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# BACKYARD BIRDS



**51 FAVORITES**

**Tips to Attract Them • Colorful Photo IDs  
Full Range Maps • and Much MORE!**

# DISCOVER THE BIRDS IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

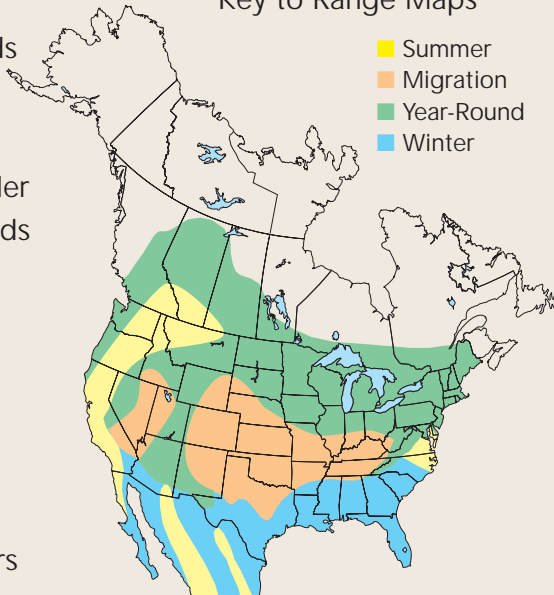
DO YOU want to know more about the birds that share your backyard? Then this *Birds & Blooms Backyard Birds Pocket Guide* will be a reference you'll want to keep handy. Quickly identify 51 common songbirds—from the ones that serenade you from the back fence, to those that stop at your feeders on a regular basis.

## Quick Index by Bird Families

- 3 Thrushes
- 6 Mockingbirds
- 7 Tanagers
- 9 Finches
- 17 Wood-Warbler
- 18 Hummingbirds
- 20 Crows
- 21 Blackbirds
- 24 Nuthatches
- 25 Titmice
- 26 Swallows
- 28 Wrens
- 29 Woodpeckers

### Key to Range Maps

- Summer
- Migration
- Year-Round
- Winter



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# Mountain Bluebird



Roland Jordahl

**Scientific Name:** *Sialia currucoides*.

**Family:** Thrush.

**Length:** 7-1/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 14 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Males are brilliant blue all over. Females are gray overall with pale-blue feathers on tail and wings.

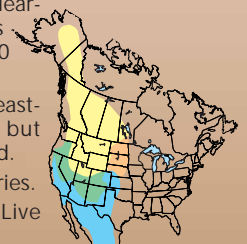
**Nest:** Pair builds a grass nest in cavity or birdhouse. Lays four to six pale-blue eggs between April and July.

**Habitat:** Meadows, clearings and open forests at elevations of 10,000 to 12,000 feet.

**Song:** Similar to the eastern bluebird's song, but slightly higher pitched.

**Diet:** Insects and berries.

**Backyard Favorite:** Live mealworms.





## Eastern Bluebird

**Scientific Name:** *Sialia sialis*.

**Family:** Thrush.

**Length:** 7 inches.

**Wingspan:** 13 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Male has blue back, wings and head, with a white belly. Orange on breast extends onto throat. Females have the same markings, but duller.

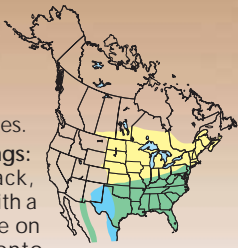
**Nest:** Built mostly by the female, in cavity or birdhouse. She lays four to six pale-blue, sometimes white, eggs between March and July.

**Song:** Soft warble, "tru-al-ly, tru-al-ly."

**Habitat:** Open backyards and farmland.

**Diet:** Insects and berries.

**Backyard Favorite:** Live mealworms.



Barbara Jaska

## American Robin

**Scientific Name:** *Turdus migratorius*.

**Family:** Thrush.

**Length:** 10 inches.

**Wingspan:** 17 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Male has orange breast, black head and tail, yellow bill, white around eyes and on throat. Females are duller.

**Nest:** Three to four pastel-blue eggs in a neat deep cup made of mud and grass.

**Song:** Loud liquid song, "cheerily, cheer-up, cheerio."

**Habitat:** Yards, fields, farms and woods.

**Diet:** Earthworms. Also eats insects, berries and some seeds.

**Backyard Favorites:** Fresh fruit, raisins, hulled sunflower seeds and peanut butter.



Roland Joubert

## Western Bluebird

**Scientific Name:** *Sialia mexicana*.

**Family:** Thrush.

**Length:** 7 inches.

**Wingspan:** 13-1/2 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Male has blue back, wings, head and throat, plus a bluish tinge on belly. Orange on breast extends onto back. Females have the same markings, but are much duller.

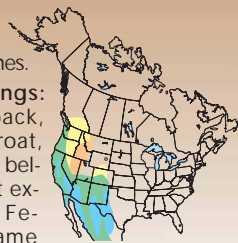
**Nest:** Pair builds a nest of grasses in a cavity or birdhouse, then lines it with finer grasses. The female lays four to six pale-blue eggs in April and May.

**Song:** A subdued "f-few, f-few, f-few."

**Habitat:** Open woodlands with scattered old trees, plus farmland and orchards.

**Diet:** Insects and berries.

**Backyard Favorite:** Live mealworms.



Victoria Emms

## Wood Thrush

**Scientific Name:** *Hylocichla mustelina*.

**Family:** Thrush.

**Length:** 7-3/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 13 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Potbelled bird similar in shape to an American robin. Bright reddish crown and neck, white eye ring and a bold black-spotted breast.

**Nest:** Females build nest in the crotch of a tree or shrub. Resembles a robin's nest.

**Song:** Tranquil, peaceful liquid song. Sounds like "Ger-al-deeeen."

**Diet:** Insects and a wide range of fruits and berries.

**Backyard Favorites:** Feeders with fruit or bird cakes made with cornmeal, peanut butter and beef suet.



Mickowski Productions

## Gray Catbird

**Scientific Name:** *Dumetella carolinensis*.

**Family:** Mockingbird.

**Length:** 8-1/2 inches.

**Wingspan:** 11 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Slate-gray body with a black cap and tail, rust-red feathers under tail.

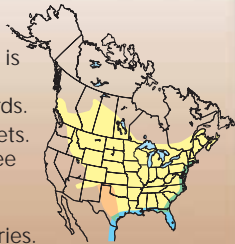
**Nest:** Builds nests in garden shrubs or thickets near creeks or swamps. Females usually lay four glossy dark greenish-blue eggs; often raises two broods in one season.

