of raspy chucks; a sharp wheet-u. SIMILAR SPECIES: Gray Partridge. Red-legged Partridge (Alectoris rufa), an occasional escapee, is similar but has streaked breast.

# NEW WORLD QUAIL Family Odontophoridae

Quail are smaller than grouse. Sexes alike or unlike. FOOD: Insects, seeds, buds, berries. RANGE: Nearly worldwide.



SCALED QUAIL Callipepla squamata Uncommon, local M44 10 in. (25 cm). A pale grayish quail (sometimes called "Blue Quail") of arid country, with scaly markings on breast and back. Note short bushy white crest, or "cotton top," a common nickname for this species. Runs; often reluctant to fly. VOICE: Guinea hen-like che-kar (also interpreted as pay-cos). HABITAT: Shrub-grasslands, brush, arid country.



NORTHERN BOBWHITE

Uncommon, declining M45

Colinus virginianus

9½–10 in. (24–26 cm). A small, rotund fowl, near size of a meadow-lark. Ruddy, barred and striped, with short dark tail. Male has conspicuous white throat and white eyebrow stripe; in female these are buff. VOICE: Clearly whistled Bob-white! or poor, Bob-whoit! Covey call ko-loi-kee? answered by whoil-kee! SIMILAR SPECIES: Ruffed Grouse larger with fanlike tail. Gray Partridge. HABITAT: Farms, brushy open country, fencerows, roadsides, open woodlands. Recent hunting releases fairly widespread.



## LOONS Family Gaviidae

Large, long-bodied swimmers with daggerlike bill; dive from surface or sink. Thrash along water on takeoff. Airborne, loons are slower and more hunch-backed than most ducks. Large webbed feet project beyond stubby tail. Seldom on land except at nest. Sexes alike. Immatures more scaly above than nonbreeding adults. FOOD: Small fish, crustaceans, other aquatic life. RANGE: Northern parts of N. Hemisphere.



RED-THROATED LOON Gavia stellata

25 in. (64 cm). Note slim snakelike head and neck, thin, slightly upturned bill, often uptilted head. Often flies with neck drooped. Breeding: Plain brown back, gray head, rufous throat patch. Nonbreeding: Slimmer than other loons with paler, spotted upperparts; adult has extensively white neck and face; first winter has smudgy gray neck. VOICE: When flying, a repeated kwuk. Guttural ptarmigan-like calls on breeding grounds; also falsetto wails. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other loons, Western and Clark's grebes. HABITAT: Nearshore ocean, bays.



estuaries; in summer, tundra lakes.

PACIFIC LOON Gavia pacifica

PACIFIC LOON Gavia pacifica

25–26 in. (64–66 cm). Smaller than Common Loon, with slightly thinner straight bill, often puffier look to head. Breeding: Pale gray nape. Back divided into four checkered patches. Nonbreeding: Note sharp, straight separation of dark and white on neck. Dark feathering around eye. VOICE: Deep, barking kwow; falsetto wails, rising in pitch. Silent away from breeding grounds. SIMILAR SPECIES: Nonbreeding adult Red-throated Loon also has straight separation of dark and white on neck but shows much more white. Other loons, grebes. HABITAT: Ocean, bays, large lakes; in summer, tundra lakes and sloughs.



COMMON LOON Gavia immer

Common M58

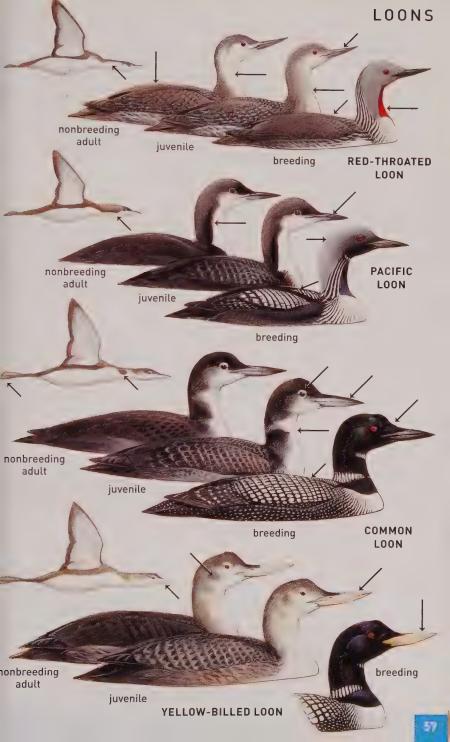
31–32 in. (78–81 cm). Large, long-bodied, low-swimming; bill stout, daggerlike. In flight shows large, trailing feet. Breeding: Black head and bill. Checkered back, broken white necklace. Nonbreeding: Note irregular or broken (half-collared) neck-pattern. Pale "eyelids." VOICE: In breeding season, falsetto wails, weird yodeling, maniacal quavering laughter; at night, a tremulous ha-oo-oo. In flight, a barking kwuk. Usually silent in nonbreeding season. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other loons and cormorants. HABITAT: In summer, lakes, tundra ponds; in winter, larger lakes, bays, ocean.



YELLOW-BILLED LOON Gavia adamsii

Vagrant M59

34–35 in. (86–89 cm). Similar to Common Loon, but bill pale ivory (sometimes with darker base) and slightly uptilted: straight above, slightly angled below. In nonbreeding plumage, slightly paler head and neck than Common, usually with small dark ear patch. SIMILAR SPECIES: Bill of nonbreeding Common Loon is somewhat pale, but culmen (upper ridge) is dark to tip (outer half of bill is pale in Yellow-billed). HABITAT: In summer, tundra lakes; in winter, casual vagrant at inland lakes.



## GREBES Family Podicipedidae

Ducklike divers with flat, lobed toes; thin neck; tailless look. All but Pied-billed Grebe have white wing patches, pointed bills. Sexes alike. Most young have striped heads. FOOD: Small fish, other aquatic life. RANGE: Worldwide.



PIED-BILLED GREBE Podilymbus podiceps
13–13½ in. (33–34 cm). A small brown diver with "chicken bill," puffy white stern. Breeding: Black throat patch and ring around pale bill. Nonbreeding: Lacks black markings. VOICE: Song kuk-kuk-cow-cow-cow-cowp-cowp; also a sizzling whinny and sharp kwah. HABITAT: Ponds, lakes, marshes; in winter, also salt bays and estuaries.



HORNED GREBE Podiceps auritus Fairly common M62 13½-14 in. (34-36 cm). Breeding: Golden ear patch and chestnut neck. Nonbreeding: Black cap clean-cut to eye level; white foreneck, thin straight bill. VOICE: Loud gamp, trills on breeding grounds. Usually silent in nonbreeding season. SIMILAR SPECIES: Eared Grebe. HABITAT: Lakes, ponds, coastal waters.



**EARED GREBE** Podiceps nigricollis

12½-13 in. (32-33 cm). Note peaked crown, skinny neck, and slightly upturned, all-dark bill. Breeding: Wispy golden ear tufts, black neck. Nonbreeding: Dark cap extends below eye, neck usually dusky. **VOICE**: On breeding grounds, a musical poo-ee-chk. **HABITAT**: Prairie lakes, ponds; in winter, open lakes, coastal bays and estuaries.



**RED-NECKED GREBE** Podiceps grisegena Uncommon M63 18–19 in. (46–49 cm). A largish grebe. Breeding: Long rufous neck, light cheek, black cap. Nonbreeding: Grayish with white crescent on neck; yellowish on bill. In flight, double wing patch. **VOICE**: Loud braying on breeding grounds. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Loons, mergansers. **HABITAT**: Lakes, ponds; in winter, large lakes, salt water.



**LEAST GREBE** Tachybaptus dominicus Uncommon, local M60 9½ in. [24 cm]. Smaller, darker than Pied-billed Grebe, with white wing patches (usually concealed), puffy undertail coverts, slender black bill, golden eyes. **VOICE**: A chattering whinny. **HABITAT**: Ponds and lake edges.



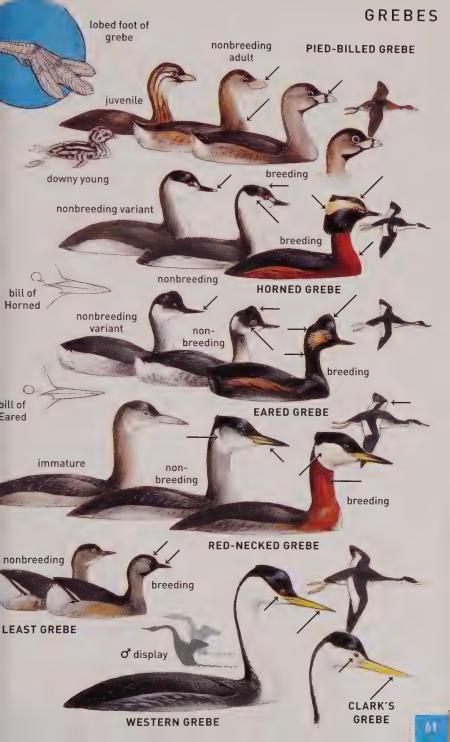
WESTERN GREBE Uncommon, local M65

 $Aechmophorus\ occidental is$ 

25 in. (64 cm). A large slate-and-white grebe with long neck. Bill long, greenish yellow with dark ridge. Black of cap extends *below eye.* **VOICE:** Loud, reedy *crik-crick.* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Clark's Grebe, loons. **HABITAT:** Rushy lakes; in winter, large lakes, bays, coasts.



**CLARK'S GREBE** Aechmophorus clarkii Scarce, local M66 25 in. (64 cm). Very similar to Western Grebe. White surrounds eye; bill orange-yellow. **VOICE**: Single-noted creet or criik. **HABITAT**: Similar to Western.



### SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS

### Family Procellariidae

Gull-like birds of open sea that glide low over waves (usually with wings more stiffly extended than shown here). They often bank, or arc, up and down like a roller coaster, particularly in strong winds. Typically fly with several flaps and then a glide. Wings narrower than those of gulls. Shearwaters and petrels, along with albatrosses and storm-petrels, have tubelike external nostrils on bill, so are often called "tubenoses." FOOD: Fish, squid, crustaceans, ship refuse. RANGE: Oceans of world. Most species rarely seen from our mainland shores.



#### NORTHERN FULMAR

Uncommon to fairly common M67

Fulmarus glacialis

18½-19 in. (47-49 cm). A stiff-winged oceanic seabird; shearwater-like, but stockier with larger head, shorter, rounder wings; flies like shearwater but with quicker wingbeats, less gliding. Note rounded forehead; stubby, yellowish, tubenose bill; longish tail. Primaries may show a pale flash or patch. Comes in several color morphs. Light morph: Gull-like in plumage. Dark morph (scarce): Smoky gray, wingtips darker. VOICE: Hoarse, grunting ag-ag-agrarr or ek-ek-ek-ek-ek. SIMILAR SPECIES: Shape and flight style distinguish light morph from gulls and dark morph from Sooty Shearwater. HABITAT: Open ocean; breeds colonially on sea cliffs.

**HERALD PETREL** Pterodroma arminjoniana

Rare, local

15½-16 in. (40-41 cm). Dark, intermediate, and pale morphs. Most N. American records are dark, differing from Sooty Shearwater by dark wing linings, longer tail, and slower wingbeat. Light area at primary base suggests a jaeger. RANGE: Annual in Gulf Stream off NC coast from May to September. Nests in tropical S. Hemisphere.

BERMUDA PETREL (CAHOW) Pterodroma cahow

Casual

15 in. (38 cm). Endangered. One of the world's rarest seabirds. Differs from Black-capped Petrel by *smudgy gray* rump, absence of white collar, small bill. **RANGE**: Breeds only on certain small islets off ne. end of Bermuda. Sightings becoming more regular in Gulf Stream off NC coast during spring and summer as protection efforts in Bermuda enhance breeding success.

FEA'S PETREL Pterodroma feae

Very rare, local

14–15 in. (36–38 cm). Brownish gray above, with M pattern across wings. Distinguish from Black-capped Petrel by pale *gray rump and tail*, pale gray cowl on head, and *dark underwing*. **RANGE**: Breeds on islands off W. Africa. A rare but regular spring and summer visitor to Gulf Stream waters off NC; casual elsewhere.



### BLACK-CAPPED PETREL

Uncommon, local M68

Pterodroma hasitata

16 in. (41 cm). Larger than Audubon's or Manx shearwater and looks quite similar to Greater Shearwater. Note white forehead, variable white collar, white rump patch extending to tail, thick bill. Rarely seen outside Gulf Stream. Nests on Hispanola and Cuba.





CORY'S SHEARWATER Calonectris diomedea Fairly common M69 18–20 in. [46–51 cm]. Large, pale seabird; large, gray-brown head blends into white of throat; bill dull yellow. Belly all white; rump usually dark with indistinct or no white. SIMILAR SPECIES: Great Shearwater has white collar, dark cap, black bill, white rump, dark smudges on belly and underwing. Cory's has more pronounced bend to wing than Great, and wingbeats are slower, more languid.



GREAT SHEARWATER Puffinus gravis Fairly common M70 19 in. [48 cm]. A shearwater dark above and white below, rising above waves on stiff wings, is likely to be this or Cory's Shearwater. Greater has dark cap separated by a whitish collar. Note also a narrow white rump patch and dark smudges on belly and underwing. Stiffer wingbeats than Cory's. SIMILAR SPECIES: Cory's Shearwater.



**SOOTY SHEARWATER** Puffinus griseus Uncommon M71 17–18 in. (43–46 cm). Looks all dark at a distance; rises over and arcs above waves on narrow, rigid wings. In good light, note whitish linings on underwings. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Dark jaegers (white in primaries), dark-morph Northern Fulmar.



MANX SHEARWATER Puffinus puffinus Uncommon M72 13½ in. (34 cm). A small black-and-white shearwater; half the bulk of Great Shearwater; no white rump patch. Note dark cap extends below eye; white undertail. SIMILAR SPECIES: See Audubon's Shearwater. Wingbeat quicker than in Great or Cory's shearwater. HABITAT: Prefers colder water than Audubon's Shearwater.



Puffinus lherminieri

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER Fairly common M73

12 in. (30 cm). A very small shearwater, similar to Manx Shearwater but with slightly browner upperparts, *dark undertail*. Wings slightly shorter, *tail longer*. Often has *white markings* around eye. **HABITAT**: Prefers warmer water than Manx Shearwater.

# SHEARWATERS



# STORM-PETRELS Family Hydrobatidae

Dark little birds that flutter or bound over open ocean; they nest colonially on islands, returning to burrows at night. Nostrils in a fused tube over top of bill. Usually silent at sea; most apt to call at feeding frenzies. FOOD: Plankton, crustaceans, small fish. RANGE: All oceans except Arctic.



WILSON'S STORM-PETREL Oceanites oceanicus Common M74 71/4-71/2 in. (18–19 cm). A small storm-petrel with somewhat triangular wings and white rump patch that wraps around sides; tail slightly rounded or square-cut, not forked. Feet yellow-webbed (hard to see), show beyond tail in flight. Direct flight, with short glides, pausing to flutter over water. SIMILAR SPECIES: Leach's and Band-rumped storm-petrels. HABITAT: Open ocean. Often follows ships (Leach's does not). Can be "chummed in" by tossing out ground fish, suet, puffed wheat in fish oil, etc. Regularly seen from shore.



# LEACH'S STORM-PETREL Oceanodroma leucorhoa

Uncommon M75

8 in. (20 cm). Note obscurely divided white rump patch and slightly forked tail. Pale bar on upperwing often reaches leading edge. In flight, bounds about erratically on fairly long angled wings, changing speed and direction — all suggesting a nighthawk. This is the breeding storm-petrel of N. Atlantic (but less often seen than Wilson's Storm-Petrel). Does not follow ships. VOICE: At night on breeding grounds, nasal chattering notes and long crooning trills. SIMILAR SPECIES: Wilson's and Band-rumped storm-petrels.



BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL Oceanodroma castro Scarce M76 8½-9 in. (21–23 cm). A white-rumped storm-petrel, larger than Wilson's, similar to Leach's. Feet do not project beyond squarish tail. Pale bar on upperwing much less distinct than in Leach's or Wilson's; rump band more clean-cut than Leach's, less extensive under tail than Wilson's. A stiff-winged flier, with short glides, reminiscent of a shearwater.

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL Pelagodroma marina Casual 7½ in. (19 cm). A storm-petrel with white head and underparts, two-toned underwing, dark crown and eye patch. Very long legs. When feeding, bounds "kangaroo style" over water on stiff flat wings. RANGE: Se. Atlantic, sw. Pacific, Indian Ocean. Casual but almost annual Aug.-Sept. off Atlantic Coast from MA to NC, usually far off-shore.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL Hydrobates pelagicus Vagrant 6 in. (15 cm). Smaller than Wilson's Storm-Petrel; shorter legs, which do not extend beyond square tail. Yellow on feet, not on webs. Shows whitish underwing patch. RANGE: Nests in ne. Atlantic and Mediterranean. Casual off NC in May and June, accidental off NS.

### STORM-PETRELS



# DARK STORM-PETRELS



Leach's



Wilson's



Band-rumped



European

# ALBATROSSES Family Diomedeidae

Birds of open ocean, with rigid gliding and banking flight. Much larger than gulls; wings proportionately longer. "Tube-nosed" (nostrils in two tubes); bill large, hooked, covered with horny plates. Sexes alike. Largely silent at sea. FOOD: Cuttlefish, fish, squid, other small marine life; some feeding at night. RANGE: Mainly cold oceans of S. Hemisphere; two species are vagrants to w. North Atlantic.

BLACK-BROWED ALBAIROSS Thalassarche melanophris Vagrant 34–35 in. [86–88 cm]; wingspan 7½ ft. [229 cm]. Suggests a huge Great Black-backed Gull, but with short blackish tail and very large yellow bill (adult) with hooked tip. Dark eye streak gives it a frowning look. In stiff-winged gliding flight, shows white underwing broadly outlined with black. Immature: Bill dark. RANGE: Accidental off Atlantic Coast.

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS Thalassarche chlororhynchos Vagrant 31–32 in. (79–81 cm); wingspan 7–7½ ft. (213–229 cm). Similar to Black-browed Albatross, but bill black with yellow ridge on upper mandible. In flight, underwing whiter, with narrower black edging. RANGE: Accidental along Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

# TROPICBIRDS Family Phaethontidae

These seabirds resemble (but are unrelated to) large terns with two greatly elongated central tail feathers (adults) and stouter, very slightly decurved bill. Fly with rapid, shallow wingbeats; dive headfirst; swim with tail held clear of water. Sexes alike. Largely silent at sea. FOOD: Squid, fish, crustaceans. RANGE: Tropical oceans.



WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD Phaethon lepturus Rare M77 15 in. (38 cm), adults to 30 in. (76 cm) with tail-streamers. Adult: Distinguished from other tropicbirds by its diagonal black bar across each wing. Note two extremely long central tail feathers. Bill yellow to orange-red. Immature: Lacks tail-streamers; has white, not black, primary coverts, coarsely barred with black above; bill yellow. VOICE: Harsh ternlike scream. Also tik-et, tik-et. SIMILAR SPECIES: Red-billed Tropicbird.



RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD Phaethon aethereus

18 in. (45 cm), adults to 37 in. (94 cm) with tail-streamers. Adult: A slender white seabird with two extremely long central tail feathers, heavy red bill, black patch through cheek, black primaries, and finely barred back. Immature: Lacks long tail, has orange-yellow bill. SIMILAR SPECIES: White-tailed Tropicbird. Red-billed slightly larger and larger-billed; has more finely barred back than immature White-tailed, bright red to slight orange (not yellow) bill, more black on wing, including on primary coverts, black ear patch extending to nape.



# GANNETS AND BOOBIES Family Sulidae

Seabirds with large, pointed bill and pointed tail, making them appear tapered at both ends. Larger and longer necked than most gulls. Boobies sit on buoys, rocks; fish by plunging from air. Mostly silent at sea, except when at feeding frenzies. FOOD: Fish, squid. RANGE: Gannets live in cold seas (N. Atlantic, S. Africa, Australia), boobies in tropical seas. All nest colonially on islands.



NORTHERN GANNET Morus bassanus Common M81 37–38 in. (94–97 cm). A goose-sized seabird that scales over ocean

and plunges headlong for fish. Migrates in long lines. Much larger than Herring Gull, with pointed tail, longer neck, larger bill (often pointed toward water). Adult: White with extensive black primaries. Immature: Dusky, but note "pointed-at-both-ends" shape. Young birds in transition may have a piebald look. VOICE: Commonly heard at sea in winter. In colony, a low barking arrah. SIMILAR SPECIES: Boobies. In windy conditions, gannets in flight may arc up and down, suggesting a large tubenose such as an albatross. HABITAT: Ocean, but seen regularly from shore. Breeds colonially on sea cliffs.



MASKED BOOBY Sula dactylatra

Scarce, local M79

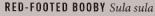
31–32 in. (79–81 cm). Adult: White; smaller than Northern Gannet, with black tail, black along entire rear edge of wing, and black in face. Greenish yellow bill. Immature: Variably mottled with dark on upperwing and head, but shows white collar. VOICE: Usually silent. In nesting colony, a variety of whistles, grunts, bill-rattling. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other boobies, immature Northern Gannet.



BROWN BOOBY Sula leucogaster

Scarce, local M80

29–30 in. (74–76 cm). Adult: Sooty brown with white belly in clean-cut contrast to dark breast. White wing linings contrast with dark flight feathers. Bill and feet yellowish. Immature: Underparts mostly dark, with little contrast between breast and belly; bill grayish. SIMILAR SPECIES: Immature Northern Gannet lacks clean-cut breast contrast; shows some white patches or mottling above; feet dark (not yellowish). Immature Red-footed Booby (which has dark tail) more buffy overall with dark underwing; has lilac color at base of bill; feet orangey pink. Immature Masked Booby resembles adult Brown Booby, but brown of head not as sharply demarcated from paler underparts.



Vagrant

27–28 in. (69–71 cm). The smallest booby. Adult: Feet bright red, tail white. White morph: Gannetlike; white, with black trailing edge of wing (as in Masked Booby), tail white. Brown morph: Brown back and wings, paler head; white tail and belly; in flight, underwing dark, thin dark trailing edge on upperwing. White-tailed brown morph: Brown with white tail. Immature: Tan overall with dark underwing, pink and lilac base of bill, dull pink or orangey pink feet. SIMILAR SPECIES: Brown Booby. RANGE: Nests in tropics. Very rare, mostly young birds, at Dry Tortugas, FL; casual elsewhere in FL.



## PELICANS Family Pelecanidae

Huge waterbirds with long flat bill and great throat pouch (flat when deflated). Neck long, body robust. Sexes alike. Flocks fly in lines or Vs or kettles, alternating several flaps with a glide. In flight, head is hunched back on shoulders, the long bill resting on breast. Pelicans swim buoyantly. FOOD: Mainly fish, crustaceans, RANGE: N. and S. America, Africa, s. Eurasia, E. Indies, Australia.



#### AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN

Fairly common M82

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

62 in. (157 cm). Huge; wingspan 8–9½ ft. (244–290 cm). White, with black primaries and a great orange-yellow bill. Adults in breeding condition have "centerboard" on ridge of bill; reduced or lacking at other seasons. *Immature:* Dusky wash on head, neck, and wings. Does not plunge from air like Brown Pelican but scoops up fish while swimming, often working in groups. Flocks may fly in lines and broken Vs and circle high in air on thermals. **VOICE:** In colony, a low groan. Young utter whining grunts. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Swans, Wood Stork, Whooping Crane, Snow Goose. **HABITAT:** Lakes, marshes, salt bays, beaches.



### BROWN PELICAN Pelecanus occidentalis

Common M83

48–50 in. (122–127 cm); wingspan 6½ ft. (198 cm). A ponderous dark waterbird. Adult: Much white and buff on head and front of neck. Dark chestnut brown on back of neck when breeding. Immature: Duskier brown overall, with dark head, paler underparts. Size, shape, and flight (a few flaps and a glide) indicate a pelican; dark color and habit of plunging bill-first proclaim it as this species. Lines of pelicans glide low over water, almost touching it with wingtips. VOICE: Adults silent (rarely a low croak). Nestlings squeal. HABITAT: Salt bays, beaches, ocean; more rarely inland lakes. Perches on posts, piers, rocks, buoys, beaches.

# FRIGATEBIRDS Family Fregatidae

Dark tropical seabirds with extremely long wings (greater span in relation to body weight than that of any other bird). Bill long, hooked; tail deeply forked. Frigatebirds normally do not swim. FOOD: Fish, jellyfish, squid, young seabirds. Food snatched from water in flight, scavenged, or pirated from other seabirds. RANGE: Pantropical oceans.



#### MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD

Fairly common, local M88

Fregata magnificens

39–40 in. (100–102 cm); wingspan 7½ ft. (230–235 cm). A large, mostly black seabird with extremely long angled wings and scissor-like tail (often folded in a point). Soars with extreme ease. Bill long, hooked. Male: All black, with red throat pouch (inflated like a balloon in display). Female: White breast, dark head. Immature: Head and breast white. VOICE: Voiceless at sea. A gargling whinny during display. SIMILAR SPECIES: Lesser Frigatebird (Fregata ariel) is accidental in MI and ME. Adult male has white spur on axillars. Juvenile has russet head. HABITAT: Tropical oceans. May follow ships.



# CORMORANTS Family Phalacrocoracidae

Large blackish waterbirds that often stand erect on rocks, posts, or dead limbs with neck in an S; may rest with wings spread out to dry. Adults may have colorful facial skin, throat pouch, and eyes. Bill slender, hook-tipped. Sexes alike. Cormorants swim low like loons, but with bill tilted up at an angle. They often fly in lines or Vs, somewhat in manner of geese. Silent except for occasional low grunts at nesting colonies. FOOD: Fish, crustaceans. RANGE: Nearly worldwide.



#### DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

Common M85

Phalacrocorax auritus

32–33 in. (81–84 cm). Almost any cormorant found inland can be called this species except for a few Great Cormorants and, in s.cen. states, Neotropic Cormorant. Told from others by its *orangey* throat pouch and *loral stripe* (adult). *Adult:* All black. Crest seldom evident. *Immature:* Brownish belly, pale throat and chest. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other cormorants, loons. **HABITAT:** Coasts, bays, lakes, rivers; nests colonially on rocky islands, sea cliffs, or in trees at lakes.



**GREAT CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*36–37 in. (91–94 cm). *Adult:* Slightly larger than Double-crested Cormorant; note heavier bill and *yellow* throat pouch, bordered by *white throat* strap. In breeding plumage, has *white patch* on flanks. *Immature:* Dark breast and *pale belly.* Often shows suggestion of pale throat patch. **HABITAT:** Coasts and bays, locally inland on rivers, lakes. Nests on rocky islands and headlands.



#### NEOTROPIC CORMORANT

Uncommon M84

Phalacrocorax brasilianus

25–26 in. (64–66 cm). Similar to Double-crested Cormorant, but smaller, slimmer, and *longer tailed. Adult:* In breeding plumage, white filoplumes on neck. Note smaller and duller throat pouch and, in breeding plumage, *narrow white border* outlining it, forming a point at rear. Lacks orangey loral stripe of Double-crested. *Immature:* Paler below. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other cormorants. HABITAT: Freshwater wetlands, ponds, lakes; tidal waters, lakes near coasts.

# DARTERS Family Anhingidae

This family is represented in N. America by one species. FOOD: Fish, small aquatic animals. RANGE: N. and S. America, Africa, India, se. Asia, Australia.



ANHINGA Anhinga anhinga Fairly common M87 34–35 in. [86–89 cm]. Similar to a cormorant, but neck snakier, bill

more pointed, tail much longer. Note large silvery upperwing patch. Male black-bodied; female has buffy neck and breast. In flight, flaps and glides with neck extended, long tail spread. Often soars high, hawklike, with wings held flat (arched in cormorants). Perches like a cormorant, often with wings half-spread. May swim submerged, with only head emergent, appearing snakelike. VOICE: Occasional grunts and croaks. SIMILAR SPECIES: Soaring cormorants, sometimes with tail slightly splayed, regularly misidentified as Anhinga. HABITAT: Cypress swamps, rivers, wooded ponds.



# BITTERNS, HERONS, AND ALLIES

### Family Ardeidae

Medium to large wading birds with long neck, spearlike bill. They stand with neck erect or head back on shoulders. In flight, neck is folded in an S; legs trail. Many herons have plumes when breeding. Sexes similar. FOOD: Fish, frogs, crawfish, other aquatic life; mice, gophers, small birds, insects. RANGE: Worldwide except colder regions.



GREAT BLUE HERON Ardea herodias

Common M91

45–47 in. [115–120 cm]. A lean gray bird, often miscalled a "crane"; may stand 4 ft. [122 cm] tall. Long legs, long neck, daggerlike bill, and, in flight, folded neck indicate a heron. Great size and blue-gray color mark it as this species. White subspecies, known as "Great White" Heron, is on p. 78. "Würdemann's" Heron is presumably an intergrade of Great Blue-"Great White" heron complex. VOICE: Deep harsh croaks: frahnk, frahnk, frahnk. SIMILAR SPECIES: Sandhill Crane, Reddish Egret. HABITAT: Marshes, swamps, shores, tidal flats, moist fields.



LITTLE BLUE HERON Egretta caerulea

Fairly common M94

24 in. (61 cm). A small, slender heron. Adult: Bluish slate with deep maroon-brown neck; legs dark, bill pale blue with dark tip. Immature: All white with grayish wingtips. Legs dull olive; base of bill pale blue-gray; lores dull grayish or gray-green. Birds in transition are boldly pied white and dark. See p. 79. VOICE: Loud, nasal scaaah. SIMILAR SPECIES: Reddish Egret slightly larger overall and longer billed, with paler eye, medium gray color overall, and pinkish-based bill in breeding condition. Immature Little Blue like Snowy Egret except bill slightly thicker and grayer based, lores duller, and wingtips (usually) dusky. HABITAT: Marshes, ponds, mudflats, swamps, rice fields.



TRICOLORED HERON Egretta tricolor

Uncommon M95

26 in. (66 cm). A very slender, dark heron with contrasting white belly and white rump. Long slender bill. Adult: Mostly bluish above and on neck. White crown plumes and pale rump plumes when breeding. Immature: Neck rusty brown. VOICE: Series of drawn-out nasal quacks. SIMILAR SPECIES: Great Blue and Little Blue herons. HABITAT: Marshes, swamps, shores.



**REDDISH EGRET** Egretta rufescens

Uncommon M96

30–31 in. [76–79 cm]. Note pinkish, black-tipped bill of adult in breeding condition. Loose-feathered; neck shaggy (adult). Pale eye. Two color morphs: [1] neutral gray, with rusty head and neck (immature duller, with all-dark bill); [2] white with blue-gray legs (see p. 78]. When feeding, races about with spread wings. VOICE: Infrequently vocal; sometimes a harsh kraaak! SIMILAR SPECIES: Gray morph resembles adult Little Blue Heron, which is darker with bill pale bluish at base. White morph suggests Great or Snowy egret, but legs and feet blue-gray. HABITAT: Salt marshes, tidal flats, beaches.





#### GREAT EGRET Ardea alba

Common M92

38–39 in. (97–100 cm). A tall, stately, slender white heron with largely yellow bill. Legs and feet black. When breeding, straight plumes on back extend beyond tail; bill may have dark ridge; lores greenish. When feeding, assumes an eager, forward-leaning pose, with neck extended. VOICE: Low, hoarse croak. Also cuk, cuk, cuk. SIMILAR SPECIES: Snowy Egret has all-black bill, yellow feet. Cattle Egret much smaller. HABITAT: Marshes, ponds, shores, mudflats, moist fields.

LITTLE EGRET Egretta garzetta (not shown)

25 in. (64 cm). A vagrant from Eurasia to East Coast, very similar to Snowy Egret, but slightly larger, larger billed, and with duller lores and feet. In breeding plumage, has two long head plumes. Young birds of both species very difficult to distinguish. VOICE AND HABITAT: Similar to Snowy Egret.



### SNOWY EGRET Egretta thula

Common M93

24 in. (61 cm). Note the "golden slippers." A medium-sized heron, with slender black bill, black legs, and yellow feet. Recurved plumes on back during breeding season. Lores yellow (briefly red in high breeding condition). When feeding, rushes about, shuffling its feet to stir up food. Nonbreeding and young birds may show yellowish or greenish on much of rear side of legs, lores duller. VOICE: Low croak; in colony, a bubbling wulla-wulla-wulla. SIMILAR SPECIES: Great Egret larger, has largely yellow bill. Cattle Egret has yellow bill. White immature Little Blue Heron has blue-gray base to thicker bill, grayer lores, less active feeding style. HABITAT: Marshes, swamps, ponds, shores, tidal flats.



#### **CATTLE EGRET** Bubulcus ibis

Uncommon to common M97

19–20 in. (48–51 cm). Slightly smaller, stockier, and thicker necked than Snowy Egret. In breeding plumage shows buff-orange on crown, breast, and back (but may appear whitish at a distance); little or no buff at other times. Bill relatively short and yellow (orange-pink when nesting). Legs coral pink (nesting); immature may have yellow, greenish, or dusky legs. VOICE: Usually silent. Near breeding colony, a series of nasal grunts. SIMILAR SPECIES: Snowy Egret has black bill. Immature Little Blue Heron has blue-gray bill. Great Egret much larger. HABITAT: Farms, marshes, highway edges. Often associates with cattle.

REDDISH EGRET Egretta rufescens (dark morph on p. 76)

White morph: Note size, structure, feeding behavior, entirely bluegray legs and feet. Adult has pink bill with black tip.

"GREAT WHITE" HERON Ardea herodius (in part) Uncommon, local 47 in. (120 cm). Our largest white heron, found regularly only in s. FL. Formerly believed to be (and may be) a distinct species (A. occidentalis); currently regarded as a subspecies of Great Blue Heron, p. 76. HABITAT: Mangrove keys, salt bays, marsh banks, open mudflats.







#### BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

Nycticorax nycticorax

25 in. (64 cm). This stocky, thick-billed, short-legged heron is usually hunched and inactive; flies to feed at dusk. Adult: Black back and cap contrast with pale gray or whitish underparts. Eyes red; legs yellowish or greenish (pinkish in high breeding condition). Breeding birds have two long white head plumes. Immature: Brown, streaked and spotted with buff and white. Bill with greenish base; eyes small, reddish. Voice: Flat quok! or quark! Most often heard at dusk. SIMILAR SPECIES: Immature may be confused with American Bittern and immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. HABITAT: Marshes, shores; roosts in trees.



#### YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

Uncommon M100

Nyctanassa violacea

24 in. (61 cm). A chunky heron with longer neck and legs than Black-crowned. *Adult:* Gray overall; head black with buffy-white cheek patch and yellowish crown. *Immature:* Similar to young Black-crowned Night-Heron, but grayer, more finely streaked and spotted; wing coverts have pale edges. Bill thicker and lacks greenish yellow base. In flight, entire foot and some of lower leg extend beyond tail. **VOICE:** *Quark*, higher pitched than call of Black-crowned. **HABITAT:** Swamps, mangroves, bayous, marshes, streams.



GREEN HERON Butorides virescens

17–18 in. (43–46 cm). A small dark heron that looks crowlike in flight (but flies with bowed wingbeats). When alarmed, stretches neck, elevates shaggy crest, and jerks tail. Adult: Comparatively short legs are greenish yellow or orange (when breeding). Back with blue-green gloss; neck deep chestnut. Immature: Streaked neck and breast, browner above. VOICE: Loud skyow or skewk; series of kuck notes. HABITAT: Lakes, ponds, marshes, streams.



LEAST BITTERN *Ixobrychus exilis*12–13 in. (31–33 cm). Very small, thin, furtive; straddles reeds. Note large *buff wing patch* (lacking in rails). Back black in adult male, rusty brown in female and immature. The dark "Cory's" form has not been recorded since the 1930s. **VOICE**: Song a low, muted *coo-coo-coo;* also gives a raspy, rail-like *khak-khak-khak* series. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Green Heron. **HABITAT**: Freshwater marshes, reedy ponds.



AMERICAN BITTERN Botaurus lentiginosus Uncommon M89 28 in. (71 cm). A stocky brown heron; size of a young night-heron but warmer brown with longer yellowish bill. In flight, entire trailing edge of wing is black and bill held horizontal. Wingbeats much more rapid than night-herons'. At rest or when approached, often stands rigid, bill pointing up. Black stripe shows on neck. VOICE: "Pumping" sound, a low, deep, resonant oong-ka' choonk, etc. Flushing call kok-kok-kok. SIMILAR SPECIES: Immature night-herons, Green Heron, and [much smaller] Least Bittern. HABITAT: Marshes, reedy lakes. Unlike night-herons, seldom sits in trees.



## LIMPKINS Family Aramidae

A monotypic family, represented by one species. FOOD: Mostly large freshwater snails (mainly apple snails); a few insects, frogs. RANGE: Se. U.S., W. Indies, s. Mex. to Argentina.



LIMPKIN Aramus guarauna

26 in. (66 cm). A large, spotted swamp wader, a bit larger than an ibis. Long legs and drooping bill give it an ibislike aspect, but no ibis is brown with white streaks. Flight cranelike, with smart upward flaps. VOICE: Piercing, repeated wail, kree-ow, etc., especially at night and on cloudy days. SIMILAR SPECIES: Immature ibises, night-herons. HABITAT: Fresh swamps, marshes with large snails.

### IBISES AND SPOONBILLS

### Family Threskiornithidae

Ibises are long-legged, heronlike waders with slender, decurved bill. Spoonbills have spatulate bill. Both fly in Vs or lines and, unlike herons, fly with neck outstretched, alternately flapping and gliding. FOOD: Small crustaceans, small fish, insects, etc. RANGE: Tropical and temperate regions.



WHITE-FACED IBIS Plegadis chihi

23–24 in. (58–62 cm). Very similar to Glossy Ibis. Breeding adult: Note white border around face meets behind eye; variably red legs; pinkish to red lores; red eye. Immature and nonbreeding adult: Lacks white on face; pale streaks on head and neck. VOICE: Like Glossy. SIMILAR SPECIES: Glossy Ibis has thin cobalt blue borders on face, which do not meet behind dark eye; dark lores; less or no red on legs. Some immatures may be impossible to identify at least until the iris of young White-faced turns red (as early as midwinter). Hybrids with White-faced are known. HABITAT: Freshwater marshes, irrigated land.



**GLOSSY IBIS** Plegadis falcinellus

23–24 in. [58–62 cm]. A medium-sized marsh wader with long decurved bill, thin pale blue lines edging dark face. At a distance, appears quite black, like a large dark curlew. Flies in lines with neck extended, flapping and gliding with quick wingbeats. Adult: Body a deep glossy bronzy chestnut. In nonbreeding season, duller with pale streaks on head and neck. Immature: Browner with no gloss. **VOICE**: Guttural ka-onk, repeated; low kruk, kruk. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Whitefaced lbis. **HABITAT**: Marshes, rice fields, swamps.



WHITE IBIS Eudocimus albus

24–25 in. (62–64 cm). Adult: White. Note red face, long decurved red bill, and restricted black in wingtips. Flies with neck outstretched; flocks fly in "roller-coasting" strings, flapping and gliding; may soar in circles. Immature: Dark brownish, with white belly, white rump, decurved orangey pink bill. VOICE: Low and nasal uuhhnn! or quaahh!

SIMILAR SPECIES: Wood Stork, Glossy Ibis. HABITAT: Salt, brackish, and fresh marshes, rice fields, mangroves.





ROSEATE SPOONBILL Platalea ajaja

Uncommon M104

32 in. (81 cm). A *bright pink* wading bird with long, flat, spoonlike bill. When feeding, sweeps its bill from side to side. In flight, extends neck and often glides between series of wing strokes. *Adult: Shell pink*, with blood red "drip" on shoulders; tail orange. Head naked, greenish gray. *Immature:* Spatulate bill; whitish plumage tinged pale pink, brightest on underwing. **VOICE:** At nesting colony, a low grunting croak. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American Flamingo. **HABITAT:** Coastal marshes. lagoons, mudflats, mangroves.

## STORKS Family Ciconiidae

Large, long-legged, and heronlike, with straight, recurved, or decurved bill. Some have naked head. Sexes alike. Walk is sedate; flight deliberate, with neck and legs extended. FOOD: Frogs, crustaceans, lizards, rodents. RANGE: S. U.S. to S. America; Africa, Eurasia, E. Indies, Australia.



WOOD STORK Mycteria americana Uncommon M105 39–41 in. (100–105 cm). Very large; wingspan 5½ ft. (168 cm). White, with dark naked head and much black in wing; black tail. Bill long, thick, slightly decurved. Immature: Bill yellowish. When feeding, keeps head down and walks. In flight, alternately flaps and glides. Often soars very high on thermals. VOICE: Hoarse croak; usually silent. SIMILAR SPECIES: In flight, American White Pelican, Whooping

### FLAMINGOS Family Phoenicopteridae

Crane. HABITAT: Marshes, ponds, lagoons.

Pinkish white to vermilion wading birds with extremely long neck and legs. Thick bill is bent sharply down and lined with numerous lamellae for straining food. FOOD: Small mollusks, crustaceans, blue-green algae, diatoms. RANGE: W. Indies, Yucatán, Galápagos, S. America, Africa, s. Eurasia, India.

AMERICAN FLAMINGO Phoenicopterus ruber

46–47 in. (115–118 cm). W. Indian subspecies of this widespread flamingo is an extremely slim, rose pink wading bird as tall as a Great Blue Heron but much more slender. Note thick, sharply bent bill. Feeds with bill or head immersed. In flight, shows much black in wings; extremely long neck is extended droopily in front, and long legs trail behind, giving impression the bird might as easily fly backward as forward. Pale, washed-out birds may be escapees from zoos, as color often fades under captive conditions. Immatures also much paler than normal adults. VOICE: Gooselike calls, gabbling: ar-honk, etc. SIMILAR SPECIES: Roseate Spoonbill. Escapees of all five other flamingo species have been recorded in N. America. RANGE: Closest colonies in Bahamas, Cuba, and Yucatán. Rare visitor to Florida Bay; accidental elsewhere. HABITAT: Salt flats, saline lagoons.



## CRANES Family Gruidae

Stately birds, more robust than herons, often with red facial skin. Note tufted appearance over rump. In flight, neck extended. Migrate in Vs or lines like geese. Large herons are sometimes wrongly referred to as cranes. FOOD: Omnivorous. RANGE: Nearly worldwide except Cen. and S. America and Oceania.



WHOOPING CRANE *Grus americana*51–52 in. [130–132 cm]; wingspan 7½ ft. [229 cm]. The tallest N. American bird and one of the rarest. Large *white* crane with *red face*. Primaries *black*. Young birds washed with rust, especially on head. VOICE: Shrill, buglelike trumpeting, *ker-loo! ker-lee-oo!* SIMILAR SPECIES: Wood Stork has dark head, more black in wing. Egrets and swans lack black in wings. See also American White Pelican and Snow Goose. HABITAT: Prairies, fields and pastures, coastal marshes; in summer, muskeg. *Endangered* but slowly increasing.

COMMON CRANE Grus grus

44–50 in. (112–127 cm). Eurasian. Note black neck, white cheek stripe. Feathers arching over rump are blacker than those of Sandhill Crane. This stray (probably from Asia) has been recorded in NE, KS, IN, and QC and should be looked for among flocks of Sandhill Cranes. Some escapees have also occurred (e.g., in NY, NJ).



SANDHILL CRANE Grus canadensis Uncommon M147 36–48 in. (90–122 cm); wingspan 6–7 ft. (183–213 cm). Note bald red crown, bustlelike rear. A long-legged, long-necked, gray bird, often stained with rust. Immature browner. In flight, neck extended and wings flap with an upward flick. VOICE: Rolling, bugled garoo-a-a-a, repeated. Young birds also give a very different, cricketlike call. SIMILAR SPECIES: Great Blue Heron is sometimes wrongly called a crane. HABITAT: Prairies, fields, marshes, tundra. Lesser (subspecies) nests in tundra, Greater (subspecies) in grasslands and bogs.



# NEW WORLD VULTURES Family Cathartidae

Blackish; often seen soaring high in wide circles. Their naked heads are relatively smaller than those of hawks and eagles. Vultures are often locally called "buzzards." Silent away from nest site. FOOD: Carrion. RANGE: S. Canada to Cape Horn.



TURKEY VULTURE Cathartes aura (see also p. 114) Common M107 26–27 in. (66–69 cm); wingspan 6 ft. (183 cm). Nearly eagle-sized. Overhead, note dark color with two-toned wings (flight feathers paler). Soars with wings in dihedral (shallow V); rocks and tilts unsteadily. At close range, small, naked red head of adult is evident; immatures have dark head. SIMILAR SPECIES: Black Vulture; eagles have larger, feathered head, shorter tail, and soar in a steady flat plane. HABITAT: Usually seen soaring in sky or perched on dead trees, posts, or on ground feeding, or sunning with wings outstretched.



BLACK VULTURE Coragyps atratus (see also p. 114) Common M106 25 in. [64 cm]; wingspan less than 5 ft. [152 cm]. This dark scavenger is readily identified by short, square tail that barely projects beyond rear edge of wings and by whitish patch toward wingtip. Legs longer and whiter than Turkey Vulture's. Note quick, shallow flapping, alternating with short glides. SIMILAR SPECIES: Turkey Vulture has longer, rounded tail; flapping is slower, less frequent; soars with noticeable dihedral. Caution: Young Turkey Vulture has dark head. HABITAT: Similar to Turkey Vulture's but avoids higher mountains.

# CARACARAS Family Falconidae

Caracaras are large, long-legged birds of prey, some with naked face. Sexes alike. FOOD: Our one U.S. species feeds mostly on carrion. RANGE: S. U.S. to Tierra del Fuego, Falklands. See also falcons, p. 104.



#### CRESTED CARACARA

Uncommon, local M131

Caracara cheriway (see also p. 112)

23 in. [58 cm]. A large, long-legged, big-headed, long-necked bird of prey, often seen feeding with vultures. Adult: Black crest and red face distinctive. In flight, underbody presents alternating areas of light and dark: white chest, black belly, and whitish, dark-tipped tail. Note combination of pale wing patches, pale chest, and pale tail panel, giving impression of "white at all four corners." Immature: Browner, streaked on breast. VOICE: Weird, guttural series of croaks and rattles, though seldom heard. HABITAT: Prairies, rangeland.



# BIRDS OF PREY

We tend to call all diurnal (day-flying) raptors with a hooked bill and hooked claws "birds of prey." Actually, they fall into two quite separate families:

- The hawk group (Accipitridae) kites, harriers, accipiters, buteos, and eagles
- 2. The falcon group (Falconidae) falcons and caracaras

The illustrations on the following pages present the most obvious field marks. For a more in-depth treatment of variable plumages, see the various specialty guides that deal with raptors.

The many raptors can be sorted out by their basic shapes and flight styles. When not flapping, they may alternate between soaring, with wings fully extended and tail fanned, and gliding, with wings slightly pulled back and tail folded. These two pages show some basic silhouettes.



BUTEOS are stocky, with broad wings and a wide, rounded tail. They soar and wheel high in the open sky.



ACCIPITERS have a small head, short rounded wings, and a longish tail. They typically fly with several rapid beats and a short glide.



HARRIERS are slim, with long, slim, round-tipped wings and a long tail. They fly in open country and glide low, with a vulturelike dihedral.



KITES (except for Snail Kite and Hook-billed Kite) are falcon-shaped, but unlike falcons, they are buoyant gliders, not power fliers.



FALCONS have long pointed wings and a long tail. Their wing strokes are strong and rapid.

# EAGLES, KITES, HAWKS, AND ALLIES

# Family Accipitridae

Diurnal birds of prey, with hooked bill, hooked talons. Though persecuted and misunderstood by many, they are very important in the ecosystem. RANGE: Almost worldwide.

# EAGLES

Distinguished from buteos, to which they are related, by their greater size, longer wings, larger bills. FOOD: Golden Eagle eats chiefly rabbits, large rodents, snakes, game birds; Bald Eagle, fish, injured waterfowl, carrion.



#### BALD EAGLE

Uncommon M114

Haliaeetus leucocephalus (see also p. 114) 31–37 in. [79–94 cm]; wingspan 7–8 ft. [213–244 cm]. National bird of U.S. Adult: With its white head and white tail, this bird is "all field mark." Bill yellow, massive. Wings held flat when soaring. Immature: Variable, depending on age; first year mostly dark with whitish in wing linings. Two- and three-year-olds mottled with white on belly and back; some show pale head with dark eye patch, reminiscent of Osprey. VOICE: Harsh, high-pitched cackle, kleek-kik-ik-ik, or lower kak-kak. SIMILAR SPECIES: Golden Eagle, Turkey Vulture. HABITAT: Coasts, rivers, large lakes; other open country in migration.



GOLDEN EAGLE Aquila chrysaetos (see also p. 114) Scarce M130 30–40 in. (76–102 cm); wingspan 7 ft. (213 cm). This majestic eagle glides and soars flat-winged with occasional shallow wingbeats. Adult: Uniformly dark with wash of buffy gold on nape. Immature: In flight, shows white flashes at base of primaries and base of tail. VOICE: Seldom heard, a yelping bark, kya; also whistled notes. SIMILAR SPECIES: Immature Bald Eagle has larger head, usually has extensive white in wing linings; never shows clean-cut tail band. Darkmorph Rough-legged Hawk is smaller, has more white in wings. HABITAT: Open mountains, foothills, plains, marshes, open country.

# OSPREYS

Formerly considered a monotypic family comprising a single large bird of prey that hovers above water and plunges feet-first for fish. Sexes alike. FOOD: Fish. RANGE: All continents except Antarctica.



**OSPREY** Pandion haliaetus (see also p. 114) Fairly common M108 23–24½ in. (58–62 cm); wingspan to 6 ft. (183 cm). Hovers over water and plunges feet-first for fish (Bald Eagle picks up fish from surface). Adult: Blackish above, white below; head white with broad black mask. Flies with gull-like crook in wings, showing black "wrist" patch below. Juvenile: Has scaly pattern on back. **VOICE**: Series of sharp, annoyed whistles: cheep, cheep or yewk, yewk, etc. Near nest, a frenzied cheereek! SIMILAR SPECIES: Large gulls. Immature Bald Eagle may show dusky "mask." **HABITAT**: Rivers, lakes, marshes, coasts.



# KITES

Graceful birds of prey of southern distribution. U.S. species (except Snail Kite and Hook-billed Kite) are falcon-shaped with pointed wings. FOOD: Large insects, reptiles, rodents. Snail Kite and Hook-billed Kite specialize in snails.



**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** Elanoides forficatus Uncommon M110 22–23 in. (55–58 cm). A sleek, elegant, black-and-white hawk that flies with incomparable grace. Note blue-black upperparts, clean white head and underparts, and long, mobile, deeply forked tail. **VOICE:** Shrill, keen *ee-ee-ee* or *pee-pee-pee*. **HABITAT:** Wooded river swamps and pine lands, where it feeds mainly on snakes.



# MISSISSIPPI KITE Fairly common M113

Ictinia mississippiensis (see also p. 108)
14–14½ in. (36–37 cm). Falcon-shaped, graceful, and gray. Gregarious; spends much time soaring. Adult: Dark above, lighter below; head pale gray; tail and underwing blackish. No other falconlike bird has black unbarred tail. Broad white patch shows on rear edge of upperwing (not visible from below). Immature: Lacks pale patch on wing, has weak white bands on tail. Juvenile: Heavily streaked on rusty underparts. VOICE: Usually silent; near nest, a two-syllable phee-phew. SIMILAR SPECIES: Male Northern Harrier. HABITAT: Nests in riparian woodlands, residential areas, groves, shelterbelts.



### WHITE-TAILED KITE

Uncommon M111

Elanus leucurus (see also p. 108)

15½-16 in. (39-41 cm). This whitish kite is falcon-shaped, with long pointed wings, long grayish white tail, and black shoulders. Overhead, shows oval black patch at carpal joint ("wrist") of underwing. Soars and glides like a small gull; often hovers. Adult: Pale gray above, with white head and underparts. Juvenile: Like adult, but has rusty breast, brown back, and narrow dark band near tip of pale grayish tail. VOICE: Whistled kew kew kew, abrupt or drawn out. HABITAT: Open groves, river valleys, marshes, grasslands, roadsides.



SNAIL KITE Rostrhamus sociabilis

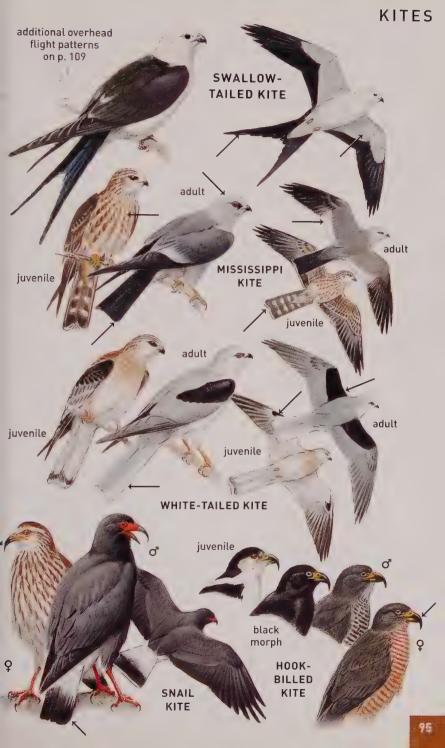
17 in. (43 cm). Suggests Northern Harrier at a distance, but with broader wings and without gliding, tilting flight; flies more floppily on cupped wings, head down, searching for snails. Male: All black except for broad white band across base of tail; legs, bill, and face red. Female: Heavily streaked on buffy body; white stripe over eye; white band across black tail. VOICE: Cackling kor-ee-ee-a. HABITAT: Fresh-

water marshes and canals with apple snails (Pomacea spp.).



HOOK-BILLED KITE Chondrohierax uncinatus

16½-17½ in. (42-45 cm). A scarce resident in s. TX. Bill has long, hooked tip. Legs yellow. Plumage varies from blackish or grayish in males to rufous brown in females to much paler below in juveniles. Adults have barred underparts. Note paddle-shaped wings. HABITAT: Subtropical woodlands. Spends most of its time in the woods, soaring only briefly as it travels to and from feeding areas.



# ACCIPITERS (Bird Hawks)

Long-tailed woodland raptors with short, rounded wings, adapted for hunting among trees. Typical flight mixes quick beats and a glide. Sexes similar; females larger. Size helps distinguish species. FOOD: Chiefly birds, some small mammals. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's often seen hunting birds at backyard feeders.



#### SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

Fairly common M116

Accipiter striatus (see also p. 106)

10–14 in. [25–36 cm]. A small, slim woodland hawk, with slim square-tipped tail and short, rounded wings. Adult: Dark back, rusty-barred breast. Immature: Dark brown above, thickly streaked with rusty brown on underparts. VOICE: A high kik, kik, kik given near nest. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female Cooper's obviously larger, with larger head, rounded tail, with thicker white tip, thicker legs; male Cooper's and female Sharp-shinned closer in size. Adult Cooper's has more defined cap. Immature Cooper's tawnier on head and has whiter, more finely streaked breast. HABITAT: Breeds in extensive forests; in migration and winter, open woodlands, edges, residential areas.



#### COOPER'S HAWK

Fairly common M117

Accipiter cooperii (see also p. 106)

14–20 in. (36–51 cm). Very similar to Sharp-shinned Hawk but larger, particularly female. See Sharp-shinned Hawk. VOICE: A rapid nasal kek, kek, kek; suggests a flicker. Also a sapsucker-like mewing. SIMI-LAR SPECIES: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk. HABITAT: Like Sharp-shinned but prefers more open areas.



#### NORTHERN GOSHAWK

Scarce M118

Accipiter gentilis (see also p. 106)

21–26 in. [53–66 cm]. Larger, broader-winged, broader-tailed, more buteo-like than Cooper's Hawk. Adult: Broad white stripe over eye. Underparts pale gray. Immature: Buffier than immature Cooper's with bolder eyebrow, more extensive streaking below, and wavy, irregular tail banding. VOICE: Kak, kak, kak; heavier, slower than Cooper's. SIMILAR SPECIES: Cooper's Hawk. HABITAT: Coniferous and mixed forests; forest edges. Periodic irruptions in fall and winter farther to south.

# HARRIERS

Slim raptors with slim wings, long tail. Flight low, languid, gliding, with wings held in shallow V (dihedral). Sexes not alike. They hunt in open country.



# **NORTHERN HARRIER**

Uncommon M115

Circus cyaneus (see also p. 106)

18–21 in. (46–54 cm). A slim, long-winged, long-tailed raptor of open country. Glides and flies buoyantly, unsteadily low over ground, with wings held above horizontal, suggesting Turkey Vulture. All plumages show white rump patch. Adult male: Pale gray and whitish, with black wing tips. Adult female: Brown, with heavy streaks. Immature: Russet below without streaks. VOICE: Weak, nasal whistle, pee. SIMILAR SPECIES: Short-eared Owl. HABITAT: Marshes, fields, prairies.

# ACCIPITERS AND HARRIER adult additional overhead flight patterns on pp. 107 and 109 SHARPjuvenile SHINNED HAWK accipiters have small head. short rounded wings, long tail adult juvenile COOPER'S **HAWK** NORTHERN GOSHAWK adult juvenile juvenile NORTHERN HARRIER

# BUTEOS AND BUTEO-LIKE HAWKS

Large, thickset hawks, with broad wings and wide, rounded tail. Many buteos habitually soar high in wide circles. Much variation; sexes similar, females slightly larger. Young birds usually streaked below. Dark morphs often occur. FOOD: Small mammals, sometimes small birds, reptiles, grasshoppers. RANGE: Widespread in New and Old Worlds.



GRAY HAWK Buteo plagiatus (see also p. 108) Scarce, local M122 17 in. [43 cm]; wingspan 3 ft. [91 cm]. A small buteo. Adult: Distinguished by its gray back, thickly barred gray breast, white rump band, and banded tail (similar to Broad-winged Hawk's). Immature: Narrowly barred tail, striped buffy breast, bold face pattern, white U-shaped bar across rump. VOICE: Drawn-out whistles, ka-lee-oh or kleeeeoo. SIMILAR SPECIES: Young Broad-winged Hawk has weaker face pattern, lacks white U on rump, has shorter tail, more pointed wings. HABITAT: Streamside and subtropical woodlands.



## WHITE-TAILED HAWK

Uncommon, local M125

Buteo albicaudatus (see also p. 108)

21–23 in. (53–58 cm); wingspan 4 ft. (122 cm). Large, with long pointed wings. Flies with marked dihedral. Adult: White underparts contrasting with dark flight feathers; white tail with black band, shoulders rusty red. Immature: Narrower wings and longer tail than adult. Blackish below with white breast patch. Pale U across upper tail. May show Red-tailed Hawk-like dark belly patch. Tail pale gray with weak barring. VOICE: Nasal note followed by high-pitched series of doubled notes: aaraahh kee-REEK, kee-REEK kee-REEK. SIMILAR SPECIES: Adult Swainson's Hawk smaller, has dark chest. Juvenile White-tailed may be confused with other large buteos, particularly Red-tailed Hawk. HABITAT: Coastal prairies, brushlands.



#### HARRIS'S HAWK

Fairly common, local M119

Parabuteo unicinctus (see also p. 112)

20–21 in. [50–53 cm]; wingspan 3½ ft. [107 cm]. A blackish brown buteo-like hawk, with flashing white rump and white band at tip of tail. Often hunts cooperatively in small groups. Adult: Chestnut areas on thighs and shoulders. Immature: Light, streaked underparts, rusty shoulders; conspicuous white at base of tail. VOICE: Low-pitched, harsh raaaah! SIMILAR SPECIES: Dark-morph buteos. HABITAT: Mesquite, arid country.



