



## **Belted Kingfisher**    *Ceryle alcyon*

**Description:** 3" (33 cm). A pigeon-sized bird, blue-gray above, white below, with bushy crest, dagger-like bill. Male has blue-gray breast band; female similar, but also has chestnut belly band.

**Food:** While searching for fish, the familiar Belted Kingfisher perches conspicuously on a limb over a river or lake. On sighting a fish it flies from its post and hovers like a tern over the water before plunging after its prey. In addition, it may eat crabs, crayfish, salamanders, lizards, mice, and insects.

**Range:** Breeds from Alaska eastward across southern Canada and south throughout most of United States. Winters on Pacific Coast north to southeastern Alaska, and throughout South north to Great Lakes and along Atlantic Coast to New England.

**Habitat:** Rivers, lakes, and saltwater estuaries.



## **American Robin**    *Turdus migratorius*

**Description:** 9-11" (23-28 cm). Gray above, brick red below. Head and tail black in males, dull gray in females. Young birds are spotted below.

**Food:** The mainstay of the American Robin is earthworms. It hunts on lawns, standing stock-still with head cocked to one side as though listening for its prey but actually discovering it by sight.

**Range:** Breeds from Alaska east across continent to Newfoundland and south to California, Texas, Arkansas, and South Carolina. Winters north to British Columbia and Newfoundland.

**Habitat:** Towns, gardens, open woodlands, and agricultural land.

## Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

**Description:** 39-52" (99-132 cm). W. 5'10" (1.8 m). A common large, mainly grayish heron with a pale or yellowish bill. Often mistaken for a Sandhill Crane, but flies with its neck folded, not extended like that of a crane. In southern Florida an all-white form, "Great White Heron," differs from Great Egret in being larger, with greenish-yellow rather than black legs.

**Food:** An adaptable bird whose large size enables it to feed on a variety of prey-from large fish and frogs to mice, small birds, and insects-the Great Blue has one of the widest ranges of any North American heron.

**Range:** Breeds locally from coastal Alaska, south-central Canada, and Nova Scotia south to Mexico and West Indies. Winters as far north as southern Alaska, central United States, and southern New England. Also in Galapagos Islands.

**Habitat:** Lakes, ponds, rivers, and marshes.



## Great Egret *Ardea alba*

**Description:** 35-41" (89-104 cm). W. 4'7" (1.4 m). A large, all-white heron with a yellow bill and black legs. In breeding plumage, has long lacy plumes on back. Much smaller Snowy Egret has black bill and legs and yellow feet.

**Food:** An adaptable bird whose large size enables it to feed on a variety of prey-it usually feeds alone, stalking fish, frogs, snakes, and crayfish in shallow water.

**Range:** Breeds locally from Oregon south to western Mexico, and from Minnesota to Mississippi Valley and Southeast, and along Atlantic Coast north to southern New England. Winters regularly from Oregon south through Southwest, Texas, and Gulf Coast states to Mexico, and on Atlantic Coast north to New Jersey.

**Habitat:** Fresh and salt marshes, marshy ponds, and tidal flats.





**Eastern Phoebe** *Sayornis phoebe*

**Description:** 7" (18 cm). Dull olive green without an eye ring or wing bars. Wags its tail.

**Food:** Primarily flying insects. In the absence of insects, its winter food is berries.

**Range:** Breeds in Canada and United States east of Rockies, south to northern edge of Gulf states. Winters from Virginia, Gulf Coast, and Florida southward.

**Habitat:** Open woodlands near streams; cliffs, bridges, and buildings with ledges.



**Willow Flycatcher** *Empidonax traillii*

**Description:** 6" (15 cm). Slightly smaller than a House Sparrow. Dull gray-green above, whitish below, with 2 dull white wing bars and narrow white eye ring (often not noticeable). Distinguishable from Alder Flycatcher only by voice, breeding habitat, and nest.

**Food:** Primarily flying insects. In the absence of insects, its winter food is berries.

**Range:** Breeds from southern British Columbia, Alberta, North Dakota, New York, and Maine south to central California, Nevada, Southwest, Arkansas, and Virginia. Winters in tropics.

**Habitat:** Swampy thickets, upland pastures, and old abandoned orchards





### **Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii*

**Description:** 14-20" (36-51 cm). W. 28" (71 cm). A crow-sized hawk, with long tail and short rounded wings. Adult slate-gray above, with dark cap, and finely rust-barred below. Immature brown above, whitish below with fine streaks. Tail tip rounded, not squared-off.

**Food:** feeds mainly on birds, which it chases relentlessly through the woods. It also takes small mammals and, in the West, lizards and snakes.