**Song:** Alarm call is a catlike mewing; song is a mix of notes, may mimic other songbirds.

**Habitat:** Dense thickets. Easier to hear than see because they hide in dense shrubbery.

**Diet:** Insects and berries.

**Backyard Favorites:** Will eat grape jelly.



Roland Jordahl

## Northern Mockingbird

**Scientific Name:** *Mimus polyglottos*.

**Family:** Mockingbird.

**Length:** 10 inches. **Wingspan:** 14 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Both sexes are gray with grayish-white undersides and white patches on the bottom of their wings.

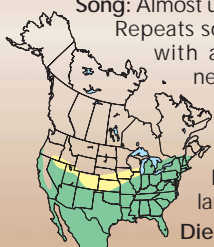
**Nest:** Pairs build cup-shaped nests in the fork of a shrub. Lays three to six blue or green eggs with brown splotches.

**Song:** Almost unlimited variations. Repeats songs several times with a pause before a new series.

**Habitat:** Backyards, pastures, orchards, farm hedges and woodland edges.

**Diet:** Insects, fruit and berries.

**Backyard Favorites:** Berry-producing plants, apple slices, peanut butter, suet, mealworms and raisins.



LeRoy Downum

## Western Tanager



Manowski Productions

**Scientific Name:** *Piranga ludoviciana*.

**Family:** Tanager.

**Length:** 7-1/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 11-1/2 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Male has bright-yellow body, black wings with prominent white bars. Red head in spring and summer. Female is yellow with gray back.

**Nest:** Three to five bluish-green eggs with irregular brown spots. Builds loose

nest of twigs high in the trees.

**Song:** Similar to a robin, "Queer-it, queer. Queer-it, queer."

**Habitat:** Mature forests.

**Diet:** Insects and fruit.

**Backyard Favorites:** Dried fruit, orange halves and sugar water.





## Scarlet Tanager

**Scientific Name:** *Piranga olivacea*.

**Family:** Tanager.

**Length:** 7 inches.

**Wingspan:** 11-1/2 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Male is fire red with black wings until fall, when they molt to a humble yellow-green appearance. Females look identical to yellow-green males, except with black wings and tails.

**Nest:** Females build shallow saucer-shaped nests.

**Song:** Five phrases in a rapid pattern, similar to an American robin with a sore throat.

**Habitat:** Tends to stay high in treetops.

**Diet:** Insects in forests, parks and suburban residential areas.

**Backyard Favorites:** Orange halves, sugar water and grape jelly.



Roland Jordahl

## Summer Tanager

**Scientific Name:** *Piranga rubra*.

**Family:** Tanager.

**Length:** 7-3/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 12 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:**

Males have an overall bright rose-red color throughout the year. Females range between a yellowish orange and green.

**Nest:** Shallow cup on a dogwood, oak or pine limb. Four pale-blue or green eggs, speckled with browns and grays.

**Song:** Five to 10 robinlike musical phrases.

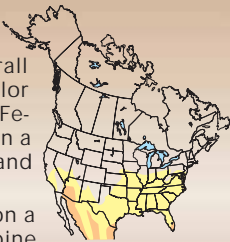
**Habitat:** Dry open woods, preferably near water.

**Diet:** Bees and wasps, larvae hanging from eaves.

**Backyard Favorites:** Sugar water and grape jelly.



K.D. McGraw



## American Goldfinch



Roland Jordahl

**Scientific Name:** *Carduelis tristis*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 5 inches. **Wingspan:** 9 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** In spring and summer, males are bright yellow with black wings, tail and forehead. Females are duller yellow with white wing bars. In winter, both males and females are olive brown with wing bars.

**Nest:** Cup-shaped nest, lined with thistle or milkweed. Lays four to six pale-

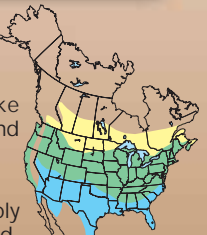
blue eggs.

**Song:** Melodic "per-chick-o-ree, per-chick-o-ree."

**Habitat:** Open areas like yards, fields, fencerows and groves.

**Diet:** Seeds and berries.

**Backyard Favorites:** Supply nyjer (thistle) in a tube feeder with multiple ports, or in a nylon stocking.



## Purple Finch

**Scientific Name:** *Carpodacus purpureus*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 6 inches. **Wingspan:** 10 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Male is a raspberry tinge, brightest on head and rump. Tail is notched. Females and juveniles are brown-gray striped.

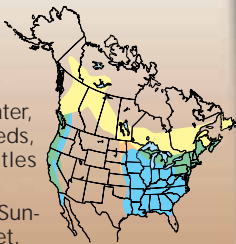
**Nest:** Prefers trees in dense foliage. Females lays four to five pale green-blue eggs speckled with blacks and browns.

**Song:** An unstructured but melodious, "fridi ferdi frididifri fridi fr" call.

**Habitat:** Openings in swamps, along streams and hillsides near feeding stations.

**Diet:** Mostly a seed-eater, but also feeds on weeds, grasses, berries, beetles and caterpillars.

**Backyard Favorites:** Sunflower seeds and millet.



H. Ollereinstaw

## Red Crossbill

**Scientific Name:** *Loxia curvirostra*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 6-1/2 inches.

**Wingspan:** 11 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Upper and lower parts of bill twist and overlap. Males are brick red, with dark wings and a notched black tail. Females are dusky buff yellow with dusky-black wings.

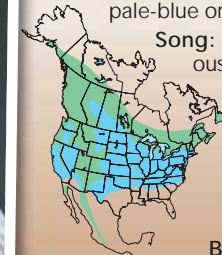
**Nest:** Saucer-like nests near tips of conifer branches. Lay three to five brown spotted pale-blue or pale-green eggs.

**Song:** Courting males sing various whistle notes and warbled phrases.

**Habitat:** Coniferous forests in northern United States and Canada.

**Diet:** Tree, sunflower and nyjer seeds.

**Backyard Favorites:** They are drawn to road salt, so a salt lick will keep them safely off the roadways.



John W. Herbst

## House Finch

**Scientific Name:** *Carpodacus mexicanus*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 6 inches. **Wingspan:** 9-1/2 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Males have reddish foreheads, breasts and rumps. Females and juveniles are streaked grayish brown. All have brown-streaked bellies.

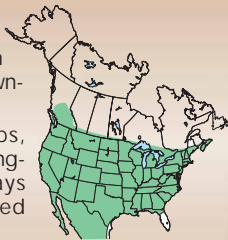
**Nest:** Low in shrubs, door wreaths or hanging flowerpots; lays four to five spotted bluish-white eggs.