## **ZONE-TAILED HAWK**

Rare, local M126

Buteo albonotatus (see also p. 112)

20 in. (51 cm); wingspan 4 ft. (122 cm). Dull black, with more slender wings than most other buteos. Often mistaken for Turkey Vulture because of proportions, two-toned underwing, and up-tilted wings — but hawk has larger feathered head, square-tipped tail, barred underwing, yellow cere and legs. Adult: White tail bands (pale gray on topside). Immature: Narrower tail bands, small white spots on breast. VOICE: Nasal, drawn-out keeeeah. SIMILAR SPECIES: Turkey Vulture, dark-morph buteos. HABITAT: Riparian woodlands, canyons.



# ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK



Buteo lagopus (see also pp. 110 and 112)

21–22 in. (53–55 cm). This hawk of open country often hovers on beating wings, more so than other buteos. Longer, narrower wings and tail than other Buteos except Ferruginous Hawk. Many birds show dark belly and black patch at "wrist" (carpal joint) of underwing. Some adult males have dark bib but lack blackish belly band. Tail white, with broad black band or bands toward tip. White flash on upperwing. Legs feathered, feet small. Dark morph may lack extensive white on tail, but broad terminal band and extensive white on underwing are good field marks. VOICE: High-pitched squeal, mostly near nest site. SIMILAR SPECIES: Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, dark-morph Ferruginous Hawk. HABITAT: Nests on tundra escarpments, Arctic coasts; in winter, open fields, plains, marshes.



# RED-SHOULDERED HAWK Uncommon to fairly common M120

Buteo lineatus (see also p. 110)
16–20 in. (40–50 cm). In flight, note translucent "window" across primaries, longish tail. Adult: Black-and-white bands on wings and tail; rufous shoulders, wing linings, and underparts. Immature: Streaked below; recognized by proportions, and, in flight, wing "windows." Florida birds paler. VOICE: Two-syllable scream, kee-yer (dropping inflection), repeated in series. SIMILAR SPECIES: Broad-winged Hawk has paler wing linings, more pointed wing, broader bands on tail, lacks wing "windows." See also Cooper's and Red-tailed hawks. HABITAT: Damp woodlands, riparian areas, swamps.



### BROAD-WINGED HAWK

Fairly common M121

Buteo platypterus (see also pp. 110 and 112)

15–16 in. (38–41 cm). A small, chunky, crow-sized buteo. Often seen migrating in "kettles." Adult: Note tail banding: high overhead shows one obvious white band (Red-shouldered shows multiple bands). Underwings whitish, trimmed with black. Immature: Streaked along sides of breast and belly; chest often unmarked. Tail has several narrow dark bands; terminal band wider. Rare dark morph (mostly in West) has dark body and wing linings but shows usual Broad-winged tail pattern. Voice: Shrill pwe-eeeeee. SIMILAR SPECIES: Young Redshouldered Hawk similar to immature Broad-winged but has streaking heaviest on breast, barred secondaries, blunter wingtips with bold pale "window." Missing flight feathers on molting Broadwingeds in spring may appear like Red-shouldered's pale wing crescents. See also accipiters. HABITAT: Woods, groves.



#### SHORT-TAILED HAWK

Uncommon, local M123

Buteo brachyurus (see also p. 112)

15–16 in. (38–41 cm). A crow-sized buteo. Two morphs: (1) blackish brown body and black wing linings; (2) blackish above, white below, two-toned underwing. No other FL buteo is blackish or clear white below. VOICE: Descending, high-pitched scream: kleeear! SIMILAR SPECIES: Broad-winged Hawk in flight shows slimmer wings, whiter flight feathers below. Often perches in open, unlike Short-tailed. See Swainson's Hawk. HABITAT: Woodlands, cypress swamps, mangroves; often soars with vultures.





# **RED-TAILED HAWK**

Common M127

Buteo jamaicensis (see also pp. 110 and 112)

19–22 in. (48–56 cm). The common hawk of roadsides and woodland edges. Soaring adults show *rufous* on topside of tail, pale pinkish below. Also note mottled *white patches* on scapulars. Overhead, a dependable mark on all but blackish birds is *dark patagial bar* on fore edge of wing. Immatures have brownish tail with narrow, dark banding. Underparts of typical Red-taileds are "zoned" (light breast, dark *belly band*). Some birds lack belly band. Dark and rufous morphs occur mostly in West and are scarce in our area. **VOICE**: Asthmatic squeal, *keeer-r-r* (slurring downward). **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Other buteos. **HABITAT**: Open country, woodlands, prairie groves, roadsides.

# "HARLAN'S" RED-TAILED HAWK

Uncommon

Buteo jamaicensis harlani (see also p. 112)

A variable, usually blackish subspecies of Red-tailed. Note tail pattern: usually dirty white with mottling and freckling of gray, black, sometimes red, merging into dark subterminal band. Rare light morph has similar tail pattern, but body whitish below, dark above. RANGE: Breeds from cen. AK to nw. Canada. Winters primarily from Pacific Northwest diagonally to TX and lower Mississippi Valley.

## "KRIDER'S" RED-TAILED HAWK

Uncommon

Buteo jamaicensis krideri

A pale prairie morph of Red-tailed, with whitish tail that may be tinged with pale rufous. RANGE: Prairies and plains of Canada and n. cen. U.S. Winters south through plains to TX, LA.



#### SWAINSON'S HAWK

Fairly common M124

Buteo swainsoni (see also pp. 110 and 112)

19–21 in. (48–53 cm). A buteo of the plains. Slimmer than Red-tailed Hawk, with narrower, more pointed wings. When gliding, holds wings slightly above horizontal. When perched, wingtips extend to tail tip. In light and intermediate morphs, overhead, pale wing linings contrast with dark flight feathers. Adult: Typical adults have dark breastband; dark and rufous morph birds best identified by shape and shaded flight feathers. Immature: Variably streaked below; best identified by shape and wing pattern. Many subadults are distinctly pale-headed. VOICE: Shrill, plaintive whistle, kreeeeeeer. SIMILAR SPECIES: Swainson's wing shape distinctive for a buteo. Lacks white scapular patches of bulkier Red-tailed. In TX, see White-tailed Hawk. HABITAT: Plains, grasslands, agricultural land, open hills, sparse trees.

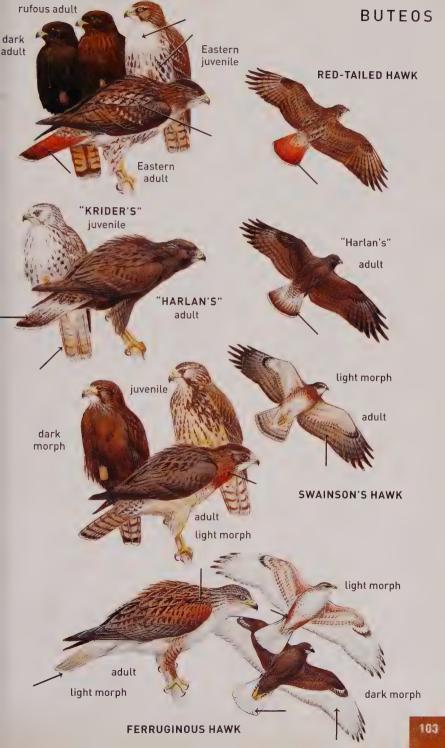


#### FERRUGINOUS HAWK

Scarce M128

Buteo regalis (see also pp. 108 and 112)

23–24 in. (58–61 cm). A large buteo of plains. Note large bill, long gape line, long tapered wings with pale panel on upper side, whitish tail. Adult: Rufous above, whitish head and breast, rufous wash on tail, rufous thighs. Dark morphs rufous brown with whitish flight feathers, whitish tail. Immatures: Lack rufous tones. SIMILAR SPECIES: Red-tailed and Rough-legged hawks. HABITAT: Plains, grasslands, agricultural fields.



# FALCONS Family Falconidae

Falcons are streamlined birds of prey with pointed wings, longish tail. FOOD: Birds, rodents, insects. RANGE: Almost worldwide. See also Caracaras, p. 88.



**GYRFALCON** Falco rusticolus (see also p. 106) Scarce M134 20–25 in. [51–64 cm]. A very large Arctic falcon, more robust than Peregrine. On perched birds, wingtips do not reach near tail tip. Thinner mustache. There are brown, gray, and white color morphs. **VOICE**: Harsh kak-kak-kak series. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Peregrine and Prairie falcons. **HABITAT**: Arctic barrens, seacoasts, open mountains; in winter, open country.



PRAIRIE FALCON Falco mexicanus (see also p. 106) Scarce M136 16–19 in. (41–50 cm). Like a sandy-colored Peregrine, with white eyebrow, narrower mustache, blackish patches in axillars ("wingpits"). VOICE: Harsh kak-kak-kak around nest. HABITAT: Open country, from alpine tundra to grasslands, agricultural land.

## PEREGRINE FALCON

Uncommon M135



Falco peregrinus (see also p. 106)
16–20 in. (41–51 cm). Formerly endangered; reintroduced in many regions. Size and strong face pattern indicate this species. Adult: Slaty-backed, light-chested, barred and spotted below. Immature: Brown, heavily streaked below. VOICE: A rapid kek kek kek kek. SIMILAR SPECIES: Merlin, Gyrfalcon. HABITAT: Nests on cliffs and ledges; open country, from mountains to coasts. Established as a reintroduced breeder (on building ledges and bridges) in many major cities in East and Midwest.

APLOMADO FALCON Falco femoralis (see also p. 106) Rare, local 15–16½ in. (38–42 cm). Slightly smaller than Peregrine. Long wings and tail. Note dark underwing and belly, contrasting with pale breast. RANGE: Formerly a very rare visitor from Mex., but population in U.S. growing because of reintroduction program. HABITAT: Arid brush and grasslands, yucca flats, coastal prairie.



#### AMERICAN KESTREL

Fairly common M132

Falco sparverius (see also p. 106)

9½–10½ in. (24–27 cm). A falcon the size of a large jay. No other *small* hawk has *rufous back or tail*. Note double mustache. *Hovers* for prey on rapidly beating wings. **VOICE**: Rapid, high *klee klee klee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Merlin rarely perches on wires, does not hover. **HABITAT**: Open country, farmland, dead trees, wires, roadsides.



MERLIN Falco columbarius (see also p. 106) Uncommon M133 11–12 in. (28–31 cm). Slightly larger than Kestrel. Note dark coloration, weak face pattern, banded tail. Faster and steadier in flight than Kestrel. Prairie subspecies (richardsoni) paler than widespread taiga form. VOICE: High, rapid kee-kee-kee. HABITAT: Open woods, grasslands, tundra; in migration and winter, also open country, marshes, beaches, locally in neighborhoods.



# ACCIPITERS AND FALCONS OVERHEAD



Accipiters (bird hawks) have short rounded wings and a long tail. They fly with several rapid beats and a short glide. They are better adapted to hunting in the woodlands than most other hawks. Females are larger than males. Immatures (not shown) have a streaked breast. Frequently soar.

## COOPER'S HAWK Accipiter cooperii

p. 96

Underparts rusty (adult). Tail rounded and tipped with broad white terminal band. Note head and neck projecting noticeably beyond leading edge of wing.

# NORTHERN GOSHAWK Accipiter gentilis

p. 96

Adult with bold facial pattern, underbody heavily barred with pale gray. Tail and wings broad.

## SHARP-SHINNED HAWK Accipiter striatus

p. 96

Small. When folded, tail square or notched, with narrow pale tip. Fanned tail slightly rounded. Note small head and short neck barely projecting beyond wing.



Falcons have long, pointed wings and a relatively long tail. Wing strokes are typically rapid and continuous. Frequently soar.

# PEREGRINE FALCON Falco peregrinus

p. 104

Falcon shape; large; bold face pattern; longer wings than Merlin or Kestrel.

# AMERICAN KESTREL Falco sparverius

p. 104

Small; banded rufous tail. Paler underwing and less heavily marked underparts than Merlin.

## **MERLIN** Falco columbarius

p. 104

Small; heavily marked underparts and dark underwing; heavily banded tail.

## **GYRFALCON** Falco rusticolus

p. 104

Larger than Peregrine Falcon, without that bird's contrasting facial pattern, and with broader wings and tail. Varies in color from brown to gray to white.

# APLOMADO FALCON Falco femoralis

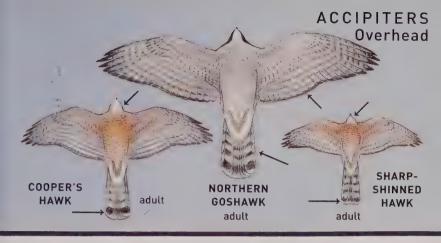
p. 104

Black belly band or vest, light chest, orange undertail. Tail barred with black. Very long wings and tail.

## PRAIRIE FALCON Falco mexicanus

p. 104

Size of Peregrine Falcon. Dark axillars ("wingpits") and inner coverts.





# BUTEOS, HARRIER, AND KITES OVERHEAD

# FERRUGINOUS HAWK Buteo regalis

p. 102

Whitish underparts, with dark V formed by reddish thighs in adult. Wings and tail long for a buteo. A bird of western plains, barely enters western edge of our area.

# GRAY HAWK Buteo plagiatus

p. 98

Stocky. Broadly banded tail (suggestive of Broad-winged Hawk); adults have gray-barred underparts. Uncommon resident of Rio Grande Valley.

# WHITE-TAILED HAWK Buteo albicaudatus

p. 98

Adult: Whitish underparts, gray head. White tail with black band near tip. Soars with marked dihedral. Resident of coastal prairie of TX.

## NORTHERN HARRIER Circus cyaneus

p. 96

Male: Whitish wings with black tips and dark trailing edge. Gray hood.

Female: Brown, heavily streaked; note long, slim wings and tail.

Immature (not shown): Warm brown, unstreaked body, dark head.

From above, all plumages have white rump.

# WHITE-TAILED KITE Elanus leucurus

p. 94

Adult: Falcon-shaped. White body; whitish tail; dark underside to primaries.

## MISSISSIPPI KITE Ictinia mississippiensis

p. 94

Falcon-shaped. Adult: Pale gray head, black tail, dark gray and blackish wings, gray body.

Immature: Streaked breast; banded square-tipped or notched tail.



Kites (except Snail Kite and Hook-billed Kite) are falcon-shaped but, unlike falcons, are buoyant gliders, not power fliers. All are southern.



# BUTEOS OVERHEAD

## **RED-TAILED HAWK** Buteo jamaicensis

p. 102

Dark patagial bar at fore edge of wing is best mark from below. Adult: Light chest, streaked belly (often forming belly band); tail plain, with hint of red and little or no banding.

Immature: Streaked below, has light tail banding.

### SWAINSON'S HAWK Buteo swainsoni

p. 102

Adult: Dark breast-band. Long, pointed, two-toned wings. Immature: Similar, but has streaks on underbody.

#### RED-SHOULDERED HAWK Buteo lineatus

p. 100

Adult: Tail strongly banded (white bands narrower than dark ones). Strongly barred with rusty coloring on body and underwing coverts. *Immature*: Chest and belly heavily streaked. Both immature and adult show light crescent "window" on outer wings, longish tail.

### **BROAD-WINGED HAWK** Buteo platypterus

p. 100

Smaller and chunkier than Red-shouldered with shorter tail, more pointed wings. *Adult:* Widely banded tail (white bands wider); underwing pale with dark rear margin and tip.

Immature: Body usually streaked, tail narrowly banded. Pale underwings may show lighter "window" near wingtips when molting in first spring.

# ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK Buteo lagopus

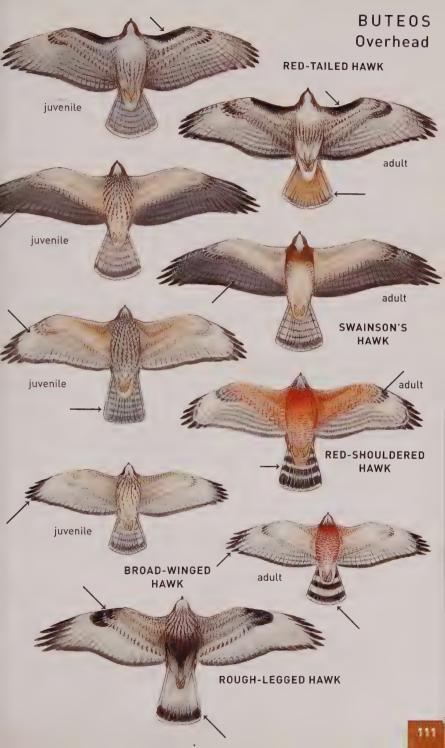
p. 100

Note black carpal patch contrasting with white flight feathers. Broad, blackish band ("cummerbund") across belly is distinctive in female and immature. Tail light, with broad, dark subterminal band. Adult male darker chested, has multiple bands on tail, less bold belly patch.



Buteos are chunky, with broad wings and a broad, rounded tail.

They soar and wheel high in the air.



# DARK BIRDS OF PREY OVERHEAD

CRESTED CARACARA Caracara cheriway p. 88
Whitish chest, black belly, large pale patches in primaries, white tail
with black band. Elongated neck, stiff-winged flight. TX, FL only.

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** Buteo lagopus (dark morph) p. 100 Dark body and wing linings; whitish flight feathers; tail light from below, with one broad, black terminal band in female; additional bands in male.

**FERRUGINOUS HAWK** Buteo regalis (dark morph) p. 102 Similar to dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk, but tail whitish, without dark banding. Note also white wrist marks, or "commas." A bird of the plains; barely enters western edge of our area.

**SWAINSON'S HAWK** *Buteo swainsoni* (dark morph) p. 102 In dark morph, fairly pointed wings are usually dark throughout, *including flight feathers*; tail narrowly banded, whitish undertail coverts. Rufous morph may be rustier, with lighter rufous wing linings.

**RED-TAILED HAWK** Buteo jamaicensis (dark morph) p. 102 Typical chunky shape of Red-tailed; tail reddish above, pale tinged with rusty below; variable. Dark patagial bar on leading edge of wing obscured.

# "HARLAN'S" RED-TAILED HAWK

p. 102

Buteo jamaicensis harlani (dark morph)
Similar to dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk. Breast mottled white; tail
tends to be mottled with gray and whitish and with dusky subterminal band, lacks obvious red; primary tips barred dark and light.
Western plains in winter.

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK** Buteo platypterus (dark morph) p. 100 Typical size and shape of Broad-winged. Tail pattern and flight feathers as in light morph, but body and wing linings dark. Note whiter flight feathers than Short-tailed.

**ZONE-TAILED HAWK** Buteo albonotatus (immature) p. 98 Slim and longish, two-toned wings (suggesting Turkey Vulture) with barred flight feathers. Several white bands on slim tail (only one visible on folded tail). Yellow legs. In our area, only seen in TX.

SHORT-TAILED HAWK Buteo brachyurus (dark morph) p. 100

Jet-black body and wing linings. Lightly banded tail; flight feathers more shaded than in dark Broad-wing. FL only.

HARRIS'S HAWK Parabuteo unicinctus p. 98 Chocolate brown body, chestnut wing linings. Very broad white band at base of black tail, narrow white terminal band. TX only.



# EAGLES, OSPREY, AND VULTURES OVERHEAD

# BALD EAGLE Haliaeetus leucocephalus p. 92 Adult: White head and tail. Immature: Some white in wing linings, often on body.

GOLDEN EAGLE Aquila chrysaetos

Adult: Almost uniformly dark; wing linings dark.

Immature: White patch at base of primaries and tail; no white on body.

**OSPREY** Pandion haliaetus p. 92 White body and coverts; black wrist patch; crooked wing.

TURKEY VULTURE Cathartes aura p. 88
Mostly brownish black. Two-toned wings held in distinct dihedral.
Small head, red in adult, gray in immature. Longish tail. Tips and teeters in flight.

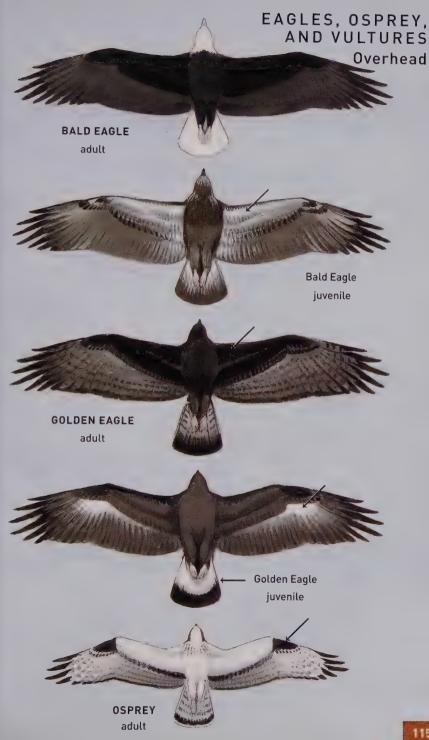
BLACK VULTURE Coragyps atratus p. 88
Blackish overall. Silver wing patch. Wings held flat or in very slight dihedral. Rapid, shallow wingbeats. Stubby tail. Gray head.



Where the Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, and Osprey all are found, they can be separated at a great distance by their manner of soaring: the Bald Eagle with flat wings; the Turkey Vulture with a dihedral; the Osprey often with a gull-like kink or crook in its wings.







# COOTS, GALLINULES, AND RAILS

Family Rallidae

Rails are rather hen-shaped marsh birds, many of secretive habits and mysterious voices, more often heard than seen. Flight is brief and reluctant, with legs dangling. Gallinules and coots are much easier to see; they swim and might be confused with small ducks except for smaller head, forehead shield, and chickenlike bill. They spend most of their time swimming but may also feed on shores. Often vocal, giving loud squawks, grunts, and peeps. FOOD: Aquatic plants, seeds, insects, frogs, crustaceans, mollusks. RANGE: Nearly worldwide.



AMERICAN COOT Fulica americana Uncommon to common M145 15–15½ in. (38–39 cm). A slaty, ducklike bird with blackish head and neck, slate gray body, white bill, and divided white patch under tail. No side striping. Its big feet are lobed ("scallops" on toes). Gregarious. When swimming, pumps head back and forth; dabbles but also dives from surface. Taking off, it skitters, flight labored, big feet trailing beyond short tail, narrow white border showing along rear of wings. Aberrant birds may show some additional white or yellowish on forehead above bill. Immature: Slightly paler, with duller bill. Downy young has hairy, orange-red head and shoulders. VOICE: Grating kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk; kakakakakaka; etc.; also a measured ka-ha, haha; various cackles, croaks. SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Gallinule slightly smaller, browner above, has thin white band on flanks, different-colored bill. Coots flock more on open water and land. HABI-TAT: Ponds, lakes, marshes; in winter, also fields, park ponds, lawns, salt bays.



COMMON GALLINULE Gallinula galeata Uncommon M144 14 in. (36 cm). Note adult's rather chickenlike red bill with yellow tip, red forehead shield, and white band on flanks. When walking, flicks white undertail coverts; while swimming, pumps head like a coot. Immature: Duller bill. VOICE: Croaking kr-r-ruk, repeated; a froglike kup; also kek, kek (higher than coot's call); loud, complaining, henlike notes. SIMILAR SPECIES: American Coot, immature Purple Gallinule. HABITAT: Freshwater marshes, reedy ponds.



PURPLE GALLINULE Porphyrio martinicus Uncommon M143 13 in. (33 cm). Very colorful; swims, wades, and climbs bushes. Adult: Head and underparts deep violet-purple, back bronzy green. Shield on forehead pale blue; bill red with yellow tip. Legs yellow, conspicuous in flight. Immature: Buffy brown below, dark above tinged greenish; bill dark; sides unstriped. VOICE: Henlike cackling, kek, kek, kek; also guttural notes, sharp reedy cries. SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Gallinule has red frontal shield, lacks greenish plumage, has duller legs and white side stripe; young moorhen also has whitish side stripe. Young American Coot much darker overall, has pale bill. Purple Swamphen (Porphyrio porphyrio, not illustrated), introduced from Eurasia and becoming established in s. FL, is much larger and has red legs and a huge all-red bill and frontal shield. HABITAT: Freshwater swamps, marshes, ponds.





VIRGINIA RAIL Rallus limicola

winter, also salt marshes.

Fairly common M141 9½ in. (24 cm). A small rusty rail with gray cheeks, black bars on flanks, and long, slightly decurved, reddish bill with dark tip. Only small rail with long slender bill. Juvenile in late summer shows much black, voice: Descending grunt, wuk-wuk-wuk-wuk, etc.; also kidick. kidick, etc.; various "kicking" and grunting sounds. SIMILAR SPECIES: Sora has small stubby bill, unbarred undertail coverts. Clapper and King rails much larger. HABITAT: Fresh and brackish marshes; in



Uncommon, secretive M140 KING RAIL Rallus elegans 15 in. (38 cm). A large rusty rail with long slender bill; twice the size of Virginia Rail, or about that of a small chicken. Similar to Clapper Rail, but note rusty/chestnut cheeks and black-and-white flanks, more rusty overall with bolder back pattern (blacker feathers with buffier edges); prefers fresh marshes. VOICE: Low, slow, grunting hup-bup, bup-bup-bup, etc., or evenly spaced chuck-chuck-(deeper than Virginia Rail). SIMILAR SPECIES: Clapper Rail. Virginia Rail half the size, has slaty gray cheeks. Note: Hybrids between Clapper and King occur. HABITAT: Fresh and brackish marshes, rice fields, ditches, swamps. In winter, also salt marshes.



Fairly common M139 **CLAPPER RAIL** Rallus longirostris 141/2 in. (37 cm). The large "marsh hen" of coastal marshes. Sometimes swims. Note henlike appearance; strong legs; long, slightly decurved bill: barred flanks: and white patch under short cocked tail, which it flicks nervously. Cheeks gray. Gulf Coast birds have rusty orange underparts. VOICE: Clattering kek-kek-kek-kek, etc., or chacha-cha, etc. SIMILAR SPECIES: King Rail prefers fresh (sometimes brackish) marshes, has bolder pattern on back and flanks, rusty brown on wings. Its breast is cinnamon, but Clappers along Gulf Coast show similar warm tawny tones. Clapper has grayer cheeks and wings, less boldly streaked upper back. Where these two rails occur in adjacent brackish marshes, they occasionally hybridize. HABITAT: Salt marshes, mangroves.





SORA Porzana carolina

Fairly common M142

81/2 in. (22 cm). Note short yellow bill. Adult: A small, plump, graybrown rail with black patch on face and throat. Short, cocked tail reveals white or buff undertail coverts. Immature: Lacks dark throat patch and is browner. VOICE: Descending whinny, whee-ee-ee-ee-eeee-e-e-e. Also a plaintive whistled keu-wee? Clapping one's hands causes startled birds to utter a sharp keek. SIMILAR SPECIES: Immature may be confused with smaller and rarer Yellow Rail, which has large white wing patches and blacker-centered feathers above. Virginia Rail has slender bill. HABITAT: Freshwater marshes; in migration, also wet meadows; in winter, also salt marshes.



YELLOW RAIL Coturnicops noveboracensis Scarce, secretive M137 71/4 in. [18 cm]. Note white wing patch (in flight). A small buffy-andblack rail, suggesting a week-old chick. Bill very short, greenish or yellowish. Back dark, striped, barred, and checkered with buff, white, and black. Mouselike; very difficult to see. VOICE: Ticking notes, often in long series: tic-tic, tic-tic-tic, tic-tic, tic-tic, etc., in alternating groups of two and three; compared to hitting two small stones together. Most vocal at night. SIMILAR SPECIES: Young Sora somewhat larger, buffier overall, lacks dark barring and checkering above, has thin pale trailing edge to wing. HABITAT: Grassy marshes, wet meadows; winters mostly in salt marshes and grain fields.



BLACK RAIL Laterallus jamaicensis Scarce, local, secretive M138 6 in. (15 cm). A tiny blackish rail with small black bill; about the size of a young sparrow. Nape deep chestnut. Very difficult to glimpse. Caution: All young rails in downy plumage are black. VOICE: Male (mostly at night), kiki-doo or kiki-krrr (or kitty go). Also a growl. Most vocal at night. HABITAT: Salt marshes, freshwater marshes, grassy meadows.

# JACANAS Family Jacanidae

Shorebird relatives that look like gallinules but walk like rails. Dark birds with very long toes perfect for walking over floating aquatic vegetation. Sexes alike. FOOD: Aquatic insects, seeds, and vegetation. RANGE: Pantropical.

NORTHERN JACANA Jacana spinosa

Vagrant

91/2 in. (24 cm). This vagrant has spectacularly long toes for walking on lily pads. Adult: Chestnut body with dark head. Yellow bill and forehead frontal shield. Striking yellow primaries and secondaries in flight. Holds wings over head when it lands. Immature: Has white underparts, distinct line behind eye. VOICE: Rapid series of high, nasal notes: jeek-jeek-jeek-jeek. RANGE: Casual visitor from Mex. to TX. HABITAT: Frequents ponds with emergent vegetation, especially lily pads.



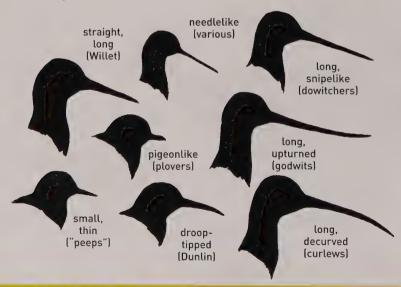
# SHOREBIRDS

Many shorebirds (or "waders," as they are called in the Old World) are real puzzlers to the novice, and to many experienced birders as well! There are 8 plovers in our area, and about 30 sandpipers and their allies. Most species have two or three different plumages: breeding adult, nonbreeding adult, and juvenal. Being able to properly age many species is an important part of correctly identifying them. Noting size, shape, and feeding style is also a critical part of the identification process.

Plovers are usually more compact and thicker necked than most sandpipers, with a pigeonlike bill and larger eyes. They run in short starts and stops.



# Bill Shapes of Shorebirds





# PLOVERS Family Charadriidae

Wading birds, more compactly built and thicker necked than most sandpipers, with shorter, pigeonlike bill and larger eyes. Call notes assist identification. Unlike most sandpipers, plovers run in short starts and stops. Sexes alike or differ slightly. FOOD: Small marine life, insects, some vegetable matter. RANGE: Nearly worldwide.



# BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

Common M149

Pluvialis squatarola (see also p. 146)
11½ in. (29 cm). A large plover. Breeding adult: Have black face and breast (slightly duller in female) and pale speckled back. Nonbreeding adult and immature: Look tan-gray but can be recognized as plovers by stocky shape, hunched posture, and short, pigeonlike bill. In flight, in any plumage, note black wingpits and white rump and tail.

VOICE: Plaintive slurred whistle, tlee-oo-eee or whee-er-ee (middle note lower). SIMILAR SPECIES: American Golden-Plover slightly smaller and slimmer, smaller billed, buffier or more golden on at least some feathering, has more distinct supercilium, and lacks pattern of white in wings and tail. Its wingpits are gray, not black. HABITAT: Mudflats, marshes, beaches, rocks, short-grass habitats; in summer, tundra.



#### AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER

Uncommon M150

Pluvialis dominica (see also p. 146) 10½-10½ in. (26–27 cm). Size of Killdeer. Shows distinct wingtip extension of three to five primary tips, well beyond tail tip. Breeding adult: Dark, spangled above with whitish and pale yellow spots; underparts black (slightly mottled in female). Broad white stripe runs over eye and down sides of neck and breast. Nonbreeding adult and juvenile: Gray-brown, darker above than below, with distinct pale supercilium, dark crown. VOICE: Whistled queedle or que-e-a (dropping at end). SIMILAR SPECIES: Black-bellied Plover. HABITAT: Prairies, mudflats, shores, short-grass pastures, sod farms; in summer, tundra



MOUNTAIN PLOVER Charadrius montanus Scarce, local M156 9 in. [23 cm]. White forehead and line over eye, contrasting with dark crown. In nonbreeding plumage, may be told from nonbreeding American Golden-Plover by tan-brown back devoid of mottling and by tan, unmarked breast. Has drab legs, light wing stripe, and dark tail band. VOICE: Low whistle, variable. SIMILAR SPECIES: Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, golden-plovers, Buff-breasted Sandpiper. HABITAT: Plowed fields, short-grass plains, dry sod farms.



COMMON RINGED PLOVER Charadrius hiaticula Rare, local

7½ in. (19 cm). Eurasian species, very similar to Semipalmated Plover; best distinguished by *voice*. Slightly longer bill, darker cheeks. Lacks obvious orbital ring. **VOICE**: Softer, more minor *poo-eep*. **RANGE**: Breeds in e. Canadian Arctic; winters in Old World. Casual or accidental migrant elsewhere in e. N. America.



#### SEMIPALMATED PLOVER

Common M153

Charadrius semipalmatus (see also p. 146)

7½ in. (18 cm). A small, plump, brown-backed plover, half the size of Killdeer, with single dark breast-band. Adult: Bill orangey with black tip or (nonbreeding) nearly all dark. Orangey orbital ring. Legs bright orange or yellow. Juvenile: Slightly browner above, and breast-band may be incomplete. VOICE: Plaintive, upward-slurred chi-we. SIMILAR SPECIES: Piping and Snowy plovers. HABITAT: Shores, tidal flats, wet fields; in summer, tundra.



#### PIPING PLOVER

Uncommon M154

Charadrius melodus (see also p. 146)

7¼ in. (18 cm). As pallid as a beach flea or sand crab—color of dry sand. Complete or incomplete dark ring around neck. Legs orange. Breeding adult: Bill has yellow-orange base, black tip. Nonbreeding adult and juvenile: Black on collar lacking, bill all dark. Note tail pattern. Adults perform stiff-winged "bat-flight" on breeding territory. YOICE: Plaintive whistle: peep-lo (first note higher). SIMILAR SPECIES: Snowy and Semipalmated plovers. HABITAT: Sandy beaches, dry mudflats; in summer, also lakeshores and river islands.



#### SNOWY PLOVER

Uncommon M151

Charadrius nivosus (see also p. 146)

61/4-61/2 in. (16-17 cm). A pale plover of beaches and alkaline flats. Male: Has slim black bill, grayish legs, and dark ear patch. Female and juvenile: May lack black in plumage. VOICE: Musical whistle, pe-wee-ah or o-wee-ah; also a low prit. SIMILAR SPECIES: Juvenile and non-breeding Piping Plovers may also have dark (though thicker) bill, but they have white on rump, visible in flight, and orange legs. HABITAT: Beaches, sandy flats, alkaline lakeshores.



#### WILSON'S PLOVER

Uncommon M152

Charadrius nivosus (see also p. 146)

734–8 in. [19–20 cm]. A "ringed" plover, larger than Semipalmated Plover, with wider breast-band and longer, heavier black bill. Legs pinkish gray. VOICE: Emphatic whistled whit! or wheet! HABITAT: Open beaches, tidal flats, sandy islands.



KILLDEER Charadrius vociferus (see also p. 146) Common M155 10½ in. (27 cm). The common, noisy plover of farm country and playing fields. Note two black breast-bands (chick has only one band and might be confused with Wilson's Plover). In flight or distraction display near nest, shows rusty orange rump, longish tail. VOICE: Noisy, and often heard at night. Loud, insistent kill-deeah, repeated; plaintive dee-ee (rising). SIMILAR SPECIES: Other banded plovers have single breast-band. HABITAT: Fields, airports, lawns, mudflats, shores.



# OYSTERCATCHERS Family Haematopodidae

Large waders with long, laterally flattened, chisel-tipped, red bill. Sexes alike. FOOD: Mollusks, crabs, marine worms. RANGE: Widespread on coasts of world; inland in some areas of Europe and Asia.



#### AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

Fairly common M157

Haematopus palliatus

17½–18½ in. (44–47 cm). A very noisy, thickset, black-headed shore-bird with dark back, white belly, and large white wing and tail patches. Outstanding feature is large straight red bill, flattened laterally. Legs pale pink. *Immature:* Bill dark-tipped. **VOICE:** Piercing wheep! or kleep!; a loud pic, pic, pic. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black Skimmer. **HABITAT:** Coastal beaches, tidal flats.

# STILTS AND AVOCETS Family Recurvirostridae

Slim waders with very long legs and very slender bill (bent upward in avocets). Sexes fairly similar. FOOD: Insects, crustaceans, other aquatic life. RANGE: N., Cen., and S. America, Africa, s. Eurasia, Australia, Pacific region.



#### BLACK-NECKED STILT

Fairly common M158

Himantopus mexicanus
14 in. (36 cm). A large, extremely slim wader; black above (female and immature tinged brown), white below. Note extremely long pinkish red legs, needlelike bill. In flight, black unpatterned wings contrast strikingly with white rump, tail, and underparts. VOICE: Sharp yipping: kyip, kyip, kyip, SIMILAR SPECIES: Nonbreeding American Avocet. HABITAT: Marshes, mudflats, pools, shallow lakes (fresh and alkaline), flooded fields.



AMERICAN AVOCET Recurvirostra americana Fairly common M159 18 in. (46 cm). A large, slim shorebird with very slender, upturned bill, more upturned in female. This and striking white-and-black pattern make this bird unique. In breeding plumage, head and neck pinkish tan or orangey buff; in nonbreeding plumage, this color replaced by pale gray. Avocets feed with scythelike sweep of head and bill. VOICE: Sharp wheek or kleet, excitedly repeated. HABITAT: Mudflats, shallow lakes, marshes, prairie ponds.



# SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES, AND ALLIES

Family Scolopacidae

Small to large shorebirds. Bills more slender than those of plovers. Sexes mostly similar, except in phalaropes. FOOD: Insects, crustaceans, mollusks, worms, etc. RANGE: Cosmopolitan.



WILLET Tringa semipalmata (see also p. 148) Fairly common M163 15–16 in. (38–41 cm). Stockier than Greater Yellowlegs; has heavier bill, blue-gray legs. In flight, note striking black-and-white wing pattern. At rest, this large wader is rather nondescript. Note: Interior breeding population larger, has longer, thinner bill and is paler overall than coastal breeding population. VOICE: Musical, repetitious pill-will-willet (in breeding season); a loud kree-ree-ree. Also a rapidly repeated kip-kip-kip, etc. SIMILAR SPECIES: Greater Yellowlegs; see also dowitchers. HABITAT: Marshes, mudflats, beaches.



#### GREATER YELLOWLEGS

Common M162

Tringa melanoleuca (see also p. 150)

14 in. [36 cm]. Note bright yellow legs, long bill. Slim and gray, speckled above. Often teeters. In flight, appears dark-winged with whitish rump and tail. VOICE: Usually three-note whistle, dear! dear! SIMILAR SPECIES: Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet. HABITAT: Marshes, mudflats, ponds, flooded fields; in summer, muskeg, spruce bogs.



#### LESSER YELLOWLEGS

Common M164

Tringa flavipes (see also p. 150)

10½ in. (27 cm). Like Greater Yellowlegs, but smaller. Lesser's shorter, slimmer bill is *straight*, about *equal to length of head*; Greater's appears slightly uptilted, paler based, longer than bird's head. Readily separated by voice. *Youce: Yew or yu-yu*; less forceful than Greater's call. *SIMILAR SPECIES*: Solitary and Stilt sandpipers, Wilson's Phalarope. *HABITAT*: Marshes, mudflats, ponds, flooded fields; in summer, open, moist boreal woods and taiga.



#### SOLITARY SANDPIPER

Uncommon M161

Tringa solitaria (see also p. 150)

8½ in. (22 cm). Note dark wings and white sides of tail. A dark-backed sandpiper, whitish below, with light eye-ring and greenish legs. Nods like a yellowlegs. Usually alone. Seldom in groups. VOICE: Peet! or peet-weet-weet! (higher and more strident than Spotted Sandpiper's call). SIMILAR SPECIES: Lesser Yellowlegs has bright yellow legs, white rump, is paler overall. Spotted Sandpiper teeters tail (not head), has white wedge at breast-side, different wing and tail patterns. HABITAT: Streamsides, brushy ponds, rain pools.

STILT SANDPIPER Calidris himantopus

See p. 140

Nonbreeding: Yellow-green legs, slightly drooped bill, white rump; bold eyebrow (supercilium).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE Phalaropus tricolor

See p. 144

Nonbreeding: Straight needle bill, clear white underparts, pale gray back, dull vellow legs.



#### HUDSONIAN GODWIT

Limosa haemastica (see also p. 148)

15-151/2 in. [38-39 cm]. Rather large size and long, slightly upturned bill mark this wader as a godwit; blackish wing linings proclaim it as this species. Black tail ringed broadly with white. Breeding: Male ruddy-breasted, female duller. Nonbreeding: Both sexes gray-backed, pale-breasted. voice: Tawit! (or godwit!); higher pitched than Marbled Godwit's call. SIMILAR SPECIES: Marbled Godwit. See also Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits, vagrants from Eurasia. HABITAT: Mudflats, prairie pools; in summer, marshy taiga and tundra.



MARBLED GODWIT Limosa fedoa (see also p. 148) Uncommon M169 171/2-181/2 in. (44-46 cm). Rich, mottled buff brown color identifies this species. Underwing linings cinnamon. VOICE: Accented kerwhit! (godwit!); also raddica, raddica. SIMILAR SPECIES: When head tucked in, may be difficult to tell from Long-billed Curlew except by leg color (blackish in godwit, blue-gray in curlew); Hudsonian Godwit has white on wings and tail, blackish wing linings. See also Bar-tailed Godwit, a vagrant from Eurasia. HABITAT: Prairies, pools, shores, mudflats, beaches.



#### LONG-BILLED CURLEW

Uncommon to rare M167

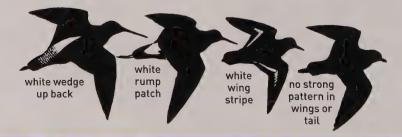
Numenius americanus (see also p. 148)

22–24 in. (55–60 cm). Note very long, sickle-shaped bill (4–8½ in.; 10– 21 cm). Larger than Whimbrel and more buffy overall; lacks distinct dark crown stripes. Overhead shows cinnamon wing linings. In young birds, bill may be scarcely longer than that of Whimbrel. VOICE: Loud cur-lee (rising inflection); rapid, whistled kli-li-li. "Song" a trilled, liquid curleeeeeeeeuuu. SIMILAR SPECIES: Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit. HABITAT: In summer, high plains, rangeland; in winter, cultivated land, mudflats, beaches, salt marshes.

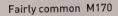


WHIMBREL Numenius phaeopus (see also p. 148) Uncommon M166 17-18 in. (43-46 cm). A large gray-brown wader with long decurved bill. Much grayer brown than Long-billed Curlew; bill shorter 1234-4 in.: 7-10 cm); crown striped. voice: Five to seven short, rapid whistles: hee-hee-hee-hee-hee. SIMILAR SPECIES: Long-billed Curlew, HABITAT: Mudflats, beaches, marshes, pastures, short-grass habitats; in summer, tundra.

## Basic Flight Patterns of Sandpipers









#### RUDDY TURNSTONE

Arenaria interpres (see also p. 146)

9½ in. (24 cm). A squat, robust, orange-legged shorebird, with harlequin pattern. Breeding: With russet back and curious face and breast pattern, bird is unique; in flight it is even more striking. Nonbreeding and juvenile: Duller, but retains enough of basic pattern to be recognized. VOICE: Staccato tuk-a-tuk or kut-a-kut; also kewk. HABITAT: Beaches, mudflats, rocky shores, jetties; in summer, tundra.



#### PURPLE SANDPIPER

Uncommon M179

Calidris maritima (see also p. 152)

9 in. (23 cm). Stocky, dark sandpipers on rocks, jetties, or breakwaters along our n. Atlantic Coast in winter are likely to be this hardy species. *Nonbreeding:* Slate gray with white belly, orange legs. At close range, note dull orangish base of bill, very faint purple sheen above. *Breeding:* Much browner, more heavily streaked above and below. **VOICE:** Low, scratchy *weet-wit* or *twit.* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nonbreeding Dunlin, also found roosting on jetties, is paler with black bill and legs. **HABITAT:** Wave-washed rocks, jetties, rarely sandy shoreline. Often quite tame. In summer, coastal tundra.



SANDERLING Calidris alba (see also p. 152) Common M172 8 in. (20 cm). A plump, active sandpiper of outer beaches, where it chases retreating waves like a wind-up toy. Note bold white wing stripe in flight. Breeding: Bright rusty about head, back, and breast. Nonbreeding: The palest sandpiper; snowy white underparts, plain pale gray back, black shoulders. Juvenile: Differs from nonbreeding adults in having salt-and-pepper pattern on back and breast sides. VOICE: Short kip or quit. SIMILAR SPECIES: Western Sandpiper. HABITAT: Beaches, mudflats, lakeshores; when nesting, stony tundra.



**DUNLIN** Calidris alpina (see also p. 152) Common M180 8½–8¾ in. (22–23 cm). Slightly larger than a peep or Sanderling, with longish, droop-tipped bill. Black legs. Breeding: Rusty red above, with black patch on belly. Nonbreeding: Unpatterned gray or gray-brown above, with grayish wash across breast (not clean white as in Sanderling or Western Sandpiper). Juvenile (this plumage rarely seen away from nesting areas): Rusty above, with buffy breast and suggestion of belly patch. **VOICE**: Nasal, rasping cheezp or treezp. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Nonbreeding Sanderling and Western Sandpiper have clean white breast; Sanderling also paler above and has straighter bill; Western Sandpiper slightly smaller. **HABITAT**: Tidal flats, beaches, muddy pools; in summer, moist tundra.



RED KNOT Calidris canutus (see also p. 152) Uncommon M171 10½ in. [27 cm]. Larger than Sanderling. Stocky, with mediumlength, straight bill and short legs. Plain rump. Breeding: Face and underparts pale robin red; back mottled with black, gray, and russet. Nonbreeding: A dumpy wader with washed-out gray look and mottled flanks; greenish legs. Juvenile: Pale feather edgings above. VOICE: Low knut; also a low, mellow tooit-wit or wah-quoit. HABITAT: Tidal flats, sandy beaches, shores; tundra when breeding.





#### LEAST SANDPIPER



Calidris minutilla (see also p. 152)

6 in. (15 cm). Distinguished from the other two common peep by its slightly smaller size, browner look, and yellowish or greenish—not blackish—legs (but which might appear dark if caked in mud). Bill slighter, finer, and slightly drooped at tip. Adult: Mostly brownish (breeding) or brownish gray (nonbreeding). Juvenile: Much brighter, with extensive rufous on upperparts and buff wash across breast. VOICE: Thin krreet or kree-eet. SIMILAR SPECIES: Western and Semipalmated sandpipers have blackish legs, thicker-based bill, paler upperparts, and different voice; whitish breast in nonbreeding plumage. HABITAT: Mudflats, marshes, rain pools, shores, flooded fields; in summer, taiga wetlands.



#### SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER

Common M173

Calidris pusilla (see also p. 152) 6¼ in. (16 cm). Collectively, the three common small sandpipers resident in N. America are nicknamed "peep." The "Semi" is a small black-legged peep with a straight, somewhat tubular bill of variable length. Breeding: Gray-brown above, many birds with a tinge of russet to cheeks and back; dark streaks on breast. Nonbreeding: Rarely seen in our area. Uniformly plain gray across upperparts. Juvenile: Breast washed with buff and with fine streaks on sides; scaly upperpart pattern with pale edges, tinged buff when fresh. VOICE: Call chit or chirt (lacks ee sound of Least and Western sandpipers). SIMILAR SPECIES: Typical Western Sandpiper (especially female) has longer bill, slightly drooped at tip. Breeding Western more rufous above, more heavily streaked below, particularly on flanks. Juvenile has rusty scapulars and slightly paler face. Least Sandpiper smaller, browner, and thinner billed; has yellowish or greenish legs; in nonbreeding plumage, has darker breast. HABITAT: Mudflats, marshes, shores, beaches; in summer, tundra.



WESTERN SANDPIPER Calidris mauri Fairly common M174 6½ in. (17 cm). Very similar to Semipalmated Sandpiper. Legs black. In typical female, bill thicker at base and longer than Semipalmated's and droops near tip (male's bill shorter and less drooped). Breeding: Heavily spotted on breast and flanks; rusty scapulars, crown, and ear patch. Nonbreeding: Gray or gray-brown above, perhaps the palest peep, unmarked whitish below. Juvenile: Buffy wash on breast; scaly upperparts, like juvenile Semipalmated but with distinct rusty scapulars. VOICE: Distinct high-pitched jeet or cheet, unlike lower, soft chirt of Semipalmated. SIMILAR SPECIES: Semipalmated and Least sandpipers, Dunlin. Because of their shorter bill, many male Westerns may be particularly difficult to separate from Semipalmated (especially longer-billed females); see also voice. Semipalmated does not winter in our area, but Western does. HABITAT: Shores, beaches, mudflats, marshes; in summer, tundra.







#### WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER

Calidris fuscicollis (see also p. 152)

7½ in. (19 cm). Larger than Semipalmated Sandpiper, smaller than Pectoral Sandpiper. The only peep with completely white rump. At rest, this long-winged bird has tapered look, with wingtips extending well beyond tail. Distinct pale supercilium. Breeding: Some rusty on back. Dark streaks and chevrons on sides extend to flanks. Bill reddish at base of lower mandible. Nonbreeding: Gray upperparts and breast, gray smudging down flanks, bold white eyebrow. Juvenile: Rusty edges on crown and back. VOICE: High, thin, mouselike jeet, like two flint pebbles scraping. SIMILAR SPECIES: Long wings and very attenuated look shared only by Baird's Sandpiper among other peep, but Baird's browner, has dark center to rump, lacks bold supercilium and dark streaks on flanks, and has much lower pitched call. HABITAT: Prairie pools, shores, mudflats, marshes; in summer, tundra.



#### BAIRD'S SANDPIPER

Uncommon M177

Calidris bairdii (see also p. 152)

7½ in. (19 cm). Larger than Semipalmated or Western sandpiper, with more long-winged, tapered look (wings extend ½ in., 1 cm, beyond tail tip). Breeding and juvenile: Brown or buff across breast (warmer buff in juvenile). Suggests large, long-winged Least Sandpiper with black legs. Back of juvenile has scaled look. VOICE: Call a low kreep or kree; a rolling trill. SIMILAR SPECIES: White-rumped and Pectoral sandpipers. Buff-breasted Sandpiper buffier below, without streaks, and has yellowish (not blackish) legs. HABITAT: Pond margins, grassy mudflats, shores, upper beaches; in summer, tundra.

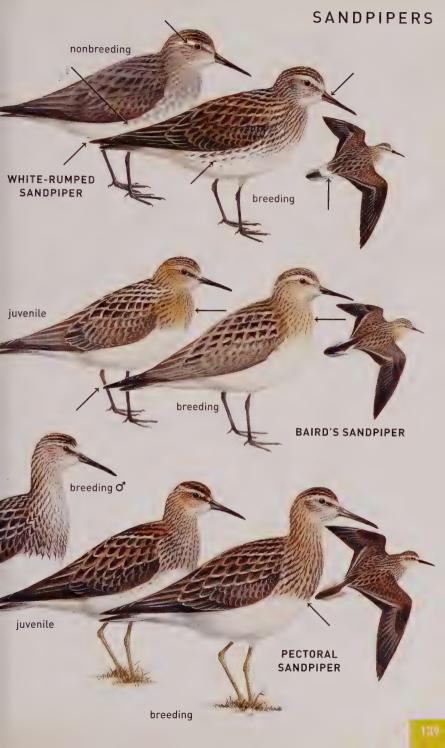


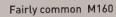
#### PECTORAL SANDPIPER

Fairly common M178

Calidris melanotos (see also p. 150)

8½-8¾ in. (21-23 cm). Medium sized (but variable); neck longer than in smaller peep. Note that heavy breast streaks end rather abruptly, like a bib. Dark back lined with white. Wing stripe faint or lacking; crown variably rusty. Legs usually dull yellowish. Bill may be pale yellow-brown at base. Juvenile: Brighter upperparts and crown, buffy wash on breast under streaking. VOICE: Low, reedy churrt or trrip, trrip. SIMILAR SPECIES: Sharp-tailed, Baird's, and Least sandpipers. HABITAT: In migration, prairie pools, sod farms, muddy shores, fresh and tidal marshes; in summer, tundra.





#### SPOTTED SANDPIPER



Actitis macularius (see also p. 152)

7½ in. (19 cm). The most widespread sandpiper along shores of small lakes and streams. Teeters rear body up and down nervously. Note long tail. Breeding: Note round breast spots. Nonbreeding and juvenile: No spots; brown above, with white line over eye. Dusky smudge enclosing white wedge near shoulder is a good aid. Flight distinctive: wings beat in a shallow arc, giving a stiff, bowed appearance. Underwing striped. voice: Clear peet or peet-weet! or peet-weet-weet-weetweet. SIMILAR SPECIES: Solitary Sandpiper. HABITAT: Pebbly shores, ponds, streamsides, marshes; in winter, also seashores, rock jet-



#### STILT SANDPIPER

Uncommon M181

Calidris himantopus (see also pp. 130 and 150)

8½ in. (22 cm). Slight droop to tip of bill. Legs long and greenish yellow. Feeds like a dowitcher (sewing-machine motion) but tilts tail up more than a dowitcher while feeding. Breeding: Heavily marked below with transverse bars. Note rusty cheek patch. Nonbreeding: Yellowlegs-like; gray above, white below; dark-winged and whiterumped; note more greenish legs and white eyebrow. Juvenile: Slight buffy wash to breast and pale edgings above. VOICE: Single whu (like Lesser Yellowlegs but lower, hoarser). SIMILAR SPECIES: Yellowlegs. Dowitchers pudgier, have longer, yellowish-based, less drooped bills, and in flight show white wedge up back. See also Curlew Sandpiper, HABITAT: Shallow pools, mudflats, marshes; in summer, tundra



#### BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

Scarce M182

Tryngites subruficollis (see also p. 150)

81/4 in, (21 cm). No other small shorebird is as buffy below (paling to whitish on undertail coverts). A tame, buffy bird, with erect stance, small head, short bill, and yellowish legs. Dark eye stands out on plain face. In flight or in "display," buff body contrasts with underwing (white with marbled tip). Juvenile: Scaly above, paler on belly (most fall birds along coasts are in this plumage), voice: Low, trilled pr-r-reet. Sharp tik. SIMILAR SPECIES: Juvenile Ruff. HABITAT: Dry dirt, sand, and short-grass habitats, including drying lakeshores. pastures, sod farms; in summer, drier tundra ridges.



#### UPLAND SANDPIPER

Uncommon to scarce M165

Bartramia longicauda (see also p. 150)

12 in. (30-31 cm). A "pigeon-headed" brown sandpiper: larger than Killdeer. Short bill, small head, shoe-button eye, thin neck, and long tail are helpful points. Often perches with erect posture on fenceposts and poles; on alighting, holds wings elevated. voice: Mellow, whistled kip-ip-ip, often heard at night. Song a weird windy whistle: whoooleeeeee, wheeloooooooooo. SIMILAR SPECIES: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, yellowlegs. HABITAT: Grassy prairies, open meadows. fields, airports, sod farms.





#### AMERICAN WOODCOCK

Fairly common but secretive M186

Scolopax minor (see also p. 150)

11 in. (28 cm). A woodland-loving shorebird. Near size of Northern Bobwhite, with extremely long bill and large bulging eyes placed high on head. Rotund, almost neckless, with leaflike brown camouflage pattern. When flushed, produces whistling sound with wings. VOICE: At dusk in spring, a nasal beezp. Aerial "song" a chipping trill made by wings as bird ascends, changing to a bubbling twittering on descent. HABITAT: Wet thickets, moist woods, brushy swamps. Spring courtship by male is a crepuscular display ("sky dance") high over semiopen fields, pastures.



#### WILSON'S SNIPE

Fairly common M185

Gallinago delicata (see also p. 150)

101/4-101/2 in. (26-27 cm). A tight-sitting prober of grassy wetlands. On nesting grounds may be seen standing on posts. Note extremely long bill, buff stripes on back and head. When flushed, flies off in zigzag, uttering rasping note. VOICE: When flushed, a rasping scaip. Song a measured chip-a, chip-a, chip-a, etc. In high aerial display, a winnowing huhuhuhuhuhuhu. SIMILAR SPECIES: Dowitchers. HABITAT: Marshes, bogs, ditches, wet fields and meadows.



#### SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER

Common M183

Limnodromus griseus (see also p. 152)

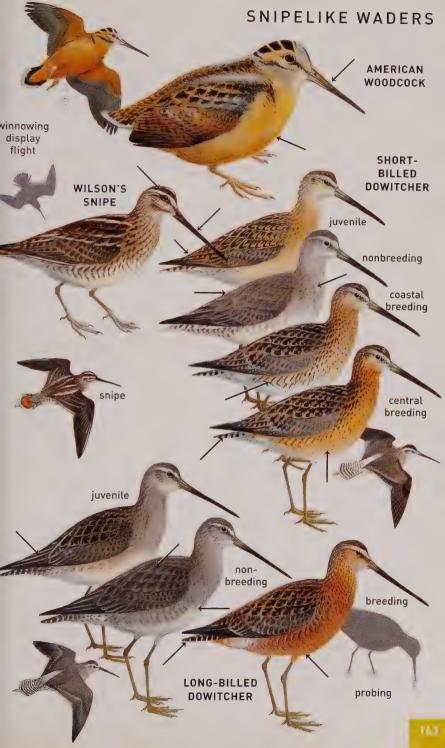
11–11¼ in. (27–28 cm). A snipelike bird of open mudflats. Note very long bill, sewing-machine feeding motion, and, in flight, long white wedge up back. Breeding: Breast rusty with some barring on flanks. Atlantic subspecies (griseus) shows extensive white belly. Great Plains subspecies (hendersoni) more extensively rusty below but color paler orange than Long-billed and fades toward belly. Nonbreeding: Gray. Juvenile: Distinguished from juvenile Long-billed by warm buffy tones and patterned tertial feathers. VOICE: Staccato tutu-tu; pitch of Lesser Yellowlegs. SIMILAR SPECIES: Long-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper. HABITAT: Mudflats, tidal marshes, ponds. In summer, taiga and tundra.



#### LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER Uncommon to common M184

Limnodromus scolopaceus (see also p. 152)

11½ in. [29 cm]. When feeding, shows more round-bodied profile than Short-billed; dark tail bars average wider; bill averages longer — but bill lengths of the two dowitchers overlap, so only extreme birds are distinctive. Breeding: Underparts evenly bright rusty to lower belly [white or very pale lower belly in Short-billed Dowitcher], with dark spotting on neck and barring on sides. Nonbreeding: Averages darker than Short-billed with smoother gray breast and darker centers to scapulars. Juvenile: Much plainer than juvenile Short-billed with unpatterned tertials. VOICE: Single sharp, high keek, occasionally given in twos or threes. SIMILAR SPECIES: Short-billed Dowitcher. HABITAT: Shallow pools, marshes; when breeding, tundra. More partial to fresh water than Short-billed, but extensive overlap.



#### **PHALAROPES**

Sandpipers with lobed toes; equally at home wading or swimming. Placed by some taxonomists in a family of their own, Phalaropodidae. When feeding, phalaropes often spin like tops, rapidly dabbling at disturbed water for plankton, brine shrimp, and other marine invertebrates; mosquito larvae; and insects. Females slightly larger and more colorful than males. RANGE: Two of the three species are circumpolar, wintering at sea; the other species breeds in N. American interior, winters mostly in S. America.



#### WILSON'S PHALAROPE

Fairly common M187

Phalaropus tricolor (see also pp. 130 and 150)

9½ in. (23½ cm). This trim phalarope is plain-winged, with white rump. In addition to spinning in water, may also feed by dashing about on shorelines. Breeding: Female unique, with broad black face and neck stripe blending into cinnamon. Male duller, with just a wash of cinnamon on sides of neck and white spot on hindneck. Nonbreeding: Suggests Lesser Yellowlegs, but whiter below, with no speckling; bill needlelike; legs greenish or straw colored. Juvenile: Shows buffy and brown pattern above, buffy wash on breast. VOICE: Low nasal wurk; also check, check, check. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other two phalaropes show white wing stripe, dark central tail, and bolder dark patch through eye. See also yellowlegs, which may swim for brief periods of time. HABITAT: Shallow lakes, freshwater marshes, pools, shores, mudflats; in migration, also salt marshes.



