

A Field Guide to Western Birds

A Completely New Guide to Field Marks of All Species Found in North America West of the 100th Meridian and North of Mexico

Text and Illustrations by

ROGER TORY PETERSON

Maps by

VIRGINIA MARIE PETERSON

• Third Edition • Completely Revised and Enlarged

Sponsored by the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

Boston New York

to the memory of

CLARENCE BEAL

and

JAMES FISHER

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Peterson, Roger Tory, (date)

A field guide to western birds: a completely new guide to field marks of all species found in North America west of the 100th meridian and north of Mexico / text and illustrations by Roger Tory Peterson; maps by Virginia Marie Peterson.—3rd ed., completely rev. and enl. p. cm—(The Peterson field guide series; 2)

"Sponsored by the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute."

> Includes index. ISBN 0-395-91174-5 ISBN 0-395-91173-7 (pbk.) ISBN 0-618-13218-X (Flexi-book)

Birds—West (U.S.)—Identification.
 Birds—Canada, Western—Identification.
 Peterson, Virginia Marie, (date).
 National Audubon Society.
 National Wildlife Federation.
 Roger Tory Peterson Institute.
 V. Title.
 VI. Series.

QL683.W4P4 1989 598.2978—dc20 89-31517

CIP

Printed in the United States of America

WCT 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12

Introduction

In 1934 my first Field Guide was published, covering the birds east of the 90th meridian in North America. Later this was extended to the 100th meridian on the Great Plains. This book was designed so that live birds could be readily identified at a distance by their "field marks," without resorting to the bird-in-hand characters that the early collectors relied on. During the following half century the binocular and the spotting scope have replaced the shotgun.

The "Peterson System," as it now is called, is based on patternistic drawings with arrows that pinpoint the key field marks. These rather formal schematic illustrations and the direct comparisons between similar species are the core of the system, a practical method that has gained universal acceptance not only on this continent but also in Europe, where Field Guides now exist in 12 languages. This system, which is, in a sense, a pictorial key based on visual impressions rather than on technical features, has been extended to other branches of natural history and there are now about 40 titles in the Field Guide Series.

It was William Vogt, the first editor of Audubon magazine, who suggested that I put together a Field Guide using my visual approach to field identification, which I had already presented in articles in Nature Magazine and Field and Stream. After a preliminary draft of the book had been politely turned down by several publishers, Francis Allen, veteran editor of Houghton Mifflin, and a star birder himself, saw the validity of the new approach, and the rest is history. His successor, Paul Brooks,

continued to carry on the editorial tradition.

Shortly after the first edition of the eastern Field Guide saw the light of day, Clinton G. Abbott, then director of the Natural History Museum at San Diego, asked why I didn't do a similar field guide for the West. I dismissed the idea at first, thinking that although the plan worked well for eastern North America, it would be a much more formidable task to attempt the same for the West. However, after prompting by Guy Emerson, then chairman of the National Audubon Society, I gave it a try. After tussling with a few of the problems, I concluded that field identification was not much more difficult in the West, and that most publications made things look more involved and clumsy than need be. There was already one excellent field handbook

in use—Ralph Hoffmann's Birds of the Pacific States—but this covered only the states of Washington, Oregon, and California, whereas there was hardly anything of pocket size that was ad-

equate for most other parts of the West.

This edition of A Field Guide to Western Birds is more than a revision; it is almost completely new, with 165 plates, as against 136 in the 1961 edition. None of the previous color plates of the western Field Guide has been retained. However, 24 plates have been borrowed from the latest eastern Field Guide to the Birds (1980), 30 others have been modified, and 111 plates are completely new. All species are now shown in color. The waterfowl are repeated in monochrome, because their flight patterns are more clearly diagnosed in that way.

There are also 441 three-color maps, a new feature. My wife, Virginia Marie Peterson, and I researched these together and she then carefully carried out their execution. Her trained hand and eye had previously been employed at the U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center, where she worked out critical methods for identifying oil spills by means of infrared spectroscopy. Virginia wrote the original *Infrared Field Manual for Oil Spill Identification*. She also prepared the 390 maps in the

1980 edition of the eastern Field Guide to the Birds.

With this new third edition, long overdue, the Field Guide to Western Birds has really come of age. Years ago I had concluded that for comparative purposes the ideal number of species per color plate would be about four (rather than ten or twelve, as in previous editions), but the cost factor prohibited this ideal format when we first broke ground. The success of the Field Guide, with its well-tested practical system, has grown steadily over the years, and the economics of distribution as well as technical advances in fine offset printing made it possible to surmount earlier restraints.

The Field Guide user will find one major format change that will be particularly helpful: species accounts, except in a few instances, now face the corresponding illustrations. Because of the success of this formula in the latest revision of the eastern Field Guide, many birders urged me to arrange text and plates of the western Field Guide in this way, and I have done so, but

because of space limitations, maps are separate.

Area of this Field Guide: This guide covers North America west of the 100th meridian, as shown in the map on p. 2. Rather than a restrictive political boundary, an ecological one is more practical. In the U.S. the logical division of the avifauna is along the belt between the 100th meridian (midway across Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas) and the edge of the Rockies. This is by no means a sharp division, but people living in that ecological "twilight zone" will find that A Field Guide to Western Birds covers all species they are likely to encounter. In a

general way, eastern birds follow the valleys west, while the western forms edge eastward along the more arid uplands. In Canada, eastern influences extend much further west, bridging the gap to the Rockies via the conifer forests north of the Great Plains.

The birds in the western third of Texas (the Panhandle and west of the Edwards Plateau) are covered in this *Field Guide*. Not so those in the lower Rio Grande Valley, where many western species reach their eastern outposts and a few very special Mexican species occur. These will be found in *A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas* (No. 13 in the Field Guide Series). Texas

is the only state with its own Field Guide.

In the 1961 edition, I included a separate 32-page section on the Hawaiian Islands. Because of the excellent new *Field Guide* to the Birds of Hawaii and the Tropical Pacific by Douglas Pratt, Phillip Bruner and Delwyn Berrett, and also the latest edition of Hawaii's Birds edited by R.J. Shallenberger (published by the Hawaiian Audubon Society), I have chosen to omit that section and to devote those pages to a more in-depth treatment of Alaska, the Aleutians, and the Bering Sea area.

Drawings vs. Photographs: Because of the increasing sophistication of birders, I have leaned more toward detailed portraiture in the new illustrations while trying not to lose the patternistic effect developed in the earlier editions. A drawing can often do more than a photograph to emphasize field marks. A photograph is a record of a fleeting instant; a drawing is a composite of the artist's experience. The artist can edit out, show field marks to best advantage, and delete unnecessary clutter. He can also choose position and stress basic color and pattern unmodified by transitory light and shade. A photograph is subject to the vagaries of color-temperature (Kelvin), make of film, exposure, time of day, sunlight, open shade, use of flash, angle of view, skill of the photographer, and just plain luck. The artist has more options and far more control even though he may at times use photographs for reference. This is not a diatribe against photography; I am an obsessive photographer as well as a painter and therefore am fully aware of the pitfalls and the differences. Whereas a photograph can have a living immediacy, a good drawing is more instructive as a teaching device.

Subspecies: These simply represent subdivisions within the geographic range of a species. They are races, usually determined by morphological characteristics such as slight differences in measurements, shades of color, etc. These subtle subdivisions can usually be distinguished with accuracy only by collecting birds with a gun or a mist net and comparing them with museum specimens. The distinctions, often vague, are seldom apparent in the field. Subspecies have a meaning to the student

of bird distribution and evolution and are of practical value to those involved in conservation and wildlife management practices. Should occasion demand, the scholar can refer to his copy of the older 5th edition of the Checklist of the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.), which gave a detailed breakdown of races and their ranges. The 6th edition (1983) does so only in a very general way. However, in this new edition of the Field Guide, a few subspecies are recognized when field distinctions are obvious. One of the most controversial examples is the western "Bullock's" Oriole, which is now lumped with the eastern "Baltimore" Oriole under the new name Northern Oriole. "Myrtle" and "Audubon's" warblers are now lumped as the Yellow-rumped Warbler. Most of the juncos have also been lumped. The earlier names and a few others have been retained (in quotes) in deference to long-established usage. Names that were used in the 1961 edition of this book but which have since been changed by the Checklist Committee are in parentheses under the current name. We can expect further changes by the A.O.U.

The Ranges of Birds: A number of species have been added to the avifauna of western North America since the previous edition of this *Field Guide* was published in 1961. Notable is the Cattle Egret, which spread explosively after it arrived in the U.S. about 1952. Several eastern species are pushing west and a few exotic escapes, especially parrots, are doing well and may become established.

The ranges of many species have changed markedly during the past 50 years. Some are expanding because of decades of protection; others have diminished alarmingly or have dropped out of parts of their range due to environmental changes. The passion for bird feeding has had its effect on expanding the ranges of several species.

The Maps: Instead of detailed range accounts, maps are now employed; they have been conveniently assembled in a separate section (pp. 359–408). Because the projections are large enough to show state and provincial lines, ranges are now defined more critically. However, the Aleutians, extending more than 1,000 miles to the west of the Alaska Peninsula, are not shown, but any pertinent information about these islands is included in notes on the maps. For quick use, the map section is marked with a gray corner that serves as a thumb index. By grouping the maps we can update them more frequently without affecting the rest of the pagination. Our knowledge of bird distribution is becoming ever more exact because of the proliferation of field observers. Not only are some birds extending their ranges, but so are the birders.

Although many birds (waterfowl, game birds, seabirds) had already been mapped continentally in the Handbook of North

American Birds (edited by R. S. Palmer) and in other books, Virginia Peterson and I researched our own maps using state and regional sources, but we found these very uneven. Some western states already had good to excellent "latilongs," but only now are they becoming involved in more detailed atlasing.

Acknowledgments: The specimen material used in the preparation of the new color plates came almost entirely from the cabinets of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. I am deeply grateful to the staff and curators of the Department of Ornithology of that institution for their assistance, and specifically to Dean Amadon, Allison Andors, Chris Blake, John Bull, Robert Dickerman, Eugene Eisenmann, John Farrand, Stuart Keith, Wesley Lanyon, Mary Le Croy, Allan O'Connor, Lester Shortt, and Françoise Villeumier.

Space prevents me from listing again the mass of ornithological literature digested in the preparation of the earlier editions of the Field Guide to Western Birds, as well as the regional works, checklists, papers, and periodicals that went into the compilation of this one. Assiduously I consulted them all and intentionally ignored none. A list of these sources is on file and

available in my library.

Nor shall I list again the 200 or more field companions, correspondents, and others who contributed notes or helped in other ways in previous editions and those who were involved in their production. Their names are in the Preface of the second edition (revised and enlarged, 1961). However, I would like to acknowledge again two people who played especially important roles: Edgar Kincaid, who sharpened my critical senses, and Barbara Peterson, who typed and retyped the manuscripts a number of times, offered suggestions, and helped in many other tangible ways.

In preparing the new maps, Virginia Peterson and I consulted all of the pertinent state and regional books in the *Special Book Supplement* prepared by *American Birds*, and, equally important, the files of *American Birds*, which is published by the National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, New

York 10022.

The breeding birds of Canada had already been mapped in Birds of Canada by Earl Godfrey, who generously made the updated version of these maps available to us prior to publication. Paul Johnsgard was also very generous, letting us see much of his own material prior to publication in several of his books. Don Roberson's scholarly Rare Birds of the West Coast was indispensable when dealing with casuals and accidentals, as was the Distributional Checklist of North American Birds by David De Sante and Peter Pyle.

The problem of covering Alaska adequately was solved when Pete Isleib, a peerless and indefatigable observer, prepared for us three albums of large-scale maps, based largely on years of research by his associates, Dan Gibson and Brina Kessel. They were then checked further by Peter Connors, James King, and John Wright. These maps cover every species known to have

occurred in Alaska.

Before my wife, Virginia, finalized her cartography, she sent out a number of selected maps to the following authorities for fine-tuning: Stephen Bailey (Calif.), Mark Collie (Idaho), Phillip Detrich (Calif.), Jon Dunn (Calif.), Kimball Garrett (Calif.), Eugene Hunn (Wash.), Kenn Kaufman (Ariz.), Hugh Kingery (Colo.), Paul Lehman (Calif.), Guy McCaskie (Calif.), Joseph Morlan (Calif.), Vince Mowbray (Nev.), Dennis Paulson (Wash.), Don Roberson (Calif.), Oliver Scott (Wyo.), Arnold Small (Calif.), Ella Sorensen (Utah), Rich Stallcup (Calif.), Allan Stokes (Utah), Stephen Summers (Ore.), Daniel Taylor (Idaho), Thede Tobish (Alaska), Charles Trost (Idaho), R. E. Walters, Jr. (Utah), Ralph Widrig (Wash.), Kevin Zimmer (N.M.), and Dale Zimmerman (N.M.).

The following people gave us additional help on specifics concerning the maps: Frederick and Margarite Baumgartner, Stephen Bissell, Tom Cade, William S. Clark, James Grier, Donald Klebenow, T. E. Lebedz, Richard and Robert Lewin, Carl Mortis, Harry Nehls, W. J. Plowden-Wardlaw, Noble Proctor, J. V. Remsen, Jr., T. D. Reynolds, Chandler S. Robbins, Thomas Rogers, S. E. Senner, J. M. Scott, Brian Sharp, Alison Speirs, Sally Spofford, S. Sturts, J. F. Stetter, J. B. Tatum, Joseph Taylor, Dan Varland, Linda Westervelt, Miriam Westervelt, Herb Wisner, and C.

Zeillemaker.

In addition, the following birders, through correspondence, reading portions of the text, or personal contact, made suggestions for this revision or helped in some other way: Peter Alden (who fine-combed the entire text), Jeff Altman, Elisha Atkins, Harold Axtell, Larry Balch, Benton Basham, Chuck Bernstein, Laurence Binford, Eirik Blom, Jon Boone, Kenneth Brandes, Don Bronk, Ted Chandik, Allegra Collister, Susan Roney Drennan, Bruce Duncan, Brian A. Evans, Robert Frisch, Frank Gill, John D. Goodman, Campbell Grant, William E. Grenfell, Jr., William W. H. Gunn, James E. Halferty, Theodora Halladay, Ed Harper, Donald S. Heintzelman, John P. Hubbard, Douglas James, Joseph R. Jehl, Jr., H. A. Kantrud, Robert E. Kennedy, Ben King, Edward A. Kutac, Greg Lasley, Gary R. Lingle, Steve Makara, David Messineo, Gale Monson, Ron Naveen, Kerry Pado, Ted Parker, Allan R. Phillips, Richard Rimmer, Terry Root, Gary Rosenberg, Margaret Rusk, Stephen Russell, R. A. Rylander, Fred Ryser, Paul T. Schnell, Ralph Shreiber, P. S. Skaar, Rich Stallcup, Robert A. Sundell, Paul W. Sykes, Jr., Ross L. Teuber, Florence J. Thornburg, Francis B. Vanslager, Richard Veit, Robert E. Walters, Lilia and Gordon Weber, Claudia Wilds, David Wolf, Bryce Wood, and Alan Wormington.

We owe special thanks to Seymour Levin, who devised a mapping system that protected the accuracy of Virginia Peterson's original cartography and saved her much time in preparing the

final maps for the printer.

Putting a field guide together so that everything fits is a challenge comparable to a jig-saw puzzle or a game of chess. A thousand details were put in the hands of my secretary, Charles W. Schulze, who was helped by Jeannette Speirs and Dwight Macdonald, my studio assistants. In addition to handling an avalanche of correspondence, Mr. Schulze retyped the manuscript half a dozen times so that it would be in the best possible form for my editors.

At Houghton Mifflin, Harry Foster was on top of things from the beginning, working closely with Austin Olney and Jon Latimer. He was always just a phone call away and in turn relied on Barbara Stratton, a model of editorial thoroughness, who fine-tuned the manuscript and worked with Anne Chalmers, Brenda Lewis, Donna Muise, and Steve Pekich in readying

everything for the typesetter and printer.

The quality of the color work is the result of close collaboration with the above people and the printer, Case-Hoyt of Rochester, N.Y., under the critical eyes of Dan Cooney, George Hannon, Jon Latimer, Brenda Lewis, Paul Nederlk, Wayne Oakley, Thomas Reetz, the color evaluator, Priscilla Sharpless, and Conrad Ward. In addition, Mrs. Peterson carefully checked all proofs of the maps with Dan Cooney, Brenda Lewis, Thomas Reetz, and Conrad Ward.

A field guide is a complex team effort, starting with the field observers and ending with the printer. I want to extend my deepest thanks to everyone involved.

Bird Songs and Calls

Not everything useful for identifying birds can be crammed into a single pocket-sized *Field Guide*. In the species accounts I have included a brief entry on **Voice**, and I have done this in my own way, trying to give the reader some handle on the songs or calls he hears. Authors of bird books have attempted with varying success to fit songs into syllables, words, and phrases. Musical notations, comparative descriptions, mnemonics, and even ingenious systems of symbols have also been employed. But since the advent of sound recording these other techniques have been eclipsed. A visual spinoff of the tape recording is the sonogram, but most people are not sufficiently oriented technologically to be able to interpret sonograms easily.

Use the recently revised Field Guide to Western Bird Songs (No. 2A in the Field Guide Series); it is available on records and cassettes. This comprehensive collection of sound recordings includes the calls and songs of more than 500 land and water birds—a large percentage of all the species found in western North America. They were recorded and prepared under the direction of the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. To prepare yourself for your field trips play the records or cassettes; then read the descriptions

in this Field Guide for clues.

Birding by Ear: Eastern and Central (No. 38 in the Field Guide Series) by Richard K. Walton and Robert Lawson is another excellent shortcut to learning songs. These new cassettes, published by Houghton Mifflin, compare similar songs and analyze them for you In learning bird voices (and some birders do 90 percent of their field work by ear) there is no substitute for the actual sounds. Birding by Ear will help you to systematize things and get your act together. It is basically for the eastern parts of the continent, but a companion volume for the West (No. 41) will soon be published.

Bird Nests

Most birders are not too skilled at finding nests. In most cases there would be an appalling gap between the number of species ticked off on their checklists and the number of nests they have discovered. To remedy this, Hal Harrison, the premier nest photographer, has prepared A Field Guide to Western Bird Nests. This Field Guide (No. 25 in the Field Guide Series) will expand your ornithological expertise.

Contents

Map of Area Covered by this Book	2
Introduction	5
Bird Songs and Calls; Bird Nests	12
Topography of a Bird	16
How to Identify Birds	17
Ducklike Birds (Miscellaneous Swimmers)	24-73
Loons: Gaviidae	24
Grebes: Podicipedidae	26
Cormorants: Phalacrocoracidae	28
Auks, etc.: Alcidae	32
Waterfowl (Swans, Geese, Ducks): Anatidae	38
Swans: Cygnini	38
Geese: Anserini	40
Geese and Swans in Flight	42
Whistling-Ducks: Dendrocygnini	44
Marsh Ducks: Anatini	44
Sea Ducks: Mergini (in part)	52
Bay Ducks: Aythyini	56
Stiff-tailed Ducks: Oxyurini	58
Mergansers: Mergini (in part)	60
Miscellaneous Waterfowl from Asia	62
Ducklike Swimmers (Coots, Gallinules): Rallidae (in part)	64
Flight Patterns of Ducks	66
Seabirds, Gulls, etc. (Aerialists)	74-108
Albatrosses: Diomedeidae	74
Shearwaters, Petrels, etc.: Procellariidae	76
Storm-Petrels: Hydrobatidae	80
Boobies: Sulidae	82
Tropicbirds: Phaethontidae	82
Pelicans: Pelecanidae	84
Frigatebirds: Fregatidae	84
Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls, Terns, Skimmers: Laridae	86
Skuas, Jaegers: Stercorariinae	86
Gulls: Larinae	88
Terns: Sterninae	104
Skimmers: Rynchopinac	108

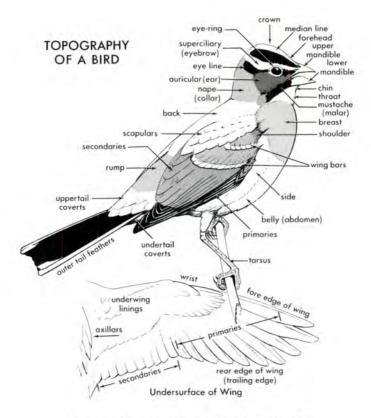
CONTENTS

Long-legged Wading Birds	110-117
Herons, Bitterns: Ardeidae	110
Ibises, Spoonbills: Threskiornithidae	112
Storks: Ciconiidae	116
Cranes: Gruidae	116
Smaller Wading Birds	118-157
Rails: Rallidae (in part)	118
Oystercatchers: Haematopodidae	120
Avocets, Stilts: Recurvirostridae	120
Plovers: Charadriidae	122
Sandpipers, Snipe, Phalaropes: Scolopacidae	128
Fowl-like Birds	158-167
Turkeys: Phasianidae (in part)	158
Pheasants: Phasianidae (in part)	158
Grouse: Phasianidae (in part)	160
Partridges: Phasianidae (in part)	164
Quail: Phasianidae (in part)	166
Birds of Prey	168-205
Kites, Hawks, Eagles, etc.: Accipitridae (in part)	168
Kites: Accipitrinae (in part)	170
Harriers: Accipitrinae (in part)	170
Accipiters: Accipitrinae (in part)	172
Buteos: Accipitrinae (in part)	174
Eagles: Accipitrinae (in part)	180
American Vultures: Cathartidae	182
Osprey: Accipitridae, Pandioninae	184
Caracaras, Falcons: Falconidae	184
Caracara: Caracarinae	184
Falcons: Falconiniae	184
Birds of Prey Overhead	188
Owls: Tytonidae (Barn Owl) and Strigidae	198
Nonpasserine Land Birds	206-304
Trogons: Trogonidae	206
Kingfishers: Alcedinidae	206
Pigeons, Doves: Columbidae	208
Parrots, Parakeets: Psittacidae	210
Cuckoos and Allies: Cuculidae	212
Goatsuckers (Nightjars): Caprimulgidae	214
Hummingbirds: Trochilidae	216
Woodpeckers: Picidae	222
Swifts: Apodidae	246

CONTENTS

Passerine (Perching) Birds	230-346
Tyrant Flycatchers: Tyrannidae	230
Larks: Alaudidae	242
Pipits: Motacillidae	244
Swallows: Hirundinidae	248
Crows, Ravens, Jays, etc.: Corvidae	252
Chickadees, Titmice: Paridae	258
Verdin: Remizidae	260
Bushtit: Aegithalidae	260
Nuthatches: Sittidae	262
Creepers: Certhiidae	262
Wrens: Troglodytidae	264
Dippers: Cinclidae	266
Gnatcatchers: Sylviidae	268
Kinglets: Regulidae	268
Wrentit: Timaliidae	268
Mimic Thrushes (Thrashers, etc.): Mimidae	270
Thrushes: Turdidae	274
Shrikes: Laniidae	280
Starlings: Sturnidae	280
Waxwings: Bombycillidae	282
Silky-Flycatchers: Ptilogonatidae	282
Vireos: Vireonidae	284
Wood Warblers: Parulidae	288
Olive Warbler: Peucedramidae	297
Blackbirds, Orioles, etc.: Icteridae	306
Tanagers: Thraupidae	314
Sparrows, Towhees, Juncos, etc.: Emberizidae	316
Grosbeaks, Buntings: Cardinalidae	336
Finches: Fringillidae	340
Old World Sparrows: Passeridae	346
Accidentals	
Accidentals from Mexico	348
Accidentals from Asia	352
Range Maps	359
Checklist	409
Key Sources for Further Reference	416
Index	417
Conservation Note	432
Endpapers	
Front: Roadside Silhouettes	

Rear: Flight Silhouettes



Other Terms Used in this Book

Sex symbols: & means male, Q means female. These symbols are used frequently on the plates.

Accidental: In the area of this book, recorded fewer than a dozen times, far out of range (see maps, pp. 359–408). On the state level only one, two, or three records; might not be expected again.

Casual: Very few records, but might be expected again because the normal range of the species is in an adjacent state or province, or not too distant.

Introduced: Not native; deliberately released.

Exotic: Not native; either released or escaped.

In part: Subdivision of a family; or part of a species, such as a well-marked subspecies.

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. They are not arranged in systematic or phylogenetic order but are grouped in eight main visual categories:

- (1) Swimmers—Ducks and ducklike birds
- (2) Aerialists-Gulls and gull-like birds
- (3) Long-legged Waders—Herons, cranes, etc.
- (4) Smaller Waders—Plovers, sandpipers, etc.
- (5) Fowl-like Birds—Grouse, quail, etc.
- (6) Birds of Prey-Hawks, eagles, owls
- (7) Nonpasserine Land Birds
- (8) Passerine (Perching) Birds

Within these groupings it will be seen that ducks do not resemble loons, and gulls are readily distinguishable from terns. The needle-like bills of warblers immediately differentiate them from the seed-cracking bills of sparrows. 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 actions, voice, habitat, etc., not visually portrayable, and under a separate heading often discusses species that might be confused. The brief notes on general range are keyed by number to detailed three-color range maps in the rear of the book (pp. 359–408).

In addition to 160 plates of birds normally found in the area of this *Field Guide* there are five color plates depicting fifteen vagrants from Mexico and thirty-five strays or accidentals from Asia. With the exception of several parrots and two or three others unestablished escapes and exotics are not illustrated. However, if you see one, record it, so that if a pattern eventually emerges past infor-

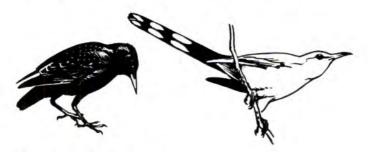
mation will not be lost.

What Is the Bird's Size?

Acquire the habit of comparing a new bird with some familiar "yardstick"—a House Sparrow, a Robin, a 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. However, specimen measurements vary widely depending on the preparator, who may have stretched the neck a bit. In many cases the species accounts give minimum and maximum lengths, but in life, not lying in a tray, most birds are closer to the minimum lengths given.

What Is Its Shape?

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



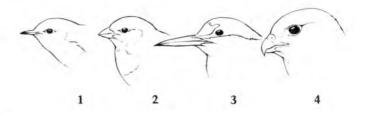
What Shape Are Its Wings?

Are they rounded like those of a quail (left) or sharply pointed like those of a Barn Swallow (right)? See also "Birds of Prey," pp. 168, 169.



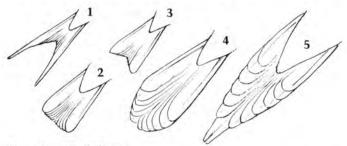
What Shape Is Its Bill?

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 that of a bird of prey (4)?



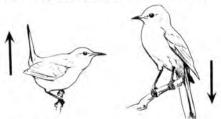
What Shape Is Its Tail?

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 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, flick, or dip its tail? Does it sit erect on an open perch, dart after an insect, and return as a flycatcher does?



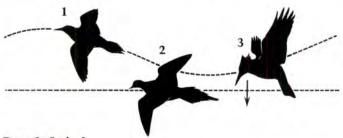
Does It Climb Trees?

If so, does it climb in *spirals* like a Creeper (left), in jerks like a woodpecker (center) using its tail as a brace, or does it 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 Mourning Dove (2)? Does it hover like a Kingfisher (3)? Does it glide or soar? See also "Birds of Prey," pp. 168, 169.



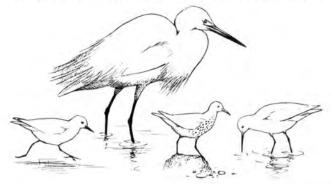
Does It Swim?

Does it sit low in the water like a Loon (1) or high like a Moorhen (2)? If a duck, does it dive like a deepwater duck (3) or does it dabble and up-end like a Mallard (4)?



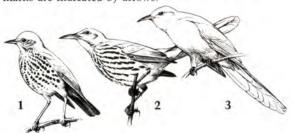
Does It Wade?

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? See also "Waders" (sandpipers, etc.), pp. 128, 129.



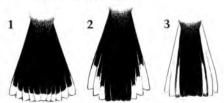
What Are Its Field Marks?

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 the Brown Thrasher (2), or plain as in a cuckoo (3). In this guide, important field marks are indicated by arrows.



Tail Patterns

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



Rump Patches

Does it have a light rump like a Cliff Swallow [1] or Flicker [2]? The Harrier, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and many of the shorebirds also have distinctive rump patches.



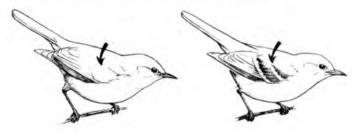
Eyestripes and Eye-rings

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 diagnostic in many small songbirds.



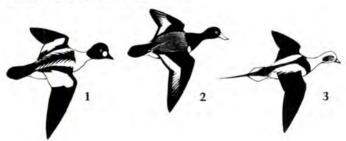
Wing Bars

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



Wing Patterns

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



Caution in Sight Records: Fifty or sixty years ago, prior to the Field Guide era, most ornithologists would not accept sight records of unusual birds unless they were made along the barrel of a shotgun. Today it is difficult to secure a collecting permit unless one is an academic or a student training to be one. Moreover, rarities may show up in parks, refuges, or on other lands where collecting is out of the question. There is no reason why we should not trust our increasingly educated eyes.

To validate the sight record of a very rare or accidental bird—a state "first," for example—the rule has been that at least two competent observers should see the bird and document it in detail in their notes. A 35 mm camera equipped with a 400 mm lens or longer is becoming an increasingly useful tool for substantiating such sightings. Rarities are sometimes caught in mist nets by bird banders and can be photographed hand-held, and even videotaped for the record. For photographing birds in the hand, a 50 mm close-up lens, such as a Micro-Nikkor, is best and may be used with or without flash equipment.

without hash equipment.

There are some species—or plumages—where even the expert will hedge. And it is the mark of an expert to occasionally put a question mark after certain birds on his list: for example, accipiter, sp.?, or *Empidonax*, sp.?, or "peep," sp.?, or immature gull, sp.? Do not be embarrassed if you cannot name *every* bird you see. Not so long ago, Allan Phillips argued convincingly in *American Birds* that practically all of the Semipalmated Sandpipers so freely reported in winter on the southern coasts of the U.S. were really Western Sandpipers. It is quite impossible to identify many individuals of these two species correctly unless they are caught or collected for critical examination—or unless their distinctive call notes are heard.

Once at an A.B.A. gathering, my friend Jim Tucker, then editor of *Birding*, asked us; "How would you define a 'good' birder or a 'great' birder? Is it the guy with a Questar who is unhappy if he cannot put a name to every bird he sees?" After thinking about it, Kenn Kaufman, who had wrestled with the fine points of identification as much as anyone we know, then gave his views: "Let's face it—some birds are really tough to tell apart in the field. If you don't enjoy the challenge it is perfectly acceptable to call such birds 'unknown flycatchers' or 'unidentified gulls'... nobody can name them all. In fact, I would say that if you enjoy birding a lot you are a great birder. And as a great birder you should never allow those tricky identification problems to keep you from having a good time."

Suggestions for Further Reading: See p. 416.

■ LOONS. Family Gaviidae. Shown in flight on p. 31. Large, long-bodied swimmers with daggerlike bills; may dive from the surface or sink. Thrash along water on take-off. Seldom on land except at nest. Sexes alike. Immatures are more scaly above than winter adults. Food: Small fish, crustaceans, other aquatic life. Range: Northern parts of N. Hemisphere. No. of species: World 5; West 5.

RED-THROATED LOON Gavia stellata See also p. 30.

MI

25" (63 cm). Note the sharp thin bill, distinctly upturned. Summer: Plain back, gray head, striped nape, rufous throat patch. Winter: Similar to other loons but smaller, slimmer; profile snakier; back, head, and neck paler, with less contrast or pattern.

Voice: When flying, a repeated kwuk. In Arctic, falsetto wails.

Range: Arctic, circumpolar. Winters southward mainly along coasts to Mediterranean, China, Florida, n. Mexico. West: Map 1. Habitat: Coastal waters, bays, estuaries; in summer, tundra lakes.

PACIFIC LOON Gavia pacifica See also p. 30. M2 25" (63 cm). Smaller than Common Loon, with a thinner, straight bill. Summer: Crown and nape rounded, pale gray. Back divided into four checkered patches. Winter: Note sharp separation of black and white neck pattern. Bill slender, straight (not upturned). Often has trace of a chin strap. Gregarious, often traveling in large flocks.

Voice: A deep, barking kwow. Falsetto wails, rising in pitch.

Ronge: E. Siberia, nw. N. America. Winters along coasts to Japan, nw. Mexico. West: Map 2. Habitat: Ocean, open water; in summer, tundra lakes.

ARCTIC LOON Gavia arctica

27" (68 cm). Formerly regarded as conspecific with Pacific Loon. A bit larger; in breeding plumage throat may be glossed more with green than purple (hard to see). In winter, said to show a whitish flank patch. Has bred in Alaska; accidental, British Columbia.

COMMON LOON Gavia immer See also p. 30. M.

28–36" (70–90 cm). Large, long-bodied, low-swimming; bill stout, daggerlike. *Breeding:* Black head and bill. *Checkered back*, broken white necklace. *Winter:* Dark above, whitish below. Note the *stout*, *straight* bill and irregular or *broken neck pattern*.

Voice: In summer, falsetto wails, weird yodeling, maniacal quavering laughter; at night, a tremulous ha-oo-oo. In flight, a barking

kwuk. Usually silent in winter.

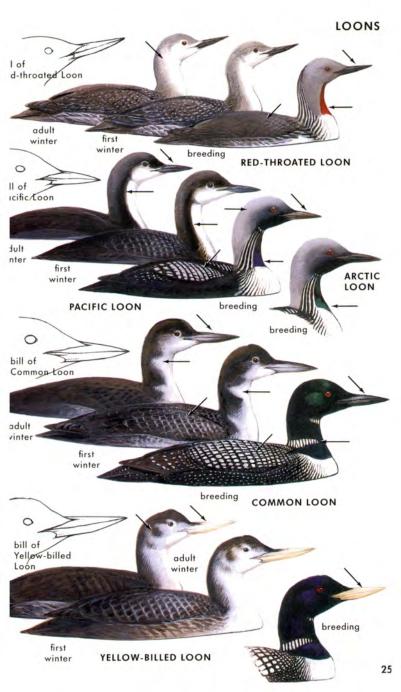
Range: Alaska, Canada, n. U.S., Greenland, Iceland. In winter, chiefly coastwise to n. Mexico, w. Europe. West: Map 3. Habitat: Conifer lakes, tundra ponds (summer); open lakes, bays, sea.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON Gavia adamsii

33–38" [83–95 cm]. Similar to Common Loon, but bill pale ivory or straw-colored, distinctly upturned; straight above, slightly angled below. In winter paler about head and neck than Common Loon; usually shows a dark ear patch; smaller eye. Caution: Bill shape is not always reliable. Bills of most winter Common Loons are pale but the culmen (upper ridge) is dark to the tip.

Range: Arctic, from n. U.S.S.R. to nw. Canada. Winters along coasts of n. Eurasia, nw. N. America. West: Map 4. Habitat: Tundra lakes

in summer: coastal waters in winter.



■ GREBES. Family Podicipedidae. Ducklike divers with flat lobed toes, thin neck, tailless look. All but the Pied-bill have white wing patches, pointed bills. Sexes alike. Most young have striped heads. Grebes may dive from the surface or sink. Flight labored (with a sagging neck). Food: Small fish, other aquatic life. Range: Cosmopolitan. No. of species: World 20; West 7.

PIED-BILLED GREBE Podilymbus podiceps

13" (33 cm). Note the thick, ungrebe-like "chicken bill" and puffy white stern. No wing patch, Breeding: Black throat patch and ring around pale bill. Winter: Throat patch and bill ring absent. Juvenile: Striped on head. A small brown diver of ponds, marshes.

Voice: Kuk-kuk-cow-cow-cowp-cowp; also whinnying.

Range: S. Canada to Argentina. Migratory in North. West: Map 5. Habitat: Ponds, lakes, marshes: in winter, also salt bays.

HORNED GREBE Podiceps auritus

12-15" (30-38 cm). Breeding: Combination of golden ear tufts and chestnut neck. Winter: Dark above, white below, with its black cap clean-cut to eye level; white foreneck, thin straight bill.

Range: Northern parts of N. Hemisphere, Winters to s. U.S., s. Eu-

rasia. West: Map 6. Habitat: Lakes, ponds; coastal waters.

EARED GREBE Podiceps nigricollis 12-14" (30-35 cm). Breeding: Crested black head, golden ear tufts, thin black neck. Winter: Similar to Horned Grebe, but neck thinner; bill slightly tilted; cap ill defined. The gray cheek sets off the white throat, white ear patch. The rump is raised well above the water. Very gregarious.

Range: Eurasia, Africa, w. N. America. West: Map 7. Habitat: Prairie

lakes, ponds; in winter, open lakes, salt bays, ocean.

RED-NECKED GREBE Podiceps grisegena

18" (45 cm). A largish grebe. Breeding: Long rufous neck, light cheek, black cap, long bill with yellow base. Winter: Grayish (including neck); white crescent on face. In flight, double wing patch. Range: Eurasia, n. N. America. Winters to n. Africa, s. U.S. West: Map 7. Habitat: Lakes, ponds; in winter, salt water.

LEAST GREBE Tachybaptus dominicus

9½" (24 cm). A very small slaty grebe, smaller than the Pied-bill, with white wing patches (often concealed), puffy undertail coverts, a slender black pointed bill, golden or red eyes. In winter, throat white. Range: Ponds in tropical America. West: Resident, s. Texas; casual, se. California (has bred), s. Arizona.

WESTERN GREBE Aechmophorus occidentalis 25" (63 cm). A large, slate and white grebe with a long, swanlike

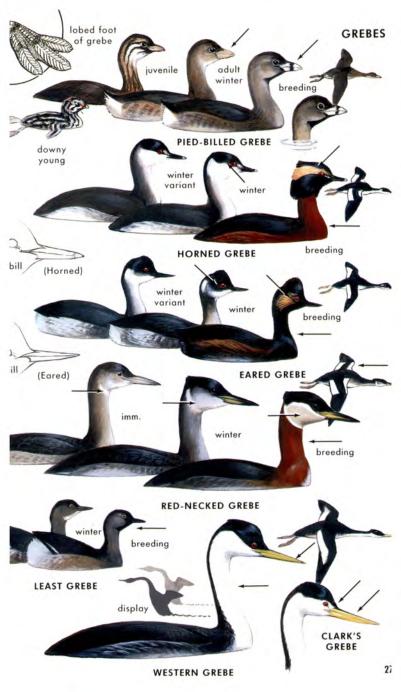
neck. Bill long, greenish yellow with a dark ridge.

Range: Western N. America. Winters to Mexico. West: Map 9. Habitat: Rushy lakes, sloughs; in winter, bays, ocean.

CLARK'S GREBE Aechmophorus clarkii

Formerly regarded as a pale morph of the Western Grebe. Intermediates are known. White around eye; bill is orange-yellow. Downy young are white, not gray. Voices are said to differ: Clark's, a one-note creet or criik; Western, two-noted crik-crick.

Range: Imperfectly known; overlaps that of Western Grebe.



■ CORMORANTS. Family Phalacrocoracidae. Shown in flight on p. 31. Large, blackish water birds that often stand erect on rocks or posts with the neck in an S; may strike a "spread-eagle" pose, with wings spread out to dry. Adults may have colorful face skin, throat pouch, and eyes. Bill slender, hook-tipped. Sexes alike. Cormorants swim low like loons, but with bill tilted up at an angle. Cormorants are silent except for occasional low grunts in nesting colonies. Food: Fish, crustaceans. Range: Nearly cosmopolitan. No. of species: World 29; West 5.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT Phalacrocorax auritus

M16

30–36" (75–90 cm). Any cormorant found well inland can be called this species except some birds near the Mexican border (see Neotropic Cormorant). Coastally, it may be told from the others by its *orange-yellow* throat pouch. Crest seldom evident.

Range: Much of N. America, coast to coast. Winters south to Belize. West: Map 16. Habitat: Coasts, bays, lakes, rivers; nests colonially on sea

cliffs, or in trees on lake margins.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT Phalacrocorax brasilianus

25" (63 cm). Similar to the Double-crest but smaller, slimmer, and longer-tailed. Note the duller (less orange) chin pouch and, in summer, the narrow white border outlining the throat pouch. At very close range, note that the feathers of the back and scapulars are pointed, not rounded. Range: Gulf of Mexico to Argentina. West: Rare or local visitor in Mexican border states.

BRANDT'S CORMORANT Phalacrocorax penicillatus

33–35" [83–88 cm]. Size of Double-crest, but with a dark throat pouch (blue when breeding). Buffy brown band across throat behind pouch. If a young cormorant has a whitish breast it is a Double-crest; if the breast is buffy or pale brown with a pale Y it is most likely a Brandt's. If deep rich brown below, it is a Pelagic.

Range: Pacific Coast of N. America. Map 17. Habitat: Ocean, coast, lit-

toral; nests colonially on sea cliffs.

PELAGIC CORMORANT Phalacrocorax pelagicus

MIS

25½-30" (64–76 cm). Noticeably smaller and more iridescent than other coastal cormorants, with a more slender neck, small head, and much thinner bill. When breeding (Feb.-June) it has a double crest and a white patch on each flank. Throat pouch and part of face dull red (obvious only at close range). Immature: deep brown all over, darkest on back. Note the thin bill.

Range: From Bering Sea to Japan and south along our West Coast. West:

Map 18. Habitat: Coast, bays, sounds.

RED-FACED CORMORANT Phalacrocorax urile

28–30" (70–75 cm). Note the *bright red* of the adult's face (extending to forehead and behind eye). Throat pouch *bluish*; bill pale. Otherwise, similar to Pelagic Cormorant, which has a dull red pouch, restricted dull red on face; thinner bill. *Immature*: Differs from Pelagic in having a thicker pale bill.

Range: Alaska, ne. Asia. West: Resident in Pribilofs and Aleutians; east

locally to Kodiak I., Prince William Sound.



LOONS IN FLIGHT

Airborne, loons are slower than most ducks: their outline is hunchbacked, with a sagging look. The large webbed feet project rudderlike beyond the stubby tail.

> Text and color plate

COMMON LOON Gavia immer

pp. 24, 25

More heavily built than the next two species. Look for the especially large trailing feet and the stout straight bill. In winter plumage note the irregular (half-collared) neck pattern.

RED-THROATED LOON Gavia stellata

pp. 24, 25

Has a slimmer look than the other loons: paler, with a slim, upturned bill. In winter there is no strong demarcation between the gray and white of the head and neck. May be sociable in winter.

PACIFIC LOON Gavia pacifica

Darker and more contrasty than Red-throated Loon; bill straight, not upturned. In winter plumage note the well-defined, straight separation of the blackish and white on the neck. Pacific Loons often travel in sizable flocks in offshore waters

CORMORANTS IN FLIGHT

Cormorants often fly in lines or wedges, somewhat in the manner of geese, but are silent.

> Text and color plate

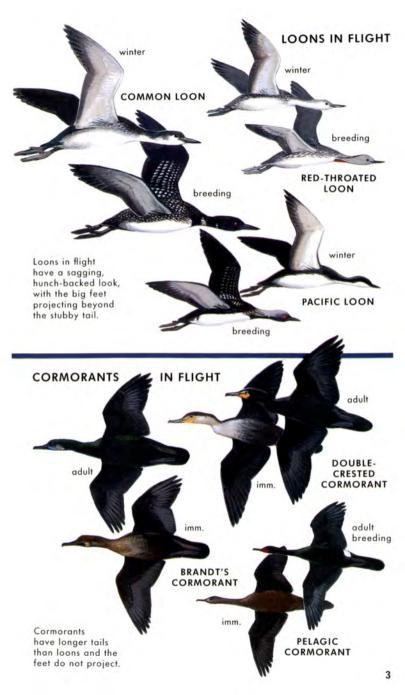
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT Phalacrocorax auritus

pp. 28, 29

Note the kink in the neck and the vellow or orange gular (throat) pouch; tail longer than that of Brandt's Cormorant. Young birds tend to have lighter or whiter breasts than Brandt's Cormorant.

BRANDT'S CORMORANT Phalacrocorax penicillatus pp. 28, 29 Heavily built; no marked kink in the neck. Tail shorter than Double-crest's. Young birds are browner than young Double-crests. Throat pouch edged with buff. May have a pale Y on breast.

PELAGIC CORMORANT Phalacrocorax pelagicus pp. 28, 29 Note the slender neck (with no kink) and the much thinner bill. Tail longish. Breeding adults (Feb. to June) have a white flank patch. Immature birds are deep brown.



■ AUKS, etc. Family Alcidae. The northern counterparts of the penguins, but auks fly, beating their small narrow wings in a whir. often veering. They have short necks and pointed, stubby, or deep and laterally compressed bills. Auks swim and dive expertly, Most species nest on sea cliffs in crowded colonies. Sexes alike. Food: Fish, crustaceans, mollusks, Range: N. Atlantic, N. Pacific, Arctic oceans. No. of species: World 22: West 18 (+1 vagrant).

COMMON MURRE Uria aalge

M176

16-17" (40-43 cm). Size of a small duck, with a slender pointed bill, Breeding: Head, neck, back, and wings dark, underparts, wing linings, and line on rear edge of wing white. Non-breeding: Similar, but throat and cheeks white. A black mark extends from eve onto cheek. Murres often raft on water, fly in lines; stand erect on sea cliffs. Chicks at sea may be mistaken for Xantus' Murrelet.

Range: Northern parts of N. Pacific, N. Atlantic. West: Map 176.

Habitat: Ocean, large bays: colonies on sea cliffs.

THICK-BILLED MURRE Uria lomvia

M177

17-19" (43-48 cm). Similar to Common Murre, but a bit larger and blacker above. Bill shorter, thicker, with a whitish line along gape. White of foreneck forms an inverted V. In winter, head darker than Common Murre's, black crown extending well below eye; no dark line through white ear coverts. White bill mark less evident.

Range: Cold oceans of N. Hemisphere. West: Map 177. Habitat:

Ocean, nesting colonially on ledges of sea cliffs.

M183

TUFTED PUFFIN Fratercula cirrhata 15" (38 cm). A stocky, dark seabird with a massive bill. Breeding: Blackish, with a large, triangular, orange-red bill; white face; and long, curved, ivory-yellow ear tufts. Feet orange. Winter adult: White face and ear tufts gone (a gray trace); a blackish bird with an orange-red bill (not as triangular as in summer). Immature: Light gravish below; bill smaller; no red.

Range: N. Pacific (both sides). West: Map 183. Habitat: Oceanic;

nests colonially in burrows on sea cliffs.

M184

HORNED PUFFIN Fratercula corniculata 141/2" (36 cm). A puffin with clear white underparts and a broad black collar. Feet bright orange. Summer: Cheeks white, with a small, dark erectile horn above each eye. Bill massive, triangular, laterally flat; yellow with a red tip. Winter: Cheeks dusky; bill blackish with red tip. Young birds resemble winter adults with dusky cheeks, but the bill is smaller and all dark, lacking red.

Range: N. Pacific (both sides). West: Map 184. Habitat: Ocean, nest-

ing colonially in burrows or crevices on sea cliffs. RHINOCEROS AUKLET Cerorhinca monocerata

M182

14-151/2" (35-39 cm). A dark stubby seabird. Breeding plumage (acquired in late winter): White "mustaches," narrow white plume behind eye, short erect horn at base of yellowish bill. Non-breeding: Note the size and uniform dark color. The white plumes are shorter, the horn absent. Immature is similar, with smaller, darker bill.

Range: N. Pacific (both sides). West: Map 182. Habitat: Ocean, tide-

rips; nests colonially in burrows on islands.



BLACK GUILLEMOT Cepphus grylle

M178

12–14" (30–35 cm). Very similar to Pigeon Guillemot, which it meets in n. Alaskan waters. White wing patch (lacks the black bar). Underwing linings white (dusky in Pigeon Guillemot). Winter and juvenile birds are paler than Pigeon Guillemot.

Range: Arctic coasts and n. coasts of Atlantic. West: Map 178.

PIGEON GUILLEMOT Cepphus columba

M178

12–14" (30–35 cm). *Breeding:* A small, black, pigeon-like water bird, with large *white wing patches* (subdivided by a black bar or wedge), *red feet*, a pointed black bill, and orange-red inside the open mouth. *Non-breeding:* Pale with white underparts and blackish wings with large white patches as in summer (mottled in juvenile).

Voice: A feeble, wheezy or hissing whistle, peeeeee.

Range: Bering Sea to Japan, s. California. West: Map 178. Habitat: Rocky coasts, inshore waters; less pelagic than other auks. Breeds in small groups or in solitary pairs among rocks.

CRESTED AUKLET Aethia cristatella

9½" (24 cm). A droll auklet of the Bering Sea. Completely slate-gray, darker on back; a thin white plume behind the eye. In summer, develops a fleshy gape on its stubby *bright orange bill* and a curious crest that *curls forward* over the bill. In winter, the orange gape on the bill is lost and the crest is shorter.

Range: Bering Sea, ne. Asia, w. Alaska. West: Breeds in Bering Sea south to Pribilofs; in Aleutians east to Shumagin and Semidi Is. Winters in s. Bering Sea and Aleutians. Accidental, California. Habitat: Open sea; nests in colonies on sea cliffs.

WHISKERED AUKLET Aethia pygmaea

7" (18 cm). Similar to the larger Crested Auklet, but in addition to the curled black plume on the forehead this bird has three thin white plumes on each side of the face. In winter the plumes are shorter.

Range: Bering Sea. Resident in Komandorskiye Is., s. Kuriles; locally in

cen. Aleutians. Habitat: Ocean, tide-rips, rocky coasts.

PARAKEET AUKLET Aethia psittacula

10" (25 cm). A small auk with a *stubby, upturned red bill* and white underparts. In summer the whole head is black, with a thin white plume behind the eye. In winter the bill shows less red and the throat is largely white.

Range: Breeds in ne. Siberia, islands in Bering Sea and Aleutians. Winters from Bering Sea south to Japan and California, but rare vagrant south of Alaska. Habitat: Ocean; nests in scattered pairs or in colonies on sea cliffs.