**Song:** A varied warble, often ending in a long "veerrr."

**Habitat:** Any wooded area or backyard.

**Diet:** Seeds of berries and weeds.

**Backyard Favorites:** Nyjer, sunflower, mixed birdseed, peanuts, fruit, suet and sugar water.



Roland Jendahl

## Pine Siskin

**Scientific Name:** *Carduelis pinus*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 5 inches. **Wingspan:** 9 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Both sexes appear similar, with brown-streaked bodies and touches of yellow on wings and tails. Males have more yellow plumage, visible during flight.

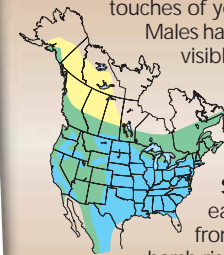
**Nest:** Females build shallow nests of twigs and grasses, lined with fur or feathers.

**Song:** Canary-like calls early in the morning range from a tuneful "sweet" to a harsh rising "zzzzz" sound.

**Habitat:** Backyards and coniferous forests.

**Diet:** Seeds, nuts, vegetable shoots, rock salt and insects.

**Backyard Favorites:** Nyjer (thistle) in a tube feeder with multiple perches. Also will eat cracked sunflower seeds.



Masowski Productions



## Rose-Breasted Grosbeak

**Scientific Name:** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 8 inches.

**Wingspan:** 12-1/2 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Male is black and white with a triangle of rose red on his breast. Females are dark brown with white underparts that are streaked like a sparrow.

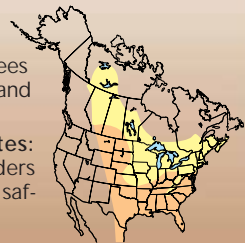
**Nest:** Males and females build loosely constructed nests.

**Song:** Long, continuous robinlike whistle.

**Habitat:** Small trees and shrubs along gardens and parks.

**Diet:** Forages in trees for seeds, insects and fruit.

**Backyard Favorites:** May come to feeders for sunflower and safflower seeds.



Marilyn Desjardins

## Northern Cardinal

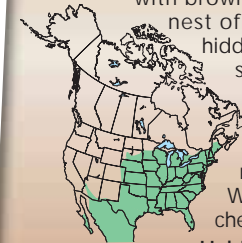
**Scientific Name:** *Cardinalis cardinalis*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 8-3/4 inches. **Wingspan:** 12 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Male is bright red with a black face. Also has a prominent crest and red bill. Female is fawn colored with red accents.

**Nest:** Three to four whitish-gray eggs with brown speckles. Builds a nest of twigs and grasses hidden in dense trees or shrubs.

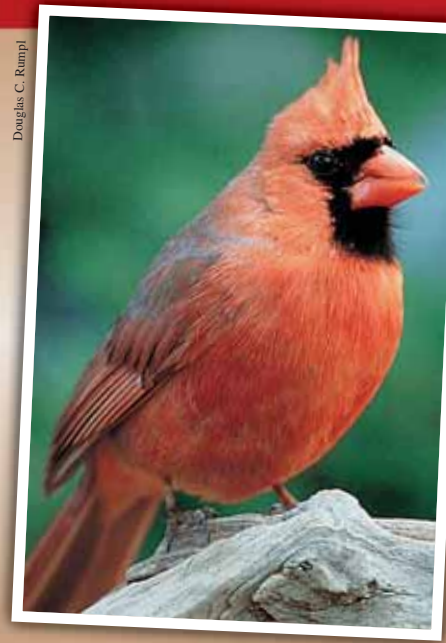


**Song:** Over 2 dozen different songs. Most common is "What cheer! What cheer! What cheer!"

**Habitat:** Sheltered backyards, woodland edges and parks.

**Diet:** Seeds and insects.

**Backyard Favorites:** Sunflower seeds and cracked corn.



Douglas C. Rumpf

## Black-Headed Grosbeak

**Scientific Name:** *Pheucticus melanocephalus*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 8-1/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 12-1/2 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:**

Males have black head, brownish-orange underparts and bicolored bill; black and white tail and white wing patches. Female is brown with striped head, back and sides.

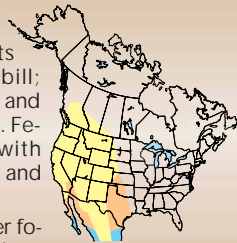
**Nest:** In dense outer foliage of tree or shrub.

**Song:** Whistled warble, faster, higher and choppier than the rose-breasted.

**Habitat:** Along water and open woods.

**Diet:** Seeds, berries and insects.

**Backyard Favorites:** Sunflower and safflower seeds.



George H. Harrison

## Evening Grosbeak

**Scientific Name:** *Coccothraustes vespertinus*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 8 inches. **Wingspan:** 14 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Males have a bright-yellow and brownish body, black tail, white wing patches and yellow band above their eyes. Females are grayish overall with similar markings.

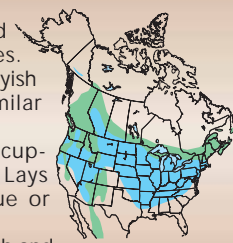
**Nest:** Shallow cup-shaped nests. Lays two to five blue or turquoise eggs.

**Song:** Sharp, high and trilling "kleerr" call.

**Habitat:** Lives year-round in coniferous forests of northern U.S. and Canada, and in Western mountains.

**Diet:** Tree buds, seeds and some insects.

**Backyard Favorites:** Scatter sunflower seeds on the ground or in feeders.



K. D. McGraw

## Indigo Bunting

**Scientific Name:** *Passerina cyanea*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 5-1/2 inches.

**Wingspan:** 8 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:**

Males are completely blue during breeding season. Females are plain brown with buff-colored streaks and a hint of blue in their wing feathers.

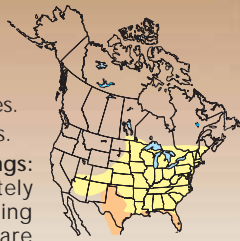
**Nest:** Cup-shaped nests hidden 2 to 12 feet off the ground in weeds or shrubs. Lays three or four bluish-white eggs.

**Song:** Rapid double notes, "sweet-sweet, zee-zee, seer-seer, sip-sip."

**Habitat:** Overgrown fields, orchards, roadsides, thickets and open spaces near woods.

**Diet:** Seeds, insects, grains and berries.

**Backyard Favorites:** Nyjer (thistle) on the ground or in a tube feeder; likes birdbaths.



Sarah E. Lenz

## Painted Bunting

**Scientific Name:** *Passerina ciris*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 5-1/2 inches.

**Wingspan:** 8-3/4 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Male has patchwork coloring—purple blue on head, bright-red eye rings, green on back, red on rump and underparts. Females aren't as colorful, but are the only all-green sparrow-like birds in North America.