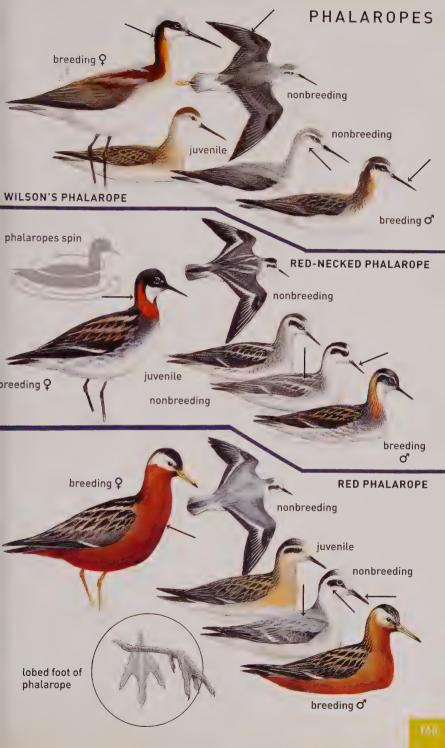
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE Common offshore, scarce inland M188 Phalaropus lobatus (see also p. 152)

7¾ in. (20 cm). A shorebird far out to sea is most likely a phalarope. This is usually the more common of the two "sea snipes" and the one more likely to occur inland as well. Note dark patch through eye and needlelike black bill. Breeding: Female gray above, with rufous chestnut on neck, white throat and eyebrow. Male duller, but similar in pattern. Nonbreeding: Both sexes gray above with whitish streaks, white below. Juvenile: Has distinct buff stripes on back. VOICE: Sharp kit or whit, similar to call of Sanderling. SIMILAR SPECIES: Red Phalarope. HABITAT: Ocean, bays, lakes, ponds; in summer, tundra.



RED PHALAROPE Uncommon offshore, very rare onshore M189
Phalaropus fulicarius (see also p. 152)

8½-8½ in. (21-22 cm). Seagoing habits and buoyant swimming (like a tiny gull) distinguish this as a phalarope. *Breeding:* Female has deep *reddish underparts, white face,* and mostly yellow bill. Male duller. *Nonbreeding:* Both sexes plain gray above, white below; in flight suggest Sanderling, but with *dark patch* through eye. Bill mostly dark with small pale base. *Juvenile:* Has peach-buff wash on neck; acquires adult's pale gray back-feathering quickly. **VOICE:** *Whit* or *kit*, higher than Red-necked Phalarope's call. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Rednecked Phalarope slightly smaller, has more needlelike bill; nonbreeding birds darker gray above with thin pale back stripes. Slightly thicker bill of Red Phalarope may have small yellowish base. **HABITAT:** More strictly pelagic than Red-necked. In summer, tundra.



# PLOVERS AND TURNSTONE IN FLIGHT

Learn their distinctive flight calls.

istinctive flight calls.		
	PIPING PLOVER Charadrius melodus Pale sand color above, wide black tail spot, whitish rump. Call a plaintive whistle, peep-lo (first note higher).	p. 126
	<b>SNOWY PLOVER</b> Charadrius nivosus Pale sand color above; tail with dark center, white sides; run white. Call a musical whistle, pe-wee-ah or o-wee-ah.	<b>p. 126</b> np not
	SEMIPALMATED PLOVER Charadrius semipalmatus Mud brown above; dark tail with white borders. Call a plaintive upward-slurred chi-we or too-li.	р. 126
9	WILSON'S PLOVER Charadrius wilsonia Similar in pattern to Semipalmated; larger with big bill. Call an emphatic whistled whit! or wheet!	р. 146
	KILLDEER Charadrius vociferus Tawny orange rump, longish tail. Noisy; a loud kill-deeah or killdeer; also dee-dee-dee, etc.	p. 126
	BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER Pluvialis squatarola Breeding: Black below, white undertail coverts. Year-round: Black wingpits, white in wing and tail. Call a plaintive slurred whistle, tlee-oo-eee or whee-er-ee.	p. 124
	AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER Pluvialis dominica Breeding: Black below, black undertail coverts. Nonbreeding: Speckled brown above, grayish below. Year-round: Underwing grayer than Black-bellied Plover's; no in wingpits. Call a querulous whistled queedle or que-e-a.	p. 124 black
	RUDDY TURNSTONE Arenaria interpres Harlequin pattern distinctive.	p. 134

Call a low chuckling tuk-a-tuk or kut-a-kut.



# LARGE WADERS IN FLIGHT

Learn to know their flight calls, which are distinctive.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT Limosa haemastica

p. 132

Upturned bill, white wing stripe, ringed tail. Blackish wing linings. Flight call *tawit!*, higher pitched than Marbled Godwit's.

**WILLET** Tringa semipalmata

p. 130

Contrasty black, gray, and white wing pattern. Overhead, wing pattern is even more striking.

Flight call a whistled *kay-ee* (second note lower) with Western's lower pitched and slower than Eastern's.

MARBLED GODWIT Limosa fedoa

p. 132

Long upturned bill, tawny brown color. Cinnamon wing linings. Flight call an accented *kerwhit!* (or *godwit!*).

WHIMBREL Numenius phaeopus

p. 132

Decurved bill, gray-brown overall color, striped crown. Grayer than next species, lacks cinnamon wing linings.

Flight call five to seven short, rapid whistles: hee-hee-hee-hee-hee-hee.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW Numenius americanus

p. 132

Very long, sicklelike bill; no head striping. Bright cinnamon wing linings. Juvenile's bill shorter but note head patterns. Flight call a loud *cur-lee* (rising inflection).



# SNIPELIKE WADERS AND SANDPIPERS IN FLIGHT

These species and those on the next plate show their basic flight patterns. Most of these have unpatterned wings, lacking a pale stripe. Learn their distinctive flight calls.

# WILSON'S SNIPE Gallinago delicata p. 142 Long bill, pointed wings, rusty orange tail, zigzag flight. Flight call, when flushed, a rasping scaip.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK Scolopax minor p. 142 Long bill, rounded wings, chunky shape. Wings whistle in flight. At dusk, aerial flight "song."

SOLITARY SANDPIPER *Tringa solitaria* p. 130 Very dark unpatterned wings (underwing dark also — pale in yellow-legs), conspicuous bars on white sides of tail. Flight call *peet!* or *peet-weet-weet!* (higher than Spotted Sandpiper's).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS Tringa flavipes p. 130
Similar to Greater Yellowlegs, but smaller, with smaller bill.
Flight call yew or yu-yu (rarely three), softer than Greater's call.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS Tringa melanoleuca p. 130
Plain unpatterned wings, whitish rump and tail, long bill.

Flight call a forceful three-note whistle, dear! dear! dear!

WILSON'S PHALAROPE Phalaropus tricolor

p. 144

Nonbreeding: Suggests Lesser Yellowlegs; smaller, whiter, bill needlelike.

Flight call a low nasal wurk.

STILT SANDPIPER Calidris himantopus p. 140 Suggests Lesser Yellowlegs, but legs greenish yellow, bill longer and drooped.

Usually silent, but flight call a single whu, lower than Lesser Yellow-legs'.

UPLAND SANDPIPER Bartramia longicauda p. 140
Brown; small head, long tail.
Often flies "on tips of wings," like Spotted Sandpiper.
Flight call a mellow whistled kip-ip-ip-ip.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* p. 140 Buff below, contrasting with white wing linings; plain upperparts.

Buff below, contrasting with white wing linings; plain upperparts. Flight call a low, trilled *pr-r-r-reet*; usually silent.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER Calidris melanotos p. 138
Like an oversized Least Sandpiper. Wing stripe faint or lacking.
Flight call a low, reedy churrt or trrip, trrip.



# SANDPIPERS AND PHALAROPES IN FLIGHT

The second secon	
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER Limnodromus griseus Long bill, long wedge of white up back. (Long-billed very simil Flight call a staccato mellow tu-tu-tu.	<b>p. 142</b> ar.)
<b>DUNLIN</b> Calidris alpina Nonbreeding: Slightly larger than peep, darker than Sanderlin Flight call a nasal rasping cheezp or treezp.	<b>p. 134</b> g.
RED KNOT Calidris canutus  Nonbreeding: Washed-out gray look, pale rump.  Flight call a low knut.	p. 134
PURPLE SANDPIPER Calidris maritima Slaty color. Flight call a low, scratchy weet-wit or twit.	p. 134
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER Calidris fuscicollis White rump; other peeps have white rumps with dark divide. Flight call a mouselike squeak, jeet.	p. 138
CURLEW SANDPIPER Calidris ferruginea Nonbreeding: Suggests Dunlin, but rump white.	p. 156
RUFF Philomachus pugnax If seen well, oval white patch on each side of dark tail distincti Usually silent.	<b>p. 156</b> ve.
SPOTTED SANDPIPER Actitis macularius Shallow wing stroke gives stiff, bowed effect; longish tail. Flight call a clear peet or peet-weet.	p. 140
SANDERLING Calidris alba  The most contrasting wing stripe of any small shorebird. Flight call a sharp metallic kip or quit.	p. 134
<b>RED PHALAROPE</b> Phalaropus fulicarius  Nonbreeding: Paler above than Red-necked Phalarope; bill slightly thicker.	p. 144
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE Phalaropus lobatus  Nonbreeding: Sanderling-like, but with dark eye patch.  Flight call (both pelagic phalaropes) a sharp kit or whit.	p. 144
LEAST SANDPIPER Calidris minutilla Very small, brown with short wings and tail; faint wing stripe. Flight call a thin single or double krreet, krreet.	p. 136
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER Calidris pusilla Grayer than Least Sandpiper. Flight call a soft chit or chirt (lacks ee sound of Least).	p. 136
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER Calidris bairdii Larger and longer winged than above two. Buffy color. Flight call a low, raspy kreep or kree.	p. 138



### RARE SHOREBIRDS

PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER Pluvialis fulva

Vagrant

10–10¼ in. (25–26 cm). Very similar to American Golden-Plover. Note wingtips barely extend beyond tail tip. Breeding adult: White neck stripe extends down to flanks and undertail coverts (but molting American may have this look). Golden spangles on back brighter. Nonbreeding adult and juvenile: More golden on upperparts, face, and breast. VOICE: Whistled chu-wee or chu-wee-dle. RANGE: Accidental visitor from Asia and Alaska

NORTHERN LAPWING Vanellus vanellus

Vagrant

12–12½ in. (30–32 cm). A distinctive round-winged plover with unique long wispy crest. **RANGE:** Casual European vagrant to northeast, mostly in late fall and early winter. **HABITAT:** Farmland, marshes.

EUROPEAN GOLDEN-PLOVER Pluvialis apricaria

Vagrar

11 in. (28 cm). Very similar to American Golden-Plover but shows white underwings. RANGE: Very rare spring vagrant to NL, casual elsewhere in Maritimes. HABITAT: Farmland, marshes; in summer, tundra.

**SPOTTED REDSHANK** Tringa erythropus

Vagrant

12½ in. (32 cm). Similar to a yellowlegs but with red legs, long bill has reddish base and slight droop at tip; in flight shows white wedge up back and white underwing. Breeding: Sooty black, with small white speckles. Nonbreeding and juvenile: Gray and white. RANGE: Casual Eurasian visitor.

ESKIMO CURLEW Numenius borealis

Probably extinct

14 in. (36 cm). Last documented record in early 1960s. Much smaller, buffier than Whimbrel with weaker head pattern; shorter, thinner bill. Wing linings cinnamon-buff. HABITAT: Open grasslands, coastal areas; in summer, tundra.

**"EURASIAN" WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus* **Vagrant** European subspecies of Whimbrel, *N. p. phaeopus,* is a casual visitor along Atlantic Coast. Differs from N. American Whimbrel by showing mostly *white rump* and whiter underwing.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT Limosa lapponica

Vagrant

16–17 in. (41–44 cm). Note barred tail and whitish rump. Breeding: Male rich reddish orange, particularly on head and underparts. Female duller. Nonbreeding and juvenile: Grayish above, white below with bold supercilium. RANGE: Eurasian species; also breeds in AK. Casual vagrant on East Coast.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT Limosa limosa

Vagrant

16% in. (42 cm). This elegant Eurasian godwit resembles Hudsonian Godwit (white rump, white wing stripe, black tail), but bill straighter and has *white underwing*. In breeding plumage, has chestnut head and neck, black-and-white barred belly. **RANGE**: Casual visitor to East Coast and e. Great Lakes.



#### SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER Calidris acuminata

8½ in. (22 cm). Similar to Pectoral Sandpiper, but shows bolder whitish supercitium and brighter rusty crown. Most birds in N. America are juveniles, which have rich orangey buff breast, finely streaked on sides only. Breeding adults have heavy dark chevrons extending to flanks. Crissum streaked. In no plumage is there as sharp a demarcation between white belly and streaked breast as in Pectoral. RANGE: Casual, mostly fall visitor from Asia.

#### LITTLE STINT Calidris minuta

Vagrant

Vagrant

6 in. (15 cm). Size of Semipalmated Sandpiper, but bill slightly finer. *Breeding:* Rusty orange above and on breast. Similar to some Rednecked Stints, but *dark breast markings washed with orange.* RANGE: Casual visitor from Eurasia.

#### **RED-NECKED STINT** Calidris ruficollis

Vagrant

6¼ in. (17 cm). Size of Semipalmated Sandpiper, but bill finer. Recognized in breeding plumage by bright rusty head and neck, bordered below by dark streaks. RANGE: Casual visitor from Asia.

#### **CURLEW SANDPIPER**

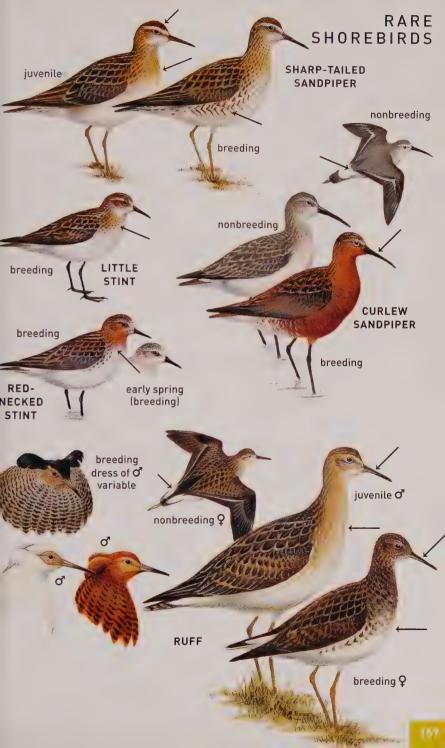
Very rare visitor

Calidris ferruginea (see also p. 152)

8½–8¾ in. (21–22 cm). A Eurasian species with slim downcurved bill, blackish legs, and white rump in flight. Breeding: Variably rich rufous red (darker than Red Knot). Nonbreeding and juvenile: Resembles Dunlin, but slightly longer legged, bolder pale supercilium; bill curved slightly throughout; whitish rump. RANGE: Very rare but annual migrant along East Coast, casual inland.

RUFF Philomachus pugnax (see also p. 152)

Very rare visitor Male (Ruff) 12–13 in. (30–32 cm); female (known informally as Reevel 9 in. (23 cm). Breeding male: Unique, with erectile ruffs and ear tufts that may be black, brown, rufous, buff, white, or barred, in various combinations. Legs may be greenish, yellow, or orange. Bill color also variable. Breeding female: Smaller than male; lacks ruffs, breast heavily blotched with dark. Nonbreeding: Rather plain, with short bill, small head, thick neck, mottling of gray across breast. Note erect stance and (in flight) oval white patch on each side of dark tail. Juvenile: Buffy below, very scaly on back. RANGE: Breeds in Eurasia. Very rare but regular migrant along Atlantic Coast and in Great Lakes region; casual elsewhere inland. HABITAT: Mudflats, marshes, coastal pools, wet agricultural fields in migration. Marshes, tundra in summer.



## GULLS Family Laridae

Long-winged swimming birds with superb flight. Most are more robust, wider winged, and longer legged than terns, and most have slightly hooked bills. Tails square or rounded (terns usually have forked tail). Gulls seldom dive (most terns hover, then plunge headfirst). FOOD: Omnivorous; marine life, plant and animal food, refuse, carrion. RANGE: Nearly worldwide.

#### AGING GULLS

It is often important to determine the age of a gull before identifying it. Knowing what a gull looks like in both its adult and first-year plumages is helpful in identifying the bird to species in its intermediate stages. Note that the molt of a gull from one plumage to the next is a gradual process. Therefore, a single "molt cycle" (which takes about a year in gulls) from, for example, fresh juvenal plumage in August to "first winter" plumage in January to "first summer" plumage in June will result in a range of appearances (particularly in larger species). Only one point in that range is pictured here.

#### SEQUENCE OF PLUMAGES IN A TWO-YEAR GULL

On the top of the opposite page, the Bonaparte's Gull illustrates the transition of plumages from first year to adult. Species in this category are mostly smaller gulls, including Bonaparte's, Black-headed, Little, Ross's, Sabine's, and Ivory gulls.

#### SEQUENCE OF PLUMAGES IN A THREE-YEAR GULL

In the middle of the opposite page, the Ring-billed Gull, widespread and abundant both coastally and inland, illustrates the transition of plumages from first year to adult. Species in this category are mostly medium-sized gulls, including Ring-billed, Laughing, Franklin's, and Mew gulls and Black-legged Kittiwake.

#### SEQUENCE OF PLUMAGES IN A FOUR-YEAR GULL

On the bottom of the opposite page, the Herring Gull, a widespread species, illustrates the transition of plumages from first year to adult. Species in this category are most of the larger gulls, including California, Herring, Lesser Black-backed, Great Black-backed, Slaty-backed, Glaucous, Iceland, and Thayer's gulls. These species attain full maturity in 31/2 to 41/2 years.

In this field guide, intended for identification on the species level, no other four-year gull receives similarly full treatment. That is the province of a larger text specifically on gulls. For in-depth analysis of other species, consult the Peterson Reference Guide to Gulls of the Americas.

Caution: There is extensive variation within species (particularly the immatures), resulting from several factors including dimorphism (males are larger than females), molt, variation in wear and bleaching, albinism, and other factors. In addition, hybridization is a regular phenomenon among most four-year species. Even expert birders leave some gulls unidentified.

# BONAPARTE'S GULL Plumage Transition of a TwoYear Gull







LAUGHING GULL Leucophaeus atricilla

16–16½ in. (41–42 cm). A small coastal gull named for its call. Dark mantle blends into black wingtips. Head black in breeding plumage; pale in nonbreeding plumage, with dark gray smudge. Bill longish, often with slight droop; reddish when breeding, mostly dark when not breeding. Immature: See p. 166. VOICE: Nasal ha-a and strident laugh, ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-h, etc. SIMILAR SPECIES: Franklin's Gull slightly smaller, shorter billed, has broader white eye-arcs, paler underwing, and different wingtip pattern. HABITAT: Salt marshes, coastlines, parks, farm fields.



FRANKLIN'S GULL Leucophaeus pipixcan Fairly common M198 14½-15 in. (37-38 cm). Note white band near wingtip, separating black from gray. In breeding plumage, head black; breast has rosy bloom; bill red. In nonbreeding plumage, head paler but extensive blackish "half-hood"; bill mostly dark. Immature: See p. 166. VOICE: Shrill kuk-kuk-kuk; also mewing, laughing cries. SIMILAR SPECIES: Laughing and Bonaparte's gulls. HABITAT: Prairies, inland marshes, lakes; in winter, coasts, ocean.



SABINE'S GULL Xema sabini
13½-14 in. (34-36 cm). A small, ternlike gull with slightly forked tail.
Note bold upperwing pattern of black outer primaries and triangular white wing patch. Bill black with yellow tip. Immature: See p. 166.
VOICE: Various grating or buzzy ternlike calls. HABITAT: Ocean; nests on tundra pools.



BLACK-HEADED GULL Chroicocephalus ridibundus Rare M194 15%–16 in. (40–41 cm). This Eurasian species regularly visits the ne. coast of N. America, especially in Atlantic provinces. Similar to Bonaparte's Gull and often associates with it or with Ring-billed Gull. Slightly larger than Bonaparte's; mantle slightly paler; much black-ish on underside of primaries; bill dark red. In nonbreeding plumage, loses dark brown hood and has black ear spot. Immature: See p. 166. HABITAT: Same as Bonaparte's Gull; also beaches, lawns.



BONAPARTE'S GULL Chroicocephalus philadelphia Common M193 13–13½ in. (33–34 cm). A petite, ternlike gull. Note wedge of white on fore edge of wing. Legs pinkish; bill small, black. In breeding plumage, head blackish. In nonbreeding plumage, head whitish with black ear spot. Immature: See p. 166. Also see Sequence of Plumages in a Two-Year Gull, p. 158. VOICE: Nasal, grating cheer or cherr. SIMILAR SPECIES: Black-headed and Little gulls. HABITAT: Ocean, bays, lakes, sewage-treatment ponds; in summer, muskeg.



LITTLE GULL Hydrocoloeus minutus

11 in. (28 cm). This rare visitor is the smallest gull. Note blackish undersurface of rather rounded wing and absence of black above. In breeding plumage, head black. In nonbreeding plumage, head darkcapped, black ear spot. Immature: See p. 166. VOICE: Series of one- or two-syllable key notes. SIMILAR SPECIES: Bonaparte's Gull. HABITAT: Lakes, rivers, bays, coastal waters, sewage-treatment ponds; usually with Bonaparte's Gulls.

## SMALL HOODED GULLS Adults nonbreeding LAUGHING GULL breeding FRANKLIN'S nonbreeding GULL breeding SABINE'S GULL nonbreeding breeding BLACK-HEADED nonbreeding GULL breeding BONAPARTE'S **GULL** nonbreeding breeding LITTLE GULL nonbreeding breeding



**HERRING GULL** Larus argentatus

24–25 in. (61–64 cm). A widespread large gull. Pale gray mantle, pinkish legs, pale eye. Outer primaries black with white spots or "mirrors." Bill yellow with red spot on lower mandible. In nonbreeding plumage, head and neck mottled with brownish. Immature: See p. 168. Also see Sequence of Plumages in a Four-Year Gull, p. 158. VOICE: A loud hiyak...hiyak...hyiah-hyak or yuk-yuk-yuk-yuckleyuckle. Mewing squeals. Anxiety call gah-gah-gah. SIMILAR SPECIES: Thayer's and California gulls. HABITAT: Ocean, coasts, bays, beaches, lakes, dams, piers, farmland, dumps.



CALIFORNIA GULL Larus californicus

21–21½ in. (53–55 cm). Resembles larger Herring Gull, but note darker mantle, darker eye, yellowish legs. Shows more white and black in wingtips than Herring. In nonbreeding plumage, head streaked or mottled brownish, dark spot on bill may extend to upper mandible, legs slightly duller. Immature: See p. 168. HABITAT: Lakes, farms, dumps; stray to Atlantic and Gulf coasts.



RING-BILLED GULL Larus delawarensis Common M199

17–17½ in. [43–45 cm]. A small gull, with pale eye and light gray mantle (similar to Herring's); legs yellow or greenish yellow (may be duller in nonbreeding plumage). Note complete black ring encircling bill. In nonbreeding plumage, shows some fine dark streaking on head. Immature: See p. 166. Also see Sequence of Plumages in a Three-Year Gull, p. 158. VOICE: Higher pitched than Herring Gull's. SIMILAR SPECIES: Mew Gull. HABITAT: Lakes, bays, coasts, piers, dumps, plowed fields, sewage outlets, shopping malls, fast-food restaurants.

MEW GULL Larus canus

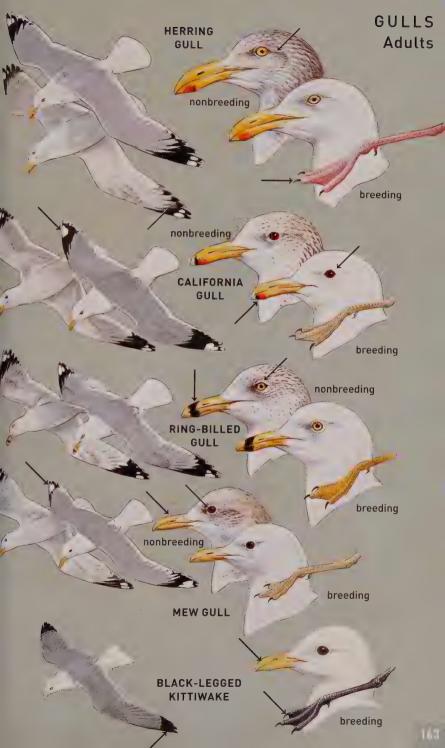
Vagrant

Common M201

16–17 in. (41–44 cm). Called "Common Gull" in Europe. Slightly smaller than Ring-billed Gull, with more greenish yellow legs and smaller, unmarked greenish yellow bill. Darkish eye. Mantle noticeably darker than Ring-billed's. Larger white "mirrors" in wingtips than Ring-billed. More extensive dark mottling on head and neck in winter. Immature: First year of European subspecies (canus) almost identical to first-year Ring-billed; best identified by smaller size, slimmer, more grayish-based bill, darker gray back, and cleaner white uppertail coverts and tail base (matched by some Ring-bills). RANGE: European subspecies (canus) annual in Atlantic provinces, casual in New England. American subspecies (brachyrhynchus) accidental in East.



BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE Rissa tridactyla Uncommon M190 16–17 in. (41–43 cm). A small, buoyant oceanic gull. Wingtips are solid black, as if dipped in ink. Bill small, pale yellow, and unmarked. Legs and feet black. Eyes dark. In nonbreeding plumage, rear head and nape dusky. Immature: See p. 166. VOICE: At nesting colony, a raucous kaka-week or kitti-waak. SIMILAR SPECIES: Ring-billed and Sabine's gulls. HABITAT: Chiefly oceanic; rarely on beaches, casual inland. Nests on sea cliffs.





THAYER'S GULL Larus thayeri

Rare M202

23–24 in. [58–61 cm]. Formerly thought to be a subspecies of Herring Gull. Now designated as a full species, but regarded by some as a subspecies of Iceland Gull. Very similar to Herring Gull. Typical adult has pale to dark brown eyes, only a thin trailing edge of black on grayish underside of primaries, slightly darker mantle, slightly deeper pink legs, and somewhat slighter bill, often with greenish-tinged base. In nonbreeding plumage, head and neck streaked or mottled with brownish. Immature: See p. 168. VOICE: Similar to Herring Gull. SIMILAR SPECIES: Iceland Gull. HABITAT: Similar to Herring Gull.



ICELAND GULL Larus glaucoides Uncommon M203 22–23 in. (56–60 cm). A pale ghostly gull, slightly smaller than Her-

22–23 in. (56–60 cm). A pale ghostly gull, slightly smaller than Herring Gull. Mantle pale gray; primaries whitish and extending well beyond tail. Immature: See p. 168. "Kumlien's" Gull (Larus glaucoides kumlieni), the subspecies that breeds in e. Arctic Canada, is the one seen in U.S.; has gray or dark markings, variable in extent, toward tips of whitish primaries (not black with white "mirrors" as in Herring Gull). VOICE: Similar to Herring Gull but higher pitched; rarely heard away from breeding grounds. SIMILAR SPECIES: Glaucous Gull larger, has larger bill, shorter primary extension. Adult Thayer's Gull has slightly darker mantle, blacker primaries, dark eye. HABITAT: Ocean, coastlines, dumps.



GLAUCOUS GULL Larus hyperboreus Uncommon M205

27–28 in. [68–72 cm]. A large, chalky white gull with pinkish legs. Note "frosty" wingtips. Has pale gray mantle and unmarked white outer primaries. Light eye. Immature: See p. 168. VOICE: Much like Herring Gull's. SIMILAR SPECIES: Iceland Gull, but that species is smaller than Herring Gull; also, Iceland's bill is smaller, head rounder, and wings proportionately longer and narrower. Breeding adult Iceland has narrow red eye-ring [Glaucous, yellow], but this is hard to see. HABITAT: Mainly coastal; a few inland at large lakes and dumps.



LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus fuscus Scarce M204

21–22½ in. (53–57 cm). Similar to Great Black-backed Gull but slightly smaller (smaller than Herring Gull) and slimmer, with longer wings and smaller bill. Distinguished by yellowish (not pink) legs and slate gray (not black) mantle. Extensive head and neck streaking or mottling in nonbreeding plumage. Pale eye. Oblong red spot on bill. Immature: See p. 168. VOICE: Harsh kyah. SIMILAR SPECIES: Great Black-backed Gull. HABITAT: Same as Herring Gull.



**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** Larus marinus Common M206 29–30 in. (73–76 cm). Largest gull in the world, with broad wings and heavy body and bill. Black back and wings, snow-white underparts, no head streaking in winter. Legs and feet pale pinkish. Immature: See p. 168. **VOICE:** Harsh deep seal-like kyow or owk. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Lesser Black-backed Gull. **HABITAT:** Mainly coastal waters, es-

tuaries, dumps; a few well inland on large lakes and rivers.



### IMMATURE SMALL GULLS

Immatures of many gull species are more difficult to identify than adults. They are usually darkest the first year and lighter the second, when some species start to show their adult eye and back color. Larger species do not develop their full adult plumage until the third or fourth year. (See pp. 158–159.) Identify mainly by pattern, size, and structure. The most typical plumages are shown here; intermediate and successive stages can be expected, but because of variables such as stage of molt, wear, age, individual variation, hybridization, and occasional albinism, some birds may remain a mystery even to the expert.

LAUGHING GULL Leucophaeus atricilla

Adult, p. 166

A three-year gull. *Juvenile:* Dark brown with black tail, white rump. *First year:* Neck and back become extensively smudged with gray. *Second year:* Similar to nonbreeding adult, but with trace of black in tail. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Franklin's Gull.

FRANKLIN'S GULL Leucophaeus pipixcan

Adult, p. 160

A three-year gull. First year: Similar to first-year Laughing, but more petite with smaller bill, blackish half-hood, white neck, white outer tail feathers, whitish breast, paler underside to primaries. Second year: Close to second winter Laughing but with blackish half hood, pale underside to primaries.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** Chroicocephalus ridibundus Adult, p. 160 A two-year gull. First year: Similar to first-year Bonaparte's Gull but slightly larger; bill longer, orange to red at base, black at tip; sooty underwing; broad dusky trailing edge to upperwing.

BONAPARTE'S GULL Chroicocephalus philadelphia Adult, p. 160 A two-year gull. Petite, ternlike. First year: Note dark ear spot, narrow black tail band, neat dark trailing edge to wings, and pattern of black and white in outer primaries. Pale underwing. See Sequence of Plumages in a Two-Year Gull, p. 158.

LITTLE GULL Hydrocoloeus minutus

Adult, p. 166

A two-year gull. First year: Slightly smaller than Bonaparte's Gull, with blacker M pattern across back and wings, white trailing edge to wings, dusky cap.

SABINE'S GULL Xema sabini

Adult, p. 160

A two-year gull. *Juvenile:* Dark grayish brown on back, but with adult's bold *triangular wing pattern.* Note also *forked* tail.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE Rissa tridactyla Adult, p. 162 A three-year gull. First year: Note dark bar on nape (held into early winter), black Macross back and wings; tail may seem notched. White trailing edge to wings.

RING-BILLED GULL Larus delawarensis

Adult, p. 162

A three-year gull. First year: Usually bicolored (pinkish-based) bill, mostly whitish underneath and on rump and upper tail, pale gray back. Subterminal tail band narrow and usually well defined; contrasty wing pattern. SIMILAR SPECIES: Mew and California gulls.



### IMMATURE LARGE GULLS

#### LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus fuscus

A four-year gull. Smaller, slimmer than Herring Gull. First year: Like miniature first-year Great Black-backed but with broader tail band, darker wings, more heavily streaked breast; colder brown than Herring with white tail base, paler head and underparts, darker wings.

#### HERRING GULL Larus argentatus

Adult, p. 162

Adult, p. 164

A four-year gull. First year: Brownish overall, with blackish tail and wingtips; only all-brown gull commonly seen in the East. Often shows much mottling or checkering on upperwing coverts and rump. Pale area on inner primaries visible in flight. Bill all dark at first, becoming paler at base later. Second and third years: Head and underparts whiter; eye pale; back pale gray; rump white; bill pale, dark-tipped. See Sequence of Plumages in a Four-Year Gull, p. 158.

#### **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** Larus marinus

Adult, p. 164

A four-year gull. First year: Larger than Herring with more checkered look; pale head and body contrast with dark back and underwing. White tail with dark band. Second year: Distinct "saddle-back" pattern.

#### CALIFORNIA GULL Larus californicus

Adult, p. 162

A four-year gull. First year: Like Herring Gull, but slightly smaller, with smaller bicolored bill. In flight, shows double dark bar on wing and lacks pale area on inner primaries. Second year: Legs and bill base often dull gray-green-blue. Much like first-winter Ring-billed Gull, but somewhat larger, retains dark eye, darker gray on back, and tail mostly dark rather than with only a dark subterminal band.

#### GLAUCOUS GULL Larus hyperboreus

Adult, p. 164

A four-year gull. First year: Recognized by its large size, pale tan or off-whitish (whiter by late winter) coloration, and unmarked frosty primaries, a shade lighter than rest of wing. Bill pale pinkish with dark tip sharply demarcated. Second year: Pale gray back and pale eye acquired.

#### THAYER'S GULL Larus thayeri

Adult, p. 164

A four-year gull. First year: Tan-brown and checkered; similar to juvenile Herring Gull but lighter; primaries paler, usually light tanbrown (not brownish black) with pale edges to tips; bill entirely or almost entirely blackish, more petite; underside of primaries pale. Often shows dark smudge through eye. Second year: Paler and grayer; primaries gray-brown with darker outer webs.

#### ICELAND GULL Larus glaucoides

Adult, p. 164

Similar to Glaucous Gull, but smaller (smaller than Herring) with smaller bill and proportionately longer wings (projecting beyond tail at rest). Bill of most first-year Iceland Gulls mostly dark, only very rarely as sharply demarcated as in Glaucous. Most birds show a hint of a tail band as well as some dark in outer primaries, both lacking in Glaucous; darkest birds approach Thayer's in appearance.



### RARE GULLS

**BLACK-TAILED GULL** Larus carassirostris

Vagrant

18–18½ in. (46–47 cm). Slightly larger than Ring-billed Gull, and with slightly longer wings and bill. Adult has red tip to black-banded bill, slate gray mantle, and wide black subterminal band on tail. RANGE: Casual visitor from e. Asia, with widely scattered records across much of N. America.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL Larus michahellis

Vagrant

24–24½ in. (61–63 cm). This native of s. Europe was recently split from Herring Gull. Very similar to Herring Gull, but bill slightly stouter, adult's mantle slightly darker gray, and head flatter and only finely streaked on crown in nonbreeding plumage. Orbital ring red, and red spot on bill slightly larger. Yellow legs of adult usually distinctive, but beware some Herring Gulls that show yellowish tones to legs in late winter and early spring. RANGE: Casual visitor to Atlantic Seaboard, with most records to date from NL. HABITAT: Similar to Herring Gull.

SLATY-BACKED GULL Larus schistisagus Vagrant 25–26 in. (64–67 cm). A dark-backed gull, chunkier and shorter winged than Lesser Black-backed, smaller and slimmer billed than Great Black-backed. Note deep pinkish legs and feet, extensive head streaking, and dusky mark through eye in nonbreeding plumage. Note how broad white trailing edge of wing invades outer wing, forming thin white bar crossing dark primaries (best seen across underwing). Primaries gray beneath. SIMILAR SPECIES: Lesser Black-backed Gull is slimmer and longer winged, has yellow legs. RANGE: Casual visitor from ne. Asia. HABITAT: Seacoasts, beaches, dumps.



ROSS'S GULL Rhodostethia rosea

Very rare M196

13–13½ in. (33–35 cm). A rare Arctic gull of drift ice. Note wedge-shaped tail, medium gray wing linings, and small black bill. A two-year gull. Breeding: Rosy blush on underparts, fine black collar. Nonbreeding: Rosy blush duller or lacking, lacks black collar, may be washed with gray. First winter: Similar in pattern to immature Black-legged Kittiwake or Little Gull, but intermediate in size and note wedge-shaped tail (not square or notched) and gray linings of underwing; lacks dark nape of young kittiwake. HABITAT: Arctic waters, tundra in summer.



IVORY GULL Pagophila eburnea

17 in. (43 cm). A declining species of Arctic pack ice. Most individuals that wander south of normal range are immatures. A two-year gull. Adult: The only all-white gull with black legs. Pigeon sized with dovelike head; wings long, flight ternlike. Bill greenish with yellow tip. Immature: White, with dark smudge on face, a sprinkling of black spots above, black spots on primary tips, and narrow black tip to tail. Legs and feet black, a distinction from all other white gulls. HABITAT: Open Arctic waters near pack ice.



### TERNS Subfamily Sterninae

Graceful waterbirds, more streamlined than gulls; wings more pointed, tail usually forked. Bill sharp-pointed, often tilted toward water when bird is flying. Most terns are whitish with black cap; in nonbreeding plumage, black of forehead replaced by white. Sexes alike. Terns often hover and plunge headfirst for fish. FOOD: Small fish, marine life, large insects. RANGE: Almost worldwide.



FORSTER'S TERN Sterna forsteri

Common M217

14½ in. (37 cm). Very similar to Common Tern, but paler; all adults have frosty wingtips (lighter than rest of wing). White below, lacking gray wash of breeding Common. Bill slightly thicker and more orange than red. Nonbreeding adult and immature have isolated black mask and lack dark carpal ("shoulder") bar of Common in similar plumages. VOICE: Harsh, nasal kyarr. HABITAT: Fresh and salt marshes, lakes, bays, beaches, nearshore ocean.



COMMON TERN Sterna hirundo Uncommon to common M215
14 in. (36 cm). A graceful, small, black-capped, slim bird with deeply forked tail. Breeding adult: Similar to Forster's Tern, but darker gray above with darker primaries, grayer below, bill slightly smaller and redder. Nonbreeding adult and immature: Cap, nape, and bill blackish. Show dark shoulder (carpal) bar. VOICE: Drawling kee-arr [two-parted]; also kik-kik-kik. HABITAT: Lakes, ocean, bays, marshes, beaches; nests colonially on sandy beaches and small islands.



ARCTIC TERN Sterna paradisaea

Uncommon M216

15 in. (38 cm). A pelagic (seagoing) tern. Similar to Common Tern. Bill and neck shorter, head rounder. Legs shorter. Overhead, note translucent effect of primaries and narrow black trailing edge. Breeding adult: Bill usually blood red to tip; uniform pale gray upperwing; breast slightly darker gray than Common. Nonbreeding and juvenile: Like Common, but black on head slightly more extensive, shoulder bar somewhat weaker, secondaries whitish. VOICE: Kee-yak, similar to Common Tern's but higher. A high keer-keer is characteristic. HABITAT: Open ocean, coasts; in summer, also taiga lakes, tundra.



ROSEATE TERN Sterna dougallii

Uncommon, local M214

15½ in. (39 cm). Similar to Common Tern, but much paler with quicker wingbeats. At rest, tail extends well beyond wingtips. In spring and summer, note thin, long black bill (some red at base in late summer), pale rosy blush to breast. Immature: Back of juvenile shows pattern of coarse crescents. Secondaries pale (darker in Common). VOICE: Rasping ka-a-ak; a soft two-syllable chu-ick or chiv-ick. HABITAT: Salt bays, estuaries, ocean.



**LEAST TERN** 

Uncommon to fairly common M210

Sternula antillarum

9 in. [23 cm]. A very small, pale tern, with rapid wingbeats (quicker than other terns). Breeding adult: Dark-tipped yellow bill (in fall, may have dark bill) and white forehead. Immature: Dark bill, dark cheek and nape, dusky crown, dark shoulder bar. VOICE: A harsh, squealing zree-k-zeek. HABITAT: Beaches, bays, ponds, large rivers, sandbars.





GULL-BILLED TERN Gelochelidon nilotica Uncommon M211

14 in. [36 cm]. Note stout black bill. Stockier and paler than Common Tern; tail much less forked; feet black. In nonbreeding plumage, head white with smudgy dark ear patch, pale dusky on nape; suggests a small gull with notched tail. Immature: Similar to nonbreeding adult. This tern plucks food from water's surface and often hawks for insects over marshes and fields, swooping (rarely diving) after prey. VOICE: Kay-weck, kay-weck; also a throaty, rasping za-za-za. SIMILAR SPECIES: Sandwich Tern, midsized gulls. HABITAT: Marshes, fields, coastal bays.



SANDWICH TERN Thalasseus sandvicensis Fairly common M219 15–15½ in. (38–40 cm). Larger than Common Tern. Note long black bill with yellow tip "as though dipped in mustard." Bill of young can be mostly black or mostly yellow. Dark outer primaries. Adult: All-black cap in breeding plumage, white forehead in nonbreeding plumage; feathers on back of crown elongated, forming crest. Legs black. VOICE: Grating kirr-ick (higher than Gull-billed Tern's kay-weck). SIM-ILAR SPECIES: Gull-billed Tern has stout black bill. HABITAT: Coastal waters, jetties, beaches. Often seen with Royal Tern.



ROYAL TERN Thalasseus maximus

Common M218

20 in. (51 cm). A large tern, slimmer than Caspian, with large orange bill (Caspian's bill heavier, redder, and has dark mark near tip). Tail forked. Although some Royal Terns in spring show solid black crown, for most of year they have much white on forehead, black crown feathers forming a crest. Dusky upperside and pale underside to primaries, opposite of Caspian. VOICE: Sonorous karr-rik, mellower (slower and lower-pitched) than Sandwich; also kaak or kak. SIMILAR SPECIES: Caspian Tern. HABITAT: Ocean, coasts, beaches, salt bays. More closely tied to coastal waters than Caspian, which is common inland.



CASPIAN TERN Hydroprogne caspia Uncommon M212

21 in. (53 cm). Large size and stout reddish bill with small dark mark near tip set Caspian apart from all other terns. Tail of Caspian shorter; head and bill larger, crest shorter. Royal's forehead is usually clear white (in adult nonbreeding plumage, Caspian has streaked forehead). Caspian shows obvious grayish black on undersurface of primaries, but pale upper surface. Caspian ranges inland, Royal does not. VOICE: Raspy, low kraa-uh or karr, also repeated kak; juveniles give whistled wheee-oo. SIMILAR SPECIES: Royal Tern. HABITAT: Large lakes, rivers, coastal waters, beaches, bays.





BLACK TERN Chlidonias niger

Uncommon M213

9½-9¾ in. (24-25 cm). A small dark tern. Short tail only slightly forked. *Breeding adult:* Head and underparts *black; back, wings, and tail dark gray;* wing linings whitish. *Nonbreeding adult and immature:* Note pied head, with dark smudge from crown to ear coverts and on sides of breast. **YOICE:** Sharp *kik, keek,* or *klea.* **HABITAT:** Marshes, lakes: in migration, also coastal waters, including open ocean.

WHITE-WINGED TERN Chlidonias leucopterus Vagrant 91/4–91/2 in. (23–24 cm). Breeding: Underwing lining black, upperwing and tail mostly white. Nonbreeding: Paler than Black Tern; lacks dark shoulder spot, RANGE: Vagrant from Eurasia.



BROWN NODDY Anous stolidus Uncommon, local M207 15–15½ in. (38–40 cm). A sooty brown tern with whitish cap. Wedge-shaped tail. Immature has duller cap. VOICE: Ripping karrrrk or arrrrowk; a harsh eye-ak. SIMILAR SPECIES: Black Noddy. HABITAT: Warm ocean waters.

**BLACK NODDY** *Anous minutus*13½ in. (34 cm). A rare spring visitor to Dry Tortugas, FL; casual visitor to TX. Slightly smaller and slimmer than Brown Noddy, with thinner. *Jonger bill*, darker body, more *sharply defined white cap*.



\$00TY TERN Onychoprion fuscatus Uncommon, local M208 16 in. [41 cm]. Adult: A cleanly patterned tern, black above and white below. Cheeks and patch on forehead white; bill and feet black. Immature: Dark brown; back spotted with white; note forked tail. VOICE: Nasal wide-a-wake or wacky-wack. SIMILAR SPECIES: Bridled Tern. HABITAT: Warm ocean waters.



BRIDLED TERN Onychoprion anaethetus Uncommon, local M209 15 in. (38 cm). A tern of warm oceans and, after hurricanes, farther north. Immature has more white on crown. VOICE: Mostly silent; sometimes gives a soft, nasal wheeep. SIMILAR SPECIES: Resembles Sooty Tern, but back brownish, not blackish; note whitish collar separating black cap from back; white forehead patch extends behind eye (in Sooty, to above eye). Sooty also has darker underside of primaries. HABITAT: Warm ocean waters, usually well offshore.

### **SKIMMERS** Subfamily Rynchopinae

Slim, short-legged relatives of gulls and terns. Scissorlike red bill; lower mandible longer than upper. FOOD: Small fish, crustaceans. RANGE: Coasts, ponds, marshes, beaches, rivers of warmer parts of world.



BLACK SKIMMER Rhynchops niger Fairty common M220 18–18½ in. [46–47 cm]. Slender, with very long wings. Skims low, dipping lower mandible in water, snapping shut when it comes in contact with a food item. (Forages mostly at night.) Adult: Black above; white face and underparts. Bright red bill is long and flat vertically; lower mandible juts a third beyond upper. Immature: Brownish and speckled above, bill smaller, duller. VOICE: Soft, short, barking notes. HABITAT: Bays, marshes, beaches, protected ocean waters.



### SKUAS AND JAEGERS Family Stercorariidae

Falconlike seabirds that harass gulls and terns, forcing them to disgorge or drop their food. Light, intermediate, and dark morphs exist in at least two species; all have flash of white in primaries. Adult jaegers have two projecting central tail feathers, which are sometimes broken or missing. Young birds lack these feathers. Separating jaegers in most plumages can be very difficult. Skuas are larger, lack tail points, and are broader winged. Sexes alike. FOOD: In Arctic and Antarctic, lemmings, eggs, young birds. At sea, food taken from other birds or from water. RANGE: Seas of world, breeding in subpolar regions.



GREAT SKUA Stercorarius skua

22–23 in. (56–58 cm). Note conspicuous white wing patch visible on both upper- and underwing. Near size of Herring Gull, but stockier. Dark brown, with rusty and streaked upperparts and short, slightly wedge-shaped tail. Flight strong and swift; harasses other seabirds. SIMILAR SPECIES: Dark jaegers may lack distinctive tail-feather extensions. However, skuas' wings wider, less falconlike, white wing patches more striking both above and below, and flight more powerful. Very much like South Polar Skua but averages larger and heavier-billed. Note warmer brown color, dark cap, less distinct pale nape, and more streaked appearance to upperparts.



SOUTH POLAR SKUA Stercorarius maccormicki

21 in. (53 cm). Near size of Herring Gull, but stockier, with deep-chested, hunch-backed look. Dark, with short, slightly wedge-shaped tail and conspicuous white wing patch at base of primaries visible on both upper- and underwing. "Blond" morph has pale head and underparts contrasting with darker wings; dark morph uniform graybrown with paler nape. SIMILAR SPECIES: Great Skua; dark jaegers (particularly Pomarine Jaeger) may lack tail points, but skuas larger, their wings wider, and they have more striking white wing patches.

### SKUAS AND JAEGERS GREAT SKUA dark morph tail shape of skua "blond" morph SOUTH POLAR SKUA Great Skua Long-tailed Jaeger Pomarine Parasitic Jaeger Pomarine Jaeger Jaeger Parasitic Jaegers Jaeger in flight p. 181 Long-tailed ung jaegers, minus Jaeger e long tail points, are ten distinguishable ly by size and build



PARASITIC JAEGER Stercorarius parasiticus Uncommon M224 17-19 in. (44-49 cm). This is the jaeger most frequently seen from shore. Flies with strong, falconlike wing strokes. Like other jaegers, it shows white wing-flash, Adult: Dark crown, pale underparts, Sharp tail points project up to 31/2 in. (9 cm). Shows small pale spot above base of bill. Varies from light to dark morphs. Juvenile: Juvenile jaegers show heavy barring, especially on underwing. Juvenile Parasitic is usually warmer brown than other juvenile jaegers, often with more distinct white patch on upperwing. Up close, look for streaked head and pale-edged primary tips. HABITAT: Primarily ocean, regularly seen from shore: in summer, tundra.



POMARINE JAEGER Stercorarius pomarinus Uncommon M223 19-21 in. (48-53 cm). Like Parasitic Jaeger, but slightly heavier with more gull-like flight style. Adult: Broad and twisted central tail feathers project 2-7 in. (5-18 cm). Dark cap extends farther down through face to "jowls." Bill heavy and pink-based; breast band darker and more barred than in Parasitic, Juvenile: Plumage variable, but compared with juvenile Parasitic it lacks warm tones, and very short central tail feathers are blunt-tipped. Look for white-based primary coverts creating double white flash on underwing. HABITAT: Open ocean, seen from shore in small numbers; in summer, tundra.



LONG-TAILED JAEGER Stercorarius longicaudus Scarce M225 17-22 in [44-56 cm]. The smallest, slimmest jaeger with buoyant, ternlike flight style. Adults: Paler and grayer above than other jaegers with distinctly two-toned upperwing in flight; long tail streamers project 3-6 in. (8-15 cm); black cap neat and sharply defined: no breast band; almost no white in wings. Juvenile: Varies from light to dark morph. All show very limited white on upperwing (two or three primary shafts), stubby bill, and longer, blunter-tipped central tail feathers than other juvenile jaegers. Light morph has distinctively pale grayish head and breast and extensively white belly. Dark morph cold gray-brown and often with pale nape and pale lower breast patch. HABITAT: Open ocean; tundra in summer. Most pelagic of the jaegers.



### AUKS, MURRES, AND PUFFINS Family Alcidae

The northern counterparts of penguins, but alcids can fly, beating their small narrow wings in a whir, often veering. They have short neck and pointed, stubby, or deep and laterally compressed bill. Alcids swim and dive expertly. Most species nest on sea cliffs or in burrows, often in crowded colonies, and most winter on open ocean. Mostly silent away from breeding grounds. Sexes alike. FOOD: Fish, squid, zooplankton, RANGE: N. Atlantic, N. Pacific, and Arctic oceans.



#### RAZORBILL Alca torda Uncommon M229

17 in, [43 cm]. Size of a small duck, Black above and white below; characterized by rather heavy head, thick neck, and flat bill crossed midway by a white mark. On water, cocked-up pointed tail is often characteristic. **VOICE**: Weak whirring whistle; a deep growling hey Al. SIMILAR SPECIES: Nonbreeding face pattern suggests Common Murre. Bill of immature Razorbill is smaller than adult's and lacks white mark (hence resembling a murre's), but it is stubby and rounded enough to suggest bird's identity as an auk. See also Longtailed Duck. HABITAT: Nests on rocky offshore islands. Forages in coastal waters.



#### THICK-BILLED MURRE Uria lomvia

Scarce M228

18 in. [46 cm]. Similar to Common Murre, but a bit blacker above. Bill slightly shorter, thicker, with whitish line along gape. Overall a bit stockier. White of foreneck forms inverted V. In nonbreeding plumage, dark on head extends well below eve; no dark line through white ear coverts. White bill mark less evident, VOICE: Guttural calls and moans, hence the name "murre." SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Murre, Razorbill. HABITAT: Nests on coastal cliff ledges. Spends nonbreeding season on offshore ocean waters.



#### COMMON MURRE Uria aalge

Uncommon M227

17-17½ in. (43-45 cm). Size of a small duck, with slender pointed bill. Breeding: Head, neck, back, and wings dark, tinged brownish; underparts, wing linings, and line on rear edge of wing white. Dusky markings on flanks on some birds. Nonbreeding: Similar, but throat and cheeks white. Black mark extends from eye to cheek (see also Razorbill). Murres often raft on water, fly in lines, stand erect on sea cliffs. Bridled morph occurs within regular plumage. SIMILAR SPE-CIES: Thick-billed Murre, Razorbill, Long-tailed Duck, HABITAT: Same as Thick-billed Murre.





**DOVEKIE** Alle alle

8-8¼ in. (20-21 cm). A very small alcid, about the size of European Starling. Chubby and seemingly neckless, with very stubby bill. In flight, flocks bunch tightly, starlinglike. Contrasting pattern — black above, white below. Black-hooded in breeding plumage, white-chested in nonbreeding plumage. VOICE: Shrill chatter. Noisy on nesting grounds. SIMILAR SPECIES: Much smaller and shorter billed than murres or Razorbill. HABITAT: Nests in high Arctic on coastal cliffs. Winters at sea in N. Atlantic.

Scarce M226

ANCIENT MURRELET Synthliboramphus antiquus Vagrant 10 in. (25 cm). In all plumages, gray back contrasts with black cap. Bill yellow. RANGE AND HABITAT: Casual visitor from AK and BC to lakes, reservoirs, and rivers far inland all the way to Atlantic Coast.

LONG-BILLED MURRELET Brachyramphus perdix
10–11 in. (25–28 cm). A small alcid with a slim bill. Breeding: Mottled brown with whitish throat and pale eye-arcs. Nonbreeding: Blackish above and white below with mottled whitish bar on scapulars. SIMILAR SPECIES: Nonbreeding Dovekie has white hind neck, stubbier bill. RANGE AND HABITAT: Casual visitor (mostly between late summer and early winter) from Asia to lakes, reservoirs, and rivers far inland all the way to Atlantic Coast.



BLACK GUILLEMOT Cepphus grylle

13 in. (33 cm). Breeding: Midsized black bird with large white wing patch, bright red feet, and pointed bill. Inside of mouth red. Nonbreeding: Pale with whitish underparts and barred back. Wings black with white patch as in summer. Immature: Darker above than nonbreeding adult, with dingier, mottled wing patch. VOICE: Wheezy or hissing peeee; very high pitched. SIMILAR SPECIES: No other Atlantic alcid has white wing patch (although others show a narrow line of white on trailing edge of wing). In winter, much larger White-winged Scoter (with white wing patch) is black, whereas Black Guillemot is usually whitish. Wing patch of White-winged Scoter is positioned at rear of wing. HABITAT: Inshore ocean waters; breeds in small groups or singly in holes in ground or under rocks on rocky shores, islands. Less pelagic than most other alcids.



ATLANTIC PUFFIN Fratercula arctica

12½ in. (32 cm). Colorful triangular bill is most striking feature of chunky little "Sea Parrot." On the wing, it is a stubby, short-necked, thick-headed bird with buzzy flight. No white border on wing. Breeding: Upperparts black, underbody white, cheeks pale gray; triangular bill broadly tipped with red. Feet bright orange. Nonbreeding: Cheeks grayer; bill smaller, duller, but obviously a puffin. Immature: Bill much smaller, mostly dark, but both mandibles well curved. Chunky shape and gray cheeks are unmistakably those of a puffin. VOICE: Usually silent. When nesting, a low, growling ow or arr. SIMILAR SPECIES: Immature may be mistaken for young Razorbill, but note gray cheeks, all-dark underwing. HABITAT: Very rarely seen from shore except near breeding colonies.



### PIGEONS AND DOVES Family Columbidae

Plump, fast-flying birds with small head and low, cooing voice; nod their head as they walk. Two types: (1) birds with fanlike tails (e.g., Rock Pigeon) and (2) smaller birds with rounded or pointed tail (e.g., Mourning Dove). Sexes mostly similar. FOOD: Seeds, waste grain, fruit, insects. RANGE: Nearly worldwide in tropical and temperate regions.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON Patagioenas fasciata Vagrant  $14\frac{1}{2}-15$  in. (37–38 cm). Heavily built; might be mistaken for Rock Pigeon except for its woodland habitat and tendency to alight in trees. Note broad pale band across end of tail; white band on nape. Feet yellow. Bill yellow with dark tip. VOICE: Hollow owl-like oo-whoo or whoooo-whoo, repeated. SIMILAR SPECIES: Rock Pigeon. RANGE: Casual visitor from the west to Great Plains; accidental farther east.



**RED-BILLED PIGEON** Patagioenas flavirostris Scarce, local M234 14–14½ in. (36–37 cm). A large all-dark pigeon (in good light deep maroon). Bill red with yellowish tip. Shy, mostly arboreal. Recent decline in numbers. **VOICE:** Whoo, whoo, whooooo. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Rock Pigeon. **HABITAT:** Riparian woodlands with tall trees and brush.

#### WHITE-CROWNED PIGEON

Uncommon, local M233



Patagioenas leucocephala

13½ in. (34 cm). A stocky, shy pigeon completely dark except for immaculate white crown. VOICE: Low owl-like wof, wof, wo, co-woo. SIM-ILAR SPECIES: Rock Pigeon. HABITAT: Mangrove keys, thickets, hardwood hammocks. Perches on power lines, treetops.

AFRICAN COLLARED-DOVE Streptopelia roseogrisea Exotic 12 in. (30 cm). Escaped cage bird. Smaller and much paler than Eurasian Collared-Dove with whiter undertail coverts, different call. Hybrids with Eurasian occur. VOICE: Soft series of two-syllable cooing notes.



EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE Locally common, exotic M235

Streptopelia decaocto

 $12\sqrt[3]{2}-13$  in. (32–33 cm). Recent colonizer of N. America from Caribbean but native to Eurasia; rapidly increasing and spreading. Slightly chunkier than Mourning Dove, paler beige, and with square-cut tail. Note narrow black ring on hindneck. Grayish undertail coverts. Threetoned wing pattern in flight. **Voice**: Three-noted coo-COOO-cup. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: African Collared-Dove. **HABITAT**: Towns, field edges, cultivated land.



ROCK PIGEON (ROCK DOVE, DOMESTIC PIGEON) Common M232
Columba livia

12½ in. (32 cm). Introduced from Eurasia. Typical birds are gray with whitish rump, two black wing bars, and broad, dark tail band. Domestic stock or feral birds may have many color variants. VOICE: Soft, gurgling coo-roo-coo. SIMILAR SPECIES: Band-tailed Pigeon. HABITAT: Cities, farms, cliffs, bridges.





WHITE-WINGED DOVE Zenaida asiatica

Common M236 111/2-12 in, (29-30 cm), Readily known by white wing patches, large when bird is in flight, narrow when at rest. Otherwise similar to Mourning Dove, but tail rounded and tipped with broad white corners, bill



slightly longer, eye orangey red. VOICE: Harsh cooing, who cooks for vou?: also, ooo-uh-CUCK oo. Sounds vaguely like crowing of a young rooster. SIMILAR SPECIES: Mourning and White-tipped doves. HABI-TAT: River woods, mesquite, groves, towns, feeders. MOURNING DOVE Zenaida macroura Common M237 12 in. (30–31 cm). The common widespread wild dove. Brown;

smaller and slimmer than Rock Pigeon. Note pointed tail with large white spots, VOICE: Hollow, mournful coah, cooo, coo, cooo. At a distance, only the three coos are audible. SIMILAR SPECIES: Whitewinged Dove. HABITAT: Farms, towns, open woods, fields, scrub, roadsides, grasslands, feeders,



WHITE-TIPPED DOVE Leptotila verreauxi Uncommon, local M240 111/2 in. (29 cm). Large stocky dove with broad, dark wings. Short tail has white corners. Body pale, underwings cinnamon. Flies fast through woods. **VOICE**: Long, drawn-out, hollow who — whoooooooo. SIMILAR SPECIES: White-winged and Mourning doves, HABITAT: Often seen walking in shadows of brushy tangles or dense woods.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE Columbina talvacoti Vagrant 6½-6¾ in. (16-17 cm). This rare stray from Mex. to TX is similar to Common Ground-Dove but is slightly larger, longer tailed, and longer billed; has dark, gravish base to bill; lacks all scaliness. Has blackish spots and streaks on wing coverts and scapulars. Male: Washed rufous. Female and immature: Plain brown and gray, Caution: A bright male Common Ground-Dove may be misidentified as a Ruddy. VOICE: Cooing similar to Common Ground-Dove's, but faster and more repetitive: pity-you pity-you pity you. SIMILAR SPECIES: Inca Dove. Common Ground-Dove. HABITAT: Farms, livestock pens, fields, brushy areas. Often found with Inca Dove and Common Ground-Dove.