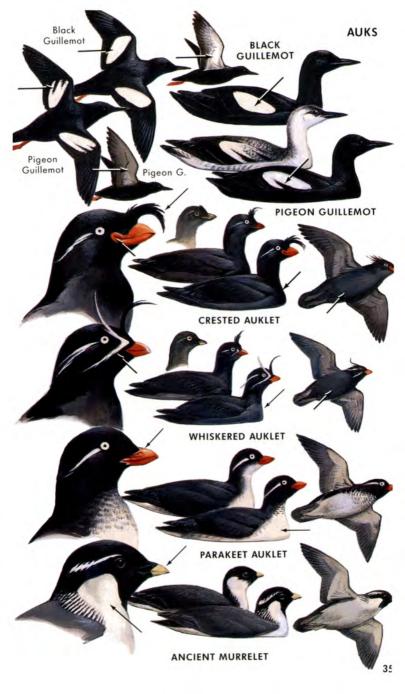
ANCIENT MURRELET Synthliboramphus antiquus

M180

9½-10½" (24-26 cm). Breeding: Note the sharply cut black throat patch and white stripe over eye. Bill yellow. Winter: Similar to Marbled Murrelet (p. 37), but without white stripe on scapulars. Back paler, contrasting with black cap. Throat may be dusky.

Range: Bering Sea and northern parts of N. Pacific (both coasts). West:

Map 180. Habitat: Open ocean, sounds, rarely salt bays.



MARBLED MURRELET Brachyramphus marmoratus

M179

91/2" (24 cm). Breeding: Dark brown; heavily barred on underparts. The only alcid south of Alaska so colored (but from Glacier Bay north, see Kittlitz's Murrelet). Winter: A small, chubby, neckless-looking seabird, dark above and white below. May be known from all similar small alcids (except Kittlitz's) by the strip of white between the back and wings.

Voice: A sharp keer, keer or a lower kee.

Range: Kamchatka to Japan, n. Alaska to California. West: Map 179. Habitat: Coastal waters, bays. Breeds inland on mountains near coast, mainly high on limbs of mossy conifers.

KITTLITZ'S MURRELET Brachvramphus brevirostris

9" (23 cm). In summer, scaled below (as in Marbled Murrelet) but freckled with white above, giving a paler look. White outer tail feathers. In winter (not likely to be seen) similar to Marbled Murrelet, but white on face surrounds eves.

Range: Summers locally along coast of Alaska from Pt. Barrow south at least to Glacier Bay. Winters in nw. Pacific (Kamchatka to Japan). Habitat: Ocean, glacier waters; nests presumably on barren slopes above tim-

berline in coastal mountains.

XANTUS'S MURRELET Synthliboramphus hypoleucus

71/2-101/2" (19-26 cm). A small, black and white alcid, with a solid black back and thin black bill. Suggests a miniature murre. Very similar to Craveri's (next), but with white wing linings in flight. The hypoleucus race (inset) of Baja California, a rare fall visitor to California, has white around the eve.

Range: Breeds s. California (Anacapa and Santa Barbara Is.) to cen. Baja.

Some winter north to Monterey; casually to Washington.

CRAVERI'S MURRELET Synthliboramphus craveri

Very similar to Xantus's Murrelet, but with a black half collar on breast and dusky (not white) underwing linings.

Range: Breeds on islands off Baja California; wanders north to Monterey

Bay, California; casual, Oregon.

CASSIN'S AUKLET Ptychoramphus aleuticus

M181

8½" (21 cm). A small, stubby seabird; all dark except for the white belly: note the pale spot on lower mandible. In winter, all other small alcids in its range show much more white.

Range: Map 181. Habitat: Ocean; colonizes sea islands.

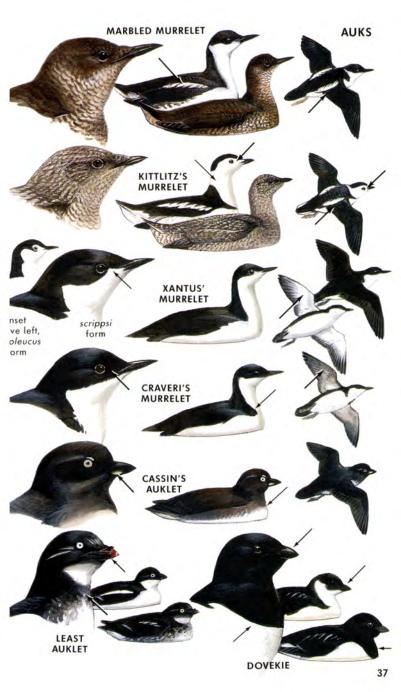
LEAST AUKLET Aethia pusilla

6" (15 cm). The tiniest auk, chubby, neckless. Black above, white below. In summer, a wide dark band across the upper breast. The tiny size and very stubby bill separate it from other wintering alcids of the Aleutians.

Range: Breeds in swarms on islands of Bering Sea south to Aleutians and Shumagins. Winters from Aleutians to n. Japan.

DOVEKIE Alle alle

71/2-9" (19-23 cm). Small size and distinctive pattern (opposite) identify this straggler from the Atlantic. West: Casual along Arctic coast to n. Bering Sea, where it may breed.



- SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS. Family Anatidae. Web-footed waterfowl; tribes discussed separately. Range: Worldwide. No. of species: World 157; West 41 (+9 casual or accidental).
- SWANS. Tribe Cygnini. Huge, all-white swimmers; larger and longer-necked than geese. Young pale gray-brown. Sexes alike. Swans migrate in lines or V's. Feed by immersing head and neck, or by "tipping up." Food: Aquatic plants, seeds.

TUNDRA SWAN Cygnus columbianus

M28

(Whistling Swan). 53" (133 cm); spread 6–7 ft. Our common native swan. Often heard long before the ribbonlike flock can be spotted. Bill black, usually with a small yellow basal spot. Immature: Dingy, with pinkish bill. Eurasian form ("Bewick's Swan"), casual or accidental from Alaska to California, has much yellow on the bill above the nostrils. Voice: A mellow, high-pitched cooing: wooho, woo-woo, woo-ho. Range: Breeds from arctic coast south to Alaska Peninsula and barren grounds of Canada. Winters to seaboards of e. and w. U.S. West: Map 28. Habitat: Tundra (summer), lakes, large rivers, bays, estuaries.

TRUMPETER SWAN Cygnus buccinator M29
58½-72" (147-180 cm). Larger than Tundra Swan, with a flatter head and a heavier, all-black bill. Black on lores wider, embracing the eyes and lacking the yellow basal spot (some Tundra Swans may also lack this spot). Trumpeters have louder, deeper voices.

Range: Nw. N. America. Map 29. Habitat: Lakes, ponds, large riv-

ers; in winter, also bays.

SNOW GOOSE Chen caerulescens Tribe Anserini

M31

25-38" (63-95 cm). White with black primaries. Head often rust-stained. Bill, feet pink. Immature: Pale gray; dark bill, dark legs.

Voice: A loud, nasal, double-noted houck-houck, in chorus.

Range: Ne. Siberia, arctic America. Winters to Japan, n. Mexico, Gulf Coast. West: Map 31. Habitat: Marshes, grain fields, ponds, bays; when breeding, tundra.

ROSS'S GOOSE Chen rossii Tribe Anserini

M32

23" (58 cm). Like a miniature Snow Goose, but neck shorter, head rounder. Bill stubbier, dark and warty at base, *lacking the "grinning black lips."* Young bird whiter than young Snow. "Blue" morphs are known; hybrids with Snow Goose occur. Voice: No loud notes; sounds like "Cackling" Goose (p. 40), not like Snow Goose. Range: Arctic Canada; winters mainly in sw. U.S. West: Map 32.

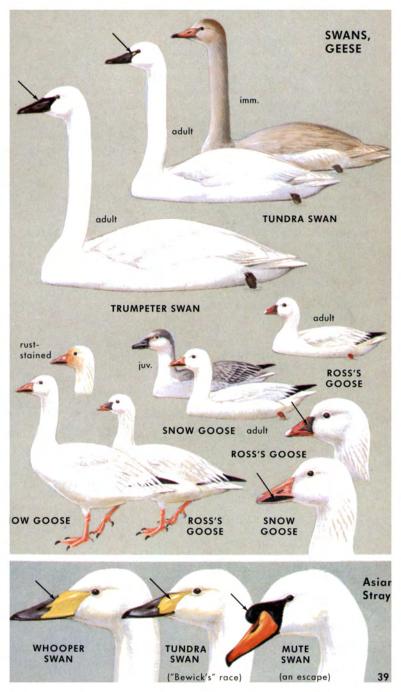
WHOOPER SWAN Cygnus cygnus

56–70" (140–175 cm). This Asian swan is a regular winter visitor to the Aleutians and rarely to the Pribilofs. Resembles Trumpeter Swan, but adult Whooper has extensive yellow base on its large bill. Compare with "Bewick's" race (Eurasian) of Tundra Swan.

MUTE SWAN Cygnus olor

60" [150 cm]. The graceful ornamental park swan often swims with an S-curve in the neck; wings often arched over back. The black-knobbed orange bill tilts downward. Dingy young have pinkish bills.

Range: Eurasia; introduced e. N. America, elsewhere. West: Kept locally in parks; escapes not yet established.



■ GEESE. Tribe Anserini. 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 (except Brant and Emperor Goose), Food: Grasses, seeds, aquatic plants; eelgrass (Brant); shellfish (Emperor Goose).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE Anser albifrons

M30

30" (75 cm). Gray-brown with a pink bill, white patch on front of face, and variable black bars on belly. The only other American goose with yellow or orange feet is the Emperor. Immature: Dusky with a pale bill, yellow or orange feet.

Voice: High-pitched tootling, kah-lah-a-luk, in chorus.

Range: Arctic; circumpolar. Winters to Mexico, Gulf states, n. Africa, India. West: Map 30. Habitat: Marshes, prairies, fields, lakes, bays; in summer, tundra.

EMPEROR GOOSE Chen canagica

M33

26–28" (65–70 cm). Alaskan. Adult: A small, blue-gray goose, scaled with black and white; identified by its white head and hind-neck. Throat black (not white as in "Blue" Goose, a stray). Golden legs. Ronge: Ne. Siberia, w. Alaska. West: Map 33. Habitat: In summer, tundra; in winter, rocky shores, mudflats, seaweed.

BEAN GOOSE Anser fabalis See p. 62.

This Eurasian species is a vagrant in North America.

CANADA GOOSE Branta canadensis

M35

25–43" (63–108 cm). The most widespread goose. Note the black head and neck or "stocking" that contrasts with the pale breast, and the white chin strap. Flocks travel in strings or in V's, "honking" loudly. Great variation in size and neck length between populations, from short-necked, Mallard-size "Cackling" Geese, to long-necked, almost swan-size birds.

Voice: A deep, musical honking or barking, ka-ronk or ka-lunk.

Ronge: Alaska, Canada, n. U.S. Winters to n. Mexico. West: Map 35. Habitat: Lakes, ponds, bays, marshes, fields.

BRANT Branta bernicla

M34

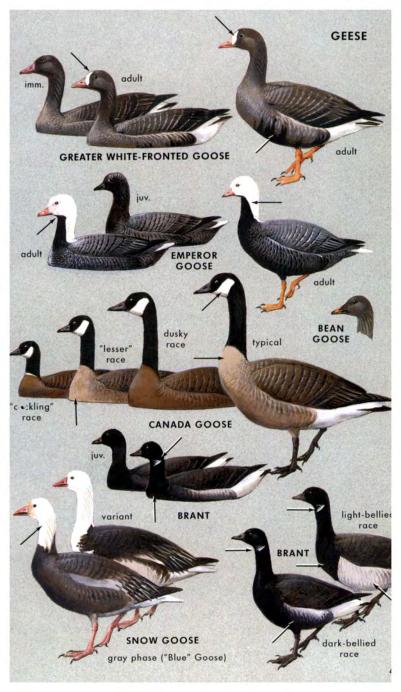
22–26" (55–65 cm). A small, black-necked goose, near the size of a Mallard. Has a white stern, conspicuous when it up-ends, and a fleck of white on the neck (absent in immature). Travels in large irregular flocks. Whereas Canada Goose's breast shows light above water, foreparts of Brant are *entirely black*. Brant is more strictly coastal. The eastern race (also shown), rare on the Pacific side, has a *light belly*.

Voice: A throaty cr-r-r-ruk or krr-onk, krrr-onk.

Range: Coasts of n. Eurasia, N. America. West: Map 34. Habitat:

Salt bays, estuaries; in summer, tundra.

SNOW GOOSE (dark morph—"BLUE GOOSE") Chen caerulescens 25–30" (63–75 cm). This dark morph of the Snow Goose (p. 38) with a white head, suggests the Emperor, but has a white throat. Intermediates with white form of Snow are frequent. Immature: Similar to young White-front, but feet and bill dark. Most "Blue Geese" migrate through the prairies; rare in Pacific states.



GEESE AND SWANS IN FLIGHT

Many geese and swans fly in line or wedge formation. Text and color plate CANADA GOOSE Branta canadensis pp. 40, 41 Light chest, black neck "stocking," white chin strap. Size and neck length vary greatly between populations. BRANT Branta bernicla pp. 40, 41 Small; black underparts, black head and neck, white stern. GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE Anser albifrons pp. 40, 41 Adult: Gray neck, black splotches on belly. Immature: Dusky, light bill, light feet. **EMPEROR GOOSE** Chen canagica pp. 40, 41 Gray with white head, black throat, **TUNDRA SWAN** Cygnus columbianus pp. 38, 39 Very long neck; plumage entirely white.

SNOW GOOSE Chen caerulescens pp. 38, 39

Adult: White with black primaries. ROSS'S GOOSE Chen rossii pp. 38, 39

Smaller, shorter-necked than Snow Goose.

■ WHISTLING-DUCKS. Tribe Dendrocygnini. Shown on p. 45.

Formerly called "Tree-Ducks," these rather goose-like ducks with their long legs and erect necks are indeed more closely related to the geese (same subfamily) than they are to the other ducks, which taxonomists place in a different subfamily.

ULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK Dendrocygna bicolor

20" (50 cm). Long-legged, goose-like. Note the tawny body, dark back, pale side stripe. Flies with neck slightly drooped and feet trailing, showing black underwings, white ring on rump. See also p. 69.

Voice: A squealing slurred whistle, ka-whee-oo.

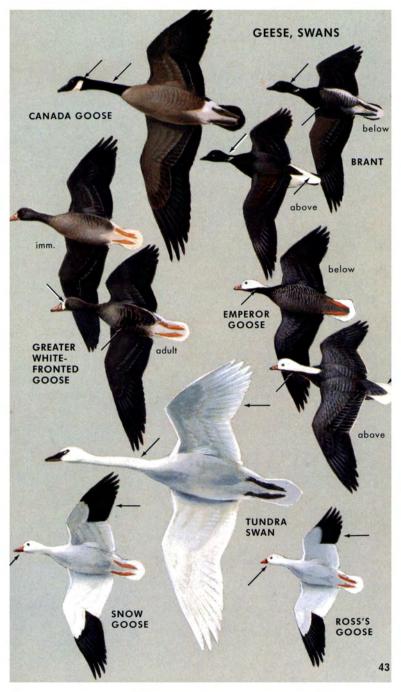
Range: Southern U.S. to Argentina; also s. Asia, subsaharan Africa. West: Breeds s. California (Imperial Valley); wanderers may turn up rarely elsewhere in w. U.S. Habitat: Fresh marshes, irrigated land. Seldom perches in trees.

ILACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK Dendrocygna autumnalis

21" (53 cm). A goose-like duck with long pink legs. Rusty with black belly, bright coral-red bill. Very broad white patch along forewing. Immature has gray bill and legs. Thrusts head and feet down when landing. Frequently perches in trees.

Range: S. Texas to n. Argentina. West: Resident, se. Arizona (breeds); casual, se. California, s. New Mexico, Colorado, w. Texas. Habitat: Ponds,

fresh marshes.



WHISTLING-DUCKS. Tribe Dendrocygnini. Text on p. 42.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK

■ MARSH OR DABBLING DUCKS. Tribe Anatini. Surface-feeders of wetlands. Feed by dabbling and upending, sometimes feed on land. Take flight directly into the air. Most species have an iridescent speculum on the rear edge of the wing. Sexes are not alike, in late summer, males molt into drab "eclipse" plumage. Food: Aquatic plants, seeds, grass, small aquatic life, insects.

"MEXICAN DUCK"

(Mallard, in part) 20–22" (50–55 cm). This race of the Mallard was formerly regarded as a distinct species. Hybrids are frequent. Both sexes are very similar to the female Mallard but with a *grayish brown* instead of whitish tail. Bill of male like bill of male Mallard (unmarked yellowish green). Yellow-orange bill of female has a dark ridge. Not as dark overall as Black Duck; has a white border *on both sides* of metallic wing patch, as in female Mallard.

Range: Rare summer resident from n. New Mexico south in Rio Grande Valley to w. Texas; very local from sw. New Mexico to cen. Mexico. Ac-

cidental, Colorado, Nebraska.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK Anas rubripes See also p. 68.

21–25" (53–63 cm). A dusky duck, much darker than female Mallard. In flight, shows flashing *white wing linings*. Sooty brown, with a paler head and violet wing patch; feet red or brown. Sexes similar, except for bills (yellow in male, dull green in female).

Range: Ne. N. America. Winters to Gulf Coast. West: Breeds in Saskatchewan. Straggler west of 100°, but recorded from most western

states.

GADWALL Anas strepera See also p. 66. M43 19–23" (48–58 cm). Male: Gray with a black rump, white speculum on the rear edge of wing, and a dull ruddy patch on the forewing. When swimming, wing patches may be concealed; then note the black stern. Belly white, feet yellow, bill dark. Female: Brown, mottled, with a white

speculum, yellow feet, yellow on bill.

Voice: Male has a low bek; a whistling call. Female quacks.

Range: Northern N. America, n. Eurasia. Winters to Mexico, Africa, India Wort: Man 43 Hebitett Lakas, pands, marchas

dia. West: Map 43. Habitat: Lakes, ponds, marshes. MALLARD Anas platyrhynchos See also p. 68

M38

20–28" (50–70 cm). Male: Note the uncrested glossy green head and white neck-ring; chestnut chest, white tail, yellowish bill, orange feet, blue speculum. Female: Mottled brown with a whitish tail. Bill patched with orange, feet orange. In flight, shows a white bar on both sides of the speculum.

Voice: Male, yeeb; a low kwek. Female, boisterous quacking.

Range: Northern parts of N. Hemisphere. Winters to Mexico, n. Africa, India. West: Map 38. Habitat: Marshes, wooded swamps, grain fields, ponds, rivers, lakes, bays, city parks.



NORTHERN PINTAIL Anas acuta See also p. 66.

M39

Male 28" (70 cm); female 21" (53 cm). Male: Slender, slim-necked, white-breasted, with a long, needle-pointed tail. A conspicuous white point runs onto the side of the dark head. Female: Mottled brown: note the rather pointed tail, slender neck, gray bill. In flight both sexes show a single light border on the rear edge of the brown speculum.

Voice: Male, a double-toned whistle: prrip, prrip; wheezy notes. Fe-

male, a low auack.

Range: Northern parts of N. Hemisphere, Winters to n. S. America. Africa. India. West: Map 39. Habitat: Marshes, prairies, ponds, lakes, salt bays.

AMERICAN WIGEON Anas americana See also p. 66. M44 18-23" (45-58 cm). In flight, recognized by the large white patch on the forewing. (Similarly placed blue patches of Shoveler and Blue-winged Teal may often appear whitish). When swimming, it rides high, picking at water like a Coot. Often grazes on land. Male: Brownish; head gray with a deep green patch. Note the shining white crown (nicknamed "Baldpate"). Female: Brown; gray head and neck: belly and forewing whitish.

Similar species: Female easily confused with females of Gadwall and Pintail; note whitish patch on forewing, blue bill.

Voice: Male, a whistled whee whee whew. Female, qua-ack. Range: Alaska, w. Canada, n. U.S. Winters to n. S. America, W. Indies. West: Map 44. Habitat: Marshes, lakes, bays, fields.

EURASIAN WIGEON Anas penelope

18-20" (45-50 cm). Male: Note the red-brown head, buff crown. A gray wigeon with a vinaceous breast. Female: Very similar to female American Wigeon, but in some females the head is tinged with rust; in others it is not. The surest point when this duck is held in the hand is the dusky (not white) axillars, or "wingpits."

Range: Breeds in n. Eurasia. Winters to s. Eurasia, n. Africa. West: Common transient in Aleutians. Most often recorded among flocks of American Wigeon from Alaska to California: less often in interior

states.

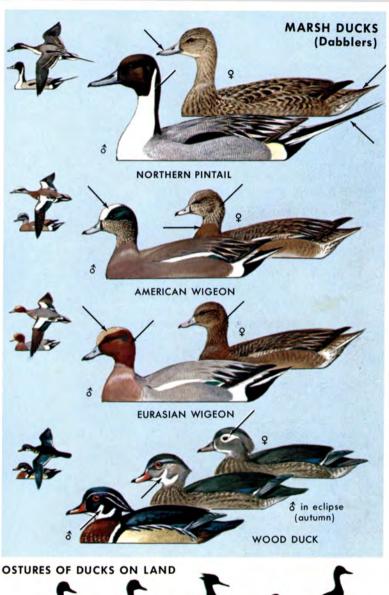
WOOD DUCK Aix sponsa Tribe Cairinini See also p. 66. 17-201/2" (43-51 cm). Highly colored; often perches in trees. In flight, the white belly contrasts with the dark breast and wings. Note also the long, square, dark tail; the short neck; and the angle at which the bill points downward. Male: The bizarre face pattern, swept-back crest, and rainbow iridescence are unique. Female: Dullcolored; note the dark crested head and white eve patch.

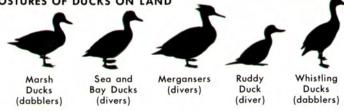
Voice: Male, a loud, distressed whoo-eek; also a finch-like jeee,

with rising inflection. Female, crrek, crrek.

Range: S. Canada, nw. and e. U.S., Cuba. Winters to Mexico, Cuba.

West: Map 36. Habitat: Wooded swamps, rivers, ponds.





NORTHERN SHOVELER Anas clypeata See also p. 66.

M42

17-20" (43-50 cm). The long, spoon-shaped bill gives this small duck a front-heavy look. When swimming, it sits low, with the bill angled toward the water. Male: Belly and sides rufous; pale blue patch on forewing, orange feet. Female: Note the big bill, blue wing patch, orange feet. Bill color variable.

Range: N. Hemisphere, Winters to n. S. America, s. Eurasia, e. Africa.

West: Map 42. Habitat: Marshes, ponds: in winter, also salt bays.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL Anas discors See also p. 66. 15-16" (38-40 cm). A half-sized marsh duck. Male: Note the white facial crescent and large, chalky blue patch on the forewing. Molting males hold eclipse plumage late in the year, may resemble females. Female: Brown, mottled; blue on the forewing.

Range: Canada to s. U.S. Winters to Argentina. West: Map 40. Habitat:

Fresh ponds, marshes.

M37

GREEN-WINGED TEAL Anas crecca See also p. 66. 14" (35 cm). Teal are small, fly in tight flocks. Green-wings lack light wing patches (speculum deep green). Male: Small, compact, gray with a brown head (a green head patch shows in sunlight). When swimming, note the vertical white mark near the shoulder. Female: A small speckled duck with a green speculum.

Similar species: Blue-winged Teal has light blue wing patches. In flight, males show dark bellies; Green-wings, white bellies. Females of Blue-

wing and Cinnamon Teal are larger, longer-billed.

Range: Northern parts of N. America. Winters to Cen. America, W. Indies. West: Map 37. Habitat: Marshes, rivers, bays.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL (Aleutian race) Anas crecca (in part)

Male: Longitudinal (not vertical) white stripe above wing. Resident in Aleutians from Akutan westward. Casual, Pribilofs. This or similar Eurasian race is accidental elsewhere in w. U.S.

CINNAMON TEAL Anas evanoptera

15-17" (38-43 cm). Male: A small, dark chestnut duck with a large, chalky blue patch on the fore edge of the wing. In flight, resembles Bluewinged Teal. Female: Very similar to female Blue-wing, but tawnier; bill a wee bit longer, line through eye less distinct.

Range: Sw. Canada, w. U.S., Mexico; S. America. West: Map 41. Habitat:

Marshes, fresh ponds.

■ ALASKAN STRAYS FROM ASIA. (See also heads on p. 63.)

GARGANEY Anas querquedula

15½" (39 cm). Male: Broad white eyebrow stripe. Female: Paler than female Blue-wing, less blue on wing. Rare visitor to Aleutians: accidental vagrant elsewhere in N. America.

BAIKAL TEAL Anas formosa

17" (43 cm). Male: Creamy cheek with circular pattern. Female: White spot near bill; broken supercilium (eyebrow stripe). Rare vagrant to Attu, Pribilofs, w. Alaska.

FALCATED DUCK Anas falcata

19" (48 cm). Male: Large crested head, banded white throat. Note the high-rumped look. Both sexes have a dark speculum bordered with white. Rare stray to w. Aleutians, Pribilofs.



■ SCOTERS. Tribe Mergini (in part). Scoters are the heavy, blackish ducks seen in large flocks along the coast. They are usually in companies of their own kind, but occasionally mix, so look them over carefully. The scoters, eiders, and their allies are collectively called "sea ducks," but some may also be found at times on bays and inland waters. All dive, dabbling ducks rarely do. In taking wing, scoters patter while getting under way. Sexes not alike. Scoters are usually silent, but during mating may utter low whistles, croaks, or grunting noises. Food: Mainly mollusks, crustaceans.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER Melanitta fusca See also p. 70. M58 21" (53 cm). The White-wing, the largest of the three scoters, usually flies in lines or stringy formations. On the water, the white wing patch is often concealed (wait for the bird to flap or fly). Male: Black, with a tick of white near the eye; bill orange with a black basal knob. Female: Sooty, with a white wing patch and two light patches on the face (sometimes obscure; more pronounced on young birds). Range: N. Eurasia, Alaska, w. Canada; winters to w. Europe, Japan, s. U.S. (both coasts). West: Map 58. Habitat: Salt bays, ocean; in summer, lakes.

SURF SCOTER Melanitta perspicillata See also p. 70. M57 19" [48 cm]. The "Skunk-duck." Male: Black, with one or two white patches on crown and nape. Bill patterned with orange, black, and white. Female: Dusky brown, with two light spots on side of head (sometimes obscure; more evident on young birds).

Similar species: Female White-wing has a similar head pattern, but

note the wing patch (may not show until bird flaps).

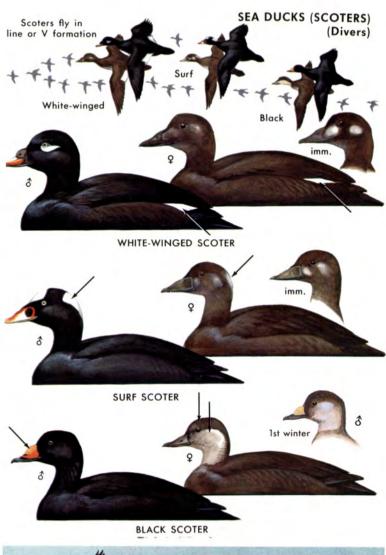
Range: Alaska, n. Canada. Winters to s. U.S. (both coasts), Gulf of Mexico, Baja California. West: Map 57. Habitat: Ocean surf, salt bays, marinas; in summer, fresh arctic lakes, tundra.

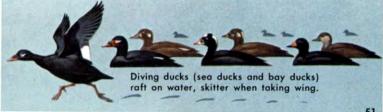
BLACK SCOTER Melanitta nigra See also p. 70. M56 (Common Scoter) 18½" (46 cm). Male: A sea duck with entirely black plumage. The bright orange-yellow knob on the bill ("butternose") is diagnostic. In flight, the underwing shows a two-toned effect (silvery gray and black), more pronounced than in the other two scoters. Female: Sooty; the light cheeks contrasting with the dark cap.

Similar species: (1) Coot is blackish, but has a white bill, white patch under the tail. Gunners often call scoters "coots." (2) Some young male Surf Scoters may lack head patches and thus appear all-black, but look for a round black area at the base of the bill. (3) Female and immature scoters of the other two species have light spots on side of head. (4) Female Black Scoter may suggest winter Ruddy Duck (p. 59).

Ronge: Alaska, ne. Canada, Iceland, n. Eurasia. Winters to s. U.S., Mediterranean, Japan. West: Map 56. Habitat: Seacoasts; in summer,

coastal tundra.





■ EIDERS. Tribe Mergini (in part). Eiders, like the scoters, are "sea ducks," seldom seen ashore except in summer when breeding. They usually mass in flocks off shoals and rocky coasts and often fly in stringy formations. In flight males show white shoulders.

KING EIDER Somateria spectabilis See also pp. 70, 71. M51 21–24" (53–60 cm). Male: A stocky sea duck; on the water the foreparts appear white, the rear parts black. Note the protruding orange bill shield. In flight, the wings show large white patches. Female: Stocky; warm brown, heavily barred. Note the facial profile as shown. Immature male: Dusky, with a light breast, dark brown head; may have a pinkish bill.

Similar species: (1) Male Common Eider has a white back. (2) Fe-

male Common has flatter profile, longer lobe before eye.

Voice: The courting male utters a low crooning phrase; the female makes grunting croaks.

Range: Arctic regions of N. Hemisphere. West: Map 51. Habitat: Rocky coasts, ocean.

COMMON EIDER Somateria mollissima See also pp. 70, 71. M50 23–27" (58–68 cm). These bulky, thick-necked ducks are oceanic, living in flocks about shoals. Flight sluggish and low; flocks usually in a line. Male: This and the Spectacled Eider are the only ducks in our area with black bellies and white backs. Forewing white; head white, with a black crown, greenish nape. Female: Large, brown, closely barred; long flat profile. Immature male: At first grayish brown; later dusky with a white collar; may develop chocolate head or breast; white areas come in irregularly.

Similar species: (1) Male King Eider has a largely black back; female has a different facial profile than other female eiders, as shown. (2) Female scoters are duskier, lack the heavy black barring of the fe-

male eiders.

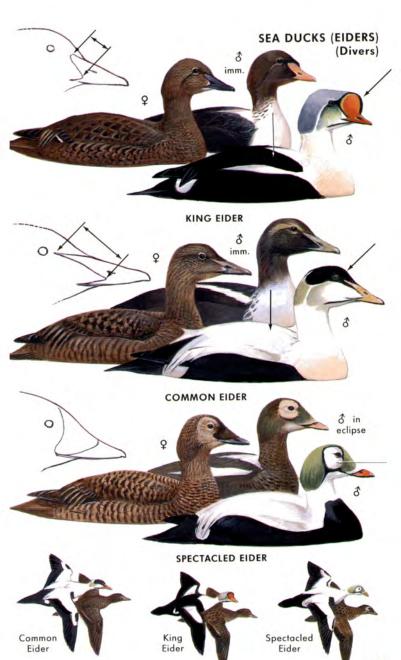
Voice: Male, a moaning ow-ooo-urr. Female, a grating kor-r-r. Range: Northern parts of N. Hemisphere. West: Map 50. Habitat: Rocky coasts, shoals; in summer, also islands, tundra.

SPECTACLED EIDER Somateria fischeri M52

20½-22½" (51-57 cm). Note the white "spectacles." *Male*: Grotesque; black below, white above, suggesting a male Common Eider, but head largely pale green, with large *white* "goggles" narrowly trimmed with black. *Female*: Brown and barred like the other female eiders, but with a pale ghost image of the goggles. The feathering at the base of the bill extends over the nostril.

Range: Ne. Siberia, n. Alaska. West: Map 52. Breeds on Arctic coasts of nw. Alaska from Pt. Barrow south to Yukon-Kuskoquim Delta. Probably winters mainly at the edge of the pack ice in the Bering Sea, but to be looked for off the Pribilofs and Aleutians at that season. Casual or accidental elsewhere along Alaskan coast and in

British Columbia.



■ MORE SEA DUCKS. Tribe Mergini.

STELLER'S EIDER Polysticta stelleri

M53

17–18½" (43–47 cm). Male: Black and white, with yellow-buff underparts; white head, black throat, and green bump on the back of the head. Note the round black spot on the side of the breast. As in other eiders, the white forewing is conspicuous in flight. Female: Dark brown, mottled; distinguished from the other eiders by its much smaller size and the shape of its small head and bill. The white wing bar and purple speculum, visible at short range, suggest a female Mallard.

Voice: Male's crooning note resembles Common Eider's, but is

quieter. Female has a low growl.

Range: Coasts of arctic Siberia, n. Alaska. West: Map 53. Breeds from arctic coast of Alaska south to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Winters in Pribilofs and Aleutians; east to Kodiak Island and base of the Alaskan Peninsula. Casual, British Columbia; accidental, California. Habitat: Coasts, ocean.

HARLEQUIN DUCK Histrionicus histrionicus See also p. 70. **M54** 18" (45 cm). Dark and bizarre. Male: A smallish, slaty duck with chestnut sides and odd white patches and spots. In flight, it has the stubby shape of a Goldeneye, but appears uniformly dark. Female: A small dusky duck with three round white spots on the side of the head; no wing patch.

Similar species: (1) Female Bufflehead has a white wing patch and only one face spot. (2) Female scoters are larger, with larger bills. Voice: Male, a squeak, also gwa gwa gwa. Female, ek-ek-ek-ek.

Range: Ne. Asia, Alaska, Canada, w. U.S., Greenland, Iceland. West: Map 54. Habitat: Turbulent mountain streams in summer; rocky coastal waters in winter.

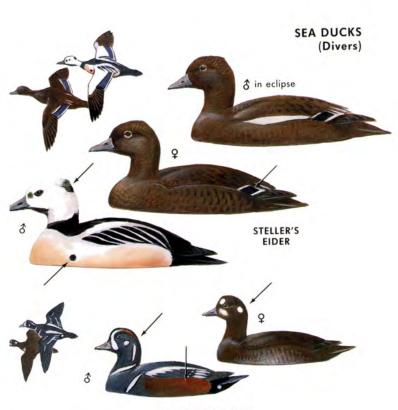
OLDSQUAW Clangula hyemalis See also p. 70.

M55

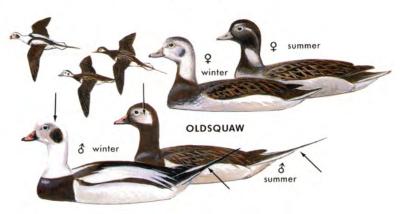
Male 21" [53 cm]; female 16" (40 cm). This is the only sea duck combining much white on the body and unpatterned dark wings. It flies in bunched, irregular flocks. Male, winter: Note the needle-like tail, pied pattern, dark cheek; summer: dark, with white flanks and belly. Note the white eye patch. Female, winter: Dark unpatterned wings, white face with dark cheek spot; summer: similar, but darker. Immatures lack the long tail feathers.

Voice: Talkative; a musical ow-owdle-ow, or owl-omelet.

Range: Arctic, circumpolar. Winters to s. U.S., cen. Europe, cen. Asia. West: Map 55. Habitat: Ocean, large lakes; in summer, tundra pools and lakes.



HARLEQUIN DUCK



■ BAY DUCKS. Tribe Aythyini. Scaups and Allies.

CANVASBACK Aythya valisineria See also pp. 72, 73. **M45** 20–24" [50–60 cm]. Male: Very white-looking, with a chestnut red head sloping into the long blackish bill. Red eye, rufous neck, black chest. Female: Grayish, with a brown chest; pale rust on head and neck. Both sexes have the long, sloping profile. Flocks travel in lines or V formations.

Voice: Male, in courtship, cooing notes. Female, quacks, etc.

Ronge: Alaska, w. Canada, nw. U.S. Winters to Mexico, Atlantic and Gulf coasts. West: Map 45. Habitat: Lakes, salt bays, estuaries; in summer, fresh marshes.

REDHEAD Aythya americana See also pp. 72, 73.

18-23" [45-58 cm]. Male: Gray; black chest and round rufous head; bill bluish with a black tip. Female: Brown; suffused light patch near bill. Both sexes have a gray wing stripe.

Similar species: Male Canvasback is much whiter, with a sloping

forehead and black bill. See female Ring-necked Duck.

Voice: Male, a harsh catlike *meow*; a deep purr. Female, *quacks*. Range: W. Canada, w. and n.-cen. U.S. Winters to Mexico, W. Indies. West: Map 46. Habitat: Lakes, saltwater bays, estuaries; in summer, fresh marshes.

RING-NECKED DUCK Aythya collaris See also pp. 72, 73. M47 15–18" (38–45 cm). Male: Like a scaup with a black back. Note the vertical white mark before the wing, bill crossed by a white ring. In flight, a broad gray (not white) wing stripe. Female: Shaped somewhat like female Lesser Scaup, but with an indistinct light face patch, dark eye, white eye-ring, and ring on bill. Wing stripe is gray.

Range: Canada, n. U.S. Winters to Panama. West: Map 47. Habitat:

Wooded lakes, ponds, in winter, also rivers, bays.

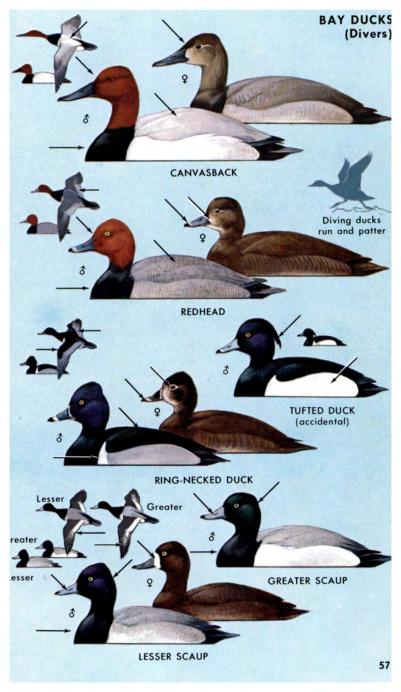
TUFTED DUCK, A. fuligula, is a stray from Asia. See pp. 62, 63.

GREATER SCAUP Aythya marila See also pp. 72, 73. M48 16–20" (40–50 cm). Very similar to Lesser Scaup, but male is whiter, head rounder, less domed, glossed mainly with dull green rather than dull purple. Black tip on bill larger (apparent only at close range). Greater's white wing stripe is longer, extending onto primaries. Range: Alaska, Canada, n. Eurasia. Winters to California, se. U.S., Mediterranean, China. West: Map 48. Habitat: Lakes, rivers, salt bays, estuaries; in summer, tundra ponds.

LESSER SCAUP Aythya affinis See also pp. 72, 73. M49 15–18" [38–45 cm]. Scaups (both species) have a broad white stripe on the trailing edge of wing; it is shorter in the Lesser. Male: On water, black at both ends, whitish in the middle. Bill blue; head glossed with dull purple. Flanks and back finely barred. Female: Dark brown, with a clean-cut white mask near bill. May also have a pale crescent on ear coverts. See Greater Scaup.

Voice: A loud scaup; also purring notes. Male, a low whistle.

Range: Alaska, w. Canada, nw. U.S. Winters to n. S. America. West: Map 49. Habitat: Lakes, bays, estuaries; in summer, marsh ponds.



COMMON GOLDENEYE Bucephala clangula See also p. 72. **M59** 20" (50 cm). Male: Note the large round white spot before the eye. White-looking, with a 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 a white collar and dark brown head; wings with large square white patches that may show on the closed wing.

Similar species: See (1) Barrow's Goldeneye; (2) male scaups have

black chests; (3) male Common Merganser is long, low.

Voice: Wings "whistle" in flight. Courting male has a harsh nasal double note, suggesting *pee-ik* of Nighthawk. Female, a *quack*.

Range: Northern parts of N. Hemisphere. Winters to Gulf Coast, cen. Eurasia. West: Map 59. Habitat: Forested lakes, rivers; in winter, also salt bays, seacoasts.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE Bucephala islandica

M60

21" (53 cm). Male: Note the white face crescent. Similar to Common Goldeneye, but blacker above; head glossed with purple (not green); nape more puffy. Female: Similar to female Goldeneye; darker, bill shorter and more triangular, forehead more abrupt; less white in wing. In spring the bill may become all yellow, often a good field mark but subject to seasonal change. (Female Common Goldeneye may rarely have an all-yellow bill.)

Ronge: Alaska, Canada, nw. U.S., sw. Greenland, Iceland. West: Map 60. Hobitot: Wooded lakes, beaver ponds. In winter, coastal waters;

a few on inland rivers.

BUFFLEHEAD Bucephala albeola See also pp. 72, 73. M61 13–15" (33–38 cm). Small. Male: Mostly white, with a black back; puffy head with a large, bonnetlike white patch. In flight, shows a large white wing patch. Female: Dark and compact, with a white cheek spot, small bill, smaller wing patch.

Similar species: (1) Male Hooded Merganser has a spikelike bill,

dark sides. (2) See winter Ruddy Duck (below).

Voice: Male, a hoarse rolling note; female, a harsh quack.

Ronge: Alaska, Canada. Winters to Mexico, Gulf Coast. West: Map

61. Habitat: Lakes, ponds, rivers; in winter, salt bays.

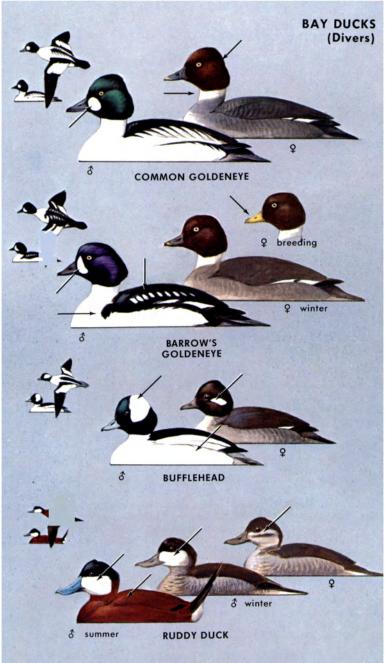
■ STIFF-TAILED DUCKS. Tribe Oxyurini. Small, chunky divers; nearly helpless on land. Spiky tail has 18 or 20 feathers. Sexes not alike. Food: Aquatic life, water plants.

RUDDY DUCK Oxyura jamaicensis See also pp. 72, 73. M65 15–16" (38–40 cm). Small, chubby; note the white cheek and dark cap. Often cocks tail vertically. Flight "buzzy." Cannot walk on land. Male, summer: Rusty red with white cheek, black cap, large blue bill. Male, winter: Gray with white cheek, dull blue or gray bill. Female: Similar to winter male but cheek crossed by a dark line.

Voice: Courting male, a sputtering *chick-ik-ik-ik-k-k-k-kurrrr*.

Ronge: Canada south, locally to Grenada and Chile. West: Map 65.

Hobitot: Fresh marshes, ponds, lakes; in winter, salt bays.



■ MERGANSERS. Tribe Mergini (in part). Diving fish ducks with spikelike bills, saw-edged mandibles. Most species have crests and are long-lined, slender-bodied. In flight, the bill, head, neck, and body are held on a horizontal axis. Sexes not alike. Food: Chiefly small fish.

COMMON MERGANSER Mergus merganser See also p. 68. M63 22–27" (55–68 cm). Male: Note the long whitish body, black back, green-black head. Feet and spikelike bill red; breast tinged delicate peach. Female: Gray, with a crested rufous head, clean white chest, and a large square white wing patch. Bill and feet red. (See female Red-breasted Merganser.) In flight, lines of these slender ducks follow the winding courses of streams. The whiteness of the males and the merganser shape (bill, neck, head, and body held horizontally) identify this species.

Similar species: (1) Female mergansers (rusty-headed) suggest male Canvasbacks or Redheads, which have black chests and no crests. (2) Male Goldeneye has a white face spot, is stockier, shorter-

necked, and puffy-headed.

Voice: Male, low staccato croaks; female, a guttural karrr.

Range: Northern parts of N. Hemisphere. Winters to Mexico, Turkey, s. China. West: Map 63. Habitat: Wooded lakes, ponds, rivers;

in winter, open lakes and rivers, rarely coastal bays.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER Mergus serrator See also p. 68. M64 20–26" (50–65 cm). Male: Rakish; black head glossed with green and conspicuously crested; breast at waterline dark rusty, separated from the head by a wide white collar; bill and feet red. Female: Gray, with a crested rusty head, large white wing patch, red bill and feet.

Similar species: Male Common Merganser is whiter, without collar and breastband effect; lacks crest. In female Common, white chin and chest are *sharply defined*. In Red-breast, rufous of head is paler, blending into whitish chin and neck; bill is less thick at base.

Voice: Usually silent. Male, a hoarse croak; female, karrr.

Range: Northern parts of N. Hemisphere. Winters to Gulfs of Mexico and California; Mexico, n. Africa, s. China. West: Map 64. Hab-

itat: Lakes, open water; in winter, coastal bays, sea.

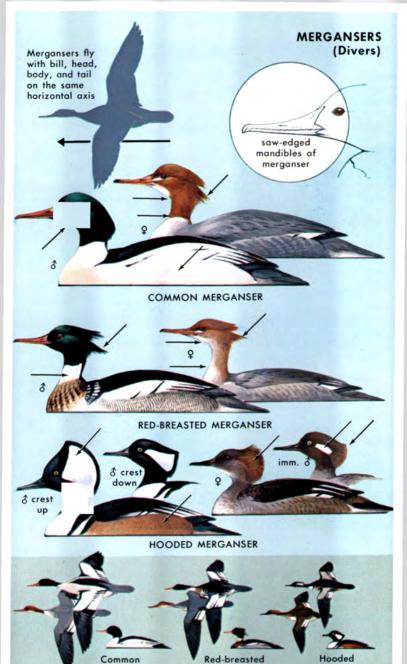
HOODED MERGANSER Lophodytes cucullatus See also p. 68. M62 16–19" (40–48 cm). Male: Note the vertical fan-shaped white crest, which may be raised or lowered. Breast white, with two black bars on each side. Wing with a white patch; flanks brown. Female: Recognized as a merganser by its silhouette and spikelike bill; known as this species by its small size, dusky look, and dark head, bill, and chest. Note the loose tawny crest.

Similar species: (1) Male Bufflehead is chubbier, with white sides. (2) Other female mergansers are larger and grayer, with rufous heads, red bills. (3) In flight, the wing patch and silhouette separate female

Hooded Merganser from female Wood Duck.

Voice: Low grunting or croaking notes.

Range: Se. Alaska, s. Canada, ne. U.S. Winters to n. Mexico, Gulf of Mexico. West: Map 62. Habitat: Wooded lakes, ponds, rivers.



■ MISCELLANEOUS WATERFOWL (STRAYS FROM ASIA).

COMMON POCHARD Aythya ferina

18" (45 cm). This Eurasian species looks somewhat intermediate between the Redhead and the Canvasback. Head not as rounded as Redhead's; back paler. The clinching mark in both sexes is the broad *blue band* across the bill, set off by a *black band* at the base of the bill (absent in Redhead).

Range: Eurasia. Rare migrant in outer Aleutians, Pribilofs. Casual or accidental elsewhere in coastal Alaska.

TUFTED DUCK Avthva fuligula

15–18" (38–45 cm). The Eurasian counterpart of our Ring-necked Duck. Male differs from male Ring-neck in having a thin wispy crest, entirely white (not gray) sides, and a white (not gray) wing stripe. The female resembles female Rink-neck but is darker, lacking eye-ring and ring on bill. It has a faint trace of a crest and may or may not have white at the base of the bill.

Range: Eurasia. West: Regular but uncommon migrant and winter visitor to the outer Aleutians; rare winter visitor elsewhere in Alaska; casual vagrant southward along coast from British Columbia to California. Accidental, Wyoming.

SMEW Mergellus albellus

16" (40 cm). This Eurasian species is smaller and shorter-billed than the other mergansers. The male looks *very white*, with a *black eye patch* and a slight drooping black and white crest behind the eye. In flight, it shows conspicuous black and white wings. The female is small and gray, with *white cheeks* and a *chestnut cap*.

Range: Eurasia. Rare migrant and winter visitor in w. Aleutians (west of Adak). Casual vagrant elsewhere in s. Alaska. Accidental, British Columbia, Manitoba, Washington, California.

SPOT-BILLED DUCK Anas poecilorhyncha

22" (55 cm). This Asian dabbler has the look of a Black Duck or female Mallard, but note the *black bill* tipped with *yellow*. The name refers to red spots at the base of the bill, absent in the subspecies that has occurred in Alaska.

Range: Asia. Accidental in Alaska (Adak, Kodiak I.).

GARGANEY, BAIKAL TEAL, FALCATED DUCK. See p. 48.

BEAN GOOSE Anser fabalis

28–35" (70–88 cm). A large gray-brown goose with a dark head and neck; bill black with a yellow midsection, but variable.

Range: Eurasia. Rare spring transient in western Aleutians. Casual elsewhere in Bering Sea area. Accidental, Nebraska.

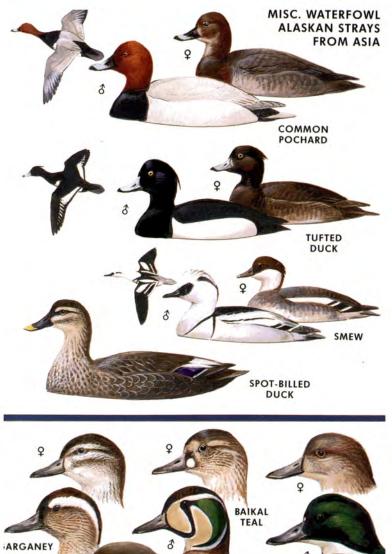
GRAYLAG GOOSE Anser anser (not shown)

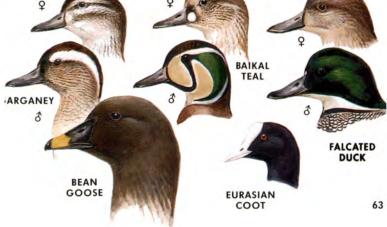
Eurasia. Reported from Attu. See European Field Guide.

EURASIAN COOT Fulica atra Family Rallidae

16" (40 cm). Very similar to the American Coot, but its bill and frontal shield (forehead) are *entirely white*. The undertail coverts are *all dark*, showing no white.

Range: Eurasia. Has occurred accidentally in the Pribilofs.





■ DUCKLIKE SWIMMERS (COOTS, GALLINULES). Family Rallidae (in part). Coots and gallinules belong to the same family as the rails (see further family discussion on p. 118). Whereas the rails are more henlike and are basically secretive wading birds of the marshes, coots and gallinules (moorhens) are superficially more ducklike except for their smaller heads, forehead shields, and rather

henlike bills. They spend most of their time swimming, although

they may also feed on shores, lawns, and golf courses.

AMERICAN COOT Fulica americana

M111

13—16" (33—40 cm). A slaty, ducklike bird, with a blackish head and neck, white bill, and divided white patch under the tail. Its big feet are lobed ("scallops" on toes). Gregarious. When swimming, it pumps its head back and forth; it dabbles but also dives from the surface. Taking off, it skitters; flight labored; the big feet trail beyond the short tail; a narrow white border shows on rear of wing. Aberrant birds may show some white on the forehead above the bill. Immature: Paler, with a duller bill. Downy young has hairy, orange-red head and shoulders.