**Nest:** Low cup-shaped nests in thick foliage.

**Song:** Sweet warble, similar to an indigo bunting.

**Habitat:** Stays in thick cover; lives in brushy fields, gullies and thickets.

**Diet:** Insects, weed and grass seeds, sunflower seeds and rice.

**Backyard Favorites:** Stops at feeders for cracked sunflower seeds and white millet.

Roland Jordahl



## Lazuli Bunting

**Scientific Name:** *Passerina amoena*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 5-1/2 inches.

**Wingspan:** 8-3/4 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Male has a bright-blue head, back and tail, cinnamon feathers across its chest and a white belly. Winter feathers are streaked with tan. Females are a buff color.

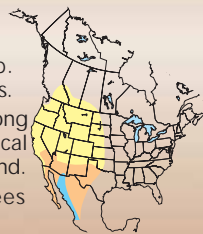
**Nest:** Constructs a cup of coarsely woven grasses in a low shrub. Lays four pale-blue eggs.

**Song:** A bright rapid song that descends the musical scale then rises at the end.

**Habitat:** Brush or trees near open areas.

**Diet:** Insects and grass seeds.

**Backyard Favorites:** Will visit feeders for mixed nyjer seed or hulled sunflowers.



F.C. Bergquist

## Dark-Eyed Junco

**Scientific Name:** *Junco hyemalis*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 6-1/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 9-1/4 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Coloration varies, as juncos interbreed freely. Common characteristics are dark eyes, white-edged tails and black, brown or gray hoods.

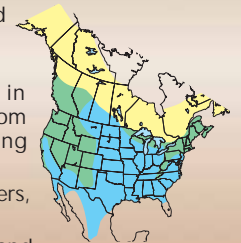
**Nest:** Cup-shaped nests on ground. Lays 4 to 6 eggs.

**Song:** Trills vary in pitch and tempo, from dry notes to tingling sounds.

**Habitat:** Near feeders, forests and bogs.

**Diet:** Seeds, nuts and grains in winter; insects, berries and grass seeds in summer.

**Backyard Favorites:** Birdseed and cracked corn scattered on ground.



Cornelius Hogenbirk





## Eastern Towhee

**Scientific Name:** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 8-1/2 inches.

**Wingspan:** 10-1/2 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:**

Black head, back and tail with white belly, orange-red sides and red or white eyes.

**Nest:** Builds nest near ground. Lays three to four gray eggs speckled with brown.

**Song:** Musical with a slow song, "drink your teeeeee."

**Habitat:** Old pastures, woodland edges and brushy backyards.

**Diet:** Insects, spiders, caterpillars, seeds, berries and small salamanders.

**Backyard Favorites:** Oats or flaxseed scattered on the ground and suet.



Roland Jordahl

## White-Throated Sparrow

**Scientific Name:** *Zonotrichia albicollis*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 6-3/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 9 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** White throat, yellow patches in front of eyes and striped heads; some are white and black, others tan with black.

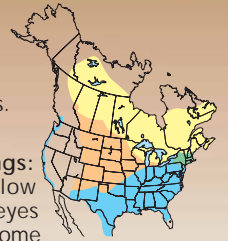
**Nest:** Builds nest from fine materials on or near the ground; three to six blue to green eggs with reddish-brown specks.

**Song:** "Old Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody" or "Oh, sweet Canada, Canada, Canada."

**Habitat:** Gardens, residential areas, woodlands and clearings.

**Diet:** Weed seeds, fruits, buds and insects.

**Backyard Favorites:** Red and white millet, sunflower, cracked corn and other seeds served in tray feeders.



Ron Winter

## Spotted Towhee

**Scientific Name:** *Pipilo maculatus*.

**Family:** Finch.

**Length:** 8-1/2 inches.

**Wingspan:** 10-1/2 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:**

Black head, back and tail with white belly, orange-red sides and multiple white wing marks.

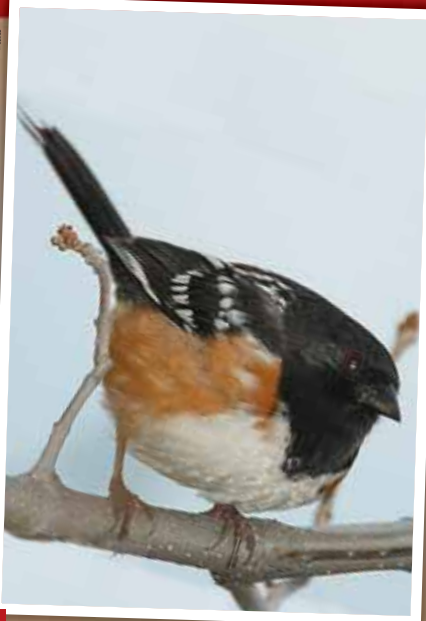
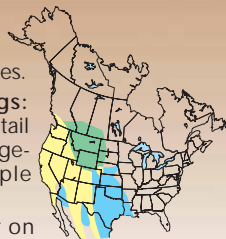
**Nest:** Builds near or on ground. Lays three to four gray eggs speckled with brown.

**Song:** Wide variety of songs, which typically feature high-pitched introductory notes followed by a trill. Also has a buzzy rapid trill.

**Habitat:** Old pastures, woodland edges and brushy backyards.

**Diet:** Insects, spiders, caterpillars, seeds, berries and small salamanders.

**Backyard Favorites:** Oats or flaxseed scattered on the ground and suet.



Roland Jordahl

## Yellow Warbler

**Scientific Name:** *Dendroica petechia*.

**Family:** Wood-warbler.

**Length:** 5 inches.

**Wingspan:** 8 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:**

Male and female are both bright yellow overall. The male has reddish streaks on its breast.

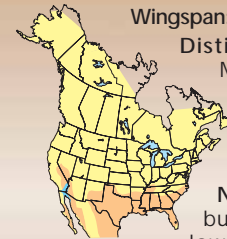
**Nest:** The female builds a tidy nest in a low shrub from plant fibers and lays one egg a day for 4 to 5 days. The male serenades her.

**Song:** Sweet, high and clear notes, "sweet, sweet, sweet, I'm so sweet."

**Habitat:** Low trees and woodland edges. Especially likes willows in wet areas.

**Diet:** Insects and wild berries.

**Backyard Favorites:** Frequents birdbaths and ponds with moving water.



Roland Jordahl

## Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

Roland Jordahl



**Scientific Name:** *Archilochus colubris*.

**Family:** Hummingbird.

**Length:** 3-3/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 4-1/2 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Ruby-red throat on male; both sexes have metallic-green back and head.