COMMON GROUND-DOVE Columbina passerina Uncommon M239 614–61/2 in. (15–16 cm). A very small dove. Note stubby black tail, scaly breast, pinkish or orangey base of bill, and rounded wings that flash rufous in flight, bronzy spots and streaks on wing coverts. Feet vellow or pink. Adult male's body washed pinkish. VOICE: Soft, monotonously repeated woo-oo, woo-oo, etc. May sound monosyllabic - wooo, with rising inflection. SIMILAR SPECIES: Inca Dove. Ruddy Ground-Dove, juvenile Mourning Dove. HABITAT: Farms, orchards, brushy areas, roadsides.



INCA DOVE Columbina inca Fairly common M238 81/4-81/2 in. (21-22 cm). A very small, slim dove with scaly look. Rufous in primaries (as in ground-doves), but has longer tail with white sides. VOICE: Monotonous coo-hoo or no-hope. SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Ground-Dove has short tail without obvious white, lacks scaling on back. HABITAT: Towns, parks, farms.



### PARAKEETS AND PARROTS Family Psittacidae

Noisy and gaudily colored. Compact, short-necked birds with stout, hooked bill. Parakeets smaller, with long, pointed tail. Feet zygodactyl (two toes fore, two aft). RANGE: Worldwide in Tropics and subtropics. Several exotic species have been released or have escaped, especially around Miami.

MONK PARAKEET Myiopsitta monachus Locally fairly common (Argentina) 11 in. (28 cm). Pale gray face and chest, buff band across belly. Established in spots from CT to FL and west to IL and TX. Massive nest of sticks (only parrot to build a stick nest), with several compartments. Raucous calls. Comes to feeders.

GREEN PARAKEET Aratinga holochlora

10–12 in. (25–30 cm). Aratinga parakeets have long pointed tails, so are readily separable from chunkier square-tailed parrots. This, the largest (size of Mourning Dove), is green above, yellow-green below.

VOICE: Sharp, squeaky notes, shrill noisy chatter. RANGE AND HABITAT: Tropical Mex. to s. Nicaragua. Resident populations established in some residential areas of s. Rio Grande Valley in TX.

**RED-CROWNED PARROT** Amazona viridigenalis Locally established 12 in. (30 cm). Large, with red crown (reduced in first year), blue nape, red wing panels. Established in s. TX, possibly from Mexican population.

**BLACK-HOODED PARAKEET** *Nandayus nenday* (S. America) 12 in. (30 cm). Locally established in FL.

MITRED PARAKEET Aratinga mitrata
(S. America) 15 in. (38 cm). Found in s. FL.

WHITE-WINGED PARAKEET Brotogeris versicolurus Local (S. America) 9 in. (23 cm). Locally established in Miami area. Now outnumbered by Yellow-chevroned Parakeet.

YELLOW-CHEVRONED PARAKEET Brotogeris chiriri (S. America) 9 in. (23 cm). Found in s. FL.

**BUDGERIGAR** *Melopsittacus undulatus* (Australia) 7 in. (18 cm). Formerly established in FL; declining; escapees seen in many areas.

LILAC-CROWNED PARROT Amazona finschi

[Mex.]  $12\frac{1}{2}-13\frac{1}{2}$  in. (30–34 cm). Like first-year Red-crowned but darker. Red forehead, lilac crown, longer tail. A few live in s. TX.

YELLOW-HEADED PARROT Amazona oratrix

[Mex. and Belize] 14-15 in. (36-38 cm). Escapees found in several areas; established locally in s. FL and s. TX.

**RED-LORED PARROT** *Amazona autumnalis* (Cen. and S. America) 12–13 in. (30–33 cm). Small numbers in TX, FL.

WHITE-FRONTED PARROT Amazona albifrons (Cen. America) 9–10 in. (23–25 cm). Found in small numbers in FL.

### PARAKEETS AND PARROTS





RED-LORED

PARROT

PARROT

ILAC-CROWNED

PARROT

WHITE-FRONTED

**PARROT** 

### CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS, AND ANIS

Family Cuculidae

Slender, long-tailed birds; feet zygodactyl (two toes forward, two backward). Sexes alike. FOOD: Cuckoos eat caterpillars, other insects; roadrunners eat reptiles, rodents, large insects, small birds; anis eat seeds, fruit. RANGE: Warm and temperate regions of world. N. American cuckoos are not parasitic.



#### YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

Fairly common M241

Coccyzus americanus

12 in. (30–31 cm). Note *rufous* in wings, *large white* spots on black undertail, and *yellow* lower mandible. **YOICE**: Song a rapid throaty *ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-kow-kow-kowlp-kowlp, kowlp, kowlp* (slowing toward end). **HABITAT**: Deciduous woodlands.



MANGROVE CUCKOO Coccyzus minor Uncommon, local M242 12 in. (30–31 cm). Similar to Yellow-billed Cuckoo (both found in s. FL), but belly creamy buff; no rufous in wing. Note black ear patch. VOICE: Accelerating series of guttural notes: unh unh unh unh unh aanngg aanngg. HABITAT: Mangroves, hardwood forests.

### BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO

Uncommon M243

Coccyzus erythropthalmus

11½-12 in. (29–30 cm). Adult: Similar to Yellow-billed Cuckoo, but bill dark gray to blackish; narrow red orbital ring. No rufous in wing; undertail spots small. Immature: Has yellow orbital ring and may have small amount of rufous in wing. VOICE: Fast, rhythmic cucucu, cucucu, cucucu, etc. The grouped rhythm (three or four) is typical, but often employs irregular cadences. May sing at night. HABITAT: Wood edges, groves, thickets.



#### GROOVE-BILLED ANI

Uncommon, local M246

Crotophaga sulcirostris

13–13½ in. (33–34 cm). Very similar to Smooth-billed but bill has fine grooves (lacking in juvenile) and less arched ridge. **VOICE**: Repeated whee-o or tee-ho, first note slurring up. **HABITAT**: Thickets, open woodlands.



**SMOOTH-BILLED ANI** Crotophaga ani Rare, local M245 14-14½ in, (35-37 cm). A coal black, grackle-sized bird with long

loose-jointed tail, short wings, and huge bill with high curved ridge (giving it puffinlike profile). Flight weak; alternately flaps and sails. Often in groups. VOICE: Whining whistle. Querulous que-lick. SIMILAR SPECIES: Groove-billed Ani, grackles. HABITAT: Brushy edges, thickets. Recent major population declines in FL.



**GREATER ROADRUNNER** *Geococcyx californianus* **Uncommon M244** 22–23 in. (56–58 cm). The familiar cuckoo that runs on ground. A large, slender, streaked bird, with long, white-edged tail; shaggy crest; long legs. **VOICE**: Six to eight low, dovelike *coos*, descending in pitch. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Thrashers are much smaller. **HABITAT**: Open country with scattered cover, brush, regenerating clearcuts.



# $\mathbf{OwLS}$ Families Tytonidae (Barn Owls) and Strigidae (Typical Owls)

Chiefly nocturnal birds of prey, with large heads and flattened faces forming facial disk; large, forward-facing eyes; hooked bill and claws; usually feathered feet (outer toe reversible). Flight noiseless, mothlike. Some species have "horns," or ear tufts. Sexes similar; female larger. FOOD: Rodents, birds, reptiles, fish, large insects. RANGE: Nearly worldwide.



SHORT-EARED OWL Asio flammeus Uncommon M258

15 in. (38 cm). An owl of open country; often abroad by day, particularly at dawn and dusk or when cloudy. Often tussles with Northern Harrier. Streaked, tawny brown color and irregular flopping flight identify it. Large buffy wing patches show in flight, along with black carpal ("wrist") patch. Dark facial disk emphasizes yellow eyes. VOICE: Emphatic, sneezy bark: kee-yow!, wow!, or waow! SIMILAR SPECIES: Long-eared Owl somewhat similar in flight, but with jerkier wing action. HABITAT: Grasslands, fresh and salt marshes, dunes, tundra. Roosts on ground, rarely in and under trees. Winter range and numbers vary from year to year.



**EASTERN SCREECH-OWL** Megascops asio Common M248 8½ in. (22 cm). The only small eastern owl with ear tufts. Two color

8½ in. (22 cm). The only small eastern owl with ear tufts. Two color morphs: red and gray. No other owl is bright foxy red. Young birds may lack conspicuous ear tufts. **VOICE**: Mournful whinny or wail; tremulous, descending in pitch. Sometimes a series of notes on one pitch. **HABITAT**: Deciduous woodlands, shade trees, residential areas.



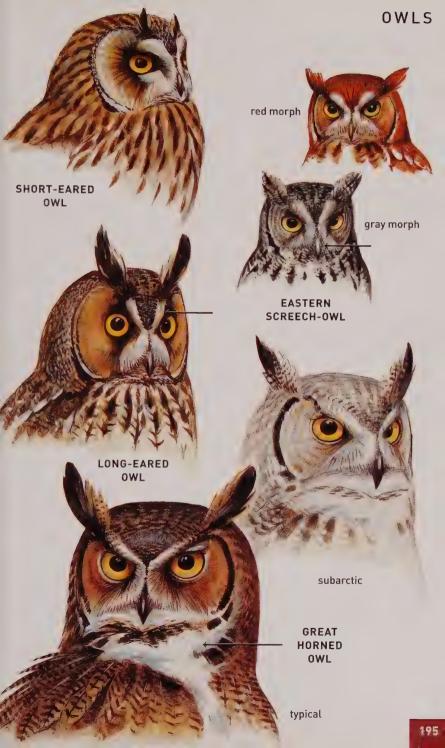
LONG-EARED OWL Asio otus Uncommon M257

15 in. (38 cm). A slender, crow-sized owl with long ear tufts. Usually seen "frozen" close to trunk of a tree. Much smaller than Great Horned Owl; underparts streaked lengthwise, not barred crosswise. Ears closer together, erectile; much black around eyes. VOICE: One or two long hooos; usually silent. Also a catlike whine and doglike bark. SIMILAR SPECIES: In flight, similar to Short-eared Owl, which has more mothlike, meandering flight. See Great Horned Owl. HABITAT: Coniferous and deciduous woodlands, shelterbelts. Often roosts in groups in nonbreeding season. Hunts over open country.



GREAT HORNED OWL Bubo virginianus Common M249

21–22 in. (54–56 cm). A very large owl with ear tufts, or "horns." Heavily barred beneath; conspicuous white throat bib. In flight, as large as our larger hawks; looks neckless, large-headed. Varies regionally from very dark to rather pale. Often active just before dark. VOICE: Male usually utters five or six resonant hoots: hu-hu-hu-hu, hoo! hoo! Female's hoots slightly higher pitched, in shorter sequence. Young make catlike screams, especially when begging or when separated from adults in late summer and fall. SIMILAR SPECIES: Longeared Owl smaller (crow-sized in flight), with lengthwise streaking rather than crosswise barring beneath; ears closer together; lacks white bib. HABITAT: Forests, woodlots, open country.





NORTHERN HAWK OWL Surnia ulula

Scarce M251 16 in [41 cm]. A medium-sized day-flying owl, with long, rounded tail and barred underparts. Often perches at tip of tree and jerks tail like a kestrel. Shrikelike, it flies low, rising abuptly to perch. VOICE: Falconlike chattering kikikiki, and kestrel-like illy-illy-illy. Also a harsh scream. HABITAT: Open coniferous forests, birch scrub, tamarack bogs, muskeg, field edges. Sporadically appears south of normal range.



BARRED OWL Strix varia

Fairly common M255 20-21 in. (51-53 cm). A large, brown, puffy-headed woodland owl with large, moist brown eyes. Barred across chest and streaked lengthwise on belly. VOICE: Usually eight accented hoots, in two

groups of four: hoohoo-hoohoo, hoohoohooHOOaaw. The aaw at end is characteristic. Sometimes rendered as who cooks for you, who cooks for you-all. Also simply a hoo-aww. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other large owls, except Barn, have yellow eyes. HABITAT: Woodlands, wooded river bottoms, wooded swamps.



BARN OWL) Tyto alba

Uncommon M247

16 in. (41 cm). A long-legged, knock-kneed, pale, monkey-faced owl. White heart-shaped face and dark eyes; no ear tufts. Distinguished in flight as an owl by large head and mothlike flight; as this species by unstreaked whitish, buff, or pale cinnamon underparts (ghostly at night) and warm brown back. VOICE: Shrill, rasping hiss or snore: kschh or shijish. SIMILAR SPECIES: Short-eared Owl streaked, has darker face and underparts, vellow eyes, HABITAT: Open country. groves, farms, barns, towns, cliffs.



GREAT GRAY OWL Strix nebulosa

Scarce M256

26-28 in. (67-73 cm). Our largest N. American owl; very tame. Dusky gray, heavily striped lengthwise on underparts. Round-headed, without ear tufts; large, strongly lined facial disk dwarfs yellow eyes. Note black chin spot bordered by two broad white patches like white mustaches. Tail long for an owl. An irruptive species. Invades to the south one year, then may be rare for several years. VOICE: Deep whoo-hoohoo. Also deep single whoos. SIMILAR SPECIES: Barred Owl much smaller. HABITAT: Coniferous forests, adjacent meadows, bogs. Often hunts by day, particularly in winter.



SNOWY OW Bubo scandiacus

Scarce M250

22-24 in. (56-61 cm). An irruptive, large, mostly white, Arctic, dayflying owl; variably flecked or barred with dusky. Round head, vellow eyes. Females and young birds more heavily flecked than adult males. VOICE: Usually silent. Flight call when breeding a loud, repeated krow-ow; also a repeated rick. SIMILAR SPECIES: Barn Owl whitish on underparts only; much smaller and has dark eyes. Many young owls are whitish when in down. See Gyrfalcon (white morph). HABITAT: Prairies, fields, marshes, beaches: in summer, Arctic tundra. Perches on dunes, posts, haystacks, ground in open country, sometimes buildings. Cyclic winter irruptions southward into U.S.





BURROWING OWL) Athene cunicularia

Uncommon M254 9½ in. [24 cm]. A small owl of open country, often seen by day standing erect on ground or low perches. Note long legs. Barred and spot-

ted, with white chin stripe, round head. Bobs and bows when agitated. VOICE: Rapid, chattering quick-quick-quick. At night, a mellow co-hoo, higher than Mourning Dove's coo. Young in burrow rattle like rattlesnake to deter predators. HABITAT: Open grasslands, unplowed prairies, farmland, airfields, golf courses. Nests in burrows in ground or in pipes.



NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL Aegolius acadicus Uncommon M260 8 in. (20 cm). A very tame little owl; smaller than a screech-owl, without ear tufts. Underparts have blotchy, reddish brown streaks. Bill black. Forehead streaked white. Juvenile: Chocolate brown in summer, with conspicuous white eyebrows; belly tawny ocher. VOICE: Song a mellow, whistled note repeated in endless succession, often 100 to 130 times per minute: too, too, too, etc. Also raspy, squirrel-like yelps. SIMILAR SPECIES: Boreal Owl, HABITAT: Coniferous and mixed woods, swamps.



#### **BOREAL OWL** Aegolius funereus

Scarce M259

10 in, [25 cm], A small, flat-headed, earless owl of northern coniferous forests. Tame, Similar to Northern Saw-whet Owl, but a bit larger; facial disk pale grayish white, framed with black; bill pale horn color or yellowish; forehead thickly spotted with white. Juvenile: Similar to young Northern Saw-whet, but duskier; eyebrows grayish; belly obscurely blotched. VOICE: "Song" an accelerating series of hoots, similar to a winnowing snipe; call includes a raspy skew. SIMI-LAR SPECIES: Northern Saw-whet Owl. HABITAT: Forests primarily of spruce and fir; muskeg. Sporadically appears south of normal range.



FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL Glaucidium brasilianum Scarce M252 6½-6¾ in. (16-17 cm). Hunts by day, particularly early and late. Often mobbed by birds. Streaking on breast brownish rather than black: crown has fine pale streaks. Tail rusty, barred with black, voice: Chook or took; sometimes repeated monotonously two or three times per second. Calls both in day and at night. HABITAT: Mesquite and subtropical woods.



ELF OWL Micrathene whitnevi

Uncommon M253

5% in. (15 cm). A tiny, small-headed, short-tailed, earless owl. Underparts softly striped with rusty; eyebrows white. Hides by day in woodpecker holes in saguaros, telephone poles, or trees. Found at night by call. VOICE: Rapid, high-pitched whi-whi-whi-whi-whi or chewk-chewk-chewk, etc., often becoming higher and more yipping or puppylike, and chattering in middle of series. SIMILAR SPE-CIES: Eastern Screech-Owl. HABITAT: Saguaro and mesquite woodlands and deserts, wooded canyons.



## GOATSUCKERS (NIGHTJARS)

## Family Caprimulgidae

Nocturnal birds with ample tail, large eyes, tiny bill, large bristled gape, and very short legs. By day, they rest on limbs or on ground, camouflaged by their "dead-leaf" pattern. Best identified at night by voice. FOOD: Nocturnal insects. RANGE: Nearly worldwide in temperate and tropical land regions.



COMMON NIGHTHAWK Chordeiles minor Uncommon M262 9½ in. (24 cm). A slim-winged, gray-brown bird, often seen high in air: flies with easy strokes, changing gear to guicker erratic strokes. Prefers dusk, but may be abroad at midday. Note broad white bar across pointed wing. Barred white-and-gray undertail coverts. Male has white bar across notched tail and white throat. At rest, tertial feathers extend well past white wing patch; wingtips extend to or beyond tail tip. **voice**: Nasal peer or pee-ik. In aerial display, male dives, then zooms up sharply with sudden deep whir of wings. SIMILAR SPE-CIES: Antillean Nighthawk regular in FL Keys; best distinguished by voice. Lesser Nighthawk's white on wing closer to tip, wings more bluntly tipped; most are browner than Common. HABITAT: Open country from mountains to lowlands; open pine woods; often seen in air over cities, towns, Also over ponds. Sits on ground, posts, rails, roofs, limbs.



#### LESSER NIGHTHAWK

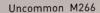
Uncommon, local M261

Chordeiles acutipennis

8½-9 in. (21-23 cm). Slightly smaller than Common Nighthawk; white bar (buffy in female) closer to tip of wing (at rest, this bar even with or slightly beyond tips of tertial feathers). More extensive brown spotting on inner primaries. Undertail coverts browner, less sharply barred. Readily identified by odd calls. Does not power-dive. VOICE: Low chuck chuck and soft purring or whinnying sound, much like trilling of a toad. SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Nighthawk. RANGE: Primarily southwestern. A few may wander east along Gulf Coast as far as FL in fall and winter. HABITAT: Lowlands; arid scrub, dry grasslands, farm fields, dirt roads. Also seen in air over ponds. Sits on branches and ground.

ANTILLEAN NIGHTHAWK Chordeiles gundlachii Scarce, local 8-81/2 in. (20-22 cm). This W. Indian species is a regular late-spring and summer visitor to FL Keys and Dry Tortugas. Somewhat tawnier and smaller than Common Nighthawk, but readily distinguished from it only by call. VOICE: Katydid-like killy-kadick or pity-pit-pit. SIM-ILAR SPECIES: Common and Lesser nighthawks. HABITAT: Open fields, suburban areas.





#### FASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL



Antrostomus vociferous

91/2-93/4 in. (24-25 cm). A voice in the night woods, this species is more often heard than seen. When flushed by day, flits away on rounded wings, like a large brown moth. Male shows large white tail patches; in female these are buffy. At rest, tail extends beyond wings, unlike nighthawk's. Note black throat and broad black crown stripe. VOICE: At night, a rolling, tiresomely repeated WHIP poor-WEEL, or purple-rib, etc. SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Poorwill, Chuck-will'swidow. HABITAT: Drier second-growth woodlands, especially oak and pine.

#### CHIICK-WILL'S-WIDOW

Uncommon M265

Antrostomus carolinensis 12 in. (30 cm). Similar to Eastern Whip-poor-will; larger, much browner, with brown (not blackish) throat and streaked crown. Identify by size (flat, bull-headed appearance), brownish look; more restricted white areas in tail of male; also by voice, range. VOICE: Call four-syllable chuck-will-widow (less vigorous than effort of Eastern Whip-poor-will); chuck often very low and difficult to hear. SIMILAR SPECIES: Eastern Whip-poor-will, Common Poorwill. HABITAT: Pine and mixed forests, river woodlands, groves.



COMMON POORWILL Phalaenoptilus nuttallii Uncommon M264  $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{3}{4}$  in. (19–20 cm). Best known by its night cry in arid hills. Appears smaller than a nighthawk, has shorter, more rounded wings (no white bar), and short, rounded tail has white corners. Short wings and tail give it a compact look at rest. VOICE: At night, a loud, repeated poor-will or poor-jill. SIMILAR SPECIES: Eastern Whip-poor-will. HABI-TAT: Dry or rocky hills, juniper; roadsides.



#### COMMON PAURAQUE

Uncommon, local M263

Nyctidromus albicollis

11 in. (28 cm). Larger than Eastern Whip-poor-will. Dark brown, with long, round wings and tail. Flight floppy with deep wingbeats. Note broad white band across pointed wing of male [female's wing bars] buffy). White in tail feathers is obvious. At rest, note pale-edged scapulars. Recognized by its call. VOICE: A hoarse slurred whistle: purr-WEE-eeerr. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other nightjars. HABITAT: Dense brushy woodlands.



## HUMMINGBIRDS Family Trochilidae

The smallest birds. Iridescent, with needlelike bill for sipping nectar. Jewel-like gorget (throat feathers) adorns most adult males; in poor light, however, iridescence may not show and throat will appear dark. Hummingbirds hover when feeding; their wing motion is so rapid that wings appear as a blur. They can fly backward. Pugnacious. FOOD: Nectar (red flowers favored), small insects, spiders. RANGE: W. Hemisphere; majority in Tropics.



#### RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Fairly common M269

Archilochus colubris

3¾ in. (10 cm). Male: Fiery red throat, green back, forked tail. Female: White throat; tail blunt, with white spots. The only widespread species in East; several other hummers may turn up as strays, especially in Southeast states in fall and winter. VOICE: Male's wings hum in court-ship display. Chase calls high, squeaky. Other call a soft chew. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female and immature similar to Black-chinned but have crown brighter green, bill slightly shorter, throat whiter, pump tail less. Outermost primary narrower at tip (more club-shaped in Black-chinned). Adult male Black-chinned has shallower tail fork than male Ruby-throated (both look black-throated in poor light). See also Anna's and Broad-tailed hummingbirds. Some day-flying sphinx moths (Sphingidae) might be mistaken for hummers. HABITAT: Flowers, gardens, feeders, wood edges.



#### BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD

Uncommon, local M268

Amazilia yucatanensis



## BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD Archilochus alexandri

Uncommon to rare M270

3% in. (10 cm). Male: Note black throat and conspicuous white collar. Blue-violet of lower throat shows only in certain lights. Caution: Throat of other hummers may look black until it catches the light. Female: See Ruby-throated Hummingbird. VOICE: Like Ruby-throated. SIMILAR SPECIES: Ruby-throated and Anna's hummingbirds. HABITAT: Riparian woodlands, wooded canyons, semiarid country, suburbs, feeders.



RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD Selasphorus rufus Scarce to rare M273 3¼ in. (9–10 cm). Male: No other N. American hummingbird has rufous back. Throat flaming orange-red. Female and immature: Greenbacked; dull rufous on sides and at base of outer tail feathers (visible when tail fully spread). Adult females often have a few patchy orange-red feathers on throat. VOICE: Produces a variety of vocal and nonvocal sounds. Aggressive flight call a buzzy zap followed by sputtering notes, or zeee chippity chippity. Male's wings make high trill in flight. SIMILAR SPECIES: Allen's, Calliope, and Broad-tailed humming-birds. HABITAT: Wooded or brushy areas, parks, gardens, feeders.



## RARE HUMMINGBIRDS

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD Cynanthus latirostris

4 in. [10 cm]. Male: All dark with blue throat, black tail, red bill. Female: Orange-red on bill, dark tail, pearly gray throat; white line behind eye. VOICE: Husky ji-dit, similar to Ruby-crowned Kinglet. RANGE AND HABITAT: Casual visitor from Southwest, mostly at feeders.

GREEN-BREASTED MANGO Anthracothorax prevostii Vagrant 4% in. (12 cm). Large, with long downcurved bill. Adult male: Dark emerald green. Tail purple. Female and immature male: Light underparts with irregular dark stripe. VOICE: Call a high-pitched tzat. RANGE AND HABITAT: Accidental stray from Mex., primarily to s. TX, and almost always at feeders.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD Selasphorus sasin
3%in. 19–10 cm]. Male: Like Rufous but back green. (Note: Some male
Rufous have some green on back.) Female and immature: Not safely
told from female Rufous (when measured in the hand, Allen's has
narrower outer tail feathers). RANGE AND HABITAT: Accidental visitor
from w. U.S., mostly at feeders.

**GREEN VIOLETEAR** Colibri thalassinus

4% in. (12 cm). Large and dark green with violet ear patch. Sexes similar. **VOICE**: Call a series of dry chips. **RANGE AND HABITAT**: Casual, widespread, mostly summer stray from Mex., most records from TX. In U.S. almost always seen at feeders.



# BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD Selasphorus platycercus

Vagrant M272

4 in. (10 cm). Male: Slightly larger than Ruby-throated with longer, squarish tail, white markings on chin. Female: Slightly larger and larger-tailed than female Rufous with less rufous in tail, lacks distinct pale semi-collar, paler buff flanks. VOICE: Male's wings produce distinctive high trill. Call a sharp chit! RANGE AND HABITAT: Casual visitor to Gulf Coast from w. U.S., mostly at feeders.



CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD Selasphorus calliope Vagrant M271 3½ in. (8 cm). Our smallest hummer. Adult male: Throat with purplered rays. Female and immature: Similar to female Broad-tailed and Rufous hummingbirds but slightly smaller, shorter-billed, shorter tailed (wingtips extend beyond tail at rest); rust on sides paler, weak pale line over base of bill. VOICE: High-pitched chips. RANGE AND HABITAT: Casual visitor from w. U.S., mostly at feeders.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD Calypte anna Vagrant 4 in. (10 cm). Male: Note rose red crown and throat. Female: Slightly larger and "messier" than female Ruby-throated or Black-chinned hummingbirds, with more spotted throat and more mottled flanks and undertail coverts; often with red throat patch. VOICE: Feeding call chick. Chase call a raspy chatter. SIMILAR SPECIES: Black-chinned and Ruby-throated hummingbirds. Voice important. RANGE AND HABITAT: Accidental visitor from w. U.S., mostly at feeders.



## SWIFTS Family Apodidae

Swallowlike, but structurally distinct, with flat skull and all four toes pointing forward. Flight very rapid, "twinkling," sailing between spurts; narrow wings often stiffly bowed. FOOD: Flying insects. RANGE: Nearly worldwide.



CHIMNEY SWIFT Chaetura pelagica Fairly common M267 5½ in. (13 cm). Like a cigar with wings. A blackish swallowlike bird with long, slightly curved, stiff wings and stubby tail. Rapid, twinkling wingbeats interspersed with bowed-winged glides. VOICE: Loud, rapid ticking or twittering notes. SIMILAR SPECIES: Has longer, slimmer wings than swallows. HABITAT: Open sky, especially over cities, towns; nests and roosts in chimneys (originally in large hollow trees and cliff crevices).

## KINGFISHERS Family Alcedinidae

Solitary birds with large head, long pointed bill, and small syndactyl feet (two toes partially joined). Most are fish eaters, perching above water or hovering and plunging headfirst. FOOD: Mainly fish; some species eat insects, lizards. RANGE: Almost worldwide.



#### GREEN KINGFISHER

Uncommon, local M276

Chlorocervle americana

8½-8% in. (22 cm). Kingfisher shape, small size; flight buzzy, direct. Upperparts deep green with white spots; collar and underparts white, sides spotted. *Male:* Has rusty breast-band. *Female:* Has one or two greenish bands. (The reverse is true in Belted Kingfisher: female has rusty band.) **VOICE:** Sharp clicking, *tick tick tick;* also a sharp squeak. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Belted Kingfisher. **HABITAT:** Ponds with overhanging low branches, small rivers and streams with clear water.



RINGED KINGFISHER Ceryle torquatus Uncommon, local M274 16 in. (41 cm). Larger than Belted Kingfisher; bill very large. Male: Has entirely chestnut breast and belly. Female: Has broad blue-gray band across breast, separated from chestnut belly by narrow white line. VOICE: Rusty cla-ack or wa-ak or rolling rattle after a loud chack. SIMILAR SPECIES: Belted Kingfisher. HABITAT: Slow rivers, ponds, marshes.



BELTED KINGFISHER Ceryle alcyon

13 in. (33 cm). Hovering on rapidly beating wings in readiness for the plunge, or flying with uneven wingbeats (as if changing gear), rattling as it goes, Belted Kingfisher is easily recognized. Perched, it is big-headed and big-billed, larger than a robin. Male: Blue-gray above, with ragged bushy crest and broad gray breast-band. Female: Has an additional rusty breast-band. VOICE: Loud dry rattle. SIMILAR SPECIES: Ringed Kingfisher in TX. HABITAT: Streams, lakes, bays, coasts; nests in banks, perches on wires.



## WOODPECKERS AND ALLIES Family Picidae

Chisel-billed, wood-boring birds with strong zygodactyl feet (usually two toes front, two rear), remarkably long tongue, and stiff spiny tail that acts as prop for climbing. Flight usually undulating. FOOD: Tree-boring insects; some species eat ants, flying insects, berries, acorns, sap. RANGE: Most wooded parts of world; absent in Australian region, Madagascar, most oceanic islands.



## RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

Uncommon M277

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

9¼ in. (24 cm). Adult: A black-backed woodpecker with entirely red head (other woodpeckers may have patch of red). Back solid black, rump white. Large, square white patches conspicuous on wing (making lower back look white when bird is on a tree). Sexes similar. Immature: Dusky-headed; wing patches mottled with dark. VOICE: Loud queer or queeah. SIMILAR SPECIES: Red-bellied Woodpecker has partially red head. HABITAT: Groves, farm country, shade trees in towns, large scattered trees.



#### GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER

Common M278

Melanerpes aurifrons

9½ in. (25 cm). Male: Note multicolored head (yellow near bill, poppy red on crown, orange nape). A zebra-backed woodpecker with light underparts and white rump. Shows white wing patch in flight. Female: Lacks red crown patch. Immature: Lacks color patches on head. VOICE: Tremulous churrrr; flickerlike kek-kek-kek-kek. SIMILAR SPECIES: Red-bellied Woodpecker. HABITAT: Mesquite, woodlands, groves.



RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER Melanerpes carolinus Common M279 91% in. (24 cm). Adult: A zebra-backed woodpecker with red cap, white rump. Red covers both crown and nape in male, only nape in female. Juvenile: Also zebra-backed, but has brown head, devoid of red. VOICE: Call kwirr, churr, or chaw; also chiv, chiv. Also a muffled flickerlike series. SIMILAR SPECIES: Golden-fronted and Redheaded woodpeckers. HABITAT: Woodlands, groves, orchards, towns, feeders.



#### YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

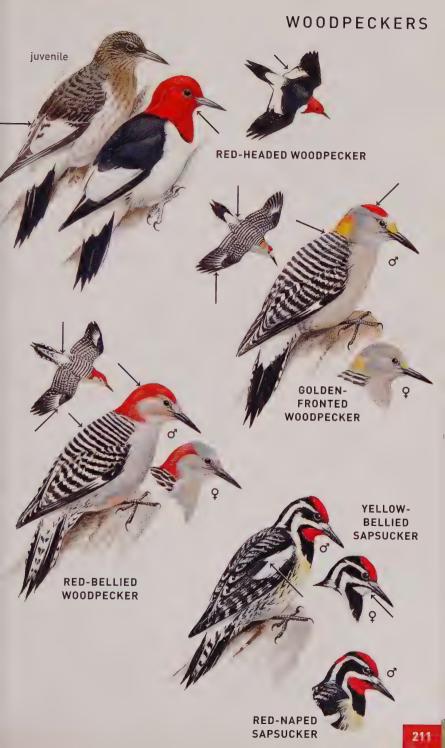
Fairly common M280

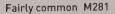
Sphyrapicus varius

8½ in. (22 cm). Sapsuckers drill orderly rows of small holes in trees for sap and the insects it attracts. Note *longish sapsucker wing patch* and *striped head. Adult:* Red forehead. Male has all-red throat, female white. **VOICE:** Nasal mewing note, *cheerrrr*; drum is several rapid thumps followed by several slow, rhythmic thumps. **HABITAT:** Coniferous, mixed, and deciduous woods, shade trees.

**RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER** Sphyrapicus nuchalis

8½ in. (22 cm). Very similar to Yellow-bellied but note red nape. (A few Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers show tinge of red on nape.) Black frame around throat broken toward rear. Female shows both red and white on throat. **RANGE AND HABITAT:** Casual winter visitor to s. TX from w. U.S. Coniferous, mixed, and deciduous woodlands.





## LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER



Picoides scalaris

7½ in. (18 cm). A black-and-white zebra-backed woodpecker with black-and-white-striped face. Male has red crown. VOICE: Rattling series, chikikikikikikikikikikik, diminishing. Call a sharp pick or chik (like Downy Woodpecker). SIMILAR SPECIES: In Southeastern pine forests, see Red-cockaded Woodpecker. HABITAT: Canyons, riparian woodlands, brushlands.



**DOWNY WOODPECKER** *Picoides pubescens*6½-6¾ in. (17 cm). Note *white back* and *small bill*. This industrious bird is like a small edition of Hairy Woodpecker. Outer tail feathers spotted, red nape patch of male in unbroken square. *Juvenile male:* Briefly shows red crown patch. **VOICE:** Rapid whinny of notes, descending in pitch. Call a flat *pick*, not as sharp as Hairy's *peek!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Hairy Woodpecker is larger, has larger bill, and has clean white outer tail feathers. Ladder-backed Woodpecker has similar call. **HABITAT:** Forests, woods, residential areas, suet feeders, even corn and cattail stems.



HAIRY WOODPECKER Picoides villosus
9–9½ in. (23–24 cm). Note white back and large bill. Downy and Hairy woodpeckers are almost identical in pattern, checkered and spotted with black and white; males with small red patch on back of head, females without. Hairy is like an exaggerated Downy, especially its bill. Juvenile male: Briefly shows red crown patch. Voice: Kingfisherlike rattle, run together more than that of Downy. Call a sharp peek! [Downy says pick.] SIMILAR SPECIES: Downy Woodpecker. American Three-toed Woodpecker has some barring on back and barred sides. HABITAT: Forests, woodlands, shade trees, suet feeders.



## AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER

Scarce M285

Picoides dorsalis

8½-8¾ in. (22 cm). Males of this and the next species are our only woodpeckers that normally have *yellow cap*. Both have *barred sides*. This species is distinguished by irregular whitish bars on back. Female lacks yellow cap and suggests Downy or Hairy woodpecker, but note *barred sides*. VOICE: A level-pitched whinny and a flat *pyik*. SIMILAR SPECIES: Black-backed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker (especially juvenile). HABITAT: Coniferous forests, particularly where deadwood is present.



**BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER** *Picoides arcticus* Scarce M286 9½ in. (24 cm). Note combination of *solid black back* and *barred sides*. Male has *yellow cap*. This and preceding species (both have three toes) inhabit boreal and montane forests; their presence can be detected by patches of bark scaled from dead conifers. **VOICE**: Low flat *kuk* or *puk* and a short buzzy call. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: American Three-toed and Hairy woodpeckers. **HABITAT**: Coniferous forests, particularly where deadwood is present.





NORTHERN FLICKER Colaptes auratus

HABITAT: Open forests, woodlots, towns.

Common M287 12-121/2 in. (30-32 cm). In flight, note conspicuous white rump. This and barred brown back mark bird as a flicker. Close up, it shows black patch across chest. Flight undulating. Often hops awkwardly on ground, feeding on ants. Two basic subspecies groups are recognized: "Yellow-shafted" Flicker, the Northern and eastern form, has golden yellow underwings and tail. Red crescent on nape; gray crown; tan-brown cheeks; male has black mustache. "Red-shafted" Flicker, the widespread western form (rare in Plains), has underwing and undertail salmon red. Both sexes lack red crescent on nape; have



RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER Picoides borealis Rare, local M284 8½ in. (22 cm). Zebra-backed, with black cap. White cheek is obvious field mark. Male's tiny red cockade hard to see. Endangered. VOICE: Rough rasping sripp or zhilp (suggests flock note of young European Starling). Sometimes a higher tsick. Forms colonial "clans." SIMILAR SPECIES: Downy and Hairy woodpeckers. On Southern plains, see Ladder-backed Woodpecker. HABITAT: Open pine woodlands that have trees with heartwood disease.

brownish crown and gray cheeks; male has red mustache. Intergrades occur. VOICE: Loud wick wick wick wick, etc. Also a loud klee-yer and a squeaky flick-a, flick-a, etc. (see also Pileated Woodpecker).



PHEATED WOODPECKER Dryocopus pileatus Uncommon M288 161/2-17 in. (42-44 cm). A spectacular black, crow-sized woodpecker, with flaming red crest. Female has blackish forehead, lacks red on mustache. Great size, sweeping wingbeats, and flashing white underwing coverts identify Pileated in flight. Large foraging pits in dead or dying trees—large oval or oblong holes—indicate its presence. VOICE: Call resembles a flicker, but louder, irregular: kik-kik-kikkikkik-kik, etc. Also a more ringing, hurried call that may rise or fall slightly in pitch and volume. SIMILAR SPECIES: Ivory-billed Woodpecker (possibly extinct), HABITAT: Coniferous, mixed, and hardwood forests: woodlots.

### IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER

Possibly extinct

Campephilus principalis

19-19½ in. (40-50 cm). Separated from Pileated Woodpecker by its slightly larger size, ivory white bill, large white wing patch visible at rest, and all-white underwing pattern with black line through it. Female has black crest. VOICE: Call unlike that of Pileated: a single loud tooting note constantly uttered as bird forages — a sharp nasal kent suggesting to some a big nuthatch. Audubon wrote it as pait, resembling high false note of a clarinet. Drum is a guick double knock. unique among N. American woodpeckers. SIMILAR SPECIES: Pileated Woodpecker, RANGE: Formerly throughout the Southeast, Reports persist, but the last universally accepted sightings were in the 1940s. HABITAT: Bottomland hardwood forests, wooded bayous and swamps.



## TYRANT FLYCATCHERS Family Tyrannidae

New World Flycatchers, or Tyrant Flycatchers, make up the largest family of birds in the world, with approximately 425 known species. They are found chiefly in the Neotropics. A large number are very similar and require attention to fine points to separate them. Most species perch quietly, sitting upright on exposed branches, and sally forth to snap up insects. Bill flattened, with bristles at base. FOOD: Mainly flying insects. Some species also eat fruit in winter. RANGE: New World: majority in Tropics.



**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** *Contopus cooperi* Uncommon M290 7½ in. (19 cm). A stout, large-headed flycatcher; often perches on dead snags at tops of trees. Note large bill and *dark chest patches* separated by narrow strip of white (like unbuttoned vest). A *cottony tuft* may poke from behind wing (often not visible). **VOICE**: Call a two-or three-note *pip-pip-pip*. Song a spirited whistle, *I SAY there* or *Quick three beers!*, middle note highest, last one sliding. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Wood-pewees. **HABITAT**: Coniferous forests, bogs, burns. In migration, usually seen on dead branches at tips of trees.



WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE Contopus sordidulus Vagrant M291 6¼ in. (16 cm). Very similar to Eastern Wood-Pewee and best distinguished by voice. Slightly darker and browner than Eastern, often with weaker upper wing bar and darker "vest" below [with "top button buttoned; vest "not buttoned" on Eastern). Often shows darker lower mandible. VOICE: Nasal peeyee or peeeer with buzzy quality. RANGE AND HABITAT: Casual migrant from w. U.S. Woodlands, groves.



**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** Contopus virens

6¼ in. [16 cm]. About the size of Eastern Phoebe, but with two narrow wing bars, no eye-ring, and variably pale orangish lower mandible. Slightly larger than Empidonax flycatchers, but with no eye-ring; wings extend farther down tail; does not flick tail. Olive wash on flanks gives weakly vested appearance. **VOICE:** Sweet plaintive whistle, peea-wee, slurring down, then up. Also pee-ur, slurring down, and a chip. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** See Western Wood-Pewee. Eastern Phoebe lacks wing bars; bobs tail downward. Olive-sided Flycatcher larger, more strongly "vested," different voice. Lack of any tail flicking, and calls, distinguish wood-pewees from Empidonax flycatchers, most of which have eye-ring. **HABITAT:** Woodlands, groves.



NORTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET Scarce, local M289
Camptostoma imberbe

4½ in. (11 cm). A very small, nondescript flycatcher that may suggest a kinglet, Bell's Vireo, or immature Verdin. Grayish olive, with *slight crested* look. *Dull wing bars* and indistinct pale supercilium. Distinguished from *Empidonax* flycatchers by its smaller size, smaller head, stubby bill, and voice. **VOICE:** Thin *peeee-yuk*. A gentle, descending *ee, ee, ee, ee, ee.* **HABITAT:** Lowland woods, mesquite, stream thickets, lower canyons.



## EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS

Several small, drab flycatchers share the characters of light eye-ring and two pale wing bars. When breeding, some of these birds may be separated by habitat and manner of nesting. Voice is *always* the best means of identification. Silent individuals are very tough to identify, so many may have to be let go simply as "empids." Distinguishing characters to emphasize are subtle and include size and shape of bill and color of lower mandible; shape and boldness of eye-ring; pattern of underparts; primary (wingtip) projection; tail length; direction of tail wag; habitat; and calls.



ACADIAN FLYCATCHER Empidonax virescens Fairly common M294 5% in. (15 cm). A greenish Empidonax with pale underparts, thin eyering, and long bill. VOICE: "Song" a sharp explosive pit-see! or weesee! (sharp upward inflection); also a sharp peet. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other eastern empids. HABITAT: Shady deciduous and mixed forests, ravines, swampy woods, beech and hemlock groves.



#### YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER

Uncommon M293

Empidonax flaviventris

5½ in. (14 cm). Yellowish throat separates this from all other eastern empids. (Caution: Other empids may show yellow belly but not throat.) VOICE: Song a simple chi-lek; also a rising chu-wee, whistled chew. SIMILAR SPECIES: Among other eastern empids, only Acadian is so green above but Acadian has white throat and paler, less olive washed underparts. HABITAT: In summer, boreal forests, muskeg, bogs.



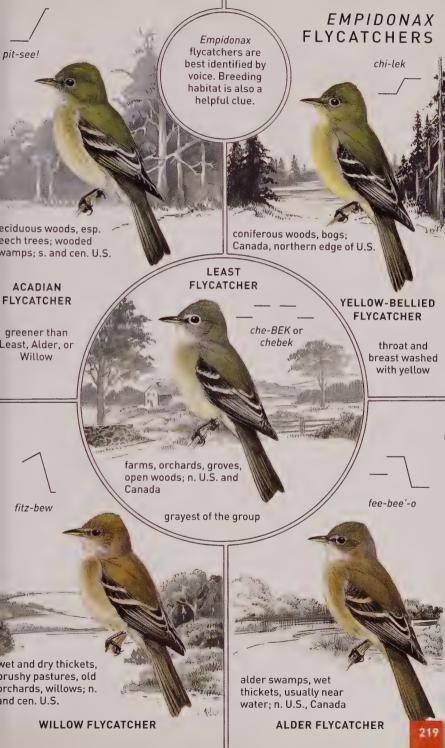
**LEAST FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax minimus* Fairly common M297 5½ in. (13 cm). A small empid, *grayish* above and *pale* below with *bold white eye-ring*, short wingtip projection, and short, wide-based bill. Whitish wing bars on mostly blackish wing. Actively flicks tail. **VOICE:** Emphatic, sharply snapped *che-bek!* Call a sharp, dry *whit.* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Alder and Willow flycatchers are browner above with longer wingtips and weaker eye-rings; Willow often looks longer billed. **HABITAT:** Deciduous and mixed woodlands, poplars, aspens.



WILLOW FLYCATCHER Empidonax traillii Fairly common M296 5% in. (15 cm). Alder and Willow flycatchers (formerly lumped as one species) are almost identical in appearance, a bit larger, longer billed, and browner than Least Flycatcher. They may be separated from each other mainly by voice and breeding habitat. Willow averages paler and browner (less olive) than Alder and shows little or no eye-ring (weak to moderately bold in Alder). VOICE: Song a sneezy fitz-bew, unlike fee-BE-o of Alder. Call a soft whit. HABITAT: Bushes, willow thickets, etc.; often in drier situations (brushy fields, upland copses, etc.) than Alder, but found side by side in some areas.



**ALDER FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax alnorum* Fairly common M295 5% in. [15 cm]. The northern counterpart of Willow Flycatcher, with which it was formerly lumped as Traill's Flycatcher. Safely separated only by voice. [See Willow Flycatcher.] **VOICE**: Song an accented *fee-BE-o* or *rree-BE-o*. Call *kep* or *pit.* **HABITAT**: Willows, alders, brushy swamps, swales. Usually in moister areas than Willow.



## MISCELLANEOUS FLYCATCHERS



VERMILION FLYCATCHER Pyrocephalus rubinus Uncommon M301 6 in. (15 cm). Adult male: Crown (often raised in slight bushy crest) and underparts flaming vermilion; upperparts brown and tail blackish. Immature male: Breast whitish, with some streaks; crown, belly, and undertail coverts washed with vermilion. Female: Breast whitish, narrowly streaked; belly washed with pinkish or yellowish. VOICE: P-p-pit-zee or pit-a-zee. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female told from Say's Phoebe by shorter tail, pale supercilium, and dusky streaks on breast. See also male Scarlet Tanager (which has scarlet back and black wings). HABITAT: Moist areas in arid country, such as streams, ponds, pastures, golf courses, ranches.



**BLACK PHOEBE** Sayornis nigricans Uncommon, local M298 6%–7 in. (17–18 cm). Our only black-breasted flycatcher; belly white. Has typical phoebe tail-bobbing habit. Immature: Wing bars cinnamon-buff. **VOICE:** Thin, strident fi-bee, fi-bee, rising then dropping; also a sharp slurred chip. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Eastern Phoebe, juncos (which are ground-loving birds). **HABITAT:** Streams, dams, walled canyons, farmyards, towns, parks; usually near water.



Fairly common M299 7 in. [18 cm]. Note downward tail-bobbing. A grayish, sparrow-sized flycatcher without eye-ring or strong wing bars (thin buff wing bars on immature); small, all-dark bill and dark head; yellowish belly in fall. VOICE: Song a well-enunciated phoe-be or fi-bree (second note alternately higher or lower). Call a sharp chip. SIMILAR SPECIES: Eastern Wood-Pewee and smaller Empidonax flycatchers have conspicuous wing bars; bills partly yellowish or horn colored on lower mandible. All eastern Empidonax flick tail upward. HABITAT: Streamsides, bridges, farms, field edges, roadsides, towns.



SAY'S PHOEBE Sayornis saya Uncommon M300 7½ in. (19 cm). A midsized, brownish flycatcher with contrasty black tail and pale orange-buff belly. VOICE: Plaintive, down-slurred pweer or pee-ee. SIMILAR SPECIES: Ash-throated Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe. HABITAT: Open country, scrub, canyons, ranches, parks.



**GREAT KISKADEE** *Pitangus sulphuratus* Fairly common, local M305 9% in. (25 cm). A large, *big-headed* flycatcher, like Belted Kingfisher in actions, even catching small fish. Note *striking head pattern*, rufous wings and tail, *yellow underparts and crown.* **Voice**: Loud *kiss-ka-dee*; also a loud *reea.* Often heard before it is seen. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Tropical and Couch's kingbirds, which share this kiskadee's limited range. **HABITAT**: Woodlands and brushy edges, usually near water.



## Mylarchus Flycatchers



#### BROWN-CRESTED ELYCATCHER

Uncommon M304

Myiarchus tyrannulus

8¾ in. [22 cm]. Similar to Ash-throated Flycatcher, but larger, with noticeably larger bill. Underparts brighter yellow. Tail rusty, a bit less so than in Ash-throated. Voice important. VOICE: Sharp whit and rolling, throaty purreeer. Voice much more vigorous and raucous than Ash-throated's. SIMILAR SPECIES: Great Crested Flycatcher. HABITAT: Woodlands and well-vegetated residential areas.



#### GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER

Fairly common M303

Mviarchus crinitus

8½–8% in. (21–22 cm). A kingbird-sized flycatcher with cinnamon wings and tail, dark olive back, mouse gray breast, and bright yellow belly. Often erects bushy crest. Note strongly contrasting tertial pattern and pink-based bill. VOICE: Loud whistled wheeep! Also a rolling prrrrrreet! SIMILAR SPECIES: Brown-crested Flycatcher equal in size but has all-dark bill, paler gray breast, paler yellow belly, less contrasting tertials. Ash-throated Flycatcher has grayer back, much paler below. Vocal differences important. HABITAT: Deciduous and mixed woodlands, groves.



#### ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER

Fairly common M302

Myiarchus cinerascens

8–8% in. (20–21 cm). A medium-sized flycatcher, smaller than a kingbird, with two wing bars, whitish throat, pale gray breast, pale yellowish belly, and rufous tail. Head slightly bushy. VOICE: Prrt; also a rolling chi-queer or prit-wheer. SIMILAR SPECIES: Great Crested and Brown-crested flycatchers; Say's Phoebe. HABITAT: Semiarid country, brush, mesquite, open woods.

LA SAGRA'S FLYCATCHER Myiarchus sagrae Vagrant 7½–7½ in. [19 cm]. Very rare visitor to FL from W. Indies. Similar to Ash-throated Flycatcher, but has only a hint of yellow on belly. Tail brownish, not rufous. Short primaries. Often "droopy" posture. VOICE: High, rapid double wick-wick. SIMILAR SPECIES: Great Crested and Ash-throated flycatchers. HABITAT: Shrubby coastal woods.

# MYIARCHUS FLYCATCHERS Most have extensively **BROWN-CRESTED** rusty tails **FLYCATCHER** GREAT CRESTED **FLYCATCHER** LA SAGRA'S **FLYCATCHER** ASH-THROATED **FLYCATCHER**

## KINGBIRDS, BECARD, AND FLYCATCHERS



#### WESTERN KINGBIRD

Uncommon to fairly common M308

Tyrannus verticalis

8¾ in. [22 cm]. Note pale gray head and breast, white throat, yellowish belly. Western's black tail has narrow white edges. VOICE: Shrill, bickering calls; a sharp kip or whit-ker-whit; dawn song pit-PEE-tu-whee. SIMILAR SPECIES: Eastern, Couch's, and Tropical kingbirds. HABITAT: Farms, shelterbelts, semiopen country, fences, wires.



#### **EASTERN KINGBIRD** Tyrannus tyrannus

Common M309

8½ in. (22 cm). The white band across tail tip marks Eastern Kingbird. Red crown mark is concealed and rarely seen. Often seems to fly quiveringly on tips of wings. Harasses crows, hawks. VOICE: Rapid sputter of high, bickering electric-shock notes: dzee-dzee-dzee, etc., and kit-kit-kitter-kitter, etc. Also a nasal dzeep. SIMILAR SPECIES: Gray Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe. HABITAT: Wood edges, river groves, farms, shelterbelts, roadsides, fences, wires.



#### **GRAY KINGBIRD**

Fairly common, local M310

Tyrannus dominicensis

9 in. (23 cm). Resembles Eastern Kingbird, but larger and much paler. Conspicuously notched tail has no white band. Very large bill gives large-headed look. Dark ear patch. VOICE: Rolling pi-teer-rrry or pe-cheer-ry. SIMILAR SPECIES: Eastern Kingbird. HABITAT: Roadsides, wires, mangroves, edges.



#### TROPICAL KINGBIRD

Uncommon, local M306

Tyrannus melancholicus

9½ in. (23 cm). Nearly identical to Couch's Kingbird. Both species similar to Western Kingbird, but bill larger and longer, tail notched and brownish; bright yellow on underparts includes breast. VOICE: Insectlike twittering. SIMILAR SPECIES: See Couch's Kingbird. HABITAT: Groves along streams and ponds, open areas with scattered trees and short cut grass (golf courses, ball fields, etc.).

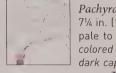
**COUCH'S KINGBIRD** *Tyrannus couchii* Fairly common, local M307 9% in. [23 cm]. Very similar to Tropical Kingbird and best distinguished by voice. Couch's has slightly shorter, thicker bill and brighter green back. **VOICE**: Nasal *queer* or *beeer* (suggests Common Pauraque). Also a sharp *kip*. **HABITAT**: Open wooded and brushy ar-



### ROSE-THROATED BECARD

Rare, local M312

Pachyramphus aglaiae



7¼ in. (18 cm). Big-headed and thick-billed. *Male:* Dark gray above, pale to dusky below, with *blackish cap and cheeks* and lovely *rose-colored throat* (lacking in some males). *Female:* Brown above, with *dark cap* and *light buffy collar* around nape. Underparts strong buff.

VOICE: Thin, slurred whistle, *seeoo.* SIMILAR SPECIES: Kingbirds, Say's Phoebe. HABITAT: Woodlands.

eas with large trees; most common in native habitat.



FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER Tyrannus savana

Vagrant

14½-16 in. [37-41 cm]. Vagrant from Tropics. Told from Scissortailed Flytcatcher by black cap, white flanks and underwing. Black tail not rigid in flight. Immature: Much shorter tail; might be confused with Eastern Kingbird. VOICE: Mechanical-sounding tik-tik-tik. SIMILAR SPECIES: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. RANGE: Normal range from Mex. to S. America. Widespread vagrant to U.S. and Canada; records predominantly in fall. HABITAT: Open fields, pastures with scattered trees, wires.



#### SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

Common M311

Tyrannus forficatus

13–15 in. [33–38 cm]. A beautiful bird, pale pearly gray, with extremely long, scissorlike tail that is usually folded. Flanks orange-buff, wing linings salmon pink. Immature: Shorter tail and duller sides may suggest Western Kingbird. Hybrids are known. VOICE: Harsh keck or kew; a repeated ka-leep; also shrill, kingbirdlike bickerings and stuterings. SIMILAR SPECIES: Western Kingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher. HABITAT: Semiopen country, ranches, farms, roadsides, fences, wires.

## SHRIKES Family Laniidae

Songbirds with hook-tipped bill. Shrikes perch watchfully on bush tops, treetops, wires; often impale prey on thorns, barbed wire. FOOD: Insects, lizards, small rodents, small birds. RANGE: Widespread in Old World; two species in our area.



#### NORTHERN SHRIKE Lanius excubitor

Scarce M314

10–10¼ in. (25–26 cm). This denizen of North is an irregular winter visitor south of Canadian border. Similar to Loggerhead Shrike, but paler; note narrower dark mask with more white around eye, faintly barred breast, and longer, more hooked bill with pale base. Juvenile: Plumage held throughout first winter; brown, with weak mask and extensive fine barring below. VOICE: Song a disjointed, thrasherlike succession of harsh notes and musical notes. Call shek-shek; a grating jaaeg. SIMILAR SPECIES: Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Mockingbird. HABITAT: Semiopen country with lookout posts; in summer, taiga, muskeg, tundra.



#### LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

Uncommon to rare M313

Lanius ludovicianus

9 in. (23 cm). Big head, slim tail; gray, black, and white, with black mask, short hooked bill. Sits quietly on wires or bush tops; flies low with flickering flight showing white patches in wings, then swoops up to perch. Juvenile: Shows faint barring below briefly in late summer. VOICE: Song consists of harsh, deliberate notes and phrases, repeated 3 to 20 times, suggesting mockingbird's song; queedle, queedle, over and over, or tsurp-see, tsurp-see. Call shack shack or jeeer jeeer. SIMILAR SPECIES: Northern Shrike. Northern Mockingbird lacks dark mask and hooked bill. HABITAT: Semiopen country with lookout posts: wires, fences, trees, shrubs.



## VIREOS Family Vireonidae

Small olive- or gray-backed birds, much like wood-warblers, usually less active. Bill slightly thicker, with more curved ridge and small hook to tip. May be divided into those with wing bars (and "spectacles") and those without (these have eye stripes). FOOD: Mostly insects, also fruit in winter. RANGE: Canada to Argentina.



WHITE-EYED VIREO Vireo griseus

5 in. (13 cm). Distinctive combination of yellow spectacles, whitish throat. Also note wing bars, yellowish sides, white eye (dark in immature). Somewhat skulking. VOICE: Song a sharply enunciated CHICK-a-per-weeoo-CHICK. Variable; usually starts and ends with chick. SIMILAR SPECIES: Bell's Vireo. HABITAT: Wood edges, brush, brambles, dense undergrowth.



**BELL'S VIREO** *Vireo bellii*4¾ in. (12 cm). Small, nondescript. Usually stays concealed in dense cover. Greenish back and yellowish flanks; thin, pale, broken eyering and loral stripe; one or two weak wing bars. Pumps tail. **VOICE**: Sings as if through clenched teeth; husky phrases at short intervals: *cheedle cheedle cheedle cheedle cheev!* **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Warbling Vireo has plain wings, bold eyebrow. Immature White-eyed Vireo has bolder wing bars, yellow spectacles. **HABITAT**: Willows, streamsides, hedgerows, mesquite.



**BLACK-CAPPED VIREO** Vireo atricapilla Scarce, local M317 4½ in. (11 cm). Endangered. Small and sprightly; cap glossy black in male, slate gray in female. Note wing bars, white spectacles, red eyes. **VOICE:** Song hurried, harsh; phrases remarkable for restless, almost angry quality. Call a harsh chit-ah. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Blueheaded Vireo larger with dark eyes. **HABITAT:** Oak scrub, brushy hills, rocky canyons. Often hard to see.

Uncommon to fairly common M318

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO



Vireo flavifrons 5½ in. (14 cm). Bright yellow throat, yellow spectacles, and white wing bars. Olive back contrasts with gray rump. VOICE: Song similar to Blue-headed Vireo's, but lower pitched with burry quality; swings back and forth with phrases that sound like ee-yay, three-eight. SIMILAR SPECIES: Pine Warbler has some dusky streaks below, white tail spots, smaller bill. HABITAT: Deciduous woodlands, shade trees, particularly oaks.



**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** Vireo solitarius Fairly common M319 5½ in. (14 cm). Note sharply demarcated blue-gray cap, bright white spectacles and throat, bright green back, yellowish wash to side. **VOICE:** Song of burry phrases with deliberate pauses between; sweet and high pitched: wee-ay, chweeo, chuweep (slower than Red-eyed Vireo with fewer notes per phrase). Also gives a whiny chatter. **HABITAT:** Coniferous, mixed, and deciduous woods.