Similar species: Common Moorhen is smaller and has a red bill (with a yellow tip). Coots are more ducklike than moorhens, more

widespread, and flock more on open water.

Voice: A grating kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk; kakakakakaka, etc.; also a measured ka-ha, ha-ha; various cackles, croaks.

Ronge: Canada to Argentina. West: Map 111. Hobitot: Ponds, lakes, marshes; in winter, also fields, park ponds, salt bays.

COMMON MOORHEN Gallinula chloropus

M110

(Common Gallinule) 13" (33 cm). Note the rather henlike red bill, red forehead shield, and white band on the flanks. When walking, it flirts its white undertail coverts; while swimming, it pumps its head like a coot. The latter is stockier and shorter-necked; it has a gray back and white bill.

Voice: A croaking kr-r-ruk, repeated; a froglike kup; also kek, kek,

kek and loud, complaining, henlike notes.

Ronge: S. Canada to Argentina; also Eurasia, Africa. West: Map 110. Hobitot: Fresh marshes, reedy ponds.

PURPLE GALLINULE Porphyrula martinica

13" (33 cm). Very colorful; swims, wades, and climbs bushes. Size of Moorhen, but head and underparts *deep violet-purple*, back bronzy green. Shield on forchead *pale blue*; bill red with a yellow tip. Legs *yellow*, conspicuous in flight. *Immature*: Drab; dark above, pale below; *no side stripe*; bill dark.

Similar species: (1) Common Moorhen has a red frontal shield, greenish legs, and white side stripe; young Moorhen also has a similar whitish side stripe. (2) Young Coot has a pale bill; black divides

the white patch under the tail.

Voice: A henlike cackling, kek, kek, kek; also guttural notes.

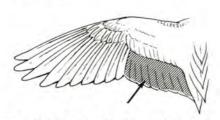
Ronge: Se. U.S. to n. Argentina. Winters mainly south of U.S. West:
Casual in sw. states. Hobitot: Fresh swamps, marshes, ponds.



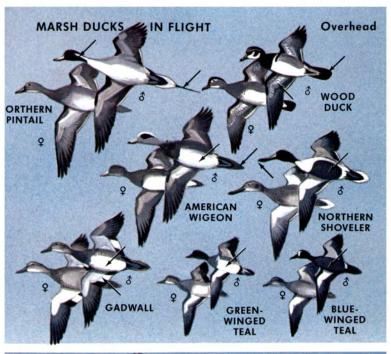
FLIGHT PATTERNS OF DABBLING DUCKS

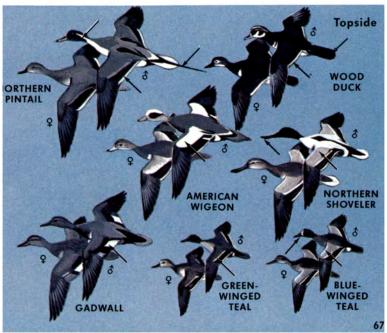
Only males are diagnosed below. Although females are unlike the males, their wing patterns are quite similar. The names in parentheses are common nicknames used by gunners.

	Text and color plate
NORTHERN PINTAIL (Sprig) Anas acuta Overhead: Needle tail, white breast, thin neck. Topside: Needle tail, neck stripe, single white border or speculum (rear edge of wing).	pp. 46, 47
WOOD DUCK Aix sponsa Overhead: White belly, dusky wings, long square tail. Topside: Stocky; long dark tail, white border on dark wing.	рр. 46, 47
AMERICAN WIGEON (Buldpate) Anas americana Overhead: White belly, dark pointed tail. Topside: Large white shoulder patch.	рр. 46, 47
NORTHERN SHOVELER (Spoonbill) Anas clypeata Overhead: Dark belly, white chest, spoon bill. Topside: Large pale bluish shoulder patch, spoon bill.	рр. 48, 49
GADWALL Anas strepera Overhead: White belly, square white patch (speculum) on rear edge of wing. Topside: White patch (speculum) on rear edge of wing.	рр. 44, 45
GREEN-WINGED TEAL Anas crecca Overhead: Small (teal-sized); light belly, dark head. Topside: Small, dark-winged; green speculum.	pp. 48, 49
BLUE-WINGED TEAL Anas discors Overhead: Small (teal-sized); dark belly. Topside: Small; large pale bluish shoulder patch.	рр. 48, 49



Wing of a dabbling duck, showing the iridescent speculum.

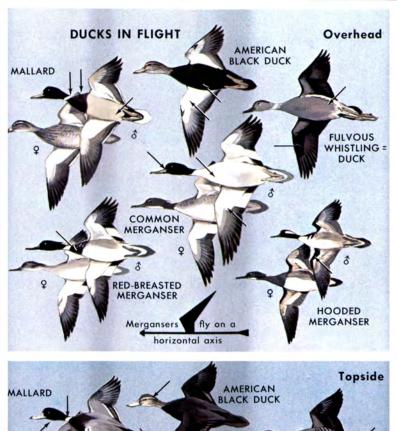


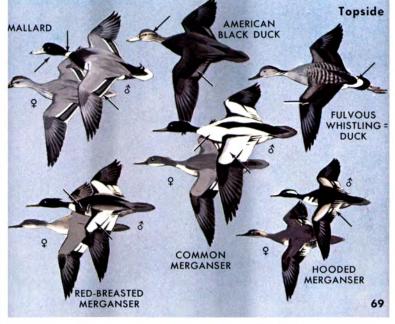


FLIGHT PATTERNS OF MARSH DUCKS AND MERGANSERS

Only males are diagnosed below. Although most females are unlike the males, their wing patterns are quite similar. Mergansers have a distinctive flight silhouette, with the bill, head, neck, body, and tail all on a horizontal axis. Duck hunters often call mergansers "sheldrakes" or "sawbills."

MALLARD Anas platyrhynchos Overhead: Dark chest, light belly, white neck-ring. Topside: Dark head, neck-ring, two white borders on	Text and color plate pp. 44, 45
speculum. AMERICAN BLACK DUCK Anas rubripes Overhead: Dusky body, white wing linings. Topside: Dusky body, paler head.	рр. 44, 45
FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK Dendrocygna bicolor Overhead: Tawny, with blackish wing linings. Topside: Dark, unpatterned wings; white ring on rump	pp. 44, 45
COMMON MERGANSER Mergus merganser Overhead: Merganser shape; black head, white body, white wing linings. Topside: Merganser shape; white chest, large wing patches.	рр. 60, 61
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER Mergus serrator Overhead: Merganser shape; dark chest band, wide white collar. Topside: Merganser shape; dark chest, large wing patches.	рр. 60, 61
HOODED MERGANSER Lophodytes cucullatus Overhead: Merganser shape; dusky wing linings. Topside: Merganser shape; small wing patches.	рр. 60, 61

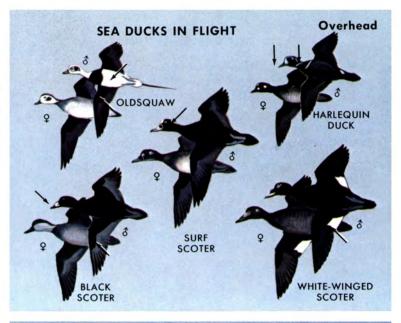


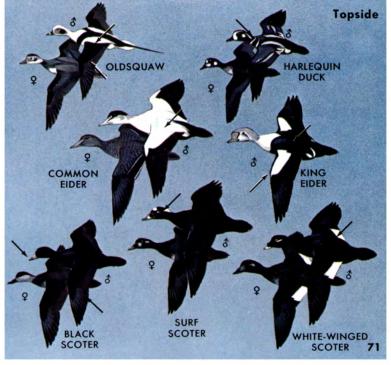


FLIGHT PATTERNS OF SEA DUCKS

Note: Only males are diagnosed below.

	Text and color plate
OLDSQUAW Clangula hyemalis Overhead: Dark unpatterned wings, white belly. Topside: Dark unpatterned wings, much white on body.	рр. 54, 55
HARLEQUIN DUCK Histrionicus histrionicus Overhead: Solid dark below, white head spots, small bill. Topside: Stocky, dark with white marks, small bill.	pp. 54, 55
SURF SCOTER Melanitta perspicillata Overhead: Black body, white head patches (not readily visible from below). Topside: Black body, white head patches.	рр. 50, 51
BLACK SCOTER Melanitta nigra Overhead: Black plumage, paler flight feathers. Topside: All-black plumage.	pp. 50, 51
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER Melanitta fusca Overhead: Black body, white wing patches. Topside: Black body, white wing patches.	pp. 50, 51
COMMON EIDER Somateria mollissima Topside: White back, white forewing, black belly.	рр. 52, 53
KING EIDER Somateria spectabilis	pp. 52, 53





FLIGHT PATTERNS OF BAY DUCKS, etc.

Only males are diagnosed below. The first five all have black chests. The names in parentheses are common gunners' nicknames.

Text and color plate

CANVASBACK Aythya valisineria

pp. 56, 57

Overhead: Black chest, long profile.

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

REDHEAD Aythya americana

pp. 56, 57

Overhead: Black chest, roundish rufous head. Topside: Gray back, broad gray wing stripe.

RING-NECKED DUCK Aythya collaris

pp. 56, 57

Overhead: Not safe to tell from Scaup overhead. Topside: Black back, broad gray wing stripe.

GREATER SCAUP (Bluebill) Aythya marila

pp. 56, 57

Overhead: Black chest, white stripe showing through wing. Topside: Broad white wing stripe (extending onto primaries).

LESSER SCAUP (Bluebill) Aythya affinis

pp. 56, 57

Topside: Wing stripe shorter than that of Greater Scaup.

Topside: Large white wing square, short neck, black head.

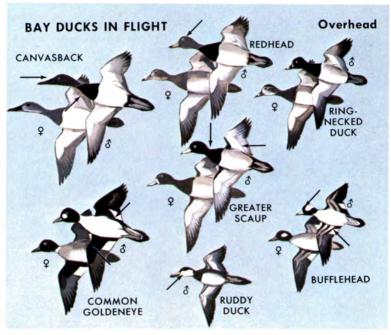
COMMON GOLDENEYE (Whistler) Bucephala clangula pp. 58, 59
Overhead: Blackish wing linings, white wing patches.

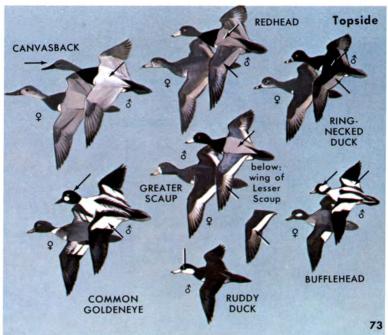
RUDDY DUCK Oxyura jamaicensis Overhead: Stubby; white face, dark chest. Topside: Small; dark with white cheeks. pp. 58, 59

BUFFLEHEAD (Butterball) Bucephala albeola Overhead: Like a small Goldeneye; note head patch.

pp. 58, 59

Topside: Small; large wing patches, white head patch.





■ ALBATROSSES. Family Diomedeidae. Birds of the 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. Food: Cuttlefish, fish, other small marine life; some feeding at night.

Range: Mainly cold oceans of S. Hemisphere; three species nest north of equator in Pacific. No. of species: World 13; West 3 (+ 2 accidentals).

BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS Phoebastria nigripes

28–36" (70–80 cm), spread 7 ft. The great size, sooty color, tremendously long, saberlike wings, and rigid, shearwater-like gliding identify this species, the albatross found most regularly off our Pacific Coast. Seldom seen from shore. At close range this albatross shows a whitish face and pale areas toward the tips of wings. Bill and feet dark. Some birds, presumably adults, show white patches at the base of the tail

Similar species: Immature Short-tailed Albatross is dark, but has a pink-

ish bill and pinkish feet.

Ronge: Breeds on islands in cen. and w. Pacific (chiefly nw. Hawaiian chain). West: Ranges well offshore from Bering Sea and Aleutians to Baja California. Habitat: Open ocean.

LAYSAN ALBATROSS Phoebastria immutabilis

32" (80 cm); spread 6½ ft. White-bodied, with a dark back and wings, suggesting a huge, dark-backed gull with extra-long wings. Bill and feet dull flesh color or pale flesh-gray. Immature similar.

Range: Breeds on nw. islands of Hawaiian chain. Ranges from Hawaii to N. Pacific. West: Ranges regularly to Aleutians and Gulf of Alaska. Rare but regular far off coasts of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS Phoebastria albatrus

30–37" (73–83 cm); spread 7½ ft. Note the white back, pink bill, and yellowish nape on this oceanic rarity. A white albatross with black wings and black on tip of tail. The immature is very dark brown and resembles a Black-footed Albatross, but its bill and feet are pink or flesh-colored (not black); no strong white face patch.

Range: Breeds on Bonin Is. off Japan. Near extinction in 1956 (only 14 pairs on Toroshima), now over 250 birds. Formerly ranged from Bering

Sea to Baja California; may again do so.

Note: The following two albatrosses, not shown, have been recorded accidentally off our West Coast. To learn more about them or other Pacific albatrosses, consult *Seabirds*, *An Identification Guide* by Peter Harrison (Houghton Mifflin).

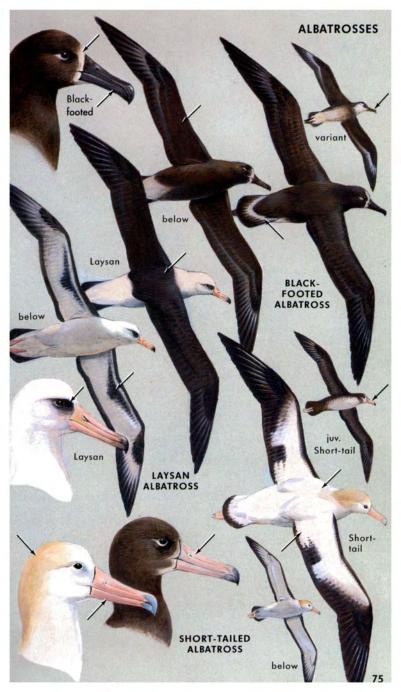
SHY ("WHITE-CAPPED") ALBATROSS Thalassarche cauta (not shown) Similar to Laysan Albatross (white body, dark back), but head pale gray, with a whiter crown. Underwing whiter, feet gray.

Range: Seas off Australia. Accidental, Washington.

WANDERING ALBATROSS Diomedea exulans (not shown)

Similar to Short-tailed Albatross, but larger, head entirely white.

Range: S. Hemisphere. Accidental in California.



■ SHEARWATERS, PETRELS, AND FULMARS, etc. Family Procellariidae. Gull-like birds of the open sea that glide low over the waves (usually with wings more stiffly extended than shown here). Wings narrower than those of gulls, tail smaller. Bills with tubelike external nostrils on top of bill. Food: Fish, squid, crustaceans, ship refuse. Range: Oceans of world. No. of species: World 61; West 8 [+6 casual or accidental].

SOOTY SHEARWATER Puffinus griseus

17" (43 cm). A somewhat gull-like seabird, often seen in massive flocks offshore. Looks all dark at a distance and scales over the waves on narrow rigid wings. In good light, note the whitish linings on the undersurface of the wings. Mainly a summer visitor.

Ronge: Breeds off s. Australia, New Zealand, s. S. America; ranges to N. Atlantic, N. Pacific. West: Offshore, Bering Sea to Baja Cali-

fornia.

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER Puffinus carneipes

19½" (43 cm). A dark-bodied shearwater, larger than the Sooty; flight more sluggish. Distinguished by pale flesh or whitish bill (with dark tip), flesh-colored feet, dark wing linings.

Range: Breeds on islands off Australia, New Zealand. West: A rather

rare visitor offshore, from Alaska to California.

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER Puffinus tenuirostris

13-14" (33-35 cm). Distinguished from the Sooty by smaller size, more rapid wingbeat, shorter bill and tail, and smoky gray wing linings. May have a whitish throat. Sooty has whiter wing linings. Ronge: Breeds on islands off s. Australia. West: Ranges north to Aleutians and Bering Sea and thence south off coast to Baja California. Best looked for in late fall or early winter.

PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER Puffinus creatopus

19½" (49 cm). Two common white-bellied shearwaters often associate with the abundant Sootys: Pink-foot is larger, with a black-tipped pink bill, slower wingbeats; Black-vented is smaller, blacker above, whiter on underwing, with a black bill. It has faster wingbeats.

Ronge: Breeds on islands off Chile. West: Spring, summer, and fall off California, Oregon; a few to British Columbia, se. Alaska.

BULLER'S SHEARWATER Puffinus bulleri

(New Zealand Shearwater) 16½" (91 cm). A rather rare white-bellied shearwater; separated from the two other white-bellied species by a broad *M* or *W* formed by the contrasting pattern on back and wings. Tail wedge-shaped. Feet pale, but variable.

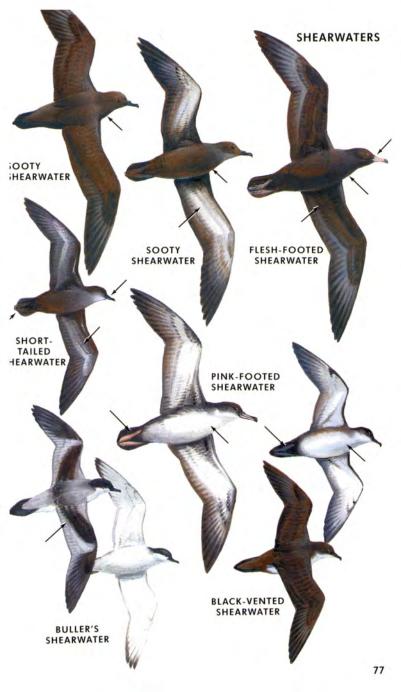
Range: Breeds n. New Zealand. West: Fall visitor off California

(mainly off Monterey in Oct.); casual, Oregon, Washington.

BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER Puffinus opisthomelas

13" (33 cm). A small shearwater, black above and white below; dark cap extends below the eye. The contrasting *black and white* pattern and gliding, bounding flight are distinctive.

Ronge: Breeds on sea islands off Pacific Coast of Baja California. West: Ranges north, mainly in fall and winter, along inshore waters of s. and cen. California, rarely or casually to Washington and Vancouver I.



18" (45 cm). A stiff-winged oceanic glider, stockier than a shear-water; swims buoyantly. Note the bull neck, rounded forehead, stubby yellow bill, large dark eye, short tail. The primaries may show a pale flash or patch. Legs variable. Dark phase: Smoky gray, wing tips darker; bill yellowish. Intermediates are frequent.

Voice: A hoarse, grunting ag-ag-ag-arrr or ek-ek-ek-ek.

Range: Northern oceans of N. Hemisphere. West: Map 10. Habitat: Open ocean; breeds colonially on open sea cliffs.

■ MOSTLY RARE, CASUAL, OR ACCIDENTAL PETRELS.

Some of these species, though rarely recorded in the past, may prove to be of regular occurrence far offshore due to the growing popularity of pelagic birding.

STREAKED SHEARWATER Calonectris leucomelas

19" (48 cm). The pale, lightly streaked head may look all white at a distance, suggesting that of a Fulmar. Forehead white, nape dark. Ronge: Western Pacific Ocean; casual or accidental off our coast in fall, mainly off Monterey Bay.

MURPHY'S PETREL Pterodroma ultima

16" (40 cm). A dark petrel with wholly dark underwing linings, a somewhat wedge-shaped tail, and pale legs.

Range: South Pacific. West: Rare offshore vagrant; recorded in California, Oregon.

SOLANDER'S PETREL Pterodoma solandri

16" (40 cm). A dark petrel. Head darker than body; white skua-like flash under primaries.

Range: Southwest Pacific (breeds Lord Howe I., e. Australia). West: Reported far offshore from California, Washington.

COOK'S PETREL Pterodroma cookii

 $10\frac{1}{2}$ " (26 cm). The *black M* across the upper wings suggests the much larger Buller's Shearwater, but note the paler head with a black ear patch and the light sides of the tail.

Range: Nests on islands off New Zealand and ranges across the Pacific, rarely as far as the Aleutians and California waters.

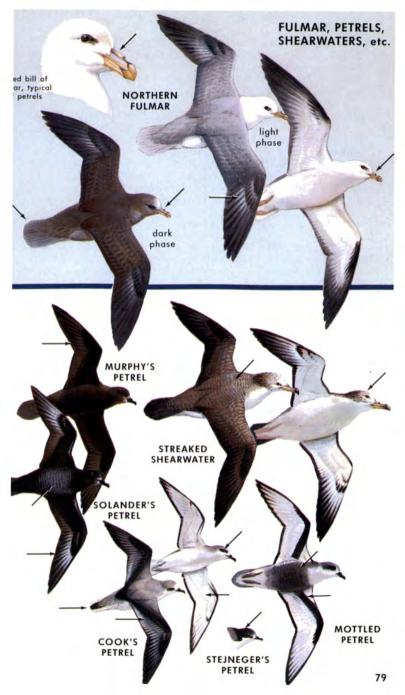
STEJNEGER'S PETREL Pterodroma longirostris

10" (25 cm). Very similar to Cook's Petrel, but darker; the cap is black, not gray. This petrel, which breeds off Chile and New Zealand, has been sighted off California.

MOTTLED PETREL Pterodroma inexpectata

(Scaled Petrel) 14" (35 cm). Dark M across upper wings suggests Buller's Shearwater or Cook's Petrel, but note contrasting dark belly and heavy diagonal black bar across underwing. This New Zealand species ranges regularly to the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea; rarely south to California.

Note: WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER, Puffinus pacificus (not shown), of Hawaii, etc., has been sighted as an accidental in California. Size of Sooty; white-bellied (rarely dark-bellied), with a longish wedge-shaped tail and flesh-colored feet.



■ STORM-PETRELS. Family Hydrobatidae. Little dark birds that flit over the ocean; they nest colonially on islands, returning to burrows at night. Nostrils in a fused tube over top of bill. Food: Plankton, crustaceans, small fish. Range: All oceans except Arctic. No. of species: World 20; West 6 (+2 casual).

ASHY STORM-PETREL Oceanodroma homochroa

M13

7½" (19 cm). Separated from Black Storm-Petrel by smaller size, shorter wings, more fluttery flight. At very close range, head looks ashy, wings show light mottling underneath.

Range: At sea from n. California (Pt. Reyes) to Baja California. Map

13. Breeds on Farallon, Channel, and Coronados Is.

BLACK STORM-PETREL Oceanodroma melania

9" (23 cm). The most common all-black petrel found off California. Larger than Ashy, with longer wings and more languid flight.

Voice: At night, in colony, puck-apoo-puck-puck-a-poo.

Range: Breeds on Coronados and other islands off Baja California. Ranges north along California coast to Pt. Reyes.

FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL Oceanodroma furcata

M11

8-9" (20-23 cm). Gray; paler below, unlike all our other stormpetrels, which are blackish.

Range: N. Pacific. West: Map 11.

LEAST STORM-PETREL Oceanodroma microsoma

5½-6" (14-15 cm); very small. Only storm-petrel with a rounded or wedge-shaped tail. Flight erratic, batlike, close to water.

Range: Breeds on islands off Baja California. A few range north in late summer and early fall to San Diego and south to Ecuador.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL Oceanites oceanicus

7" (18 cm). A small storm-petrel with a white rump patch; tail even at end. Feet yellow-webbed (hard to see), may show beyond tail. Skims like a swallow, pausing to flutter over water. Follows ships. Range: Breeds in the Antarctic. Ranges chiefly north to N. Atlantic. West: Rare but regular north to Monterey Bay, California.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL Oceanodroma leucorhoa M12

8" (20 cm). Note the obscurely divided white rump patch and forked tail. In flight it bounds about erratically, changing speed and direction (suggesting a Nighthawk). Does not follow ships. Baja California race is all dark, lacking white rump. There are intermediates. **Voice:** At night, in flight on breeding grounds, rhythmic falsetto

Voice: At night, in flight on breeding grounds, rhythmic falsetto hooting notes. From burrows, long, crooning trills.

Range: N. Atlantic, N. Pacific. West: Map 12. Habitat: Open ocean; nests colonially in turf on offshore islands.

WEDGE-RUMPED STORM-PETREL Oceanodroma tethys

61/2" (16 cm). Very small, with a long, wedge-shaped, white rump that restricts the amount of black at end of tail.

Ronge: Breeds Galápagos Islands, Peru. West: Rare or casual visitor to California (Aug. to Jan.).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL Oceanodroma castro

9" (23 cm). A white-rumped storm-petrel, larger than Wilson's. Its feet do not project beyond the squarish tail. A stiff-winged flier. **Range:** Tropical oceans. **West:** Accidental, s. California.



■ BOOBIES. Family Sulidae. Seabirds with large, tapering bills and pointed tails. Larger than most gulls; neck longer. Sexes alike. Boobies sit on buoys; they fish by plunging from the air like Brown Pelicans. Food: Fish, squid. Ronge: Tropical seas. No. of species: World 6; West 2 (+2 casual or accidental).

BROWN BOOBY Sula leucogaster

28–30" [70–75 cm]. A sooty brown booby, with a white belly in clean-cut contrast to its dark breast. Bill and feet yellowish. Males of the west Mexican race are pale around the head. Immature: Similar, but white of underparts smudged with dusky.

Range: Tropical oceans. West: A post-breeding wanderer from Gulf of California, mostly to Salton Sea, Imperial Valley, and lower Col-

orado R.; mainly immatures.

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY Sula nebouxii

32–34" (80–85 cm). This booby, the one most frequent in our area, has a white body, whitish head, dark mottled back and wings, and big blue feet. Young birds have a brownish head; note the white patches on nape and rump.

Ronge: Breeds w. Mexico to Peru. West: Post-breeding wanderer to Salton Sea in California; also Lower Colorado R. in se. California

and sw. Arizona. Accidental, Washington.

RED-FOOTED BOOBY Sula sula

26–30" (65–75 cm). Adults have *bright red feet* and may be white with black in wings, white tail, or light brown with a white tail. *Immature*: Tan with pink base of bill, dull pink feet.

Range: Tropical oceans. West: Accidental off California.

MASKED BOOBY Sula dactylatra (not shown)

27" (68 cm). A white booby with black in the wings and tail; accidental off s. California. See illustration in eastern Field Guide.

■ TROPICBIRDS. Family Phaethontidae. These seabirds resemble large terms with two greatly elongated *central* tail feathers and stouter, slightly decurved bills. Term-like, they dive headfirst, and swim with the tail held clear of the water. Sexes alike. Food: Squid, crustaceans. Range: Tropical oceans. No. of species: World 3; West 1 (+2 accidental).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD Phaethon aethereus

24-40" (60-100 cm). A slender white seabird with two extremely long central tail feathers (1-2 ft.), a heavy red bill, a black patch through the cheek, black primaries, and a finely barred back. Young lack the long tail, have an orange-yellow bill.

Range: Tropical oceans worldwide. West: Rare but regular stray off

s. California. Accidental, Arizona, Washington.

RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD Phaethon rubricauda

24'' (60 cm), including 16'' tail streamers. Whiter above than the other two tropicbirds; has red streamers.

Range: Tropical Pacific. West: Accidental well off California.

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD Phaethon lepturus

32" (80 cm), including 16" streamers. This accidental tropicbird may be known from the others by the *diagonal black bar* across each wing. The single bird recorded in our area at Malibu Beach, California tried to mate with a toy glider!



■ PELICANS. Family Pelecanidae. Huge water birds with long flat bills and great throat pouches (flat when deflated). Neck long, body robust. Sexes alike. Flocks fly in lines, alternating several flaps with a glide. In flight, the head is hunched back on the shoulders, the long bill resting on the breast. Pelicans swim buoyantly. Food: Mainly fish, crustaceans. Ronge: N. and S. America, Africa, s. Eurasia, E. Indies, Australia. No. of species: World 8; West 2.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN Pelecanus erythrorhynchos M14 62" (155 cm). Huge (wingspread 8–9½ ft.). White, with black primaries and a great orange-yellow bill. Adults in breeding plumage have a "centerboard" on the ridge of the bill. Immatures have a dusky bill. This pelican does not plunge from the air like the Brown Pelican but scoops up fish while swimming, often working in groups. Flocks fly in lines, may circle high on thermals.

Similar species: (1) Swans have no black in wings. (2) Wood Ibis and (3) Whooping Crane fly with necks extended, long legs aft. (4) Snow

Goose is much smaller, with a small bill; noisy.

Ronge: W. and cen. N. America; winters to se. U.S. and Cen. America. West: Map 14. Habitat: Lakes, marshes, salt bays, beaches.

BROWN PELICAN Pelecanus occidentalis

50" (125 cm); spread 6½ ft. A ponderous dark water bird; adult has much white about the head and neck. Immature has a dark head, whitish underparts. Size, shape, and flight (a few flaps and a glide) indicate a pelican; the dark color and habit of plunging bill-first proclaim it as this species. Lines of pelicans scale close to the water. Voice: Adults silent (rarely a low croak). Nestlings squeal.

Range: Coasts; s. U.S. to n. Brazil and Chile. West: Map 15. Habitat:

Salt bays, beaches, ocean. Perches on posts, buoys.

■ FRIGATEBIRDS. Family Fregatidae. Dark tropical seabirds with extremely long wings (greater span in relation to weight than that of any other birds). 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 taken from other seabirds. Range: Pantropical oceans. No. of species: World 5; West 1.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD Fregata magnificens

38–41" (95–103 cm); spread 7–8 ft. A large black seabird with extremely long, angled wings and a scissorlike tail (often folded in a point). Soars with extreme ease. Bill long, hooked. Male: All black, with a red throat pouch (inflated like a balloon when in display). Female: White breast, dark head. Immature: Head and breast white. Similar species: GREAT FRIGATEBIRD, Fregata minor of Hawaii (not shown), is a remote possibility. Adult male retains light brown wing coverts; female has a whitish throat, red eye-ring.

Voice: Silent at sea. A gargling whinny during display.

Range: Gulf of Mexico to s. Brazil; Cape Verde Is; Baja California to Peru, tropical Atlantic, e. Pacific. West: Wanders irregularly along coast north to n. California. Casual, Oregon. Accidental, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada.



- SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS. Family Laridae.
- SKUAS, JAEGERS. Subfamily Stercorariinae. Dark, hawk-like or falcon-like seabirds that harass gulls and terns, forcing them to disgorge. Light, intermediate, and dark phases; all have a flash of white in the primaries. Jaegers have two projecting central tail feathers, which are sometimes broken or missing. They are lacking in juveniles and immatures, which may be identified (tentatively) by relative size. Skuas lack tail points and are broader-winged. Sexes alike. Food: In the Arctic, lemmings, eggs, young birds. At sea, food taken from other birds or from water. Renge: Seas of world, breeding in subpolar regions. No. of species: World 5 (or 7?); West 4.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA Catharacta maccormicki

21" (53 cm). Near size of Western Gull, but stockier, with a deepchested, hunch-shouldered look. Dark, with a short, slightly wedgeshaped tail and conspicuous white wing patch. "Blond" phase is much paler on head and underparts than dark phase. Flight strong and swift; harasses other seabirds. Dark jaegers may lack tail points, but skuas' wings are wider, with more striking white patches.

Range: Antarctic. Wanders into N. Atlantic as far as Greenland and

in N. Pacific as far as Aleutians.

PARASITIC JAEGER Stercorarius parasiticus

M155

18" (45 cm). In the adult, the sharp tail points project $\frac{1}{2}$ -3½ in. Like other jaegers, it shows a white wing flash. It is the jaeger most frequently seen from shore. Varies from light to dark phases.

Range: Arctic, circumpolar. Winters at sea from s. U.S. to Tierra del Fuego. West: Map 155. Habitat: Ocean, coastal bays, lakes (rarely): tundra (summer).

POMARINE JAEGER Stercorarius pomarinus

M154

22" (55 cm). Broad and twisted central tail feathers project 2–7 in. Heavier than other jaegers; often heavily barred below, with a broad breastband and more white in primaries. Immature lacks the projections, is larger than other young jaegers, and has a heavier bill. Separating jaegers in obscure plumage can be difficult; then use size, proportions, and manner of flight.

Ronge: Arctic; circumpolar. Winters at sea from s. U.S. to S. Hemisphere. West: Map 154. Habitat: Open sea, coasts (offshore); tundra

(summer).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER Stercorarius longicaudus

M156

20–23" (50–58 cm). The long tail streamers of adults may project 9–10 in. (usually 3–6 in.). More slender than other jaegers; whiter below, with no breastband. The black cap on its small head is separated by a broad white collar from the pale gray back. Bill short; legs blue-gray (black in Parasitic). Immature more slender than the others, with smaller head and bill, grayer upperparts, lighter flight. Range: Arctic, circumpolar. Winters in S. Hemisphere. West: Map 156. Habitat: Open sea; tundra (summer). Most pelagic of the jaegers.



■ GULLS. Subfamily Larinae. Long-winged swimming birds with superb flight. More robust, wider-winged, and longer-legged than terns. Bills slightly hooked. Tails square or rounded (terns usually have forked tails). Gulls seldom dive (terms hover, then plunge head-first). Food: Omnivorous; marine life, plant and animal food, refuse, carrion. No of species: World 46; West 21 (+3 accidentals).

SEQUENCE OF PLUMAGES: On the page opposite, the well-known **WEST-ERN GULL**, a coastal species, has been chosen to illustrate the transition of plumages from juvenile to adult. The Western Gull is a four-year gull—it does not attain full breeding plumage until its fourth year. However, if you know what a gull looks like in its first-winter plumage (which in some species is not too much unlike that of the juvenile), you should be able to identify the bird as to species in any of its intermediate stages.

In this field guide, intended for identification on the *species level*, I have not given similar full-page treatment to any of the other gulls. That is the province of a handbook or technical manual. But should you wish this kind of in-depth analysis, I recommend Peter J. Grant's *Gulls: A Guide to Identification*, which often devotes from 10 to 20 pages per species. Study also Kenn Kaufman's *Field Guide to Advanced Birding*.

In summary:

Four-year gulls: This category includes most of the larger species, including the Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Glaucous Gull, Herring Gull, Thayer's Gull, California Gull, and Slaty-backed Gull.

Three-year gulls: Mostly medium-sized species, including the Ringbilled Gull, Mew Gull, Heermann's Gull, Laughing Gull, and Yellowlegged Gull.

Two-year gulls: Mostly smaller species, including Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, Ross's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Red-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, and Ivory Gull.

Note: Three other gulls that have been reported as accidentals in the western states are not treated in the following pages. Two, the **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** and the **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**, are described and illustrated in the eastern book—*A Field Guide to the Birds.* The third is an Asian vagrant, the **BLACK-TAILED GULL**; it has been reported off Alaska and California (see p. 358).

Caution: Do not feel defeated if you cannot name *every* gull you see. There is considerable variation due to age, season, molt, wear, some hybridization, and even occasional albinism. Even the experts will put question marks after some of their observations if they are not sure.



24–27" (60–63 cm). Note the very dark back and wings, contrasting with the snowy underparts. Feet dull pinkish. The northern race, occidentalis (cen. California to Washington) has a paler mantle, which, however, is still noticeably darker than that of the California Gull. The southern race, wymani, is blacker-backed. See the presentation of plumage sequences on pp. 88 and 89. Immature: See pp. 98, 99.

Note: There is some hybridization with the Glaucous-winged Gull

where its breeding range overlaps with the Western's.

Voice: A guttural *kuk kuk kuk*: also *whee whee whee* and *ki-aa*. **Ronge:** Resident along coast from Baja California to nw. Washington. Map 165. **Habitat:** Coastal waters, estuaries, beaches, piers, city waterfronts. lower reaches of tidal rivers.

SLATY-BACKED GULL Larus schistisagus

27" (68 cm). Any large, dark-backed gull in the Bering Sea would most likely be this species. Adult is similar to Western Gull, but with more pinkish feet. Note how the broad white trailing edge of the wing invades the outer wing, forming a white bar crossing the black on the primaries. The primaries are gray beneath. Caution: Siberian race of Herring Gull occurs off w. Alaska.

Ronge: Kamchatka to Japan. West: Rare visitor to Alaska. Recorded at a number of points in the Pribilofs and Aleutians and along the coast of w. Alaska. Casual. British Columbia. Accidental. Missouri.

YELLOW-FOOTED GULL Larus livens

27" (69 cm). This large gull closely resembles the Western Gull, but the adult has *yellow* (not pinkish) feet. It matures in its third year, not the fourth, as the Western Gull does. The brown juvenile bird has a whitish belly and by the first winter already has some black on the back. The yellow feet are attained by the second winter.

Range: Breeding in w. Mexico, this gull occurs in our area as a postbreeding visitor only at Salton Sea. It would be casual or accidental anywhere else in California. Formerly regarded as a subspecies of Western Gull.

HEERMANN'S GULL Larus heermanni

M159

18–21" [45–53 cm]. The easiest gull in the West to identify. Adult: Dark gray, with a black tail, whitish head, red bill. In winter the white head becomes gray. Immature: All dark, lacking the white head; bill brown or tipped with varying amounts of red. See p. 99. **Voice:** A whining whee-ee; also a repeated cow-auk.

Range: Breeds mainly on islands off coasts of nw. Mexico. West:

Map 159. Habitat: Coast and nearby open ocean.

ROSS'S GULL Rhodostethia rosea

12½-14" (31-35 cm). A rare gull of the drift ice. Note the wedge-shaped tail and blue-gray wing linings. Breeding: Rosy blush on underparts, fine black collar. Winter: Loses rosy blush and black collar. Immature: See pp. 102, 103.

Ronge: Breeds mainly in ne. Siberia; a few around Hudson Bay. West: Arctic coast of Alaska in migration, casual, Pribilofs. Acci-

dental, British Columbia, Colorado.



HERRING GULL Larus argentatus

M163

23–26" (58–65 cm). Adult: A common, widespread, large, graymantled gull with dull, flesh-pink legs. The outer primaries are black with white spots or "mirrors." Heavy yellow bill with a red spot on lower mandible. Immature: See pp. 100, 101.

Voice: A loud hiyak...hiyah...hyiah-hyak or yuk-yuk-yuk-yuk-

yuckle-yuckle. Mewing squeals. Anxiety note: gah-gah-gah.

Range: Northern parts of N. Hemisphere. West: Map 163. Habitat: Coasts, bays, beaches, lakes, piers, farmlands, dumps.

THAYER'S GULL Larus thayeri

23–25" [58–63 cm]. Thayer's Gull, formerly thought to be a race of the Herring Gull and later designated as a full species, is regarded by some as a subspecies of the Iceland Gull. Very similar in appearance to Herring Gull. Typical adult has [1] pale to dark brown (not pale yellow) eyes, [2] little or no black on underside of primaries, [3] slightly darker mantle, [4] darker pink legs, [5] slighter bill. Overhead, the gray (not black) on the underside of the wing tips is distinctive. Some paler birds may have slate-gray rather than black in the outer primaries above (see immature, pp. 100, 101).

Range: Arctic Canada. Winters mainly on Pacific Coast. West: Map 164.

CALIFORNIA GULL Larus californicus

M162

20–23" (50–58 cm). Adult: This abundant gull resembles the smaller Ring-billed Gull (both may have yellowish green legs or not), but note the darker mantle, darker eye, and red and black spot on the lower mandible (not a black ring). Shows more white in wing tips than the Ring-bill does. Immature: pp. 100, 101.

Range: Mainly w. N. America, east to cen. N. Dakota. West: Map

162. Habitat: Seacoasts, lakes, farms, urban centers. RING-BILLED GULL Larus delawarensis

M161

19" (48 cm). Adult: Similar to California Gull but smaller, with a lighter gray mantle; legs may be brighter yellowish green (but may also be quite gray in winter). Note the complete black ring encircling the bill. Immature: See pp. 92, 93.

Voice: Higher-pitched than Herring Gull's.

Range: Canada, n. U.S. Winters to Mexico, Virgin Islands. West: Map 161. Habitat: Lakes, bays, coasts, piers, dumps, plowed fields.

MEW GULL Larus canus

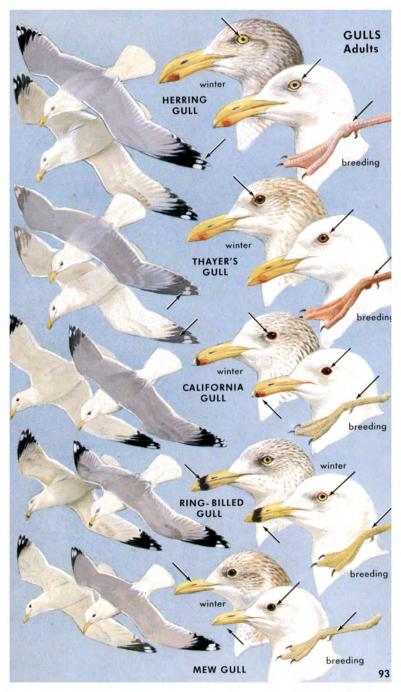
16–18" (40–45 cm). Adult: Smaller than the Ring-billed Gull, with greenish legs, but with a small, short, unmarked greenish yellow bill. Back darker. Mew Gull shows larger white "mirrors" in its black wingtips than either California or Ring-billed gulls. Imma-

ture: See pp. 100, 101.

Similar species: Young Ring-billed Gull is larger and usually has the black of the tail confined to a narrow clean-cut band.

Voice: A low mewing (which gives the name), quee'u or mee'u. Also hiyah-hiyah, etc., higher than voice of other gulls.

Ronge: N. Eurasia, w. N. America. Winters to coastal s. China, California, Mediterranean. West: Map 160. Habitat: Coastal waters, tidal rivers (winter): lakes (summer).



GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL Larus glaucescens

M166

24–27" (60–68 cm). Adult: A pink-footed gull, with a pale gray mantle and gray pattern on the primaries (Herring Gull has black pattern in primaries). Immature: See pp. 98, 99. Hybridizes with Western Gull where their ranges overlap in Washington and British Columbia; also may hybridize with Herring Gull in Alaska.

Similar species: See Thayer's Gull, pp. 92, 93.

Voice: A low kak-kak-kak; a low wow; a high keer, keer.

Range: Komandorskie Is. to nw. Oregon. Winters to w. Mexico. Map 166.

GLAUCOUS GULL Larus hyperboreus

M167

26–32" (65–80 cm). A large, chalky white gull, a bit larger than the Glaucous-winged Gull or Western Gull. Note the "frosty" wing tips. Adults have a pale gray mantle and unmarked white outer primaries. Immature: See pp. 98, 99.

Similar species: Glaucous-winged Gull is a bit smaller, with a smaller bill; the wing tips have various amounts of gray spotting. Adult may have a narrow dull red ring around eye (Glaucous has a yellow ring), but this is unreliable and hard to see.

Ronge: Arctic; circumpolar. Winters to U.S., Britain, n. China. West: Map 167. Habitat: Mainly coastal; some inland.

IVORY GULL Pagophila eburnea

15–17" (38–43 cm). The only *all-white* gull with *black* legs. Pigeonsized; wings long, flight tern-like. Bill black, with a yellow tip. *Immature:* See pp. 102, 103.

Similar species: Glaucous Gull is much larger, with pale legs.

Voice: Harsh, shrill, ternlike cries: keeeer, etc.

Range: High Arctic; circumpolar. West: Not known to breed in our area. Arctic ice pack and drift ice of Alaska in migration and winter; accidental elsewhere (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Washington, Montana, Colorado).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE Rissa tridactyla

M168

17" (43 cm). A small, buoyant oceanic gull. In adults the wing tips lack white spots and are solid black, almost straight across, as if dipped in ink. Bill small, pale, yellow, unmarked. Legs black. Immature: See pp. 102, 103.

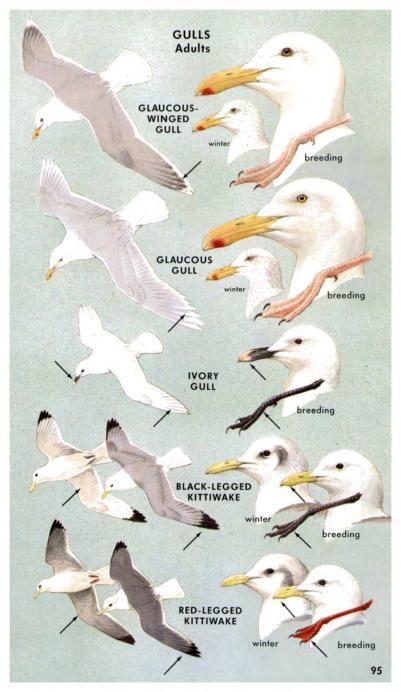
Voice: At nesting colony, a raucous kaka-week or kitti-waak.

Range: Oceans in northern parts of N. Hemisphere. Winters to both coasts of U.S., Japan, Mediterranean, n. Africa. West: Map 168. Habitat: Chiefly oceanic; rarely on beaches.

RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE Rissa brevirostris

14—15¾" (35—40 cm). Adult: Similar to Black-legged Kittiwake, but smaller; legs bright red (Bonaparte's Gull also has red legs). Has a similar wing pattern above, but darker; darkish gray underwing. Immature: Similar to young Black-leg, but darker-backed; tail lacks black terminal band; wing lacks dark diagonal bar.

Range: Bering Sea (Komandorskies, Pribilofs), w. Aleutians. Winters mainly in Bering Sea. Accidental, Yukon, nw. Oregon, Nevada.



LAUGHING GULL Larus atricilla

16–17" (40–43 cm). A small coastal gull. The *dark mantel blends into the black wing tips*. A bold white trailing edge on dark wing. Head *black* in summer; white in winter, with a dark smudge across eye and nape. Bill may have red tip. *Immature*: See pp. 102, 103.

Voice: A strident laugh, ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-haah-haah, etc.

Range: East Coast: Nova Scotia to Venezuela. Local, s. California, w. Mexico. Winters from s. U.S. south to Peru. West: Common post-breeding visitor to Salton Sea; has bred there. Casual, coastal California. Accidental north to Washington, Montana, Saskatchewan.

FRANKLIN'S GULL Larus pipixcan

M157

14½" (37 cm). Note the *white band* on the wing, separating the black from the gray. In summer, the head is black and the breast has a rosy bloom. In fall, the head is white with dark cheeks and a dark nape. *Immature:* See pp. 102, 103.

Voice: A shrill kuk-kuk-kuk; also mewing, laughing cries.

Range: Breeds in w. Canada and nw. and n.-cen. U.S. Winters in Pacific from Guatemala to Chile. West: Map 157. Habitat: Prairies, inland marshes, lakes; in winter, coasts, ocean.

SABINE'S GULL Xema sabini

M169

13–14" (33–35 cm). Our only gull with a well-forked tail. Note the black outer primaries and triangular white wing patch. Bill black, with a yellow tip; feet black. This gull has a slaty hood in summer, lacking in winter. Immature: See pp. 102, 103.

Range: Arctic; circumpolar. Winters in Pacific to Chile; local in Atlantic.

West: Map 169. Habitat: Ocean; nests on tundra.

BLACK-HEADED GULL Larus ridibundus

14–15" (35–38 cm). Similar in pattern to Bonaparte's Gull and associates with it; slightly larger. Shows much *blackish on underside of primaries*; bill *dark red*, not black. In winter loses its dark brown hood and has a black earshot. *Immature*: See pp. 102, 103.

Ronge: Eurasia, Iceland; increasingly frequent in e. N. America. West: Regular spring visitor to Aleutians, Pribilofs; rare elsewhere in Alaska.

Casual stray to British Columbia, Pacific states. **BONAPARTE'S GULL** *Larus philadelphia*

M158

13" (33 cm). A petite, almost tern-like gull. Note the *wedge of white* on the *fore edge* of the wing. Legs red; bill small, black. Adult in summer has a blackish head. Winter adult has a white head with a *black earspot. Immature:* See pp. 102, 103.

Voice: A nasal cheeer or cherr. Some notes tern-like.

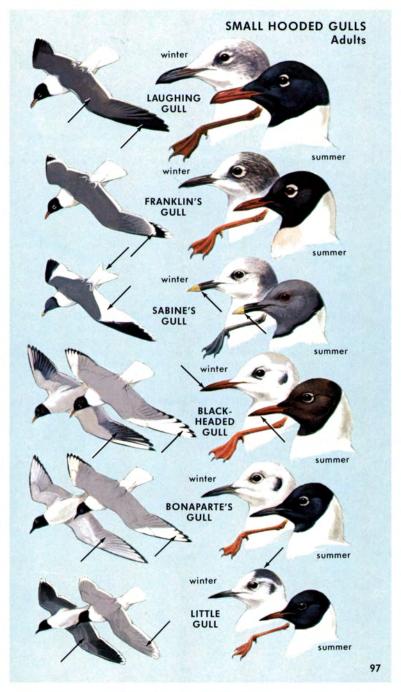
Range: Alaska, w. and cen. Canada. Winters from n. U.S. to Mexico, Puerto Rico. West: Map 158. Habitat: Ocean bays, lakes, muskeg.

LITTLE GULL Larus minutus

11" (28 cm). The smallest gull; usually associates with Bonaparte's. Note the *blackish undersurface* of the *rather rounded wing* and absence of black above. Legs red. In summer the head is black, bill dark red, breast may be pinkish. In winter, head is *dark-capped*, bill is black. *Immature*: See pp. 102, 103.

Range: Eurasia, wintering to n. Africa, Japan. A small population breeds in n.-cen. N. America. West: Casual or accidental, Alaska, nw. Canada,

Pacific states, Nevada, Colorado, etc.



■ IMMATURE GULLS. Immatures are more difficult to identify than adults. They are usually darkest the first year and lighter the second; in the larger species they may not develop their full adult plumage until the third or fourth year. See pp. 88, 89. Leg colors of most immatures are not as diagnostic as those of adults. However, in some cases bill colors may be helpful. Go mainly by pattern and size. The most typical plumages are shown in the following pages; intermediate and successive stages can be expected, but do not feel you must identify every immature gull. Because of variables such as the stage of molt, wear, age, individual variation, frequent hybridization, and even occasional albinism, some birds may remain a mystery even to the expert unless the specimen is in the hand. See also pp. 100–103.

GLAUCOUS GULL Larus hyperboreus Adult, pp. 94, 95. A four-year gull. First winter: Recognized by its large size (a bit larger than Glaucous-winged or Western Gull), pale tan coloration, and unmarked frosty primaries, a shade lighter than the rest of the wing. Bill pale flesh pink with a dark tip. The pale gray mantle is acquired later, with approaching adulthood. Second year: Paler buff; occasional worn or faded birds may appear to be pure white throughout with only a hint of mottling.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL Larus glaucescens Adult, pp. 94, 95.