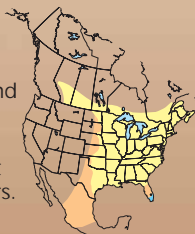
**Nest:** Builds a cup-shaped nest the diameter of a quarter and camouflages it with lichens. Lays two tiny white eggs.

**Song:** Faint; a rapid series of chipping notes.

**Habitat:** Areas with plentiful nectar-rich flowers.

**Diet:** Nectar, insects and tree sap.

**Backyard Favorites:** Sugar water and bright trumpet-shaped flowers.



## Anna's Hummingbird

SuperStock



**Scientific Name:**

*Calypte anna*.

**Family:** Hummingbird.

**Length:** 4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 5-1/4 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:**

Adult males have iridescent red crown and throat. Females have red patch on throat and white markings over eyes.

**Nest:** Made of plant down held together with spiderwebs. Females lay two white eggs, each the size of a small bean.

**Song:** Call is a high sharp "stit."

**Habitat:** Gardens and parks providing nectar-producing flowers and sugar-water feeders.

**Diet:** Nectar, sugar water, spiders, small insects and tree sap.

**Backyard Favorite:** Mix a solution of 4 parts water to 1 part sugar to attract hummingbirds to your sugar-water feeders.



## Rufous Hummingbird



Francois Gahier

**Scientific Name:** *Selasphorus rufus*.

**Family:** Hummingbird.

**Length:** 3-3/4 inches

**Wingspan:** 4-1/2 inches

**Distinctive Markings:** Male is reddish brown on back, base of crown and most of tail; scarlet gorget (throat). Female is metallic green above, white below and has pale rust-colored sides.

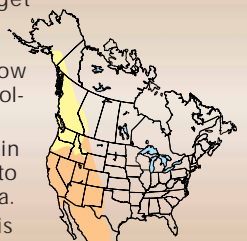
**Nest:** May nest in loose colonies, up to 10 nests in one area.

**Song:** Call note is "chewp chewp" and wings make high buzzing sound.

**Habitat:** Most northern of hummingbirds, migrating as far as Alaska.

**Diet:** Attracted to nectar and tree sap.

**Backyard Favorites:** Likes red flowers; sugar water at feeders.





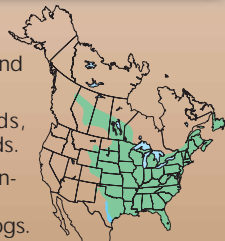
## Blue Jay

Thomas D. Lindsay



**Scientific Name:** *Cyanocitta cristata*.  
**Family:** Crow.  
**Length:** 11 inches. **Wingspan:** 16 inches.  
**Distinctive Markings:** Blue feathers and crest with gray breast.  
**Nest:** Well hidden and often found in the crotch of a tree 10 to 25 feet above the ground. False nest of twigs built before actual nest. Females lay and incubate four to five eggs.  
**Song:** Harsh scream, "jaay, jaay, jaay."

Has many other calls, including whistle phrases, rattles and a harsh "shkrrr."  
**Habitat:** Backyards, parks and woodlands.  
**Diet:** Omnivorous, including nuts, seeds, fruits, insects and frogs.  
**Backyard Favorites:** Feeders with suet, sunflower seeds or peanuts.

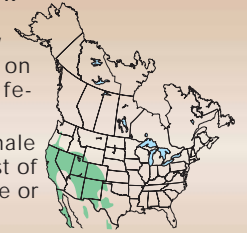


## Western Scrub-Jay

Hugh P. Smith Jr.



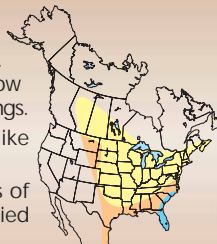
**Scientific Names:** *Aphelocoma californica*.  
**Family:** Crow.  
**Length:** 11-1/2 inches.  
**Wingspan:** 15-1/2 inches.  
**Distinctive Markings:** Bright blue with a white belly and gray patch on backs. Male and female look alike.  
**Nest:** The female builds a bulky nest of twigs in a low tree or shrub.  
**Song:** Hoarse rising call of "shreeenk" or a rapid series "quay-quay-quay" or "cheek-cheek-cheek."  
**Habitat:** Dense shrubbery among wooded parks and backyards.  
**Diet:** Nuts, fruits, insects and small animals.  
**Backyard Favorites:** Peanuts, suet, sunflower seeds and cracked corn.



## Baltimore Oriole

**Scientific Name:** *Icterus galbula*.  
**Family:** Blackbird.  
**Length:** 8-3/4 inches.  
**Wingspan:** 11-1/2 inches.  
**Distinctive Markings:** Male has full black hood and fire-orange plumage. Female is drab yellow with dusky-brown wings.  
**Nest:** Woven bag-like structure.  
**Song:** Short series of clear whistles in varied pattern.  
**Habitat:** Deciduous woodlands, parks and suburbs.  
**Diet:** Mostly insects and berries.

**Backyard Favorites:** Comes to feeding stations for sugar water, halved oranges nailed to posts and grape jelly.



Bill Marchel

## Orchard Oriole

**Scientific Name:** *Icterus spurius*.

**Family:** Blackbird.

**Length:** 7-1/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 9-1/2 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Male has chestnut feathers and a black hood. Female is dusky yellow-green and gray.

**Nest:** Basket-like nest in forked tree branch or bush. Lays four to five pale-blue or pale-gray spotted eggs.

**Song:** High lively warble.

**Habitat:** Orchards, open woodlands and farmlands.

**Diet:** Searches trees and shrubs for insects, which make up 90% of diet.

**Backyard Favorites:** May be attracted to berries, sugar water and oranges.



Roland Jordahl

## Western and Eastern Meadowlark

**Scientific Name:** *Sturnella magna* and *Sturnella neglecta*.

**Family:** Blackbird.

**Length:** 9-1/2 inches.

**Wingspan:** 14 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Streaked brown above and yellow breast marked by broad black; short tailed and long billed.

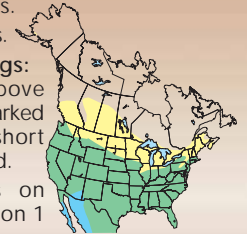
**Nest:** Lays eggs on ground in depression 1 to 3 inches deep.

**Song:** Eastern song is clearer and higher with a simple whistle of "seeooooaa seeeeadoo;" western has a rich low warble of "sleep loo lidi lidijivi."