RED-EYED VIREO Vireo olivaceus

Common M322 6 in. (15 cm). Note gray cap contrasting with olive back, and strong,

black-bordered white eyebrow stripe (supercilium). Red iris may not be obvious at a distance. Iris is brown in immature birds in fall. VOICE: Song is abrupt, robinlike phrases, monotonous. Call a nasal, whining chway, SIMILAR SPECIES: Warbling Vireo slightly smaller, duller and less contrasty above, with pale lores and arching supercilium. See Yellow-green and Black-whiskered vireos, both scarce and local. HABITAT: Deciduous woodlands, shade trees, groves.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO Vireo flavoviridis Very rare, local 6-61/4 in. (15-16 cm). This tropical species is very similar to Red-eyed Vireo, but has strong yellow tones on sides, flanks, and undertail coverts; back yellower green; head stripes less distinct; bill slightly longer and paler. (Immature Red-eyed Vireos may have yellow on flanks and undertail coverts.) voice: Song slower than Red-eyed's, suggestive of House Sparrow. RANGE: Rare summer resident in lower Rio Grande Valley, TX. Casual farther north in TX and in FL. HABITAT: Woodlands and well-vegetated residential areas.



#### BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO

Uncommon, local M323

Vireo altiloquus

6¼ in. [16 cm]. Narrow dark whisker on each side of throat. Otherwise similar to Red-eved Vireo, but duller overall, particularly head pattern, and more brownish olive above, with slightly longer bill. VOICE: Song slightly slower than Red-eyed's. HABITAT: Mangroves, subtropical hardwoods.



WARBLING VIREO Vireo gilvus Uncommon to fairly common M320 5½ in. (14 cm). One of the widespread vireos that lack wing bars. In this very plain species, note whitish breast, pale lores, and lack of black borders on eyebrow stripe that arches slightly above dark eye. Back tinged dull greenish. Immatures have more yellow on sides. VOICE: Song distinctive: a languid warble, unlike broken phrases of other vireos; suggests Purple Finch's song, but less spirited, with burry undertone. Call a wheezy querulous twee and short vit. SIMILAR SPE-CIES: See Philadelphia Vireo. Red-eyed Vireo larger, greener above, and has bolder eyebrow stripe. See also Tennessee Warbler. HABI-TAT: Deciduous woods, cottonwoods, riparian woodlands.



PHILADELPHIA VIREO Vireo philadelphicus Uncommon M321 5¼ in. (13 cm). This smallish vireo is similar to Warbling, but with more distinct dark eye line (including lores), slightly greener back. and a wash of yellow on breast (bright in immatures, dull in adults). VOICE: Song very similar to Red-eyed Vireo's; higher, slower. Call, a quick, husky niff-niff-niff-niff. SIMILAR SPECIES: Bright Warbling Vireos in fall tinged green above and have yellow on sides, but that yellow is dull or lacking in center of breast and throat; lores paler than Philadelphia's. Different song. Tennessee Warbler slightly smaller. has finer bill, clear white (not yellow) undertail coverts, blackish rather than blue-gray legs. HABITAT: Second-growth woodlands. poplars, willows, alders.



## JAYS, CROWS, AND ALLIES Family Corvidae

Large perching birds with strong, longish bill, nostrils covered by forward-pointing bristles. Crows and ravens are very large and black. Jays are often colorful (usually blue). Magpies are black and white, with long tail. Sexes alike. Most immatures resemble adults. FOOD: Almost anything edible. RANGE: Worldwide except s. S. America, some islands, Antarctica.

## FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY Aphelocoma coerulescens

Uncommon, local M328



11-11½ in. (29 cm). Look for this *crestless* jay in FL in stretches of oak scrub. Note *whitish forehead*, *pale* gray-brown back, solid blue wings and tail (no white markings). **VOICE**: Rough, rasping *kwesh*... *kwesh*. Also a low, rasping *zhreek* or *zhrink*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Blue Jay. **HABITAT**: Mainly scrub, low oaks.

### WESTERN SCRUB-JAY Fairly common, local M329

Aphelocoma californica

11-11½ in. (29 cm). Crestless with blue head, wings, and tail, brownish back, white throat with necklace. VOICE: Rough, rasping kwesh... kwesh. Also a harsh shreck-shreck-shreck and a rasping zhreek, zhreek. SIMILAR SPECIES: Blue Jay. HABITAT: Oaks, riparian woodlands, juniper woodland, residential areas, parks.



BLUE JAY Cyanocitta cristata

Tin. 128 cm). A showy, noisy, crested jay. Bold white spots on wings and tail; whitish or dull gray underparts; black necklace. VOICE: Harsh slurring jeeah or jay; a musical queedle, queedle; also many other notes. Mimics calls of Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks. SIMILAR SPECIES: Scrub-Jays. HABITAT: Oak and pine woods, suburban gardens, groves, towns, feeders.



**GRAY JAY** Perisoreus canadensis

11¼-11½ in. (28-29 cm). A fluffy, gray bird of cool northern forests.

Called "Whiskey Jack" by woodsmen. Adult: Black partial cap and white forehead; suggests an overgrown chickadee. Juvenile: Dark sooty, with whitish whisker. VOICE: Soft whee-ah; also many other notes, some harsh. HABITAT: Spruce and fir forests.



**GREEN JAY** Cyanocorax yncas Fairly common, local M326 10½ in. (27 cm). The only green-colored jay. Black throat, violet crown, yellow outer tail feathers. Often seen in noisy flocks. **VOICE**: Four or more harsh notes given rapidly: cheek, cheek, cheek, cheek. Also a variety of jaylike croaks and squeaks. **HABITAT**: Dense cover in scrubby woods. Visits feeders for fruit and seeds.



**BROWN JAY** *Cyanocorax morio*Very rare, local M327 16½–17 in. (42–43 cm). A very large jay with *brown upperparts and pale belly*. Adult has dark bill; juvenile has yellow bill. In flight, pale belly stands out. **VOICE**: Very loud *chaa-chaa-chaa* repeated over and over. Flocks can make a loud noise. **HABITAT**: Dense scrub and brushy woods, feeders.





**CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN** *Corvus cryptoleucus* Fairly common M333 19–19½ in. (48–50 cm). Slightly larger than American Crow; a small raven of plains. Flies with typical flat-winged glide of a raven; has somewhat wedge-shaped tail. White feather bases on neck and breast sometimes show when feathers are ruffled by the wind, hence former name White-necked Raven. **VOICE:** Hoarse *kraak*, flatter and higher than Common Raven's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Difficult to tell from Common Raven, particularly when separate, but slightly smaller and tail slightly less wedge-shaped, calls higher pitched, and bristles extend farther down upper mandible. **HABITAT:** Arid and semiarid scrub and grasslands, yucca, mesquite, towns, dumps.



COMMON RAVEN Corvus corax

23½–24 in. [59–61 cm]. Note wedge-shaped tail. Much larger than American Crow; has heavier voice and is not inclined to be as gregarious, often solitary or in family groups. More hawklike in flight, it alternates flapping and sailing, gliding on flat, somewhat sweptback wings (crow glides much less and with slight upward dihedral). When bird is perched and not too distant, note "goiter" look created by shaggy throat feathers and heavier "Roman-nose" bill. VOICE: Croaking cr-r-ruck or prruk; also a metallic tok. SIMILAR SPECIES: American Crow. HABITAT: Boreal and mountain forests, cliffs, tundra, dumps.



**BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE** *Pica hudsonia* Fairly common, local M330 18½–19½ in. (47–49 cm); tail 9½–12 in. (24–30 cm). A large, slender, black-and-white bird, with long, graduated tail. In flight, iridescent greenish black tail streams behind and large white patches flash in wings. **VOICE:** Harsh, rapid queg queg queg or wah-wah. Also a querulous, nasal maag? or aag-aag? **HABITAT:** Rangeland, brushy country, streamsides, forest edges, farms. Often in flocks.



TAMAULIPAS CROW Corvus imparatus

14%—14½ in. (36–37 cm). A small crow with small bill, long tail, and slim wings. Glossier colored than other crows. VOICE: A "stressed" voice (a harsh, froglike awwwk). SIMILAR SPECIES: In its range this is the only small crow — next larger all-black corvid is Chihuahuan Raven. RANGE: Found irregularly near Brownsville, TX. HABITAT: Scrub, mesquite thickets; also residential areas, dumps.



FISH CROW Corvus ossifragus

15¼-15½ in. (38-39 cm). Slightly smaller and more delicately proportioned than American Crow. Tail slightly longer and wings slightly more tapered. Best identified by voice, as measurements of the two species broadly overlap. VOICE: Short nasal car or ca. Most distinctive is two-syllable ca-ha. (American Crow utters caw.) Some calls of young American Crows may sound like those of Fish Crows. SIMILAR SPECIES: American Crow larger, has different call. HABITAT: Near tidewater, river valleys, lakes. Also farm fields, wood edges, towns and cities, dumps.



AMERICAN CROW Corvus brachyrhynchos

17–17½ in. [43–45 cm]. A large, chunky, ebony bird. Completely black; glossed with purplish in strong sunlight. Bill and feet strong and black. Often gregarious. VOICE: Loud caw, caw, caw or cah or kahr.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Fish Crow is smaller with longer, slimmer tail, more tapered wings; most readily distinguished by voice. Common and Chihuahuan Ravens larger, have wedge-shaped tails, more sweptback wings, different calls. HABITAT: Woodlands, farms, fields, river groves, shores, towns, dumps.



## SWALLOWS Family Hirundinidae

Slim, streamlined form and graceful flight characterize these sparrow-sized birds. Pointed wings; short bill with very wide gape; tiny feet. FOOD: Mostly flying insects. RANGE: Worldwide except for polar regions, some islands.



TREE SWALLOW Tachycineta bicolor

5% in. (15 cm). Adult: Male steely blue, tinged green, above; white below. Female slightly duller than male. Juvenile: Dusky gray-brown back and dusky smudge across breast. Tree Swallows have distinctly notched tail; glide in circles, ending glide with quick flaps and a short climb. VOICE: Rich cheet or chi-veet; a liquid twitter, weet, trit, weet, etc. SIMILAR SPECIES: May be confused with Northern Rough-winged Swallow (dingy throat, different flight style) or Bank Swallow (bolder dark breast-band than juvenile Tree, smaller overall, browner above). See Violet-Green Swallow. All species also have different calls. HABITAT: Open country near water, marshes, meadows, streams, lakes, wires. Fall premigratory flocks roost in reeds. Nests in holes in trees, birdhouses.



BANK SWALLOW Riparia riparia

5 in. (12 cm). Our smallest swallow. Brown-backed with slightly darker wings and paler rump. Note distinct dark breast-band. White of throat curls up behind ear. Wingbeats rapid and shallow. VOICE: Dry, trilled chitter or rattle, brrt or trr-tri-tri. SIMILAR SPECIES: Northern Rough-winged Swallow and juvenile Tree Swallow. When perched in mixed-species flocks, Bank's smaller size stands out. HABITAT: Near water; fields, marshes, lakes. Nests colonially in dirt and sand banks.



NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW Fairly common M338
Stelgidopteryx serripennis

5¼ in. (12 cm). Adult: Brown-backed; does not show contrast above that Bank Swallow does; throat and upper breast dusky; no breastband. Flight more languid; wings pulled back at end of stroke. Juvenile: Has cinnamon-rusty wing bars. VOICE: Call a low, liquid trrit, lower and less grating than Bank Swallow's. SIMILAR SPECIES: Bank Swallow and juvenile Tree Swallow. HABITAT: Near streams, lakes, rivers. Nests in banks, pipes, and crevices, but not colonially as Bank Swallow does.

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW Tachycineta thalassina

5½ in. (13 cm). Note white patches that almost meet over base of tail.

Male: Dark and shiny above; adults glossed with beautiful green on back and purple on rump and uppertail; clear white below. White of face partially encircles eye. Female and immature: Somewhat duller above, and white above eye tinged grayish or brownish. VOICE: A twitter; a thin ch-lip or chew-chit; rapid chit-chit-chit wheet, wheet. SIMILAR SPECIES: Separated from Tree Swallow by pale feathering above eye, greener back, white patches on sides of rump, slightly smaller size, and shorter wings. RANGE AND HABITAT: Casual visitor from w. U.S.





PURPLE MARTIN Progne subis

Fairly common M336 8 in. (20 cm). The largest N. American swallow. Male: Uniformly blueblack above and below; no other swallow is dark-bellied. Female and iuvenile: Light-bellied: throat and breast grayish, often with faint gray collar. Glides in circles, alternating quick flaps and glides; often spreads tail. VOICE: Throaty and rich tchew-wew, etc., or pew, pew. Song gurgling, ending in a succession of rich, low guttural notes. SIMILAR SPECIES: Tree and Violet-green swallows, much smaller than female Purple Martin, are cleaner white below. In flight, male martin might be confused with European Starling. HABITAT: Towns, farms, open or semiopen country, often near water. Nests almost exclusively in human-supplied martin houses.



CAVE SWALLOW Petrochelidon fulva Uncommon, local M341 5½ in. [14 cm]. Similar to Cliff Swallow (rusty rump, square-cut tail), but face colors reversed: throat and cheeks buffy (not dark), forehead dark chestnut (not pale, although Cliff Swallows in Southwest have chestnut forehead). Buff color sets off dark mask and cap. VOICE: Clear, sweet weet or cheweet; a loud, accented chu, chu. SIMILAR SPE-CIES: Cliff Swallow: Cave has buffier throat and face, more deeply colored rump, different call, HABITAT: Open country, Cuplike nest placed in caves, culverts, and under bridges; nests colonially.



CLIFF SWALLOW Petrochelidon pyrrhonota Uncommon M340 51/2 in. (14 cm). Note rusty or buffy rump. Overhead, appears squaretailed, with dark throat patch. Glides in a long ellipse, ending each glide with a roller coaster-like climb. voice: Zayrp; a low chur. Alarm call keer! Song consists of creaking notes and guttural gratings: harsher than Barn and Cave swallows' songs. SIMILAR SPECIES: Barn and Cave swallows. HABITAT: Open to semiopen land, farms, cliffs, lakes. Nests colonially on cliffs, barn sides, under eaves and bridges: rarely on trees. Builds mud jug, or gourdlike, nest. Barn and Cave swallows build cuplike open nest; and Barn Swallows often but not always nest inside the barn.



BARN SWALLOW Hirundo rustica

6¾ in. (17 cm). Our only swallow that is truly swallow-tailed; also the only one with white tail spots. Adult: Blue-black above: cinnamonbuff below, with darker throat. Immature: More whitish below. Flight direct, close to ground; wingtips pulled back at end of stroke; not much gliding. VOICE: Soft vit or kvik-kvik, vit-vit. Also szee-szah or szee. Anxiety call a harsh, irritated ee-tee or keet. Song a long, musical twitter interspersed with guttural notes. SIMILAR SPECIES: Most other N. American swallows have notched (not deeply forked) tail. Cliff Swallow is colonial, building mud jugs under eaves or cliffs. See Cave Swallow. HABITAT: Open or semiopen land; farms, fields, marshes, lakes; often perches on wires; usually near habitation. Builds cuplike nest inside barns or under eaves, not in tight colonies like Cliff Swallow

Common M342



## CHICKADEES, TITMICE, BUSHTITS, AND VERDIN Families Paridae, Aegithalidae, and Remizidae

Chickadees, titmice, and bushtits form mixed flocks; verdins are more solitary. RANGE: Chickadees and titmice are widespread in North America, Eurasia, and Africa; bushtits from B.C. to s. Guatemala; verdin in sw. North America.



CAROLINA CHICKADEE Poecile carolinensis

4% in. (12 cm). Distinguish from Black-capped by range and voice.

VOICE: Call higher pitched and more rapid than Black-capped's.

Whistled fee-bee, fee-bay. SIMILAR SPECIES: Black-capped larger, cleaner rear edge of cheek patch, more prominent wing edging. HAB-ITAT: Mixed and deciduous woods; residential areas, feeders.



**BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE** *Poecile atricapillus* Common M344 5–51½ in. (12–13 cm). A familiar visitor to feeders. Note *black cap, gray back*, buffy flanks. Very similar to Carolina Chickadee. **VOICE:** Clearly enunciated *chick-a-dee-dee-dee*. Song a clear whistle, *fee-bee-ee* or *fee-bee*, first note higher. **HABITAT:** Mixed and deciduous woods; willows, residential areas, feeders.



BOREAL CHICKADEE Poecile hudsonicus Uncommon M345 5½ in. (14 cm). Note dull brown cap, pinkish brown flanks, extensively grayish cheeks. Voice: Wheezy chick-che-day-day; slower, more raspy and drawling than lively call of Black-capped Chickadee. HABITAT: Coniferous forests, evergreen plantations.



BLACK-CRESTED TITMOUSE

Fairly common M347

Baeolophus atricristatus 6½ in. (16 cm). Like Tufted Titmouse but with black crest, white fore-head. Juveniles have mostly gray crest briefly in summer. VOICE: Chickadee-like calls. Song a whistled peter peter peter or here here here here. HABITAT: Woodlands, canyons, towns, feeders.



TUFTED TITMOUSE Baeolophus bicolor Common M346 6¼ in. (16 cm). A mouse-colored bird with tufted crest, large black eyes. Very inquisitive and loudly vocal. VOICE: Clear whistled chant similar to those of chickadees, but more nasal, wheezy, and complaining. HABITAT: Woodlands, shade trees, groves, residential areas, feeders.



BUSHTIT Psaltriparus minimus Common, local M349 4½ in. (11 cm). A very small, plain bird with longish tail and stubby bill. Except briefly during nesting season, travels in straggling talkative flocks, often joined by warblers and other species. VOICE: Insistent light tsits, pits, and clenks. SIMILAR SPECIES: Verdin. HABITAT: Oak scrub, mixed woods, pinyon-juniper.



VERDIN Auriparus flaviceps

Uncommon, local M348
4½ in. (11 cm). Tiny. Adult: Gray, with yellowish head, rufous bend of wing (often hidden). Juvenile: Just plain gray. VOICE: Insistent see-lip. Rapid chipping. Song a three-note whistle, tsee see-see. SIMILAR SPECIES: Juvenile might be confused with Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet. HABITAT: Semiarid lowlands, mesquite.



## NUTHATCHES Family Sittidae

Small, stubby tree climbers with strong, woodpecker-like bill and strong feet. Short, square-cut tail is not braced like a woodpecker's tail during climbing. Nuthatches habitually go down trees headfirst. Sexes similar, or mostly so. FOOD: Bark insects, seeds, nuts; attracted to feeders by suet, sunflower seeds. RANGE: Most of N. Hemisphere.



WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH Sitta carolinensis Common M351 5% in. (15 cm). This, the most widespread nuthatch, is known by its black cap (gray in female) and beady black eye on white face. Undertail coverts chestnut. VOICE: Song a rapid series of low, nasal, whistled notes on one pitch: whi, whi, whi, whi, whi or who, who, etc. Call a distinctive nasal yank, yank, yank; also a nasal tootoo. SIMILAR SPECIES: Red-breasted Nuthatch. HABITAT: Forests, woodlots, groves, river woods, shade trees, feeders.



RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH Sitta canadensis Common M350 4½ in. (11 cm). A small nuthatch with broad black line through eye and white line above it. Underparts washed with rusty (deeper in male). VOICE: Call higher, more nasal than White-breasted Nuthatch, ank or enk, sounding like a baby nuthatch or tiny tin horn. SIMILAR SPECIES: Brown-headed Nuthatch has brown crown, lacks white supercilium, has very different call. HABITAT: Coniferous forests; in winter, also other trees, feeders.



BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH Sitta pusilla Uncommon M352 4½ in. [11 cm]. A small nuthatch of southern pinelands. Smaller than White-breasted Nuthatch, with brown cap coming down to eye and a usually pale or whitish spot on nape. Travels in groups. VOICE: Sounds like a toy rubber mouse: a high, rapid kit-kit-kit; also a squeaky piping ki-day or ki-dee-dee, constantly repeated, sometimes becoming an excited twitter or chatter. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other nuthatches, Brown Creeper. HABITAT: Open pine woods.

## CREEPERS Family Certhiidae

Small, slim, stiff-tailed birds, with slender, slightly curved bill used to probe bark of trees. FOOD: Bark insects. RANGE: Cooler parts of N. Hemisphere.



BROWN CREEPER Certhia americana Uncommon M353 5½ in. (13 cm). A very small, slim, camouflaged tree climber. Brown above, whitish below, with slender decurved bill and stiff tail, which is used as a brace during climbing. Ascends trees spirally from base, hugging bark closely. Voice: Call a single high, thin seee, similar to quick three-note call (see-see-see) of Golden-crowned Kinglet. Song a high, thin, sibilant see-ti-wee-tu-wee or trees, trees, trees, see the trees. SIMILAR SPECIES: Brown-headed Nuthatch. HABITAT: Nests in variety of coniferous and mixed woodlands; in nonbreeding season, also in deciduous woods, groves, shade trees.



## WRENS Family Troglodytidae

Mostly small, energetic brown birds; stumpy, with slim, slightly curved bill; tail often cocked. FOOD: Insects, spiders. RANGE: N., Cen., and S. America; also in Furasia.



HOUSE WREN Troglodytes aedon

4½-4¾ in. [11-12 cm]. A small, energetic, gray-brown wren with light eye-ring and no strong eyebrow stripe. VOICE: Stuttering, gurgling song rises in a musical burst, then falls at end; calls a rolled prrrrr and harsh cheh, cheh. SIMILAR SPECIES: Winter Wren. HABITAT: Open woods, thickets, towns, gardens; often nests in bird boxes.



WINTER WREN Troglodytes hiemalis

4 in. (10 cm). A very small, round, dark wren, told from House Wren by its smaller size, much stubbier tail, stronger eyebrow, and dark, heavily barred belly. Often bobs body and flicks wings. Mouselike and secretive; stays near ground. VOICE: Song a rapid succession of high tinkling warbles, trills. Call a hard, two-syllable kimp-kimp (suggests Song Sparrow). SIMILAR SPECIES: House Wren and other small wrens. HABITAT: Dense, shaded woodland underbrush, ferns, fallen trees; in summer, also coniferous forests.



BEWICK'S WREN Thryomanes bewickii Scarce, declining M358 5½ in. [13 cm]. Note longish tail with white corners and bold white eyebrow stripe. Brown above with grayish tail. VOICE: Song suggests Song Sparrow's, but thinner, with "inhale-exhale" quality; starts on two or three high notes, drops lower, ends on a thin trill; calls sharp vit, vit and buzzy dzzzzzt. SIMILAR SPECIES: Some Carolina Wrens have limited buff below. HABITAT: Thickets, underbrush, gardens; often nests in bird boxes.



CAROLINA WREN Thryothorus ludovicianus

5½ in. (14 cm). A large wren, near size of a sparrow. Warm rusty brown above, variably buff below; conspicuous white eyebrow stripe.

VOICE: Two- or three-syllable chant. Variable; tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea kettle, or chirpity, chirpity, chirp. Variety of chips and churrs. SIMILAR SPECIES: Bewick's and Marsh wrens. HABITAT: Tangles, undergrowth, gardens; often nests in bird boxes.





MARSH WREN Cistothorus palustris
5 in. [13 cm]. White stripes on back and white eyebrow stripe identify this marsh dweller. VOICE: Song reedy, gurgling, often ending in a guttural rattle: cut-cut-turrrrrrrr-ur; often heard at night. Call a low tsuck-tsuck. SIMILAR SPECIES: Sedge Wren. HABITAT: Fresh and brackish marshes (cattail, tule, bulrush); in winter, also salt marshes.





CANYON WREN Catherpes mexicanus Uncommon, local M356 5%-6 in. (15 cm). Mostly rufous-brown with contrasting white bib. voice: Gushing cadence of clear, curved notes tripping down scale; te-you, te-you, tew tew. Or tee tee tee tee tew tew tew. Call a shrill beet. HABITAT: Cliffs, canyons, rockslides, stone buildings.

ROCK WREN Salpinctes obsoletus
6 in. (15 cm). A gray-brown western wren with finely streaked breast, rusty rump, and buffy terminal tail band. Frequently bobs. VOICE: Song a harsh chant. Call a loud dry trill; also ti-keer. SIMILAR SPECIES: Canyon Wren. HABITAT: Rocky slopes, canyons, rubble.



#### CACTUS WREN

Uncommon, local M354

Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus

8½ in. (22 cm). A very large wren of arid country. Note size, spotted breast, white supercilium. VOICE: Monotonous chu-chu-chu-chu or chug-chug-chug-chug, on one pitch, gaining speed. SIMILAR SPECIES: Sage Thrasher. HABITAT: Arid areas of cactus, mesquite, yucca.

## PIPITS Family Motacillidae

Streaked birds with white outer tail feathers, long hind claws, thin bill. They walk briskly; flight undulating. FOOD: Insects, seeds. RANGE: Nearly worldwide.



#### AMERICAN PIPIT

Uncommon to fairly common M384

Anthus rubescens
6½ in. (17 cm). A slim-billed, sparrowlike bird of open country. Bobs
tail almost constantly as it walks. Outer tail feathers white. VOICE: Call
a thin jee-eet. In flight, chwee chwee chwee, etc. SIMILAR SPECIES:
Sprague's Pipit. Sparrows have thicker bills, do not wag tails. HABITAT: In summer, tundra; in migration and winter, fields, shores.



SPRAGUE'S PIPIT Anthus spragueii Uncommon, secretive M385 6½ in. (17 cm). A furtive solitary grassland species; towers high in the sky when flushed. Distinguished from American by plain buffy face with beady dark eye, striped back, pinkish legs. Does not wag tail. VOICE: Sings high in air; a thin jingling series, descending in pitch. Call a distinctive squeet or squeet-squeet. HABITAT: Short- to medium-grass prairies and fields.

## LARKS Family Alaudidae

Brown terrestrial birds with long hind claws. Gregarious in nonbreeding season, when they may be joined by longspurs and Snow Buntings. Larks often sing in high display flights. FOOD: Seeds, insects. RANGE: Mainly Old World.



HORNED LARK Eremophila alpestris Uncommon to common M335 7–7½ in. (18–19 cm). A pale bird of open ground; walks, does not hop. Adult: Distinctive face pattern with tiny "horns." Juvenile: Streaked breast, scaly above, no black; compare Sprague's Pipit. VOICE: Song tinkling and high-pitched, given from ground or air. Call a clear tseetiti. HABITAT: Prairies, short-grass and dirt fields, shores, tundra.



## KINGLETS Family Regulidae

Tiny active birds with small slender bill, short tail, bright crown. In nonbreeding season, often found in mixed-species flocks with chickadees and warblers. FOOD: Insects, larvae. RANGE: N. America, Eurasia.



RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET Regulus calendula Common M364 4½ in. [11 cm]. A tiny, stub-tailed, olive-gray birdlet, smaller than most warblers, flicks wings constantly. Note bold wing bars bordered behind by black "highlight bar," broken white eye-ring. Male has scarlet crown patch (usually concealed; erect when excited). VOICE: Husky ji-dit. Song is three or four high notes, several lower notes, and a chant, tee tee tee-tew tew tew—ti-didee, ti-didee, ti-didee. SIMILAR SPECIES: Golden-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler. HABITAT: In summer, coniferous forests; in migration and winter, variety of other woodlands, parks, gardens.



#### **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET**

Fairly common M363

Regulus satrapa 4 in. (10 cm). Tiny olive-gray bird, smaller than warblers. Note boldly striped face, wing bars. Flicks wings, though less emphatically than Ruby-crowned Kinglet. VOICE: High, wiry see-see-see. Song a series of high thin notes, ascending, then dropping into a little chatter. SIMILAR SPECIES: Ruby-crowned Kinglet. HABITAT: Conifers; in migration and winter, also other trees.

## **GNATCATCHERS** Family Sylviidae

Active birds with slender bill. Gnatcatchers have long, mobile tail. FOOD: Insects, larvae. RANGE: Worldwide.



#### **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER**

Fairly common M365

Polioptila caerulea

4½ in. (11 cm). A tiny, slim mite, blue-gray above, whitish below, with narrow white eye-ring. Long tail is mostly white underneath and often flipped about and cocked. VOICE: Call a thin, peevish zpee; often doubled, zpee-zee. Song a thin, squeaky, wheezy, bubbly series of notes, easily overlooked. SIMILAR SPECIES: Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. HABITAT: Swampy woods, riparian areas; also brushy habitats in winter.



#### **BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER**

Uncommon, local M366

Polioptila melanura

4½ in. (11 cm). Similar to Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, but breeding male has black cap, both sexes have darker underparts, underside of tail largely black. VOICE: Call a thin harsh chee, repeated two or three times; soft chip-chip series. SIMILAR SPECIES: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. HABITAT: Arid brush, ravines, dry washes, mesquite.

# KINGLETS AND GNATCATCHERS ∵⊘" RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET ď GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER** tail from below breeding **BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER** tail from below

## THRUSHES Family Turdidae

Large-eyed, slender-billed songbirds. Most species that bear the name "thrush" are brown-backed with spotted breasts. Robins and bluebirds, etc., suggest their relationship through their speckle-breasted young. Often fine singers. FOOD: Insects, worms, snails, berries, fruit. RANGE: Nearly worldwide.



#### NORTHERN WHEATEAR

Uncommon, local M367

Oenanthe oenanthe

5% in. [15 cm]. A small, dapper bird of Arctic barrens. Note white rump and sides of tail. Breeding male: Pale gray back, black wings, and black ear patch. Female and nonbreeding: Buffier, with brown back, reduced black. VOICE: Call a hard chak-chak and a soft heet. RANGE AND HABITAT: Casual visitor to e. U.S. and se. Canada, mostly in fall. Open, stony areas; in summer, rocky tundra.



#### EASTERN BLUEBIRD Sialia sialis

Fairly common M368

7 in. (18 cm). A blue bird with *rusty red breast*; appears round-shouldered when perched. Female duller than male; has rusty throat and breast, *white* belly. *Juvenile*: Speckle-breasted. **VOICE**: Call a musical *chur-wi*. Song three or four gurgling notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Fresh female and immature Mountain Bluebirds may have warm buff wash on throat and breast, but flanks not as bright, and they are longer winged and slightly longer billed. **HABITAT**: Open country with scattered trees: farms. roadsides. Often nests in bluebird boxes.



MOUNTAIN BEUEBIRD Sialia currucoides

Uncommon M369

7½-7½ in. (18–19 cm). *Male: Turquoise blue*, paler below; belly whitish. No rusty. *Female and immature:* Dull brownish gray, with touch of pale blue on rump, tail, and wings. **VOICE:** Low *chur* or *vhew.* Song a short, subdued warble. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Has straighter posture than female Eastern Bluebird, with slightly longer bill and tail. Warm-colored birds in fresh plumage lack rusty-colored flanks. Often hovers over fields in search of prey. **HABITAT:** Open country with some trees; in winter, also treeless terrain. Often nests in bluebird boxes.



TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE Myadestes townsendi Rare M370

8½ in. (22 cm). A slim gray bird with white eye-ring, white sides on tail, and buffy wing patches. Pattern in wing and tail gives it a not-too-remote resemblance to Northern Mockingbird, but note eye-ring, darker breast, and especially buff wing patches. Juvenile: Dark overall with tight spots and scaly belly. VOICE: Song a rich warbling. Call a high-pitched eek, like a squeaky bicycle wheel. SIMILAR SPECIES: Northern Mockingbird, shrikes. RANGE: Rare winter visitor from w. U.S. to e. Great Plains, casual farther east. HABITAT: Variety of coniferous forests, rocky cliffs; in winter, particularly fond of junipers, also open woods.





**VEERY** Catharus fuscescens

Fairly common M371

7 in. (18 cm). Note uniform rusty brown cast above and grayish flanks. No strong eye-ring (may have dull ring) on grayish face. Of all our brown thrushes, this is the least spotted (spots often indistinct). VOICE: Song liquid, breezy, ethereal, wheeling downward: vee-ur, vee-ur, veer, veer. Call a down-slurred phew or view. SIMILAR SPECIES: Warmer brown than Gray-cheeked or Bicknell's thrushes, with weaker breast spots. HABITAT: Moist deciduous woods, willow and alder thickets along streams.



SWAINSON'S THRUSH Catharus ustulatus Fairly common M374 7 in. (18 cm). This spotted thrush is marked by its conspicuous buffy eye-ring or spectacles, buff on cheeks and upper breast. Dull olivey brown above. VOICE: Song is breezy, flutelike phrases, each phrase sliding upward. Call a liquid whit or foot. Migrants at night (in sky) give a short whistled quee. SIMILAR SPECIES: Gray-cheeked Thrush has thin, often incomplete grayish eye-ring on grayish face. Young Hermit Thrush may have buff-tinged eye-ring, but all Hermits show contrasty rufous tail, no buffy on breast, regularly flick wings and raise tail, and vocalizations differ. See Veery, HABITAT: Moist spruce and fir forests, riparian woodlands; in migration, other woods.



BICKNELL'S THRUSH Catharus bicknelli Scarce, local M373 6½–6¾ in. (17 cm). Very similar to Gray-cheeked Thrush but slightly smaller, upperparts warmer brown, tail dull chestnut, breast washed with buffy, lower mandible more than half yellow (less than half in Gray-cheeked). Legs more dusky than toes (uniform pale in Graycheeked). VOICE: Song similar to Gray-cheeked but thinner and rising at close (falling in Gray-cheeked). SIMILAR SPECIES: Gray-cheeked and Hermit thrushes. HABITAT: Breeds in stunted mountain fir forests of Northeast to shoreline in Maritimes. In migration, forests.



GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH Catharus minimus 7-71/4 in. (17-18 cm). A dull, "cold-colored," gray-brown, furtive thrush, distinguished from Swainson's by its grayish cheeks, grayish, less conspicuous, often broken eye-ring. Little or no buffy on breast. See Bicknell's Thrush. VOICE: Song thin and nasal, downward, suggesting Veery's: whee-wheeoo-titi-wheew. Call a downward pheu, much higher than Veery's call. HABITAT: Boreal forests, tundra willow and alder scrub; in migration, other woodlands.



HERMIT THRUSH Catharus guttatus Fairly common M375 6¾ in. (17 cm). A spot-breasted brown thrush with rufous tail. When perched, it has habit of flicking wings and of cocking tail and dropping it slowly. Some birds wintering in the western part of our area are grayer. VOICE: Call a low chuck; also a scolding tuk-tuk-tuk and a rising, whiny pay. Song clear, ethereal, flutelike; three or four phrases at different pitches, each with a long introductory note. SIMILAR SPE-CIES: Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes. HABITAT: Coniferous or mixed woods; in winter, woods, thickets, parks, gardens.





AMERICAN ROBIN Turdus migratorius

Common M377 10 in. (25 cm). A very familiar bird; often seen on lawns, with an erect stance, giving short runs then pauses. Recognized by dark gray back and brick red breast. Dark stripes on white throat. On male, head and tail blackish, underparts solid, deep reddish; those colors duller on female. Juvenile: Has speckled breast, but rusty wash identifies it, VOICE: Song a clear caroling; short phrases, rising and falling, often prolonged. Calls tyeep and tut-tut-tut. SIMILAR SPECIES: Varied Thrush (vagrant from West). Clay-colored Thrush, HABITAT: Wide variety of habitats, including towns, parks, lawns, farmland, shade

VARIED THRUSH Ixoreus naevius

producing trees.

Vagrant

9½ in. (24 cm). Similar to American Robin, but with orangish eye stripe, orange wing bars, and orange bar on underwing visible in flight. Male: Blue-gray above, with wide black breast-band. Female: Duller gray above, with gray breast-band. Juvenile: Breast-band imperfect or speckled. VOICE: Song a long, eerie, quavering, whistled note, followed, after a pause, by one on a lower or higher pitch. Call a liquid chup, SIMILAR SPECIES: Orangey wing bars and eye stripe, and a breast-band, distinguish it from a robin, with which it only rarely mingles. RANGE: Casual winter visitor from West. HABITAT: Thick, wet coniferous and mixed forests: in winter, also other moist, dense woods, ravines, thickets, gardens, feeders.

trees, many types of forests and woodlands; in winter, also berry-



**WOOD THRUSH** Hylocichla mustelina Fairly common M376

73/4 in. [20 cm]. Rusty-headed. Smaller than a robin; plumper than other brown thrushes, distinguished by deepening rufous about head, streaked gray cheeks, white eye-ring, and rounder, bolder, more numerous breast spots. **VOICE:** Song with rounder phrases than other thrushes. Listen for flutelike ee-o-lay. Occasional guttural notes are distinctive. Call a rapid pip-pip-pip-pip. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other brown thrushes, juvenile American Robin, HABITAT: Mainly deciduous woodlands, moist glades.

## THRUSHES



#### FIELDFARE Turdus pilaris

Vagrant

10 in. (25 cm). Robintike, with heavily marked tawny breast. Back rusty, contrasting with gray head and rump, dark tail. VOICE: Harsh, chattering tchak-tchak-tchak and a quiet see. Song a rapid mix of feeble squeaking, chuckling notes, often given in flight. SIMILAR SPECIES: Juvenile American Robin, Redwing (vagrant), other spotbreasted thrushes. RANGE: Eurasian species; most N. American records from Northeast in winter. HABITAT: Open country, woodland edge, hedgerows, residential areas.

#### **REDWING** Turdus iliacus

Vagrant

8¼ in. (21 cm). Named for its rust-colored wing linings (most visible in flight). Broad pale eyebrow, heavily streaked below. Bill two-toned, black at tip, yellow at base. VOICE: Flight call a thin, high, reedy seeeh. SIMILAR SPECIES: Fieldfare (vagrant), juvenile American Robin. RANGE: Eurasian species; most N. American records from Northeast in winter. HABITAT: Semiopen country and young woodlands.

#### RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN Turdus rufopalliatus

Vagrant

9¼ in. (24 cm). This very rare Mexican winter visitor is like a pale American Robin (extensive cinnamon underparts; grayish head, wings, and tail), but with orangier tinge below, rufous back, and no white around eye. More heavily streaked throat. Orangier bill. A timid skulker. VOICE: Call a soft whistled teeww. Song a mellow series of warbles, each repeated two or more times. SIMILAR SPECIES: American Robin. RANGE: Casual visitor to s. TX. HABITAT: Woods and thickets, often near water.

#### CLAY-COLORED THRUSH Turdus grayi

Scarce, local

9 in. (23 cm). Scarce resident of southernmost TX. Warm brown above, dull tan on chest, paling to light tawny buff on belly. Throat streaked with light brown, not black. VOICE: Lower-pitched, simpler version of American Robin's song. SIMILAR SPECIES: Brown thrushes (which are smaller and less like American Robin). HABITAT: Subtropical woodlands and well-vegetated residential areas.

## Mockingbirds and Thrashers

#### Family Mimidae

Often called "mimic thrushes." Excellent songsters; some mimic other birds. Strong-legged; usually longer tailed than true thrushes, bill usually longer and more decurved. FOOD: Insects, fruit. RANGE: New World.



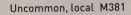
#### **CURVE-BILLED THRASHER**

Fairly common M382

Toxostoma curvirostre

11 in. (28 cm). This thrasher can be told by its well-curved bill and mottled breast. Some individuals have narrow white wing bars. Eyes pale orange. Juvenile: Yellow eyes, somewhat straighter bill. VOICE: Call a sharp, liquid whit-wheet! (like a whistle to attract attention). Song a musical series of notes and phrases, almost grosbeaklike in quality but faster. Not much repetition. HABITAT: Arid brush, lower canyons, ranch yards.





## LONG-BILLED THRASHER Toxostoma longirostre

11½ in. [29 cm]. *Duller brown* above than Brown Thrasher, breast stripes blacker, cheeks grayer; bill longer and all dark. **VOICE**: Song similar to Brown Thrasher's, but more jumbled. Call a harsh tchuk. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Brown Thrasher. **HABITAT**: Brush, mesquite.

### BROWN THRASHER Uncommon to fairly common M380

Toxostoma rufum

11½ in. (29 cm). Stimmer but longer than a robin; bright rufous above, heavily streaked below. Note wing bars, curved bill, long tail, yellow eyes. VOICE: Song a succession of deliberate notes and phrases resembling Gray Catbird's song, but each phrase usually in pairs. Call a harsh chack! SIMILAR SPECIES: Brown thrushes have shorter tails and have brown (not yellow) eyes. In s. TX see Long-billed Thrasher. HABITAT: Thickets, brush, gardens.

SAGE THRASHER Oreoscoptes montanus

8½ in. (22 cm). A bit smaller than a robin. Gray-backed, with streaked breast, wing bars, and white tail corners. Eyes pale yellow, duller in immature. YOICE: Song is clear, ecstatic warbled phrases, sometimes repeated but more often continuous, suggestive of Rosebreasted Grosbeak. Call a blackbirdlike chuck. SIMILAR SPECIES: Cactus Wren, juvenile Northern Mockingbird. RANGE: Wintering birds barely enter our area in arid areas of s. TX. Casual visitor elsewhere. HABITAT: Sagebrush, mesas; in winter, also arid open country.



GRAY CATBIRD Dumetella carolinensis

8% in. (23 cm). Slate gray; slim. Note black cap. Chestnut undertail coverts. Flips tail jauntily. VOICE: Catlike mewing; distinctive. Also a grating tcheck-tcheck. Song is disjointed notes and phrases; not repetitious, compared with other mimids. SIMILAR SPECIES: Northern

Mockingbird. HABITAT: Riparian undergrowth, brush.



NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD Mimus polyglottos Common M379 10 in. (25 cm). A familiar and conspicuous species. Slimmer, longer tailed than a robin. Note large white patches on wings and tail. VOICE: Song a varied, prolonged succession of notes and phrases, may be repeated a half-dozen times or more before changing. Often heard at night. Mockingbirds are excellent mimics. Call a loud tchack; also chair. SIMILAR SPECIES: Shrikes have dark facial masks. See Bahama Mockingbird (vagrant). HABITAT: Towns, parks, gardens, farms, roadsides, thickets.

BAHAMA MOCKINGBIRD Mimus gundlachii Vagrant 11 in. (28 cm). Chunkier than Northern Mockingbird and overall browner with less white in tail and no white in wings. Dark streaks on flanks, belly, and neck give this species a thrasherlike appearance. VOICE: Song simpler than Northern's, with two-syllable phrases. Call a sharp tchak, like Northern's but harsher. RANGE: Straggler to s. FL from Caribbean. HABITAT: A skulker in deep brushy cover.



## WAXWINGS Family Bombycillidae

Pointed crest may be raised or lowered. Waxy red tips on secondaries in most individuals. Gregarious. FOOD: Berries, insects. RANGE: N. Hemisphere.



#### ROHEMIAN WAXWING

Uncommon, irregular M386

Bombycilla garrulus

8¼ in. (21 cm). Similar to Cedar Waxwing but larger and grayer, with no yellow on belly; wings with strong white markings, rusty undertail coverts (white in Cedar). VOICE: Rougher than Cedar. HABITAT: In summer, boreal forests, muskeg; in winter, widespread in search of berries, especially in towns where fruiting trees attract them.



### CEDAR WAXWING Bombycilla cedrorum

Common M387

71/4 in. (18 cm). Note yellow band at tip of tail, black mask. A sleek, crested, brown bird, larger than House Sparrow. Juvenile: Grayer, with blurry streaks. Gregarious in nonbreeding season, roaming in compact flocks. VOICE: High, thin lisp or zeee, slightly trilled. HABI-TAT: Open woodlands, orchards; in winter, anywhere with fruiting trees and bushes.

## BULBULS Family Pycnonotidae

Native to Old World. One species introduced in FL. FOOD: Insects, fruit.

Uncommon, local RED-WHISKERED BULBUL Pycnonotus jocosus 7 in. (18 cm). Note black crest, red cheek and undertail coverts. VOICE: Noisy chattering. RANGE: Native of se. Asia; established locally in s. Miami, FL. HABITAT: Heavy vegetation in suburban neighborhoods.

## STARLINGS Family Sturnidae

A varied family; some blackbirdlike. Sharp-billed. Gregarious. FOOD: Insects, seeds, berries. RANGE: Widespread in Old World. Introduced in New World.



**EUROPEAN STARLING** Sturnus vulgaris

8½ in. (22 cm). Introduced from Europe in 1890. A gregarious, garrulous "blackbird": note short tail, sharply pointed bill. In flight, has triangular wings, VOICE: Harsh tseeeer: a whistled whooee. Also clear whistles, clicks, chuckles; often mimics other birds. HABITAT: Cities, suburbs, farms. Has had substantial negative impact on several native cavity-nesting species.

HILL MYNA Gracula religiosa

10½ in. (27 cm). Glossy black with orange bill. White wing patches. VOICE: Squawks, buzzes, whistles; excellent mimic. RANGE: Exotic from Asia, found in s. FL. HABITAT: Lush suburban neighborhoods.

COMMON MYNA Acridotheres tristis

Common, local

10 in. (25 cm). A brown-bodied relative of European Starling, with black head and white undertail. **VOICE:** Starlinglike gurgles, squeaks, and cackles. RANGE: Introduced from s. Asia. Widespread and increasing in s. and cen. FL. HABITAT: Urban and suburban habitats.



## WOOD-WARBLERS Family Parulidae

Active, brightly colored birds, usually smaller than sparrows, with thin, needlepointed bill. Most have some yellow in plumage. FOOD: Mainly insects but many species also eat fruit in fall and winter. RANGE: AK and Canada to n. Argentina.

#### "LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER

Rare

Recessive hybrid of Blue-winged × Golden-winged warbler combination. Yellow below like Blue-winged, but with black head pattern of Golden-winged. Note black ear patch. VOICE: Like Golden-winged or Blue-winged. HABITAT: Same as Blue-winged and Golden-winged.



#### GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

Uncommon M389

Vermivora chrysoptera

4¾ in. (12 cm). Male: The only warbler with combination of yellow wing patch and black throat. Note yellow forecrown, black ear patch, whitish underparts. Female: Ear and throat patches grayer. VOICE: Song a buzzy note followed by one to three on a lower pitch: bee-bz-bz-bz-bz. (Blue-winged Warbler sings a lazier beee-bzzz.) Call like Blue-winged's. SIMILAR SPECIES: "Brewster's," "Lawrence's," and Blue-winged warblers. HABITAT: Open woodlands, swampy edges, brushy clearings. Declining in many northeastern and southern areas.

#### "BREWSTER'S" WARBLER

Scarce

Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers hybridize where their ranges overlap, producing two basic types, "Lawrence's" and "Brewster's" warblers ("Brewster's" is more frequent and more variable). Typical "Brewster's" is like Blue-winged with whitish underparts. Some have white wing bars, others yellow; some are tinged with yellow below. Black eye mark and white or largely white (not solid yellow) underparts are diagnostic. VOICE: May sing like either parent. HABITAT: Same as Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers.



#### BLUE-WINGED WARBLER

Fairly common M388

Vermivora cyanoptera

4¾ in. (12 cm). Note narrow black line through eye. Face and underparts yellow; undertail coverts white; wings with two white bars. Female averages duller than male. VOICE: Song a buzzy beeee-bzzz, as if inhaled and exhaled. Call a sharp tsik. SIMILAR SPECIES: "Brewster's," "Lawrence's," Prothonotary, Golden-winged, and Yellow warblers. HABITAT: Field edges, undergrowth, bushy edges, woodland openings.





#### TENNESSEE WARRIER

Uncommon to fairly common M390

Oreothlypis peregrina

4¾ in. (12 cm). Note short tail, bold eyebrow, white undertail coverts. Breeding male: Pale gray head contrasting with greenish back. Female and immature: Washed with greenish on head, yellow on breast; often showing a trace of a single wing bar, VOICE: Song staccato, threepart: ticka ticka ticka ticka, swit swit, chew-chew-chew-chew-chew. Call a sweet chip. SIMILAR SPECIES: Orange-crowned Warbler. Warbling and Philadelphia vireos slightly larger and thicker billed, duller on back HABITAT: Deciduous and mixed forests: in migration, variety of woodlands.



ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER Uncommon to fairly common M391 Oreothlypis celata

5 in. (13 cm). Usually drab olive green with yellow undertail coverts and blurry breast streaking. Some (especially immatures) guite drab and gray-headed, others brighter yellow-green. "Orange" of crown seldom visible. VOICE: Song a colorless trill, becoming weaker toward end. Often changes pitch, rising or dropping slightly. Call a sharp stik. SIMILAR SPECIES: Nonbreeding Tennessee Warbler has white undertail coverts, shorter tail, brighter green above, lacks dusky breast streaks. See Yellow Warbler. HABITAT: Open woodlands, brushy clearings, willows, parks, gardens.



NASHVILLE WARBLER Oreothlypis ruficapilla Uncommon M392 43/4 in. (12 cm). Note white eve-ring in combination with vellow throat. Head gray, contrasting with olive green back. No wing bars. Underparts bright yellow with white vent. Regularly bobs tail. VOICE: Song two-part: seebit, seebit, seebit, seebit, tititititi (ends like Chipping Sparrow's song). Call a sharp pink. SIMILAR SPECIES: Connecticut Warbler is larger, behaves very differently (walks on limbs and ground, does not flutter about actively), and has grayish or brownish throat. Some dull Nashvilles in fall can look almost as dull as Orange-crowned, but always have clear yellow on breast, HABITAT: Open mixed woods with undergrowth, forest edges, bogs; in migration, also brushv areas.





NORTHERN PARULA Parula americana Fairly common M393 4½ in. (11 cm). A small, short-tailed warbler, pale bluish above, with yellow throat and breast and two white wing bars. Suffused greenish patch on back. Distinct broken white eye-ring. Adult male has dark breast-band; immature lacks breast-band, has greenish wash on head. VOICE: Song a buzzy trill that climbs scale and trips over the top: zeeeeeeeee-up. Also zh-zh-zh-zheeeee. SIMILAR SPECIES: Tropical Parula. HABITAT: Breeds mainly in humid woods where either Usnea lichen or Spanish moss hangs from trees (occasionally in some



TROPICAL PARULA Parula pitiayumi Rare, local M394 4½ in. (11 cm). Similar to Northern Parula, but limited in range to s. TX. Note more extensive yellow on breast and lack of white eye-ring. Male has black mask and lacks distinct bands across chest. VOICE: Like Northern Parula's. HABITAT: Breeds mainly in humid woods near water, usually where Spanish moss hangs from trees.

woods where neither is found).



YELLOW WARBLER Dendroica petechia Common M395 5 in. (13 cm). No other warbler is so extensively yellow. Male has rusty breast streaks (faint or lacking in female). Immature: Lacks breast streaks; some individuals may be quite dull, with bright yellow restricted to lower vent and undertail coverts. All show yellow edgings to wing and tail, yellow underside of tail, and dark beady eye.

VOICE: Song a bright cheerful tsee-tsee-tsee-titi-wee or weet weet weet weet tsee-tsee wew. Variable. Call a soft, slurred, rich chip.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Shorter tailed than Wilson's or Orange-crowned warbler, with yellow edging in wings and tail. Note vocal differences.

HABITAT: Riparian woodlands and understory, swamp edges, particularly alders and willows; also parks, gardens.



CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER Fairly common M396
Dendroica pensylvanica

5 in. (13 cm). Usually holds tail cocked up at an angle. Breeding: Note yellow crown, chestnut sides. Nonbreeding: Lime greenish above, whitish below; white eye-ring, pale yellow wing bars. Adults retain some chestnut; immatures do not. VOICE: Song similar to Yellow Warbler's: see see see Miss BEECHer or please please pleased to MEETcha, last note dropping. Call a rich, slurred chip, like Yellow Warbler's. HABITAT: Overgrown field edges, small trees.



MAGNOLIA WARBLER Dendroica magnolia Fairly common M397 5 in. (13 cm). The "black-and-yellow warbler." Breeding male: Upperparts blackish, with large white patches on wings and tail; underparts yellow, with heavy black stripes. Note black tail crossed by broad white band (from beneath, tail is white with broad black tip). Female and nonbreeding male: Duller. Immature: Has weak stripes on sides, but tail pattern distinctive; often shows weak grayish band across breast. VOICE: Song suggests Yellow Warbler's but is shorter: weeta weeta weetsee (last note rising); or a Hooded Warbler-like weeta weeta wit-chew. Call an odd nasal note. HABITAT: Low conifers; in migration, a variety of woodlands.





CAPE MAY WARBLER Dendroica tigrina

Uncommon M398

5 in. [13 cm]. Breeding male: Note chestnut cheeks. Yellow below, striped with black; rump yellow, crown black. Female and nonbreeding: Lack chestnut cheeks; duller, breast often whitish, streaked. Note dull patch of yellow behind ear, yellowish rump, and one wing bar bolder than the other. Immature female distinctly gray. VOICE: Song a very high, thin seet seet seet. May be confused with song of Baybreasted or Black-and-white warbler. SIMILAR SPECIES: Dull birds in nonbreeding plumage may be confused with Yellow-rumped Warbler. HABITAT: Spruce forests; often searches out isolated spruce and fir trees in migration, also broadleaf trees.



#### BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

Fairly common M399

Dendroica caerulescens
5¼ in. [13 cm]. Male: Clean-cut; upperparts deep blue; throat and sides black, belly white. Female: Olive-brown back, with light line over eye and small white wing spot. Immature female may lack this white "pocket handkerchief," but note dark cheek. VOICE: Song a husky, lazy zur, zur, zreee or beer, beer, bree [ending higher]. Call a hard thip, similar to call of Dark-eyed Junco. SIMILAR SPECIES: Orange-crowned Warbler may show pale crescent along leading edge of wing. HABITAT: Understory of deciduous and mixed woodlands.



YFILOW-RUMPED WARBLER Dendroica coronata Common M400 5½ in. (14 cm). Includes two subspecies groups, formerly considered separate species: "Myrtle" Warbler (widespread in East) and "Audubon's" Warbler (primarily western, enters our area in winter in s. TX: casually elsewhere). Note bright yellow rump and call. Breeding male: Blue-gray above: heavy black breast patch (like an inverted U): crown and side patches yellow. "Audubon's" differs from "Myrtle" in having yellow throat (which does not extend back below cheek, as white does in "Myrtle"), large white wing patches, no white supercilium. Breeding female: Duller. Nonbreeding: More brownish above; whitish below, streaked; throat yellowish (sometimes dim) in "Audubon's"; rump yellow. VOICE: Variable song, juncolike but two-part, rising or dropping in pitch, seet-seet-seet-seet, trrrrrrrr. Call a loud check ("Myrtle") or higher tchip ("Audubon's"). SIMILAR SPECIES: Cape May and Magnolia warblers. HABITAT: Coniferous forests. In migration and winter, varied; open woods, brush, dune scrub.



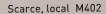
#### BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER

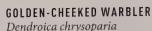
Rare M401

Dendroica nigrescens

5 in. (13 cm). Male: Gray above, with black throat, cheek, and crown separated by white. Small yellow spot in lores. Female: Slaty crown and cheek; dusky or light throat; loral spot duller yellow. Immature: May be tinged brownish above; loral spot pale. VOICE: Song a buzzy chant, "full of Zs," zeedle zeedle zeedle ZEETche (next-to-last or last note higher). Call a dull tup. SIMILAR SPECIES: Suggests Black-andwhite Warbler, but lacks white stripes on back and crown, does not crawl around on branches and limbs. RANGE AND HABITAT: Rare winter visitor to s. TX from West, casual elsewhere in East. Nests in pinyon-juniper, mixed woods; in migration and winter, open woods.









5½ in. (14 cm). Breeds in Ashe Juniper hills of Edwards Plateau, TX. *Male:* Similar to Black-throated Green Warbler, but with *black back* and blacker line through eye. *Female:* Similar to female Black-throated Green, but back darker olive with dusky streaks, belly snowy white (lacking tinge of yellow on flanks). **VOICE:** Song a hurried *tweeah, tweeah, tweesy* or *bzzzz, laysee, daysee.* Call like Black-throated Green's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black-throated Green Warbler. **HABITAT:** Junipers, oaks; also streamside trees.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER Dendroica townsendi
5 in. [13 cm]. Male: Easily distinguished by black-and-yellow pattern of head, with blackish cheek patch; underparts yellow, with heavily striped sides. Female and immature: Throat largely yellow, not black; may be known by well-defined dark cheek patch, bordered by yellow as in male. Voice: Song a wheezy dzeer dzeer tseetsee or weazy, weazy, seesee. Call a soft, flat tip. SIMILAR SPECIES: Black-throated Green Warbler. RANGE: Casual visitor from West. HABITAT: Tall conifers, cool fir forests; in migration and winter, variety of woodlands.



## BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER Fairly Dendroica virens

Fairly common M403

5 in. (13 cm). Male: Bright yellow face is framed by black throat and olive green crown. Female and immature: Recognized by yellow face; much less black on throat; unmarked olive green back. All birds show small yellow spot on rear flank. VOICE: Lisping, weezy or buzzy zoo zee zoo zoo zee or zee zee zee zee zoo zee; zee notes on same pitch, zoo notes lower. Call a flat tip or tup. SIMILAR SPECIES: Townsend's Warbler (a stray from West) has darker cheek, darker above, yellow on lower breast. Golden-cheeked Warbler (rare and very local in TX) has black line through eye, darker back. HABITAT: Mainly coniferous or mixed woods; in migration, variety of woodlands.



BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER Dendroica fusca Fairly common M404 5 in. (13 cm). The "fire throat." Breeding male: Black and white, with flame orange on head and throat. Female and nonbreeding: Paler orange (adult female and immature male) or yellowish (immature female) on throat; dark cheek patch. Note head stripes, pale back stripes. VOICE: Song zip zip zip titi tseeeeee, ending on a very high, upsturred note (inaudible to some ears). Also a two-part teetsa teetsa teetsa teetsa zizizizizi, more like Nashville Warbler. Call a rich chip. SIMILAR SPECIES: Yellow-rumped ("Audubon's"), Yellow-throated, and Cerulean warblers. HABITAT: Woodlands; in summer, conifers.





PINE WARBLER Dendroica pinus

5½ in. (14 cm). All plumages show dark cheeks, blurry streaking at breast-sides, unstreaked back, and white tail spots. Male: Yellowbreasted, with olive green back, white wing bars. Female: Duller: brownish olive above; immature females often obscure. VOICE: Sona a trill on one pitch like Chipping Sparrow's song, but more musical, slower. Call a sweet chip. SIMILAR SPECIES: Nonbreeding Blackpoll and Bay-breasted warblers. HABITAT: Pine woods. In winter sometimes in fields with bluebirds.



PRAIRIE WARBLER Dendroica discolor Fairly common M408 4¾ in. (12 cm). This warbler bobs its tail (like Palm Warbler); underparts yellow, paling on undertail coverts; black stripes confined to sides: two black face marks, one through eye, one below. At close range, chestnut marks may be seen on back of male (reduced in female). VOICE: Song a thin zee zee zee zee zee zee zee zee, ascending the chromatic scale. Call a sharp tschip. SIMILAR SPECIES: Pine and Palm warblers. HABITAT: Brushy fields, low pines, mangroves.



PALM WARBLER Dendroica palmarum Common M409 5¼ in. (14 cm). A ground-loving warbler. Note constant tail bobbing. Brownish or olive above; yellowish or dirty white below, narrowly streaked: bright vellow undertail coverts, white spots in tail corners. In breeding plumage has chestnut cap. Two subspecies: Eastern breeders show more yellow below and on eyebrow; western breeders duller, may have yellow restricted to undertail coverts in fall. VOICE: Song weak, repetitious notes: zhe-zhe-zhe-zhe-zhe. Call a sharp tsup. SIMILAR SPECIES: Prairie Warbler. HABITAT: In summer, muskeg, bogs. In migration and winter, bushes, weedy fields.



#### YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

Fairly common M405

Common M406

Dendroica dominica

5½ in. (14 cm). A gray-backed warbler with yellow throat. Black eye mask, white wing bars, black stripes on sides. Sexes similar, Creeps about branches of trees. "Sutton's" Warbler is a very rare hybrid of Yellow-throated Warbler and Northern Parula. VOICE: Song a series of clear slurred notes dropping slightly in pitch: tee-ew, tew, tew, tew, tew, tew wi (last note rising). Call a rich chip. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female Blackburnian Warbler. HABITAT: Open woodlands, especially sycamores, live oaks, pines. In winter, often in palms.