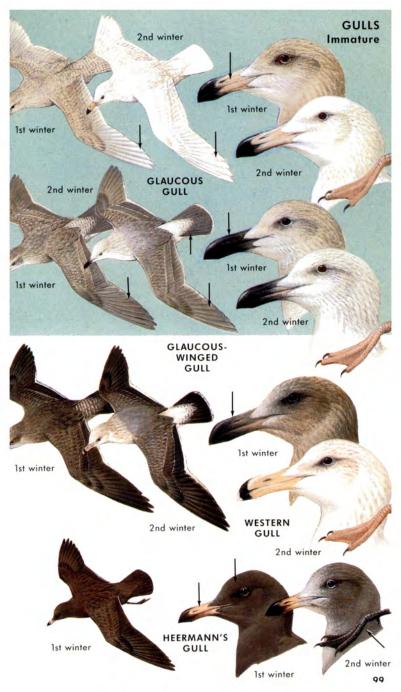
A four-year gull; variable. Size of Western Gull, and with a similar sequence of plumages (see p. 89), but primaries are much the same tone as the rest of the wing, not darker as in Western or Herring gulls, or paler, frosty, or translucent as in Glaucous Gull.

WESTERN GULL Larus occidentalis

A four-year gull; see sequences of plumages on pp. 88, 89. First-year birds are larger and less brown than first-year Herring Gulls.

HEERMANN'S GULL Larus heermanni Adult, pp. 90, 91.

A three-year gull. Readily told by its size and all-dark, sooty or slaty color. Note the bicolored bill.



■ IMMATURE GULLS, continued.

HERRING GULL Larus argentatus

Adult, pp. 92, 93.

A four-year gull. *Juvenile:* Relatively uniform dusky brown. *First winter:* Much like juvenile but not quite as dark. Bill all dark at first, becoming paler at base later. *Second and third winter:* Paler. Head and underparts whiter, tail feathers dark-tipped, contrasting with white rump; bill pale, dark-tipped. The gray mantle is acquired with approaching adulthood.

THAYER'S GULL Larus thayeri

Adult, pp. 92, 93.

A four-year gull. First winter: Gray-brown throughout; similar to first-winter Western and Herring gulls, but lighter; primaries usually the same gray-brown as the rest of the wing (not darker or blackish, as in Western or most other gulls). Second winter: Paler and grayer; primaries gray-brown. In any plumage, gray or pale gray-brown wing tips from below.

Similar species: See immature Glaucous-winged Gull, p. 98.

CALIFORNIA GULL Larus californicus

Adult, pp. 92, 93.

A four-year gull. *Juvenile*: As *dark* as the somewhat larger juvenile Herring Gull, but with a smaller, *bicolored bill*. *First winter*: Similar but with paler mottling. *Second winter*: Much like first-winter Ring-bill (gray on back) but tail mostly all dark, not with a well-defined subterminal band.

RING-BILLED GULL Larus delawarensis

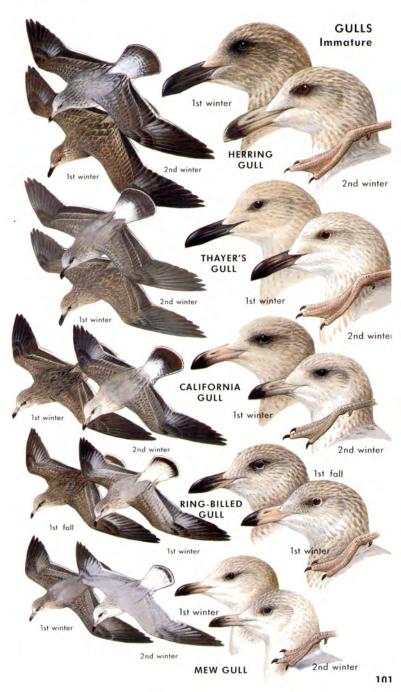
Adult, pp. 92, 93.

A three-year gull. Juveniles are much smaller, paler, and more speckled than juvenile Herring Gulls, but first-winter immatures may be confused with second- and third-winter Herring Gulls, which have a semblance of a ring near the tip of the longer bill. In the Herring Gull and California Gull the tail is mostly dark, terminating in a very broad, ill-defined band. The subterminal band in young Ring-bills is much narrower (a little over 1 in. wide) and usually (but not always) well defined. The leg color is not useful, as young Ring-bills have dull flesh-pink, flesh-gray, or grayish legs, not unlike those of certain other young gulls.

MEW GULL Larus canus

Adult, pp. 92, 93.

A three-year gull. *Juvenile:* Very dark; might suggest a young Heermann's Gull, but has a smaller, shorter bill and pale legs. *First winter:* More like a second-winter California Gull, but considerably smaller, with a rounder head and smaller, thinner bill.



IMMATURE GULLS: SMALLER SPECIES

LAUGHING GULL Larus atricilla

Adult, pp. 96, 97.

A three-year gull. *Juvenile*: Very *dark*, with a *white rump* and a *broad white border* on the trailing edge of the dark wing. *First winter*: Paler or whiter on the chest and forehead; not easy to separate from young Franklin's Gull. *Second winter*: Similar to winter adult, but with a trace of black in the tail.

FRANKLIN'S GULL Larus pipixcan

Adult, pp. 96, 97.

A two-year gull. First winter: Very similar to first-winter Laughing Gull, but smaller-billed and more petite. It perhaps may best be distinguished by the incomplete tail band. Note also the darker cheek and more distinctly hooded effect. Outer tail feathers white. Juvenile Laughing Gull is separated from Franklin's by its brown breast and brown forehead, which become whiter as fall progresses.

SABINE'S GULL Xema sabini

Adult 96, 97.

A two-year gull. *Juvenile and first winter:* Dark grayish brown on the back, but with the adult's bold *triangular wing pattern.* Note the scaly pattern and also the *forked* tail. Young Kittiwake is similar, but has a dark bar on the nape, a diagonal bar across the wing, and only a slight tail notch.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE Rissa tridactyla

Adult, pp. 94, 95.

A two-year gull. *First winter:* Note the *dark bar on the nape,* the black outer primaries, and the dark bar across the inner wing. The tail may seem notched.

BONAPARTE'S GULL Larus philadelphia

Adult, pp. 96, 97.

A two-year gull. Petite, tern-like. First winter: Note the cheek spot, narrow black tail band, and pattern of black and white in the outer primaries.

BLACK-HEADED GULL Larus ridibundus

Adult, pp. 96, 97.

A two-year gull. *First winter:* Similar in pattern to immature Bonaparte's Gull, with which it associates, but slightly larger and less tern-like; the bill is longer, ochre at the base, black at the tip. Underwing as in adult Black-head, but not as dark.

IVORY GULL Pagophila eburnea

Adult, pp. 94, 95.

A two-year gull. First winter: A tern-like white gull, with irregular gray smudges on the face, a sprinkling of black spots above, and a narrow black border on the rear edge of its white wings.

LITTLE GULL Larus minutus

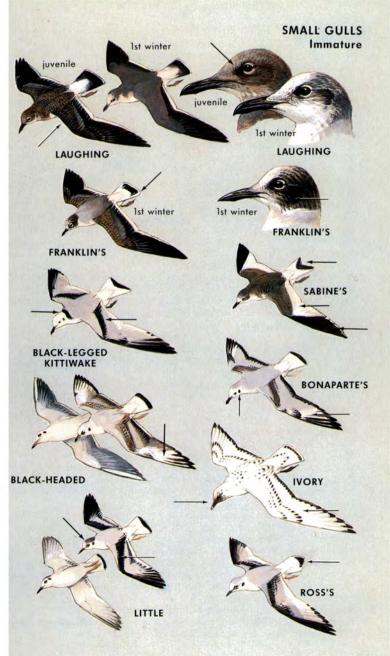
Adult, pp. 96, 97.

A two-year gull. First winter: Smaller than young Bonaparte's, with rounder wings and a blacker M pattern formed by the outer primaries and the dark band across the wing. Note especially the dusky cap.

ROSS'S GULL Rhodosthethia rosea

Adult, pp. 90, 91.

A two-year gull. First winter: Similar in pattern to immature Black-legged Kittiwake, but note the wedge-shaped tail (not square or notched) and the blue-gray linings of the underwing. It lacks the dark nape of the immature Kittiwake.



■ TERNS. Subfamily Sterninae. Graceful water birds, more streamlined than gulls; wings more pointed, tail usually forked. Bill sharp-pointed, often tilted toward the water. Most terns are whitish with black caps; in winter, black of forehead replaced by white. Sexes alike. Terns often hover and plunge headfirst for fish. Normally they do not swim (gulls do). Food: Small fish, marine life, large insects. Range: Almost worldwide. No. of species: World 42; West 11.

GULL-BILLED TERN Sterna nilotica

14" (35 cm). Note the stout, almost *gull-like black* bill. Stockier and paler than Common Tern; tail much less forked; feet *black*. In winter the head is white with a dark ear patch, pale dusky on nape; suggests a small gull with a notched tail. *Immature*: Similar to non-breeding adult. This tern often hawks for insects.

Voice: A throaty, rasping za-za-za; also kay-week, kay-week.

Range: Breeds locally, wanders widely in many parts of world. West: Summer resident Salton Sea, California. Casual, sw. Arizona. Habitat: Salt marshes, fields, coastal bays.

ELEGANT TERN Sterna elegans

16–17" (40–43 cm). This Mexican species should be looked for in fall along the coast. In size, midway between Royal and Forster's terns. Bill orange-yellow, with no black tip (Forster's has black tip), and proportionately more slender than the more orange bill of the Royal. Its black crest is longer. In winter, it has a blacker crown than Royal Tern. **Voice:** A nasal *karreek*, or *ka-zeek*.

Range: Breeds on islands off Baja California. Winters Peru to Chile. West: Wanders irregularly (mainly Aug.—Oct.) north to San Francisco Bay; recently even to Washington. Breeds near San Diego.

ROYAL TERN Sterna maxima

18–21" [45–53 cm]. A large tern, slimmer than Caspian, with a large orange bill (Caspian's bill is redder). Tail deeply forked. Although some Royal Terns in spring show a solid cap, they usually have much white on the forehead, the black feathers forming a crest. Whiter under primaries than Caspian.

Voice: Keer, higher than Caspian's note; also kaak or kak.

Range: Coasts of se. U.S. to Argentina; s. California to Peru; also w. Africa. Winters s. U.S. to Argentina; w. Africa. West: Irregular visitor (Sept.-Mar.) along coast north to Morro Bay, rarely to San Francisco. Has bred near San Diego. Habitat: Coasts, beaches, salt bays.

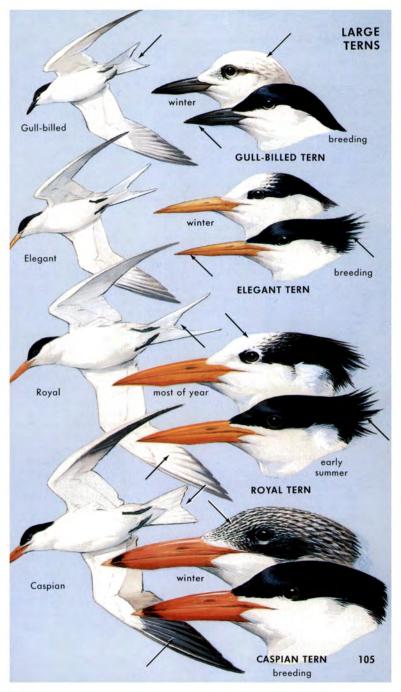
CASPIAN TERN Sterna caspia

M170

19–23" [48–58 cm]. Large size and large red bill set the Caspian apart from all other terms except the slimmer Royal. Caspian ranges inland, Royal does not. Tail of Caspian is shorter; bill is thicker, red rather than orange, with a touch of dark at the tip. Royal has a more crested look; its forehead is usually clear white (in this plumage, Caspian has a streaked forehead). Caspian shows much more black under the primaries.

Voice: A hoarse, low kraa-uh or karr; also repeated kaks.

Runge: Breeds locally, wanders widely around the world. West: Map 170. Habitat: Large lakes, coastal waters, beaches, bays.



FORSTER'S TERN Sterna forsteri

M173

14–15" (35–38 cm). A slim, graceful, gull-like bird with a black cap; long, pointed wings; and a deeply forked tail. This, the most wide-spread of the three similar medium-sized terns in the West, is readily separated from the other two by its frosty wing tips. Very similar to the Common Tern, but paler; primaries lighter than the rest of the wing (darker in Common). Tail grayer; bill more orange. In fall and winter, adult and immature Forster's have a black mask or patch through the eye and ear (not around the nape). Immature: Lacks the dusky forewing (dark shoulder) of Common Tern.

Voice: A harsh, nasal za-a-ap and a nasal kyarr.

Range: W. Canada, w. U.S., and cen. Atlantic Coast to Tamaulipas. Winters s. U.S. to Guatemala. West: Map 173. The most widespread tern in the West. Habitat: Marshes (fresh, salt), lakes, bays, beaches, ocean. Nests in marshes.

ARCTIC TERN Sterna paradisaea

M172

14–17" (35–43 cm). Very similar to Common or Forster's terns, but grayer; the white cheeks contrast with the grayish throat and breast. The shorter bill is usually blood-red to the tip. Legs shorter. Overhead, note the translucent effect of the primaries and the narrow black trailing edge. In the fall the bill and feet of adults become dark. The most pelagic (sea-going) tern.

Voice: Kee-yah, similar to Common Tern's cry; less slurred, higher.

A high keer-keer is characteristic.

Ronge: Northern parts of N. Hemisphere; circumpolar. Winters in sub-Antarctic seas. West: Map 172. Habitat: Open ocean, rocky coasts, islands; in summer, also tundra lakes.

COMMON TERN Sterna hirundo

M171

13–16" (33–40 cm). Summer: White, with a pearl gray mantle and black cap; bill red-orange with a black tip; feet orange-red. Very similar to Forster's Tern, but the five outer primaries form a dark wedge, contrasting with the light inner primaries. Winter adult: The black cap is incomplete, the bill blackish. The Siberian race (longipennis) is a rare visitor in the w. Aleutians and other islands in the Bering Sea. It is darker, with a black bill in breeding plumage and black feet. Immature: Similar to winter adult but shoulder and leading edge of wing darker than those of imm. Arctic Tern.

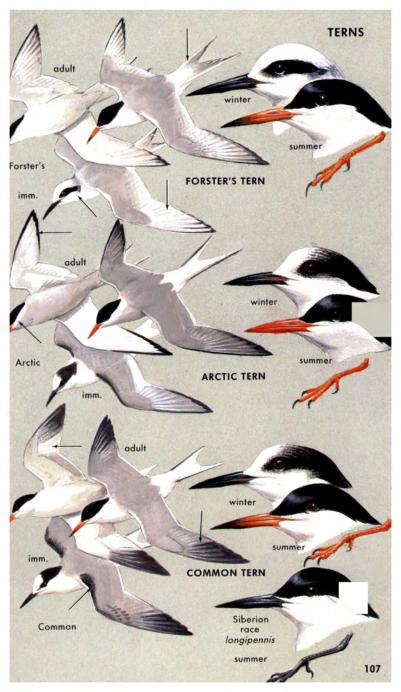
Similar species: (1) See Forster's Tern, the most widespread tern in

the West. (2) Arctic Tern is more widespread at sea.

Voice: A drawling kee-arr (downward inflection); also kik-kik-kik;

a quick kirri-kirri.

Range: Temperate zone of N. Hemisphere. Winters to S. Hemisphere. West: Map 171. Habitat: Lakes, ocean, bays, beaches; nests colonially on sandy beaches and small islands.



LEAST TERN Sterna antillarum

M174

9" (23 cm). A very small, pale tern, with a yellow bill, yellow feet, and a white forehead. Flight more fluttery than that of other terns. Immature: Dark bill, dark nape, much dark on forewing. In the fall, all birds may have dark bills, but feet still show yellow.

Voice: A sharp, repeated kit; a harsh, squealing zree-eek or zeek;

also a rapid kitti-kitti-kitti.

Range: Temperate and tropical oceans. Winters south of U.S. West: Map 174. Habitat: Sea beaches, bays; large rivers, bars.

ALEUTIAN TERN Sterna aleutica

15" (38 cm). A lead-colored tern of Alaskan coastal waters. Known from Arctic Tern by its much grayer color, blackish primaries, blackish or dark bill and feet, clean-cut white forehead. The gray body and mantle contrast with the white tail.

Voice: A three-syllable whistle, suggesting a shorebird.

Ronge: Breeds on Sakhalin I., Kamchatka, and locally in s. and w. Alaska north to Bering Straits and west sparsely through Aleutians. Winters in nw. Pacific.

BLACK TERN Chlidonias niger

M175

9–10" (23–25 cm). A *black-bodied* tern. *Breeding*: Head and underparts black, back, wings, and tail dark gray, wing linings white. By midsummer, molting birds are mottled, with the black largely replaced by white. Note the pied head, smudge on side of the breast. *Immature*: Similar to non-breeding adult.

Voice: A sharp kik, keek, or klea.

Ronge: Temperate N. America, w. Eurasia. Winters mainly in S. America, w. Africa. West: Map 175. Habitat: Fresh marshes, lakes; in migration, also coastal waters.

Note: WHITE-WINGED TERN, Chlidonias leucopterus of Eurasia, has occurred as a stray in extreme w. Aleutians (Nizki I.). In breeding plumage it differs from the Black Tern in having a largely white upperwing and black wing linings. In winter, paler than Black Tern, lacking the dark shoulder spot.

■ SKIMMERS. Subfamily Rynchopinae. Slim, short-legged relatives of gulls and terms. Scissorlike red bill; lower mandible longer than upper. Food: Small fish, crustaceans. Range: Coasts, large rivers of warmer parts of world. No. of species: World 3; West 1.

BLACK SKIMMER Rhynchops niger

16–20" (40–50 cm). More slender than a gull, with extremely long wings. Black above, white below. Note the unequal scissorlike bill. The bright red bill (tipped with black) is long and flat vertically; lower mandible juts a third beyond upper. *Immature:* Brownish, speckled, smaller-billed. Primarily coastal; skims low, dipping knifelike lower mandible in water.

Voice: Soft, short, barking notes. Also kaup, kaup.

Ronge: Cape Cod, s. California, south to s. S. America. West: A recently established resident of s. California, nesting at Salton Sea and near San Diego. Occasional elsewhere on California coast; casual, Arizona, New Mexico.



■ HERONS, BITTERNS. Family Ardeidae. Medium to large wading birds with long necks, spearlike bills. They stand with the neck erect or the head back on the shoulders. In flight, the neck is folded in an S; legs trail. Some herons may have plumes when breeding. Sexes similar. Food: Fish, frogs, crawfish, other aquatic life; mice, insects. Range: Worldwide except colder regions, some deserts and islands. No of species: World 67; West 13 (+1 accidental).

GREAT BLUE HERON Ardea herodias

M21

42–52" (105–130 cm). A lean gray bird, often miscalled a "crane" (pp. 116, 117); may stand 4 ft. tall. Its long legs, long neck, dagger-like bill, and, in flight, its folder neck indicate a heron. Great size and blue-gray color, white about the head (in adults), mark it as this species.

Voice: Deep harsh croaks: Frahnk, frahnk, frahnk.

Range: S. Canada to Mexico. Winters to n. S. America. West: Map 21. Habitat: Marshes, swamps, shores, tideflats.

LITTLE BLUE HERON Egretta caerulea

24" (60 cm). A slender, rather small, dark heron. *Adult*: Bluish slate with a deep maroon-brown neck; legs dark, bill pale bluish with a dark tip. *Immature*: See pp. 112, 113. All white with grayish wing tips. Legs *dull olive*; bill pale *bluish*, tipped with black. Birds in transition are boldly pied white and dark.

Similar species: Adults may be mistaken for Reddish Egret.

Range: Eastern U.S. to Peru, Argentina. West: A rare visitor to the sw. states; most frequent in California (has bred there). Accidental, Washington, British Columbia.

GREEN HERON Butorides virescens

M25

16–22" (40–55 cm). A small dark heron that in flight looks crow-like (but flies with bowed wingbeats). When alarmed it stretches its neck, elevates a shaggy crest, and jerks its tail. The comparatively *short* legs are *greenish yellow* or *orange* (when breeding). Back with a blue-green gloss; neck deep chestnut. The immature has a streaked neck and breast.

Voice: A series of kuck's; a loud skyow or skewk.

Ronge: Nw. U.S., se. Canada to Argentina; se. Asia, Africa, Australia. West: Map 25. Hobitot: Lakes, ponds, marshes, streams.

TRICOLORED HERON Egretta tricolor

(Louisiana Heron) 26^n (65 cm). A very slender, dark heron with a contrasting white belly and white rump.

Range: Eastern U.S. to Brazil. West: A rare but regular visitor to s. California. Casual, other sw. states; accidental, Oregon, Alberta.

REDDISH EGRET Egretta rufescens

29" (73 cm). Note the pinkish, black-tipped bill. Neutral gray, with a rusty head and neck; paler than Little Blue Heron, which has pale bluish at base of bill. Loose-feathered, neck shaggy (adult). When feeding, lurches about, wings half spread; acts drunk. The white morph presumably does not occur in the West.

Range: Gulf states, W. Indies to n. Venezuela; Baja California to El Salvador. West: A rare visitor to s. California (especially the coast); accidental, Arizona, Colorado.



M22

(Common Egret) 38" (95 cm). A tall, stately, slender white heron with a largely *yellow bill*. Legs and feet *black*. When breeding, *straight plumes* on the back extend beyond the tail; bill may have a dark ridge. When feeding, the bird assumes an eager, forward-learning pose, with its neck extended.

Voice: A low, hoarse croak. Also, cuk, cuk, cuk.

Range: U.S. to s. S. America; warmer parts of Old World. West: Map 22.

Habitat: Marshes, ponds, shores, mudflats. SNOWY EGRET Egretta thula

M23

20–27" (50–68 cm). Note the "golden slippers." A rather small white heron, with a slender black bill, black legs, and yellow feet. Recurved plumes on the back during breeding season. A yellow loral spot is before the eye (red when bird is breeding). When feeding, this heron rushes about, shuffling its feet to stir up food. Young birds may show yellowish or greenish on much of rear side of legs.

Voice: A low croak; in colony, a bubbling wulla-wulla-wulla.

Range: Northern U.S. to Argentina. West: Map 23. Habitat: Marshes, swamps, ponds, shores, tideflats.

LITTLE BLUE HERON Egretta caerulea

Adult, pp. 110, 111.

Immature: White, with a touch of gray in the wing tips. Lores gray, legs dull greenish. May be confused with immature Snowy Egret.

CHINESE EGRET Egretta eulophotes

This endangered Asiatic bird has occurred once in the w. Aleutians (Aggatu I.). When breeding it resembles a Snowy Egret (black legs, yellow feet), but the bill is *yellow*, the lores *dark*.

CATTLE EGRET Bubulcus ibis

M24

20" (50 cm). A recent invader. Slightly smaller, stockier than Snowy Egret. Breeding plumage shows a wash of *buff* on crown, breast, and back; little or none at other times. Bill relatively short, *yellow* (orangepink on nesting birds). Legs may be yellow, greenish, or coral-pink (on nesting birds), or dusky (immature).

Range: S. Eurasia, Africa; recent immigrant to N. and S. America, Australia. Introduced Hawaii. West: Map 24. Habitat: Farms, marshes, high-

way edges; often associates with cattle.

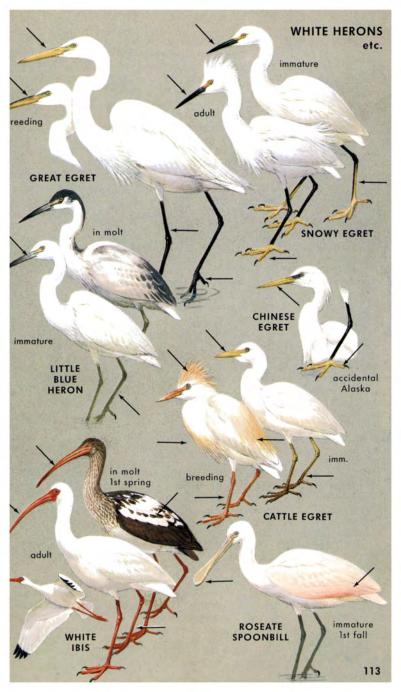
■ IBISES AND SPOONBILLS. Family Threskiornithidae. Ibises are long-legged, heron-like marsh waders with slender, decurved bills. Spoonbills have spatulate bills. Both fly in V's or lines and, unlike herons, fly with necks outstretched. Food: Small crustaceans, small fish, insects, etc. Range: Tropical and warm temperate regions. No. of species: World 30; West 3.

WHITE IBIS Eudocimus albus

22–27" (55–68 cm). Note the *red face*, long *decurved red bill*, and restricted black wing tips. Immature is dark brownish; note the *white belly*, *white rump*, curved *red* bill. Immature Glossy Ibis differs in being uniformly dark with a dark bill.

Range: Se. U.S. to n. S. America. West: A casual stray to California, Arizona, New Mexico; accidental, Wyoming, Idaho, Dakotas.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL Ajaia ajaja Adult shown on pp. 114, 115. Immature: Spatulate bill; pale pink plumage.



BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON Nycticorax nycticorax

23–28" [58–70 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 (pink when breeding). Breeding birds have two long white head plumes. Immature: Warm brown, streaked and spotted with buff and white.

Voice: A flat quok! or quark! Most often heard at dusk.

Ronge: S. Canada to Falklands; Eurasia, Africa, Pacific Is. West: Map 26. Habitat: Marshes, shores; roosts in trees.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON Nyctanassa violacea

22–28" [55–70 cm]. A chunky gray heron; head black, with a white cheek patch and crown. Immature: Similar to young Black-crown; duskier, more finely streaked and spotted. Bill thicker, legs longer. In flight, the entire foot extends beyond the tail.

Voice: Quark, higher pitched than note of Black-crown.

Ronge: Eastern U.S. to n. Peru and s. Brazil. West: Casual or accidental straggler west of 100° to Saskatchewan, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

AMERICAN BITTERN Botaurus lentiginosus

23" (58 cm). Stocky; size of a young Night-Heron, but warmer brown; black stripe on neck. In flight, outer wing blackish, bill held more horizontal. At rest, it may stand rigid, bill pointed up.

Voice: "Pumping," or song, a slow, deep oong-ka' choonk, oong-ka' choonk, oong-ka' choonk, etc. Flushing note, kok-kok-kok.

Ronge: Canada to Gulf states; winters to Panama. West: Map 19. Hobitot: Marshes, reedy lakes. Seldom sits in trees.

LEAST BITTERN Ixobrychus exilis

M20

11-14" (28-35 cm). Very small, thin, furtive; straddles reeds. Note the large buff wing patch (lacking in rails).

Voice: Song, a low, muted coo-coo-coo, heard in the marsh.

Range: Se. Canada, U.S. to ne. Argentina. West: Map 20. Habitat: Fresh marshes, reedy ponds; not easy to flush.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL Ajaia ajaja (family on p. 112)

32" (80 cm). A *bright pink* wading bird with a long, flat, spoonlike bill. Adults are *shell-pink*, with a blood-red "drip" on the shoulders; tail orange. Head naked, greenish gray. *Immature*: See pp. 112, 113. When feeding, the bill is swept from side to side. In flight, the neck is extended.

Ronge: Gulf states to Argentina, Chile. West: Irregular post-breeding visitor to s. California (Salton Sea, lower Colorado R.). Accidental,

Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, w. Texas.

WHITE-FACED IBIS Plegadis chihi (family on p. 112) M27 22-25" (55-63 cm). A long-legged marsh wader with a long, decurved bill. Deep purplish chestnut; suggests a large, blackish curlew. Flies in lines with its neck outstretched, alternately flapping and gliding. Breeding birds show a white border at the base of the bill; also red legs and red lores. Immatures and non-breeding adults lack the white on the face and the red legs.

Range: Western U.S. to Argentina. West: Map 27. Habitat: Fresh

marshes, irrigated land, tules.



■ STORKS. Family Ciconiidae. Large, long-legged, and heronlike, with straight, recurved or decurved bills. Some have naked heads. Sexes alike. Walk is sedate; flight deliberate, neck and legs extended. Food: Frogs, crustaceans, lizards, rodents. Range: Southern U.S. to S. America; Africa, Eurasia, E. Indies, Australia. No. of species: World 18; West 1.

WOOD STORK Mycteria americana

34–47" (85–118 cm). Very large (spread 5½ ft.). White, with a dark naked head and much black in the wing; black tail. Bill long, thick, decurved. Immature has a yellow bill. When feeding, keeps its head down and walks. In flight, it alternately flaps and glides.

Voice: A hoarse croak; usually silent.

Ronge: Southern U.S. to Argentina. West: Regular visitor in late summer and fall to s. California (especially Salton Sea), sw. and cen. Arizona, s. Nevada; casual or accidental to ne. California, British Columbia, Utah, Idaho, s. Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and eastward. Habitat: Marshes, ponds, lagoons.

■ CRANES. Family Gruidae. Stately birds, more robust than herons, often with red facial skin. Note the tufted appearance over the rump. In flight, neck extended; migrate in V's or lines like geese. Large herons are sometimes wrongly referred to as "cranes." Food: Omnivorous. Range: Nearly cosmopolitan except Cen. and S. America and Oceania. No. of species: World 15; West 2 (+1 accidental).

WHOOPING CRANE Grus americana

50" (125 cm); spread 7½ ft. The tallest North American bird and one of the rarest. A large *white* crane with a *red face*. Primary wing feathers *black*. Young birds are washed with rust color, especially about the head.

Voice: A shrill, buglelike trumpeting, ker-loo! ker-lee-oo!

Ronge: Breeds in Wood Buffalo Park border of n. Alberta and N.W.T.; migrates through Great Plains to coastal Texas. Reintroduced at Gray's Lake, Idaho (migrating via Colorado to Bosque Del Apache Refuge in New Mexico). Endangered but slowly increasing.

SANDHILL CRANE Grus canadensis

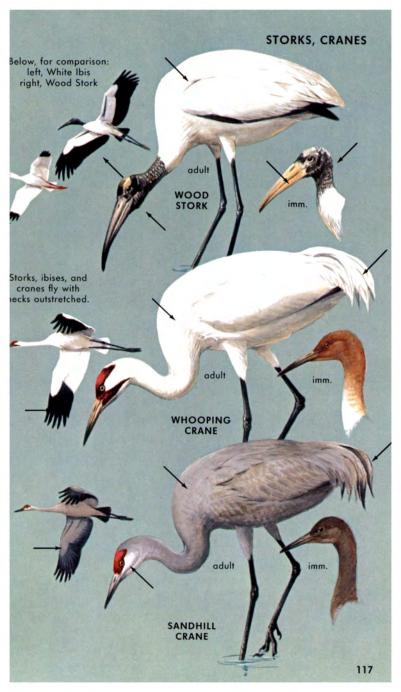
40-48" (100-120 cm); spread 6-7 ft. Note the bald red crown, bustlelike rear. A long-legged, long-necked, gray bird, often stained with rust. The immature is brown. In flight, the neck is extended and the wings beat with an upward flick.

Voice: A shrill, rolling garoo-a-a-a; repeated.

Range: Ne. Siberia, N. America, Cuba. Winters to Mexico. West: Map 112. Habitat: Prairies, fields, marshes; tundra.



COMMON CRANE Grus grus 41" (103 cm). Eurasian. Note the black neck (left). May occur as a very rare vagrant in flocks of Sandhill Cranes. West: Has been recorded in Alaska, Alberta, New Mexico, Nebraska, and Texas.



■ RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS. Family Rallidae (in part). Rails are rather hen-shaped marsh birds of secretive habits and mysterious voices, more often heard than seen. Their flight is brief and reluctant, with legs dangling. Gallinules and coots swim; they resemble ducks except for their smaller heads, forehead shields, and chicken-like bills. See them on pp. 64, 65; heads only are shown here. Food: Aquatic plants, seeds, insects, frogs, crustaceans, mollusks. Range: Nearly worldwide. No. of species: World 128: West 8 (+2 accidental).

SORA Porzana carolina M109

8–9¾" (20–24 cm). Note the *short yellow* bill. The adult is a small, plump, gray-brown rail, with a *black patch* on the face and throat. The short, cocked tail reveals white or buff undertail coverts. Immature lacks the throat patch and is browner.

Voice: A descending whinny. In spring, a plaintive whistled kerwee! When hands are clapped, startled birds utter a sharp keek.

Ronge: Canada; w., n.-cen., and ne. U.S. Winters from s. U.S. to Peru. West: Map 109. Habitat: Fresh marshes, wet meadows; in winter, also salt marshes.

BLACK RAIL Laterallus jamaicensis

M106

5–6" (13–15 cm). A tiny blackish rail with a small *black* bill; about the size of a young sparrow. Nape deep chestnut. Very difficult to glimpse, but may respond at night to a tape recording. *Caution*: All young rails in downy plumage are black.

Voice: Male at night, kiki-doo or kiki-krrr (or "kitty go").

Ronge: Ne. and cen. U.S. and cen. California south locally to W. Indies, Chile. West: Map 106. Hobitot: Tidal marshes, (coast); grassy marshes, stubble fields (inland).

YELLOW RAIL Coturnicops noveboracensis

M105

7" (18 cm). Note the white wing patch (in flight). A small buffy rail, suggesting a week-old chick. Bill very short, greenish. Back dark, striped and checkered with buff and black. Mouse-like; difficult to see or flush.

Voice: Nocturnal ticking notes, often in long series: tic-tic, tic-tic-

tic, tic-tic, tic-tic-tic, etc., in groups of 2 and 3.

Range: Mainly Canada, n. U.S. east of Rockies. Winters se. U.S. West: Map 105. Habitat: Grassy marshes, meadows; rarely salt marshes.

VIRGINIA RAIL Rallus limicola

M108

9" (23 cm). A small rusty rail with gray cheeks, black bars on the flanks, and a long, slightly decurved, reddish bill. Near the size of a meadowlark; the only small rail with a long, slender bill. Grown young in late summer show much black.

Voice: Wak-wak-wak, etc., descending, also kidick, kidick, etc. and

various "kicking" and grunting sounds.

Ronge: S. Canada to s. S. America. West: Map 108. Habitat: Fresh

and brackish marshes; in winter, also salt marshes.

CLAPPER RAIL Rallus longirostris

M107

14–16" (35–40 cm). The large tan and gray "marsh hen" of California coastal marshes. Note the henlike appearance; strong legs; long, slightly decurved bill; barred flanks; and white patch under the short cocked tail, which it flirts nervously. (continued on p. 120)



CLAPPER RAIL (continued). See illustration on previous page.

Voice: A clattering kek-kek-kek-kek, etc., or cha-cha-cha, etc.

Range: Coasts of e. U.S. and California to n. S. America. West: Map

107. Habitat: Salt marshes and brackish marshes.

Note: The similar and closely related **KING RAIL** (Rallus elegans), a large rusty rail of marshes east of our area, has strayed west to Colorado. See illustration in eastern *Field Guide*.

■ OYSTERCATCHERS. Family Haematopodidae. Large waders with long, laterally flattened, chisel-tipped, red bills. Sexes alike. Food: Mollusks, crabs, marine worms. Range: Widespread on the coasts of the world; inland in some areas of Europe and Asia. No. of species: World 7; West 2.

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER Haematopus bachmani M119 17–17½" (43–44 cm). A large, heavily built, blackish shorebird, with a straight red bill, flattened laterally. Legs a pale flesh color. Im-

mature may have a black tip on the bill.

Voice: A piercing, sharply repeated, whistled wheep! or kleep!

Ronge: Resident from w. Aleutians (Attu), east and south along coast to Morro Bay, California; on offshore islands to Baja California. West: Map 119. Hobitot: Rocky coasts, sea islets.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER Haematopus palliatus

17–21" [43–53 cm]. Differs from Black Oystercatcher in having a white belly and large white wing and tail patches. Its red bill and pale legs are like those of the Black Oystercatcher.

Ronge: Shores of Cape Cod south to Argentina, w. Mexico to Chile. West: Casual stray to California coast, Channel Islands, Salton Sea.

■ AVOCETS, STILTS. Family Recurvirostridae. Slim waders with very long legs and very slender bills (bent upward in avocets). Sexes similar. Food: Insects, crustaceans, other aquatic life. Ronge: U.S., Cen. and S. America, Africa, s. Eurasia, Australia, Pacific region. No. of species: World 9; West 2.

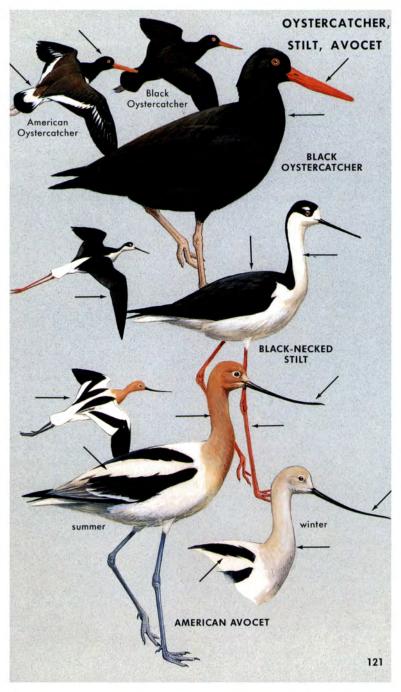
BLACK-NECKED STILT Himantopus mexicanus
13–17" (33–43 cm). A large, extremely slim wader; black above, white below. Note the grotesquely long red legs and needle-like bill. In flight, the black unpatterned wings contrast strikingly with the white rump, tail, and underparts.

Voice: A sharp yipping: *kyip, kyip, kyip.* **Ronge:** W. and se. U.S. to Argentina. Winters mainly south of U.S. **West:** Map 120. **Hobitot:** Grassy marshes, mudflats, pools, shallow lakes (fresh and alkaline).

AMERICAN AVOCET Recurvirostra americana
16-20" (40-50 cm). A large, slim shorebird with a very slender, upturned, somewhat godwit-like bill, more upturned in the female. This and the striking white and black pattern make this bird unique. In breeding plumage, the head and neck are pinkish tan; in winter this is replaced with pale gray. Avocets feed with a scythelike sweep of the head and bill.

Voice: A sharp wheek or kleet, excitedly repeated. Ronge: Breeds sw. Canada, w. U.S. Winters from s. U.S. to Guatemala. West: Map

121. Habitat: Beaches, flats, shallow lakes, prairie ponds.



■ PLOVERS. Family Charadriidae. Wading birds, more compactly built and thicker-necked than most sandpipers, with shorter, pigeon-like bills and larger eyes. Call notes assist identification. Unlike most sandpipers, plovers run in short starts and stops. Sexes alike. Note: The turnstones (pp. 142, 143) until recently were assigned to the plover family, but are now regarded as more closely allied to the sandpipers, Scolopacidae. Food: Small marine life, insects, some vegetable matter. Range: Nearly worldwide. No. of species: World 67; West 12 (+1 accidental).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER Pluvialis squatarola

M113

10½-13½" (26-34 cm). A large plover. In breeding plumage adults have a black breast and pale speckled back. Winter birds and immatures are gray-looking, but can be recognized as plovers by their stocky shape; hunched posture; and short, pigeon-like bill. In flight, in any plumage, note the black axillars ("wingpits") and the white rump and tail.

Similar species: American Golden-Plover and Pacific Golden-Plover are browner and lack the pattern of white in the wings and tail.

Their axillars are gray, not black.

Voice: A plaintive slurred whistle, tlee-oo-eee or whee-er-ee (middle

note lower).

Range: Arctic; circumpolar. Winters from coastal U.S. and s. Eurasia to S. Hemisphere. West: Map 113. Habitat: Mudflats, open marshes, beaches; in summer, tundra.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER Pluvialis dominica

M114

(Lesser Golden-Plover) 9½-11" (24-28 cm). Size of Killdeer. Breeding adults are dark, spangled above with whitish and pale yellow spots; underparts black. A broad white stripe runs over the eye and down the sides of the neck and breast. Young birds and winter adults are brown, darker above than below. In flight, they can be recognized from Black-bellied Plovers by their browner look and lack of pattern in wings and tail.

Similar species: Formerly this bird was lumped as one species with the Pacific Golden-Plover, collectively they were known as the

"Lesser Golden-Plover."

Voice: A whistled queedle or que-e-a (dropping at end).

Range: Breeds in arctic America; migrates mainly east of Rockies to s. S. America. West: Map 114. Habitat: Prairies, mudflats, shores; tundra (summer).

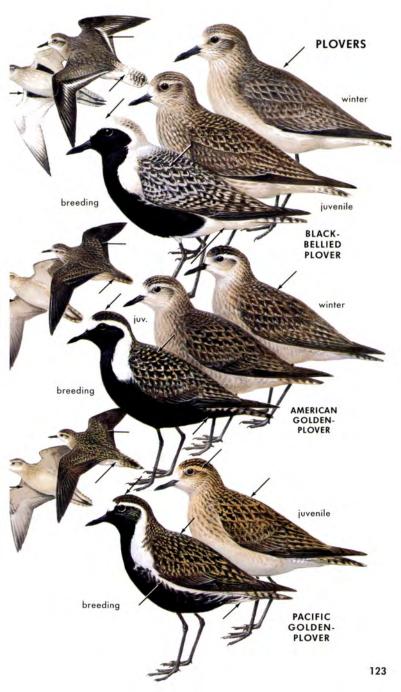
PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER Pluvialis fulva

M114

Very similar to the American Golden-Plover, overlapping in summer only in nw. mainland Alaska. It is the species most likely to be seen in the Pacific states. The white neck stripe extends along the flank (but molting American Golden-Plovers may have this look). The golden spangles on the back are brighter. Winter and juvenile birds are also more golden than the other species.

Ronge: Breeds across n. Siberia and in nw. Alaska. Winters in se. Asia. Australia, Pacific islands. West: A few migrate along the Pacific

Coast to winter in California. Map 114.



SEMIPALMATED PLOVER Charadrius semipalmatus

M116 61/2-71/2" (16-19 cm). A small, plump, brown-backed ployer, half the size of a Killdeer, with a single dark breastband. Bill deep yellow with a black tip, or (in winter) nearly all dark. Legs bright orange or yellow. Whereas the Piping and Snowy plovers are pale-the color of dry sand-the Semipalmated is darker, like wet sand or mud

Voice: A plaintive, upward-slurred chi-we or too-li.

Range: Arctic and subarctic America. Winters to S. America. West: Map 116. Habitat: Shores, tideflats, tundra.

PIPING PLOVER Charadrius melodus

6-71/2" (15-19 cm). As pallid as a beach flea or sand crab—the color of dry sand. A complete or incomplete dark ring around the neck. Legs yellow or orange; bill yellow with a black tip. In non-breeding plumage the black on the collar is indistinct or lacking and the bill is black. Note the tail pattern.

Voice: A plaintive whistle; peep-lo (first note higher).

Range: Breeds s. Canada to ne. and cen. U.S. Winters s. Atlantic

and Gulf coasts. West: Map 115. Habitat: Sandy beaches.

SNOWY PLOVER Charadrius alexandrinus 61/2" (16 cm). A pale plover of the beaches. Similar to the Piping Plover, which replaces it to the east and north (see map), but male Snowy has a slim black bill, dark (sometimes pale) legs, and a dark ear patch. Females and juveniles may lack the black in their plumage. Juvenile and winter Piping Plovers may also have dark bills, but they have white on the rump, visible in flight.

Voice: A musical whistle; pe-wee-ah or o-wee-ah.

Range: Southern U.S., cen. and S. America, s. Eurasia, Africa, Australia. West: Map 115. Habitat: Beaches, sandy flats.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER Charadrius hiaticula

71/4" (19 cm). A Eurasian stray, very similar to the Semipalmated Plover; distinguished in the hand by the presence of a basal web between only two toes. The breastband may be wider. Best recognized from Semipalmated by voice, a softer, more minor poo-eep or too-li.

Range: N. Eurasia, Greenland, arctic Canada. West: Casual visitor to w. Aleutians and St. Lawrence I., where it has bred.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER Charadrius dubius

6" (15 cm). Resembles Common Ringed Plover, but decidedly smaller. Best distinguished by a bright yellow eye-ring and, in flight, lack of a white wing bar. Legs flesh-colored (not orange), but color not reliable when legs are muddy. Different voice.

Voice: A high, piping tee-u.

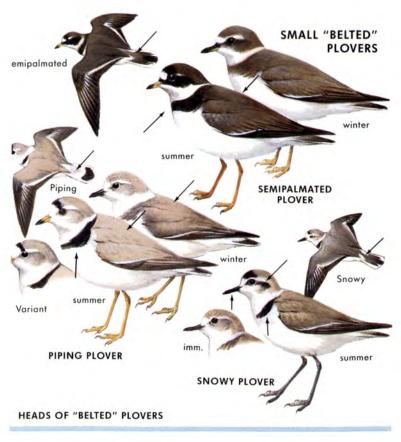
Range: Eurasia, n. Africa, New Guinea. West: Accidental, w. Aleu-

WILSON'S PLOVER Charadrius wilsonia

7-8" (18-20 cm). A "ringed" plover of the Mexican beaches, larger than the Semipalmated, with a much longer heavy black bill. Legs flesh-gray. Tends to have a heavier breastband.

Voice: An emphatic whistled whit! or wheet!

Range: New Jersey, and w. Mexico to n. S. America. West: Casual. s. California.







KILLDEER Charadrius vociferus

M117

9-11" (23-28 cm). The common noisy breeding plover of the farm country. Note the *two black breastbands* (the chick has only one band). In flight, or distraction display near the nest, shows a *goldentawny rump*; longish tail, white wing stripe.

Voice: Noisy; a loud, insistent kill-deeah, repeated; a plaintive dee-

ee (rising), dee-dee-dee, etc. Also a low trill.

Ronge: S. Alaska, Canada to cen. Mexico, W. Indies; also coastal Peru. West: Map 117. Habitat: Fields, airports, lawns, river banks, mudflats, shores.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER Charadrius montanus

M118

8–9½" (20–24 cm). Somewhat like a small Killdeer, but with no breast-rings. In breeding season, has a white forehead and line over the eye, contrasting with a dark crown. In nondescript winter plumage, it may be told from winter Golden-Plovers by its grayer back (devoid of mottling), pale legs, light wing stripe, and dark tail band. **Voice:** A low whistle; variable.

Range: Western Great Plains. Map 118. Habitat: Semi-arid plains,

grasslands, plateaus.

EURASIAN DOTTEREL Charadrius morinellus

8½" (21 cm). In breeding plumage the narrow white stripe crossing mid-breast identifies this dark plover. Belly russet orange. The broad white eyebrow stripes join in a broad "V" on the nape. Throat white. Non-breeding adults and juveniles are paler, but show enough of the basic pattern to be recognized.

Voice: A repeated piping: titi-ri-titi-ri, running into a trill.

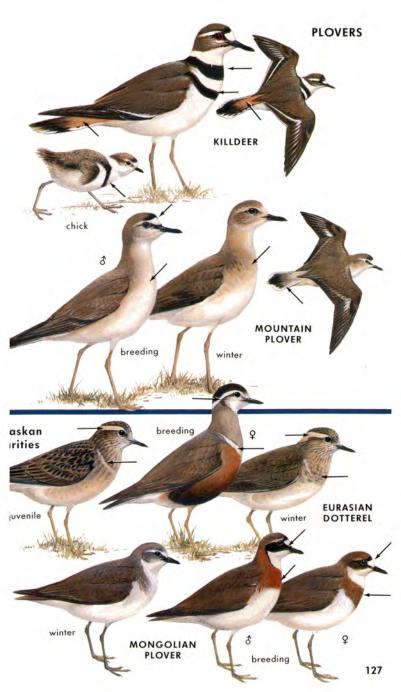
Ronge: Eurasia. West: Breeds locally on the high tundra of nw. Alaska and St. Lawrence I. It has been recorded in fall in the w. Aleutians and as an accidental in Washington and California.

MONGOLIAN PLOVER Charadrius mongolus

7½" (19 cm). This Asian plover is very distinctive in breeding plumage, with its *broad cinnamon breastband* separating its white throat from its white belly. The female is duller. The rufous band is absent in non-breeding or juvenile birds.

Range: Asia, migrating to e. Africa, India, Australia. West: Rare migrant in the western Aleutian Islands. Occasional on the northern and western mainland of Alaska (has bred there). Accidental in Orthogonal Collisions of Alaska (has bred there).

egon and California.

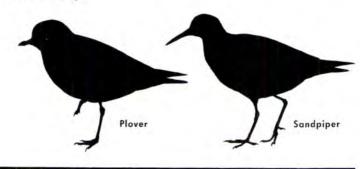


SHOREBIRDS

The shorebirds (or "waders," as they are often called) are real puzzlers to the novice. There are a dozen plovers in our area and nearly 60 sandpipers and their allies, not to mention the very obvious oystercatchers, stilts, and avocets. To start with, here are a few things to look for:

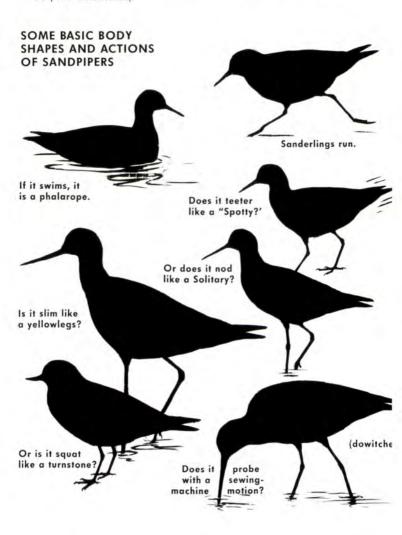
Plovers vs. Sandpipers

Plovers are usually more compact and thicker-necked than most sandpipers, with pigeon-like bills and larger eyes. They run in short starts and stops.



BILL SHAPES OF SHOREBIRDS straight, long long, (Willet) snipe-like needle-(dowitchers) like (various) long, pigeonupturned like (godwits) (plovers) small, drooplong, thin tipped decurved ("peeps") (Dunlin) (curlews)

■ SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES. Family Scolopacidae. Small to medium-sized waders. Bills more slender than those of plovers. Sexes similar, except in phalaropes (swimmers that were formerly regarded as a separate family). Food: Insects, crustaceans, mollusks, worms, etc. Range: Cosmopolitan. No. of species: World 129; West 51 (+ 7 accidental).