**Habitat:** Open grassy habitats, often perched on fences and bushes.

**Diet:** Insects, grain and weed seeds.

**Backyard Favorites:** May eat oats, corn or wheat from feeders on ground.



Roland Jordahl

## Bullock's Oriole

**Scientific Name:** *Icterus bullockii*.

**Family:** Blackbird.

**Length:** 9 inches.

**Wingspan:** 12 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Male has a black crown, orange cheeks and large white wing patches. Female is mostly yellow with a gray back.

**Nest:** Woven bag-like structure.

**Song:** Short series of nasal-like whistles.

**Habitat:** Open areas with shade trees.

**Diet:** Insects, citrus and sugar water.

**Backyard Favorites:** May be attracted to sugar-water feeders and oranges.



Richard Day/Daybreak Imagery

## Red-Winged Blackbird

**Scientific Name:** *Agelaius phoeniceus*.

**Family:** Blackbird.

**Length:** 8-3/4 inches. **Wingspan:** 13 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:**

Males have glossy-black bodies with red and yellow shoulder patches. Females have brown backs and heavily streaked undersides.

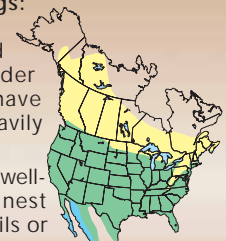
**Nest:** Female builds a well-camouflaged grass nest among shrubs, cattails or grasses, sometimes suspended over water or on the ground in fields. She lays three to five blue-green eggs with dark scrawls.

**Song:** "Konk-la-ree" or "o-ka-lee."

**Habitat:** Fields, marshes and near water.

**Diet:** Grains, seeds, insects and berries.

**Backyard Favorites:** Birdseed mixes and cracked sunflower seeds.



Roland Jordahl



## Red-Breasted Nuthatch



Roland Jordahl

**Scientific Name:** *Sitta canadensis*.

**Family:** Nuthatch.

**Length:** 4-1/2 inches.

**Wingspan:** 8-1/2 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Black eye line with a white stripe directly above it, rust-colored breast; female similar.

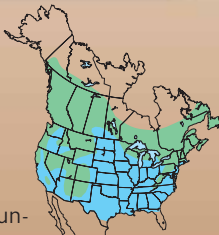
**Nest:** Cavity in a tree, a nest box or abandoned woodpecker hole.

**Song:** High-pitched nasal "yenk, yenk, yenk."

**Habitat:** High-elevation evergreen forests and wooded backyards.

**Diet:** Insects, berries, nuts and seeds.

**Backyard Favorites:** Sunflower seeds and suet.



## White-Breasted Nuthatch



Larry Deeb

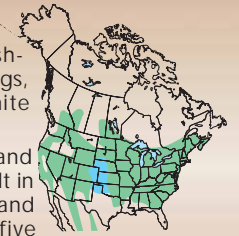
**Scientific Name:** *Sitta carolinensis*.

**Family:** Nuthatch.

**Length:** 5-3/4 inches. **Wingspan:** 11 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:**

Males and females look similar, with a short tail, bluish-gray back and wings, black cap and white breast.



**Nest:** Hair, fur and shredded bark built in natural cavities and birdhouses. Lays five to 10 white eggs with multicolored markings.

**Song:** Nasal "yank-yank-yank" call.

**Habitat:** Area with plentiful trees.

**Diet:** Insects and larvae; pine, fir and maple seeds; mountain ash and juniper berries; oak, beech and hickory nuts.

**Backyard Favorites:** Sunflower seeds, unsalted peanuts, birdseed mix and suet.

## Black-Capped Chickadee

**Scientific Name:** *Poecile atricapillus*.

**Family:** Titmouse.

**Length:** 5-1/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 8 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:**

Black cap and chin, white cheeks.

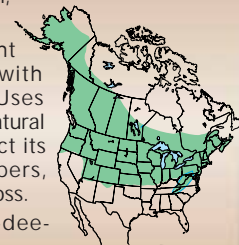
**Nest:** Six to eight white eggs with brown spots. Uses birdhouses and natural cavities to protect its nest of plant fibers, wool, hair and moss.

**Song:** "Chick-a-dee-dee-dee."

**Habitat:** Wooded suburbs and open woodlands.

**Diet:** Insects, berries and seeds.

**Backyard Favorites:** Sunflower seeds, suet and thistle.



Roland Jordahl

## Tufted Titmouse

**Scientific Name:** *Baeolophus bicolor*.

**Family:** Titmouse.

**Length:** 6-1/2 inches.

**Wingspan:** 9-3/4 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Gray above and white below, rusty-brown flanks, prominent pointed crest and large dark eyes.

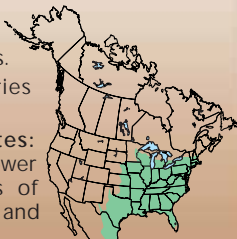
**Nest:** Natural cavities in trees.

**Song:** Resembles "peter, peter, peter" call; also has a harsh chattering sound to warn other birds of intruders.

**Habitat:** Deciduous woodlands, preferably in swamps and river bottoms; has adapted to residential wooded areas.

**Diet:** Insects, berries and seeds.

**Backyard Favorites:** Sunflower and safflower seeds, most kinds of nuts, peanut butter and suet.



Barbara Jeska

## Tree Swallow

**Scientific Name:** *Tachycineta bicolor*.

**Family:** Swallow.

**Length:** 5-3/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 14-1/2 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Iridescent greenish-blue above and white below. Females may be duller.

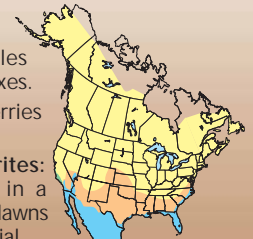
**Habitat:** Open areas with scattered trees and water.

**Song:** Typically an early-morning singer, the tree swallow's song is a pleasant gurgling chatter when in flight.

**Nest:** Females build nests in tree cavities, woodpecker holes and bluebird boxes.

**Diet:** Insects, berries and seeds.

**Backyard Favorites:** Offer feathers in a suet cage or on lawns as nesting material.



Hubert A. Brandenburg

## Purple Martin

**Scientific Name:** *Progne subis*.

**Family:** Swallow.

**Length:** 8 inches.

**Wingspan:** 18 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:**

The male sports shiny blue-black feathers over its entire body. The female has a dark head and tail with gray or white feathers on its throat and belly.

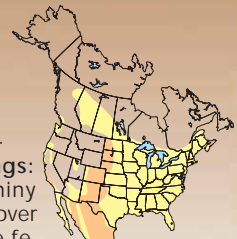
**Nest:** Male helps the female construct a nest of plant materials before she lays four to five white eggs.