KIRTLAND'S WARBLER Dendroica kirtlandii Rare, local M407 5¾ in. (15 cm). Bluish gray above, streaked with black; yellow below. with black spots or streaks confined to sides. Male: Has blackish mask. Female: Duller, lacks mask; immature female browner. Persistently wags tail (like Prairie Warbler). VOICE: Song, loud and lowpitched, resembles Northern Waterthrush's song. Typical song starts with three or four low staccato notes, continues with rapid ringing notes on higher pitch, and ends abruptly. SIMILAR SPECIES: Prairie, Yellow-rumped, and Magnolia warblers. HABITAT: Groves of young jack pines 5 to 18 ft. high with ground cover of blueberries, bearberry, or sweet fern. Habitat succession and Brown-headed Cowbird are having an impact on endangered Kirtland's population.





BAY-BREASTED WARBLER Dendroica castanea Uncommon M410 5½ in. (14 cm). Breeding male: Note chestnut breast and buff neck patch. Breeding female: Paler, with whitish throat. Nonbreeding: Olive green above; two white wing bars; pale buff below, dark feet; no streaks on back or breast. VOICE: High, sibilant tees teesi teesi; resembles song of Black-and-white Warbler, but thinner, shorter, more on one pitch. SIMILAR SPECIES: See nonbreeding Blackpoll and Pine warblers. HABITAT: Woodlands; in summer, conifers and mixed woods.



BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER *Mniotilta varia* Common M413 5½ in. (13 cm). *Creeping along trunks* and branches of trees, this warbler is *striped lengthwise with black and white. Male:* Black throat partly or mostly lost in winter. *Female and immature:* Paler cheek, fainter streaks below, and buffy wash on flanks. **VOICE:** Song a high thin weesee weesee weesee; some songs drop in pitch midway through. Call a sharp *chip.* SIMILAR SPECIES: Blackpoll and Black-throated Gray (rare) warblers. **HABITAT:** Woods.





AMERICAN REDSTART Setophaga ruticilla
5¼ in. (13 cm). Butterfly-like; actively flitting, with drooping wings and spread tail. Adult male: Black and orange. Female: Gray-olive; yellow patches on wings and tail. Immature male: Like female, but tinged with orange on chest, sometimes with black splotches on face. VOICE: Songs (often alternated) zee zee zee zwee (last note higher), tsee tsee tsee tsee tsee-o (last syllable dropping), and teetsa teetsa teetsa teetsa teet (notes paired). Call a slurred, rich chip. HABITAT: Second-growth woods, riparian woodlands.



CERULEAN WARBLER
Dendroica cerulea

Scarce to uncommon M412

4¾ in. (12 cm). A small, short-tailed warbler, often high up in large trees. *Male: Blue* above, white below. Note *narrow black band* across chest. *Female:* Olive-gray above with dull *blue crown, bold supercitium,* creamy white underparts, bold wing bars. *Immature:* Like female; washed with pale yellow on breast. **VOICE:** Buzzy notes on same pitch, followed by longer note on a higher pitch: *zray zray z-zz zeeeee.* Call a rich, slurred *chip.* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Dull female Blackburnian Warbler has streaked back pattern. **HABITAT:** High in deciduous forests, especially in river valleys and ridges.





SWAINSON'S WARBLER Limnothlypis swainsonii

5½ in. [14 cm]. A skulker, difficult to see. Long bill. Olive-brown above and plain buffy white below, with brown crown and light eyebrow stripe. Sexes alike. VOICE: Song suggests Louisiana Waterthrush's, but shorter (five notes: two slurred notes, two lower notes, and a higher note): wee-wee-chip-poor-will. Call a sharp, loud chip. SIMILAR SPECIES: Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, waterthrushes. HABITAT: Cane thickets, swamps, stream bottoms, thick woodland brush; locally in rhododendron-hemlock tangles in Appalachians.



## WORM-EATING WARBLER Helmitheros vermivorum

Uncommon M416

5¼ in. (13 cm). An unobtrusive forager of wooded slopes and thick understory. Often probes hanging dead-leaf clusters. *Dull olive*, with black stripes on buffy head. Breast rich buff. Sexes alike. **VOICE**: Song a series of thin dry notes; resembles trill of Chipping Sparrow, but thinner, more insectlike. Call a flat chip. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Ovenbird, Swainson's Warbler, waterthrushes. **HABITAT**: Wooded hillsides, undergrowth, ravines.



#### **OVENBIRD** Seiurus aurocapilla

Common M418

6 in. (15 cm). Usually seen walking on leafy floor of woods. Suggests a small thrush, but *striped* rather than spotted beneath. *Orangish patch on crown bordered by blackish stripes. White eye-ring.* **VOICE:** Song an emphatic *TEACHer, TEACHer, TEACHer, etc.*, in crescendo. Or a monosyllabic *TEACH, TEACH, TEACH, etc.* Call a loud, sharp *tshuk.* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Waterthrushes. See also spotted thrushes (p. 254). **HABITAT:** Near or on ground in leafy and pine-oak woods; in migration, also thickets.



#### NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH

Common M419

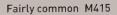
Parkesia noveboracensis

5¾ in. (15 cm). Suggests a small thrush. Walks along water's edge and teeters like a Spotted Sandpiper. Brown-backed, with striped underparts, strong eyebrow stripe; both eyebrow and underparts vary from whitish to pale yellow. Throat striped. VOICE: Call a sharp chink. Song a vigorous, rapid twit twit twit sweet sweet sweet chew chew chew (chews drop in pitch). SIMILAR SPECIES: Louisiana Waterthrush, Ovenbird. HABITAT: Swamps, bogs, woods with standing water, pond shores; in migration, also marsh edges, puddles, mangroves.



LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH Parkesia motacilla Uncommon M420 6 in. (15 cm). Similar to Northern Waterthrush, but underparts white on breast, pinkish buff on flanks and undertail coverts. Bill slightly larger. Eyebrow stripe pure white and flares behind eye. Throat usually lacks stripes. Legs pinkish. VOICE: Song musical and ringing; three clear slurred whistles, followed by a jumble of twittering notes dropping in pitch. SIMILAR SPECIES: Northern Waterthrush has smaller bill, usually buffy eyebrow, streaked throat, and even-toned ground color to underparts (yellow to off white), not bicolored like Louisiana. Song of Swainson's Warbler somewhat similar. HABITAT: Streams, brooks, ravines, wooded swamps.

# WARBLERS SWAINSON'S WARBLER **WORM-EATING** WARBLER **OVENBIRD** typical NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH whitish variant LOUISIANA VATERTHRUSH



## PROTHONOTARY WARBLER Protonotaria citrea



5½ in. (14 cm). A golden bird of wooded swamps. *Male:* Entire head and breast deep *yellow to orangey.* Wings blue-gray *with no bars. Female:* Duller. **VOICE:** Song *zweet zweet zweet zweet zweet zweet,* on one pitch. Call a loud *seep.* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Yellow and Blue-winged warblers. **HABITAT:** Wooded swamps, backwaters, river edges.



KENTUCKY WARBLER Oporornis formosus

5½ in. [13 cm]. Note broad black sideburns extending down from eye and yellow spectacles. Sexes similar, though female and immature slightly duller. Learn song; 10 Kentuckies are heard for every 1 seen.

VOICE: Song a rapid rolling chant, tory-tory-tory or churry-churry-churry, suggestive of Carolina Wren, but less musical (two-syllable rather than three-syllable). Call a rich, low tup. SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Yellowthroat lacks spectacles. See also Hooded Warbler. HABITAT: Woodland undergrowth.



**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** Oporornis agilis

5%-6 in. (15 cm). Shy and skulking. Similar to Mourning Warbler, but slightly larger; note walking behavior—on limbs and ground—and complete white eye-ring, long undertail coverts reaching almost to tail tip. Breeding: Hood gray in male, gray-brown in female. Nonbreeding female and immature: Duller, with brownish hood, paler throat. **VOICE**: Repetitious chip-chup-ee, chip-chup-ee, chip-chup-ee, chip or sugartweet, sugar-tweet, sugar-tweet. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Breeding Mourning Warbler lacks eye-ring (but immature has slightly broken one). Male has black throat. Also, Connecticut walks, Mourning hops. Nashville Warbler also has eye-ring, but is smaller, has yellow throat, and is a more active feeder. **HABITAT**: Poplar bluffs, muskeg, mixed woods; in migration, undergrowth. Feeds mostly on ground.



MOURNING WARBLER Oporornis philadelphia Uncommon M423 51½ in. (13 cm). Shy and skulking. Olive above, yellow below, with slate gray hood encircling head and neck. Male: Has irregular black bib. Female and immature: May have thin, light eye-ring that is barely broken (compare to Connecticut's complete eye-ring). Some breeding females and most nonbreeding birds show yellow wash on throat, sometimes extending through middle breast and resulting in bird not appearing "hooded." Yellow undertail coverts shorter than Connecticut's. VOICE: Song chirry, chirry, chorry, chorry (chorry lower). Considerable variation. Call a hard, buzzy, wrenlike chack. SIMILAR SPECIES: Connecticut Warbler. HABITAT: Thickets, undergrowth.





COMMON YELLOWTHROAT Geothlypis trichas

5 in. [13 cm]. Wrenlike. Male: Black [Lone Ranger] mask, yellow throat and upper breast. Female and immature: Olive-brown, with rich yellow throat, duller below, but brighter yellow undertail coverts; lack or have only a suggestion of black mask. VOICE: Bright rapid chant, witchity-witchity-witchity-witch; sometimes witchy-witchywitchy-witchy-witch. Call a husky tchep. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female and immature distinguished from immature Oporornis warblers by whitish belly, smaller size. HABITAT: Swamps, marshes, wet thickets, woodland edges.

#### GRAY-CROWNED YELLOWTHROAT

Vagrant

Geothlypis poliocephala

5½ in. [14 cm]. Male has partial mask not extending to forehead or cheeks; gray crown. Both sexes have thick bill with pale lower mandible; broken white eye-ring. VOICE: Burbling warble. Call chlee-dee. SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Yellowthroat slightly smaller, and slightly smaller billed. RANGE: Very rare visitor from Mex. to s. TX, where formerly bred. HABITAT: Reeds and weedy vegetation near water.

RUFOUS-CAPPED WARBLER Basileuterus rufifrons Vagrant 5 in. (13 cm). Rufous cap and cheek separated by white eyebrow stripe. Throat and upper breast bright yellow, upperparts olive. Long, spindly tail often held cocked up at angle. VOICE: Accelerating series of whistled, musical chips and warbles. Call tick. SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Yellowthroat. RANGE: Casual visitor from Mex. to s. TX. HABITAT: Thick brush, oak woodlands near water.

GOLDEN-CROWNED WARBLER Basileuterus culicivorus Vagrant 5 in. [13 cm]. Yellow crown and gray eyebrow stripe bordered by black. Broken eye-ring. Dusky yellow below. Drab olive above. VOICE: Song a series of slurred whistles. Call a short, sharp tuk. SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned Warbler. RANGE: Casual stray from Mex. to s. TX. HABITAT: Dense woodland understory.





WILSON'S WARBLER Wilsonia pusilla Uncommon M426 4¾ in. (12 cm). Note longish tail, dark beady eye. Male: Golden yellow with round black cap. Female: May show trace of cap (on forecrown). Immature: Some lack even suggestion of dark cap; they are golden-looking birds with yellow stripe above beady eye and yellow lores. Constantly moving and flitting about. VOICE: Song a thin, rapid little chatter, dropping in pitch at end: chi chi chi chi chi chet chet. Call a flat timp. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female Hooded Warbler has white spots on tail, dark lores. Yellow Warbler has yellow spots on shorter tail,

yellow edging in wings. See also Orange-crowned Warbler. Vocal differences important. **HABITAT:** Thickets and trees along streams,

moist tangles, low shrubs, willows, alders.



HOODED WARBLER Wilsonia citrina Fairly common M425 5¼ in. (13 cm). Male: Black hood or cowl encircles yellow face and forehead. Female: Lacks hood, although yellow face may be sharply outlined (adults); aside from white tail spots, may lack other distinctive marks. VOICE: Song a loud whistled weeta wee-tee-o. Also other arrangements; slurred tee-o is a clue. Call a sharp chink, like water-thrushes. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female and immature Wilson's Warbler lack tail spots and any suggestion of Hooded's face pattern. HABITAT: Wooded undergrowth, laurels, wooded swamps.



**CANADA WARBLER** Wilsonia canadensis Uncommon M427 5½ in. (13 cm). The "necklaced warbler." Male: Solid gray above; bright yellow below, with necklace of short black stripes; white vent. Female and immature: Similar; necklace fainter, upperparts may be washed with brownish. All have spectacles of white eye-ring and yellow loral stripe. No white in wings or tail. **VOICE:** Song a staccato burst, irregularly arranged. Chip, chupety swee-ditchety. Call tchip. **HABITAT:** Forest undergrowth, shady thickets.



YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT Icteria virens

7½ in. (19 cm). Our largest warbler with heavy bill and long tail. Note white spectacles, bright yellow throat and breast. No wing bars. Habitat and voice suggest a thrasher or mockingbird. VOICE: Repeated whistles, alternating with harsh notes and soft caws. Suggests Northern Mockingbird, but repertoire more limited; much longer pauses between phrases. Single notes: whoit, kook, zhairr, etc. Often sings in short, awkward courtship display flight. SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Yellowthroat (much smaller). HABITAT: Brushy tangles, briars, stream thickets.



#### FALL WARBLERS

Most of these have streaks or wing bars.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET Regulus calendula p. 250 (Not a warbler.) Broken eye-ring, pale wing bars with black "high-

light," wing-flicking behavior, skinny legs.

p. 268

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER Dendroica pensylvanica Immature: Green above, grayish-white below; eye-ring; tail cocked at angle.

PINE WARBLER Dendroica pinus

p. 274

Immatures differ from Blackpoll and Bay-breasted warblers in heavier bill, less contrasting wing patterns, darker cheeks.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER Dendroica castanea

p. 276

Note dark legs and feet, buff undertail coverts, unstreaked breast and back. Adult shows "bay" on flanks. See Blackpoll Warbler.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER Dendroica striata

p. 276

Very similar to Bay-breasted Warbler, but slimmer. Note streaked back and breast, white (not buff) undertail coverts, yellow wash to breast; pale yellowish legs and especially feet.

NORTHERN PARULA Parula americana

p. 268

Immature: Small and short-tailed. Combination of bluish head, broken eye-ring, and yellow throat; wing bars.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER Dendroica magnolia

p. 268 Immature: Broad white band at midtail. Note yellow rump. Faint dusky band across yellow breast. Side streaking.

PRAIRIE WARBLER Dendroica discolor

p. 274

Immature: Jaw stripe, side streaks. Bobs long tail.

YELLOW WARBLER Dendroica petechia

p. 268

Yellow edging to wings and tail. Beady dark eye. Some females and immatures are so dusky that they may resemble Orange-crowned Warbler

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER Dendroica fusca

p. 272

Immature: Yellow or yellow-orange throat, dark cheek; broad supercilium, pale back stripes. Obvious wing bars.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER Dendroica virens

p. 272

Immature: Dusky outline frames yellow cheek. Plain greenish back.

PALM WARBLER Dendroica palmarum

p. 274

Brownish back, yellowish undertail coverts. Bobs long tail.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER Dendroica coronata

p. 270

Immature: Bright yellow rump, streaked back; brownish above.

CAPE MAY WARBLER Dendroica tigrina

p. 270

Immature: Streaked breast, greenish yellow rump. Immature female very gray (not brownish like Yellow-rumped).



#### ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER Vermivora celata

p. 266

Dingy breast with faint dusky streaks, yellow undertail coverts, faint eye line. Immature greenish drab overall, barely paler below. Some birds often quite gray.

#### TENNESSEE WARBLER Vermivora peregrina

p. 266

Similar to Orange-crowned Warbler but has white undertail coverts; more conspicuous evebrow stripe; greener look above; paler underparts, with no hint of streaks; trace of a light wing bar; shorter tail. Note also needle-thin bill.

#### PHILADELPHIA VIREO Vireo philadelphicus

p. 230

(Not a warbler.) "Vireo" song and actions. Note also thicker vireo bill. Compare with female Tennessee Warbler.

#### HOODED WARBLER Wilsonia citrina

p. 284

Immature female: Yellow eyebrow stripe, mostly yellow cheeks, dark lores, bold white tail spots. (Immature male resembles adult male.)

#### WILSON'S WARBLER Wilsonia pusilla

Immature: Beady dark eye. Smaller and slimmer than Hooded Warbler with yellow lores, mostly olive cheeks, slimmer tail with no white

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER Dendroica caerulescens p. 270 Female: Dark cheek, white wing spot ("handkerchief"). Some immature females lack this white spot and may suggest Tennessee Warbler, but note dark cheek and duller (browner olive) back. (Immature male resembles adult male.)

#### CONNECTICUT WARBLER Oporornis agilis

p. 280

Immature: Large size. Brownish hood; complete, bold eye-ring. Walks

#### MOURNING WARBLER Oporornis philadelphia

Immature and fall female: Suggestion of hood; broken eye-ring. Brighter yellow below than Connecticut Warbler, including often on throat (unlike Connecticut).

#### NASHVILLE WARBLER Vermivora ruficapilla

p. 266

Yellow throat (may be dull) and undertail coverts, white eye-ring, grayish crown and nape. Short tail, which it bobs.

#### COMMON YELLOWTHROAT Geothlypis trichas

p. 282

Female: Yellow throat, breast, and undertail coverts; brownish sides; white belly.

#### PROTHONOTARY WARBLER Protonotaria citrea

p. 280

Female: Dull golden head tinged greenish on crown in some immatures; dark eye stands out on plain face. Gray wings, white undertail, long bill.

#### CANADA WARBLER Wilsonia canadensis

Immature: Lores yellow, eye-ring white. Solid gray above, yellow below, trace of necklace.



## CARDINALS, BUNTINGS, AND ALLIES

Family Cardinalidae (see p. 310)



SUMMER TANAGER Piranga rubra

7% in. (20 cm). Male: Rose red, with pale bill. Female: Mustard yellow below, sometimes flushed with orange; pale bill. Young males patched with red. VOICE: Call a staccato pi-tuk or pik-i-tuk-i-tuk. Song robinlike phrases; richer, less nasal than Scarlet Tanager's. SIMILAR SPECIES: Northern Cardinal. Female Scarlet Tanager is yellow-green and has smaller, duskier bill. HABITAT: Riparian woodlands, oaks.



SCARLET TANAGER Piranga olivacea Fairly common M468 7 in. (18 cm). Breeding male: Flaming scarlet, with black wings and tail. Female and nonbreeding male: Greenish above, yellowish below; male has black wings. Young has single faint wing bar. VOICE: Song four or five short phrases, robinlike but hoarse (suggesting a robin with a sore throat): hurry-worry-flurry-blurry. Call chip-burr. SIMILAR SPECIES: Summer and Western tanagers. HABITAT: Deciduous and mixed forests, especially oaks. Often stays in canopy.



WESTERN TANAGER Piranga ludoviciana Vagrant M469 7½ in. (18 cm). Our only tanager with strong wing bars. VOICE: Song similar to Scarlet's. Call a dry pri-ti-tic. SIMILAR SPECIES: Orioles have longer tails, pointier bills; Scarlet Tanager may have single weak wing bar. RANGE: Casual visitor from West, mostly in fall and winter. HABITAT: Forested areas, often at feeders (in winter).

### TANAGERS Family Thraupidae

Male tanagers are brightly colored; females usually duller; stout bills. Songs mostly weak and simple. FOOD: Insects, fruit. RANGE: New World Tropics.

WESTERN SPINDALIS Spindalis zena Vagrant 6¾ in. [17 cm]. Male: Bold head stripes and burnt orange breast distinctive. Female: Plain gray-brown with pale wing spot; note thick bill. VOICE: Series of thin high notes, tzee-tzee, often with buzzy phrase toward end. RANGE: Very rare visitor to s. FL from W. Indies. HABITAT: Brushy woodlands, fruit trees.

### BANANAQUIT Family Coerebidae

The Bananaquit is currently "homeless" taxonomically, although the species is likely most closely related to several tropical Emberizids. FOOD: Nectar, insects. RANGE: New World tropical areas centered on Caribbean.

BANANAQUIT Coereba flaveola

4½ in. (11 cm). A small, short-tailed bird with decurved bill, bold supercilium, black back, and yellow wash on belly. Juvenile paler than adult. VOICE: Explosive series of buzzy notes and squeaks. RANGE: Very rare visitor to s. FL from W. Indies. HABITAT: Open brushy areas, nectar- and fruit-bearing trees.



## EMBERIZIDS: SPARROWS, OLD WORLD BUNTINGS, AND RELATIVES

Family Emberizidae

This large family of songbirds, whose taxonomic relationships are incompletely understood, comprises species with short conical bills, such as seedeaters, towhees, sparrows, longspurs, and Old World buntings. FOOD: Seeds, insects, fruit, varying seasonally. RANGE: Worldwide.



**GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE** *Pipilo chlorurus*7½ in. (18 cm). A slender finchlike bird, known by its *rufous cap*, conspicuous *white throat*, black mustache, gray chest, and plain *olive green upperparts*, brightest on wings and tail. **Voice**: Call a catlike mewing note. Song variable; opening with sweet notes, followed by burry notes: *weet-churr-cheeeeee-churr*. **HABITAT**: Brushy areas.



**OLIVE SPARROW** Arremonops rufivirgatus Uncommon, local M430 6½ in. [16 cm]. Olive above, gray below with two dull brown stripes on crown. **VOICE**: Song composed of dry notes on one pitch going into Chipping Sparrow–like rattle. Call a sharp *chip* like Orange-crowned Warbler; also a hissing trill. **HABITAT**: Bushy thickets.



WHITE-COLLARED SEEDEATER Scarce, local M429
Sporophila toraueola

4½ in. [11 cm]. Tiny, with stubby bill. *Male:* Dark cap, incomplete light collar, white wing spot. Variable. *Female:* Buffy with eye-ring, wing bars. **VOICE:** High, then low *sweet, sweet, sweet, cheer, cheer, cheer.* Call a high *wink.* **HABITAT:** Tall, thick stands of grass.



**EASTERN TOWHEE** Pipilo erythrophthalmus Fairly common M433 8 in. (20–21 cm). Smaller and more slender than a robin; rummages among leaf litter. Readily recognized by rufous sides and flash of white in tail. Eye usually red (but white in birds of s. Atlantic Coast and FL). Juvenile: Streaked below, but with diagnostic towhee tail pattern. **VOICE:** Song drink-your-tea, last syllable higher, wavering. Call a loud chewink! Southern white-eyed race gives a more slurred shrink or zree; song cheet cheet cheeeeee. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Spotted Towhee. **HABITAT:** Open woods, undergrowth, brushy edges, hedgerows, feeders.



**SPOTTED TOWHEE** *Pipilo maculatus*8 in. (20–21 cm). Formerly lumped with Eastern Towhee. Distinguished by *white spots* on back and *white wing bars.* **VOICE:** Song *chup chup chup zeeeeeee;* variable. Call a catlike *gu-eeee?* **HABITAT:** Open woods, undergrowth, brushy edges.



**CANYON TOWHEE** Melozone fusca Uncommon, local M434 8¾ in. (22 cm). Drab brown with rufous crown, faint dusky necklace, and dark spot on breast. **VOICE:** Call an odd shed-lp or kedlp. Song an accelerating string of call notes. **HABITAT:** Brushy areas, residential areas, feeders.



#### BLACK-THROATED SPARROW

Amphispiza bilineata

5½ in. (14 cm). Adult: Note face pattern. A pretty, gray sparrow, with white face stripes and jet-black throat and chest. White corners to distinct black tail. Juvenile: Seen into fall; lacks black throat but has similar cheek pattern and broad white supercilium; breast weakly streaked. VOICE: Song a sweet cheet cheee cheeeeeee (two short, clear opening notes and a fine trill on lower or higher pitch); calls are light tinkling notes. HABITAT: Arid brush, cactus, juniper hillsides.



#### RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW

Uncommon, local M438

Aimophila ruficeps

6 in. (15 cm). A dark sparrow with plain dusky breast, rufous cap and line behind eye, and rounded tail. Note *black whiskers* bordering throat and *distinct circular whitish eye-ring*. Seen singly or in pairs. **VOICE:** Song stuttering, gurgling, suggesting a thin, weak House Wren song. Call *dear*, *dear*, *dear*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Chipping Sparrow. **HABITAT:** Grassy or rocky slopes with sparse low bushes.



BOTTERI'S SPARROW Peucaea botterii Uncommon, local M437 6 in. (15 cm). Nondescript. Has buffy breast, plain brown tail lacking white corners. Best told by voice. Bill slightly curved on upper edge. VOICE: Song a constant tinkling and "pitting," sometimes running into a dry trill on same pitch. Very unlike song of Cassin's Sparrow. SIMILAR SPECIES: Cassin's Sparrow, breeding in same habitat, is almost identical, but grayer, has faint dusky streaks on flanks, small white corners to tail, straighter upper edge to bill; upperparts often look spotted (streaked in Botteri's). HABITAT: Coastal prairie.



CASSIN'S SPARROW Peucaea cassinii
6 in. [15 cm]. A large, drab sparrow of open arid country; underparts dingy without markings, or with faint streaking on flanks. Upperparts often appear more spotted than streaked. Pale or whitish corners on rounded, gray-brown tail. Best clue is song. VOICE: Song one or two short notes, a high sweet trill, and two lower notes: ti ti tseeeeeee tay tay. Often "skylarks" in air, giving trill at climax; Botteri's Sparrow does not skylark. SIMILAR SPECIES: Botteri's Sparrow. Savannah Sparrow also has yellow lore spots but is streakier overall, and shorter tailed, than Cassin's. HABITAT: Semiarid and coastal prairies, bushes.



BACHMAN'S SPARROW Peucaea aestivalis

6 in. [15 cm]. In dry open pine woods with grass and palmetto scrub of South, this shy sparrow flushes reluctantly, then drops back into cover. A large sparrow, with long, rounded tail. Striped with reddish brown above, washed with dingy buff across plain breast, with gray bill. VOICE: Song variable; usually a clear liquid whistle followed by

bill. VOICE: Song variable; usually a clear liquid whistle followed by loose trill or warble on a different pitch, e.g., seeeee, slip slip slip slip slip. SIMILAR SPECIES: Field Sparrow smaller, with pink bill. Grasshopper Sparrow lives in meadows, has light crown stripe and short tail. Juvenile Bachman's suggests Lincoln's Sparrow, which would not be in South in summer and has eye-ring and streaked buffy breast. HABITAT: Open pine or oak woods, palmetto scrub.



#### AMERICAN TREE SPARROW



Spizella arborea

6¼ in. (16 cm). Note dark "stickpin," on breast, and red-brown cap. Bill dark above, yellow below; white wing bars; rufous wash on flanks. VOICE: Song sweet, variable, opening on one or two high, clear notes. Call tseet; feeding call a musical teelwit. SIMILAR SPECIES: Field and Chipping sparrows. HABITAT: Arctic and taiga scrub, willow thickets; in winter, brushy roadsides, weedy edges, freshwater marshes (particularly with cattails), feeders.



CHIPPING SPARROW Spizella passerina Common M440 5½ in. (14 cm). Breeding: A small, slim, long-tailed, plain-breasted sparrow with bright rufous cap, black eye line, white eyebrow. Non-breeding: Duller; note dark eye line, dirty grayish breast, gray rump. Juvenile: Shows fine streaks on breast, rump not as gray. VOICE: Song a dry chipping rattle on one pitch. Call a thin tseet. SIMILAR SPECIES: Clay-colored Sparrow. Also Swamp Sparrow. HABITAT: Open woods, especially pine, oak; orchards, farms, towns, lawns, feeders. Often forms flocks in fall and winter.



CLAY-COLORED SPARROW Spizella pallida Fairly common M441 5½ in. (14 cm). Like a pale, nonbreeding Chipping Sparrow, but buffier, with pale lores, sharply outlined ear patch, more contrasting gray nape, bolder white mustache, browner rump, whiter underparts. VOICE: Unbirdlike; three or four low, flat buzzes: bzzz, bzzz, bzzz. Call a thin tseet, like Chipping's but higher. HABITAT: Scrub, brushy prairies, jack pines, weedy areas.



FIELD SPARROW Spizella pusilla Fairly common M442 5% in. (15 cm). A small, slim, rusty-capped sparrow. Note pink bill, white eye-ring, plain buffy breast; rusty upperparts, and weak face striping. Juvenile: Has finely streaked breast, but this plumage not held long. VOICE: Song opens on deliberate, sweet, slurring notes, speeding into a trill (which ascends, descends, or stays on same pitch). Call tseew. SIMILAR SPECIES: American Tree and Chipping sparrows. HABITAT: Overgrown fields, pastures, brush, feeders.



SWAMP SPARROW Melospiza georgiana Fairty common M457 5% in. (15 cm). A rather plump, dark, rusty-winged sparrow with tawny flanks and broad black back striping. Adult: White throat, rusty cap, blue-gray neck and breast. Immature: Blackish or dark rust crown, olive-gray neck and breast; dim flank streaking. VOICE: Song a loose trill, similar to Chipping Sparrow's but slower, sweeter, and stronger. Call a hard cheep, similar to Black or Eastern phoebe. SIMILAR SPECIES: Song Sparrow slightly larger, has heavier breast streaks, lacks tawny flanks. Lincoln's Sparrow has buff breast with fine sharp streaks. Chipping, Field, and American Tree sparrows are longer tailed and have wing bars. HABITAT: Nests in freshwater marshes with bushes, cattails, sedges, willows; winters in marshes, pond edges, moist brushy areas, weedy ditches.





SAVANNAH SPARROW Passerculus sandwichensis Common M446 5½–5¾ in. (14–15 cm). This streaked, open-country sparrow suggests a small Song Sparrow, but it usually has yellowish on front of eyebrow (may be lacking or difficult to see in some birds); whitish stripe through crown; short, notched tail; pinker legs. "Ipswich" subspecies (P. s. princeps; breeding on Sable I., NS, and wintering along Atlantic Coast) are paler overall, slightly larger, and usually walk rather than hop. VOICE: Song a lisping, buzzy tsit-tsit, tseeee-tsaaay (last note lower). Call a light tsu. SIMILAR SPECIES: Song Sparrow's tail longer, rounded. See also Vesper Sparrow. Song similar to Grasshopper Sparrow's except for Savannah's lower last note. HABITAT: Open fields, farms, meadows, salt marshes, prairies, dunes.



#### GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

Uncommon M447

Ammodramus savannarum

5 in. (13 cm). A small-bodied, large- and flat-headed, short- and sharp-tailed sparrow of taller grasslands. Crown with pale median stripe; yellow lores; whitish eye-ring; note relatively unstriped buffy breast. Yellow bend in wing hard to see. Juvenile: Has dusky streaks on breast. VOICE: Very thin, dry, insectlike pi-tup zeeeeeeeeeeee. SIM-ILAR SPECIES: Le Conte's Sparrow has bolder, orangier eyebrow; bold side streaking. Grasshopper's song fairly similar to Savannah Sparrow's. HABITAT: Grasslands, hayfields, pastures, prairies.



#### BAIRD'S SPARROW

Scarce, local, secretive M448

Ammodramus bairdii

5½ in. (14 cm). An elusive, skulking prairie sparrow. Light breast crossed by narrow band of fine black streaks. Head ocher-buff, streaked. Key mark is broad ocher median crown stripe. Double mustache stripes. Flat head. Hard to see well except when singing. Juvenile: Pale edges form scaly pattern above. VOICE: Song begins with two or three high musical zips, ends with trill on lower pitch; more musical than Savannah Sparrow. SIMILAR SPECIES: Savannah Sparrow has more extensive streaking below, narrow white median crown stripe, and lacks dark marks at rear of auriculars and double mustache stripes. See Henslow's Sparrow. HABITAT: Native prairies, scattered bushes used as song perches.



#### HENSLOW'S SPARROW Ammodramus henslowii

Scarce, secretive M449

5 in. (13 cm). A secretive sparrow of fields, easily overlooked were it not for its odd song. Short-tailed and flat-headed, with large pale bill; finely striped across breast. Olive-colored head and reddish wings help identify it. Also note double mustache stripes. VOICE: Song a poor vocal effort: a hiccuping tsi-lick. May sing on quiet, windless nights. SIMILAR SPECIES: Grasshopper Sparrow. Young Henslow's Sparrow (summer) is practically without breast streaks, thus resembles adult Grasshopper. Conversely, young Grasshopper has breast streaks, but lacks adult Henslow's olive and russet tones. HABITAT: Very specific. Partially overgrown fields with certain plant development of exacting components. Disappearing from many former haunts. Winters in dense cover in southern pine forests.

## STREAK-BREASTED GRASS SPARROWS adult juvenile typical **GRASSHOPPER** SPARROW "lpswich" SAVANNAH SPARROW BAIRD'S **SPARROW** juvenile **HENSLOW'S** SPARROW adult



#### SALTMARSH SPARROW

Uncommon M452

Ammodramus caudacutus

5¼ in. (13 cm). A short-tailed, often shy sparrow of coastal marshes. Note deep ocher yellow or orange of face, which completely surrounds gray ear patch. Distinct streaks on mostly whitish or light buff breast, flat-headed appearance. VOICE: Song a weak varied jumble of buzzy hisses and clicks; not distinctly two-part like Nelson's. SIMILAR SPECIES: Nelson's and Le Conte's sparrows. Juvenile Seaside Sparrow in late summer has streaked buffy breast but lacks the bold orange supercilium. Savannah Sparrow has yellow in lores only, has notched tail. HABITAT: Salt marshes.



## NELSON'S SPARROW Ammodramus nelsoni

Uncommon M451

5 in. [13 cm]. A shy marshland skulker with three widely separated breeding populations. Note bright orange on face, completely surrounding gray ear patch. Breast warm buff with faint blurry streaks, stronger streaks on flanks. Gray central crown and unmarked gray nape. Back sharply striped with white. Breeders in New England and Maritimes grayer with less distinct stripes. VOICE: Song a buzzy, two-part shleeee-tup. SIMILAR SPECIES: Saltmarsh Sparrow has heavier breast streaking and any orange on breast is paler than orange on face (breast and face equally bright in Nelson's). Le Conte's Sparrow has white median crown stripe, purplish chestnut streaks on nape. HABITAT: In summer, prairie and coastal marshes, muskeg; in winter, coastal marshes.



LE CONTE'S SPARROW Ammodramus leconteii Uncommon M450 5 in. [13 cm]. A skulking sparrow of prairie marshes, boggy fields. Note bright orange eyebrow and buffy breast (with streaks confined to sides). Other points are purplish chestnut streaks on nape, white median crown stripe, strong stripes on back. VOICE: Song two extremely thin, grasshopper-like hisses. SIMILAR SPECIES: Nelson's Sparrow. Grasshopper Sparrow has yellow in front of eye only and faint side streaks, if any. HABITAT: Grassy marshes, tallgrass fields, weedy hayfields.



SEASIDE SPARROW

Fairly common M453

Ammodramus maritimus

6 in. [15 cm]. A dark, gray sparrow of salt marshes, with short yellow area above lores. Whitish throat and white malar. Shares marshes with Saltmarsh and Nelson's sparrows. "Cape Sable" Seaside Sparrow is an endangered subspecies confined to s. FL [the only Seaside that breeds there]; more greenish than typical birds with much heavier streaking. Seasides of the Gulf Coast show buffy breast with blurry gray streaks but with face pattern similar to Atlantic Coast birds. VOICE: Song cutcut ZHE-eeeeeeee; much stronger than Saltmarsh Sparrow. Call chack. HABITAT: Salt marshes.





LARK SPARROW Chondestes grammacus Uncommon, local M444 61/2 in. (17 cm). Adult: Note black tail with much white at corners; also single dark central breast spot on clean grayish white underparts, and quail-like head pattern, with chestnut ear patch and striped crown. Immature: Head pattern duller, but still clearly of this species; a few dusky streaks on breast sides. VOICE: A broken song; clear notes and trills with pauses between, characterized by buzzing and churring passages. Call a sharp tsip. SIMILAR SPECIES: Vesper Sparrow. HABI-TAT: Open country with bushes, trees; pastures, farms, roadsides.



**VESPER SPARROW** Pooecetes gramineus Uncommon M443 61/4 in, [16 cm]. White outer tail feathers are conspicuous when bird flies. Otherwise suggests slightly largish Savannah Sparrow, but has whitish eye-ring. Bend of wing chestnut (often difficult to see). Note white malar stripe and lack of central crown stripe. VOICE: Song throatier than Song Sparrow's; usually begins with two clear minor notes, followed by two higher ones. SIMILAR SPECIES: Savannah Sparrow. Other sparrowlike field birds with white tail-sides or corners include pipits, longspurs, juncos, and Lark Sparrow. HABITAT: Meadows and prairies with scattered trees or bushes, roadsides, farm fields.



SONG SPARROW Melospiza melodia Common M455 5%-6% in. (15-17 cm). This common midsized sparrow has a *long* rounded tail and heavy breast streaks that merge into a large central spot. Broad grayish eyebrow. Juvenile: More finely streaked, often lacks central spot. Many different subspecies are recognized by taxonomists. VOICE: Song a variable series of notes, some musical, some buzzy; usually starts with three or four bright repetitious notes. sweet sweet, etc. Call a low, nasal tchep. SIMILAR SPECIES: Savannah Sparrow more of a field bird; often shows yellowish over eye, has shorter notched tail, pinker legs. See Lincoln's and Swamp sparrows. HABITAT: Thickets, brush, marshes, roadsides, feeders.



LINCOLN'S SPARROW Melospiza lincolnii Uncommon M456 5% in. (15 cm). A skulking species, prefers to be near cover. Similar to Song Sparrow, but smaller and trimmer, breast streaks much finer and overlay band of creamy buff that contrasts with white belly and throat; also has narrow eye-ring and buffy mustache. voice: Song sweet and gurgling; suggests House Wren; starts with low passages, rises abruptly, drops. Calls a flat tup and buzzy zzzeeet. SIMILAR SPE-CIES: Immature Swamp Sparrow has duller breast, with blurry streaks and rustier wing. HABITAT: Willow and alder thickets, muskeg, brushy bogs; in winter, thickets, bushes.



FOX SPARROW Passerella iliaca Uncommon M454 7 in. (18 cm). A large, plump sparrow with a rusty rump and tail. Action towhee-like, kicking among dead leaves and other ground litter. Breast heavily streaked with triangular rusty spots; these often cluster in large blotch on upper breast. VOICE: Song brilliant and musical; a varied arrangement of short clear notes and sliding whistles. Call a strong, flat chup. HABITAT: Wooded undergrowth, brush, feeders; in summer, taiga scrub.





#### WHITE-THROATED SPARROW



Zonotrichia albicollis

6% in. (17 cm). Breeding: A gray-breasted sparrow with white throat and yellow above the lores. Bill grayish. Polymorphic; some adults have black and white head stripes, others brown and tan. Nonbreeding: Somewhat duller; darker head stripes varying shades of black, brown, tan. Immature: May be somewhat streaked on breast; throat duller. VOICE: Song several clear pensive whistles, easily imitated; one or two clear notes, followed by three quavering notes on a different pitch. Call a thin, slurred tseet; also a hard chink. SIMILAR SPECIES: White-crowned Sparrow. HABITAT: Thickets, brush, undergrowth of coniferous and mixed woodlands. Visits feeders, preferring to stay on ground.



#### WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

Uncommon M460

Zonotrichia leucophrys

7 in. (18 cm). This species comprises multiple subspecies, which exhibit variation in color of lores (whitish or black) and bill (orangey or pinkish). Adult: Clear grayish breast, puffy crown striped with black and white. Immature: Head stripes dark red-brown and light buff. VOICE: Song one or more clear, plaintive whistles (similar to White-throated Sparrow), followed by husky trilled whistles. Variable. Call a sharp pink. SIMILAR SPECIES: White-throated Sparrow browner, has well-defined white throat, yellow spot before eye, grayish bill. "Gambel's" subspecies nests on western tundra and is a scarce to rare migrant and winter visitor east of Great Plains. They have smaller orange bills and pale lores. HABITAT: Brush, forest edges, thickets, gardens, parks; in winter, also farms, feeders.



HARRIS'S SPARROW Zonotrichia querula Uncommon M459

7½ in. (19 cm). Large; size of Fox Sparrow. Breeding adult: Black crown, face, and bib encircling pink bill. Nonbreeding adult: Black crown scaled with gray, cheeks mostly tan-brown. Immature: Has white on throat, less black on crown, buffy brown on rest of head; blotched and streaked on breast. VOICE: Song has quavering quality of White-throated Sparrow: clear whistles on same pitch, or one or two at one pitch, the rest slightly lower. Alarm call wink. HABITAT: Stunted boreal forests; in winter, brush, hedgerows, open woods. May mix with White-crowned Sparrows in nonbreeding season.

#### **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW**

Vagrant

Zonotrichia atricapilla

7½ in. (18 cm). Note *dull yellow crown* bordered broadly with black. Immature usually with dull yellow suffusion on forehead. **VOICE**: Song three to five high whistled notes, coming down scale, *oh-dear-me*. Call a sharp *tsew*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Immature Golden-crowned Sparrow (casual in East) slightly larger than White-crowned Sparrow, has *duskier bill and underparts*, more muted head pattern, *dull yellowish forehead*. **RANGE**: Casual visitor from West, mostly in fall and winter. **HABITAT**: Boreal and subalpine scrub, willow thickets, stunted spruces; in winter, similar to that of White-crowned, but Golden-crowned favors denser shrubs.





DARK-EYED JUNCO Junco hyemalis

Common M461

6-61/2 in. (15-16 cm). This hooded sparrow is characterized by white outer tail feathers that flash conspicuously as it flies away. Bill and belly usually whitish. Male may have dark hood; female and immature duller. Juvenile in summer finely streaked on breast. Two subspecies occur in East:

"Oregon" Junco is widespread subspecies in West, uncommon east to Great Plains, and a very rare winter visitor farther east. Male has rusty brown back with blackish hood and buffy or rusty sides. Female duller, but note contrast between paler gray hood and brown back, convex shape to lower border of hood. Intergrades with "Slatecolored" occur.

"Slate-colored" Junco is the common northern and eastern subspecies. A gray junco with gray back, white belly. Female and immature duller gray tinged brownish. The more uniform coloration, lacking rusty areas, is distinctive. Some particularly brownish young birds may be confused with "Oregon" Junco. VOICE: Song a loose trill, suggestive of Chipping Sparrow but more musical. Call a light smack; also clicking or twittering notes. HABITAT: Coniferous and mixed woods. In nonbreeding season, open woods, undergrowth, roadsides, brush, parks, gardens, feeders; usually in flocks.



#### LARK BUNTING

Uncommon, local M445

Calamospiza melanocorys

7 in. (18 cm). A plump, short-tailed prairie bird. Gregarious in nonbreeding season. Note rather heavy, blue-gray bill. Breeding male: Black, with large white wing patches. Female, immature, and nonbreeding male: Brown, streaked with whitish or buffy white wing patches and tail corners. Adult males retain some black on face, wings, and belly. VOICE: Song, given in display flight, composed of cardinal-like slurs, unmusical chatlike chugs, piping whistles, and trills; each note repeated 3 to 11 times. Call a flat, mellow heew. SIMILAR SPECIES: Male Bobolink has yellow nape patch and white rump. Leucistic blackbirds — those showing odd patches of white in plumage, including wings - may be confused with male Lark Bunting. HABITAT: Plains, prairies; in winter, also weedy arid lowlands and farm fields.



**SNOW BUNTING** Plectrophenax nivalis Uncommon M466

6¾ in. (17 cm). Snow Buntings often swirl over snowy fields or dunes in flocks, sometimes mixed with Horned Larks or Lapland Longspurs. No other eastern songbird shows so much white. In winter some individuals, especially females and immatures, may look guite brown, but when they fly their flashing white wing patches identify them. Overhead, Snow Bunting looks almost entirely white, whereas American Pipit and Horned Lark are mostly black-tailed. Breeding male has black back, contrasting with white head and underparts. VOICE: Call a sharp, whistled teer or tew; also a rough, purring brrt, both similar to Lapland Longspur's calls. Song a musical ti-ti-churee, repeated. SIMILAR SPECIES: Albino landbirds — such as juncos — are sometimes mistaken for Snow Buntings. HABITAT: Prairies, fields, dunes, shores. In summer, tundra.





#### LAPLAND LONGSPUR

Uncommon to fairly common M463

Calcarius lapponicus

6¼ in. (16 cm). Lapland Longspurs — like Horned Larks, pipits, and other longspurs — are birds of open country; in flight, they appear to have shorter tail. In nonbreeding season, longspurs are often found in flocks of larks. Breeding male: Black face outlined with white is distinctive. Rusty collar. Female and nonbreeding male: Sparse black streaks on sides, dull rusty nape, and smudge across breast. Note dark frame to rear cheek, rufous brown wing coverts, tail pattern. VOICE: In flight, a dry rattle, also a musical teew; when perched, a soft pee-dle. Song in display flight is vigorous, musical. SIMILAR SPECIES: Smith's Longspur buffier below; note face pattern. Other longspurs have more white in tail. American Pipit and Horned Lark have thin bill, different plumage. HABITAT: In summer, tundra; in winter, fields, prairies, shores.



#### CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR

Uncommon M465

Calcarius ornatus

6 in. (15 cm). Breeding male: Solid black below, except on throat and lower belly; nape chestnut. Female and nonbreeding: Adult males show dull black belly, but otherwise all are sparrowlike; best field mark is tail pattern—dark triangle on white tail—and flight call. VOICE: Song short, feeble, but musical; suggests Western Meadowlark. Call a finchlike ji-jiv or kittle-kittle, unique among longspurs. SIMILAR SPECIES: McCown's Longspur. HABITAT: Plains, native-grass prairies; generally prefers some cover, and winter flocks may disappear in grass until flushed.



#### MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR

Uncommon, local M462

Rhynchophanes mccownii

6 in. [15 cm]. Breeding male: Crown and breast patch black, tail largely white. Hindneck gray. Female and nonbreeding male: Rather plain; note tail pattern and swollen-looking, fleshy bill. VOICE: Song in display flight is clear sweet warbles, suggestive of Lark Bunting. Call a dry rattle, softer than Lapland Longspur's. Also a soft pink. SIMILAR SPECIES: Nonbreeding Chestnut-collared Longspur darker, more heavily marked below, has slightly smaller, darker bill, different call. HABITAT: Plains, prairies, short-grass and dirt fields.



SMITH'S LONGSPUR Calcarius pictus Scarce, local M464

6½ in. (16 cm). This secretive longspur prefers enough grassy cover to disappear in. It is warm buff on entire underparts. Tail edged with white, as in Vesper Sparrow and Lapland Longspur. Breeding male: Deep buff; ear patch with white spot, strikingly outlined by black triangle. Female and nonbreeding: Buffy breast lightly streaked; some males may show white shoulder patch. VOICE: Rattling or clicking notes in flight (has been likened to winding of a cheap watch). Song sweet, warblerlike, terminating in WEchew. Does not sing in flight. SIMILAR SPECIES: Lapland and Chestnut-collared longspurs, Vesper Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit. HABITAT: Prairies, fields, airports; in summer, tundra with scattered bushes.



# CARDINALS, BUNTINGS, AND ALLIES

## Family Cardinalidae

Medium-sized colorful songbirds with heavy bills. Songs loud and rich. FOOD: Seeds, fruit, insects, RANGE: New World.



### BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

Uncommon, local M473

Pheucticus melanocephalus

8¼ in. (21 cm). Male: Breast, collar, and rump dull orange-brown. Otherwise similar to eastern counterpart, Rose-breasted Grosbeak. In nonbreeding plumage, head appears somewhat striped. Female and immature: Largely brown, with sparrowlike streaks above; head strongly patterned with light stripes and dark ear patch. Breast strongly washed with butterscotch; dark streaks on sides fine, nearly absent across middle of chest. Wing linings yellow. Upper mandible dark, VOICE: Song consists of rising and falling passages; resembles American Robin's song, but more fluent and mellow. Call a flat ik or eek, SIMILAR SPECIES: Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rarely hybridizes with Rose-breasted where ranges come into contact. HABITAT: Deciduous and riparian woods; vagrant farther east, often at winter feeders.



#### ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK

Fairly common M472

Pheucticus ludovicianus

8 in. (20 cm). Adult male: Black and white, with large triangle of rose red on breast and thick pale bill. In flight, pattern of black and white flashes across upperparts. Wing linings rose pink, Immature male: In first-autumn plumage similar to female, but has touch of red on buffier breast. Female: Streaked, like a large sparrow or female Purple Finch; recognized by large grosbeak bill, broad white wing bars. striped crown, and broad white eyebrow stripe. Wing linings yellow. VOICE: Song consists of rising and falling passages: resembles American Robin's song, but given with more feeling (as if a robin had taken voice lessons). Call a squeaky, metallic kick or eek. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female told from female Purple Finch by larger size, boldly striped head, obvious wing bars, and pink bill. Differs from female and immature Black-headed Grosbeak in having heavily streaked breast, paler bill. HABITAT: Deciduous woods, orchards, groves. thickets, sometimes at feeders in spring.

CRIMSON-COLLARED GROSBEAK Rhodothraupis celaeno 8½ in. (22 cm). Male: A blackish grosbeak with dark red collar and underparts encircling throat and chest. Red underparts often spotted or blotched with black. Female and immature: Similar to male, but yellowish green replaces red. voice: Song similar to Black-headed Grosbeak; a hoarse, bouncy warble, ending in up-slurred note: zwee! SIMILAR SPECIES: Female tanagers and orioles. RANGE: Mexican species, casual visitor (mostly in winter) to s. TX. HABITAT: Brushy woods, second growth.





NORTHERN CARDINAL Cardinalis cardinalis

8% in. (22 cm). Male: An all-red bird with pointed crest and black patch at base of heavy, triangular reddish bill. Female: Buff brown, with some red on wings and tail. Crest, dark face, and heavy reddish orange bill distinctive. Juvenile: Similar to female, but with blackish bill. VOICE: Song is clear, slurred whistles, repeated. Several variations: what-cheer cheer cheer, etc.; whoit whoit or birdy birdy birdy, etc.: usually two-part. Call a short, sharp tik. SIMILAR SPECIES:

Pyrrhuloxia. Male Summer Tanager also all red, lacks cardinal's crest. HABITAT: Woodland edges, thickets, towns, gardens, feeders.



PYRRHULOXIA Cardinalis sinuatus

Uncommon, local M471
8¾ in. (22 cm). Male: A slender, gray and red bird, with long, spiky crest
and pale yellowish, stubby, almost parrotlike bill (strongly curved upper mandible). Female: Has gray back, buff breast, and touch of red
in wings. Always note spiky crest and stubby yellow bill. VOICE: Song a
clear quink quink quink quink, on one pitch; also a slurred,
whistled what-cheer, what-cheer, etc., usually not two-part like
Northern Cardinal's song. SIMILAR SPECIES: Best told from female
Northern Cardinal by bill color and shape, also by grayer color overall and spiky crest. HABITAT: Mesquite, thorn scrub, feeders.



BLUE GROSBEAK Passerina caerulea

Oncommon M474
63% in. (17 cm). Adult male: Deep dull blue, with thick bill, two broad rusty or chestnut wing bars. Often flips or twitches tail. Immature male: A mixture of brown and blue. Female: About size of Brown-headed Cowbird; warm brown, slightly lighter below, with two rusty buff wing bars; rump or tail may be tinged with blue. VOICE: Warbling song, phrases rising and falling; suggests Purple or House finch, but slower, more guttural. Call a sharp chink, in flight a flat bzzzt. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female and immature Indigo Bunting also warm brown and have buffy, though weaker, wing bars, but they are smaller, and smaller billed. HABITAT: Thickets, hedgerows, riparian undergrowth, brushy hillsides, weedy ditches.



BLUE BUNTING Cyanocompsa parellina

Vagrant

5½ in. (14 cm). Male: Blue-black; brighter blue on crown, shoulders, and rump. Female: Richer brown than female Indigo; no streaks; bill blacker. VOICE: Song a high, sweet jumble of warbled phrases. Call a metallic chink! RANGE: Mexican visitor, casual to s. TX, mostly in winter. HABITAT: Brushy woods with dense cover.



INDIGO BUNTING Passerina cyanea Common M476 5½ in. (14 cm). Male: A small deep blue finch. In first spring, blue is blotchy. Nonbreeding male like female, but with some blue in wings and tail. Female and immature: A small, medium to warm brown finch; breast slightly paler with faint blurry streaks; wing bars weak or lacking. Like Blue Grosbeak, may flick or jerk tail sideways. VOICE: Song lively, high, and strident; measured phrases, usually paired: sweet-sweet, chew-chew, etc. Call a sharp spit and a dry buzz. SIMILAR SPECIES: Blue Grosbeak (larger) has rusty wing bars. See Lazuli Bunting. HABITAT: Overgrown brushy fields, riparian thickets, bushy wood edges.



LAZULI BUNTING Passerina amoena

Rare M475

5½ in. (14 cm). The western counterpart of Indigo Bunting. Breeding male: turquoise blue with burnt orangey breast and white belly, suggesting a bluebird, but with two white wing bars. Nonbreeding male: Brownish tips to feathers mute some of blue. Female and immature: Very similar to female Indigo but note distinct buffy wing bars, unstreaked warm buffy breast, duller brown upperparts. Juvenile may show fine breast streaks well into fall. Hybrids are regular where range overlaps that of Indigo. VOICE: Song similar to Indigo Bunting's, but faster. Calls similar. HABITAT: Like Indigo.



VARIED BUNTING Passerina versicolor

Scarce, local M477

5½ in. (14 cm). Male: A small dark finch with plum purple body (looks black at a distance). Crown, face, and rump blue, with bright red patch on nape; colored like an Easter egg. Female: Very similar to female Indigo but slightly duller brown with no breast streaks and slightly more curved upper edge to bill. VOICE: Song thin, bright, more distinctly phrased, less warbled than Painted Bunting's. HABITAT: Riparian thickets, mesquite and other scrub in washes and lower canyons.



PAINTED BUNTING Passerina ciris

Uncommon M478

5½ in. (14 cm). The most gaudily colored N. American songbird. *Male:* A patchwork of *blue-violet* on head, *green* on back, *red* on rump and underparts, red orbital ring. *Female and immature: Electric green above*, paling to lemon yellow below; *no other small finch is so green. Juvenile:* Grayer above with only tinge of green, duller below. **VOICE:** Song a wiry warble; suggests Warbling Vireo. Call a sharp *chip.* **HABITAT:** Riparian undergrowth, brushy hedgerows, woodland edges, stands of weedy grass.

BLUE FINCHES, ETC.





DICKCISSEL Spiza americana

Fairly common M479

6¼ in. (16 cm). A grass- and farmland bird; migrants often travel in large flocks. *Male:* Suggests a miniature meadowlark (black bib, yellow chest). Has chestnut shoulder patch. In fall, bib obscure. *Female and immature:* Much like female House Sparrow, but with bolder stripe over eye (often tinged yellowish), touch of yellow on breast, and blue-gray bill. **YOICE:** Song a staccato *dick-ciss-ciss-ciss* or *chup-chup-klip-klip-klip*. Call a short, hard buzz, often given in flight. **HABITAT:** Fields. meadows. prairies.

## OLD WORLD SPARROWS Family Passeridae

Old World sparrows differ from our native sparrows (which are in the Emberizidae family) in several subtle ways, including having a more curved culmen (ridge on bill). FOOD: Mainly insects, seeds. RANGE: Widespread in Old World, two species introduced in New World.



HOUSE SPARROW Passer domesticus

Common M511

6¼ in. (16 cm). Introduced from Europe in 1840. Familiar to many people. Sooty city birds often bear little resemblance to clean country males with black throat, white cheeks, chestnut nape. Much plainer female and young lack black throat, have dingy breast, and dull eye stripe behind eye only; note single bold wing bar. VOICE: Hoarse chirp and shillip notes, also a rising sweep. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female Dickcissel, buntings, sparrows, Eurasian Tree Sparrow. HABITAT: Cities, towns, farms, feeders.



#### **EURASIAN TREE SPARROW**

Uncommon, local M512

Passer montanus

6 in. (15 cm). Both sexes resemble male House Sparrow, but black throat patch smaller. Key mark is *black ear spot*. Crown brown. **VOICE**: Higher pitched than House Sparrow's. A metallic *chik* or *chup*, a repeated *chit-tchup*. In flight, a hard *tek*, *tek*. **HABITAT**: Farmland, weedy patches, locally in residential areas, feeders.

## BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES Family Icteridae

Varied color patterns; sharp bills. Some black and iridescent; orioles are highly colored. Sexes unlike. F00D: Insects, fruit, seeds, waste grain, small aquatic life. RANGE: New World; most in Tropics.



**BOBOLINK** Dolichonyx oryzivorus

Fairly common M480

7 in. (18 cm). Breeding male: Our only songbird that is solid black below and largely white above. Has buff-yellow nape. In spring, shows extensive brownish tips to dark feathering. Female and nonbreeding male: A bit larger than House Sparrow; rich buff-yellow, with dark striping on crown and back. Bill more like a sparrow's than a blackbird's. Note pointed tail feathers. VOICE: Song, in hovering flight and quivering descent, ecstatic and bubbling: starts with low, reedy notes and rollicks upward. Flight call a clear ink, often heard overhead in migration. SIMILAR SPECIES: Male Lark Bunting has white confined to wings. HABITAT: Hayfields, moist meadows, marsh edges.





#### EASTERN MEADOWLARK

Uncommon to fairly common M482

Sturnella magna

9½ in. (24 cm). In grassy country, a chunky, brown, starling-shaped bird. When flushed, shows conspicuous white sides on short tail. Several shallow, snappy wingbeats alternate with short glides—like a Spotted Sandpiper. When bird perches on a post, chest shows bright yellow crossed by black V. Walking, it flicks tail open and shut. VOICE: Song composed of two clear, slurred whistles, musical and pulled out, tee-yah, tee-yair (last note slurred and descending). Call a rasping or buzzy dzrrt; also a guttural chatter. SIMILAR SPECIES: Western Meadowlark, Dickcissel. HABITAT: Open fields and pastures, meadows, prairies, marsh edges.



#### WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Uncommon to fairly common M483

Sturnella neglecta

9½ in. (24 cm). Very similar to Eastern Meadowlark, but paler above and whiter on flanks (Eastern's flanks washed with buff in fresh plumage); yellow of throat invades malar area behind bill. Crown stripes paler, more streaked with buff; wingbeats floppier, more starlinglike. Best identified by voice. YOICE: Song variable; 7 to 10 flutelike notes, gurgling and double-note, unlike clear whistles of Eastern Meadowlark. Calls chupp or chuck and a dry rattle. SIMILAR SPECIES: Eastern Meadowlark. HABITAT: Grasslands, cultivated fields and pastures, meadows, prairies, marsh edges.



**RED-WINGED-BLACKBIRD** Agelaius phoeniceus Common M481 8½–8¾ in. (22 cm). Adult male: Black, with bright red or orange-red epaulets, most conspicuous in breeding display. Much of the time red is concealed and only yellowish or off-whitish margin shows. Immature male: Sooty brown, mottled (like female), but with red shoulders. Female: Brownish, with sharply pointed bill, "blackbird" appearance, and well-defined dark streaking below; may have pinkish tinge to throat. Gregarious, traveling and roosting in flocks during nonbreeding season. **VOICE**: Calls a loud check and a high, slurred tee-err. Song a liquid, gurgling konk-la-ree or o-ka-lay. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Other blackbird species. **HABITAT**: Breeds in marshes, brushy swamps, fields, pastures, roadsides; forages also in cultivated land, feedlots, towns, feeders, etc.



#### YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

Fairly common M484

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus

9–9% in. (23–25 cm). Gregarious. Adult male: A robin-sized blackbird, with yellow or orange-yellow head and breast; in flight, shows white wing patch. Female and immature male: Smaller (female) and browner; most of yellow confined to throat and chest; lower breast streaked with white; white wing patch restricted or lacking. VOICE: Song consists of low, hoarse rasping notes produced with much effort; suggests rusty hinges. Call a low kruck or kack. HABITAT: Nests in freshwater marshes. Forages in farm fields, open country, feedlots. Often associates with other blackbirds in mixed flocks in fall and winter.





COMMON GRACKLE Ouiscalus auiscula

Common M487 121/2 in. (32 cm). Male: A large, iridescent, yellow-eyed blackbird, larger than a robin, with long, wedge-shaped or keel-shaped (when breeding) tail. In good light, iridescent purple-blue on head. Female: Somewhat smaller and duller, with less wedge-shaped tail. Juvenile: Sooty, with dark eyes. "Bronzed" Grackle (New England and west of Appalachians; deep bronze on back and belly) and "Purple" Grackle (seaboard south of New England; greener tinge to back) are separate, identifiable subspecies, VOICE: Call chuck or chack. "Song" a split rasping note. SIMILAR SPECIES: Boat-tailed and Great-tailed grackles. Brewer's Blackbird. HABITAT: Cropland, towns, parks, feeders, groves; swampy woods; often nests in conifers.



#### **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE**

Fairly common, local M488

Quiscalus major

Male 161/2 in, [42 cm]; female 141/2 in, [37 cm], Male: A very large blackbird of the coast: larger than Common Grackle, with longer, more ample tail. More rounded head than other grackles. Males of Atlantic Coast (except in FL) have yellow eyes; those of Gulf region and FL have brown eyes, but some may have dull yellowish eyes. Female: Smaller than male: much browner than female Common Grackle and with pale brownish breast. VOICE: Harsh check check check: harsh whistles and clucks. SIMILAR SPECIES: LA westward, see Great-tailed Grackle, HABITAT: Largely resident near salt water along coasts, marshes; more widespread habitats in FL.



**GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE** Ouiscalus mexicanus Common M489 Male 18 in. (46 cm); female 15 in. (38 cm). Like several other blackbirds, often found in large flocks. Male: A very large, purple-glossed blackbird, distinctly larger than Common Grackle and with longer, more ample tail. Female: Smaller than male; dark gray-brown above, warm brown below. Adults of both sexes have yellow eyes. VOICE: Harsh check check; also a high kee-kee-kee-kee. Shrill, discordant notes, whistles, and clucks. A rapid, upward-slurring ma-ree. SIMILAR SPECIES: Common Grackle (smaller). Boat-tailed Grackle slightly smaller, with dark eyes (where ranges overlap), rounder crown (male), and slightly shorter, more rounded tail, HABITAT: Groves, farms, feedlots, towns, city parks, parking lots.

## GRACKLES





RUSTY BLACKBIRD Euphagus carolinus Uncommon M485 9 in. [23 cm]. Rusty only in fall and winter. Breeding male: A medium-sized blackbird with pale eye. Black head may show faint greenish gloss. Breeding female: Slate colored, with light eye. Nonbreeding: Variably washed with rusty, buffy eyebrow, narrow dark patch through eye. VOICE: Call chack. "Song" a split creak, like a rusty hinge: kusha-lee, alternating with ksh-lay. SIMILAR SPECIES: Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle. HABITAT: Wooded swamps, muskeq. pond edges.



#### BREWER'S BLACKBIRD

Uncommon M486

Euphagus cyanocephalus

9 in. (23 cm). Male: All black, with whitish eye; in good light, purplish reflections on head, greenish reflections on body. Female: Brownish gray, with dark eye. VOICE: Song a harsh, wheezy, creaking ksh-eee. Call chack. SIMILAR SPECIES: Breeding male Rusty Blackbird flatter black with dull greenish head reflections (hard to see); bill slightly longer. Female Rusty has light eye. Brewer's do not acquire a rusty look in fall. See also Brown-headed Cowbird. HABITAT: Fields, prairies, farms, feedlots, lawns, parking lots.



BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD Molothrus ater Common M492 7½ in. (19 cm). A rather small blackbird with short, sparrowlike bill. Male: Black with brown head (may appear all black in poor light). Female: Gray-brown with lighter throat; note short finchlike bill. Juvenile: Paler than female. Buffy gray, with soft breast streaking and pale scaling (edges) above; this plumage held into early fall. Often seen being fed by smaller birds whose nests have been parasitized. When flocking with other blackbirds, cowbirds look smaller and feed on ground with tails lifted high. VOICE: Flight call weee-titi (high whistle, two lower notes). Song a bubbly and creaky alua-alua-aleeee. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female told from female Brewer's Blackbird by its stubby bill and smaller size. Juvenile European Starling has longer bill, shorter tail. HABITAT: In nesting season, where passerine nesthosts are numerous, a variety of forests and woodlands; also farms. fields, feedlots, lawns, feeders. Parasitizes a wide variety of smaller bird nests. Never builds its own nest.



BRONZED COWBIRD Molothrus aeneus Uncommon M491 8½–8¾ in. (21–22 cm). Male: Slightly larger and more bull-headed than Brown-headed Cowbird. Does not have brown head. Bill longer. Red eye. Ruff on nape often conspicuous. Female: Smaller nape ruff; darker than female Brown-headed. VOICE: High-pitched mechanical creakings. Male's display very animated. HABITAT: Cropland, brush, semiopen country, towns, feedlots.



SHINY COWBIRD Molothrus bonariensis

7½ in. (19 cm). Male: Black with violet gloss, thin pointed bill. Female: Warm brown, slightly thinner, blacker bill than Brown-headed. VOICE: Series of liquid burbles, ending in thin whistled note. RANGE: An invader to s. FL since 1985. Scattered records from as far north as NB and west to OK. HABITAT: Agricultural areas, disturbed habitats, suburban lawns, feeders.





ORCHARD ORIOLE Icterus spurius

Fairly common M493

7-71/4 in. (18 cm). A small, short- and straight-billed oriole. Often flicks tail sideways. Male: All dark; rump and underparts deep chestnut. Female and immature: Olive or greenish gray above, yellowish below; two white wing bars. First-spring male has black bib down to chest. VOICE: Song a fast-moving outburst interspersed with piping whistles and guttural notes. Suggests Purple or House finch. A strident slurred wheeer! at or near end is distinctive. Call a soft chuck. SIMILAR SPECIES: Some female and immature Baltimore Orioles have black throat (as do immature male Orchards), but are slightly larger and more orange. Female Scarlet and Summer tanagers lack wing bars, have different bill shape. Females and immatures difficult to tell from young Hooded Orioles but note Hooded's more curved bill, longer tail, and weaker wing bars. See voice. HABITAT: Wood edges, orchards, shade trees; more likely than other orioles to be seen in brushy areas.



BALTIMORE ORIOLE Icterus galbula Fairly common M499 81/4-81/2 in. (21-22 cm). Adult male: Flame orange and black, with solid black head, orange sides to tail. Female and immature: Olivebrown above, burnt orange-yellow below; two white wing bars. Many adult females have traces of black on head, suggesting hood of male. Some immature females very dull, with grayer back, limited orange (mostly on breast), and whitish vent; much like female Bullock's Oriole. VOICE: Song rich, piping whistles. Call a low, whistled hewli. Chatter call not as rough as Bullock's, SIMILAR SPECIES: Female Orchard Oriole vellower than female Baltimore. Dull female Baltimore much like female Bullock's, but latter has more distinct dark eye line and yellowish supercilium, plain gray back lacking dark scalloping, and yellowish rather than orange undertail coverts. HABITAT: Open deciduous woods, shade trees; in winter, also at feeders.



BULLOCK'S ORIOLE Icterus bullockii Uncommon, local M495 814-81/2 in. (21-22 cm). Adult male: Note orange cheeks and dark eye line, large white wing patches, and black-tipped tail. Female: Dark eye line, yellowish supercilium, plain gray back, whitish belly. Immature male: Similar to female, but slightly more orange and has black goatee. May hybridize with Baltimore Oriole, VOICE: Accented double notes and one or two piping notes. Calls include a rough chatter and low churp. SIMILAR SPECIES: Baltimore Oriole; also Hooded and Orchard orioles. HABITAT: Deciduous and riparian woods, shade trees. ranch yards; vagrant at eastern feeders in winter.



SPOT-BREASTED ORIOLE

Uncommon, local M496

Icterus pectoralis

91/4-91/2 in. (24 cm). Introduced from Central America in the 1940s. Note orange crown, black bib, and black spots on sides of breast. Much white in wing. VOICE: Song a long, melodic series of whistles. slower than other orioles. SIMILAR SPECIES: Baltimore Oriole, HABI-TAT: Flowering trees, residential areas.





**HOODED ORIOLE** *Icterus cucullatus* Uncommon, local M494 71/2-8 in. (19-20 cm). Male: Orange and black, with black throat and orange crown. In winter, back obscurely scaled. Female: Similar to female Bullock's Oriole, but bill longer, slightly curved; more extensively yellow below: back olive-gray; head and tail more yellowish. Call different. Immature: Like female, with slightly shorter bill; much like female Orchard Oriole, VOICE: Song consists of rambling, grating notes and piping whistles: chut chut chut whew whew; opening notes throaty. Call an up-slurred, whistled eek or wheenk. SIMILAR SPECIES: Orchard, Bullock's, Baltimore, and Scott's orioles. HABITAT: Open woods, shade trees, towns, gardens.



**ALTAMIRA ORIOLE** Icterus gularis Uncommon, local M497 10 in, [25 cm], Similar to male Hooded Oriole, but larger, with thicker bill. Upper wing bar yellow or orange, not white. Sexes similar. VOICE: Song disjointed whistled notes. A harsh "fuss" note. SIMILAR SPE-CIES: Other orange orioles, HABITAT: Scrubby woodlands, often near water. Its name, in Spanish, means "look high." And this is often where this species is found — in treetops.



AUDUBON'S ORIOLE Icterus graduacauda Uncommon, local M498 9½ in. (24 cm). A yellow oriole with black wings, head, and tail. Yellowish back distinctive. Other male orioles have black back. Sexes similar, but female duller, voice: Disjointed notes suggesting a child learning to whistle. SIMILAR SPECIES: Scott's Oriole. Green Jay at a distance looks yellow with a black head but has yellow outer tail feathers, HABITAT: Riparian woods.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE Icterus parisorum Uncommon, local 8%-9 in. (22-23 cm). Adult male: Solid black head and back and lemon vellow pattern distinguish it. Female: More greenish yellow below and more olivey gray and streaked above than other female orioles. Many have black on throat and face. VOICE: Song composed of rich fluty whistles; suggests Western Meadowlark. Call a harsh chuck. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female Hooded and Bullock's orioles. HABITAT: Dry woods and arid scrub



# Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies Family Fringillidae

These birds have a seed-cracking bill, relatively short, notched tail, and somewhat undulating flight. Sexes usually unlike. Tend to be more arboreal than sparrows. FOOD: Seeds, insects, small fruit. RANGE: Worldwide.

BRAMBLING Fringilla montifringilla

6¼ in. (16 cm). Breeding male: Black head and back. Female and non-breeding: Gray cheek bordered by dark. VOICE: Call a rising, whiny zweee; in flight, a distinctive nasal, hollow eck. SIMILAR SPECIES: Might be confused with Black-headed Grosbeak or Eastern Towhee. RANGE: Eurasian species; recorded casually in eastern N. America, mostly in winter, including at feeders.



RED CROSSBILL Loxia curvirostra Uncommon, irregular M503 5%-7 in. (14-17 cm). This erratic wanderer has a heavy head and short tail. Note crossed mandibles and plain wings. The sound when it cracks cones of evergreens often betrays its presence. Usually found in flocks. Male: Dull red, brighter on rump. Subadult males are more orange. Female and immature: Dull olive-gray to mustard yellow; yellowish on rump. Juvenile: Streaked above and below, suggesting a large Pine Siskin; note bill. Many subspecies vary slightly in bill size, body size, and color; most readily distinguished by flight call. VOICE: Call a hard jip-jip or kip-kip-kip (in some populations, kwit-kwit or kewp-kewp). Song consists of finchlike warbled passages, jip-jip-jip-jeeaa-jeeaa; trills, chips. SIMILAR SPECIES: White-winged Crossbill. HABITAT: Variety of conifers; rarely at feeders. Erratic and irruptive wanderings, especially in fall and winter.



## WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL Uncommon, irregular M504

Loxia leucoptera

6½ in. (17 cm). All plumages show crossed mandibles, bold white wing bars, and white tertial tips. Male: Dull rose pink. Female and immature: Olive-gray, with yellowish rump. Juvenile: Heavily streaked. VOICE: Calls a liquid peet and a dry chif-chif. Song a succession of loud trills on different pitches. SIMILAR SPECIES: Red Crossbill may show a single weak wing bar, but not two broad ones, and it lacks white tips to tertials. HABITAT: Spruce and fir forests, hemlocks; very rarely at feeders. Erratic and irruptive wanderings.



PINE GROSBEAK Pinicola enucleator

8%–9 in. (23 cm). Near size of a robin; a large, tame finch with dark, stubby bill, longish tail. Flight undulating. May be seen on dirt roads eating grit. Adult male: Dull rose red, wings dark with two white wing bars. Female: Gray, with two white wing bars; head and rump tinged with dull mustard yellow. Immature male: Similar to gray female, but with touch of russet on head and rump. VOICE: Song a rich, rapid warbling. Call a musical pe-pew-pew. SIMILAR SPECIES: Crossbills, Purple Finch. HABITAT: Conifers, larches; in winter, also mixed woods, crabapples and other fruiting trees, ashes. Erratic and irruptive wanderings, especially in winter.





**PURPLE FINCH** Haemorhous purpureus

Uncommon M501 6 in. (15 cm). Like a sparrow dipped in raspberry juice. Adult male: Dull rose red, brightest on head, chest, and rump. Flanks unstreaked. Female and immature: Heavily streaked, brown; similar to female House Finch, but note broad dark jaw stripe, dark ear patch, broad light stripe behind eye, more deeply notched tail, undertail coverts with few or no streaks. VOICE: Song a fast lively warble; call a dull, flat, metallic pik. SIMILAR SPECIES: House Finch, Rose-breasted Grosbeak. HABITAT: Woods, groves, suburbs, feeders.



HOUSE FINCH Haemorhous mexicanus Common M502 5%-6 in. (14-15 cm). Slimmer than Purple Finch with longer, more square-tipped tail. Male: Breast, forehead, stripe over eye, and rump vary from red to orange to almost deep vellow (diet related). Note dark streaks on sides and belly. Female: Streaked brown: separated from slightly larger female Purple Finch by its smaller head, bill, and bland face. VOICE: Song bright, loose, and disjointed; often ends in nasal wheer. Call suggests a House Sparrow's chirp, but more musical. SIMILAR SPECIES: Purple Finch. HABITAT: Cities, suburbs, farms, feeders. Bacterial infection of eves has reduced numbers in some areas.



#### COMMON REDPOLL

Uncommon, irregular M505

Acanthis flammea

51/4 in. (13 cm). Note bright red forehead and black chin of this little winter finch. Male has pink breast; female lacks this; juvenile heavily streaked and lacks red forehead. Usually found in flocks. VOICE: In flight, a rattling chet-chet-chet. Song a trill, followed by the rattling chet-chet. SIMILAR SPECIES: Hoary Redpoll, Pine Siskin. Male House and Purple finches larger, redder, have red rump; lack black chin. HABITAT: Birches, tundra scrub. In winter, weeds, brush, thistle feeders



HOARY REDPOLL Acanthis hornemanni Rare, irregular M506 51/4-51/2 in. (13-14 cm). In nonbreeding season, often found in flocks of Common Redpolls. Very similar. Look for a "frostier" bird, with whiter rump containing little or no streaking. Also note stubbier bill and lighter streaking on flanks and undertail coverts. Some individuals very difficult to identify. VOICE: Much like Common Redpoll's. SIMI-LAR SPECIES: Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, HABITAT: Birches, tundra scrub. In winter, weeds, brush, feeders.





#### AMERICAN GOLDFINCH Spinus tristis

Common M509

5 in. (13 cm). Goldfinches are distinguished from other small, olive-yellow birds (warblers, etc.) by their short, conical bill and behavior. Breeding male: A small yellow bird with black forehead and wings. Breeding female: Dull yellow-olive; darker above, with blackish wings and conspicuous wing bars. Nonbreeding: Both sexes much like breeding female, but brownish; yellow on throat, bill dark. VOICE: Song clear, light, canary-like. In undulating flight, each dip is punctuated by ti-DEE-di-di or per-chik-o-ree or po-ta-to-chip. SIMILAR SPECIES: Lesser Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, Yellow Warbler. HABITAT: Patches of thistles and weeds, dandelions on lawns, sweet-gum balls, road-sides, open woods, edges; in winter, also feeders, often in flocks.



LESSER GOLDFINCH Spinus psaltria

4½ in. [11 cm]. Male: A very small finch with black cap, black or greenish back, and yellow underparts; white on wings. Black cap retained in winter. Males may have black or greenish back. Female: Similar to nonbreeding American Goldfinch, but usually yellower below, has less contrasting wing bars, yellowish (not white) undertail coverts, and dark rump. Calls differ. VOICE: Sweet, plaintive, whiny notes, tee-yee (rising) and tee-yer (dropping). Song more phrased than American Goldfinch: Will imitate other bird calls. SIMILAR SPECIES: American Goldfinch. HABITAT: Open brushy and weedy country, open woods, wooded streams, towns, gardens, feeders.



PINE SISKIN Spinus pinus

Fairly common, irregular M507

5 in. (13 cm). Size of a goldfinch. A small, heavily streaked finch with deeply notched tail, sharply pointed bill. A touch of yellow in wings and base of tail (not always evident). Often first detected by voice, flying over. VOICE: Call a loud chlee-ip; also a light tit-i-tit; a buzzy shreeeee. Song suggests goldfinch, but coarser, wheezy. SIMILAR SPECIES: Nonbreeding American Goldfinch lacks streaks. Female House Finch has stubbier bill, longer tail. Common Redpoll has red forehead. All lack yellow in wings and tail. HABITAT: Conifers, mixed woods, alders, sweet-gum balls, weedy areas, feeders.

**EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH** Carduelis carduelis Escapee 5½ in. (14 cm). Occasional reports, mostly at feeders. Assumed to be all or almost all escaped captive birds. Note red face, yellow wing patches.



#### **EVENING GROSBEAK**

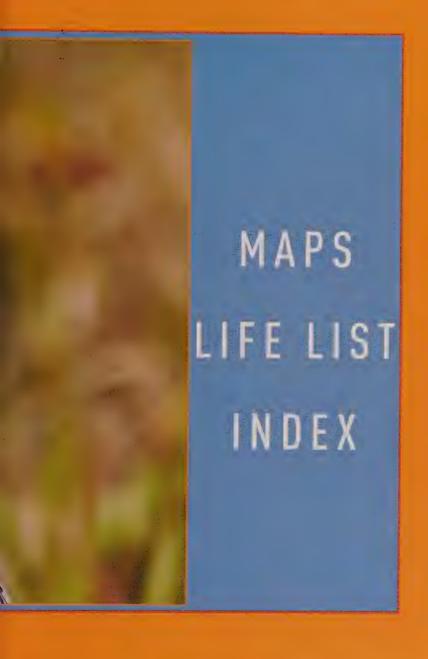
Uncommon, irregular M510

Coccothraustes vespertinus

8 in. (20 cm). Size of a European Starling. A chunky, short-tailed finch with very large, pale, conical bill (tinged greenish). Male: Dull yellow, with darker head, yellow eyebrow, and black-and-white wings; suggests an overgrown goldfinch. Female: Silver gray, with white wing patches. Gregarious. In flight, overall shape and large white wing patches distinctive. VOICE: Song a short, uneven warble. Also a ringing, finchlike clee-ip; a high, burry thew. SIMILAR SPECIES: American Goldfinch (much smaller), female crossbills. HABITAT: Coniferous and mixed forests; in winter, box elders, fruiting shrubs, feeders.





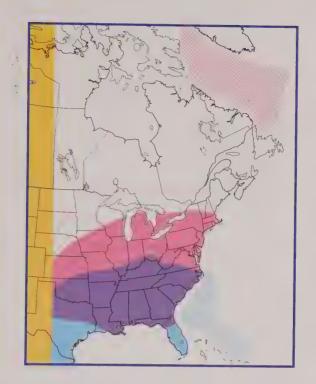




The maps on the following pages are approximate, giving the general outlines of the range of each species. Within these broad outlines may be many gaps—areas ecologically unsuitable for the species. A Marsh Wren must have a marsh, a Ruffed Grouse a woodland or a forest. Certain species may be extremely local or sporadic for reasons that may or may not be clear. Some birds are extending their ranges, a few explosively. Others are declining or even disappearing from large areas where they were formerly found. Winter ranges are often not as definite as breeding ranges. A species may exist at a very low density near the northern limits of its winter range, surviving through December in mild seasons but often succumbing to the bitter conditions of January and February. Varying weather conditions and food supplies from year to year may result in substantial variations in winter bird populations.

The maps are specific only for the area covered by this field guide. The Mallard, for example, is found over a large part of the globe. The map shows only its range in eastern North America.

The maps are based on data culled from many publications (particularly from monographs detailing the status and distribution of a state or province's avifauna, as well as from breeding bird atlases), from such journals as *North American Birds* (formerly *American Birds* and *Audubon Field Notes*), and from communication with many state and provincial experts from throughout North America.



Many maps include comments on population increases and declines, extralimital occurrences, and regular winter or summer ranges outside North America. Migration routes are not depicted in these maps, but side notes sometimes include information on migration. Maps are likewise not filled in with solid color if the species is considered rare, very rare, casual, accidental, and/or a vagrant. Migrants can often be found in suitable habitat in those areas that lie between summering/breeding areas and wintering/nonbreeding areas.

## Key to Range Maps

Red: summer range

Blue: winter range

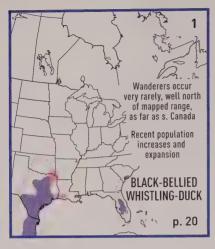
Purple: year-round range

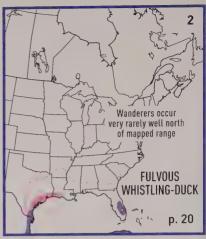
Red dash line: approximate limits of irregular summer range and/or post-breeding dispersal

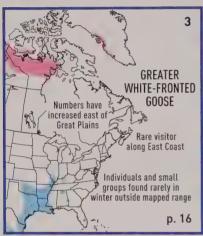
Blue dash line: approximate limits of irregular winter range