HUDSONIAN GODWIT Limosa haemastica

13-16" (33-40 cm). Note the flight pattern (p. 133). The rather large size and long, straight or slightly upturned bill mark this wader as a godwit; the black tail is ringed broadly with white. The blackish wing linings proclaim it as this species. In spring the male is ruddybreasted; the female duller. In fall, both sexes are gray-backed, palebreasted.

Similar species: The Black-tailed Godwit, a stray from Asia, is

shown on p. 153.

Voice: Tawit! (or godwit!); higher-pitched than Marbled Godwit's. Range: Mainly arctic Canada; winters in S. America. West: Breeds locally in s. Alaska (Cook Inlet), probably w. Alaska (Kotzebue and Norton Bayl, Mackenzie and nw. British Columbia. Migrates in spring through Great Plains; very rare west to Pacific states. Habitat: Beaches, prairie pools; in summer, tundra.

MARBLED GODWIT Limosa fedoa

M132

16-20" (40-50 cm). Godwits are large shorebirds with long, straight or slightly upturned bills. The rich, mottled buff-brown color identifies this species. The linings of the underwing are cinnamon. Voice: An accented kerwhit! (godwit!); also raddica, raddica.

Range: N. Great Plains; locally sw. Alaska. Winters s. U.S. to n. S. America. West: Map 132. Habitat: Prairies, pools, shores, tideflats.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW Numenius americanus 20-26" (50-65 cm). Note the very long, sickle-shaped bill (4-81/2"). Much larger than the Whimbrel and more buffy; lacks the bold crown stripes. Overhead, shows cinnamon wing linings. In young birds the bill may be scarcely longer than that of the Whim-

brel (see inset).

Voice: A loud cur-lee (rising inflection); a rapid, whistled kli-li-lili. "Song," a trilled, liquid curleeeeeeeeuuu.

Range: Sw. Canada, w. U.S. Winters s. U.S. to Guatemala. West: Map 130. Habitat: High plains, rangeland. In winter, also cultivated land, tideflats, beaches, salt marshes.

WHIMBREL Numenius phaeopus

15-19" (38-48 cm). A large, gray-brown wader with a long, decurved bill. Graver than the Long-billed Curlew; bill shorter (23/4-4 in.). crown striped. Whimbrels fly in lines. The pale-rumped Eurasian race (not shown) is a rare migrant in the Bering Sea area of Alaska.

Voice: Five to seven short, rapid whistles: ti-ti-ti-ti-ti.

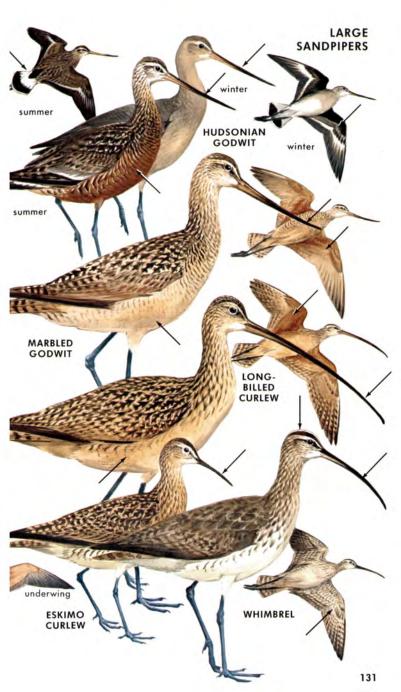
Range: Arctic, circumpolar. Winters to s. S. America. West: Map 129. Habitat: Shores, mudflats, marshes, prairies, tundra.

ESKIMO CURLEW Numenius borealis

12-14" (30-35 cm). Much smaller than the Whimbrel, Bill shorter (13/4-21/2") and thinner, only slightly curved. More patterned above than the Whimbrel. Linings of raised wing cinnamon. Legs slategray. Note the unbarred primaries. See Little Curlew (p. 152).

Voice: Tee-dee-dee, or a repeated tee-dee.

Range: Near extinction. Formerly arctic America, wintering in s. S. America. Migrated down East Coast in fall, through Great Plains in spring. West: Bred formerly in nw. Canada, perhaps Alaska. A very few pairs apparently still breed in nw. Canada.



LARGE SHOREBIRDS IN FLIGHT

Learn to know their flight calls, which are quite diagnostic.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT Limosa haemastica pp. 130, 131
Upturned bill, white wing stripe, ringed tail. Overhead, shows blackish wing linings.
Flight call, tawit!, higher-pitched than Marbled's.

WILLET Catoptrophorus semipalmatus

Contrasty black, gray, and white wing pattern.

Overhead, the wing pattern is even more striking.

Flight call, a whistled whee-wee-wee.

MARBLED GODWIT Limosa fedoa pp. 130, 131
Long upturned bill, tawny brown color. Overhead, shows cinnamon wing linings.
Flight call, an accented kerwhit! (or godwit!).

WHIMBREL Numenius phaeopus

Decurved bill, gray-brown color, striped crown.

Overhead, grayer than next species, lacks cinnamon wing linings.

Flight call, 5–7 short rapid whistles: ti-ti-ti-ti-ti.

Very long, sickle-like bill; no head striping. Overhead, shows bright cinnamon wing linings.

Flight call, a rapid, whistled kli-li-li-li.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT pp. 152, 153
Limosa lapponica (shown below)
Upturned bill, barred tail, a mottled rump.

BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW
Numenius tahitensis (shown below)
Decurved bill, tawny-buff rump.





WILLET Catoptrophorus semipalmatus

M125

14–17" [35–43 cm]. When standing, stockier than the Greater Yellowlegs; has a grayer look, heavier bill, bluish legs. In flight, note the *striking black and white wing pattern*. At rest, when the banded wings cannot be seen, this large wader is rather nondescript: gray above, somewhat scaled below in summer, unmarked below in fall and winter; legs bluish gray.

Voice: A musical, repetitious *pill-will-willet* (in breeding season); a loud *kay-ee* (second note lower). Also a rapidly repeated *kip-kip-kip*, etc. In flight, *whee-wee-wee*.

Range: Cen.-s. Canada to Gulf of Mexico, W. Indies. Winters s. U.S. to Brazil and Peru. West: Map 125. Habitat: Marshes, wet meadows, mudflats, beaches.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS Tringa melanoleuca

M122

14" (35 cm). Note the *bright yellow legs* (shared with the next species, but leg joints thicker). A slim gray sandpiper; back checkered with gray, black, and white. In flight, it appears *dark-winged* (no stripe), with a *whitish rump and tail*. Bill long, slightly upturned, paler at base.

Voice: Three-noted whistle, whew-whew-whew, or dear! dear! dear!

Ronge: Alaska, Canada. Winters U.S. to Tierra del Fuego. West: Map 122. Hobitot: Open marshes, mudflats, streams, ponds; in summer, wooded muskegs. spruce bogs.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS Tringa flavipes

M123

10-11" (25-28 cm). Like the Greater Yellowlegs, but noticeably smaller. Its shorter, slimmer, all-black bill is quite straight; that of Greater appears slightly uptilted. Readily separated by voice.

Similor species: (1) Stilt Sandpiper and (2) Wilson's Phalarope in the fall have flight patterns similar to that of Yellowlegs.

Voice: Yew or yu-yu (usually one or two notes); lower, less forceful than the clear, three-syllabled whistle of Greater Yellowlegs.

Ronge: Alaska, Canada. Winters from s. U.S. to Argentina. West: Map 123. Habitat: Marshes, mudflats, shores, pond edges; in summer, open boreal woods.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER Tringa solitaria

M124

8–9" (20–23 cm). Note the dark wings and conspicuous *white sides* of the tail (crossed by bold black bars). A dark-backed sandpiper, whitish below, with a *light eye-ring* and greenish legs. Nods like a yellowlegs. Usually alone, seldom in groups.

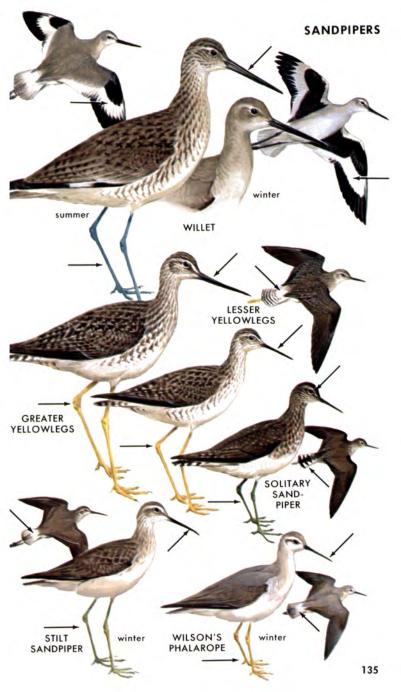
Similar species: (1) Lesser Yellowlegs has bright yellow (not greenish) legs, white (not dark) rump. (2) Spotted Sandpiper teeters more and has a white wing stripe; it has a stiff, shallow wing arc. (Solitary has a darting, almost swallow-like wing stroke.)

Voice: Peet! or peet-weet-weet! (higher than Spotted's).

Ronge: Alaska, Canada. Winters Gulf of Mexico to Argentina. West: Map 124. Habitat: Streamsides, wooded swamps and ponds, fresh marshes.

STILT SANDPIPER Calidris himantopus See pp. 144, 145.
Fall: Long, yellow-green legs; white rump; light eyebrow.
WILSON'S PHALAROPE Phalaropus tricolor See pp. 136, 137.

Fall: Needle bill, clear white underparts; dull yellow legs.



■ PHALAROPES. Subfamily Phalaropodinae. Sandpiper-like birds 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 the disturbed water for plankton, brine shrimp and other marine invertebrates, mosquito larvae, and insects. Females are larger and more colorful than males. Two of the three species are circumpolar, wintering at sea; the other species breeds on the N. American plains and winters in S. America.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE Phalaropus tricolor

M151

9" (23 cm). This trim phalarope is dark-winged (no stripe), with a white rump. The breeding female is unique, with a broad black face and neck stripe blending into cinnamon. Males are duller, with just a wash of cinnamon on the sides of the neck and a white spot on the hind-neck. Fall: Suggests a Lesser Yellowlegs (dark wings, white rump), but whiter below, with no breast streaking; bill needle-like; legs greenish or straw-colored (not canary yellow). The other two phalaropes show white wing stripes.

Voice: A low nasal wurk; also check, check, check.

Ronge: Sw. Canada, w. U.S. and Great Lakes. Winters in s. S. America. West: Map 151. Hobitot: Shallow prairie lakes, fresh marshes, pools, shores, mudflats; in migration, also salt marshes.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE Phalaropus lobatus

M152

(Northern Phalarope) 7–8" (18–20 cm). A sanderling-like bird at sea is most likely to be a phalarope. This is the commonest of the two "sea snipes" and the one most likely to occur inland. In the fall, both sexes are gray above (strongly streaked) and white below. Note the dark "phalarope patch" through the eye and the needle-like black bill. Breeding females are gray above, with a patch of *rufous* on the neck and a white throat. Males are browner, but similar in pattern.

Voice: A sharp kit or whit, similar to note of Sanderling.

Range: Circumpolar. Winters at sea, to S. Hemisphere. West: Map 152. Habitat: Ocean, bays, lakes, ponds; tundra (summer).

RED PHALAROPE Phalaropus fulicaria

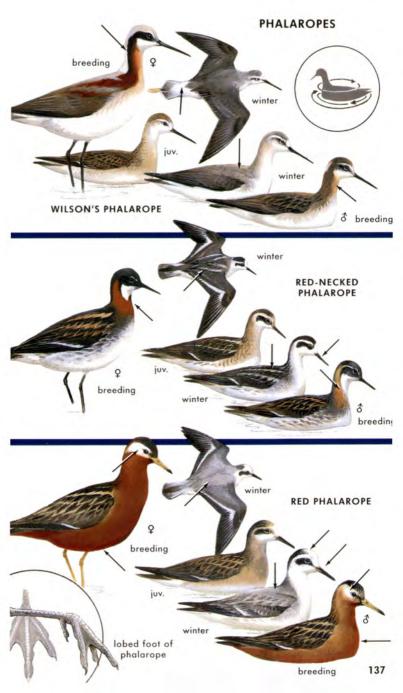
M153

8–9" (20–23 cm). The sea-going habits (swimming buoyantly like a tiny gull) distinguish this as a phalarope; in breeding plumage, the deep *reddish underparts* and *white face* and yellow bill designate it as this species. Male duller than female. In fall and winter, both sexes are gray above, white below; in flight suggests a Sanderling, but with a *dark patch* through the eye.

Similar species: Fall Red-necked Phalarope is darker, with a strongly striped back, blacker crown. Its wing stripe contrasts more; its bill is more needle-like. Thicker bill of fall Red Phalarope may be yel-

lowish at base (usually not). Immature has a black bill. **Voice:** Similar to Red-necked Phalarope's whit or prip.

Ronge: Arctic; circumpolar. Winter range at sea poorly known; from s. U.S. to S. Hemisphere. West: Map 153. Habitat: More strictly pelagic than Northern. In summer, tundra.



11" (28 cm). A tight-sitting bog-prober; note the extremely long bill. Brown, with buff stripes on the back and a sriped head. When flushed, flies off in a zigzag, showing a short orange tail and uttering a rasping note.

Voice: A rasping scaip. Song, a measured chip-a, chip-a, chip-a, etc.

In high aerial display, a winnowing huhuhuhuhuhuhu.

Range: Northern N. America, n. Eurasia. Winters to Brazil, cen. Africa. West: Map 150. Habitat: Marshes, bogs, wet meadows.

Note: The AMERICAN WOODCOCK, Scolopax minor, has been recorded casually or accidentally west of 100° as far as Saskatchewan, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. See eastern Field Guide.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER Limnodromus griseus

10½-12" (26-30 cm). A snipe-like bird of the open mudflats. Note the very long bill, and in flight, the long white wedge up the back. In breeding plumage the underparts are rich rusty with some barring on the flanks; by fall, the bird is gray. Dowitchers feed with a sewing-machine motion. The Short-bill is very similar to the Longbilled Dowitcher, but the bill averages shorter. The race most likely to be seen in the West (caurinus) has wider white bars on the tail than the Long-bill; this gives the tail a paler look. The two are more easily separated by voice, providing they speak up.

Voice: A staccato tu-tu-tu; pitch of Lesser Yellowlegs'.

Range: S. Alaska, Canada. Winters s. U.S. to Brazil. West: Map 148. Habitat: Mudflats, tidal marshes, pond edges. More frequent on saltwater margins than the Long-billed Dowitcher.

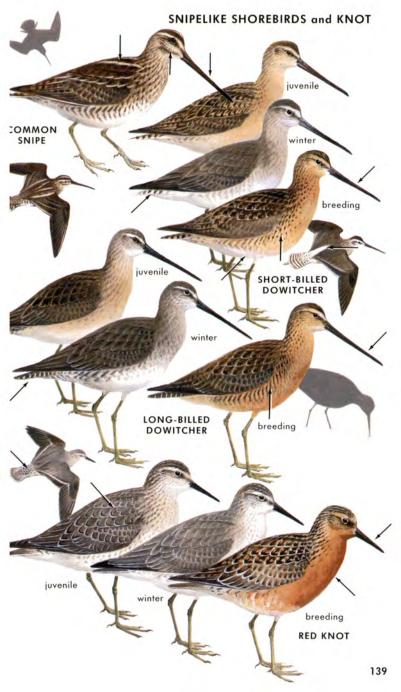
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER Limnodromus scolopaceus 11-121/2" (28-31 cm). Bill lengths of the two dowitchers overlap, but birds of this species with very long bills (3"), usually females, may be recognized with a fair degree of certainty in any plumage; many other individuals can be rather indeterminate unless they call. In breeding plumage the underparts are rusty to the lower belly (may be whitish in Short-bill). The dark bars on the tail are denser, giving the tail a darker look. In fall the bird is gray; then the best clue is voice.

Voice: A single thin keek is distinctive. Occasionally the notes are doubled or trebled, but thinner than the Short-bill's.

Range: Breeds ne. Siberia to nw. Canada. Winters s. U.S. to Guatemala. West: Map 149. Habitat: Mudflats, shallow pools, margins. More addicted to fresh water than other dowitcher.

RED KNOT Calidris canutus 10-11" (25-28 cm). Larger than the Sanderling (p. 140). Stocky, with a moderately short bill and short legs. Spring: Face and underparts pale robin-red; back mottled with black, gray, and russet. Fall: A dumpy wader with a washed-out gray look; short bill, pale rump, greenish legs. At close range shows scaly feather edgings, especially in juvenile birds.

Voice: A low knut; also a low, mellow tooit-wit or wah-quoit. Range: Arctic; circumpolar. Winters to S. Hemisphere. West: Map 136. Habitat: Tidal flats, shores: tundra when breeding.



SPOTTED SANDPIPER Actitis macularia

M127

7½" (19 cm). The most widespread sandpiper along the shores of small lakes and streams. Teeters up and down as if a bit too delicately balanced. In summer, note the *round breast spots*. In fall and winter, no spots; olive-brown above, with a white line over the eye. A dusky smudge enclosing a white wedge near the shoulder is a good aid. The flight is distinctive: the wings beat in a *shallow arc*, giving a stiff, bowed appearance. The underwing is strongly striped. **Voice:** A clear *peet* or *peet-weet!* or *peet-weet-weet-weet-weet.*

Ronge: Alaska, Canada to cen. U.S. Winters s. U.S. to n. Argentina. West: Map 127. Habitat: Pebbly lake shores, ponds, streamsides; in winter, also seashores.

DUNLIN Calidris alpina

M145

8–9" (20–23 cm). Slightly larger than the Sanderling, with a downward droop toward the tip of its rather long, stout bill. When feeding, the bird's posture is hunched. Summer: Rusty red above, with a black patch across the belly. Winter: Unpatterned gray-brown above, with a grayish wash across the breast (not clean white as in the Sanderling). Juvenile is rusty above, with a buffy breast and streaked flanks. In all plumages note the longish, droop-tipped bill. **Voice:** A nasal, rasping cheezp or treezp.

Range: Arctic; circumpolar. Winters from coasts of U.S., s. Eurasia to Mexico, n. Africa, India. West: Map 145. Habitat: Tidal flats, beaches, muddy pools; in summer, wet tundra.

SANDERLING Calidris alba

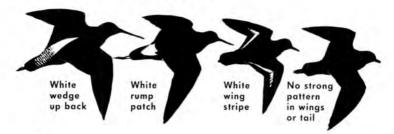
M137

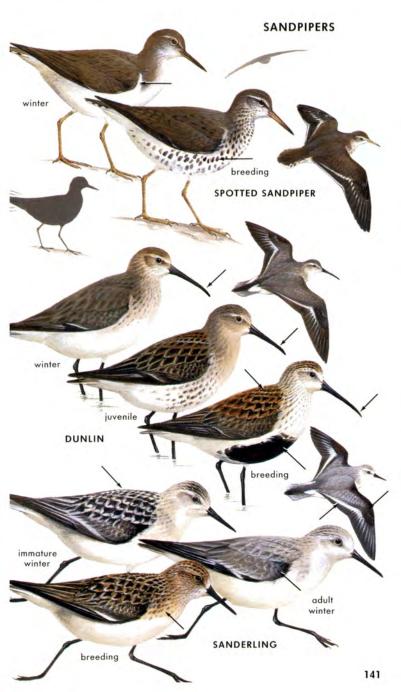
7–8" (18–20 cm). A plump, active sandpiper of the outer beaches, where it chases the retreating waves like a clockwork toy. Note the bold white wing stripe on birds in flight. Breeding plumage: Bright rusty about the head, back, and breast. Winter plumage: The palest sandpiper; snowy white below, plain pale gray back, black shoulders. Juvenile birds differ from winter adults by having a pattern of black on the back.

Voice: A short twick or quit is distinctive.

Range: Arctic; circumpolar. Winters from U.S., Britain, China to S. Hemisphere. West: Map 137. Habitat: Outer beaches, tideflats, lake shores; when nesting, stony tundra.

BASIC FLIGHT PATTERNS OF SANDPIPERS





10½-11½" (26-29 cm). Recognized at any time from the other shorebirds that inhabit similar rocks by its *lack of pattern in flight*. Solid grayish above; light line over the eye, dark line through it. Legs yellowish. In breeding plumage, underparts narrowly *barred*. In fall and winter, gray-chested, with no barring. Bobs and teeters like the Spotted Sandpiper.

Voice: A clear whee-we-we, less sharp than Greater Yellowlegs;

or tweet-tweet, similar to Spotted Sandpiper's call.

Range: Breeds nw. N. America; winters coastally south to Ecuador and on many Pacific islands. West: Map 126. Habitat: Rock coasts, pebbly beaches. Nests near mountain streams above timberline.

SURFBIRD Aphriza virgata

M135

10" (25 cm). A stocky dark sandpiper of wave-washed rocks. Note the conspicuous white tail tipped with a broad black band. Breeding: Heavily streaked and spotted with blackish above and below; golden scapulars. Winter: Solid gray above and across breast. Bill short, yellow at base; legs yellowish.

Voice: A sharp pee-weet or key-a-weet.

Range: Breeds in Alaska, Yukon. Winters on coast to s. S. America. West: Map 135. Habitat: Rocky coasts; nests on mountain tundra.

ROCK SANDPIPER Calidris ptilocnemis

M144

8–9" (20–23 cm). In breeding plumage suggests a Dunlin, with rusty back, black splotch on breast (but the Dunlin is redder, with black splotch lower down, black legs; see p. 141). In winter, similar to the Purple Sandpiper of the Atlantic, but paler. Stocky and slaty, with a white belly, white wing stripe. Legs dull yellow or greenish. Its rock-feeding associates, the Black Turnstone and the Surfbird, both show a broad white band across the base of the tail.

Voice: A flicker-like du-du-du. When breeding, a trill.

Ronge: Ne. Siberia, w. Alaska; winters along coast to California Map 144. Hobitot: Rocky shores; nests on mossy tundra.

BLACK TURNSTONE Arenaria melanocephala

M134

9" (23 cm). A squat, blackish shorebird with a blackish chest and white belly. In spring, a round white spot before the eye, and white speckling. Flight pattern similar to Ruddy Turnstone's. Legs dark. **Voice:** A rattling note, higher than note of Ruddy Turnstone.

Range: Breeds in Alaska. Winters along coast to w. Mexico. Map 134. Habitat: Strictly coastal. Rocky shores, breakwaters, bay

shores, surf-pounded islets; nests on coastal tundra.

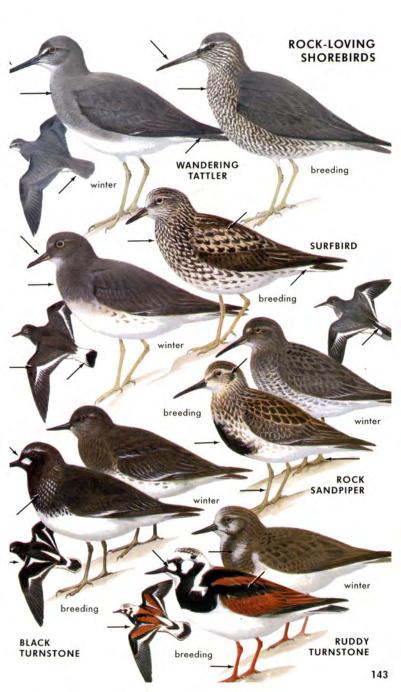
RUDDY TURNSTONE Arenaria interpres

M133

8–10" (20–25 cm). A squat, robust, orange-legged shorebird, with a harlequin pattern. In breeding plumage, with its russet back and curious face and breast pattern, the bird is unique, but in flight it is even more striking. Winter adults and young birds are duller, but retain enough of the basic pattern to be recognized.

Voice: A staccato tuk-a-tuk or kut-a-kut; also a single kewk.

Range: Arctic, sub-Arctic; circumpolar. Winters coastal U.S., Hawaii, s. Eurasia to S. Hemisphere. West: Map 133. Habitat: Beaches, mudflats, jetties, rocky shores; in summer, tundra.



STILT SANDPIPER Calidris himantopus

M146

8" (20 cm). In spring, heavily marked below with *transverse bars*. Note *rusty cheek patch*. In fall, yellowlegs-like; gray above, white below; dark-winged and *white-rumped*; note the *greenish legs* and *white eyebrow*. Bill long, with a slight droop at tip. Feeds like a Dowitcher (sewing-machine motion).

Voice: A single whu (like Lesser Yellowlegs but lower, hoarser).

Range: American Arctic. Winters s. U.S. to Argentina. West: Map
146. Habitat: Shallow pools, mudflats, marshes; tundra (summer).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER Tryngites subruficollis

7½" (19 cm). No other small shorebird is as buff below (paling to whitish on undertail coverts). A tame buffy wader, with an erect stance, small head, short bill, and yellowish legs. The dark eye stands out on a plain face. In flight or in "display," the buff body contrasts with the underwing (white with a marbled tip). Juveniles are very scaly above, paler on the belly (most Pacific Coast birds

are in this plumage).

Voice: A low, trilled pr-r-r-reet. A sharp tik.

Range: Breeds in nw. Arctic. Winters in Argentina. West: Map 147.

Habitat: Shortgrass prairies; in summer, tundra ridges.

UPLAND SANDPIPER Bartramia longicauda M128 (Upland Plover) 11½" (29 cm). A "pigeon-headed" brown sandpiper;

larger than a Killdeer. The short bill, small head, shoe-button eye, thin neck, and long tail are helpful points. Often perches on fenceposts and poles; upon alighting, holds wings elevated.

Voice: A mellow, whistled *kip-ip-ip-ip*, often heard at night. Song, weird windy whistles: *whoooleeeeee*, *wheelooooooooo.*

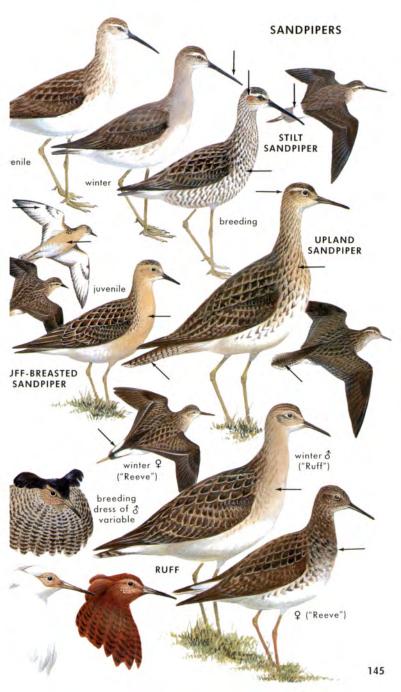
Ronge: Mainly Canada, n. U.S. Winters on pampas of Argentina. West: Map 128. Hobitot: Grassy prairies, open meadows, fields.

RUFF Philomachus pugnax

Male 12" (30 cm); female 9" (23 cm). Male ("Ruff"), summer: 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, orange, or pink. Bill also variable. Male, winter: Rather plain, a small-headed, thick-necked shorebird with a scaly gray-brown back, whitish underparts with a mottling of gray across the breast, and a whitish area on the lower face. Note the erect stance and (in flight) the oval white patch on each side of the dark tail. Female ("Reeve"): Smaller than the male; when breeding lacks ruffs, breast heavily blotched with dark. Juvenile birds are buffy below and very scaly on the back. See Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

Voice: Flight note, a low too-i or tu-whit.

Range: N. Eurasia; winters in s. Eurasia, Africa. Rare visitor to N. America. West: Rare but regular spring and fall migrant in outer Aleutians and Bering Sea area (has bred in Alaska). Rare fall migrant along coast south to s. California, where it may winter. Accidental inland in West.



7–8" (18–20 cm). Larger than the Semipalmated Sandpiper, smaller than the Pectoral. The only *small* streaked sandpiper with a completely *white rump*, conspicuous in flight. At rest, the bird has an attenuated look, with wing tips extending well beyond the tail; sides show *streaks below the wings*, a good point. Bill yellow at base of lower mandible. In spring, adults are quite rusty; in fall, adults are grayer than the other "peeps," but juveniles have rusty edges on the crown and back.

Voice: A mouselike jeet, like two flint pebbles scraping.

Range: Arctic N. America. Winters in s. S. America. West: Map 141. Habitat: Prairies, shores, mudflats; in summer, tundra.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER Calidris bairdii

M142

7–7½" (18–19 cm). Larger than the Semipalmated or Western Sandpiper, with a more *pointy look* (wings extend ½" beyond tail tip). Browner, *buffier* across the breast. Suggests a large Least Sandpiper with black legs. Back of juvenile has a more *scaled* look.

Similar species: (1) Buff-breasted Sandpiper is buffier below, without streaks, and has *yellowish* (not *blackish*) legs. See also (2) breeding Sanderling: (3) Pectoral Sandpiper.

Voice: Note, kreep or kree; a rolling trill.

Ronge: Ne. Siberia and N. American Arctic. Winters from Andean Ecuador to Tierra del Fuego. West: Map 142. Habitat: Rainpools, pond margins, mudflats, shores.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER Calidris melanotos

M143

8–9" (20–23 cm). Medium-sized (but variable); neck longer than in smaller "peeps." Note that the heavy breast streaks end rather abruptly, like a bib. The dark back is lined (snipe-like) with white; the wing stripe is faint or lacking; the crown is rusty. The legs usually are dull yellowish green. Bill may be pale yellow-brown at base.

Voice: A reedy churrt or trrip, trrip.

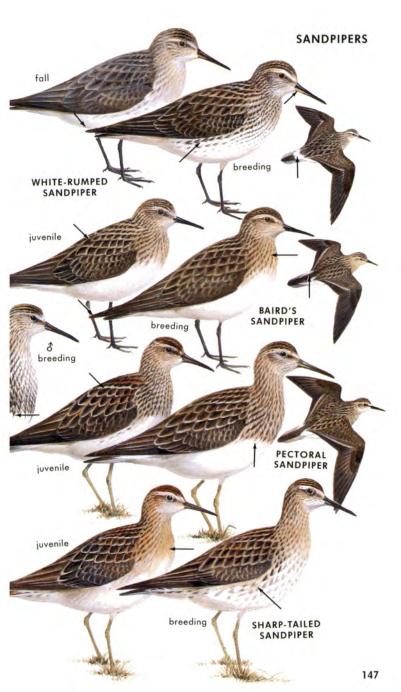
Range: Siberian and American Arctic. Winters in S. America, se. Australia. West: Map 143. Habitat: In migration, prairie pools, muddy shores, fresh and tidal marshes; in summer, tundra.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER Calidris acuminata

8½" (21 cm). Similar to the Pectoral Sandpiper, but in fall the breast is rich buffy (juvenile) or pale gray-buff (adult), spotted lightly on the sides only. Crissum is streaked. In no plumage is there the sharp contrast between the white belly and streaked breast, as in the Pectoral. The juvenile is especially distinctive, with its rich orange-buff breast and rufous cap.

Voice: A low, trilled prreeet or trrit-trrit, sometimes twittered.

Range: Breeds in n. Siberia. Winters in Australian region. West: Fall migrant along coasts of Alaska, British Columbia; rarely south to California (usually juveniles). Accidental in interior. Habitat: Grassy borders of salt marshes.



"PEEPS." Collectively, the three common, streaked, sparrowsized sandpipers resident in North America are nicknamed "peeps." The British call their similar ones "stints."

LEAST SANDPIPER Calidris minutilla

M140

5-6½" (13-16 cm). The Least may be known from the other two common peeps by its smaller size, browner look, yellowish or greenish (not blackish) legs, and slighter bill.

Voice: A thin krreet, kree-eet. More drawn out than the jeet of the

Western. Very unlike the chit or chet of the Semipalmated.

Ronge: Alaska, Canada. Winters s. U.S. to Brazil. West: Map 140. Habitat: Mudflats, grassy marshes, rainpools, shores. More addicted to marshy areas than the other "peeps."

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER Calidris pusilla

M138

 $5\frac{1}{2}-6\frac{1}{2}$ " (14–16 cm). Compared to the Western Sandpiper (which also has blackish legs), the "Semi" is a trifle smaller, grayer in spring, and usually has a shorter, straighter bill. In fall it lacks the

rusty on the scapulars often shown by the Western.

Similar species: (1) Typical Western Sandpiper (especially the female) has a *longer bill*, thicker at the base, *slightly drooped* at the tip. Some males in fall or winter may not be safely separable in the field except by voice. (2) Least Sandpiper is smaller, browner, and thinner-billed; it has *yellowish or greenish* legs and in the fall has a more streaked breast.

Voice: Note chit or cheh (lacks ee sound of Least, Western).

Ronge: Breeds in N. American Arctic. Migrates mainly east of the Rockies (scarcer on West Coast) to S. America. West: Map 138. Hobitot: Beaches, mudflats; in summer, tundra.

WESTERN SANDPIPER Calidris mauri

M139

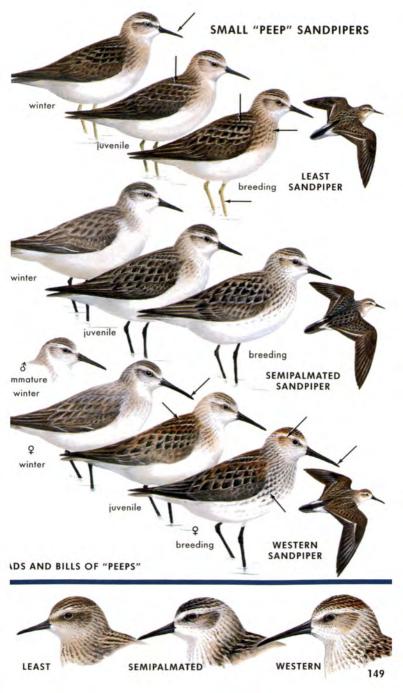
6–7" (15–18 cm). This and the Least Sandpiper are the two common small "peeps" in most of the West (west of the Plains). The Western is the larger bird; its bill is *very noticeably longer* (especially in females), *thicker at the base*, and droops slightly at the tip. Legs black. Breeding adults are heavily streaked on the breast. They show rusty on the scapulars and have a rusty crown and ear patch. (A trace of rusty may persist on the scapulars in fall, giving a two-toned effect.) In winter, gray or gray-brown; perhaps the palest "peep."

Similar species: Because of their shorter bills, many males in fall or winter plumage are almost impossible to separate from Semi-palmateds except by voice. The latter species does not winter on the West Coast, but the Western does. If the birds do not call, it is

fairly safe to assume they are Westerns.

Voice: A thin jeet, not as drawn out as note of Least.

Range: Breeds in Alaska. Winters from s. U.S. to Peru. West: Map 139. Habitat: Shores, beaches, mudflats; in summer, dry tundra.



■ "STINTS." Alaskan Strays from Asia. Whereas we may affectionately refer to our small, sparrow-sized sandpipers as "peeps," the British usually call the Eurasian species "stints." Within our geographic limits, stray "stints" from Asia occur as overshoots in migration most frequently in the outer Aleutians (Attu, etc.), but might turn up casually or accidentally elsewhere. Identification can be tricky; for further analysis and color plates of subtle plumage variations, see Viet and Jonsson in American Birds (Sept.—Oct. 1984).

LITTLE STINT Calidris minuta

6" (15 cm). Size of the Least Sandpiper but rustier above, with *black* legs. Toes lack webbing (unlike those of the larger Semipalmated and Western sandpipers). Similar to some Rufous-necked Stints but body less elongated, stance more erect; tarsi longer. Call, a sanderling-like *tit*. **West:** Accidental, w. Aleutians. Bering Sea area.

TEMMINCK'S STINT Calidris temmincki

6" (15 cm). A distinctive stint; gray, with *irregular black spots* on the scapulars. Has an elongated, crouching look; *short*, *dull yellow legs*. In flight, shows *white outer tail feathers*. Call in flight, a high ringing *trree*, often repeated in a cricketlike trill. **West:** A very rare overshoot in migration to outer Aleutians and other Bering Sea islands.

LONG-TOED STINT Calidris subminuta

6½" (16 cm). Much like the Least Sandpiper (which is unlikely to occur in the outer Aleutians), but *brighter* in color, with more erect stance, longer legs, more *spindly toes*, and an even thinner bill. Call, a purring *prrp*. **West**: Regular migrant in outer Aleutians (may breed); vagrant Pribilofs, St. Lawrence I., etc. Prefers marshes.

SPOONBILL SANDPIPER Eurynorhynchus pygmeus

6½" (16 cm). A stint-sized sandpiper, with a curious *spoonlike tip on the bill*. In spring, it has a bright rusty head and breast and could be mistaken for a Rufous-necked Stint until it turns head-on. **West**: Accidental, n. Alaska, outer Aleutians, British Columbia.

RED-NECKED STINT Calidris ruficollis

6½" (16 cm). This rare stray is recognized in breeding plumage by its bright rusty head and upper breast. In non-breeding plumage it is very much like Western and Semipalmated sandpipers (black legs, clear breast), but bill is slighter, forehead whiter, and (at close range) toes unwebbed. Call, a short, clipped chit, or chit chit, suggesting Semipalmated. Also a squeak, lower in pitch than Western's call. Basically Eurasian, but breeds n. and w. Alaska (Pt. Barrow, Seward Peninsula, etc.). Migrant in Aleutians, Pribilofs, Bering Sea coasts, and casually (perhaps regularly) south along coast to s. California.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER Limicola falcinellus

6¾" (17 cm). The key mark is the *forked white eyebrow stripe*. Its *long bill, dropped at tip,* suggests a small Dunlin, but its back is dark, striped like a Snipe's. **West:** Vagrants (juveniles) have occurred in fall in the outer Aleutians.



BAR-TAILED GODWIT Limosa lapponica

M131

15–18" (38–45 cm). This Alaskan godwit is near the size of the Whimbrel. In summer, male is rich *reddish chestnut*, particularly on head and underparts; female duller. In non-breeding plumage both are grayish above, white below. Alaskan birds have a *mottled rump* and *whitish tail* crossed by narrow dark bars. See also p. 132 for additional illustration of bird in flight.

Voice: Flight note, a harsh kirrick; alarm, a shrill krick.

Range: N. Eurasia, Alaska. Winters cen. Eurasia to n. Africa, Australia. West: Map 131. Habitat: Mudflats, shores, tundra.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT Limosa limosa

15¾" (40 cm). The small Asian race of this elegant godwit resembles the Hudsonian Godwit (white rump, white wing stripe, black tail), but the bill is straighter. In breeding plumage it has chestnut head and neck, black-and-white barred belly. The best field distinction is this: the underwing linings are white in the Black-tail, black in the Hudsonian. This holds for all plumages.

Voice: The flight call is a clear reeka-reeka-reeka.

Ronge: Eurasia, migrating to Africa, Australia. A rare spring migrant in the outer Aleutians; casual on other Bering Sea islands.

BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW Numenius tahitiensis

17" (43 cm). Very similar to the Whimbrel, but tawnier, especially about tail; *tawny*, *unbarred rump*. Breast less streaked, bill paler. See additional illustration of bird in flight on p. 132.

Voice: A slurred *chi-u-it* (Inuit name); suggests the call of the Black-bellied Plover. Also like a "wolf whistle," *whee-wheeo* (A. A. Allen). Range: Breeds in w. Alaska (near mouth of Yukon). Recorded elsewhere in w. Alaska. Winters on islands in cen. and s. Pacific. Habitot: Tundra (Alaska); reefs and beaches.

FAR EASTERN CURLEW Numenius madagascariensis

25" (63 cm). The largest curlew; resembles the Long-billed Curlew (pp. 130–133), but lacks the cinnamon tones. Length of bill variable. The surest point is the heavily barred whitish underwing (deep cinnamon in Long-billed Curlew).

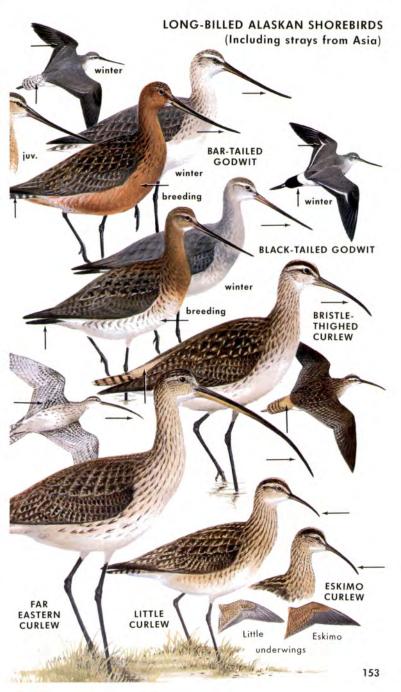
Ronge: Ne. Asia. Very rare spring vagrant to outer Aleutians, Pribilofs, nw. Alaska.

LITTLE CURLEW Numenius minutus

12" (30 cm). The tiniest curlew, even smaller than the nearly extinct Eskimo Curlew. Bill *very short*. Breast washed with buff, finely streaked. At rest, wing tips are even with the tail tip (they extend beyond tail in Eskimo Curlew). Note difference in underwing pattern (pale buff, not cinnamon).

Range: N. Siberia. Accidental, California.

ESKIMO CURLEW Numenius borealis See pp. 130, 131.



COMMON SANDPIPER Actitis hypoleucos

8" (20 cm). At all seasons resembles the Spotted Sandpiper in non-breeding plumage (no spots). Best feature is the *longer tail*. At rest, wing tips of Common reach only halfway to the tip of the tail, whereas those of Spotted reach closer to the tip. The dusky wedge on the side of the breast is more diffuse. Legs grayer. Less contrast between base of bill and tip. Flight note, *twee-see*, similar to Spotted's call but thinner. Rare but regular, mostly in spring, in the outer Aleutians; casual elsewhere in the Bering Sea area.

GREEN SANDPIPER Tringa ochrophus

8¾" [22 cm]. Similar to the Solitary Sandpiper, but a bit stockier, with a white rump (not dark). Underwings dark, as in Solitary. Call, when flushed, a thin, high-pitched weet weet weet. Accidental in extreme w. Aleutians [Attu].

TEREK SANDPIPER Xenus cinereus

9¼" (23 cm). Note the upturned bill and short, orange-yellow legs. In breeding plumage this bird has a jagged black stripe along the scapulars that is nearly lacking in fall adults. Juveniles are brown, with a trace of this stripe. Often bobs like a "Spotty." In flight, a broad white band at rear edge of wing. Voice a fluty dudududu or a sharp piping, twita-wit-wit. Vagrants occur regularly in outer Aleutians, casually on Bering Sea islands. Accidental on mainland Alaska.

WOOD SANDPIPER Tringa glareola

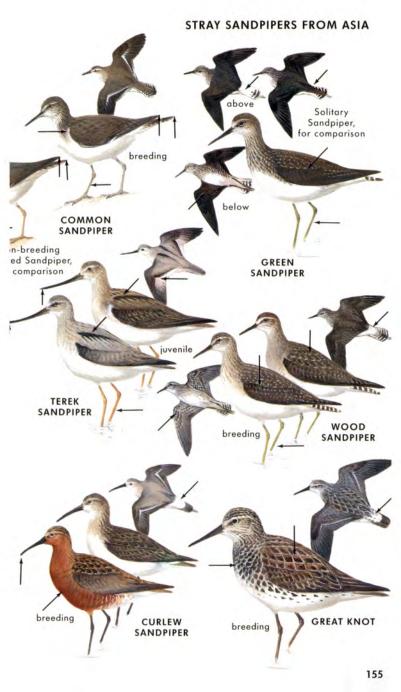
7¾" (19 cm). Shape of Solitary Sandpiper, but has whitish (not dark) underwings. Upperparts paler and browner, heavily spotted with pale buff. Rump patch white (Solitary has a dark rump). Legs dull yellow. Voice, a sharp, high chew-chew-chew or chiff-chiff. Regular migrant in outer Aleutians (rare breeder); also Pribilofs, St. Lawrence I.; rarely on mainland of nw. Alaska.

CURLEW SANDPIPER Calidris ferruginea

7–9" (18–23 cm). In spring, dark russet on head and underparts (do not mistake for Red Knot). In fall, resembles a fall Dunlin but longer-legged, less streaked on breast; bill curved slightly throughout. Main distinction is the whitish rump. Most birds seen in fall are juveniles, which have buff edges on feathers of back that give a very scaly look. Breast tinged with buff. Call, a liquid chirrip, less grating than Dunlin's note. Vagrant in Alaska (w. Aleutians, St. Lawrence I.), w. and n. coasts (has bred Pt. Barrow); accidental, British Columbia, Alberta, Montana, Washington, Oregon, California.

GREAT KNOT Calidris tenuirostris

10½" (26 cm). Shaped somewhat like the Red Knot, but larger. In spring, when this species is most likely to occur, it lacks the Red Knot's brick red underparts. Breast heavily blotched with dark, which extends down the sides as bold, chevronlike spots. Scapulars bright rusty. In flight, shows more contrast between rump and tail than Red Knot. Very rare spring vagrant in w. Aleutians, Pribilofs, St. Lawrence I., Seward Peninsula.



MARSH SANDPIPER Tringa stagnatilis

91/4" (23 cm). A bit smaller than the Lesser Yellowlegs, this slim *Tringa* can be told from that bird by its more needle-like bill and long, spindly *olive-green* legs. The white rump patch *extends up the back in a wedge*, like that of a Dowitcher (or a Greenshank). Thus, the Marsh Sandpiper might be compared to the Greenshank in the way the Lesser Yellowlegs might be compared to the Greater. Accidental, w. Aleutians.

GRAY-TAILED TATTLER Heteroscelus brevipes

(Polynesian Tattler) 10" (25 cm). Very similar to Wandering Tattler (pp. 142, 143), but in breeding plumage the underparts are not as strongly barred. At rest, the wing tips of the Wandering extend further beyond the tail. In fall migration the two are more difficult to separate. Best distinguished by voice, a sharp, upslurred whistle—too-weet' or tu-whip', with the accent on the second syllable. Rare, but regular migrant in outer Aleutians and Bering Sea islands; casual, n. Alaska. Also called Siberian Tattler.

SPOTTED REDSHANK Tringa erythropus

12" (30 cm). A slender, long-legged, long-billed wader; in breeding plumage it is sooty black, with minute white speckles on back and wings, making the bird appear a trifle paler above. The long legs are dark red; the long black bill is red basally. In non-breeding plumage this bird is gray and somewhat yellowlegs-like, but legs deep red, bill orange-red basally. In flight, a long white wedge shows on the back, as in Greenshank or Dowitcher. Note, a sharp, whistled tcheet', with rising inflection. Casual migrant (spring and fall) in outer Aleutians, Pribilofs. Accidental, British Columbia, Oregon, Nevada, California.

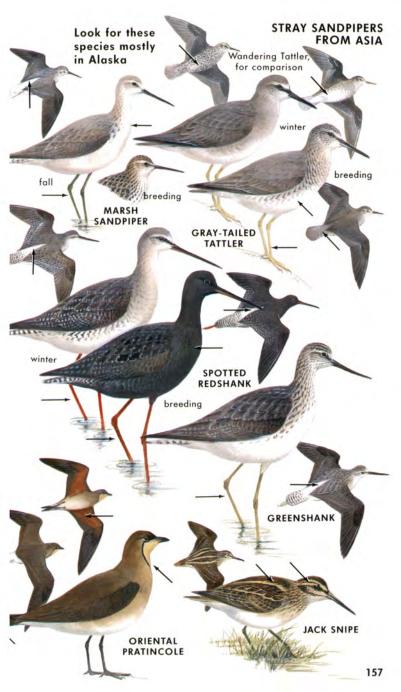
COMMON GREENSHANK Tringa nebularia

12½" (31 cm). Size and shape of the Greater Yellowlegs, but legs dull greenish (not bright yellow). The wedgelike white rump patch runs farther up the back, as in the Dowitcher. Call, a ringing, whistled tew tew tew, similar to Greater Yellowlegs'. Rare but regular migrant, mainly in spring, in the outer Aleutians, Pribilofs.

ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE Glareola maldivarum Family Glareolidae 91/4" (23 cm). Pratincoles are long-winged, fork-tailed shorebirds that look somewhat like terns or giant swallows. This species is darkwinged, with a white rump and a creamy throat outlined with black. The wing linings are chestnut. Accidental, in outer Aleutians (Attu).

JACK SNIPE Lymnocryptes minimus

7" (18 cm). A small Old World snipe, the size of a Dunlin. It has a shorter bill than Common Snipe, no white or orange on its wedge-shaped tail, and lacks bars on its flanks. Usually silent when flushed: does not zig-zag. Accidental, Pribilofs, California. See Broad-billed Sandpiper (pp. 150, 151).



■ GALLINACEOUS OR FOWL-LIKE BIRDS (Turkeys, Pheasants, Grouse, Partridges, and Quail) Family Phasianidae. Turkeys are very large, with wattles and fanlike tails. Pheasants (introduced) have long, pointed, sweeping tails. Grouse are plump, chicken-like birds, without long tails. Partridges (of Old World origin) are intermediate in size between grouse and quail. Quail are the smallest. Food: Insects, seeds, buds, berries. Range: Nearly cosmopolitan. No. of species: World 207; West 17 (+3-4 introduced successfully: others have failed). Often called "upland game birds."

WILD TURKEY Meleagris gallopavo

M99

Male 48" (120 cm); female 36" (90 cm). A streamlined version of the barnyard Turkey, with buffy white tips on the tail feathers in most southwestern birds (but tail feathers may have rusty tips in some other populations). Head naked; bluish with red wattles, intensified in male's display. Tail of male is erected like a fan during display. Bronzy iridescent body; barred wings (primaries and secondaries); "beard" on breast. The female is smaller, with a smaller head; less iridescent, and 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 brood.

Range: E. and sw. U.S. to cen. Mexico. Introduced widely elsewhere. West: Map 99. Habitat: Woods, mountain forests, wooded swamps.

SAGE GROUSE Centrocercus urophasianus

M96

Male 26–30" (65–75 cm); female 22–23" (56–58 cm). A large, grayish grouse of open sage country, as large as a small Turkey; identified by its contrasting *black belly patch* and spikelike tail feathers. The male is considerably larger than the female, has a black throat, and, in communal dancing display, puffs out its white chest, exposing two yellow air sacs on the neck, at the same time erecting and spreading its pointed tail feathers in a spiky fan.

Voice: Flushing note, kuk kuk kuk. In courtship display the male

makes a popping sound.

Range: Western N. America. Map 96. Habitat: Sagebrush plains; also foothills and mountain slopes where sagebrush grows.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT Phasianus colchicus

M89

Male 30–36" (75–90 cm); female 21–25" (53–63 cm). A large, chicken-like or gamecock-like bird. Note the long, sweeping, pointed tail. Runs swiftly; flight strong, take-off noisy. Male highly colored and *iridescent*, with scarlet wattles on its face and a white neck-ring (not always present). The female is mottled brown, with a moderately long, pointed tail.