**Song:** A low-pitched warble.

**Habitat:** Open areas with water nearby.

**Diet:** Insects.

**Backyard Favorites:** Attract martins by mounting a multi-compartment house or several gourds on a 14-foot pole. Locate it in an open area at least 40 feet from the nearest trees.



James R. Hill III/PMCA

## Barn Swallow

**Scientific Name:** *Hirundo rustica*.

**Family:** Swallow.

**Length:** 6-3/4 inches. **Wingspan:** 15 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:**

Metallic dark-blue back with a reddish-brown throat. Males have orangish belly, while females are buff colored or white. Short bill, long forked tail.

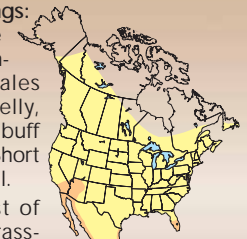
**Nest:** Builds nest of mud and dried grasses lined with horsehair or feathers under eaves of buildings. Lays four to five brown-speckled white eggs.

**Song:** Twittering "kittick-kittick-kittick."

**Habitat:** Any area near water with appropriate nesting sites.

**Diet:** Flying insects.

**Backyard Favorites:** Ponds or nesting shelves under overhangs.



Hugh P. Smith Jr.



## House Wren

**Scientific Name:** *Troglodytes aedon*.

**Family:** Wren.

**Length:** 4-3/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 6 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Brown body with narrow dark bars on wing and tail.

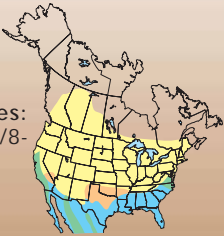
**Nest:** Six or seven speckled-white eggs in a nest of twigs. Male builds multiple "dummy" nests, and then female chooses one.

**Song:** Varies; rapid rolling trill that rises and then descends into a bubbling song.

**Habitat:** Backyards, parks and open woods.

**Diet:** Insects.

**Backyard Favorites:** Birdhouses with 1-1/8-inch entrance holes.



Hubert A. Brandenburg

## Carolina Wren

**Scientific Name:** *Thryothorus ludovicianus*.

**Family:** Wren.

**Length:** 5-1/2 inches.

**Wingspan:** 7-1/2 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Stocky wren with white eye stripe and bright rusty-brown plumage.

**Nest:** Builds bulky nest in tree cavities, woodpiles, mailboxes, etc.

**Song:** Often heard as "tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle."

**Habitat:** Brush and heavy undergrowth in wooded areas.

**Diet:** Spiders, insects and some berries and seeds.

**Backyard Favorites:** Serve peanuts, suet, peanut butter and nutmeats.



Roland Jordahl

## Red-Bellied Woodpecker



Betty Curtis

**Scientific Name:** *Melanerpes carolinus*.

**Family:** Woodpecker.

**Length:** 9-1/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 16 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Males have zebra-striped back, red hood and nape, reddish tinge on belly. Females are identical, but only have a red nape.

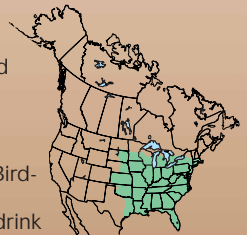
**Nest:** Male and female excavate nesting cavity in old stumps and trees.

**Song:** Loud, harsh "quirr" sound.

**Habitat:** Wooded areas; visits yards and gardens with trees and shrubs.

**Diet:** Larvae, insects, acorns and berries.

**Backyard Favorites:** Birdseed and beef suet at garden feeders; may drink sugar water.



## Downy Woodpecker

**Scientific Name:** *Picoides pubescens*.

**Family:** Woodpecker.

**Length:** 6-3/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 12 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Smallest woodpecker; red patch on the back of the male's head, short bill with downy feathers at the base.

**Nest:** Excavates or reuses a cavity in a dead tree or uses a woodpecker nesting box. Lays four to five white eggs.

**Song:** Short and flat "pik" call.

**Habitat:** Any open wooded area, including parks and backyards.

**Diet:** Insects, caterpillars, berries and nuts.

**Backyard Favorites:** Suet and peanut butter.



Laurie Fisher Lewis

## Red-Headed Woodpecker

**Scientific Name:** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.

**Family:** Woodpecker.

**Length:** 9-1/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 17 inches.

**Distinctive Marking:** Red feathers completely cover head and neck. Male and female look the same.

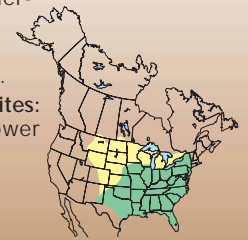
**Nest:** Excavates hole in live or dead trees, fence posts or utility poles.

**Song:** Harsh "queeah, queeah, queeah."

**Habitat:** Open woodlands. Seeks out areas free of underbrush.

**Diet:** Insects, berries and nuts.

**Backyard Favorites:** Cracked sunflower seeds and suet.



Marcia Hoepfner

## Hairy Woodpecker

**Scientific Name:** *Picoides villosus*.

**Family:** Woodpecker.

**Length:** 9-1/4 inches.

**Wingspan:** 15 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** Almost identical to downy but smaller; distinguished by a longer heavier bill, and an inconspicuous tuft. Females lack red on back of head.

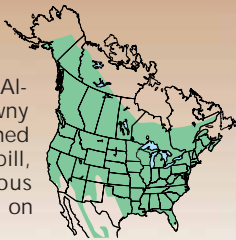
**Nest:** Cavity excavated by both sexes; usually lays four white eggs.

**Song:** A strong "peek" or "peechee", sharper than the downy.

**Habitat:** Lives mostly in forests, but may move to open country in fall and winter.

**Diet:** Insects, larvae of wood borers, fruit and nuts.

**Backyard Favorites:** Comes to feeding stations for suet, sunflower seeds, meat scraps and peanut butter.



Thomas D. Lindsey

## Northern Flicker

**Scientific Name:** *Colaptes auratus*.

**Family:** Woodpecker.

**Length:** 12-1/2 inches. **Wingspan:** 20 inches.

**Distinctive Markings:** All male flickers have a mustache. Easterns have a black mustache, and westerns sport a red one.

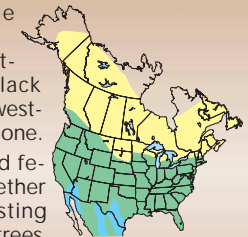
**Nest:** Males and females work together to excavate nesting cavities in dead trees, utility poles and fence posts. Lays six to eight white eggs.