Purple dash line: approximate limits of irregular year-round range

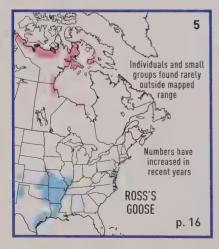
Striped area: pelagic range

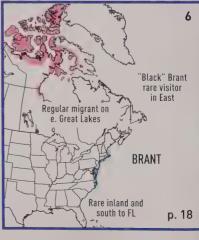


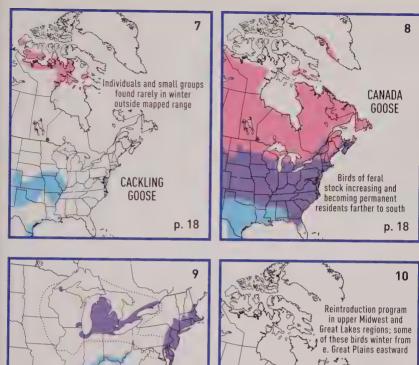


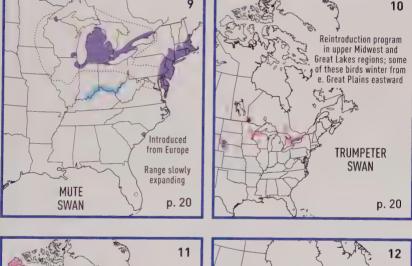


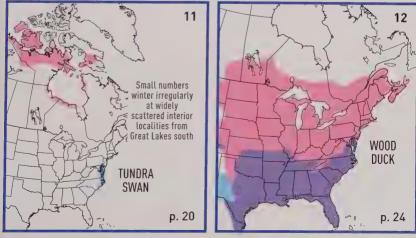


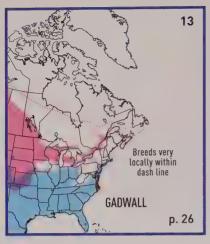


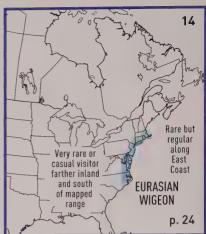


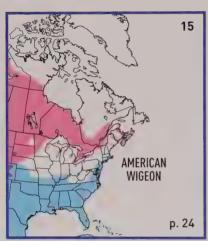


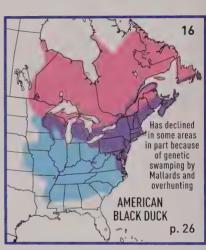


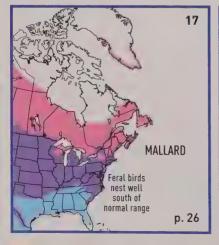


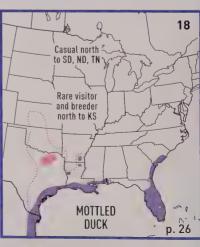


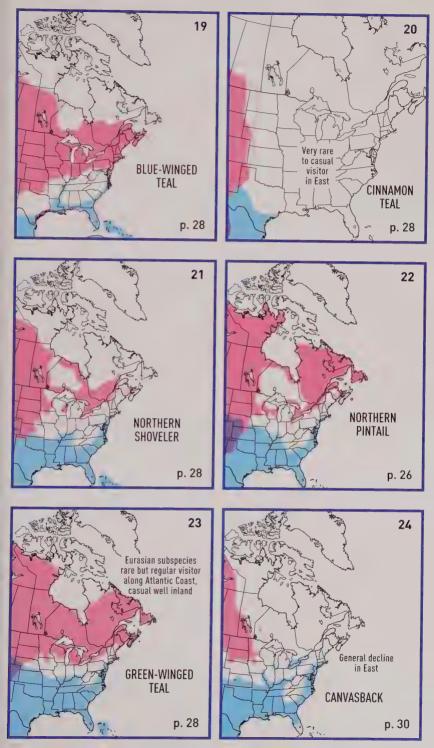


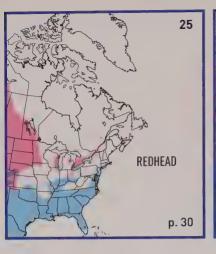


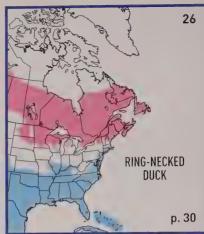




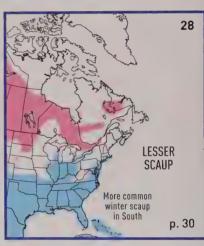


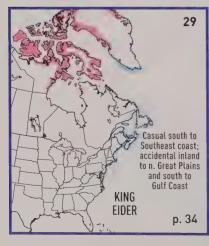




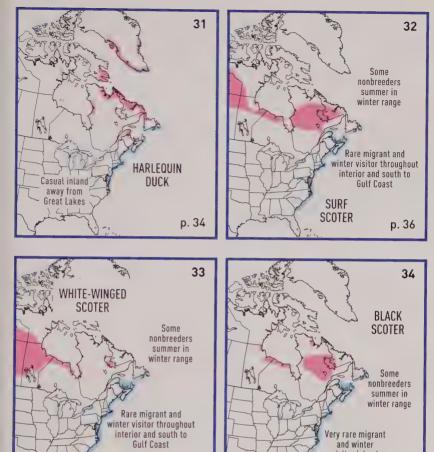






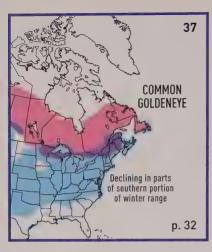


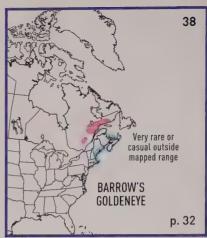


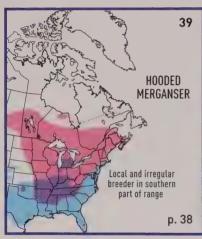


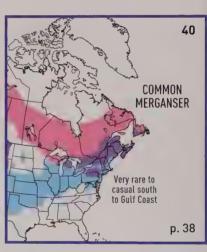


and winter visitor inland

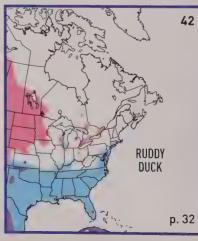


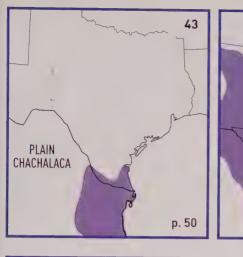






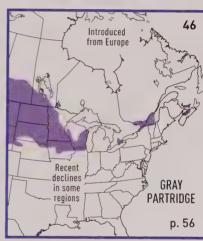


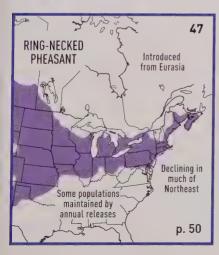


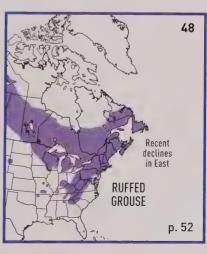


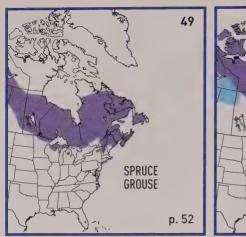


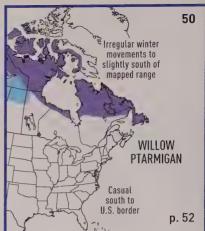




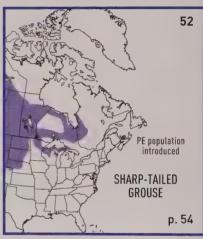


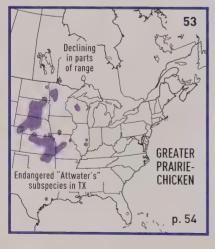


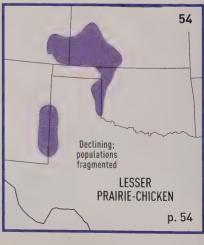


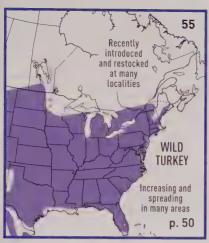




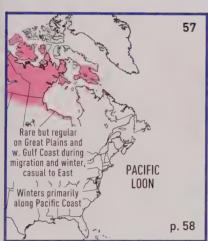


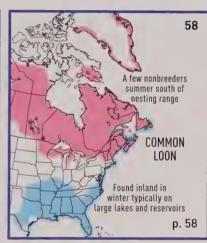






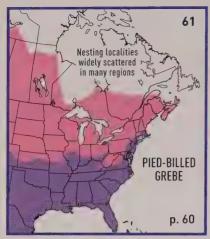


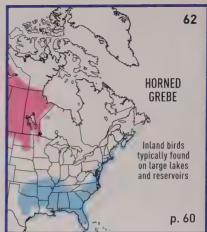


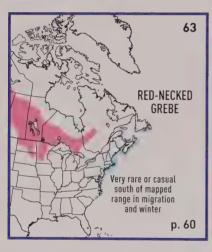


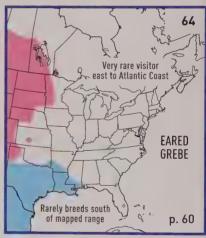


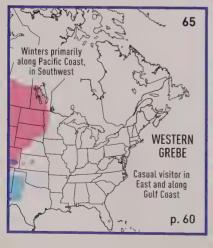


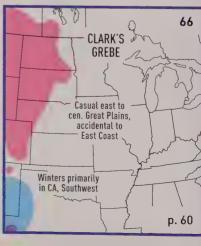


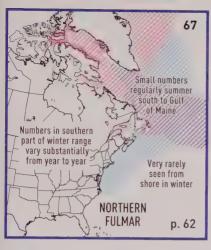


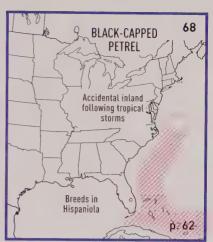






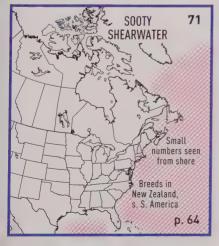






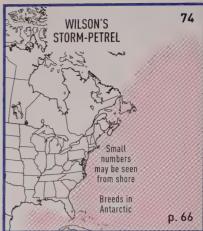


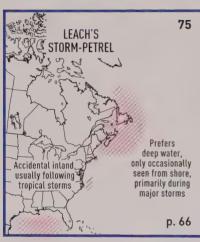




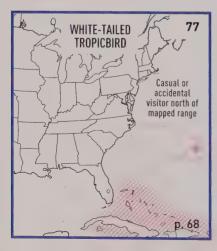


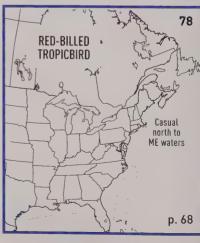




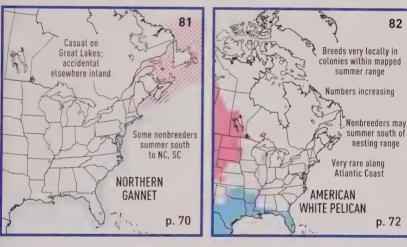


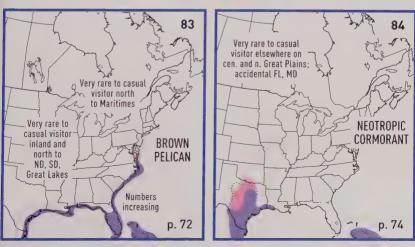


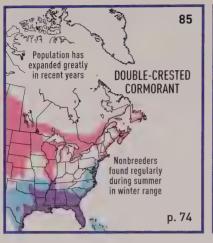


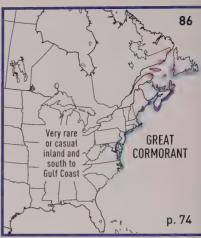


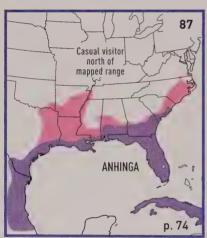


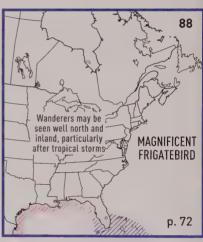


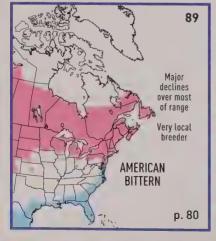


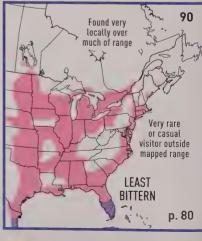


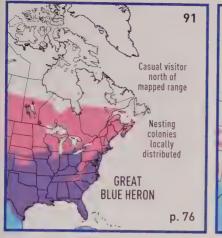


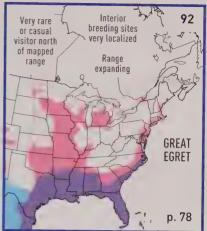


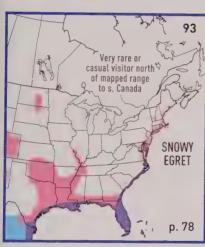


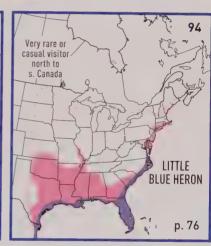


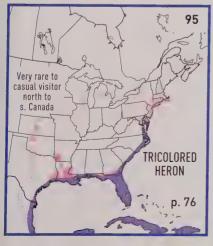




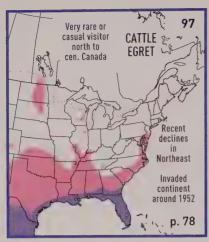


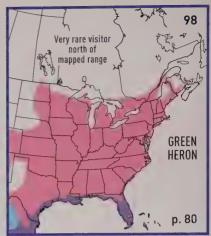


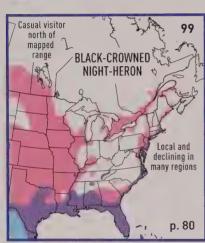


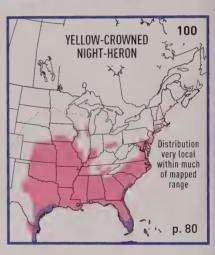


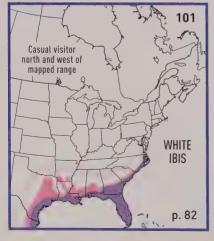


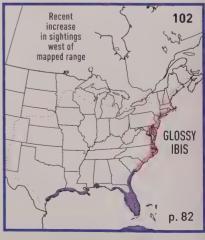


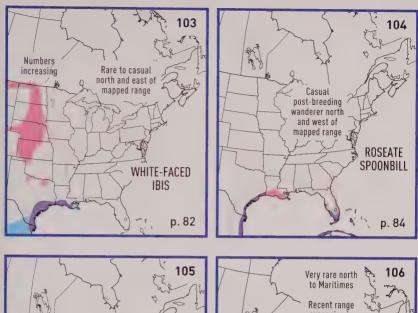


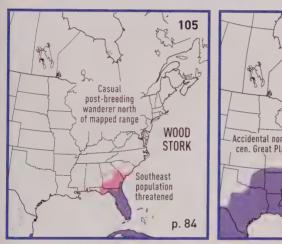


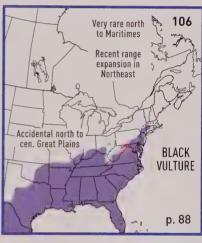


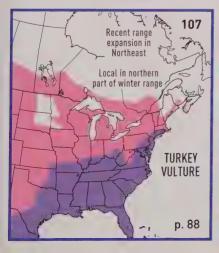


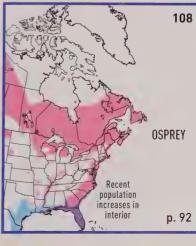


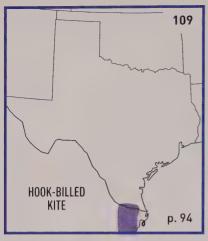


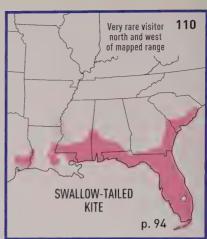


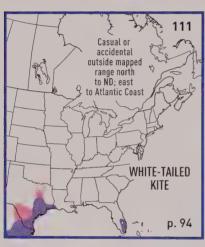


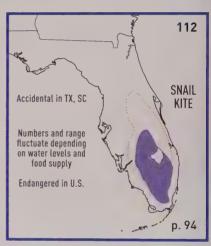


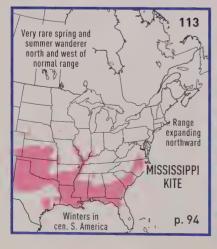


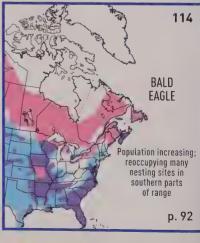


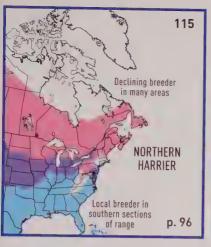


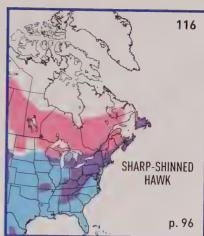


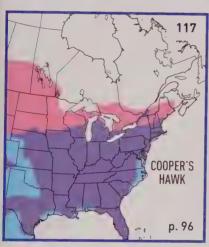


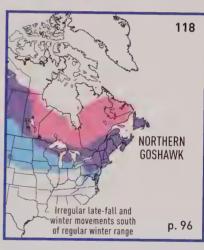


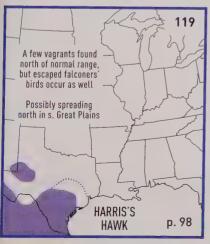


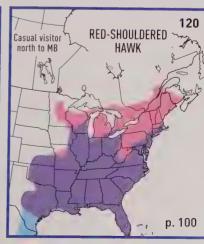


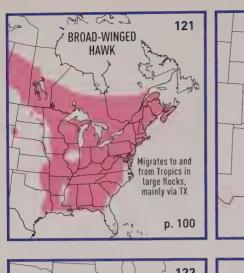


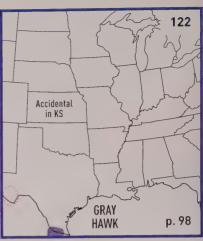






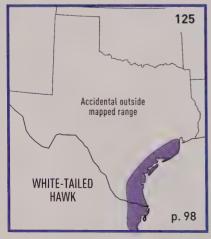


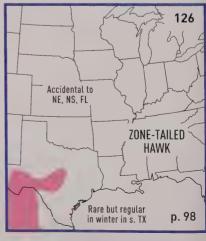


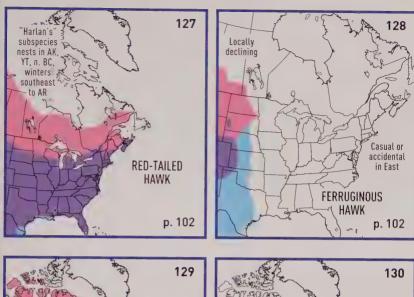


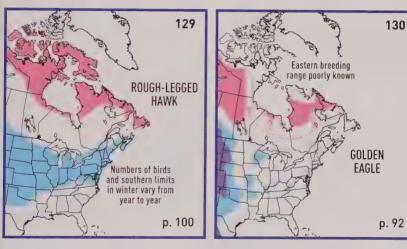


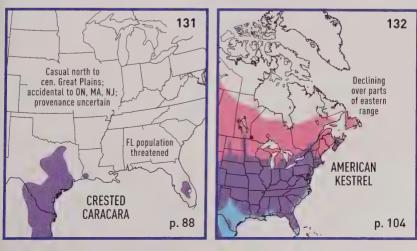


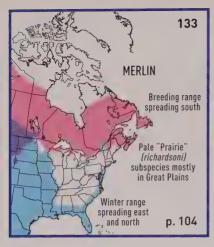




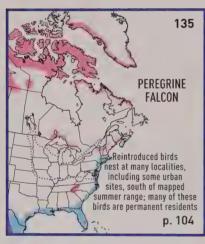


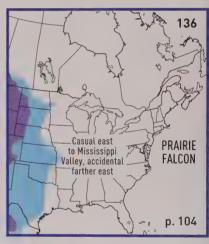


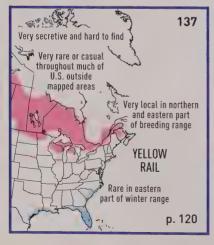


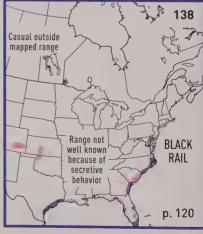


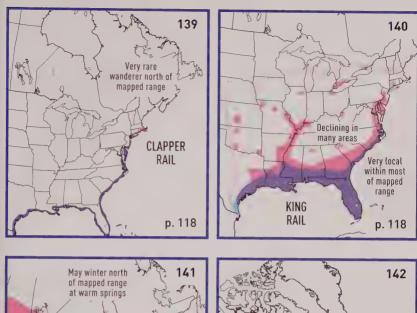


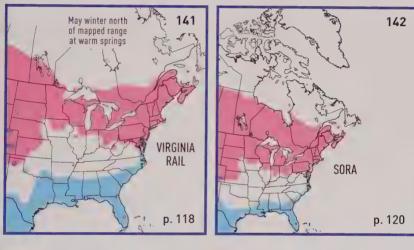


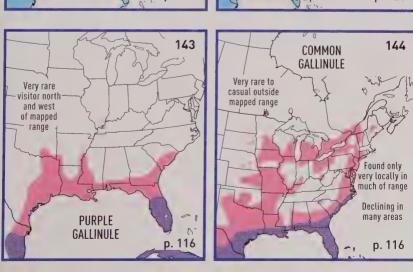


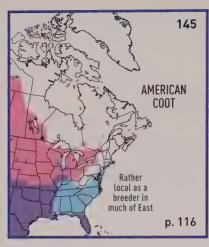


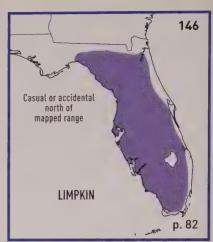


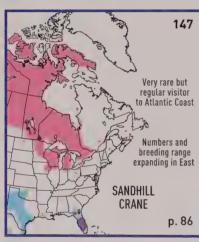


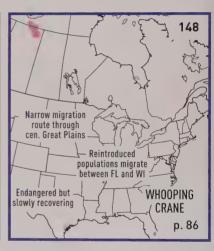


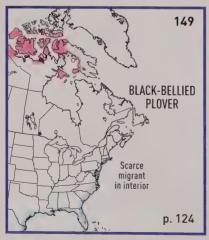




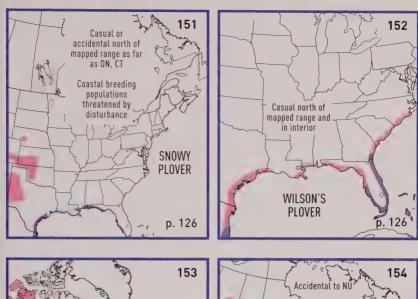




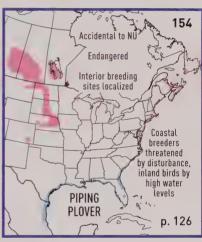


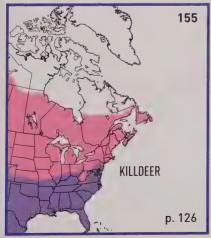


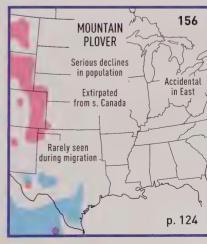


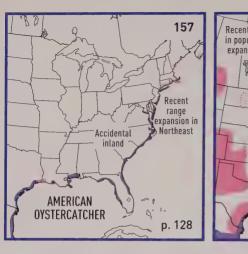


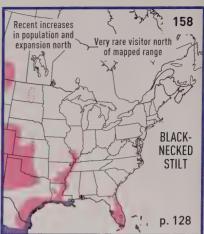




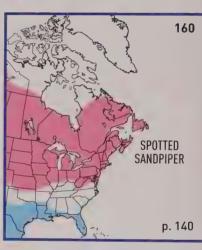


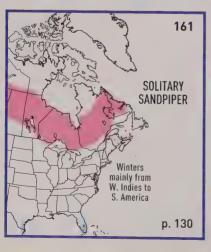


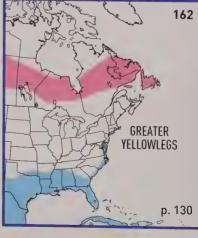


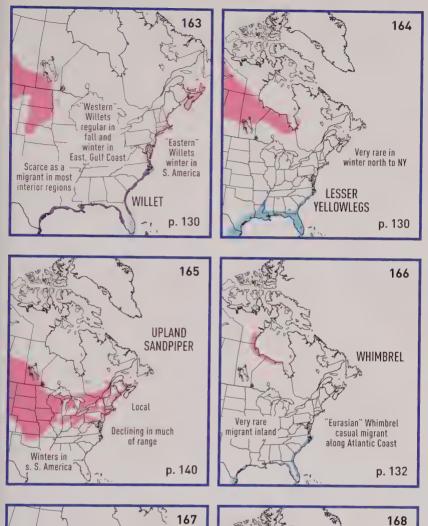


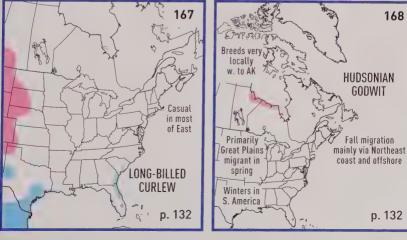


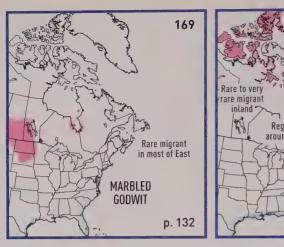


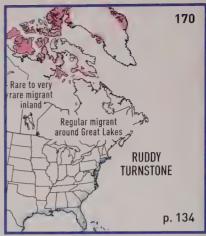


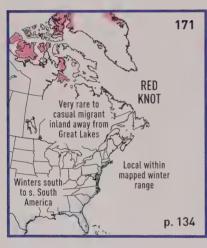




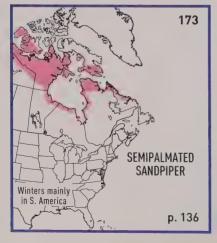


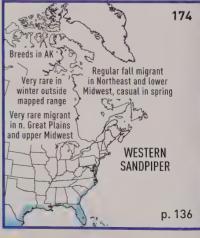


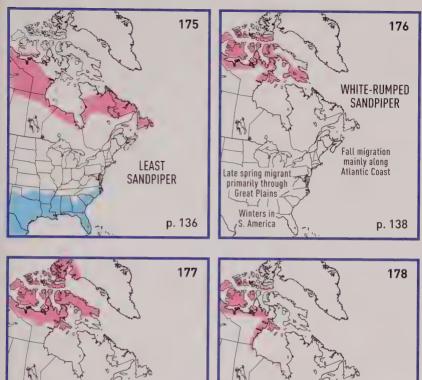


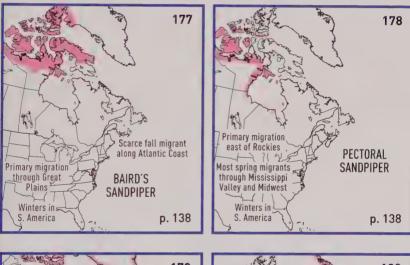


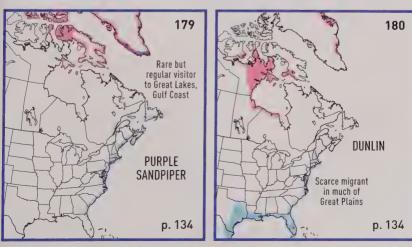




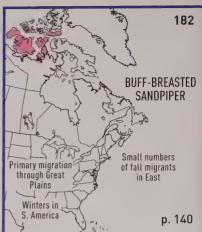


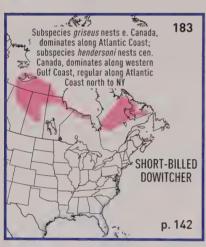




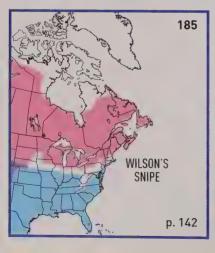


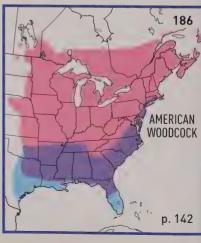


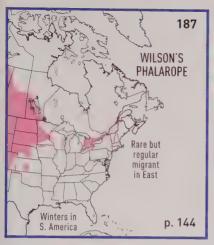


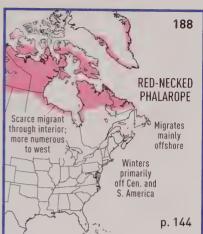


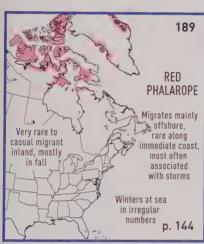


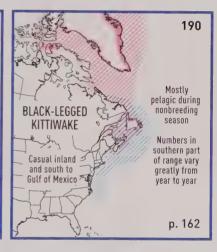


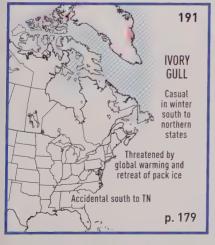


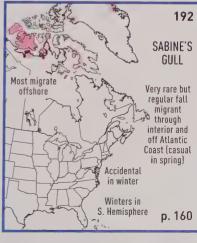


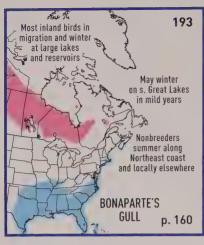


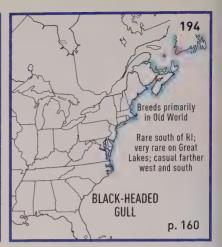






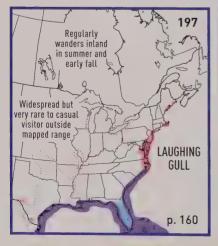


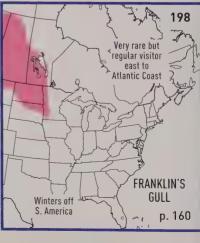


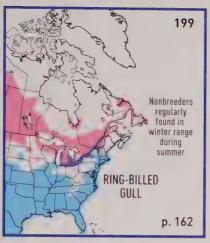


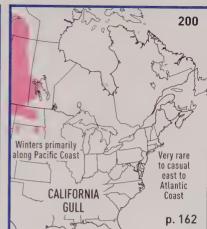




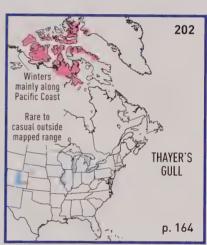






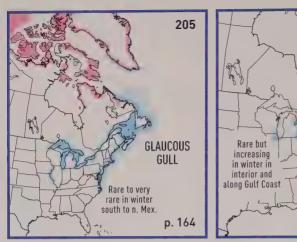




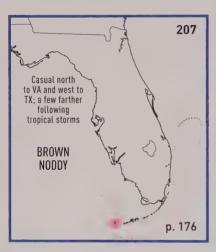


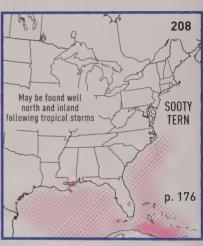


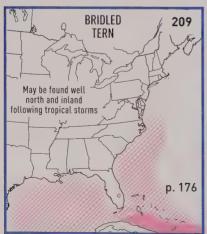


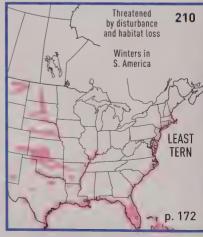


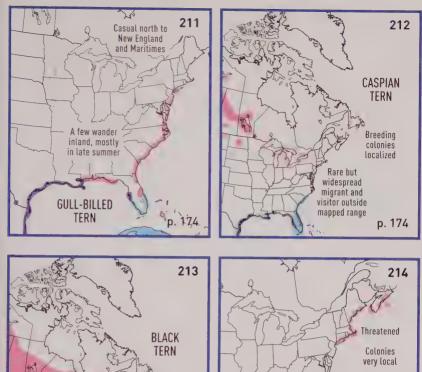


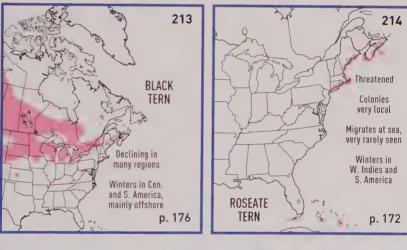


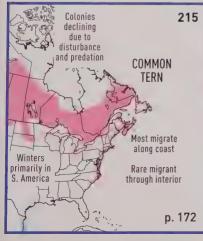


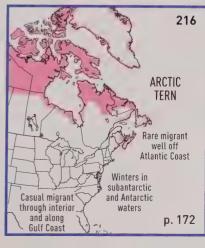


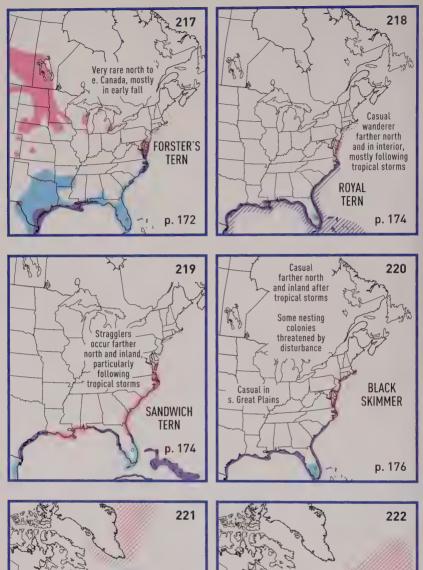




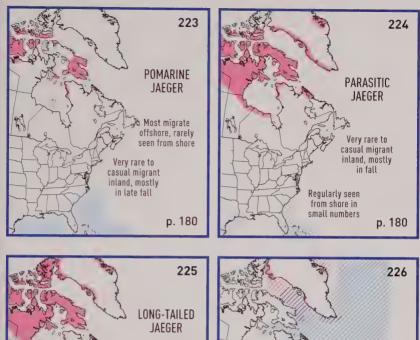


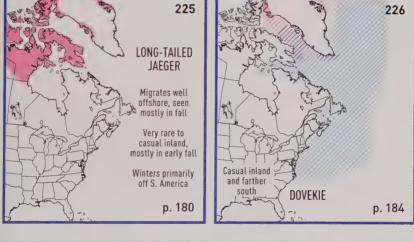


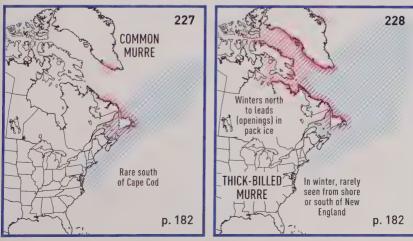


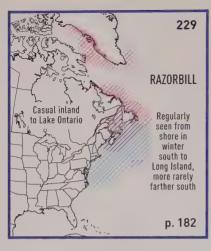


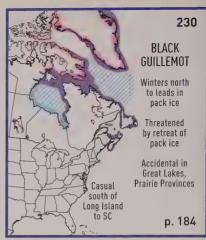


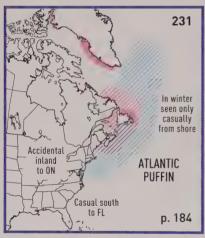


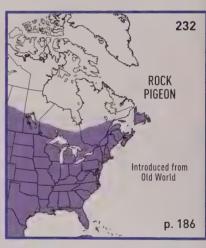


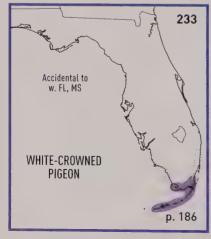




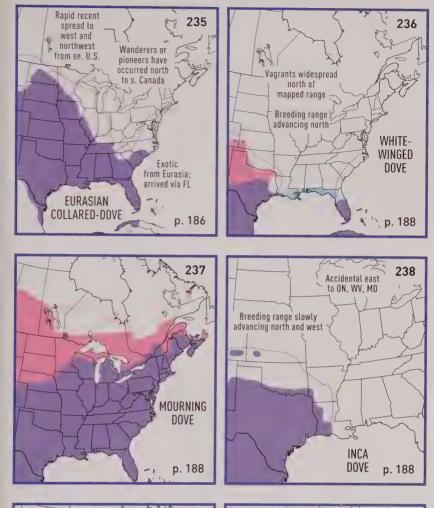




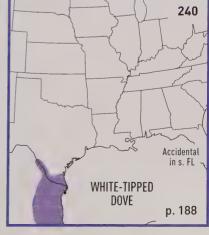


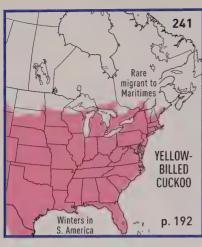




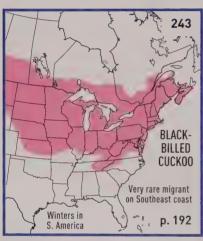


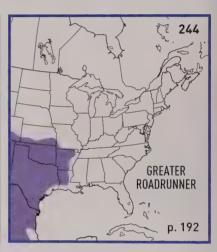




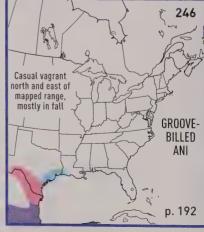


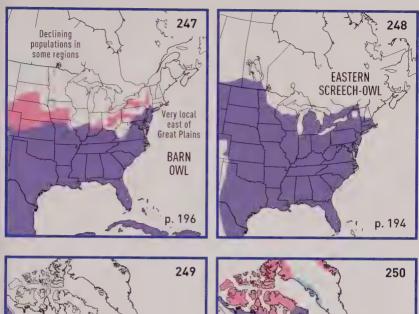


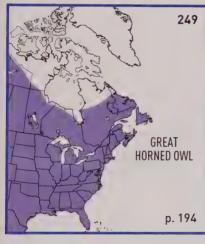




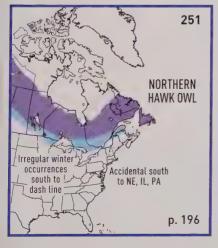


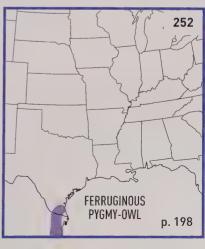


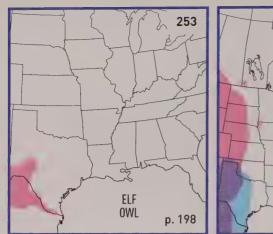


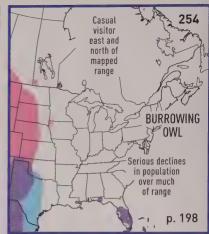


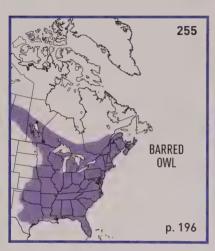


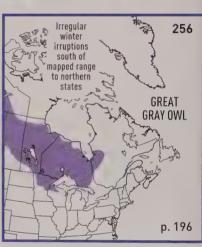


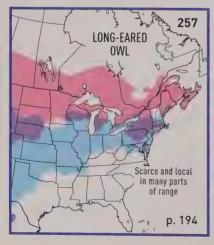


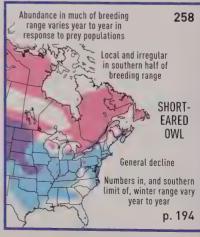


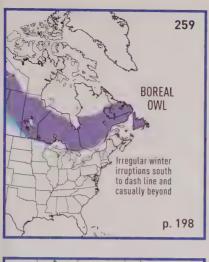


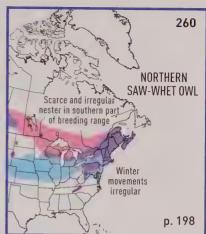




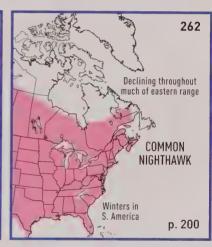


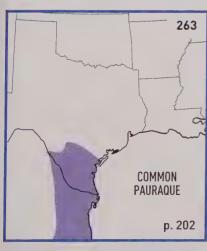


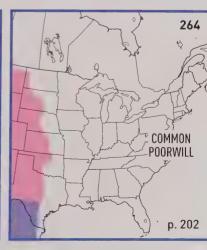


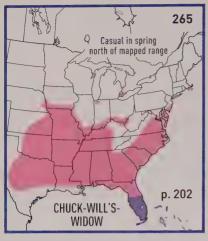


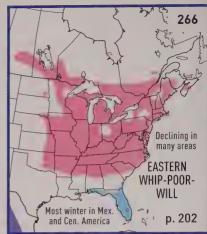


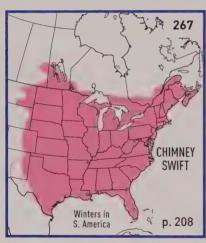




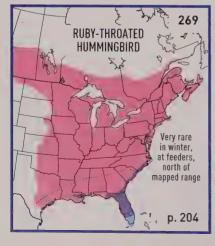


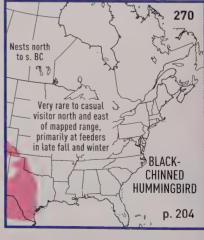


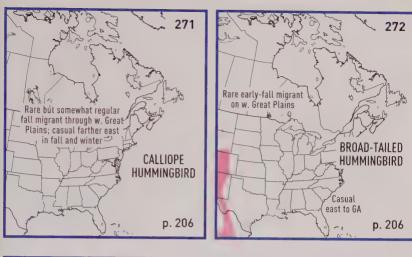




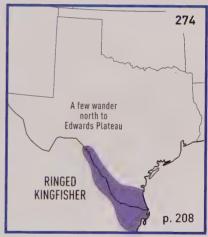


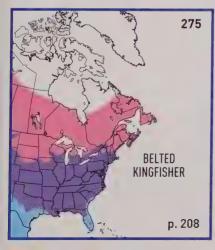


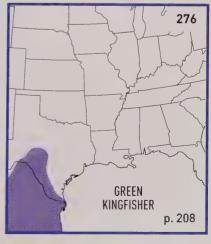


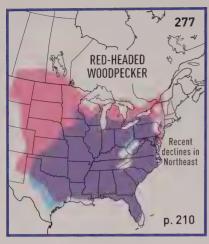


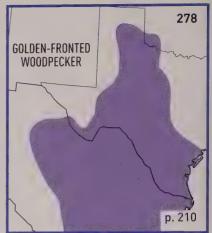


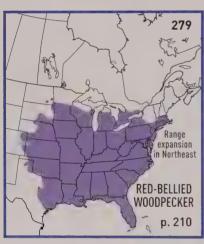


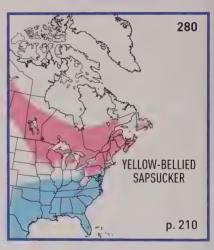




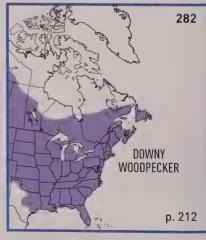


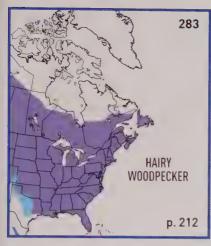






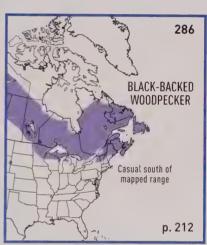




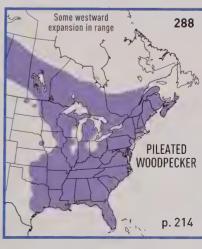






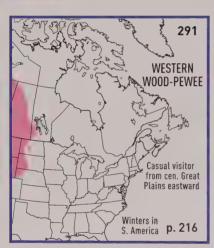


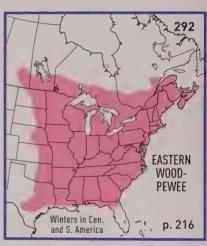




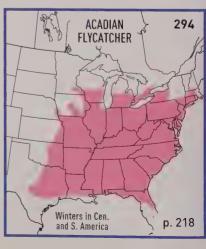




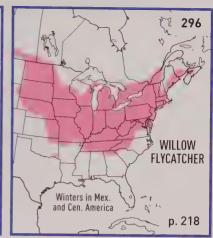




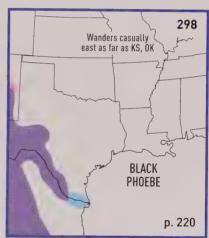


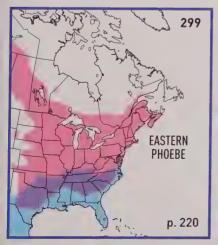


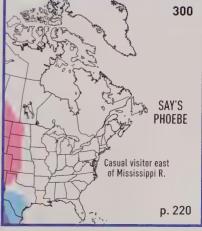


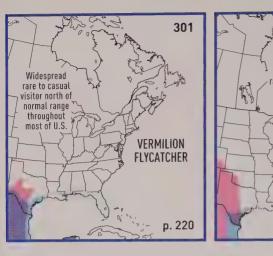


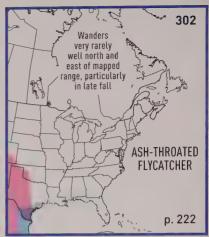




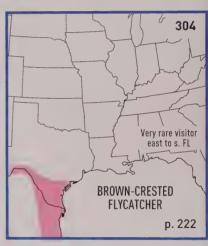


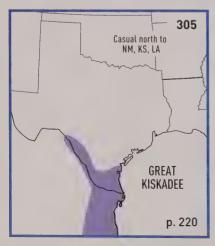




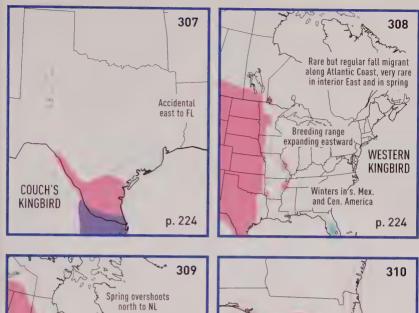


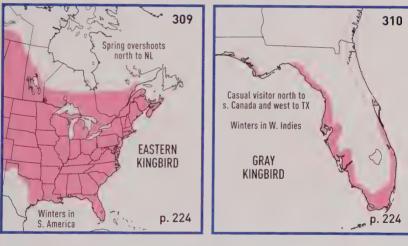


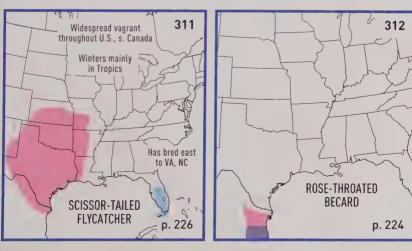


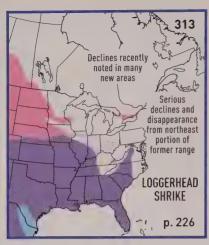


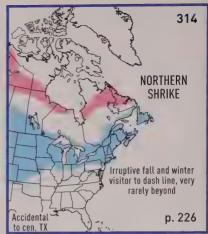


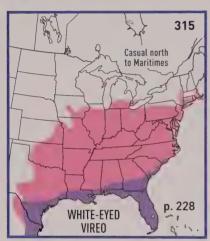


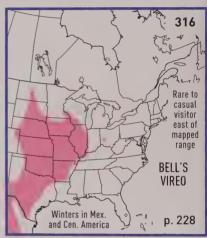


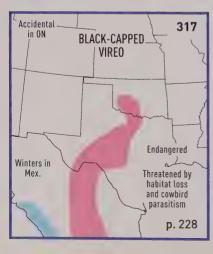


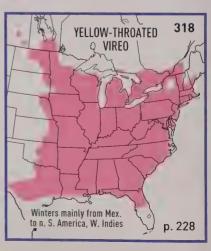


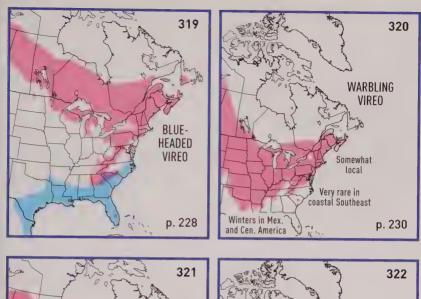


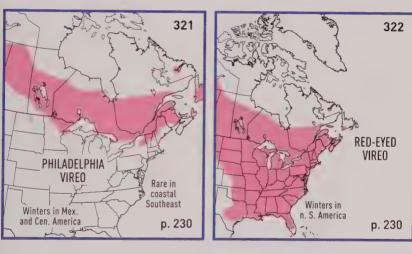


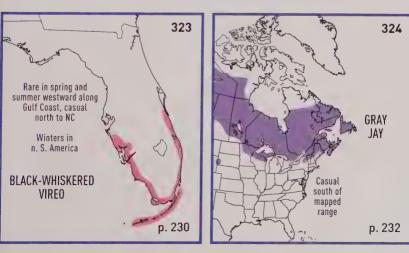


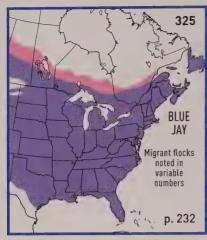








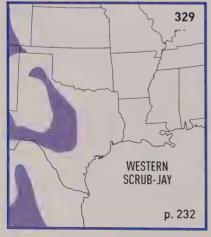


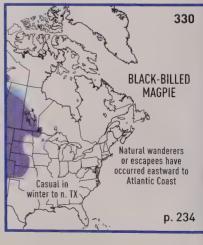


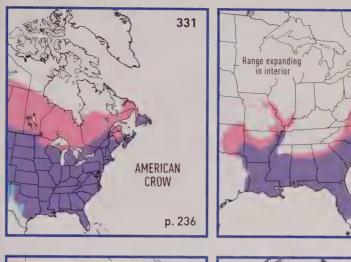








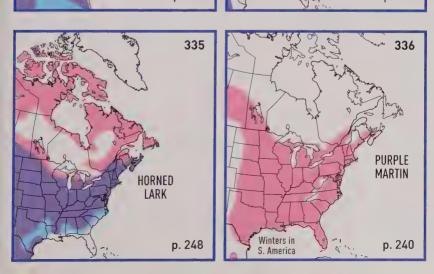




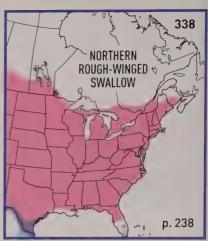
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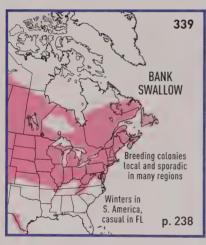
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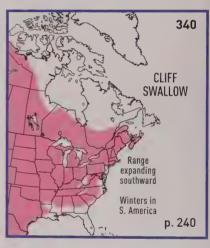


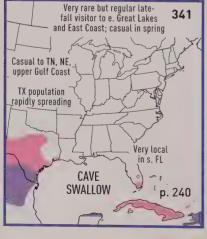


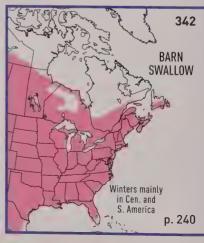


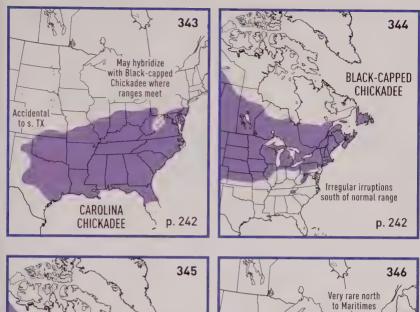


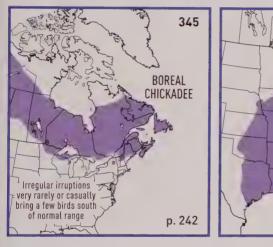


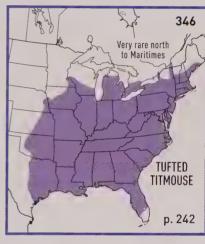


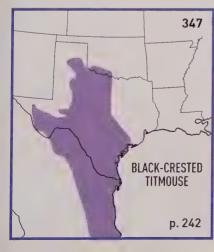




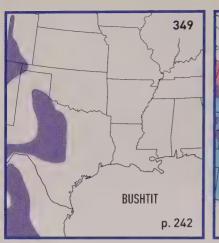


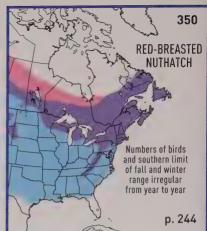


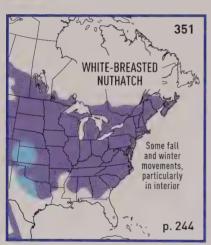


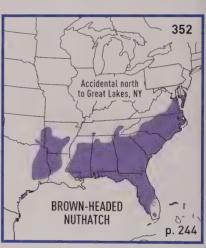




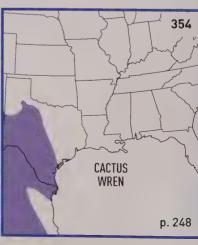


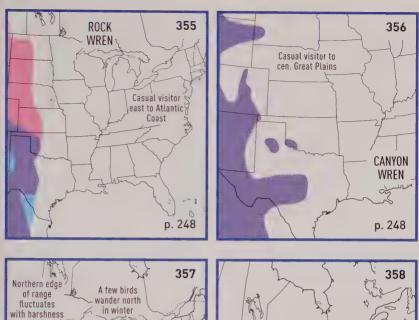




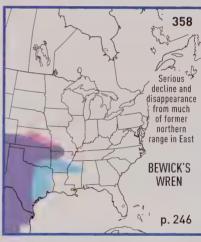


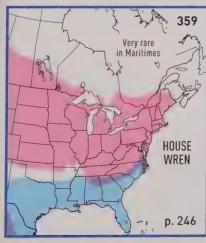


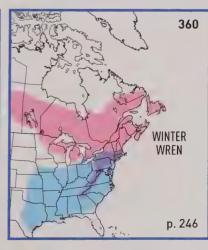


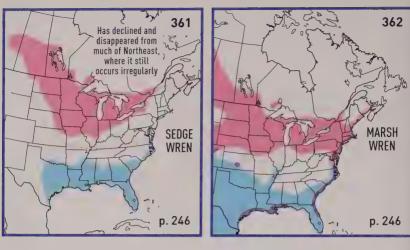


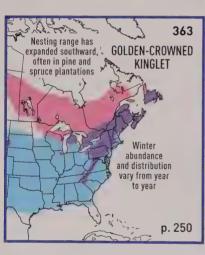




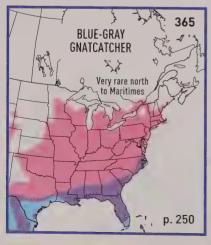






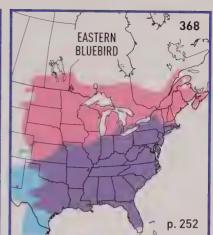


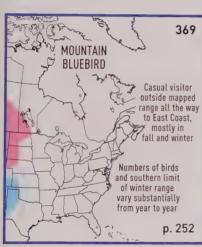


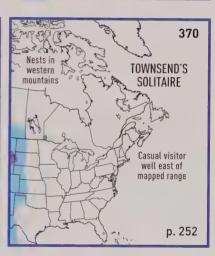


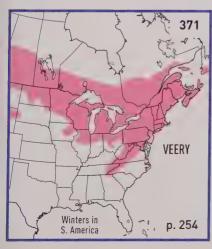




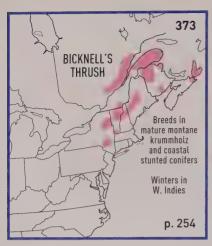


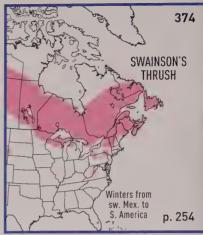


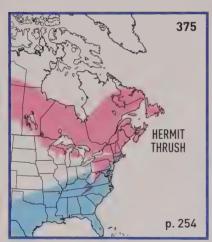


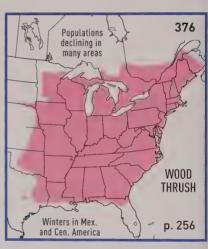


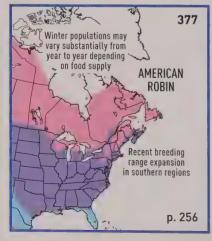


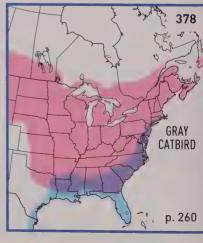


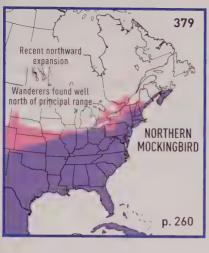


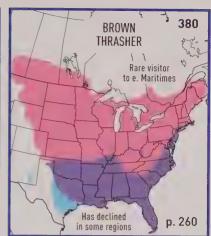




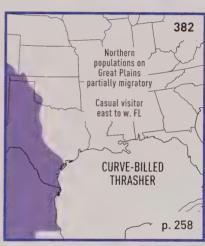


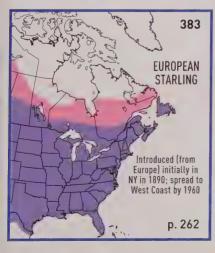




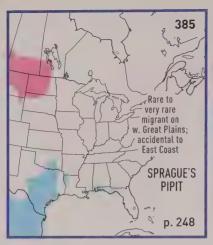


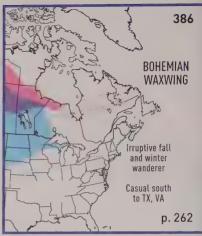


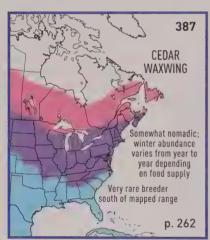


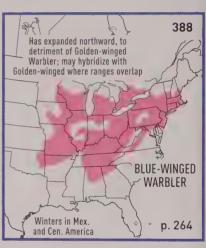


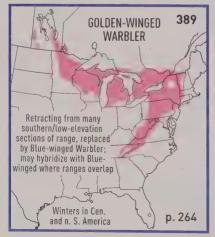


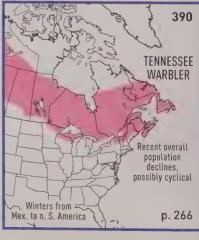


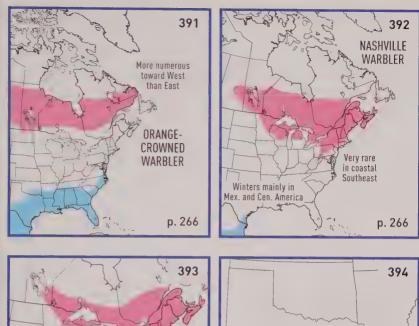


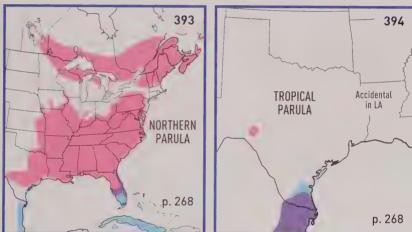


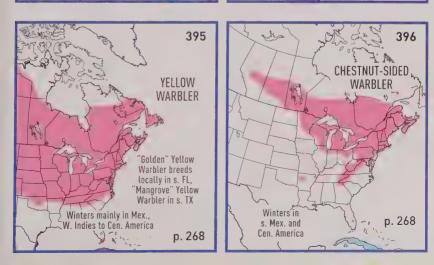


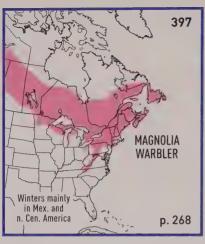


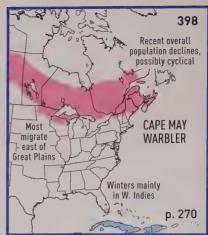


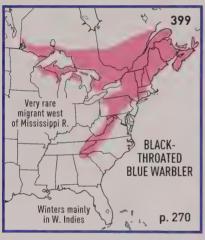


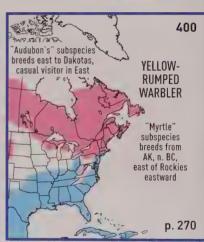


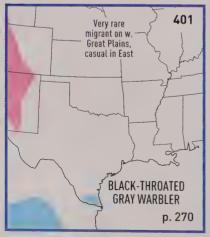


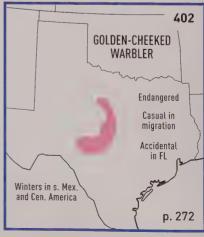


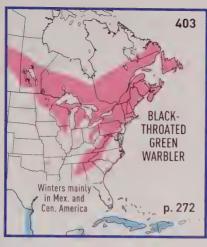


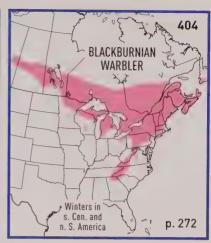


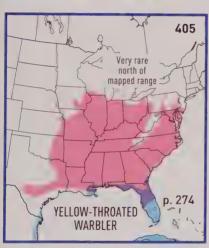


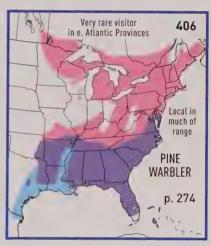


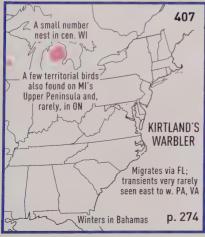


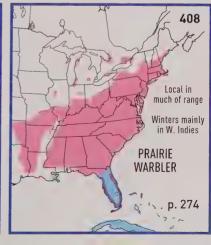


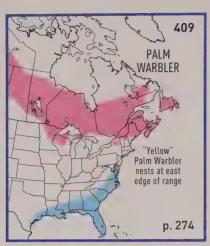


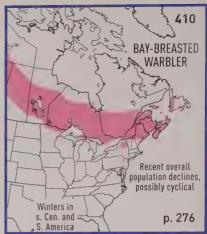




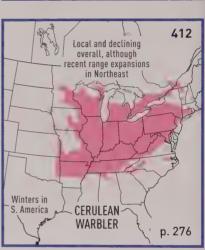


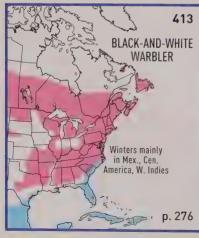




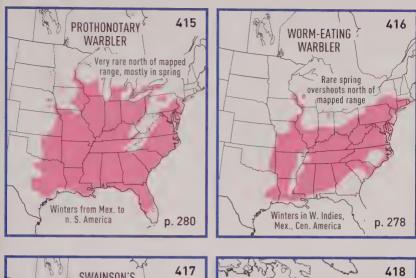


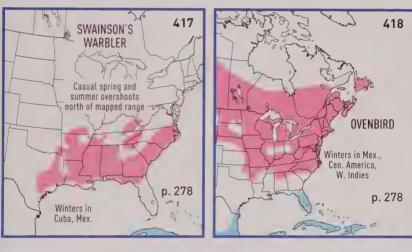


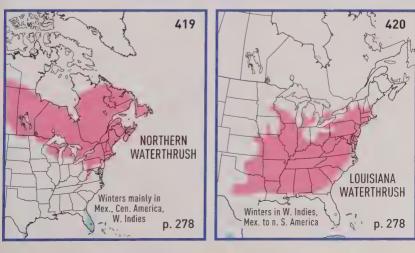


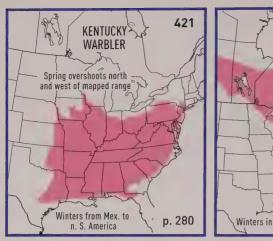


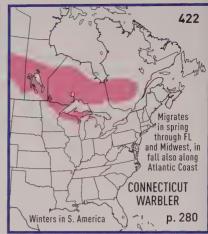


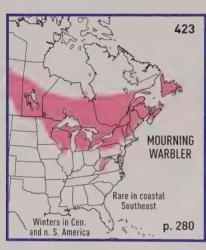


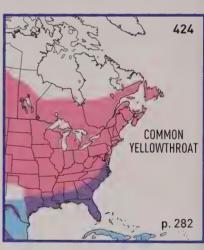


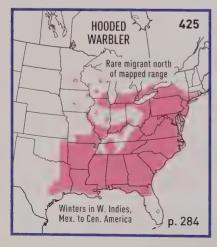


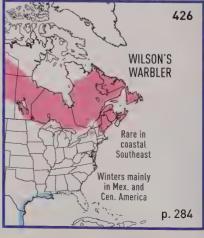


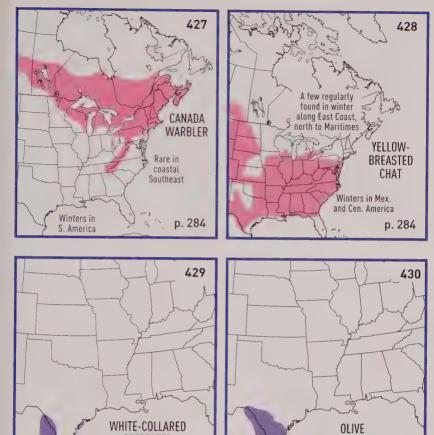






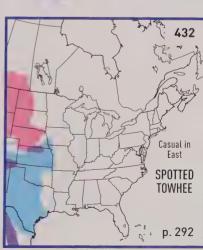






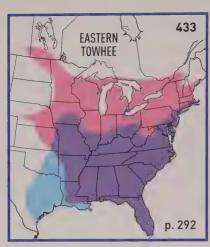


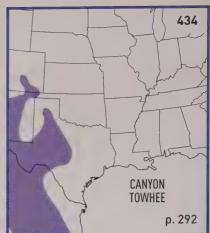
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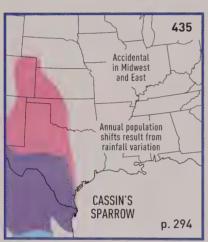


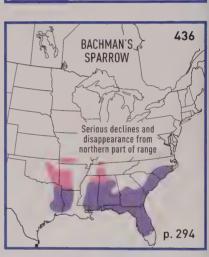
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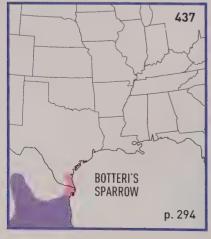
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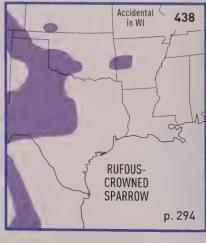


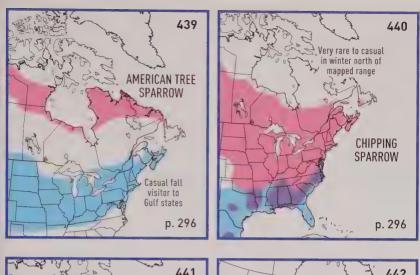


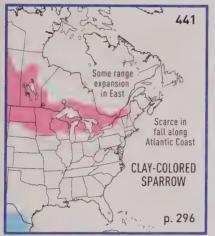


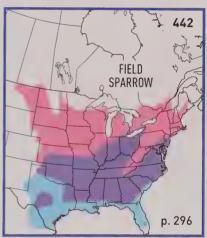


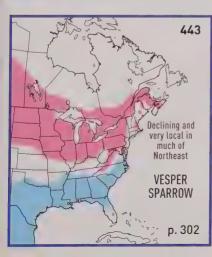


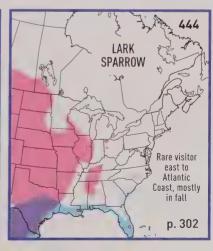


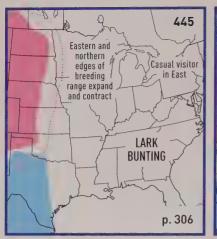




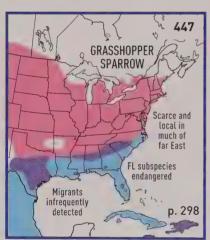


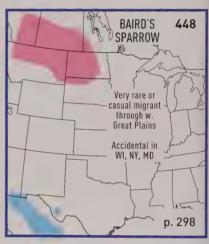








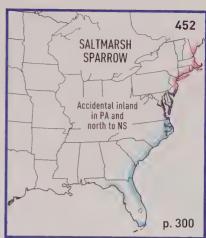




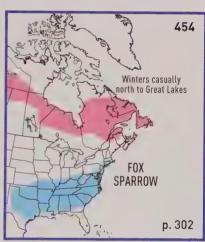


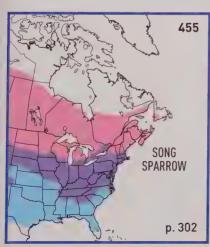




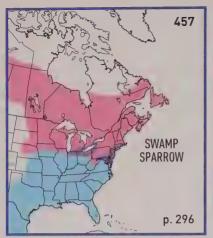


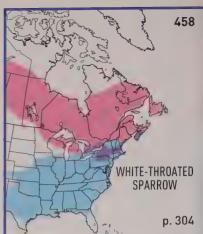




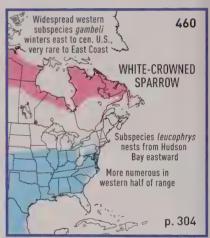


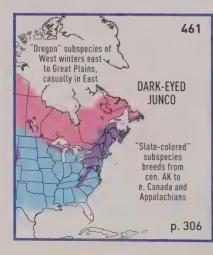


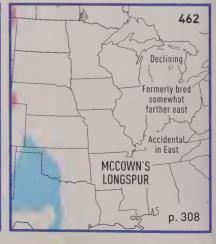


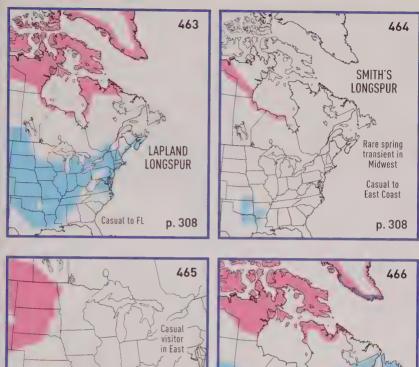


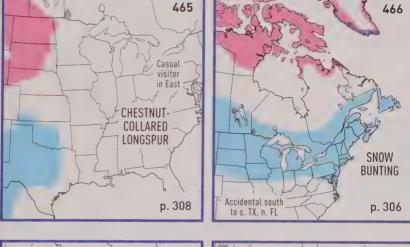


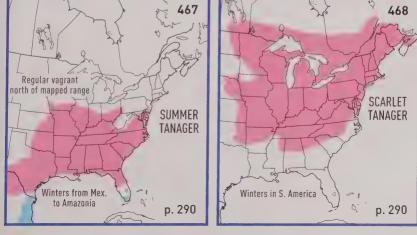


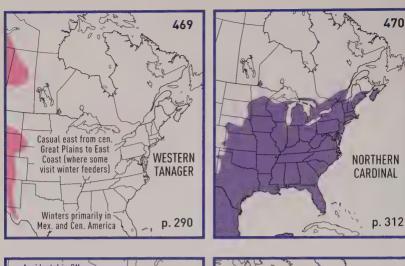


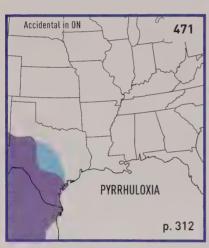


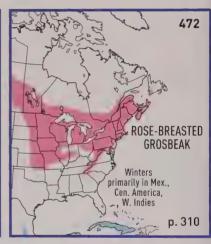


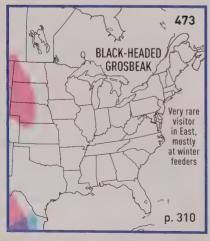


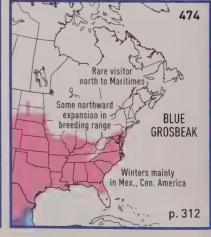


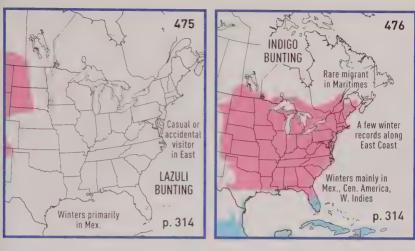


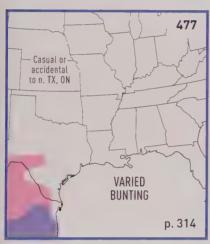


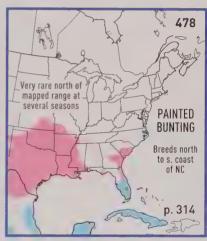


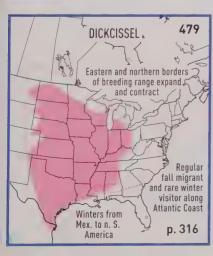


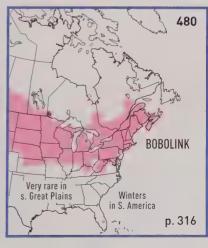


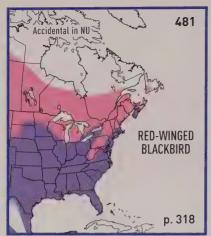


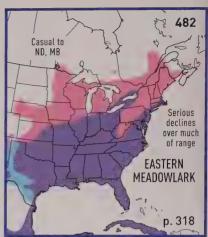


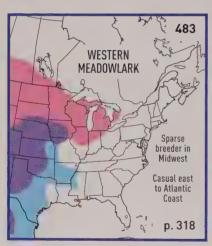


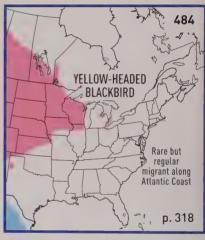


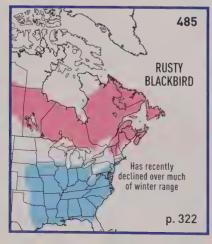


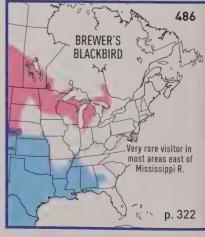


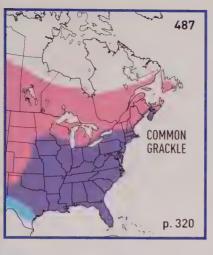


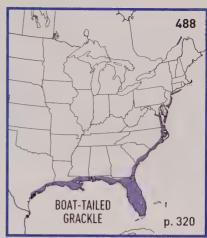


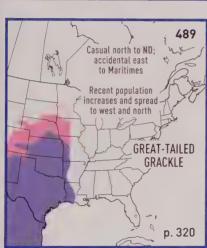






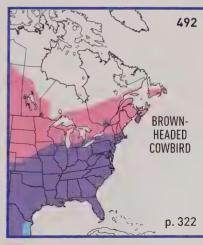


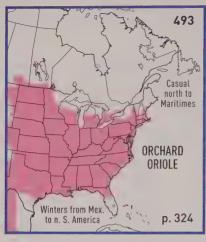


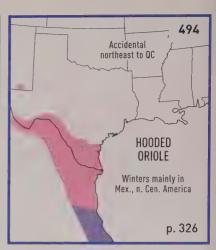


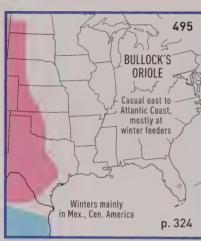


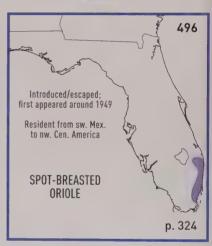


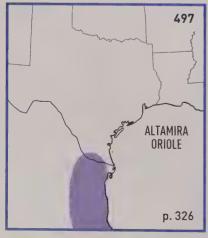


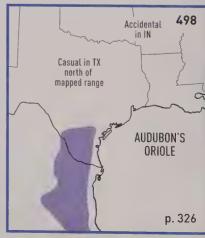




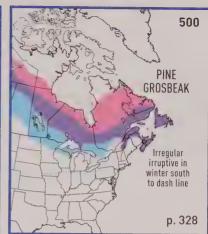


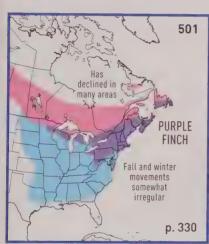


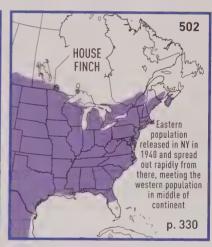


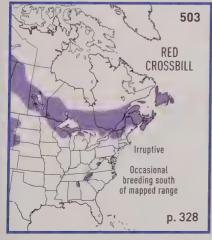


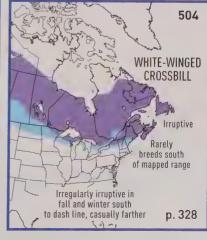


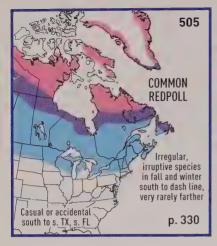




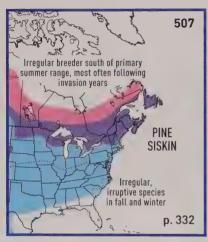


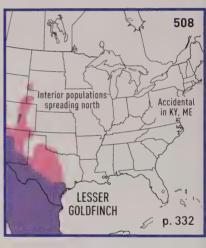


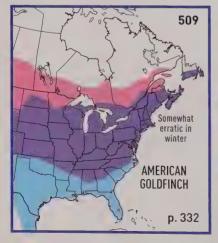




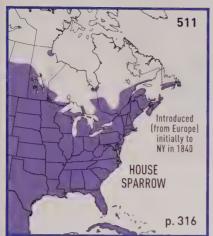


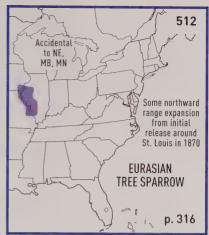


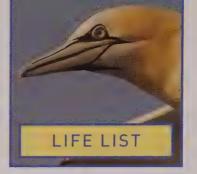












## Keep a Life List. Check off the birds you have seen.

The list on the following pages includes all of the birds shown on the plates, except for some of the accidentals that have not been verified.

For a checklist of all the birds of North America, see the *ABA Checklist: Birds of the Continental United States and Canada*, compiled by the Checklist Committee of the American Birding Association, 4945 North 30th Street, Suite 200, Colorado Springs, CO 80919-3151 (www.aba.org/checklist). It lists every species that has occurred north of the Mexican border.

In the following list, birds are grouped first under orders (identified by the Latin ending *-formes*), followed by families (*-dae* ending), and then species. Sequencing of orders and families follows the American Ornithologists' Union's Check-list of North American Birds (1998 through the 50th supplement, from 2009), as do the scientific names for genus and species. Scientific names are not given below but can be found in the species accounts throughout the book.

Species marked with an asterisk are exotic and unestablished. Though not countable on official ABA lists, they are included here because birders may encounter them and wish to record their sightings.

## ORDER ANSERIFORMES Cackling Goose Ducks, Geese, and Swans (Anatidae) Canada Goose Black-bellied Whistling-Duck Mute Swan Fulvous Whistling-Duck Trumpeter Swan Greater White-fronted Goose Tundra Swan Snow Goose Muscovy Duck Ross's Goose Wood Duck Brant Gadwall Barnacle Goose Eurasian Wigeon

American Wigeon American Black Duck Mallard M'ottled Duck Blue-winged Teal Cinnamon Teal Northern Shoveler White-cheeked Pintail Northern Pintail Garganey Baikal Teal Green-winged Teal Canvasback Redhead Ring-necked Duck Tufted Duck Greater Scaup Lesser Scaup King Eider Common Eider Harlequin Duck Surf Scoter White-winged Scoter Black Scoter Long-tailed Duck Bufflehead Common Goldeneye Barrow's Goldeneye Smew Hooded Merganser	Rock Ptarmigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Greater Prairie-Chicken Lesser Prairie-Chicken Wild Turkey ORDER GAVIIFORMES
	Loons (Gaviidae) Red-throated Loon Pacific Loon Common Loon Yellow-billed Loon  ORDER PODICIPEDIFORMES
	Grebes (Podicipedidae)Least GrebePied-billed GrebeHorned GrebeRed-necked GrebeEared GrebeWestern GrebeClark's Grebe
	ORDER PHOENICOPTERIFORMES
	Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)American Flamingo ORDER PROCELLARIIFORMES
Common Merganser Red-breasted Merganser Masked Duck Ruddy Duck  ORDER GALLIFORMES  Curassows and Guans (Cracidae) Plain Chachalaca New World Quail (Odontophoridae) Scaled Quail Northern Bobwhite  Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys, and Old World Quail (Phasianidae) Chukar Gray Partridge Ring-necked Pheasant Ruffed Grouse Spruce Grouse Willow Ptarmigan	Albatrosses (Diomedeidae) Yellow-nosed AlbatrossBlack-browed Albatross Shearwaters and Petrels

European Storm-Petrel Leach's Storm-Petrel Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	New World Vultures (Cathartidae) Black Vulture Turkey Vulture
ORDER PELECANIFORMES	ORDER FALCONIFORMES
Tropicbirds (Phaethontidae)  White-tailed Tropicbird  Red-billed Tropicbird  Boobies and Gannets (Sulidae)  Masked Booby Brown Booby	Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies (Accipitridae)OspreyHook-billed KiteSwallow-tailed KiteWhite-tailed Kite
Red-footed BoobyNorthern Gannet Pelicans (Pelecanidae)American White PelicanBrown Pelican Cormorants (Phalacrocoracidae)	Snail KiteMississippi KiteBald EagleNorthern HarrierSharp-shinned HawkCooper's Hawk
Neotropic Cormorant Double-crested Cormorant Great Cormorant Darters (Anhingidae) Anhinga Frigatebirds (Fregatidae) Magnificent Frigatebird	Northern GoshawkNorthern GoshawkRed-shouldered HawkBroad-winged HawkGray HawkShort-tailed Hawk Swainson's Hawk
ORDER CICONIIFORMES	Swallsoff's HawkWhite-tailed Hawk Zone-tailed Hawk
Bitterns, Herons, and Allies (Ardeidae) American Bittern Least Bittern Great Blue Heron Great Egret Little Egret Snowy Egret Little Blue Heron Tricolored Heron Reddish Egret Cattle Egret Cattle Egret Cattle Egret Cattle Heron	Red-tailed Hawk Ferruginous Hawk Rough-legged Hawk Golden Eagle Caracaras and Falcons (Falconidae) Crested Caracara American Kestrel Merlin Aplomado Falcon Gyrfalcon Peregrine Falcon Prairie Falcon
Black-crowned Night-Heron	ORDER GRUIFORMES
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Ibises and Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)White IbisGlossy IbisWhite-faced IbisRoseate Spoonbill Storks (Ciconiidae)Wood Stork	Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (Rallidae)Yellow RailBlack RailClapper RailKing RailVirginia RailSoraPurple Gallinule

Common Moorhen	Semipalmated Sandpiper
American Coot	Western Sandpiper
Limpkins (Aramidae)	Red-necked Stint
Limpkin	Little Stint
Cranes (Gruidae)	Least Sandpiper
Sándhill Crane	
Common Crane	White-rumped Sandpiper
	Baird's Sandpiper
Whooping Crane	Pectoral Sandpiper
ORDER CHARADRIIFORMES	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
	Purple Sandpiper
Lapwings and Plovers (Charadriidae)	Dunlin
Northern Lapwing	Curlew Sandpiper
Black-bellied Plover	Stilt Sandpiper
European Golden-Plover	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
American Golden-Plover	Ruff
Pacific Golden-Plover	Short-billed Dowitcher
Snowy Plover	Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Plover	Wilson's Snipe
Common Ringed Plover	American Woodcock
Semipalmated Plover	Wilson's Phalarope
Piping Plover	Red-necked Phalarope
Killdeer	Red Phalarope
Mountain Plover	Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers
	(Laridae)
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
American Oystercatcher	Black-legged Kittiwake
Stilts and Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	Ivory Gull
Black-necked Stilt	Sabine's Gull
American Avocet	Bonaparte's Gull
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	Black-headed Gull
Northern Jacana	Little Gull
Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies	Ross's Gull
(Scolopacidae)	Laughing Gull
Spotted Sandpiper	Franklin's Gull
Solitary Sandpiper	Black-tailed Gull
Spotted Redshank	Mew Gull
Greater Yellowlegs	Ring-billed Gull
Willet	California Gull
Lesser Yellowlegs	Herring Gull
Upland Sandpiper	Yellow-legged Gull
Eskimo Curlew	Thayer's Gull
Whimbrel	Iceland Gull
Long-billed Curlew	Lesser Black-backed Gull
Black-tailed Godwit	Slaty-backed Gull
	Glaucous Gull
Hudsonian Godwit	Great Black-backed Gull
Bar-tailed Godwit	
Marbled Godwit	Brown Noddy
Ruddy Turnstone	Black Noddy
Red Knot	Sooty Tern
Sanderling	Bridled Tern

Least TernGull-billed TernBlack TernWhite-winged TernRoseate TernCommon TernArctic TernForster's TernSandwich TernBlack Skimmer Skuas and Jaegers (Stercorariidae)Great SkuaPomarine JaegerParasitic JaegerLong-tailed Jaeger Auks, Murres, and Puffins (Alcidae)DovekieCommon MurreThick-billed MurreRazorbillBlack GuillemotLong-billed MurreletAncient MurreletAtlantic Puffin  ORDER COLUMBIFORMES  Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)Rock PigeonWhite-crowned PigeonBand-tailed PigeonBand-tailed PigeonBand-tailed PigeonBand-tailed PigeonBand-tailed PigeonBand-tailed PigeonBand-tailed Pigeon	Green Parakeet  Mitred Parakeet*  Black-hooded Parakeet*  White-winged Parakeet  White-fronted Parrot*  Yellow-chevroned Parrakeet*  Red-crowned Parrot  Lilac-crowned Parrot*  Yellow-headed Parrot*  Red-lored Parrot*
	Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis (Cuculidae) Yellow-billed Cuckoo Mangrove Cuckoo Black-billed Cuckoo Greater Roadrunner Smooth-billed Ani Groove-billed Ani
	Barn Owls (Tytonidae) Barn Owl Typical Owls (Strigidae) Eastern Screech-Owl Great Horned Owl Snowy Owl Northern Hawk Owl Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl Elf Owl Burrowing Owl Barred Owl Great Gray Owl Long-eared Owl Short-eared Owl Northern Saw-whet Owl ORDER CAPRIMULGIFORMES
	Lories, Parakeets, Macaws, and Parrots (Psittacidae)BudgerigarMonk Parakeet

ORDER APODIFORMES	
	Willow Flycatcher
Swifts (Apodidae)	Least Flycatcher
Chimney Swift	Black Phoebe
Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)	Eastern Phoebe
Green Violetear	Say's Phoebe
Gréen-breasted Mango	Vermilion Flycatcher
Broad-billed Hummingbird	Ash-throated Flycatcher
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	Great Crested Flycatcher
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Brown-crested Flycatcher
Black-chinned Hummingbird	La Sagra's Flycatcher
Calliope Hummingbird	Great Kiskadee
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Tropical Kingbird
Rufous Hummingbird	Couch's Kingbird
Allen's Hummingbird	Western Kingbird
ORDER CORACIIFORMES	Eastern Kingbird
	Gray Kingbird
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Ringed Kingfisher	Fork-tailed Flycatcher
Belted Kingfisher	Rose-throated Becard
Green Kingfisher	Shrikes (Laniidae)
ORDER PICIFORMES	Loggerhead Shrike
	Northern Shrike
Woodpeckers and Allies (Picidae)	Vireos (Vireonidae)
Red-headed Woodpecker	White-eyed Vireo
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	Bell's Vireo
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Black-capped Vireo
Williamson's Sapsucker	Yellow-throated Vireo
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Red-naped Sapsucker	Blue-headed Vireo
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Warbling Vireo Philadelphia Vireo
Downy Woodpecker	
Bowny Woodpecker	Red-eyed Vireo Yellow-green Vireo
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Black-whiskered Vireo
American Three-toed	Jays and Crows (Corvidae)
Woodpecker	Gray Jay
Black-backed Woodpecker	Blue Jay
Northern Flicker	Green Jay
Pileated Woodpecker	Brown Jay
Ivory-billed Woodpecker	Florida Scrub-Jay
	Western Scrub-Jay
ORDER PASSERIFORMES	Black-billed Magpie
Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)	American Crow
Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet	Tamaulipas Crow
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Fish Crow
Western Wood-Pewee	Chihuahuan Raven
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Common Raven
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Larks (Alaudidae)
Acadian Flycatcher	Horned Lark
Alder Flycatcher	

Swallows (Hirundinidae)	Townsend's Solitaire
Purple Martin	Veery
Tree Swallow	Gray-cheeked Thrush
Violet-green Swallow	Bicknell's Thrush
Northern Rough-winged	Swainson's Thrush
Swallow	Hermit Thrush
Bank Swallow	Wood Thrush
Cliff Swallow	Fieldfare
Cave Swallow	Redwing
Barn Swallow	Clay-colored Thrush
Chickadees and Titmice (Paridae)	Rufous-backed Robin
Carolina Chickadee	American Robin
Black-capped Chickadee	Varied Thrush
Boreal Chickadee	Mockingbirds and Thrashers
Gray-headed Chickadee	(Mimidae)
Tufted Titmouse	Gray Catbird
Black-crested Titmouse	Northern Mockingbird
Verdin (Remizidae)	Bahama Mockingbird
Verdin	Sage Thrasher
Bushtits (Aegithalidae)	Brown Thrasher
Bushtit	Long-billed Thrasher
Nuthatches (Sittidae)	Curve-billed Thrasher
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Starlings (Sturnidae)
White-breasted Nuthatch	European Starling
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Hill Myna*
Creepers (Certhiidae)	Common Myna
Brown Creeper	Wagtails and Pipits (Motacillidae)
Wrens (Troglodytidae)	American Pipit
Cactus Wren	Sprague's Pipit
Rock Wren	Waxwings (Bombycillidae)
Canyon Wren	Bohemian Waxwing
Carolina Wren	Cedar Waxwing
Bewick's Wren	Wood-Warblers (Parulidae)
House Wren	Bachman's Warbler
Winter Wren	Blue-winged Warbler
Sedge Wren	Golden-winged Warbler
Marsh Wren	Tennessee Warbler
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
Red-whiskered Bulbul	Orange-crowned Warbler Nashville Warbler
Kinglets (Regulidae)	Northern Parula
Golden-crowned Kinglet	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Tropical Parula Yellow Warbler
Old World Warblers and Gnatcatchers	
(Sylviidae)	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Magnolia Warbler
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	Cape May Warbler
Thrushes (Turdidae)	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Northern Wheatear	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Eastern Bluebird	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Mountain Bluebird	Golden-cheeked Warbler
Moditalli bidebilid	Black-throated Green Warbler

Townsond's Warbler	DI 1.11 1.10
Townsend's Warbler	Black-throated Sparrow
Blackburnian Warbler	Lark Bunting
Yellow-throated Warbler	Savannah Sparrow
Pińe Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow
Kirtland's Warbler	Baird's Sparrow
Prairie Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow
Bay-breasted Warbler	Le Conte's Sparrow
Blackpoll Warbler	Nelson's Sparrow
Cerulean Warbler	Saltmarsh Sparrow
Black-and-white Warbler	Seaside Sparrow
American Redstart	Fox Sparrow
Prothonotary Warbler	Song Sparrow
Worm-eating Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow
Swainson's Warbler	Swamp Sparrow
Ovenbird	White-throated Sparrow
Northern Waterthrush	Harris's Sparrow
Louisiana Waterthrush	White-crowned Sparrow
Kentucky Warbler	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Connecticut Warbler	Dark-eyed Junco
Mourning Warbler	McCown's Longspur
Common Yellowthroat	Lapland Longspur
Gray-crowned Yellowthroat	Smith's Longspur
Hooded Warbler	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Wilson's Warbler	Snow Bunting
Canada Warbler	Cardinals, Saltators, and Allies
Fan-tailed Warbler	(Cardinalidae)
Golden-crowned Warbler	Summer Tanager
Rufous-capped Warbler	Scarlet Tanager
Yellow-breasted Chat	Western Tanager
Bananaquits	Crimson-collared Grosbeak
Bananaquit	Northern Cardinal
Tanagers (Thraupidae)	Pyrrhuloxia
Western Spindalis	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Emberizids (Emberizidae)	Black-headed Grosbeak
White-collared Seedeater	Blue Bunting
Olive Sparrow	Blue Grosbeak
Green-tailed Towhee	Lazuli Bunting
Spotted Towhee	Indigo Bunting
Eastern Towhee	Varied Bunting
Canyon Towhee	Painted Bunting
Cassin's Sparrow	Dickcissel
Bachman's Sparrow	Blackbirds (Icteridae)
Botteri's Sparrow	Bobolink
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	Red-winged Blackbird
American Tree Sparrow	Eastern Meadowlark
Chipping Sparrow	Western Meadowlark
Clay-colored Sparrow	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Field Sparrow	Rusty Blackbird
Vesper Sparrow	Brewer's Blackbird
Lark Sparrow	Common Grackle

Purple Finch
House Finch
Red Crossbill
White-winged Crossbill
Common Redpoll
Hoary Redpoll
Pine Siskin
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American Goldfinch
European Goldfinch*
Evening Grosbeak
Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)
House Sparrow
Eurasian Tree Sparrow



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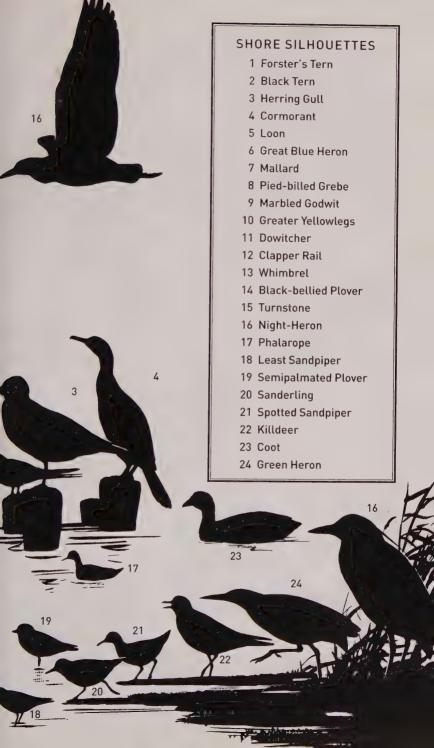
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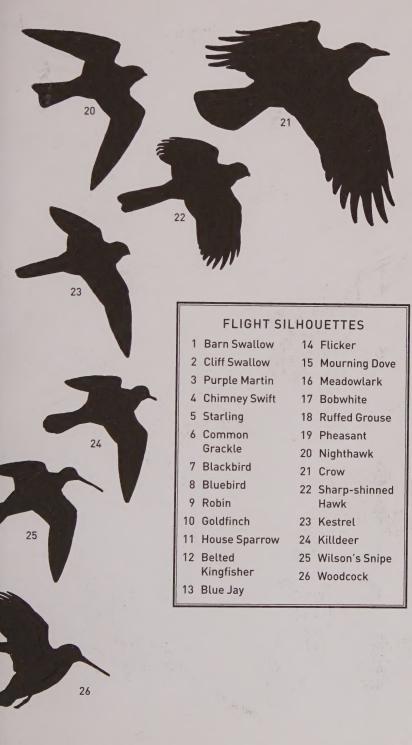
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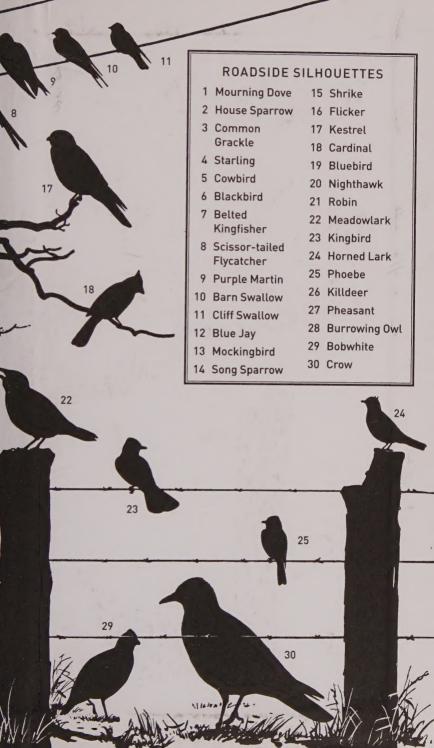












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