Voice: Male when crowing has a loud double squawk, kork-kok, followed by a brief whir of wings. When flushed, utters harsh croaks. The roosting call is a two-syllabled kutuck-kutuck, etc.

Ronge: Eurasia. Introduced widely in N. America and elsewhere.

West: Map 89. Habitat: Farms, fields, marsh edges, brush.



■ GROUSE. Subfamily Tetraoninae. Ground-dwelling, chickenlike birds; larger than quail and lacking the long tails of pheasants. Food: Insects, seeds, buds, berries. Range: N. America, Europe, Asia. No. of species: World 17; West 10.

RUFFED GROUSE Bonasa umbellus

M95

16-19" (40-48 cm). Note the fan-shaped tail, with a broad black band near the tip. A large, red-brown or gray-brown, chicken-like bird of brushy woodlands, usually not seen until it flushes with a startling whir. Two color morphs: "Red" birds with rufous tails, and "gray" birds with gray tails. Red birds are more common in southern parts of range, gray birds northward or at higher altitudes. Voice: Drumming of male suggests a distant motor starting up. Muffled thumping starts slowly, accelerating into a whir: Bup . . . bup . . . bup . . . bup . . bup,bup,up,r-rrrrr.

Range: Alaska, Canada, n. U.S. West: Map 95. Habitat: Ground and understory of deciduous or mixed woodlands.

M98

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE Tympanuchus phasianellus 15-20" (38-50 cm). A pale, speckled brown grouse of prairie brush. Note the short pointed tail, which in flight shows white at the sides. Displaying male inflates purplish neck sacs.

Similar species: (1) Prairie-chickens have short, rounded, dark tails. (2) Female Pheasant (p. 159) has a long, pointed tail. (3) Ruffed Grouse has a large, banded, fan-shaped tail, and black neck ruff. Voice: A cackling cac-cac-cac, etc. Courting note, a single low

coo-oo, accompanied by quill-rattling, foot-shuffling.

Range: Alaska, Canada, nw. and n.-cen. U.S. West: Map 98. Habitat: Prairie, brushy groves, open thickets, forest edges, clearings, cou-

lees, open burns in coniferous forests, etc. GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN Tympanuchus cupido

M97

17-18" (43-45 cm). A henlike bird of prairies. Brown, heavily barred. Note the short, rounded dark tail (black in males, barred in females). Courting males in communal "dance" inflate orange neck sacs and erect black, hornlike neck feathers.

Similar species: (1) See Lesser Prairie-Chicken. (2) Sharp-tailed Grouse, often called "Prairie-Chicken," has a whitish tail. (3) Fe-

male Pheasant (p. 159) has a long, pointed tail.

Voice: "Booming" male in dance makes a hollow oo-loo-woo, suggesting the sound made by blowing across the mouth of a bottle. Range: Canadian prairies (where it is now extirpated, or nearly so) to coastal Texas. West: Map 97. Habitat: Native tallgrass prairie, now very limited; some agricultural land.

LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN Tympanuchus pallidicinctus 16" (40 cm). A small, pale prairie-chicken; best identified by range (see Map 97). The gular sacs of the male are dull purplish or plumcolored (not yellow-orange as in Greater Prairie-Chicken).

Voice: Courtship "booming" not as rolling nor as loud as Greater

Prairie-Chicken's. Both have clucking, cackling notes.

Range: Resident southwest of the range of the Greater Prairie-Chicken, as shown on the map. Habitat: Sandhill country (sage and bluestem grass, oak shinnery).



■ PTARMIGANS. These hardy arctic and alpine grouse with feathered feet molt three times a year, camouflaging themselves to match the seasons; they change from dark plumage in summer to white in winter. During the spring and fall molts they have a patchy look. A red comb above the eye may be erected or concealed.

WILLOW PTARMIGAN Lagopus lagopus

M92

16" [40 cm]. The Willow and Rock Ptarmigan are similar; in summer variable, brown or gray, with white wings and a white belly; in winter, white with black tails. In breeding plumage the male Willow Ptarmigan is more deeply chestnut about the head and body than the Rock. There is much variation between various molts.

Similar species: Some races of the Rock Ptarmigan are decidedly gray, finely barred. The bill is always smaller and more slender. In winter, male Rocks have a *black mark* between the eye and bill, lacking in both sexes of Willow Ptarmigan. Habitats differ; the Rock prefers higher, more barren hills.

Voice: Deep raucous calls, go-out, go-out. Male, a staccato crow, kwow, kwow, tobacco, tobacco, etc., or go-back, go-back.

Range: Arctic regions; circumpolar. West: Map 92. Habitat: Tundra, willow scrub, muskeg; in winter, sheltered valleys at lower altitudes.

ROCK PTARMIGAN Lagopus mutus

M93

13" (33 cm). The most hardy ptarmigan. The male in summer is usually grayer than the Willow, lacking the rich chestnut around the head and neck, but populations vary greatly. Some may be even paler than shown here or like the dark bird from Attu figured opposite. Females of the two species are similar but the Rock has a smaller bill. In winter, the white males have a black mark between the eye and the bill. This is absent in most females, which may be told from female Willows by their smaller bills.

Voice: Croaks, growls, cackles; usually silent.

Range: Arctic and alpine regions of N. Hemisphere. West: Map 93.

Habitat: Above timberline in mountains (to lower levels in winter):

also near sea level in bleak tundra of northern coasts.

WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN Lagopus leucurus

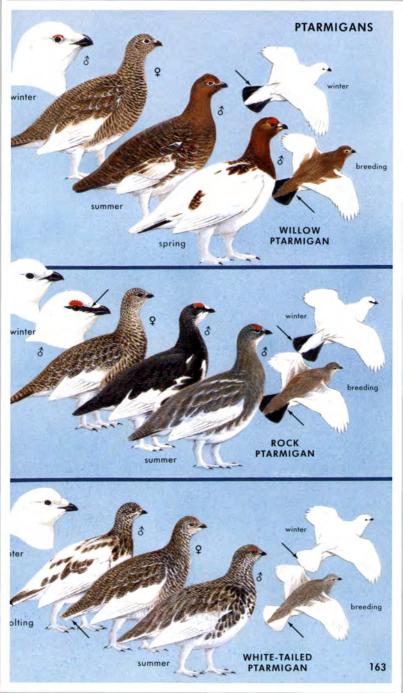
M94

12–13" (30–33 cm). The only ptarmigan normally found south of Canada. Note the *white tail*. In summer, this ptarmigan is brown, with a white belly and white wings and tail. In winter, it is pure white except for the black eyes and bill. The other two ptarmigan are larger and have *black* tails.

Voice: Cackling notes; clucks, soft hoots.

Range: Western N. America. Map 94. Habitat: Rocky alpine tundra;

mountains above timberline.



SPRUCE GROUSE Falcipennis canadensis

M90

15–17" (38–43 cm). Look for this *very tame*, dusky grouse in the deep, wet conifer forests of the North. The male has a sharply defined *black breast*, with some white spots or bars on the sides and a *chestnut band* on the tip of the tail. A comb of erectile red skin above the eye is visible at close range. Birds of the n. Rockies and Cascades, known as "Franklin's Grouse," lack the chestnut tip and have large white spots on the upper tail coverts. Female is dark rusty or grayish brown, thickly barred; tail short and dark, with a rusty tip (except in "Franklin's" form). **Ronge:** Alaska, Canada, n. U.S. **West:** Map 90. **Hobitot:** Conifer forests, jack pines, muskeg, blueberry patches, etc.

BLUE GROUSE Dendragapus obscurus

M91

15½-21" (39–53 cm). The male is a dusky or sooty grouse. At the tip of its blackish tail is a broad pale band (absent in populations in the n. Rockies). Above each eye is a yellow or orange comb, erectile in display. In courtship display, coastal birds have yellow neck sacs; in birds of the Rockies, the neck sacs are purplish. Females are brown, mottled with black, and pale-bellied; their dark tails are somewhat like those of the males. Ruffed Grouse may be confused with female Blue Grouse, but both sexes of that bird have a lighter tail, with a bold black band near the tip.

Voice: Male in courtship gives a series of 5-7 low, muffled, booming or

hooting notes, ventriloquial.

Range: Western N. America. Map 91. **Habitat:** Deciduous and mixed forests in mountains in summer; in conifer forests at higher elevations in winter.

GRAY PARTRIDGE Perdix perdix

M87

12–14" (30–35 cm). A rotund grayish partridge, larger than a quail; when flushed, note the short *rufous* tail, *rusty face*, chestnut bars on sides. Male has a dark, U-shaped splotch on the belly.

Similar species: Chukar (which also has a rufous tail) has a red bill and

feet, and a black "necklace."

Voice: A loud, hoarse kar-wit, kar-wit.

Range: Eurasia. Introduced in N. America. West: Map 87. Habitat: Cultivated land, hedgerows, bushy pastures, meadows.

CHUKAR Alectoris chukar

M88

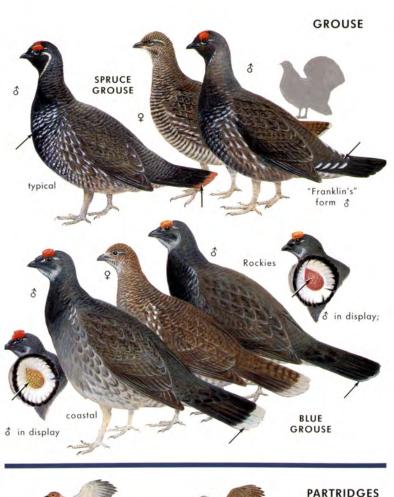
13" (33 cm). Like a large, sandy-colored quail; gray-brown with *bright red legs and bill*; light throat bordered by a clean-cut black "necklace." Sides *boldly barred*. Tail *rufous*.

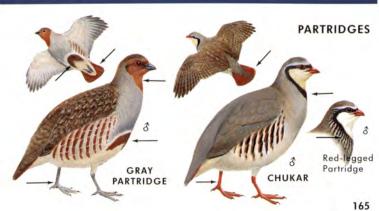
Similar species: (1) Gray Partridge lacks the black necklace, has a dark gray bill and dark feet. (2) Mountain Quail is darker, with a long head plume. (3) The related RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE, A. rufa, introduced into

ne. Colorado, is darker; its necklace breaks into short streaks.

Voice: A series of chuck's; a sharp wheet-u.

Range: Asia, e. Europe. West: Introduced and established in w. N. America. Map 88. Habitat: Rocky, grassy, or brushy slopes; arid mountains, canyons.





CALIFORNIA QUAIL Callipepla californica

M104

9½-11" (24-28 cm). A small, plump, grayish, chicken-like bird, with a short black plume curving forward from the crown. Males have a black and white face and throat pattern. Females are duller. Voice: A three-syllabled qua-quer'go, or Chi-ca'go. Also light clucking notes. Male on territory, a loud kurr.

Range: Resident, British Columbia to Baja California; see Map 104. On western edge of Mojave and Colorado deserts where ranges of California and Gambel's quail overlap, hybrids occur. Habitat: Broken chaparral, woodland edges, coastal scrub, parks, estates, farms.

GAMBEL'S QUAIL Callipepla gambelii M103 10-111/2" (25-29 cm). Replaces the California Quail in the deserts. Similar to that bird, but male has a black patch on a light, unscaled belly: flanks and crown more russet (a local name is "Redhead"). Female also lacks scaly pattern on belly.

Range: Resident sw. U.S., nw. Mexico. Map 103.

MOUNTAIN QUAIL Oreortyx pictus

M100

10½-11½" (26-29 cm). A gray and brown quail of the mountains. Distinguished from California Quail by a long straight head plume and chestnut (not black) throat. Note the chestnut and white side pattern. Female similar to male but duller, with a shorter plume. Voice: A mellow wook! or to-wook!, repeated at intervals by male. Range: Western U.S. to n. Baja California, Map 100.

SCALED QUAIL Callipepla squamata

M102

10-12" (25-30 cm). Note the bushy white crest or "cotton top." A pale grayish quail ("Blue Quail") of arid country, with scaly markings on breast and back. Runs; often reluctant to fly. Voice: A guinea-hen-like chekar' (also interpreted as pay-cos).

Range: Sw. U.S. to cen. Mexico. Map 102. Habitat: Grasslands, brush, arid country.

NORTHERN BOBWHITE Colinus virginianus

M101

M100

(Common Bobwhite) 81/2-101/2" (21-26 cm). A small, rotund fowl, near the size of a Meadowlark. Ruddy, barred and striped, with a short, dark tail. Male has a conspicuous white throat and white eyebrow stripe; in the female these are buff. A dark Mexican form. "MASKED BOBWHITE," with a black throat and rusty underparts once lived in s. Arizona, where it has been reintroduced.

Voice: A clearly whistled Bob-white! or poor, Bob-whoit! Covey call, ko-loi-kee!, answered by whoil-kee!

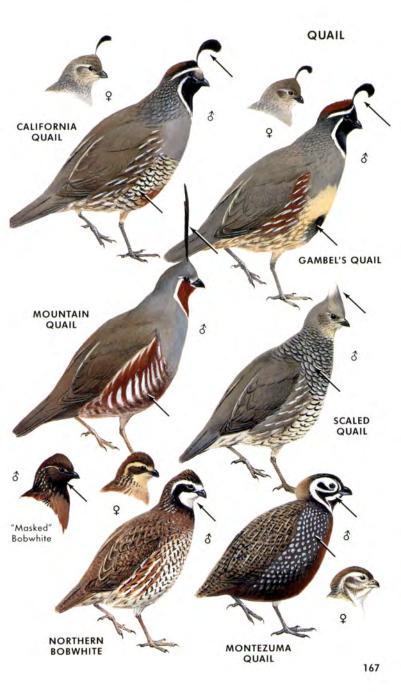
Range: Cen. and e. U.S. to Guatemala, Cuba. West: Map 101. Habitat: Farms, brushy open country, roadsides, wood edges.

MONTEZUMA QUAIL Cyrtonyx montezumae (Harlequin Quail) 8-91/2" (20-24 cm). A rotund quail of Mexican

mountains. Note the male's oddly striped clown's face, bushy crest on the nape, and spotted body. Females are brown, with less obvious facial stripings. Tame (called "Fool's Quail").

Voice: A soft, whinnying or quavering cry; ventriloquial.

Range: Resident sw. U.S. to s. Mexico. Map 100. Habitat: Grassy oak canyons, wooded mountain slopes with bunch grass.



BIRDS OF PREY. We tend to lump all the diurnal (day-flying) raptors with hooked beaks and hooked claws as "birds of prey." Actually, they fall into two quite separate families:

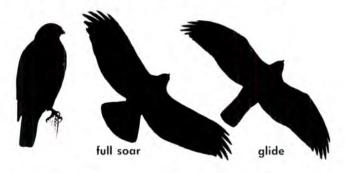
(1) The **hawk group** (*Accipitridae*)—kites, eagles, buteos, accipiters, and harriers—of which there are 217 species in the world, 20 in the West + 3 or 4 accidentals.

(2) The **falcon group** (Falconidae)—falcons and caracaras. These are shown on pp. 184–187. There are 52 species in the world, 7 in the West + 2 accidentals.

The illustrations in the following pages present the obvious "field marks." For a more in-depth treatment of variable plumages, see A Field Guide to the Hawks (No. 35 in the Field Guide series) by Clark and Wheeler. For the subtleties of "jizz" (general impression and shape) at a distance, study Hawks In Flight by Dunne, Sutton, and Sibley.

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

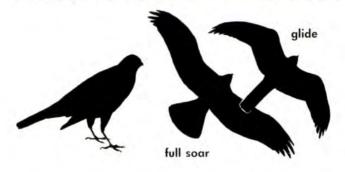
BUTEOS (buzzard hawks) are stocky, with broad wings and wide rounded tails. They soar and wheel high in the open sky.



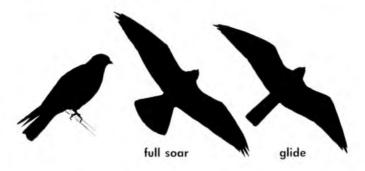
ACCIPITERS (true hawks) have small heads, short rounded wings, and longish tails. They fly with several rapid beats and a glide.



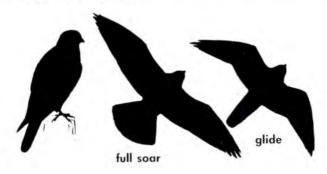
HARRIERS are slim, with slim, round-tipped wings and long tails. They fly in open country and glide low, with a vulture-like dihedral.



KITES (western species) are falcon-shaped, but unlike falcons, they are buoyant gliders, not power-fliers.



FALCONS have long, pointed wings and long tails. Their wing strokes are strong and rapid.



■ KITES. Graceful birds of prey, of southern distribution. U.S. species [except Snail Kite of Florida] are falcon-shaped, with pointed wings. Food: Large insects, reptiles, rodents.

WHITE-TAILED KITE Elanus leucurus

M68

(Black-shouldered Kite) 15–17" (38–43 cm). This whitish kite is falconshaped, with long, pointed wings and a *long white tail*. Soars and glides like a small gull; *often hovers. Adult:* Pale gray with a white head, underparts, and tail. A *large black patch* on the fore edge of the upperwing is obvious in perched birds. Overhead, shows an oval black patch at the carpal joint ("wrist") of the underwing. *Immature:* Recognizable as this kite, but has a *rusty breast*, a brown back, and a narrow dark band near the tip of its pale grayish tail.

Voice: A whistled kee kee kee, abrupt or drawn out.

Range: W. Oregon and s. Texas to Chile, Argentina. West: Map 68. Habi-

tat: Open groves, river valleys, marshes, grasslands.

MISSISSIPPI KITE Ictinia mississippiensis

M69

14" (35 cm). Falcon-shaped, graceful and gray. Gregarious; spends much time soaring. Adult is dark above, lighter below; head *pale gray*; tail and underwing blackish. No other falcon- like bird has a *black unbarred tail*. A broad *pale patch* shows on the rear edge of the wing (not visible when the bird is overhead). The immature is heavily streaked on its rusty underparts; the tail shows white bars when seen overhead.

Voice: Usually silent; about nest, a two-syllabled phee-phew.

Range: Mainly s. U.S.; winters Cen. and n. S. America. West: Map 69.

Habitat: Wooded streams; groves, shelterbelts.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE Elanoides forficatus

This raptor of the se. U.S. (not shown) has been recorded as an accidental in New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado. See eastern *Field Guide to the Birds*.

■ HARRIERS. Slim raptors with slim wings, long tails. Flight low, languid, gliding, with wings in a shallow V. Sexes not alike. Harriers hunt in open country. We have only one species in N. America.

NORTHERN HARRIER Circus cyaneus

M71

(Marsh Hawk) 17½-24" (44–60 cm). A slim, long-winged, long-tailed raptor of the open country. In all plumages shows a *white rump patch*. Males are pale gray, whitish beneath with a gray hood; females are brown with heavy streaks; immature are russet or orangy below. Glides and flies buoyantly and unsteadily low over the ground, with wings slightly above the horizontal, suggesting the Turkey Vulture's dihedral. Overhead, the wing tips of the pale male have a "dipped-in-ink" look, and there is a black border on the trailing edge of each wing.

Voice: A weak, nasal whistle, pee, pee, pee.

Range: Alaska, Canada to s. U.S.; n. Eurasia. Winters to n. S. America, n.

Africa. West: Map 71. Habitat: Marshes, fields, prairies.

KITES, HARRIERS



■ ACCIPITERS, or "BIRD HAWKS." Long-tailed woodland raptors with rounded wings, adapted for hunting among the trees. Typical flight consists of several quick beats and a glide. Sexes similar; female larger. Size not always reliable in separating the three species; they may almost overlap, but not quite. Food: Chiefly birds, some small mammals.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK Accipiter striatus

M72

10–14" (25–35 cm). Near the size of a jay; a small, slim-bodied woodland hawk, with a slim tail and short, rounded wings. Flies with several quick beats and a glide. Adult has a dark back, rusty-barred breast. Folded tail of male is slightly notched or square (may seem a bit rounded when spread). Head and neck proportionately smaller than Cooper's. Immature is dark brown above, streaked with rusty on underparts.

Similar species: Female Cooper's Hawk is obviously larger, with a well-rounded tail; but male Cooper's and female Sharp-shin may approach each other so closely in size and tail shape that some cannot be safely identified in the field. See A Field Guide to Birds of Prev (Clark and Wheeler) and Hawks in Flight (Dunne, Sibley,

and Sutton) for further discussion.

Voice: Like Cooper's Hawk's, but shriller; a high kik, kik, kik.

Ronge: Tree limit in Alaska, Canada to n. Argentina. Winters from n. U.S. south. West: Map 72. Habitat: Open deciduous woodlands, mixed or coniferous forests, thickets, edges.

COOPER'S HAWK Accipiter cooperii

M73

14–20" (35–50 cm). A short-winged, long-tailed hawk, very similar to the Sharp-shinned Hawk but larger; female usually is not quite as long as a Crow. The tail of the female is well rounded, even when folded; male's less so. Adult has a proportionately larger head and neck than the Sharp-shin, with more contrast between blackish crown and gray nape. When the bird is gliding the head projects well beyond the wrists of the wing. The white tip on the tail is broader than in the "Sharpie." The immature is brown, streaked on breast, white on belly. No strong white eyestripe as in the Goshawk. Voice: About nest, a rapid kek, kek, kek; suggests a Flicker.

Range: S. Canada to n. Mexico. West: Map 73. Habitat: Mature for-

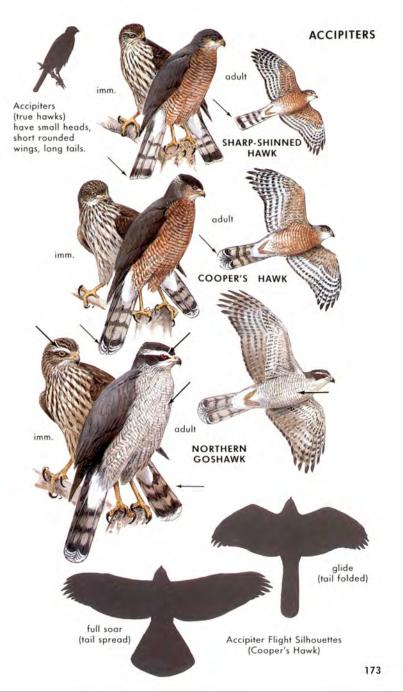
est, open woodlands, wood edges, river groves.
NORTHERN GOSHAWK Accipiter gentilis

M74

20–26" (50–65 cm). Adult: A large, robust hawk with a longish tail, rounded wings. Crown and cheek blackish; broad white stripe over the eye. Underparts pale gray, finely barred; back paler and grayer than in Cooper's or Sharp-shin; tail broader. More buteo-like when soaring. Immature: Like an immature Cooper's; usually larger; note pale stripe over the eye, and irregular tail-banding. Striping on underparts covers both breast and belly.

Voice: Kak, kak, kak, or kuk, kuk, kuk, heavier than Cooper's.

Ronge: Eurasia, northern N. America. West: Map 74. Hobitot: Coniferous and deciduous forests, especially in mountains; forest edges; winters in lowlands.



■ BUTEOS, or BUZZARD HAWKS. Large, thick-set hawks, with broad wings and wide, rounded tails. Buteos habitually soar high in wide circles. Much variation: sexes similar, females larger, Young birds are usually streaked below. Black morphs often occur. For an in-depth discussion of variant plumages, see A Field Guide to Hawks of North America (Clark and Wheeler). Food: Rodents, rabbits, sometimes small birds, reptiles, grasshoppers.

RED-TAILED HAWK Buteo iamaicensis

M78

19-25" (48-63 cm). When this large, broad-winged, wide-tailed hawk yeers while soaring, the rufous on the topside of the tail is evident (on adults). From below the tail is pale, but it may transmit a hint of red. Overhead, a dependable mark on all but blackish birds is a black or dark patagial bar on the fore edge of the wing. Immature birds have gravish tails that may or may not show narrow banding. They also show the patagial bar. Underparts of typical Redtails east of the Rockies are "zoned" (light breast, broad band of streaks across the belly), except in some birds of sw. Texas ("Fuertes" Red-tail). On the Great Plains, the pale kriderii form is found. There is much variation further west; these Red-tails tend to be darker. One might encounter the blackish harlani, as well as deep rusty and melanistic birds. The latter usually have the tell tale rust on their tails. Red-tails usually perch conspicuously.

Voice: An asthmatic squeal, keeer-r-r (slurring downward).

Range: Alaska, Canada, to Panama. West: Map 78. Habitat: Open country, woodlands, prairie groves, mountains, plains, roadsides.

"HARLAN'S" RED-TAILED HAWK Buteo jamaicensis harlani

A variable blackish race of the Red-tail; regarded by some as a distinct species. Similar to other melanistic Red-tails, but tail never solid red; usually dirty white, with a longitudinal mottling and freckling of black merging into a dark terminal band, giving a whiterumped look. Some may have a mottling of red on the tail.

Range: Breeds in e. Alaska and nw. Canada. Winters southeastward

to Texas and the lower Mississippi Valley.

"KRIDER'S" RED-TAILED HAWK Buteo jamaicensis kriderii

A pale prairie race or form of the Red-tail, with a whitish tail that may be tinged with pale rufous.

Range: Prairies and plains of Canada and north-central U.S. Win-

ters south through the southern plains to Texas, Louisiana.

SWAINSON'S HAWK Buteo swainsoni

19-22" (48-55 cm). A buteo of the plains, proportioned like a Redtail but wings a bit more pointed. When gliding, wings are held slightly above horizontal. Typical adults have a dark breastband. Overhead, buffy wing linings contrast with dark flight feathers. Tail gray above, often becoming white at the base. There are confusing individuals with light breasts, and dark melanistic birds; note the underwing with its dark flight feathers.

Voice: A shrill, plaintive whistle, kreeeeeeer.

Range: Nw. N. America to n. Mexico; winters to Argentina. West: Map 77. Habitat: Plains, range, open hills, sparse trees.



19–24" [48–60 cm]. This big hawk of open country habitually hovers on beating wings. A buteo by shape; larger and with somewhat longer wings and tail than the others (except Ferruginous Hawk). Typical birds (but not all adults) show a dark or blotched belly and a black patch at the "wrist" (carpal joint) of the underwing. Tail white, with a broad black band or bands toward the tip. Black morph may lack extensive white on tail, but the broad terminal band and extensive white on the underwing are good points.

Similar species: See (1) Northern Harrier; (2) Golden Eagle.

Range: Arctic; circumpolar. Winters to s. U.S., cen. Eurasia. West: Map 80. Habitat: Tundra escarpments, arctic coasts; in winter, open fields, plains, marshes.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK Buteo lineatus

M75

17–24" (43–60 cm). Adult: Recognized as a buteo by the ample tail and broad wings; as this species by the heavy dark bands across both sides of the tail. Adults have dark rufous shoulders (not always easy to see) and robin-red underparts. In flight, note the translucent patch, or "window," at the base of the primaries. Immature: Streaked; recognized by proportions, tail bands, and, in flight overhead, by the wing "windows."

Similar species: See other reddish-breasted hawks: (1) Adult Broadwing has paler wing linings, broader white bands on tail. See also immature Broad-wing; (2) Cooper's Hawk: (3) Red-tail.

Voice: A two-syllabled scream, kee-yer (dropping inflection).

Range: Se. Canada, e. U.S., California, Mexico. West: Map 75. Habitat: Bottomland woods, wooded rivers.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK Buteo platypterus

M76

14–19" (35–48 cm). A small, chunky buteo, the size of a crow. Note tail banding of adult—white bands *about as wide* as the black ones. Wing linings white. The rare dark morph, which breeds in Alberta, has dark wing linings, but shows the usual Broad-wing tail pattern. *Immature:* Tail bands more numerous, restricting the white.

Similar species: Young Red-shouldered Hawk is similar to immature Broad-wing, but the latter is chunkier, with a stubbier tail and shorter wings; the underwing is usually whiter.

Voice: A shrill, high-pitched pweeeeeee (diminuendo).

Ronge: S. Canada, e. U.S. Winters mainly in Cen. and S. America. West: Map 76. Habitat: Woods, groves.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK Buteo regalis

M79

23–25" (58–63 cm). A large, narrow-winged buteo of the plains. Rufous above, whitish below, with a whitish or pale rufous tail and light patch on upper surface of primaries. Head often quite pale. Overhead, typical adults show a dark V formed by the rufous thighs. Immatures lack this and also the rusty patches on the underwing. They show a white rump and a gray tail. Dark morphs (adults) overhead have dark wing linings, contrasting with white flight feathers and white tails.

Range: Sw. Canada, w. U.S. Winters sw. U.S., n. Mexico. Map 79. Habitat: Plains, prairies.



HARRIS'S HAWK Parabuteo unicinctus

28" (70 cm); spread 3½–3¾ ft. A black hawk of the *Buteo* type, with a flashing white rump and white band at the tip of the tail. Shows chestnut areas on thighs and shoulders—a mark of distinction from other black or melanistic buteos or the much chunkier Black-Hawk. Immature has light, streaked underparts and rusty shoulders; might be confused with Red-shouldered Hawk except for the conspicuous white at the base of the tail. Also known as Bay-winged Hawk.

Ronge: Sw. U.S. south to Argentina. West: Resident, s. and cen. Arizona, se. New Mexico, w. Texas. Also se. California (Colorado R.), where it formerly bred and has been reintroduced. Casual, s. Nevada, Utah. Hobitot:

River woods, mesquite, brush, cactus deserts.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK Buteo albonotatus

18½–21½" [47–54 cm]; spread 4 ft. A dull black hawk, with more slender wings than most other buteos. Might be mistaken for Turkey Vulture because of its proportions and two-toned underwing, but the hawk head and white tail bands (pale gray on topside) identify the adult. The immature has narrower tail bands and a scattering of small white spots on its black body.

Range: Breeds locally in nw., cen., and se. Arizona, s. and ne. New Mexico, w. Texas (Trans-Pecos) to n. S. America. Casual visitor to s. California (had bred). Accidental, Nevada, Utah. Habitat: River woodlands,

desert mountains, canyons.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK Buteogallus anthracinus

20–23" (50–58 cm); spread 4 ft. A black, buteonine hawk with exceptionally wide wings and *long*, chicken-like yellow legs. Identified by its chunky shape and the broad white *band* crossing the middle of the tail. In flight, a whitish spot shows near the tip of the wing at the base of the primaries. *Immature*: Dark-backed with a heavily striped *buffy* head and underparts; the tail is narrowly banded with five or six dark bands.

Similar species: Whereas the slimmer-winged Zone-tailed Hawk bears a superficial resemblance to a Turkey Vulture, the broader-winged Black-

Hawk suggests a Black Vulture.

Range: Sw. U.S. to Ecuador. West: Breeds locally in cen. and s. Arizona. Has bred in s. New Mexico. Casual, w. Texas (Trans-Pecos), Utah. Habitat: Wooded stream bottoms.

GRAY HAWK Asturina nitida

16–18" (40–45 cm); spread 3 ft. A small *Buteo*. Adults are distinguished by their buteo-like proportions, gray back, and *thickly barred gray* underparts, white band on rump, and *widely banded tail* (similar to Broadwinged Hawk's). Immature has a narrowly barred tail, striped buffy underparts. Note the relatively short wing, barred thighs, strongly marked buffy face, *white bar* across rump.

Range: Sw. U.S. to Brazil. West: Breeds locally in se. Arizona, sw. New

Mexico; casual, w. Texas. Habitat: Wooded lowland streams.

WHITE-TAILED HAWK Buteo albicaudatus (not shown)

A resident of s. Texas which has occurred accidentally in s. Arizona and New Mexico. See A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas.



■ EAGLES. Subfamily Accipitrinae (in part); shown in flight on p. 189. Eagles are distinguished from buteos, to which they are related, by their much greater size and proportionately longer wings. The powerful bill is nearly as long as the head. Food: Golden Eagle eats chiefly rabbits and large rodents; Bald Eagle, chiefly dead or dying fish.

BALD EAGLE Haliaeetus leucocephalus

M70

30–43" (75–108 cm); spread 7–8 ft. The national bird of the U.S. The adult, with its *white head* and *white tail*, is "all field mark." Bill yellow, massive. The dark immature has a dusky head and tail and a dark bill. It shows considerable whitish in the wing linings and often on the breast (see overhead pattern, p. 189). Variable, depending on age.

Voice: A harsh creaking cackle, kleek-kik-ik-ik, or a lower kak-

kak-kak.

Range: Alaska, Canada, to s. U.S. West: Map 70. Habitat: Coasts, rivers, large lakes; in migration, also mountains, open country.

GOLDEN EAGLE Aquila chrysaetos

M81

30–40" (75–100 cm). Majestic, the Golden Eagle glides and soars flat-winged with occasional wingbeats. Its greater size and longer wings (spread about 7 ft.) set it apart from the large buteos. Adult: Uniformly dark below, or with a slight lightening at the base of the obscurely banded tail. On the hind-neck, a wash of gold. Immature: In flight, more readily identified than the adult; shows a white flash in the wings at the base of the primaries, and a white tail with a broad dark terminal band.

Similar species: (1) Immature Bald Eagle usually has white in the wing linings and often on the body. Tail may be mottled with white at the base, but is not definitely banded. (2) Black morph of Roughlegged Hawk is smaller and has more white on the underwing.

Voice: Seldom heard, a yelping bark, kya; also whistled notes.

Ronge: Mainly mountain regions of N. Hemisphere. West: Map 81.

Hobitot: Open mountains, foothills, plains, open country.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE Haliaeetus albicilla

(Gray Sea Eagle) 30–36" (75–90 cm); spread 7½–8 ft. This Eurasian eagle is like a pale Bald Eagle, but only the tail is white. The tail is somewhat wedge-shaped. A bird that looks like a Bald Eagle with a *light brown* head and a *yellow bill* would be this straggler to the Aleutians of Alaska. It breeds on Attu. Also recorded on Kodiak I.

STELLER'S SEA-EAGLE Haliaeetus pelagicus

33-41" (83-103 cm); spread 8-8½ ft. This accidental stray from Asia has extensive white shoulders, a massive yellow-orange beak and a deeply wedge-shaped white tail. Immature birds lack the white shoulders, but the massive bill and tail contours would be diagnostic. Casual or accidental in Alaska (Attu, Unalaska, St. Paul, Kodiak I.).





■ AMERICAN VULTURES. Family Cathartidae. Blackish. eagle-like birds, often seen soaring high in wide circles. Their naked heads are relatively smaller than those of hawks and eagles. Vultures are often incorrectly called "buzzards." Food: Carrion. Range: S. Canada to Cape Horn. No. of species: World 7: West 2 (+1 no longer in the wild but held in captivity).

TURKEY VULTURE Cathartes aura

26-32" (65-80 cm). Nearly eagle-sized (spread 6 ft.). Overhead, note the great two-toned blackish wings (flight feathers paler). Soars with wings in a dihedral (a shallow V); rocks and tilts unsteadily. At close range the small naked red head of the adult is evident; immature birds have blackish heads.

Similar species: See (1) Zone-tailed Hawk, which "mimics" the Turkey Vulture; (2) the Black Vulture; and (3) eagles, which have larger heads, shorter tails, and soar in a flat plane.

Range: S. Canada to Cape Horn, Migratory in North, West: Map 66. Habitat: Usually seen soaring in the sky or perched on dead trees, posts, carrion, or on the ground.

BLACK VULTURE Coragyps atratus

23-27" (58-68 cm); wingspan less than 5 ft. This big black scavenger is readily identified by the short square tail that barely projects beyond the rear edge of the wings, and by the whitish patch toward the wing tip. Legs longer and whiter than Turkey Vulture's. Note the quick labored flapping, alternating with short glides.

Similar species: Turkey Vulture has a longer tail; flaps less, soars more (with a noticeable dihedral). Black Vulture is blacker than Turkey; tail stubby; wings shorter, wider, with a white patch. Caution: Young Turkey Vulture has a blackish head.

Range: Ohio, Pennsylvania to n. Chile, n. Argentina. West: Uncommon local resident in s. Arizona, w. Texas (Big Bend). Habitat: Similar to Turkey Vulture's: avoids higher mountains.

CALIFORNIA CONDOR Gymnogyps californianus

45-55" (113-138 cm); spread 8½-9½ ft. Much larger than the Turkey Vulture: adults have extensive white underwing linings toward the fore edge of the wing. Head yellowish or orange. Young birds are dusky-headed and lack the white wing linings, but are twice the size of the Turkey Vulture and have much broader proportions. The Condor has a flatter wing plane when soaring: it does not rock or tilt. Many Golden Eagles show some white under the wing, but it is placed differently (see p. 189); the shape is also different.

Range: California. Formerly resident mainly in s. Coast Range from se. Monterey Co. to n. Los Angeles Co.; also mountains at s. end of San Joaquin Valley. Now gone in the wild due to capture. All surviving birds are now in zoos in Los Angeles and San Diego. Hopefully, through captive breeding, they may eventually be returned to the wild. Caution: Wild Andean Condors have been released as part

of this rehabilitation program.



■ OSPREYS. Subfamily Pandioninae. Formerly considered a monotypic family comprising a single large bird of prey that hovers above the water and plunges feet-first for fish. Sexes alike. Range: All continents except Antarctica. No. of species: World 1; West 1.

OSPREY Pandion haliaetus

M67

21–24½" (53–61 cm). Large (spread 4½–6 ft.). Our only raptor that hovers over the water and plunges into it feet-first for fish (Bald Eagle may pick up fish from the surface). Blackish above, white below; head largely white, suggesting a Bald Eagle, but with a broad black cheek patch. Often flies with a kink or crook in the wing, showing a black "wrist" patch below. Immature has a scaly pattern on the back.

Voice: A series of sharp annoyed whistles, cheep, cheep, or yewk, yewk,

etc. Near nest, a frenzied cheereek!

Ronge: Almost cosmopolitan. West: Map 67. Habitat: Rivers, lakes, coasts.

■ CARACARAS AND FALCONS. Family Falconidae. Caracaras are large, long-legged birds of prey, some with naked faces. Sexes alike. Food: Our one U.S. species feeds mostly on carrion. Range: S. U.S. to Tierra del Fuego, Falklands. No. of species: World 10; West 1. Falcons suggest kites; they are streamlined birds of prey with pointed wings and longish tails. Food: Birds, rodents, insects. Range: Almost cosmopolitan. No. of species: World 52; West 7 (+2 accidental).

CRESTED CARACARA Caracara plancus

20–25" [50–63 cm]. A large, long-legged, dark bird of prey, often seen feeding with vultures; its *black crest* and *red face* are distinctive. In flight, its underbody presents alternating areas of light and dark: a white chest, a black belly, and a whitish, dark-tipped tail. Note the combination of the *pale wing patches* and *pale chest*. Young birds are browner, streaked on the breast.

Range: Sw. U.S. Texas, Florida to Tierra del Fuego. West: Uncommon resident of s. Arizona; casual or accidental, New Mexico. Habitat: Prairies,

rangeland.

GYRFALCON Falco rusticolus

M85

20–25" (50–63 cm). A very large arctic falcon, larger and more robust and buteo-like than the Peregrine; slightly broader-tailed. Wingbeats deceptively slower. More uniformly colored than the Peregrine, with thinner sideburns. In the Arctic there are black, gray, and white forms; these are color morphs, not races.

Similar species: Peregrine is smaller and more contrastingly patterned, with a dark hood and broad black sideburns. It is slimmer with a more

tapered tail.

Range: Arctic regions; circumpolar. West: Map 85. Habitat: Arctic barrens, seacoasts, open mountains.



M83

(Pigeon Hawk) 10–13½" (25–34 cm). A small compact falcon, the length of a jay; suggests a miniature Peregrine. *Male:* Blue-gray above, with broad black bands on a gray tail. Female and young: Dusky brown, with banded tails. Both adults and young are boldly striped below. The prairie form is paler, lacking mustaches. Coastal Northwest form is dusky, lacking the light eyebrow stripe.

Range: Northern parts of N. Hemisphere. Winters to n. S. America, n. Africa. West: Map 83. Habitat: Open woods, cliffs, adjacent to grassland, tundra; in migration also foothills, marshes, open

country coasts.

AMERICAN KESTREL Falco sparverius

M82

(Sparrow Hawk) 9–12" (23–30 cm). A swallow-like falcon, the size of a jay. No other *small* hawk has a *rufous back or tail*. Males have blue-gray wings. Both sexes have a black and white face with a double mustache. *Hovers* for prey on rapidly beating wings; king-fisher-like. Sits fairly erect, occasionally lifting its tail.

Similar species: Sharp-shinned Hawk has rounded wings. Both Sharp-shin and Merlin have gray or brown backs and tails.

Voice: A rapid, high klee klee klee or killy killy killy.

Range: Most of N. and S. America. West: Map 82. Habitat: Open country, farmland, cities, wood edges, dead trees, wires, highways.

PEREGRINE FALCON Falco peregrinus

M84

15–20" [38–50 cm]; near the size of a crow. Note the wide black "sideburns." Known as a falcon by its pointed wings, narrow tail, and quick wingbeats, not unlike flight of a pigeon. Size and strong face pattern indicate this species. Adults slaty-backed, light-chested, barred and spotted below. Immatures are brown, heavily streaked. The northwestern population pealei, breeding on humid islands off Alaska and British Columbia, is darker and more heavily spotted on the breast.

Voice: At eyrie, a repeated we'chew; a rapid kek kek kek kek.
Runge: Nearly worldwide. West: Map 84. Habitat: Open country,

cliffs (mountains to coast); sometimes cities. Endangered.

PRAIRIE FALCON Falco mexicanus

M86

17" (43 cm). Like a sandy Peregrine, with a white eyebrow stripe and a narrower mustache. In flight overhead this bird shows blackish patches in the wingpits (see p. 197).

Similar species: Peregrine has a slaty back, more black on the face.

Range: Sw. Canada, w. U.S. to s. Mexico. West: Map 86. Habitat:

Mountainous grasslands, open hills, plains, prairies.

APLOMADO FALCON Falco femoralis

15–18" (38–45 cm). A medium-sized falcon, a little smaller than the Peregrine. Note the *dark underwing* and *black belly*, contrasting with the white or pale cinnamon breast. Thighs and undertail coverts orange-brown.

Ronge: U.S.—Mexican border to Patagonia. West: Formerly a very rare local summer resident in s. Arizona, sw. New Mexico, and w. Texas (Big Bend). Recently there has been an attempt to reintroduce it through releases. Habitat: Arid brushy prairie, yucca flats.



EAGLES AND OSPREY OVERHEAD

Text and color plate pp. 180, 181

BALD EAGLE Haliaeetus leucocephalus Adult: White head and white tail.

Immature: Some white in wing linings; variable.

GOLDEN EAGLE Aquila chrysaetos
Adult: Almost uniformly dark; wing linings dark.

pp. 180, 181

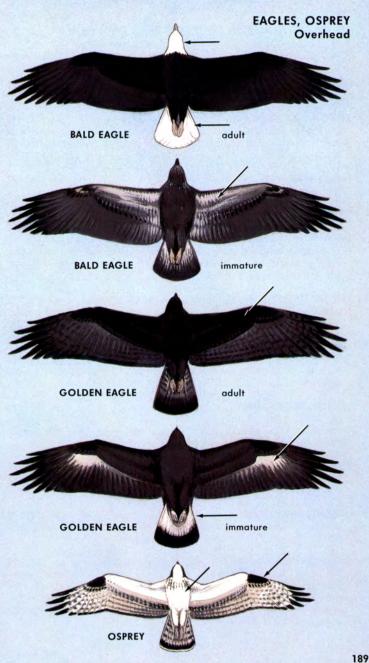
Immature: "Ringed" tail; white patches at base of primaries.

OSPREY Pandion haliaetus
Clear white belly; black wrist patches.

pp. 184, 185



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 kink or crook in the wings.



BLACKISH BIRDS OF PREY OVERHEAD

Text and color plate

CRESTED CARACARA Polyborus plancus pp. 184, 185
Whitish chest, black belly, large pale patches in primaries.

- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK Buteo lagopus (dark morph) pp. 176, 177
 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) pp. 176, 177
 Similar to dark morph of Rough-leg, but tail whitish, without the dark banding. Note also the white wrist marks, or "commas," as they have been called.
- SWAINSON'S HAWK Buteo swainsoni (dark morph) pp. 174, 175
 In the dark morph, the wings are usually dark throughout, including the flight feathers, tail narrowly banded. Rufous morph may be rustier, with lighter rufous wing linings.
- RED-TAILED HAWK Buteo jamaicensis (dark morph) pp. 174, 175 Chunky; tail reddish above, pale tinged with rusty below; variable. May not always be safely distinguishable underneath from "Harlan's" form of Red-tail.
- "HARLAN'S" HAWK Buteo jamaicensis (in part) pp. 174, 175
 Similar to dark morph of Red-tail, but tends to be mottled with gray or whitish at the base of the tail.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK

pp. 192, 193

- Buteo platypterus (dark morph)
 Distinctive tail pattern and flight feathers as in the light morph, but body and wing linings dark. Rare; breeds in Alberta.
- **ZONE-TAILED HAWK** Buteo albonotatus (immature) pp. 178, 179 Longish, two-toned wings (suggesting a Turkey Vulture). Three white tail bands (only one visible on folded tail).
- HARRIS'S HAWK Parabuteo unicinctus pp. 178, 179
 Chestnut wing linings. A very broad white band at the base of the black tail, and a narrow white terminal band.
- COMMON BLACK-HAWK Buteogallus anthracinus pp. 178, 179

 Thick-set black wings; light patches near wing tips. A broad white band at mid-tail and a very broad, black subterminal band. Whereas the Zone-tailed Hawk seems to mimic the Turkey Vulture, a deceptive ploy when it is hunting, the chunkier Black-Hawk may be compared to the Black Vulture.



BUTEOS OVERHEAD



Buteos, or "buzzard hawks," are chunky, with broad wings and broad, rounded tails. They soar and wheel high in the air.

> Text and color plate pp. 174, 175

RED-TAILED HAWK Buteo jamaicensis

(Typical western form)

The dark patagial bar at the fore edge of the wing is the best mark from below. Light chest, streaked belly; tail plain, with little or no banding. Immature birds are streaked below and have tail banding. Note always the patagial bar.

SWAINSON'S HAWK Buteo swainsoni

pp. 174, 175

Adult has a dark chest band. Note also the contrast between the light wing linings and dark flight feathers. The immature has a similar look, but has streaks on the underbody.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK Buteo lineatus

pp. 176, 177

The tail is strongly banded (white bands narrower than the dark ones). The adult is strongly barred with rusty on the body and wing linings. The immature has a striped body. There is a light "window" on the outer wing of adults as well as immatures.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK Buteo platypterus

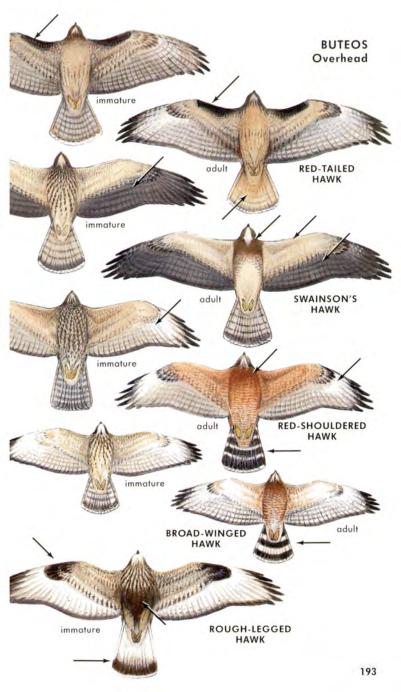
pp. 176, 177

Smaller and chunkier, with a widely banded tail (white bands wide); underwing pale. Immature: Body striped, tail narrowly banded. The pale underwings may show lighter "windows" near the wing tips.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK Buteo lagopus

pp. 176, 177

Note the *black carpal patch* contrasting with the *white* flight feathers. A *broad, blackish band* or cummerbund across the belly is distinctive in most but not all birds. Tail light, with a broad, dark terminal band. Adult males may be darker-chested and have more bands on the tail.



Text and color plate

FERRUGINOUS HAWK Buteo regalis

pp. 176, 177

Whitish underparts, with a dark V formed by the legs. Wings and tail longish for a buteo. A bird of arid plains, open range.

GRAY HAWK Asturina nitida

pp. 178, 179

Stocky. Broadly banded tail (suggestive of Broad-wing); gray-barred underparts. Very local in se. Arizona.

WHITE-TAILED HAWK Buteo albicaudatus

Whitish underparts; white tail with one subterminal black band. Has a gray head. Soars with a marked dihedral. A bird of south Texas, Mexico. Would be a casual or accidental stray if seen in Arizona or New Mexico.



Kites are falcon-shaped, but are buoyant gliders, not power-fliers.

Text and color plate

WHITE-TAILED KITE Elanus leucurus

pp. 170, 171

Falcon-shaped, with a white tail. Note also the conspicuous black carpal spot. Immature: Similar, but with a rusty wash on the chest and a dusky subterminal band on the tail.

MISSISSIPPI KITE Ictinia mississippiensis

pp. 170, 171

Falcon-shaped. Dusky, with a solid black tail.

Immature: Striped below, with white bands on its black tail.

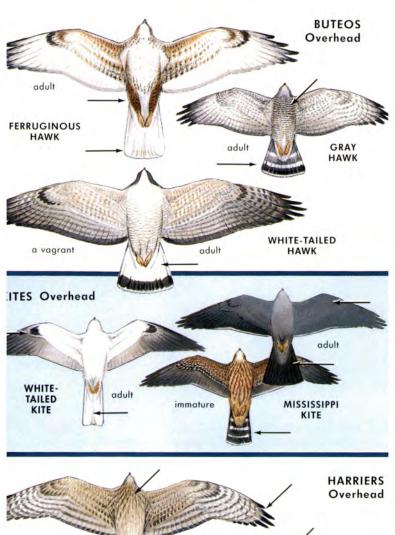


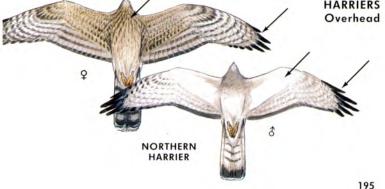
Harriers are slim, with somewhat rounded wings, long tails, and long bodies. They fly low, with a vulture-like dihedral and languid flight.

NORTHERN HARRIER Circus cyaneus

pp. 170, 171

Male: Whitish, with black wing tips and trailing edge. Gray hood. Female: Harrier shape. Brown; heavily streaked. From above, all plumages have a white rump.







ACCIPITERS have short, rounded wings and long tails. They fly with several rapid beats and a short glide. They are better adapted to hunting in woodlands than most other hawks.