**Range:** Breeds from British Columbia east to Manitoba and Canadian Maritimes, and south to Mexico, Gulf Coast, and northern Florida; absent or local throughout much of Great Plains. Winters from Central America north to British Columbia and southern New England.

**Habitat:** Deciduous and, less often, coniferous forests, especially those interrupted by meadows and clearings.



### **Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*

**Description:** 5-6 1/4"(13-16 cm). Sparrow-sized. Metallic blue or blue-green above and clear white below. Young birds are dull brown above but may be distinguished from Bank and Northern Rough-winged swallows by their clearer white underparts.

**Food:** Tree swallows primarily eat flying insects, though they also eat plant materials.

**Range:** Breeds from Alaska east through northern Manitoba to Newfoundland and south to California, Colorado, Nebraska, and Maryland. Winters north to southern California, Gulf Coast, and Carolinas; occasionally farther.

**Habitat:** Lakeshores, flooded meadows, marshes, and streams.



**Eastern Towhee** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

**Description:** 7-8 1/2" (17-22 cm). Male has black hood, back, and wings. Tail black with white edging on outer feathers; breast and belly white with bright rufous sides. Female has same pattern, but is brown where male is black. Both sexes have red eyes.

**Food:** Searches for insects and other invertebrates, as well as seeds and berries, with a characteristic scratching behavior on the ground.

**Range:** Breeds from southern Saskatchewan east to Maine and south to California, Southwest, and Gulf Coast to Florida. Winters across much of eastern United States north to Nebraska and southern New England.

**Habitat:** Forest edges, thickets, woodlands, gardens, and shrubby park areas.



**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*

**Description:** 7-9 1/2" (18-24 cm). Smaller than a robin. Male is black with bright red shoulder patches. Female and young are heavily streaked with dusky brown.

**Food:** Feed on seeds and insects. They also like to feed on small fruits, waste grain, and small aquatic life. They do not have a fussy diet. They will eat almost anything else that looks like food and is small enough for them to swallow.

**Range:** Breeds from Alaska east across Canada to Newfoundland and south to northern Baja California, central Mexico, Gulf Coast, and Florida. Winters regularly across United States north to British Columbia, Great Lakes, and Pennsylvania.

**Habitat:** Marshes, swamps, and wet and dry meadows; pastures.



## **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

### ***Dendroica coronata***

**Description:** 5-6" (13-15 cm). Breeding male dull bluish above, streaked with black; breast and flanks blackish. Rump, crown, and small area at sides of breast yellow.

**Food:** Although insects compose the majority of their diet, these warblers also feed on the berries of shrubs in winter. These amazing little birds are able to digest the waxy coating of many northern berries indigestible to other birds.

**Range:** Breeds from Alaska east across continent to Newfoundland and south to California, Texas, Arkansas, and South Carolina. Winters north to British Columbia and Newfoundland.

**Habitat:** Coniferous and mixed forests; widespread during migration and in winter.



## **Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea*

**Description:** 7 1/2" (19 cm). In breeding plumage, male brilliant scarlet with black wings and tail. In nonbreeding plumage, female and male olive green; male has black wings.

**Food:** Scarlet tanagers eat insects while foraging in treetops, in shrubs or on the ground. Preferred foods include aphids, nut weevils, wood borers, leaf beetles, cicadas, scale insects, dragonflies, ants, termites, and caterpillars of gypsy moths, parasitic wasps, bees, mulberries, June-berries, huckleberries and other wild fruits.

**Range:** Breeds from extreme southeastern Canada to east-central United States. Winters in tropics.

**Habitat:** Chiefly mature woodlands, especially oak and pine.





**Eastern Bluebird**     *Sialia sialis*

**Description:** 7" (17 cm). Bright blue above and on wings and tail; rusty throat and breast; white belly and undertail coverts. Female similar, but duller.

**Food:** Diet made up mostly of insects, they do eat berries and fruits.

**Range:** Breeds east of Rockies from southeastern Canada to Gulf of Mexico; also in mountains of southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. Winters in southern part of breeding range. Also in Mexico.

**Habitat:** Open woodlands and farmlands with scattered trees.



**Wood Thrush**     *Hylocichla mustelina*

**Description:** 8" (20 cm). Starling-sized. Brown above, bright rusty color on head, and white below with large blackish spots.

**Food:** May often be found near water where they forage for favored invertebrate prey such as beetles, flies, millipedes, earthworms, spiders, and sow bugs in the moist soil and fallen leaves. Most of their animal food is taken on the ground where leaves are overturned to expose hidden prey. At all times of the year small fruits and berries are important.