**Song:** "Flicka, flicka." Also a loud "wick, wick, klee."

**Habitat:** Backyards and open woodlands.

**Diet:** Insects, berries and weed seeds.

**Backyard Favorites:** Attract with a large birdhouse high above the ground.

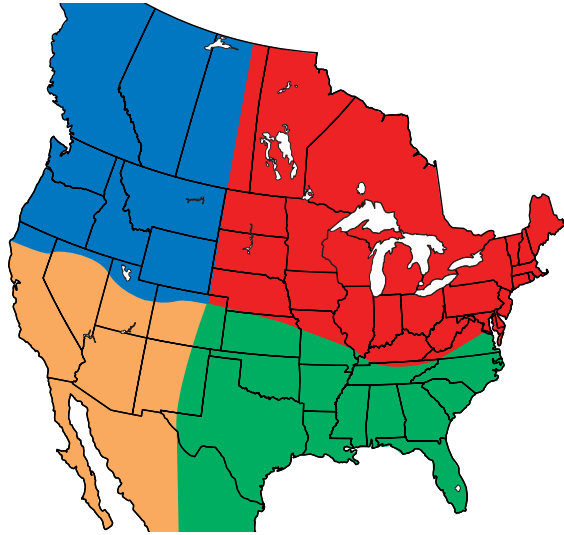


Wanda Fisher



# Birds in Your Region

- Northeast
- Northwest
- Southeast
- Southwest

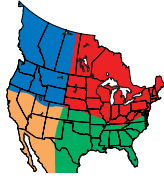


BIRD	SUMMER				WINTER			
	NE	NW	SE	SW	NE	NW	SE	SW
<b>BLACKBIRDS</b>								
Brewer's blackbird		●				●	●	●
Brown-headed cowbird	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Common grackle	●		●				●	
Red-winged blackbird	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>BLUEBIRDS</b>								
Eastern bluebird	●		●		●		●	
Mountain bluebird		●		●				●
Western bluebird		●		●		●		●
<b>BUNTINGS</b>								
Indigo bunting	●		●					
Lazuli bunting		●						
Painted bunting			●				●	
<b>BUSHTIT</b>								
Bushtit		●		●		●		●
<b>CARDINAL</b>								
Northern cardinal	●		●	●	●		●	●
<b>CHICKADEES</b>								
Black-capped chickadee	●	●			●	●		
Carolina chickadee			●				●	
Mountain chickadee		●		●		●		●

BIRD	SUMMER				WINTER			
	NE	NW	SE	SW	NE	NW	SE	SW
<b>CREEPER</b>								
Brown creeper	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
<b>CROSSBILL</b>								
Red crossbill	●	●		●	●	●		●
<b>FINCHES</b>								
American goldfinch	●	●	●		●	●	●	●
Common redpoll					●	●		
House finch	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pine siskin		●		●	●	●	●	●
Purple finch	●	●			●	●	●	●
<b>GROSBEAKS</b>								
Black-headed grosbeak		●		●				
Blue grosbeak			●	●				
Evening grosbeak	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Pine grosbeak		●			●	●		
<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>								
Anna's hummingbird		●		●		●		●
Black-chinned hummingbird		●		●				
Broad-tailed hummingbird				●				
Calliope hummingbird		●						
Ruby-throated hummingbird	●		●					
Rufous hummingbird		●						
<b>JAYS</b>								
Blue jay	●		●		●		●	
Gray jay		●						
Pinyon jay		●		●		●		●
Scrub jay		●		●		●		●
Steller's jay		●		●		●		●
<b>JUNCO</b>								
Dark-eyed junco	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
<b>KINGLETS</b>								
Golden kinglet		●		●	●	●	●	●
Ruby-crowned kinglet		●			●	●	●	●
<b>MIMIC THRUSHES</b>								
Brown thrasher	●		●				●	
Gray catbird	●	●	●				●	
Northern mockingbird	●		●	●	●		●	●

# Birds in Your Region

■ Northeast  
■ Northwest  
■ Southwest  
■ Southwest



BIRD	SUMMER				WINTER			
	NE	NW	SE	SW	NE	NW	SE	SW
<b>NUTHATCHES</b>								
Brown-headed nuthatch			●				●	
Pygmy nuthatch		●		●		●		●
Red-breasted nuthatch	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
White-breasted nuthatch	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>ORIOLES</b>								
Baltimore oriole	●		●				●	
Bullock's oriole		●		●				●
Orchard oriole	●		●					
Scott's oriole				●				
<b>PIGEONS</b>								
Mourning dove	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Rock dove	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>SPARROWS</b>								
American tree sparrow					●	●		
Chipping sparrow	●	●	●	●			●	●
Field sparrow	●		●				●	
Fox sparrow		●					●	●
House sparrow	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Song sparrow	●	●	●	●			●	●
Swamp sparrow	●				●		●	
White-crowned sparrow		●					●	●
White-throated sparrow	●						●	●
<b>STARLING</b>								
European starling	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>TANAGERS</b>								
Scarlet tanager	●							
Summer tanager			●	●				
Western tanager		●		●				
<b>THRUSHES</b>								
American robin	●	●	●	●		●	●	●
Hermit thrush	●	●		●			●	●
Wood thrush	●		●					

BIRD	SUMMER				WINTER			
	NE	NW	SE	SW	NE	NW	SE	SW
<b>TITMICE</b>								
Plain titmouse				●				●
Tufted titmouse	●		●		●		●	
<b>TOWHEES</b>								
Brown towhee				●				●
Eastern towhee	●		●				●	
<b>VIREOS</b>								
Red-eyed vireo	●	●	●					
Warbling vireo	●	●	●	●				
White-eyed vireo			●				●	
<b>WARBLERS</b>								
American redstart	●	●	●					
Black and white warbler	●		●					
Black-throated blue warbler	●							
Common yellow throat	●	●	●	●			●	
Hooded warbler			●					
Ovenbird	●	●						
Wilson's warbler	●	●						
Yellow warbler	●	●	●	●				
Yellow-rumped warbler	●	●				●	●	●
<b>WAXWINGS</b>								
Bohemian waxwing						●		
Cedar waxwing	●	●					●	●
<b>WOODPECKERS</b>								
Downy woodpecker	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Gilded flicker				●				●
Hairy woodpecker	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ladder-backed woodpecker				●				●
Lewis woodpecker		●		●			●	●
Northern flicker	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Red-bellied woodpecker	●		●		●		●	
Red-breasted sapsucker		●				●		●
Red-headed woodpecker	●		●		●		●	
Yellow-bellied sapsucker	●		●				●	●
<b>WRENS</b>								
Cactus wren				●				●
Carolina wren	●		●		●		●	
House wren	●	●	●	●			●	●
Winter wren	●	●					●	●