Text and color plate

NORTHERN GOSHAWK Accipiter gentilis pp. 172, 173

Very large; adult (shown) with a pale, pearly gray breast. A bit more buteo-like than other accipiters. Fluffy white undertail coverts.

COOPER'S HAWK Accipiter cooperii pp. 172, 173
Medium-sized. Near size of a crow; tail rounded. Head larger, more squarish than that of Sharp-shin.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK Accipiter striatus pp. 172, 173
Small; near size of a jay; tail squarish or notched, but may appear slightly rounded when spread. Head rounder and proportionately smaller than Cooper's.



FALCONS have long, pointed wings and long tails. The wing strokes are strong and rapid, but shallow.

PEREGRINE FALCON Falco peregrinus pp. 186, 187
Falcon shape; near size of an American Crow; bold face pattern.

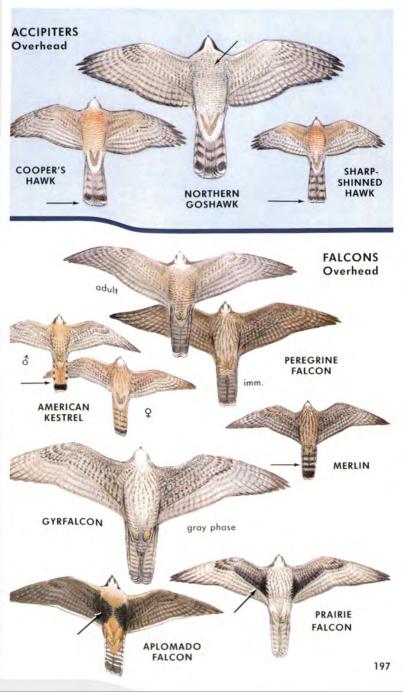
AMERICAN KESTREL Falco sparverius pp. 186, 187 Small size; banded rufous tail.

MERLIN Falco columbarius pp. 186, 187 Small size, near that of a jay; banded gray tail.

GYRFALCON Falco rusticolus pp. 184, 185
Larger than Peregrine; grayer, without that bird's contrasting pattern. Dark and white phases or morphs also occur. Arctic.

PRAIRIE FALCON Falco mexicanus pp. 186, 187 Size of Peregrine. Dark axillars ("wingpits") and inner coverts. Plains, prairies, open country.

APLOMADO FALCON Falco femoralis pp. 186, 187
Black belly band, light chest. (A Mexican border possibility.)



■ OWLS. Families Strigidae (Typical Owls) and Tytonidae (Barn Owls). Chiefly nocturnal birds of prey, with large heads and flattened faces forming facial disks; large, forward-facing eyes; hooked bills and claws; usually feathered feet (outer toe reversible). Flight noiseless, mothlike. Some species have "horns" or "ears." Sexes similar; female larger. Food: Rodents, birds, reptiles, fish, large insects. Range: Nearly worldwide. No. of species: World 134; West 12 (+1 accidental).

BARRED OWL Strix varia

M203

17-24" (43-60 cm). A large, brown, puffy-headed woodland owl with big, moist brown eyes. Barred across chest and streaked lengthwise on belly; this combination separates it from the Spotted Owl (p. 205), which it might eventually displace in the Northwest.

Voice: Not so deep as Great Horned Owl's. Usually eight accented hoots, in two groups of four: hoohoo-hoohoo, hoohoohoohooaw. Range: Canada to Honduras. West: Map 203. Habitat: Woodlands.

wooded river bottoms, wooded swamps.

M193

BARN OWL Tyto alba 14-20" (35-50 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 the large head and mothlike flight; as this species, by the unstreaked whitish or pale cinnamon underparts (ghostly at night) and the rusty back.

Similar species: Short-eared Owl (marshes) is streaked, has darker

face and underparts, yellow eyes, shorter legs.

Voice: A shrill, rasping hiss or snore: kschh or shiiish.

Range: Nearly worldwide in tropical and temperate regions: in New World from s. Canada to Tierra del Fuego. West: Map 193. Habitat: Woodlands, groves, farms, barns, towns, cliffs.

GREAT GRAY OWL Strix nebulosa

24-33" (60-83 cm). Largest owl; very tame. Dusky gray, heavily striped lengthwise on underparts. Round-headed, without ear tufts; the large, strongly lined facial disks dwarf the yellow eyes. Note the black chin spot bordered by two broad white patches like white mustaches. Tail long for an owl (12"). Often hunts by day.

Voice: A deep, booming whoo-hoo-hoo. Also deep single whoo's. Range: Boreal forests of N. Hemisphere; rare. West: Map 204. Habitat: Dense conifer forests, adjacent meadows, bogs. Often hunts by

SNOWY OWL Nyctea scandiaca

M197

20-27" (50-68 cm). A large white Arctic owl, flecked or barred with dusky. Round head, vellow eyes. Some birds (adult males) are much whiter than others. Day-flying, Perches on dunes, posts, haystacks, ground in open country. Sometimes buildings.

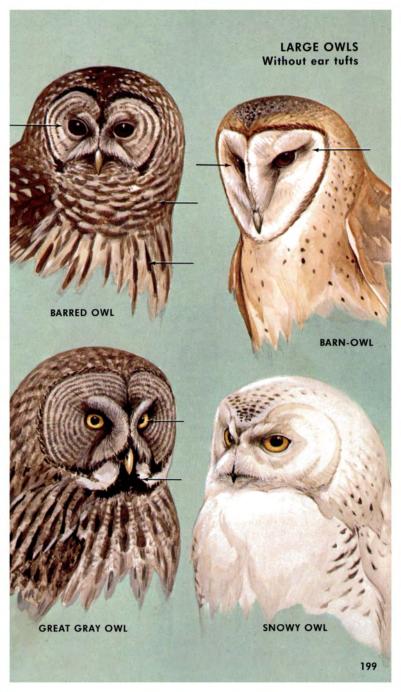
Similar species: (1) Barn-Owl is whitish on underparts only; has

dark eyes. (2) All young owls are whitish when in down.

Voice: Usually silent. Flight note when breeding is a loud, repeated

krow-ow; also a repeated rick.

Range: Arctic; circumpolar. Has cyclic winter irruptions southward. West: Map 197. Habitat: Prairies, fields, marshes, beaches, dunes; in summer, arctic tundra.



13–17" (33–43 cm). An owl of open country, often abroad by day. Streaked tawny brown color and irregular flopping flight identify it. Large buffy wing patches show in flight and on the underwing, along with a black carpal ("wrist") patch. *Dark facial disks* emphasize the yellow eyes. Long-ear has similar mothlike flight but is gray.

Voice: An emphatic, sneezy bark: kee-yow!, wow!, or waow!
Range: Nearly worldwide. West: Map 206. Habitat: Prairies,

marshes (fresh and salt), dunes, tundra.

WESTERN SCREECH-OWL Otus kennicottii

M195

7–10" (18–25 cm). A common widespread small owl with conspicuous ear tufts. Usually *gray*, but those in n. Great Basin population have two color morphs, *gray* and *brown*. Those in northern humid regions are *usually* darker brown; those in arid regions paler, grayer. **Voice:** A series of hollow whistles on one pitch, running into a tremolo (rhythm of a small ball bouncing to a standstill).

Range: Se. Alaska to cen. Mexico. Map 195. Habitat: Wooded can-

yons, farm groves, shade trees.

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL Otus asio (not shown)

M195

7–10" (18–25 cm). Two color morphs: red-brown and gray. Like the Western Screech-Owl, but separated by voice and range. Also differs in having a bright *red-brown* morph.

Voice: A mournful whinny or wail, tremulous, descending in pitch.

Sometimes a series of notes on a single pitch.

Range: S. Canada to cen. Mexico. West: Map 195.

WHISKERED SCREECH-OWL Otus trichopsis

6½-8" [16-20 cm]. Very similar to the Western Screech-Owl. Has large white spots on scapulars, coarser black spots on underparts, longer facial bristles, yellow-green bill. Readily identified by voice. **Voice:** Boobooboo-boo, boobooboo-boo, etc.; arrangement of this "code" may vary. At times a repeated, four-syllabled chooyoo-coocoo, vaguely suggestive of White-winged Dove.

Range: Resident from mountains of se. Arizona through Mexico to n. Nicaragua. Habitat: Canyons, pine-oak woods, oaks, sycamores.

LONG-EARED OWL Asio otus

M205

13–16" (33–40 cm). A slender, crow-sized owl with long ear tufts. Usually seen "frozen" close to the trunk of a tree. Much smaller than the Great Horned Owl; underparts streaked *lengthwise*, not barred crosswise. Ears closer together, erectile.

Voice: One or two long hooo's; usually silent.

Range: Canada to sw. and s.-cen. U.S.; Eurasia, n. Africa. West: Map 205. Habitat: Woodlands, conifer groves. Often roosts in groups.

205. Habitat: Woodlands, conifer groves. Often roosts in groups.

GREAT HORNED OWL Bubo virginianus

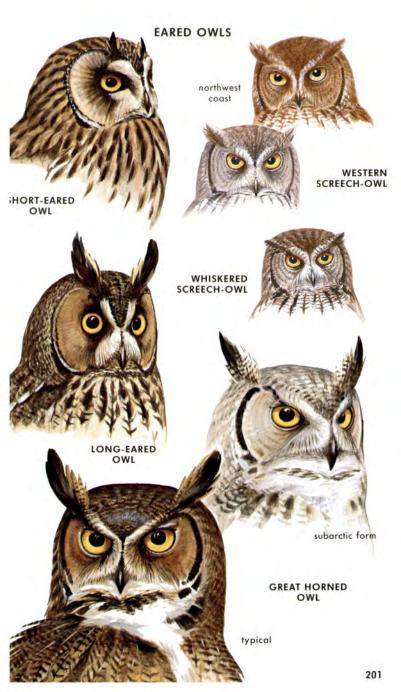
M

18–25" (45–63 cm). The "Cat Owl." A *large* owl with ear tufts or "horns." Heavily *barred* beneath; conspicuous *white throat bib.* In flight, as large as our largest hawks; looks neckless, large-headed. Varies regionally from very dark to very pale.

Voice: Male usually utters five or six resonant hoots: Hoo!, hu-hu-hu, Hoo! Hoo! Female's hoots are said to be higher, in shorter se-

quence.

Ronge: Tree limit in N. America to Tierra del Fuego. West: Map 196. Habitat: Forests, woodlots, streamsides, open country.



9–10" (23–25 cm). A small, flat-headed, earless owl. Very tame. Similar to the Saw-whet Owl, but a bit larger; facial disks pale grayish white framed with black; bill a pale horn color or yellowish; fore-head thickly spotted with white. Juvenile: Similar to young Saw-whet Owl, but duskier; eyebrows dirty whitish or gray; belly obscurely blotched, not tawny ochre.

Similar species: (1) Saw-whet Owl is smaller. Adult has a blacker bill, lacks black facial frames, and has fine white streaks, not spots, on the forehead. (2) Hawk Owl is larger, grayer, and long-tailed; it

is barred below.

Voice: Like a soft, high-pitched bell or dripping of water; an endlessly repeated *ting-ting-ting-ting-ting*, etc.

Ronge: Boreal forests of N. Hemisphere. West: Map 200. Habitat: Mixed-wood and conifer forests, muskeg. Winters in valleys, low-lands.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL Aegolius acadicus

M207

7–8½" (18–21 cm). A very tame little owl; smaller than a Screech-Owl, without ear tufts. Underparts have soft blotchy brown streaks. Young birds in summer are chocolate-brown, with conspicuous white eyebrows forming a broad V over the bill; belly *tawny ochre*. Similar species: Boreal Owl is somewhat larger, has a whitish face framed with black, and a yellowish or pale horn-colored bill.

Voice: Song, a mellow, whistled note repeated mechanically in endless succession, often 100–130 times per minute: *too*, *too*, *too*, *too*, *too*, *too*, *too*, *too*, *too*, etc. Much faster than Northern Pygmy-Owl's.

Ronge: Se. Alaska, Canada, w. and ne. U.S. to s. Mexico. West: Map 207. Habitat: Forests, conifers, groves.

BURROWING OWL Athene cunicularia

M201

9–11" (23–28 cm). A small owl of open country, often seen by day standing erect on the ground or on posts. Note the *long legs* (for an owl). About the size of a Screech-Owl; barred and spotted, with a white chin stripe, round head, and stubby tail. Bobs and bows when agitated.

Voice: A rapid, chattering quick-quick-quick. At night, a mellow

co-hoo, higher than Mourning Dove's coo.

Range: Sw. Canada, w. U.S., Florida to s. Argentina. Migratory in North. West: Map 201. Habitat: Open grassland, prairies, farmland, airfields. Nests in burrows in the ground, even in suburbs.

NORTHERN HAWK OWL Surnia ulula

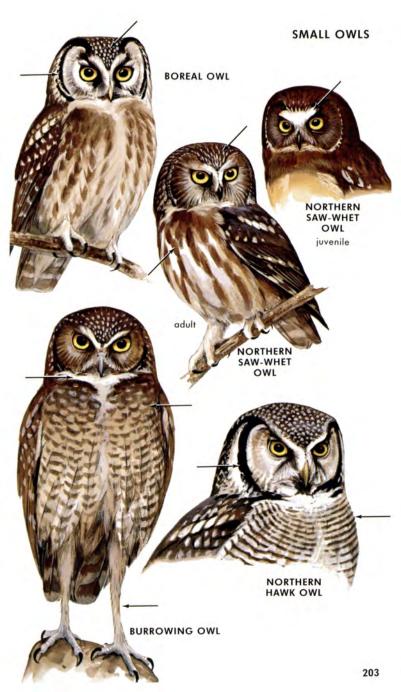
14½-17½" (37-44 cm). A medium-sized, hawklike, day-flying owl

(smaller than American Crow), with a long, rounded tail and completely barred underparts. Does not sit as erect as other owls; often perches at the tip of a tree and jerks its tail like a Kestrel. Shrikelike, it flies low, rising abuptly to its perch. Note the broad black sideburns framing the pale face.

Voice: A chattering kikikiki, more like a falcon than an owl. A

kestrel-like illy-illy-illy-illy. Also a harsh scream.

Range: Boreal forests of N. Hemisphere. West: Map 198. Habitat: Open conifer forests, birch scrub, tamarack bogs, muskeg.



16½-19" (41-48 cm). A large, dark-brown forest owl with a puffy round head. Large dark eyes (all other large N. American owls except Barn and Barred owls have yellow eyes) and heavily spotted chest and barred belly identify this reportedly endangered bird, which may eventually be displaced by the Barred Owl (p. 199).

Voice: High-pitched hoots, like barking of a small dog; usually in groups of three (hoo, hoo-hoo) or four (hoo, who-who-whooo). Also

a longer series of rapid hoots in crescendo.

Ronge: Resident of old forests from sw. British Columbia to cen. Mexico; Map 202. Habitat: Mature old-growth forests, conifers, wooded canyons.

FLAMMULATED OWL Otus flammeolus

M194

6-7" (15-18 cm). Smaller than a Screech-Owl. Our only small owl with dark eyes. Largely gray, with tawny scapulars and inconspicuous ear tufts. Southern birds are rustier. A little-known owl.

Voice: A mellow *hoot* (or *hoo-hoot*), low in pitch for so small an owl; repeated steadily at intervals of 2–3 seconds.

Ronge: Southern British Columbia, w. U.S. to Guatemala. West: Map 194. Habitat: Open pine, fir forests in mountains.

ELF OWL Micrathene whitneyi

M200

5–6" (13–15 cm). A tiny, small-headed, short-tailed, earless owl, the size of a chunky sparrow. Underparts softly striped with rusty; "eyebrows" white. Hides by day in woodpecker holes in saguaros, telephone poles, or trees. Found at night by calls.

Voice: A rapid, high-pitched *whi-whi-whi-whi-whi-whi* or *chewk-chewk-chewk*, etc., often becoming higher and more yipping or "puppy like," and chattering in the middle of the series.

Range: Sw. U.S. to cen. Mexico. Map 200. Habitat: Saguaro deserts,

wooded canvons.

FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL Glaucidium brasilianum

6½-7" (16-18 cm). Very similar to Northern Pygmy-Owl; best clue is its desert habitat along the U.S.-Mexican border. Streaking on breast *brownish* rather than black; crown has fine pale streaks (not dots). Tail rusty, barred with black.

Voice: Chook or took; sometimes repeated monotonously 2–3 times per second. Calls in daytime but more often at night.

Range: Resident from s. Arizona and lower Rio Grande Valley,

Texas, to Strait of Magellan. Habitat: Mesquite thickets, desert riverine woods, saguaros. Hunts by day. Often mobbed by birds.

NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL Glaucidium gnoma

7–7½" (18–19 cm). Black patches on each side of the hind-neck suggest "eyes on back of the head." A very small, "earless" owl, brown, with sharply streaked flanks and a rather long barred tail. Frequently heard calling or seen flying in daytime. The spotted head is proportionately smaller than that of a Saw-whet or Screech-Owl. Tail often held at a perky angle.

too-too-too-too-took-took-took.

Range: Se. Alaska, w. Canada to Honduras. Map 199. Habitat: Open coniferous or mixed woods, wooded canyons.



■ TROGONS. Family Trogonidae. Solitary, brightly colored forest birds with a short neck, stubby bill, long tail, and very small feet. Erect when perched. Trogons flutter when plucking berries. Food: Small fruits, insects. Range: Mainly tropical parts of world. No. of species: World 36; West 2.

EARED TROGON Euptilotis neoxenus

12½" (31 cm). This Mexican trogon can be separated from the Elegant Trogon by its *black* (not yellow) bill, *lack of a white band* between the green and the red, and a greater amount of white on the underside of the blue tail. "Ears" of male inconspicuous. A very rare visitor to se. Arizona (Chiricahuas).

ELEGANT TROGON Trogon elegans

(Coppery-tailed Trogon) 11–12" (28–30 cm). Note the erect posture, slightly parrot-like profile, geranium-red belly. Male: Head, chest, and upperparts deep glossy green, separated from the red belly by a narrow white band across the breast. Tail square-tipped, moderately long; bill yellow. Female: Brown, not green; less red on underparts. Note the white mark on the cheek.

Voice: A series of low, coarse notes, suggesting a hen Turkey; kowm

kowm kowm kowm kowm or koa, koa, koa, etc.

Range: Breeds from mountains of se. Arizona south to Costa Rica. Winters south of U.S. Casual, sw. New Mexico, Texas (Big Bend).

Habitat: Mountain forests, pine-oak or sycamore canyons.

■ KINGFISHERS. Family Alcedinidae. Solitary birds with large heads, heron-like bills, 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. No. of species: World 91; West 2.

GREEN KINGFISHER Chloroceryle americana

7–8½" (18–21 cm). Kingfisher shape, small size; flight buzzy, direct. Upperparts deep green with white spots; collar and underparts white, sides spotted. *Male* has a *rusty* breastband; *female* has one or two greenish bands. (Note the switch: In the Belted Kingfisher, the *female* has the rusty band.)

Voice: A sharp clicking, tick tick tick; also a sharp squeak.

Ronge: Texas to Argentina. West: Resident in s. Texas north along Rio Grande to Pecos R. Sparse straggler in Arizona (mainly Santa Cruz drainage and San Pedro Valley). Habitat: Rivers, streams.

BELTED KINGFISHER Ceryle alcyon M223

13" (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, the Kingfisher is easily recognized. Perched, it is big-headed and big-billed, larger than a Robin; blue-gray above, with a ragged bushy crest and a broad gray breastband. The female has an additional rusty breastband.

Voice: A loud dry rattle.

Ronge: Alaska, Canada to s. U.S. Winters to n. S. America. West: Map 223. Habitat: Streams, lakes, bays, coasts; nests in banks, perches on wires.



■ PIGEONS AND DOVES. Family Columbidae. Plump, fast-flying birds with small heads and low, cooing voices; they nod their heads as they walk. Two types: (1) birds with fanlike tails (Rock Dove, or Domestic Pigeon); (2) smaller, brownish birds with rounded or pointed tails (Mourning Dove). Sexes similar. Food: Seeds, waste grain, fruits, insects. Range: Nearly worldwide in tropical and temperate regions. No. of species: World 297; West 5 (+3 accidental, 3 introduced). The Red-billed Pigeon (Columba flavirostris) and White-tipped Dove (Leptotila verrauxi) of lower Rio Grande may be vagrants in w. Texas. See Field Guide to the Birds of Texas.

MOURNING DOVE Zenaida macroura

M187

12" (30 cm). The common wild dove. Brown; smaller and slimmer than Rock Dove. Note the *pointed tail* with large white spots. **Voice:** A hollow, mournful *coah*, *cooo*, *cooo*, *coo*. At a distance only

the three coo's are audible.

Ronge: Sc. Alaska, s. Canada to Panama. West: Map 187. Habitat: Farms, towns, open woods, scrub roadsides, grassland.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE Columbina passerina

M189

6½" (16 cm). A very small dove, not much larger than a sparrow. Note the stubby black tail, scaly breast, and rounded wings that flash rufous in flight. Feet yellow or pink.

Voice: A soft, monotonously repeated woo-oo, woo-oo, etc. May

sound monosyllabic-wooo, with rising inflection.

Range: Southern U.S. to Costa Rica; n. S. America. West: Map 189. Habitat: Farms, orchards, wood edges, roadsides.

INCA DOVE Columbina inca

M188

7½" (19 cm). A very small, slim dove with a scaly look. Rufous in the primaries (as in Ground-Dove), but has a longer, square-ended tail, with white sides. Voice: A monotonous coo-hoo or no-hope.

Ronge: Sw. U.S. to nw. Costa Rica. West: Map 188. Hobitot: Towns, parks, farms.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE Zenaida asiatica

M186

11–11½" (28–29 cm). A dove of the desert, readily known by the *large white wing patches*. Otherwise similar to the Mourning Dove, but tail *rounded*, and tipped with broad white corners.

Voice: A harsh cooing, "who cooks for you?"; also, ooo-uh-cuck'oo.

Sounds vaguely like the crowing of a young rooster.

Range: Sw. U.S. to n. Chile. West: Map 186. Habitat: River woods, mesquite, saguaros, desert oases, groves, towns.

mesquite, saguaros, desert oases, groves, town BAND-TAILED PIGEON Columba fasciata

M185

14–15½" (35–39 cm). Heavily built; might be mistaken for a Rock Dove (Domestic Pigeon) except for its woodland or mountain habitat and greater tendency to alight in trees. Note the *broad pale band* across the end of the fanlike tail. At close range, shows a white crescent on nape. Feet yellow. Bill yellow with dark tip.

Voice: A hollow, owl-like oo-whoo or whoo-oo-whoo, repeated.

Range: Sw. British Columbia through Pacific states and Rockies to
Argentina. Map 185. Habitat: Oak canyons, foothills, chaparral,

mountain forests; spreads in winter.

RINGED TURTLE-DOVE, SPOTTED DOVE. See p. 210.

PIGEONS, DOVES continued on p. 210.



RINGED TURTLE-DOVE Streptopelia risoria

12" (30 cm). Near size of Mourning Dove, but paler beige. Note the *narrow black ring on the hind-neck*. Tail *rounded*, with much white in the corners. Dark primaries contrast boldly with its pale coloration. A domestic bred variant of the African Turtle-Dove (*S. roseogrisea*). Seen very locally in city parks in Los Angeles, rarely elsewhere, not established.

Voice: A purring cooing; rising, then dropping in pitch.

SPOTTED DOVE Streptopelia chinensis

13" (33 cm). Note the *broad collar of black and white spots* on the hindneck. A bit larger than the Mourning Dove; tail rounded or blunt-tipped, with much white in the corners. Juvenile birds lack the collar, but may be told by the shape of the spread tail (Mourning Dove's tail is pointed).

Voice: Coo-who-coo; resembles cooing of White-winged Dove.

Range: Se. Asia. West: Introduced in Los Angeles; has spread radially to Santa Barbara, Bakersfield, Oceanside, San Diego, s. Arizona. Habitat: Residential areas, parks, river woods.

ROCK DOVE Columba livia

(Domestic Pigeon) 13" (33 cm). Typical birds are gray with a whitish rump, two black wing bars, and a broad, dark tail band. Domestic stock or feral birds may have many color variants.

Voice: Familiar to city dwellers; a soft, gurgling coo-roo-coo.

Range: Old World origin; worldwide in domestication. West: Sustains self in wild about cities, farms, cliffs, bridges.

■ PARROTS, PARAKEETS. Family Psittacidae. Noisy and gaudily colored. Compact, short-necked birds with stout, hooked bills. Parakeets are smaller, with pointed tails. Feet zygodactyl (two toes fore, two aft). Range: Worldwide in tropics and subtropics. No. of species: World 271; West 1 formerly (+ at least 6 introduced).

THICK-BILLED PARROT Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha

15–16½" (38–41 cm). A stocky green parrot with a longish tail, heavy black bill, and dark red forehead. In flight, a yellow patch under the wing. Northern and cen. Mexico. Formerly a sporadic visitor to mountains of se. Arizona, sw. New Mexico. Last recorded in the wild in 1922. Recently a small number from Mexico have been released into the Chiricahuas (Arizona) with the hope that a resident population will become established.

■ EXOTIC PARROTS. A number of these have been released or have escaped, especially around urban centers in California. Six are shown here.

WHITE-WINGED PARAKEET Brotogeris versicolurus

(S. America) Note the white and yellow wing patch. Local resident of Palo Verdes, Los Angeles; a few elsewhere.

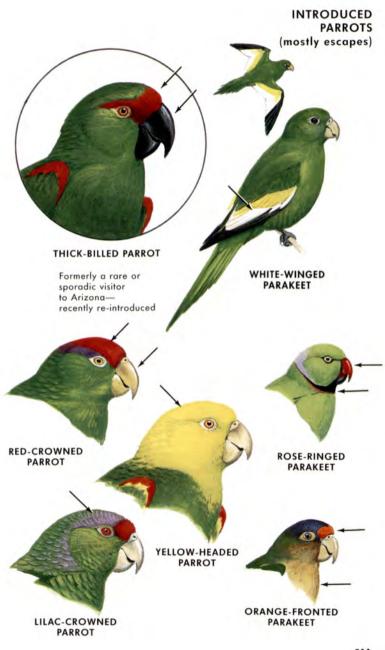
RED-CROWNED PARROT Amazona viridigenalis

(Mexico) Entire crown red (compare Lilac-crowned). A few live in the Los Angeles area. Has nested in San Gabriel Valley.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET Psittacula krameri

(India) Narrow rose and black necklace; red bill; slender tail. A few in suburbs on coastal slopes of s. California.

EXOTIC PARROTS continued on p. 212.



■ EXOTIC PARROTS (continued). See illustrations on p. 211.

YELLOW-HEADED PARROT Amazona oratrix

(Tropical America) Distinctive; breeds locally in and around w. Los Angeles and w. San Gabriel Valley; often seen elsewhere.

LILAC-CROWNED PARROT Amazona finschi

(Mexico) Red forehead, *lilac* crown, green cheeks, pale bill. A few live in the Los Angeles area. Has nested in San Gabriel Valley.

ORANGE-FRONTED PARAKEET Aratinga canicularis

(Mexico) Orange forehead, brown breast. Local, s. California.

■ CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS, ANIS. Family Cuculidae. Slender, long-tailed birds; feet zygodactyl (two toes forward, two aft). Sexes alike. Food: Cuckoos eat caterpillars, other insects; roadrunners eat reptiles; anis eat seeds, fruits. Range: Warm and temperate regions of the world. No. of species: World 132, West 4 (+2 accidental, see pp. 352, 353). Our cuckoos are not parasitic.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO Coccyzus americanus

WIAI

11–13" [28–33 cm]. Known as a cuckoo by the slim sinuous look, brown back, and white underparts; as this species, by *rufous* in the wings, *large white* spots at tips of black undertail feathers, and *yellow* lower mandible on the slightly curved bill.

Voice: Song, a rapid throaty ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-kow-

kow-kowlp-kowlp—kowlp—kowlp (retarded toward end).

Range: S. Canada to Mexico, W. Indies. Winters to Argentina. West: Map 191. Habitat: Riverine woodlands, thickets, farms; declining.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO Coccyzus erythropthalmus M190 11–12" [28–30 cm]. Similar to Yellow-billed Cuckoo, but bill black; narrow red eye-ring (in adult). No rufous in the wing; undertail spots small. The immature has a yellow eye-ring like the Yellow-billed Cuckoo's, but has an all-black bill.

Voice: A fast, rhythmic *cucucu*, *cucucu*, *cucucu*, etc. The grouped rhythm (three or four) is typical. May sing at night.

Range: S. Canada, cen. and ne. U.S. Winters to Argentina. West: Map 190. Habitat: Wood edges, groves, thickets.

GROOVE-BILLED ANI Crotophaga sulcirostris

13" (33 cm). A coal-black, grackle-sized bird, with a loose-jointed tail, short wings, and a deep bill with a high, curved, puffin-like ridge. Flight weak; alternately flaps and sails.

Voice: A repeated whee-o or tee-ho, first note slurring up.

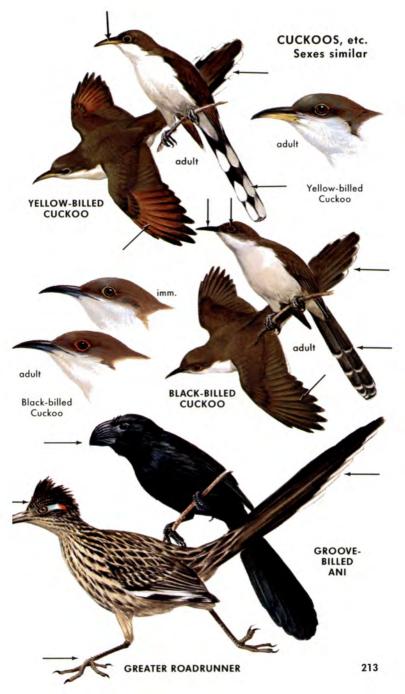
Range: Gulf of Mexico to Argentina. West: A very rare but regular stray to s. Arizona; casual or accidental, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, s. California.

GREATER ROADRUNNER Geococcyx californianus M

20–24" (50–60 cm). The cuckoo that runs on the ground (tracks show two toes forward, two aft). A large, slender, streaked bird, with a long, white-edged tail; shaggy crest; and long legs. White crescent on wing (visible when spread).

Voice: Six to eight low, dove-like coo's, descending in pitch.

Range: Sw. U.S. to cen. Mexico. West: Map 192. Habitat: Deserts; dry, open country with scattered cover, brush.



■ GOATSUCKERS (NIGHTJARS). Family Caprimulgidae. Nocturnal birds with ample tails, large eyes, tiny bills, large bristled gapes, and very short legs. By day, they rest horizontally on limbs or on the ground, camouflaged by "dead-leaf" pattern. Identified at night by voice. Food: Nocturnal insects. Range: Nearly worldwide in temperate and tropical land regions. No. of species: World 72; West 5 (+1 accidental).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK Chordeiles minor

M209

91/2" (24 cm). A slim-winged, gray-brown bird, often seen high in the air; flies with easy strokes, "changing gear" to quicker erratic strokes. Note the broad white bar across the pointed wing. Male has a white bar across its notched tail and a white throat. Prefers dusk, but may be abroad at midday.

Voice: A nasal peent or pee-ik. In aerial display, the male dives,

then zooms up sharply with a sudden deep whir of wings.

Ronge: Canada to Panama. Winters to Argentina. West: Map 209. Habitat: Open country to mountains; open pine woods; often seen in air over cities, towns. Sits on ground, posts, rails, roofs, limbs.

LESSER NIGHTHAWK Chordeiles acutipennis 8-9" (20-23 cm). Smaller than the Common Nighthawk; white bar (buffy in female) closer to tip of wing. Readily identified by odd calls and manner of flight-very low, seldom high. Does not powerdive. A bird of lowlands, not mountains.

Voice: A low chuck chuck and a soft purring or whinnying sound,

much like the trilling of a toad.

WHIP-POOR-WILL Caprimulgus vociferus

Range: Sw. U.S. to n. Chile, Brazil. West: Map 208. Habitat: Arid

scrub, dry grassland, fields, prairie, desert washes.

91/2" (24 cm). A voice in the night woods. 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.

Voice: At night, a rolling, tiresomely repeated whip' poor-weel', or

purple-rib, etc.; accent on first and last syllables.

Range: E. Canada, sw. U.S. to Honduras. Winters from Gulf states to Honduras. West: Map 211. Habitat: Leafy woodlands.

BUFF-COLLARED NIGHTJAR Caprimulgus ridgwayi

 $8\frac{1}{2}-9''$ (21–23 cm). Similar to the Whip-poor-will, but with a buff

or tawny collar across the hind-neck.

Voice: Staccato, cricketlike notes, terminating with a longer, strongly accented phrase, cuk-cuk-cuk-cuk-cuk-cuk-cuk-cukacheea. Range: Mainly Mexico (Sonora to Chiapas). West: Guadalupe Canyon (sw. New Mexico and se. Arizona); occasionally elsewhere in se. Arizona. Habitat: Rocky juniper-mesquite slopes.

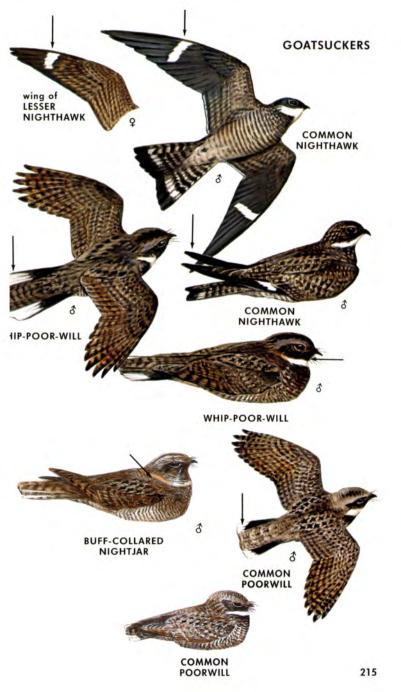
COMMON POORWILL Phalaenoptilus nuttallii M210

7-8" (18-20 cm). Best known by its night cry in arid hills. It appears smaller than a Nighthawk, has more rounded wings (no white bar). and its short, rounded tail has white corners.

Voice: At night, a loud, repeated poor-will or poor-jill.

Range: Se. British Columbia, w. U.S. to cen. Mexico. West: Map 210.

Habitat: Dry hills, open brush, dirt roads.



■ HUMMINGBIRDS. Family Trochilidae. The smallest birds. Iridescent, with needle-like bills for sipping nectar. Jewel-like gorgets (throat feathers) adorn most adult males. Hummingbirds hover when feeding; their wing motion is so rapid that the wings appear blurred. They can fly backward. Pugnacious. Food: Nectar (red flowers favored); small insects, spiders. Range: W. Hemisphere; majority in tropics. No. of species: World 308; West 15 (+3 accidental).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD Calypte anna

M217

3½-4" (9-10 cm). Male: The only U.S. hummer with a red crown. Throat red. Female: Similar to females of other West Coast hummers; larger, darker green above. Grayer below, with a more heavily spotted throat than female Costa's or Black-chin. Often a central patch of red spots on throat. The only hummingbird commonly found in California in midwinter.

Voice: Feeding note, chick. Song (from a perch), squeaking, grating notes. When diving in its aerial "pendulum display," the male

makes a sharp popping sound at the bottom of the arc.

Range: See Map 217. Habitat: Gardens, chaparral, open woods.

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD Selasphorus platycercus M

4-4½" (10-11 cm). The male of this Rocky Mt. species may be known by the sound of its wings, a shrill trilling. Male: Back green; throat bright rose-red. Female: Larger than the female Black-chin; sides tinged with buffy; touch of rufous at basal corners of tail.

Range: Western U.S. to Guatemala. Map 220. Habitat: Mountains.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD Archilochus colubris
3-3¾" (8-9 cm). Male of Ruby-throat, an eastern species, has a
glowing fiery-red throat, iridescent green back. Note the forked tail.
Female lacks the red throat; tail blunt, with white spots.

Similar species: Male Broad-tailed Hummer lacks forked tail.

Ronge: S. Canada to Gulf states. Winters s. Texas, s. Florida to w. Panama. West: Map 215.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD Selasphorus sasin

M222

3½" (9 cm). Male: Like the Rufous Hummingbird (rufous sides, rump, tail, and cheeks; fiery throat), but the back is green. Female: Indistinguishable in the field from the female Rufous (in the hand, Allen's has narrower outer tail feathers).

Similar species: Male Rufous has the entire back rufous.

Voice: Aerial display of male unlike that of Rufous. Starts "pendulum display" in a shallow arc and after a number of swoops goes into a steep climb and swoops back, with an air-splitting *vrrrip*. (H. Cogswell).

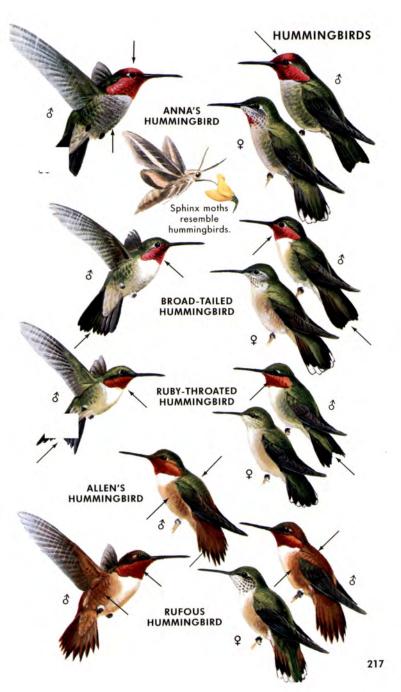
Range: Breeds in coastal California; winters in nw. Mexico. Map 222. Habitat: Wooded or brushy canyons, parks, gardens; mountain

meadows.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD Selasphorus rufus M221

3½" (9 cm). Male: No other North American hummingbird has a rufous back. Upperparts bright red-brown; throat flaming orangered. Aerial display, a closed ellipse, slowing on return climb. Female: Green-backed; dull rufous on sides and at base of tail.

Range: Breeds in nw. N. America; winters in Mexico. Map 221.



BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD Lampornis clemenciae

4½-5½" (11-14 cm). Note the big tail with its exceptionally large white patches. Male: A very large hummingbird, with black and white streaks around the eye and a light blue throat; big black tail with large white patches. Female: Large, with evenly gray underparts, white marks on the face, and a big, blue-black tail with large white corners, as in the male.

Voice: Note, a squeaking seek.

Ronge: Sw. U.S. to s. Mexico. West: Mountains of se. Arizona, extreme sw. New Mexico, w. Texas (Chisos Mts.). Casual or accidental California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado. Habitot: Wooded streams in lower canyons of mountains.

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD Eugenes fulgens

(Rivoli's Hummingbird) 4½-5" (11–13 cm). Male: A very large hummingbird with a blackish belly, bright green throat, and purple crown. Looks all black at a distance. Wingbeats discernible; sometimes the bird scales on set wings. Female: Large; greenish above, washed with greenish or dusky below. Known from female Bluethroated by more mottled underparts, spotted throat, dark greenish tail, obscure pale tail corners.

Voice: Note, a thin, sharp chip; distinctive.

Range: Sw. U.S. to n. Nicaragua. West: Breeds or summers in mountains of se. Arizona and locally in sw. New Mexico, w. Colorado, w. Texas. Casual or accidental, Nevada, California, Utah, Wyoming. Habitat: Mountain glades, pine-oak woods, canyons.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD Cynanthus latirostris

3½-4" [8-10 cm]. Male: Dark green above and below, with a blue throat (bird may look all black at a distance). Bill bright red, with a black tip. Female: Identified by combination of red bill and unmarked, pearly gray throat; thin white line behind eye. Females of most other hummers have some spots on the throat.

Range: Sw. U.S. to s. Mexico. West: Summers (rarely winters) in s. Arizona; also summers sw. New Mexico, w. Texas (sparse; Big Bend to Alpine); casual, se. California, Utah. Habitat: Desert canyons, mountain slopes, agaves, mesquite.

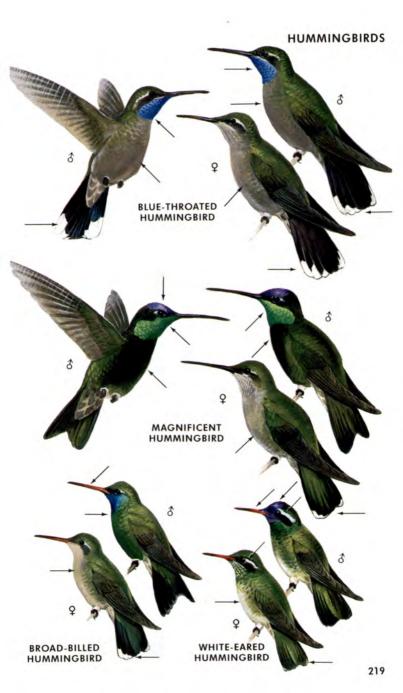
WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD Hylocharis leucotis

3½" (9 cm). Male: Bill red, with a black tip; broad white stripe behind the eye. Underparts dark greenish, throat blue and green, crown purple. Female: Has the red bill and bold white stripe behind

the eye. Note the small green spots on the throat.

Similar species: Male Broad-billed Hummingbird has a well-forked tail and only a touch of white behind the eye. Caution: Female Broad-bill is often mistaken for a female White-eared (red bill and pronounced white eyestripe), but if the throat and underparts are evenly gray, the bird is a female Broad-bill.

Ronge: Mexican border to Nicaragua. A sparse summer visitor to mountains of se. Arizona. Casual or accidental, sw. New Mexico, w. Texas (Chisos Mts.). Hobitot: Pine-oak woods near streams.



CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD Stellula calliope

M219

2¾-3¼" (7–8 cm). The smallest hummer normally found in the U.S. Male: Throat with purple-red rays on white ground (may be folded like a dark inverted V on a white throat); the only U.S. humming-bird with this effect. Female: Very similar to females of Broad-tailed and Rufous hummingbirds (buffy sides, rufous base of tail), but decidedly smaller; rusty on sides paler.

Ronge: Sw. Canada to Baja California. Winters in Mexico. Map 219. Habitat: Seldom away from high mountains; canyons, forest glades.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD Archilochus alexandri M216
3½" (9 cm). Male: Note the black throat and conspicuous white collar. The blue-violet of lower throat shows only in certain lights. Throats of other hummers may look black until they catch the light. Female: Greenish above, whitish below. Cannot safely be told in field from female Costa's or Ruby-throat. Call note, teew.

Ronge: Western U.S., n. Mexico. Map 216. Habitat: Semi-arid country, river groves, canyons, slopes, chaparral, suburbs.

VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD Amazilia violiceps

41/4" (10 cm). A rather large hummer with *immaculate white underparts, including the throat;* bill red, with a black tip. Sexes similar, but crown violet-blue in male, dull greenish blue in female and immature. No iridescent gorget on male.

Range: Mainly Sonora to Chiapas. Breeds in Guadalupe Canyon in extreme se. Arizona, sw. New Mexico, rarely elsewhere in se. Arizona. Habitat: Stream groves in canyons, sycamores, agaves.

LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD Calothorax lucifer

3½" (9 cm). Note the decurved bill. Male has a purple throat, rusty or buffy sides. No purple on crown (as in Costa's), tail deeply forked, often folded. Female: Decurved bill, uniform buff breast.

Ronge: W. Texas to s. Mexico. Breeds in w. Texas (Chisos Mts.), rarely se. Arizona, sw. New Mexico. Habitat: Arid slopes, agaves.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD Calypte costae

3-3½" [8-9 cm]. Male: Note the purple or amethyst throat and crown. Feathers of gorget project markedly at sides. Female: Very similar to female Black-chin, but prefers more arid conditions. Voices differ. Often soars from one flower clump to another.

Range: Sw. U.S., nw. Mexico. Map 218. Habitat: Deserts, washes,

mesas, sage scrub, arid hillsides.

BUMBLEBEE HUMMINGBIRD Atthis heloisa

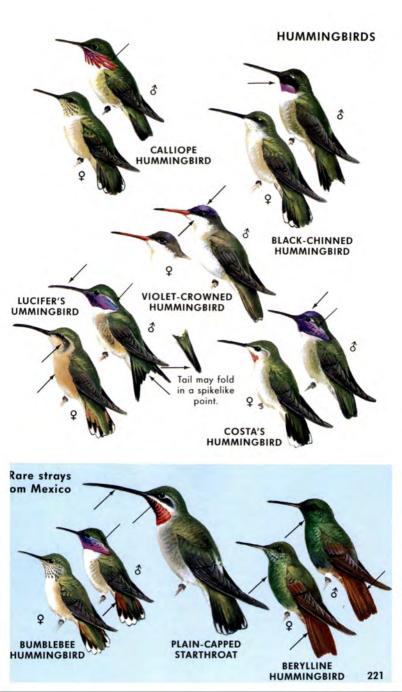
2¾" (7 cm). Tiny; resembles the Lucifer Hummingbird (elongated purple gorget) but bill short, straight; tail rounded, with a rufous base. Ronge: Mexico. Accidental, se. Arizona.

PLAIN-CAPPED STARTHROAT Heliomaster constantii

4½" (11 cm). A large, long-billed hummer, with a red throat, white facial stripes, white rump. Ronge: Mexico. Casual or accidental stray to se. Arizona (usually at feeders).

BERYLLINE HUMMINGBIRD Amazilia beryllina

3½" (9 cm). Male: Glittering green on underparts; deep rich rufous in wings, rump, and tail. Bill partly red. Female: Duller; belly gray. Range: Mexico. West: Sparse visitor and rare breeder in mountains of se. Arizona.



■ WOODPECKERS. Family Picidae. Chisel-billed, wood-boring birds with strong zygodactyl feet (usually two toes front, two rear), remarkably long tongues, and stiff spiny tails that act as props when climbing. Flight usually undulating. Most males have some red on the head. Food: Tree-boring insects; some species eat ants, flying insects, berries, acorns, sap. Range: Mainly wooded parts of the world; absent in Australian region, Madagascar, most oceanic islands. No. of species (including allies): World 212; West 20 (+2 accidental).

PILEATED WOODPECKER Dryocopus pileatus

M238

16–19½" (40–49 cm). A spectacular black, *crow-sized* woodpecker, with a flaming red *crest*. The female has a blackish forehead, lacks red on the mustache. The great size, sweeping wingbeats, and flashing white underwing areas identify the Pileated in flight. The diggings—large *oval* or *oblong* holes—indicate its presence.

Voice: Call resembles that of Flicker, but louder, irregular: *kik-kik-kik-kik-kik-kik*, etc. Also a more ringing, hurried call that may rise

or fall slightly in pitch and volume.

Range: Canada to s. U.S. West: Map 238. Habitat: Conifer, mixed,

and hardwood forests; woodlots.

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER Melanerpes lewis

M224

10½-11½" (26-29 cm). A large, dark, black-backed woodpecker, with an extensive *pinkish red belly* (the only N. American woodpecker so colored). Has a wide gray collar and dark red face patch. The pink underparts and wide black wings are the best marks. Sexes similar. Has straight crow-like flight; fly-catching habit.

Voice: Usually silent. Occasionally a harsh churr or chee-ur.

Range: Sw. Canada, w. U.S. Map 224. Habitat: Scattered or logged

forest, river groves, burns, foothills.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER Melanerpes erythrocephalus 8½-9½" [21-24 cm]. A black-backed woodpecker with a head that is entirely red (other woodpeckers may have a patch of red). Back solid black, rump white. Large, square white patches are conspicuous on the wing (making the lower back look white when the bird is on a tree). Sexes similar. Immature is dusky-headed; the large white wing patches identify it.

Similar species: Red-breasted Sapsucker also has an entirely red

head but a different range (Pacific states). See p. 227.

Voice: A loud queer or queeah.

Ronge: East of Rockies from s. Canada to Gulf states. West: Map 225. Hobitot: Groves, farm country, orchards, shade trees in towns, large scattered trees.

ACORN WOODPECKER Melanerpes formicivorus M226 8-9½" [20-24 cm]. Note the clownish black, white, and red head pattern. A black-backed woodpecker showing a conspicuous white rump and white wing patches in flight. Both sexes have whitish eyes, red on crown. This woodpecker stores acorns in bark.

Voice: Whack-up, whack-up, whack-up, or ja-cob, ja-cob.

Ronge: Resident, w. U.S. to Colombia. Map 226. Habitat: Oak woods, groves, mixed forest, oak-pine canyons, foothills.



WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER Picoides albolarvatus

M234 9" (23 cm). Our only woodpecker with a white head. Male has a red patch on the nape; otherwise black, with a large white patch in the primaries. No white on the rump (as in Acorn).

Voice: A sharp chick, sometimes rapidly repeated, chick-ik-ik-ik-

also a rattle similar to Downy Woodpecker's.

Range: Western N. America. Map 234. Habitat: Mountain pine forests.

DOWNY WOODPECKER Picoides pubescens

M232

61/2" (16 cm). Note the white back and small bill. This industrious bird is like a small edition of the Hairy Woodpecker, which has a large bill. Birds of the humid Pacific Northwest have smoky graybrown underparts. The amount of white spotting in the wings varies regionally, as it does in the next species.

Voice: A rapid whinny of notes, descending in pitch. Note, a flat

pick, not as sharp as the Hairy's peek!

Range: Alaska, Canada to s. U.S. West: Map 232. Habitat: Forests, woods, river groves, willows, orchards, shade trees.

HAIRY WOODPECKER Picoides villosus

M233

91/2" (24 cm). Note the white back and large bill. The Downy and Hairy are almost identical in pattern, checkered and spotted with black and white; males with a small red patch on back of the head, females without. The Hairy is like an exaggerated Downy, especially the bill. Hairys of the humid northwestern belt have a soiled tinge on the back and smoky underparts.

Similar species: The Downy at close range shows spots on the outer

tail feathers. The small bill is the best character.

Voice: A Kingfisher-like rattle, run together more than the call of the Downy. Note, a sharp peek! (Downy says pick.)

Range: Alaska, Canada to Panama. West: Map 233. Habitat: Forests,

woodlands, river groves, shade trees.

M235

M236

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER Picoides tridactylus (Northern Three-toed Woodpecker) 8-91/2" (20-24 cm). Males of this and the next species are our only woodpeckers that normally have yellow caps. Both have barred sides. This species is distinguished by the irregular white patch on the back (Rockies) or bars (further north). The female lacks the yellow cap and suggests a Downy or Hairy Woodpecker. Note the barred sides.

Similar species: (1) Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker has a solid black back. (2) Rarely, an immature Hairy Woodpecker has a

yellowish or orange cap, but lacks bars on the flanks.

Range: Boreal forests of N. Hemisphere. West: Map 235. Habitat: Conifer forests.