**Range:** Breeds from Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia south to Florida and Gulf of Mexico. Winters in tropics.

**Habitat:** Moist, deciduous woodlands with a thick understory; also well-planted parks and gardens.



## **Fox Sparrow**     *Passerella iliaca*

**Description:** 7 1/2" (15-19 cm). A chubby, large sparrow, either dusky brown, or slate-colored in the West, or rich rufous in the East, often so dark that no back pattern can be discerned. Heavy streaking of underparts converges at midbreast into a large brown spot. Heavy bill with lighter-colored lower mandible, slightly notched rust-colored tail, and rounded head outline.

**Food:** They scratch in leaves for insects and seeds and often make so much noise that one expects to find a larger animal.

**Range:** Breeds from Aleutians and mainland Alaska east to northern Quebec and Maritimes and south to southern California and Colorado. Winters south from British Columbia and across southern United States, and locally farther north.

**Habitat:** Thickets and edges of coniferous, mixed, or second-growth forests or chaparral. In winter, particularly in the East, weedy pastures and brushy roadsides.



## **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris*

**Description:** 3 1/2" (9 cm). Tiny. Needle-like bill. Metallic green above, white below; male has brilliant, iridescent red throat. Immature male lacks red throat. Female green above, with white throat and breast, buff sides, and white-tipped outer tail feathers.

**Food:** These diminutive birds are particularly attracted to tubular red flowers such as salvia and trumpet creeper, as well as bee balm, petunia, jewelweed, and thistle. Hummers are also attracted to artificial feeders-red glass tubes filled with sweet liquid.

**Range:** The only hummingbird that breeds east of Mississippi River. Breeds from southern Canada to Gulf Coast. Winters mainly in tropics, rarely on Gulf Coast.

**Habitat:** Suburban gardens, parks, and woodlands.



**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum*



**Description:** 6 1/2-8" (17-20 cm). Smaller than a robin. A sleek, crested, brown bird with black mask, yellow tips on tail feathers, and hard red wax-like tips on secondary wing feathers. Almost always seen in flocks.

**Food:** fruits are its mainstay, insects present this sleek epicurean a veritable buffet during summer. Elm leaf beetles, weevils, carpenter ants, sawfly larvae, cicadas, scale insects, caterpillars form a part of the Cedar Waxwing's diet, as well food for young nestlings. They are excellent flycatchers, too.

**Range:** Breeds from southeastern Alaska east to Newfoundland and south to California, Illinois, and Virginia. Winters from British Columbia, Great Lakes region, and New England southward.

**Habitat:** Open woodlands, orchards, and residential areas.

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*



**Description:** 15" (38 cm). A gray, duck-like bird with white bill and frontal shield, white undertail coverts, and lobed toes. Frontal shield has red swelling at upper edge, visible at close range. Immatures similar but paler, with duller bill.

**Food:** The American Coot eats plant materials, some aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, snails, worms, and sometimes eggs from nearby bird nests. It gathers food by "up-ending" (tipping its tail end in the air and its head below the surface to gather food), sometimes diving, or walking along the shores to pick up food items.

**Range:** Breeds from British Columbia, western Canada, and New York locally southward. Winters north to British Columbia, Kansas, Illinois, and Massachusetts. Also in American tropics.

**Habitat:** Open ponds and marshes; in winter, also on coastal bays and inlets.



## Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

**Description:** 14" (36 cm). A slender, gray-streaked wader with conspicuous white rump and long yellow legs. Lesser Yellowlegs is similar but smaller, with a shorter, straighter, and more slender bill and a different call.

**Food:** During the breeding season, insects and insect larvae are the primary sources of food. During winter and migration, small fish, crustaceans, snails, and other aquatic animals round out the diet.

**Range:** Breeds from south-central Alaska eastward across central Canada to Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland. Winters mainly along coasts from Washington State and Virginia southward, and along Gulf Coast.

**Habitat:** Breeds on tundra and marshy ground; frequents pools, lakeshores, and tidal mudflats on migration.



## Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

**Description:** 48-55" (1.2-1.4 m). The most common swan in the West and the only native swan in the East. Large, all white; bill black, usually with small yellow spot in front of eye.

**Food:** Feed mainly on the tubers and roots of aquatic plants that grow at shallow depths in fresh, brackish, or salt water.

**Range:** Breeds in Alaska and far northern Canada east to Baffin Island. Winters from southern Alaska south to Nevada, Utah, and Baja California and on mid-Atlantic Coast; rare on Gulf Coast of Texas; occasional on Great Lakes.

**Habitat:** Arctic tundra; winters on marshy lakes and bays.