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER Picoides arcticus

(Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker) 9-10" (23-25 cm). Note the combination of the solid black back and barred sides. Males have yellow caps. This and the preceding species (both have three toes) inhabit the colder boreal forests; their presence can be detected by patches of bark scaled from dead conifers.

Voice: A short, sharp kik or chik. Also in series.

Range: Boreal forests of n. N. America. West: Map 236. Habitat: Forests of firs and spruces.



NORTHERN FLICKER Colaptes auratus

M237

(Including "Yellow-shafted," "Red-shafted," and "Gilded" Flicker.) 12-14" (30-35 cm). In flight, note the conspicuous white rump. This and the barred brown back mark the bird as a Flicker. Close up, it shows a black patch across the chest. Flight deeply undulating. Often hops awkwardly on the ground, feeding on ants. Three basic types are recognized:

(1) "YELLOW-SHAFTED" FLICKER: The northern and eastern form. Overhead, it flashes golden yellow under the wings and tail. Red

crescent on nape; the male has a black mustache.

(2) "RED-SHAFTED" FLICKER: The widespread western form. Similar to "Yellow-shafted," but wing and tail linings salmon-red. Both sexes lack red crescent on nape; male has red mustache. Where ranges overlap (western edge of Plains) hybrids occur; these may have orange linings or a combination of characters.

(3) "GILDED" FLICKER: Resident in deserts of se. California (Colorado R.), s. Arizona, Baja California. Wing and tail linings usually yellow, but males have a red mustache. In essence, has head of

"Red-shafted" but body of "Yellow-shafted."

Voice: A loud wick wick wick wick, etc. Also a loud klee-ver

and a squeaky flick-a, flick-a, etc.

Range: Tree limit in Alaska, Canada, south to Nicaragua. West: Map 237. Habitat: Open forests, woodlots, groves, farms, towns, semi-open country. Also saguaros, deserts ("Gilded" Flicker).

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER Sphyrapicus thyroideus M230 91/2" (24 cm). Male: Black crown, black back, long white shoulder

patch. Note white facial stripes, red throat, yellow belly. In flight, black with white rump and shoulder patches. Female: A brownish, "zebra-backed" woodpecker with a white rump, barred sides, brown head, yellow belly. This coloration and evergreen habitat separate it from other zebra-backed woodpeckers.

Voice: A nasal cheeer. Drumming; several rapid thumps followed by three or four slow, accented thumps: -----,-,-,

Range: Se. British Columbia, w. U.S.: winters into n. Mexico. Map

230. Habitat: Higher conifer forests, burns.

RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER Sphyrapicus ruber M229

8-9" (20-23 cm). This sapsucker of the Pacific region has the entire head and breast bright red. Long white wing patch and other markings much like those of Red-naped and Yellow-bellied sapsuckers, with which it was formerly lumped as a single species. East of Rockies, see Red-headed Woodpecker (p. 223).

Range: Se. Alaska to Baja California. Map 229.

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER Sphyrapicus nuchalis 8-9" (20-23 cm). Note the longish white wing patch, red forehead

and nape. Immature: Brown, with the distinctive white wing patch. Sapsuckers drill orderly rows of small holes in trees for sap.

Voice: A nasal mewing note: cheerrrr. Also drums: several rapid thumps followed by several slow, rhythmic thumps.

Range: Rockies, Great Basin, etc. Winters to cen. Mexico. West: Map 228. Habitat: Woodlands, aspen groves, orchards.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER See text on p. 228.



YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER Sphyrapicus varius

M228

Illus., p. 227. 8-9" (20-23 cm). This sapsucker replaces the Rednaped Sapsucker to the north and east of the Rockies (Map 228). Differs in lacking red on the nape. Female has a white throat.

NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER Picoides nuttallii

7–7½" (18–19 cm). The only black and white, "zebra-backed" woodpecker with a black-and-white-striped face normally found in California west of the Sierra. Males have red caps. The similar Ladder-backed Woodpecker lives in arid country; ranges barely overlap (hybrids are known). See Downy Woodpecker.

Voice: A high-pitched whinny or rattle. Note, a low pa-teck.

Ronge: Resident, California, nw. Baja California. Map 225. Habitat: Wooded canyons and foothills, river woods, groves, orchards.

LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER Picoides scalaris
6-7½" (15-19 cm). The only black and white, "zebra-backed" woodpecker with a black and white striped face in the more arid country east of the Sierra (Map 231). Males have red caps.

Similar species: Nuttall's Woodpecker is found only in California west of the Sierra, not in the desert. There are minor differences in

the face pattern and the amount of black on the back.

Voice: A rattling series; chikikikikikikikikikiki; diminishing. Call note, a sharp pick or chik.

Range: Resident, sw. U.S. to ne. Nicaragua. Map 231. Habitat: Des-

erts, canyons, river woods, groves, dry woods, arid brush.

GILA WOODPECKER Melanerpes uropygialis

8-10" (20-25 cm). Male: Note the round red cap. A "zebra-backed" woodpecker; in flight, shows a white wing patch. Head and underparts gray-brown. Female: Similar, but without the red cap.

Similar species: The only other woodpeckers resident in the desert where this bird is found are: (1) Flicker (brown); (2) Ladder-backed (striped face). Neither has a white wing patch.

Voice: A rolling churr and a sharp pit or yip.

Range: Resident, sw. U.S. to cen. Mexico. Map 227. Habitat: Desert

washes, saguaros, river groves, cottonwoods, towns.

8½-10½" (21-26 cm). Male: Note the separated patches of bright color on the head (yellow near bill, poppy-red on crown, orange nape). A "zebra-backed" woodpecker with light underparts and a white rump. Shows a white wing patch in flight. Female: Similar, without the red crown patch; has a yellow-orange nape patch. Young bird lacks color patches on its head.

Voice: A tremulous churrr. A flicker-like kek-kek-kek-kek, etc.
Range: Sw. Oklahoma, Texas south to Nicaragua. West: Map 227.

Habitat: Mesquite, stream woodlands, groves.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER Melanerpes carolinus

 $9\frac{1}{2}-10\frac{1}{2}$ " (24–26 cm). This eastern "zebra-backed" woodpecker barely crosses the 100° line into the West. Males have a *complete red cap*; females are red on the nape only.

Range: Eastern U.S., resident locally west to cen. and n. Texas, w.

Oklahoma, s. Colorado.

STRICKLAND'S WOODPECKER See text on p. 230.



STRICKLAND'S WOODPECKER Picoides stricklandii (illus., p. 229) (Arizona Woodpecker) 7–8" (18–20 cm). A dark, brown-backed woodpecker, with a white-striped face; spotted and barred below. Male has a red nape patch. The only U.S. woodpecker with a solid brown back (Flicker has a barred brown back, white rump).

Voice: A sharp spik. A hoarse whinny.

Range: Resident from mountains of se. Arizona and sw. New Mexico south to s.-cen. Mexico. Habitat: Oaks in mountains, pine-oak canyons.

■ TYRANT FLYCATCHERS, etc. Family Tyrannidae. Most flycatchers perch quietly, sitting upright on exposed branches, and sally forth to snap up insects. Bill flattened, with bristles at base. Food: Mainly flying insects. Range: New World; majority in tropics. No. of species: World 401; West 35 (+1 accidental).

ROSE-THROATED BECARD Pachyramphus aglaiae

6½" (16 cm). Big-headed and thick-billed. Male: Dark gray above, pale to dusky below, with a blackish cap and cheeks and a lovely rose-colored throat. Female: Brown above, with a dark cap and a light buffy collar around the nape. Underparts strong buff. The becards, a subfamily of the Tyrannidae, were formerly placed in a different family, the cotingas, Family Cotingidae.

Voice: A thin, slurred whistle, seeoo.

Ronge: Mexican border to Costa Rica. A local summer resident in se. Arizona and lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas. Habitat: Wooded canyons, river groves, sycamores.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER Tyrannus forficatus

M257

11–15" (28–38 cm). A beautiful bird, pale pearly gray, with an extremely long, scissorlike tail that is usually folded. Sides and wing linings salmon-pink. Young birds with shorter tails may suggest Western Kingbird. Hybrids are known.

Voice: A harsh keck or kew; a repeated ka-leep; also shrill, king-

bird-like bickerings and stutterings.

Range: Breeds sw. U.S.; winters s. Mexico to Panama. Map 257. Habitat: Semi-open country, ranches, farms, roadsides, wires.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER Pyrocephalus rubinus

6" (15 cm). Male: Crown (often raised in a bushy crest) and underparts flaming vermilion; upperparts and tail dusky to blackish. Immature male: Breast whitish, with some streaks; belly and undertail coverts washed with vermilion. Female: Breast whitish, narrowly streaked; belly washed with pinkish. Immature female: Belly washed with yellow.

Voice: P-p-pit-zee or pit-a-zee.

Range: Sw. U.S. to Argentina. West: Map 251. Habitat: Wooded streams in arid country, dry scrub, desert, savanna, ranches.



EASTERN KINGBIRD Tyrannus tyrannus

M256

8" (20 cm). The white band across the tail tip marks the Eastern Kingbird. Red crown mark is concealed, rarely seen. Often seems to fly quiveringly on "tips of wings." Harasses crows, hawks.

Voice: A rapid sputter of high bickering notes: dzee-dzee-dzee, etc.,

and kit-kit-kitter-kitter, etc. Also a nasal dzeep.

Range: Cen. Canada to Gulf of Mexico. Winters Colombia to n. Argentina. West: Map 256. Habitat: Wood edges, river groves, farms, shelter belts, orchards, roadsides, fencerows, wires.

WESTERN KINGBIRD Tyrannus verticalis

M255

8" (20 cm). The most widespread kingbird in the West. Like several similar species, it has a yellowish belly and gray head, but the black tail has a narrow white edging on each side.

Voice: Shrill, bickering calls; a sharp whit or whit-ker-whit.

Range: Sw. Canada to n. Mexico. Winters to Costa Rica. West: Map 255. Habitat: Farms, semi-open country, roadsides, wires.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD Tyrannus vociferans
8-9" (20-23 cm). Like the Western Kingbird but darker, with a darker olive-gray back; no distinct white sides on its black tail (which may be lightly tipped). Cassin's appears to have a whiter chin due to its darker chest.

Similar species: Some Western Kingbirds may lack white sides on the tail, but the paler olive-gray back and paler breast identify them. Cassin's prefers higher altitudes. Calls very different.

Voice: A low, nasal queer or chi-queer or ki-dear; also an excited

ki-ki-ki-dear, ki-dear, ki-dear, etc.

Range: Western U.S. to s. Mexico, Guatemala. Map 254. Habitat: Semi-open high country, pine-oak mountains, ranch groves.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD Tyrannus crassirostris

91/2" (24 cm). A large kingbird with an outsize bill; differs from similar kingbirds in having a dark cap and back and whitish underparts. However, autumn birds may be quite yellow below.

Voice: A quick, shrill brrr-zee or purr-eet.

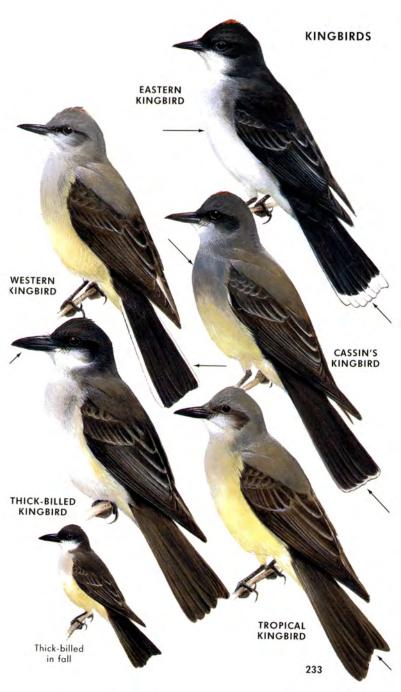
Range: W. Mexico, w. Guatemala. West: Breeds locally in se. Arizona, sw. New Mexico. Casual in fall and winter in sw. Arizona. se. California. Accidental. British Columbia.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD Tyrannus melancholicus

8-91/2" (20-24 cm). Very similar to Western and Cassin's kingbirds, but tail notched and dusky brown, without white edgings. Back olive or olive-gray; head gray, with a dark mask through the eye; belly bright vellow. Little or no gray across the breast. Cassin's Kingbirds and also some Western Kingbirds in worn plumage lack white tail sides; but their tails are blacker, without the strong

Voice: A nasal queer or chi-queer, resembling notes of Cassin's

Range: S. Arizona to Argentina. West: Breeds locally and irregularly in se. Arizona. Rare to casual vagrant elsewhere in Southwest and in fall, from coastal California north to British Columbia. Accidental, Alaska. Habitat: River groves, scattered trees.



BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER Myiarchus tyrannulus

(Wied's Crested Flycatcher) $8\frac{1}{2}-9\frac{1}{2}$ " (21-24 cm). Similar to the Ash-throated Flycatcher, but larger, with a noticeably larger bill. Underparts more yellow; back more olive. Tail rusty, a bit less so than in Ash-throated. These are subtle differences: to tell the two apart it is well to have a good ear.

Voice: A sharp whit and a rolling, throaty purreeer. Voice much

more vigorous and raucous than Ash-throated Flycatcher's.

Range: Sw. U.S. to Argentina. West: Breeds s.-cen. Arizona, sw. New Mexico. Casual, se. California, s. Nevada. Winters mostly south of U.S. Habitat: Sycamore canyons; in Arizona, saguaros.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER Myiarchus crinitus

M253

8-9" (20-23 cm). This kingbird-sized flycatcher with cinnamon wings and tail, very similar to the preceding species, is an eastern bird that normally occurs west of the 100th meridian only in the prairie states and provinces. Note the golden lower mandible.

Voice: A loud, whistled wheeep! Also a rolling prrrrrreet!

Range: S. Canada, e. and cen. U.S. Winters e. Mexico to Colombia. West: Map 253. Habitat: Woodlands, groves.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER Mylarchus tuberculifer

(Olivaceous Flycatcher) 61/2-7" (16-18 cm). Similar to the Ashthroated Flycatcher, but considerably smaller; throat a bit grayer, belly brighter yellow, and almost no rusty in the tail. Voice is distinctive.

Voice: A mournful, drawling whistle, slurring down, peeur.

Range: Breeds from mountains of se. Arizona, extreme sw. New Mexico to nw. Argentina. Winters south of U.S. Casual, w. Texas. Colorado, s. California, Nevada, Habitat: Oak slopes, pine-oak canyons, junipers.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER Myiarchus cinerascens M252 8" (20 cm). A medium-sized flycatcher, smaller than a kingbird, with two white wing bars, a whitish throat, a very pale yellowish belly, and a rufous tail. Head slightly bushy. Except for the prairie and sw. border area, this is the only flycatcher in the West with a rusty tail.

Voice: Pwit; also a rolling chi-beer or prit-wheer.

Range: Western U.S. to s. Mexico. West: Map 252. Habitat: Semiarid country, deserts, brush, mesquite, pinyon, juniper, open woods,

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER Myjodynastes luteiventris

71/2-81/2" (19-21 cm). A large flycatcher with a bright rufous tail and a black patch through the eye; underparts pale yellowish, with black streaks. No other U.S. flycatcher is streaked above and below.

Voice: A high, penetrating kee-zee'ick! kee-zee'ick!

Range: Sw. U.S. to Costa Rica. Winters sw. Amazonia, east of Andes. West: Breeds in canyons in s. Arizona. Casual, s. California, sw. New Mexico, w. Texas. Habitat: Sycamore-walnut canyons.



WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE Contopus sordidulus

M240

6–6½" (15–16 cm). A dusky, sparrow-sized flycatcher with two narrow wing bars but *no* eye-ring. The slightly larger size and lack of an eye-ring distinguish it from the *Empidonax* flycatchers.

Voice: A nasal peeyee or peeeer.

Range: Breeds from cen. Alaska to Cen. America; winters from Panama to Peru. Map 240. **Habitat:** Woodlands, pine-oak forests, open conifers, river groves.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE Contopus virens

Very similar to Western Wood-Pewee; not as strongly olive-gray on breast and sides. Distinguished by voice and range.

Voice: A sweet, plaintive whistle: pee-a-wee, slurring down, then up.

Also, pee-ur, slurring down. Very distinctive.

Range: S. Canada, e. U.S. Winters Cen. and S. America. **West:** Breeds west of 100° only in the Edwards Plateau, Texas. Sparse migrant e. Colorado; casual west to Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, California.

EASTERN PHOEBE Sayornis phoebe

M249

6½-7" (16–18 cm). Note the *tail-bobbing*. A gray-brown, sparrow-sized flycatcher without an eye-ring or strong wing bars (but may have dull ones, especially in yellowish-bellied young birds). Bill *all black*. Other small gray flycatchers have conspicuous wing bars.

Voice: Song, a well-enunciated phoe-be, or fi-bree | second note alter-

nately higher or lower). Call note, a sharp chip.

Range: East of Rockies, Canada to s. U.S. Winters to s. Mexico. West: Map 249. Habitat: Streamsides, bridges, farms, roads.

GREATER PEWEE Contonus pertinax

(Coues' Flycatcher) 7–7¾" (18–19 cm). A large gray flycatcher of high mountains near Mexican border. Resembles Olive-sided Flycatcher, but breast more uniformly gray; no white strip down center.

Voice: A thin, plaintive whistle, ho-say, re-ah, or ho-say, ma-re-ah (nick-

name, "Jose Maria"). Note, pip-pip or pil-pil.

Range: Breeds from cen. and se. Arizona, sw. New Mexico to n. Nicaragua. Winters south of U.S. Accidental, se. California, w. Texas. Habitat: Pine and pine-oak forests of mountains, canyons.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER Contopus cooperi

M239

7–8" (18–20 cm). A stout, large-headed flycatcher; often perches at tips of dead trees. Note the large bill and *dark chest patches* separated by a narrow strip of white (like an unbuttoned vest). A *cottony tuft* may poke from behind the wing.

Voice: Note, a trebled pip-pip-pip. Song, a spirited whistle, I say' there;

middle note highest, last one sliding.

Range: Alaska, Canada, w. and ne. U.S. Winters w. S. America. West: Map 239. Habitat: Conifer forests, burns, slashings. In California also in eucalyptus trees in foothill canyons.

BLACK PHOEBE Sayornis nigricans

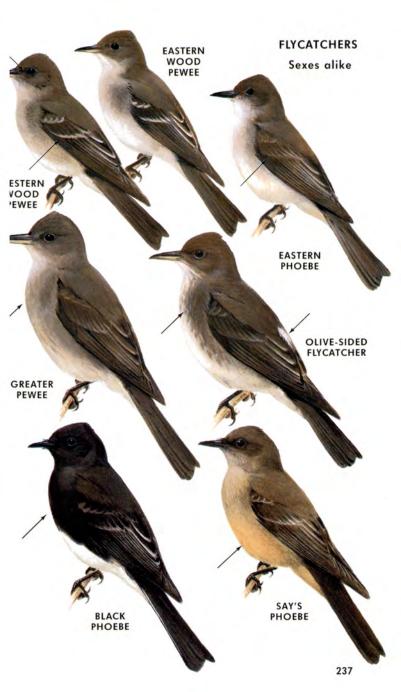
M248

6½-7" (16–18 cm). Our only black flycatcher; belly white. Has the typical phoebe tail- bobbing habit.

Voice: A thin, strident fi-bee, fi-bee; rising, then dropping.

Range: Sw. U.S. to n. Argentina. West: Map 248. Habitat: Shady streams, walled canyons, farmyards, towns; near water.

SAY'S PHOEBE See text on p. 238.



SAY'S PHOEBE Sayornis saya (illus., p. 237)

M250

7-8" (18-20 cm). A gray-brown flycatcher with a black tail and pale rusty belly, giving it the look of a small Robin.

Voice: A plaintive, down-slurred pweer or pee-ee.

Ronge: Western N. America. Map 250. Habitat: Scrub, canyons, ranches.

■ THE EMPIDONAX COMPLEX. Several small, drab flycatchers share the characters of *light eye-ring* and *two pale wing bars*. When breeding, these birds may be separated by voice, habitat, and manner of nesting. Listen to the recordings in *A Field Guide to Western Bird Songs*. See also *A Field Guide to Western Birds' Nests* by Hal Harrison. In migration these birds seldom sing or even call, so we are forced to let most of them go simply as "empids." If you wish the challenge of trying to name them in migration, study Kenn Kaufman's *Field Guide to Advanced Birding*, but first *know each one well when it is on its nesting ground, singing and calling*.

ALDER FLYCATCHER Empidonax alnorum

5¾" (15 cm). Alder and Willow flycatchers, formerly lumped as Traill's, are now regarded as two species. They are almost identical, with little or no eye-ring. Alder is a shade more olive; Willow is slightly darker and browner. They are safely separated only by voice.

Voice: Song, an accented fee-BE'-o or rree-BE'-o. Note, kep or pit.

Range: Alaska, Canada, ne. U.S. Winters in South America. West:

Map 242. Habitat: Willows, alders, brushy swamps, swales.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER Empidonax traillii M243
53/4" (15 cm). Safely separated from the Alder Flycatcher (with which

5¾" (15 cm). Safely separated from the Alder Flycatcher (with which it was formerly lumped) only by voice and to some extent by breeding habitat. The eye-ring is very narrow or absent.

Voice: Song, a sneezy fitz-bew. Note, whit or weet.

Ronge: Alaska, Canada to sw. and e.-cen. U.S. Winters s. Mexico to Panama. West: Map 243. Habitat: Somewhat like Alder's (willow thickets, etc.); often in drier situations; more southern.

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER Empidonax hammondii M245 5½" (14 cm). Both Hammond's and Dusky breed in the transition and Canadian zones of the mountains. Hammond's ranges further north and lives at higher altitudes in taller firs, while Dusky prefers chaparral or a mixture of chaparral and conifers. Hammond's is more olive; underparts more yellowish, with a grayer chest. The lower mandible of its smallish bill is mostly dark.

Voice: An abrupt tse-beek. Note, a sharp thin pik, or peek.

Range: E.-cen. Alaska, w. Canada, w. U.S. Winters se. Arizona to Nicaragua. West: Map 245. Habitat: High conifer forests; in migration through lowlands, other trees, thickets.

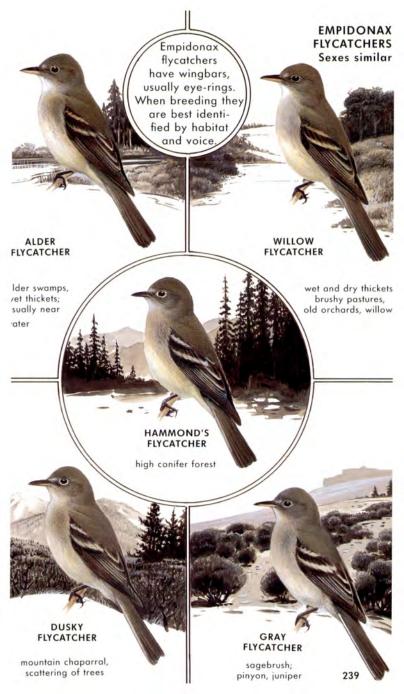
DUSKY FLYCATCHER Empidonax oberholseri

5¼" (15 cm). Very similar to Hammond's Flycatcher (gray throat, etc.), but identified by habitat, voice, white outer tail feathers.

Voice: Three-parted song ends in a high preet. Note, a dry whit.

Ronge: W. Canada, w. U.S. Winters in Mexico. West: Map 246. Habitot: Breeds in mountain chaparral (Canadian-zone brush) with scattering of trees. Also open conifers in mountains of s. California.

GRAY FLYCATCHER (Text on p. 240.)



GRAY FLYCATCHER Empidonax wrightii (illus., p. 239) M183

6" (15 cm). Similar to Dusky or Hammond's, but tentatively identified if the lower mandible is mostly flesh-colored, and if the back is *grayer* and the underparts whiter with no trace of yellow except in fall. It has a habit of *dipping its tail* like a phoebe (other empids may *flick* their tails). Best identified by breeding habitat and voice. **Voice:** A two-syllabled *chewip* or *cheh-we*. Note a dry *whit*.

Range: Western U.S.; winters to s. Mexico. Map 183. Habitat: Sage-

brush; also pinyon and juniper. In winter, willows, brush.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER Empidonax flaviventris

5½" (14 cm). Yellowish underparts (including throat) separate this
Canadian species from all other empids except the "Westerns,"
which have a different range. Other empids may have a tinge of
yellow, especially in fall. Eye-ring may be yellowish in this species.

Voice: Song, a simple chi-lek; also a rising per-ee.

Range: Canada, ne. U.S. Winters Mexico to Panama. West: Map 241.

Habitat: Boreal forests, muskegs, bogs. LEAST FLYCATCHER Empidonax minimus

M244

5½" (13 cm). An eastern species ranging to the northwest (east of the Rockies). Smaller and grayer than others in its range; whiter below, with a white throat. Actively flicks its wings and tail. Range, habitat, voice, and nest (on a horizontal branch) identify it.

Voice: An emphatic, sharply snapped *che-bek'!* Note, a dry *whit*. Range: Canada, n. U.S., east of Rockies. Winters Mexico to Panama. West: Map 244. Habitat: Orchards, groves, poplars, aspens.

"WESTERN" FLYCATCHER Empidonax (two species)

5¾" (15 cm). This, the most widely encountered type of empid in the West, has yellowish underparts, including the throat. Others in its range may have a wash of yellow, especially in fall, but their throats are gray or whitish. Eye-ring tends to be tear-shaped. Now split by the A.O.U. into two species, separated by range and call notes of males: PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER, E. difficilis — (an upslurred tseep), and CORDILLERAN FLYCATCHER, E. occidentalis, of the Rocky Mt. region — (a two-noted pit-weet). Song of both birds a thin, squeaky pseet-trip-seet!; variable.

Range: Se. Alaska, w. Canada to Honduras. Map 247. Habitat: Moist woods, mixed or conifer forests, shady canyons, groves.

BUFF-BREASTED FLYCATCHER Empidonax fulvifrons

4½-5" (11-13 cm). Easily distinguished from the other more confusing empids by its small size and rich buffy breast.

Voice: An accented chee-lik. Note, a dry pit or whit.

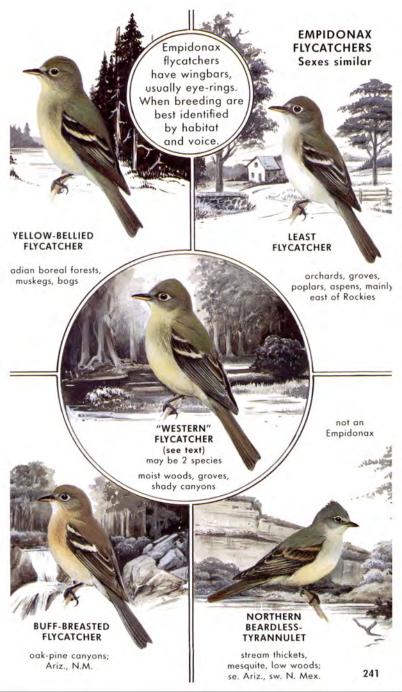
Range: Cen. and se. Arizona, cen.-w. New Mexico to Honduras. Winters from Sonora south. Habitat: Canyons, oak-pines.

NORTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET Camptostoma imberbe

(Beardless Flycatcher) 4¼" (11 cm). A very small, nondescript flycatcher that may suggest a kinglet, Bell's Vireo, or immature Verdin. Dull brown wing bars and indistinct eye-ring. Distinguished from "empids" by its smaller size, head, and bill; also by its behavior. Voice: A thin peece-yuk. A gentle ee, ee, ee, ee, ee.

Range: Resident from se. Arizona, sw. New Mexico, s. Texas to Costa Rica. Habitat: Low woods, mesquite, stream thickets, lower

canyons. Builds a globular nest with entrance on side.



■ LARKS. Family Alaudidae. Streaked, brown, terrestrial birds with long hind claws. Gregarious. Larks often sing in high display flight. Food: Seeds, insects. Range: Mainly Old World. No. of species: World 78; West 1 (+1 introduced).

HORNED LARK Eremophila alpestris

M258

7–8" (18–20 cm). A brown ground bird, with *black sideburns*, two small *black horns*, and a black breast splotch. *Walks*, does not hop. Overhead, pale with a *black* tail; folds wings after each beat. Female and immature duller. Varies from paler to darker races.

Voice: Song, tinkling, irregular, high-pitched, often prolonged; from

ground or high in air. Note, a clear tsee-titi.

Ronge: Widespread in N. Hemisphere. West: Map 258. Habitat: Prairies, fields, golf courses, airports, shores, tundra.

SKYLARK Alauda arvensis

7-7½" (18-19 cm). Slightly larger than a sparrow; brown, strongly streaked; underparts buff-white; breast streaked. Tail has conspicuous white on outer feathers. Short, rounded *crest*.

Voice: Note, a clear, liquid chir-r-up. Song, in hovering flight, high-

pitched, with long-sustained runs and trills.

Range: Eurasia, n. Africa. West: Rare spring migrant outer Aleutian Is., Pribilofs. Resident, s. Vancouver I., where introduced. Accidental California. Habitat: Open country, fields.

■ WAGTAILS. Family Motacillidae (in part). Old World relatives of pipit (see pp. 224, 245). Strong patterns; slender tails are wagged.

YELLOW WAGTAIL Motacilla flava

6½" (16 cm). Very slender, long legs; yellow below. Long tail is black with white sides; constantly wagged. Immature: Whitish below; throat outlined in black. Flight undulating.

Voice: A loud, musical tsoueep. Song, tsip-tsip-tsipsi.

Range: Eurasia, w. Alaska. In winter to Africa, India. West: Breeds across n. Alaska to n. Yukon; south through w. Alaska to Nunivak. Habitat: Willow scrub on tundra, marshy country.

BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL Motacilla lugens

7¼" (18 cm). Similar to the White Wagtail, but in breeding plumage has a black back, more white in wings. Winter adult and immature: Grayer back, white chest, black necklace; similar to next species.

Range: Ne. Asia. West: Rare but regular in spring in outer Aleutians (has

bred), Nome. Casual or accidental along coast to California.

WHITE WAGTAIL Motacilla alba

7" (18 cm). Black and white, with a black chest, throat, and nape; pale gray back. Immature much like Black-backed Wagtail.

Voice: A lively tchizzik. Also an abrupt tchik.

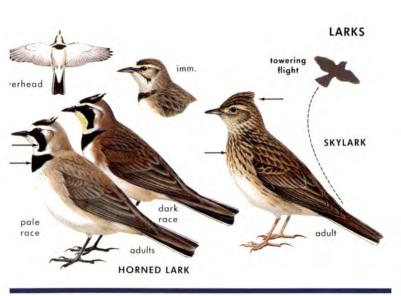
Range: Eurasia. West: Breeds locally in w. Alaska, usually around stone buildings. Habitat: Open country.

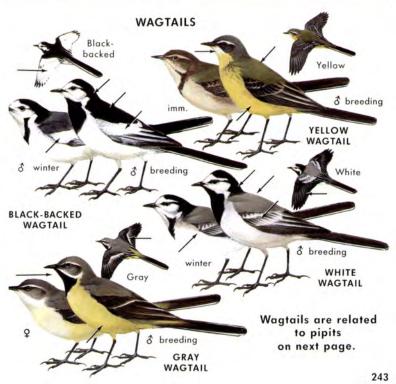
GRAY WAGTAIL Motacilla cinerea

7" [18 cm]. In spring, combination of black throat, yellow underparts, and gray back identify this wagtail. Females and winter birds have a whitish throat and are paler below. Wing stripe in flight.

Range: Eurasia. West: Spring visitor in outer Aleutians; casual, Pribilofs,

St. Lawrence I. Habitat: Pebbly streams.





■ PIPITS. Family Motacillidae (in part). Streaked brown ground birds with white outer tail feathers, long hind claws, thin bills. They walk briskly instead of hopping and constantly bob their tails. Food: Insects, seeds. Range: Nearly cosmopolitan. No. of pipits in family: World 35; West 3 (+3 casual or accidental).

AMERICAN PIPIT Anthus rubescens

M320

(Water Pipit) 6-7" (15-18 cm). A slender, brown, sparrow-sized bird of open country. Bill *slender*; underparts buffy with streaks; *outer tail feathers white*; legs black. Walks, *bobbing its tail* almost constantly. In flight, dips up and down. Learn the note—Pipits are usually detected as they fly over.

Voice: Note, a thin jeet or jee-eet. In aerial flapping song flight, chwee

chwee chwee chwee chwee chwee.

Range: Colder parts of N. Hemisphere. Winters to El Salvador, n. Africa, s. Asia. West: Map 320. Habitat: Tundra, alpine slopes; in migration and winter, plains, bare fields, shores.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT Anthus spragueii

M321

6½" (16 cm). Note the *pale flesh or yellowish legs*. Buffy, with a striped back and white outer tail feathers. Suggests Vesper Sparrow or longspur, but with a *thin bill*. Back streaked *buff and black*, cheeks buffy. More solitary than the American Pipit; when flushed, often towers high, then drops.

Similar species: American Pipit has a darker (not strongly striped) back,

deeper buff breast, darker cheek, dark legs.

Voice: Sings high in the air; a sweet, thin jingling series, descending in pitch: *shing-a-ring-a-ring-a-ring-a* (Salt, Wilk).

Range: Prairie provinces of Canada, northern prairie states. West: Map

321. Habitat: Plains, shortgrass prairies.

RED-THROATED PIPIT Anthus cervinus

6" (15 cm). Male in breeding plumage has a *rusty red face and breast*, less extensive in females and fall males. In fall, females and immature are heavily striped; may resemble Pechora Pipit.

Voice: Call notes, a hoarse tzeez, and a soft tau.

Range: This basically Eurasian species breeds commonly on the mainland of nw. Alaska. Regular spring migrant, w. Aleutians (Attu, etc.); rare fall migrant through s. California.

PECHORA PIPIT Anthus gustavi

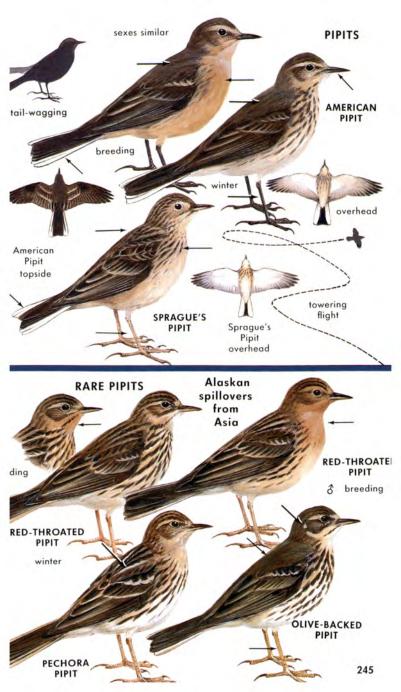
6" (15 cm). A dark, heavily streaked pipit with pink legs; two pale streaks on the back; buffy outer tail feathers (not white as in Red-throated). Call, a hard pwit, repeated. This Asian stray has been recorded in the outer Aleutians (Attu) and on St. Lawrence I. (Gambell).

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT Anthus hodgsoni

6½" [16 cm]. Similar to the American Pipit, but *legs pinkish*. Olive-gray back. Note the strong face pattern; the key mark is a *white spot* behind the dark ear patch. Call, a loud *tseet*. This Asian stray is a rare visitor to the outer Aleutians and should be looked for elsewhere in the Bering Sea area.

TREE-PIPIT Anthus trivialis (not shown)

This Eurasian species has been collected once in nw. Alaska. See A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe.



■ SWIFTS. Family Apodidae. Swallow-like, but structurally distinct, with a 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. No. of species: World 73; West 4 (+3 accidental).

VAUX'S SWIFT Chaetura vauxi

M213

4½" (11 cm). A small, dark, swallow-like bird with no apparent tail (unless spread); "like a cigar with wings." It appears to beat its wings alternately (actually an illusion), unlike the skimming of swallows. It may glide between spurts, the wings bowed in a crescent. The twinkling flight style marks it as a swift; the range, small size, and dingy underparts as this species.

Voice: Loud, rapid, ticking or chippering notes.

Range: Western N. America to Venezuela. Map 213. Habitat: Open sky over woodlands, lakes, and rivers.

CHIMNEY SWIFT Chaetura pelagica

M213

5-5½" (13-14 cm). Larger than Vaux's Swift; darker, especially on underparts and throat. Any small dark swift east of the Rockies would almost certainly be this species.

Ronge: Eastern N. America. Winters in Peru. West: Map 213. Hobitot: Open sky, especially over cities, towns; nests in chimneys.

BLACK SWIFT Cypseloides niger

M212

7–7½" (18–19 cm). A large *black* swift with a notched tail (sometimes fanned). At close range, a touch of white on the forehead. Flight more leisurely than that of other U.S. swifts.

Voice: A sharp plik-plik-plik-plik, etc. (H. Cogswell).

Range: Se. Alaska to Costa Rica; W. Indies. West: Map 212. Habitat: Open sky; favors mountain country, coastal cliffs, nests in sea cliffs or wet mountain cliffs, often behind waterfalls.

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT Aeronautes saxatalis

M214

6–7" (15–18 cm). Known from other N. American swifts by its contrasting *black and white pattern*. Underparts white, with black side patches.

Voice: A shrill, excited jejejejeje, in descending scale.

Ronge: From s. British Columbia and w. U.S. to Honduras. West: Map 214. Hobitot: Open sky; cruising widely. Breeds mainly in dry mountains, canyons; locally on sea cliffs (California).

COMMON SWIFT Apus apus

6½" (16 cm). This Eurasian swift, recorded as an accidental in the Pribilofs, is entirely blackish except for its white chin. Tail deeply forked. It *lacks* the white rump patch of the Fork-tailed Swift, another stray from Asia.

FORK-TAILED SWIFT Apus pacificus

71/4" (18 cm). A large dark swift with a white throat and deeply forked tail. Shows a white rump (see House Martin, p. 352). Breeds e. Asia; straggler in outer Aleutians and Pribilofs.

WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL Hirundapus caudacutus

8" (21 cm). A very large, dark swift with a broad, white U or V on the undertail coverts. Tail square (not forked); throat white. A pale patch on lower back. Casual in outer Aleutians (Attu, Shemya).



■ SWALLOWS. Family Hirundinidae. Slim, streamlined form and graceful flight characterize these sparrow-sized birds. Long, pointed wings; short bills with very wide gapes; tiny feet. Food: Mostly flying insects. Range: Cosmopolitan except for polar regions, some islands. No. of species: World 81; West 8 (+1 accidental).

TREE SWALLOW Tachycineta bicolor

M260

5–6" (13–15 cm). Steely blue-green-black above, white below. Immature has a dusky brown back and pale smudge across the breast; may be confused with the Rough-winged Swallow (dingy throat) or Bank Swallow (dark breastband). Tree Swallow glides in circles, ending glides with quick flaps and a short climb.

Voice: Cheet or chi-veet; a liquid twitter, weet, trit, weet, etc.

Range: Alaska, Canada to California, cen.-e. U.S. Winters s. U.S. to n. S. America. West: Map 260. Habitat: Open country near water, marshes, meadows, streams, lakes, wires. Roosts in reeds. Nests in holes in trees, birdhouses.

BANK SWALLOW Riparia riparia

M263

4½-5½" (11-14 cm). A small, brown-backed swallow. Note the distinct dark breastband. Flight irregular, fluttery.

Voice: A dry, trilled chitter or rattle, brrt or trr-tri-tri.

Range: Widespread in N. Hemisphere. Winters in S. America, Arica, s. Asia. West: Map 263. Habitat: Near water; fields, marshes, streams, lakes. Nests colonially in sand banks.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW

M262

Stelgidopteryx serripennis 5-5¾" (13-14 cm). Brown-backed; lighter brown than Bank Swallow; throat dusky; no breastband. Flight more like Barn Swallow's; wings pulled back at end of stroke.

Voice: A harsh trrit, rougher than Bank Swallow's.

Range: S. Canada to Costa Rica. Winters Gulf Coast to Panama. West: Map 262. Habitat: Near streams, lakes, river banks. Nests in banks, but not colonially as in Bank Swallow.

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW Tachycineta thalassina

M261

5-5½" (13-14 cm). Note the white patches that almost meet over the base of the tail. Dark and shiny above—adults glossed with green and purple; clear white below. Separated from the Tree Swallow by its greener back and white patches on the sides of its rump. The white of the face partially encircles the eye.

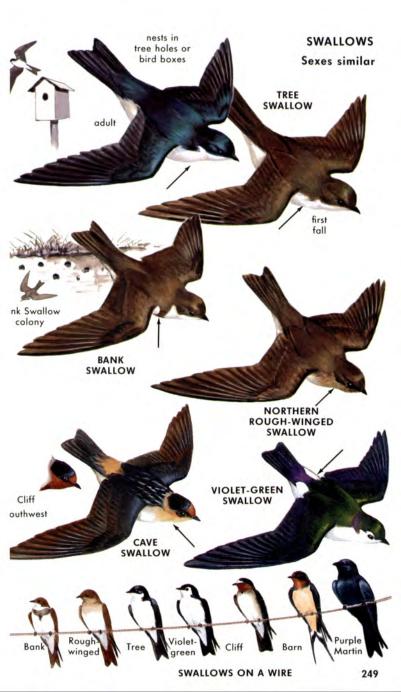
Voice: A twitter; a thin chip; rapid chit-chit-chit wheet, wheet.

Range: Breeds from cen. Alaska, w. Canada, south locally to mountains of Mexico. Winters California, Mexico, Cen. America. West: Map 261. Habitat: Widespread when foraging, nests in holes in trees in open forests, foothill woods, mountains, canyons, cliffs, towns.

CAVE SWALLOW Petrochelidon fulva

5-6" [13-15 cm]. Similar to the Cliff Swallow (rusty rump), but face colors reversed; throat and cheeks *pale or buffy* (not dark), forehead *dark chestnut* (not pale).

Similar species: Locally, in w. Texas and se. Arizona, a race of the Cliff Swallow occurs in which young birds may be dark on both the forehead and throat. (continued on p. 250)



CAVE SWALLOW (continued). See illustration on p. 249.

Voice: A clear weet or cheweet; a loud, accented chu, chu.

Range: S. New Mexico, s.-cen. Texas, Mexico, W. Indies, to Peru. Nests in colonies in limestone caves in se. New Mexico and along s. edge of Edwards Plateau, Texas. Often builds its *cuplike* nests under bridges. Rapidly expanding range. Accidental, s. Arizona.

PURPLE MARTIN Progne subis

M259

7½–8½" (19–21 cm). The largest North American swallow. *Male:* Uniformly blue-black *above and below;* no other swallow is dark-bellied. *Female:* Light-bellied; throat and breast grayish, often with a faint collar. Glides in circles, alternating quick flaps and glides; often spreads its tail. **Similar species:** Tree Swallow is much smaller than female Purple Martin; immaculate white, no gray on underparts.

Voice: A throaty and rich tchew-wew, etc., or pew, pew. Song gurgling,

ending in a succession of rich, low gutturals.

Range: S. Canada to n. Mexico, Gulf states. Winters S. America. West: Map 259. Habitat: Towns, farms, open or semi-open country near water. Attracted to martin houses. In s. Arizona, it nests in saguaros. Local and declining.

CLIFF SWALLOW Petrochelidon pyrrhonota

M264

5–6" (13–15 cm). Note the *rusty* or *buffy rump*. Overhead, appears square-tailed, with a dark throat patch. Glides in a long ellipse, ending each glide with a roller-coaster-like climb.

Voice: Zaryp; a low chur. Alarm note, keer! Song, creaking notes and gut-

tural gratings; harsher than Barn Swallow's song.

Range: Alaska, Canada to Mexico. Winters s. Brazil to cen. Argentina. West: Map 264. Habitat: Open to semi-open land, farms, cliffs, river bluffs, lakes. Nests colonially on cliffs, barns. When nesting on a barn, the Cliff Swallow is colonial, building "mud jugs" outside, under the eaves. Barn Swallow builds a cuplike open nest, usually but not always inside the barn.

BARN SWALLOW Hirundo rustica

M265

6–7¾" (15–19 cm). Our only swallow that is truly *swallow-tailed*; also the only one with *white tail spots*. Blue-black above; cinnamon-buff below, with a darker throat. Juvenile is whitish below. Flight direct, close to the ground; wing tips pulled back at the end of the stroke; not much gliding.

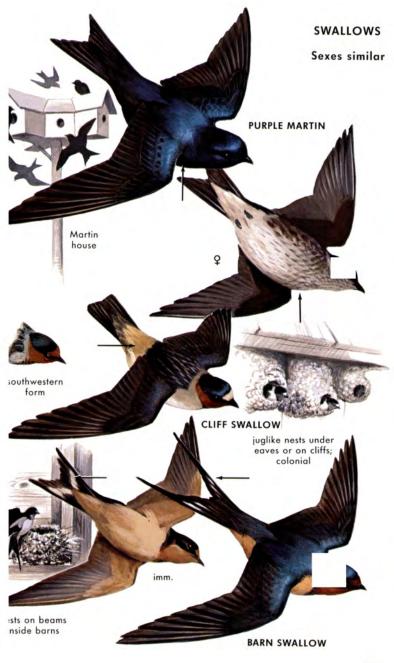
Similar species: Most other N. American swallows have notched (not deeply forked) tails. (1) Cliff Swallow is colonial, building mud jugs un-

der eaves or cliffs. (2) See Cave Swallow.

Voice: A soft vit or kvik-kvik, vit-vit. Also szee-szah or szee. Anxiety note, a harsh, irritated ee-tee or keet. Song, a long musical twitter inter-

spersed with gutturals.

Range: Widespread in N. Hemisphere. Winters Costa Rica to Argentina, Africa, s. Asia. West: Map 265. Habitat: Open or semi-open land; farms, fields, marshes, lakes; often perches on wires; usually near habitation. Builds its *cuplike nest inside* barns, not in tight colonies under eaves, like Cliff Swallow.



■ CROWS, JAYS, etc. Family Corvidae. Large perching birds with strong, longish bills; nostrils covered by forward-pointing bristles. Crows and ravens are very large and black. Jays (pp. 254–257) are often colorful (usually blue). Magpies are black and white, with long tails. Sexes alike. Most immatures (not all) resemble adults. Food: Almost anything edible. Range: Worldwide except s. S. America, some islands, Antarctica. No. of species: World 110; West 14 (+1 accidental).

AMERICAN CROW Corvus brachyrhynchos

M274

(Common Crow) 17–21" (43–53 cm). A large, chunky, ebony bird. Completely black; glossed with purplish in strong sunlight. Bill and feet strong and black. Often gregarious.

Similar species: (1) Common Raven is larger, has a wedge-shaped tail. See (2) Chihuahuan Raven and (3) Northwestern Crow.

Voice: A loud caw, caw, caw or cah or kahr; easily imitated.
Ronge: Canada to s. U.S., n. Baja California. West: Map 274. Hobitot:
Woodlands, farms, fields, river groves, shores, towns, dumps.

NORTHWESTERN CROW Corvus caurinus

M275

16–17" [40–43 cm]. This small beachcombing crow of the Northwest is smaller than the American Crow and has a quicker wingbeat. It replaces the American Crow on the narrow northwestern coast strip. There is apparently some integration with the American Crow in the Puget Sound area, hence some believe they may be conspecific.

Voice: khaaa or khaaw. Usually more resonant than Common

Crow's caw. Also, cowp-cowp-cowp.

Range: Northwest coast. Map 275. Habitat: Near tidewater, shores.

CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN Corvus cryptoleucus

M276

(White-necked Raven). 19–21" (48–53 cm). Near the size of the American Crow; a small raven of the arid plains. Flies with the typical flat-winged glide of a raven; has a somewhat wedge-shaped tail. White feather bases on the neck and breast sometimes show when the feathers are ruffled by the wind, hence the former name "White-necked Raven."

Voice: A hoarse *kraak*, flatter and higher than Common Raven's. **Ronge:** Sw. U.S. to cen. Mexico. **West:** Map 276. **Hobitot:** Arid and semi-arid scrub and grassland, desert, vucca, mesquite.

COMMON RAVEN Corvus corax

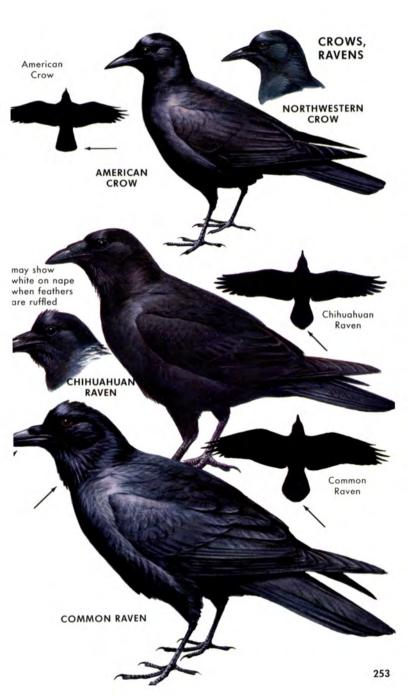
M277

22–27" (55–68 cm). Note the wedge-shaped tail. Much larger than American Crow; has a heavier voice and is inclined to be not as gregarious, often solitary. Hawklike in flight, it alternates flapping and sailing, gliding on flat wings (Crow glides with a slight upward dihedral). When it is perched and not too distant, note the "goiter" look created by the shaggy throat feathers and the heavier "Romannose" bill.

Voice: A croaking cr-r-ruck or prruk; also a metallic tok.

Range: Widespread in N. America, Eurasia, Africa. West: Map 277.

Habitat: Boreal and mountain forests, coastal cliffs, tundra.



WESTERN SCRUB-JAY Aphelocoma californica

M269

11-13" (28-33 cm). Look for this crestless jay in the oaks. Head, wings, and tail are blue; back pale brownish; white throat with necklace. Near Mexican border, see next species.

Voice: A rough, rasping kwesh . . . kwesh. Also a harsh check-check-

check-check and a rasping zhreek, zhreek.

Range: S. coastal Washington south through California east to Colorado and New Mexico. West: Map 269. Habitat: Foothills, oaks, oak-chaparral, brush, river woods, pinyon, junipers, some suburbs.

MEXICAN JAY Aphelocoma ultramarina

M270

11½-13" (29-33 cm). A blue jay without a crest. Resembles the Scrub Jay, but upperparts and underparts more uniform; back and breast graver. No strong contrast between throat and breast (as in Scrub Jay, which has a whiter throat and necklace). Also lacks narrow whitish line over eye. In Arizona, juveniles may have yellow bills. Voice very different.

Voice: A rough, querulous wink? wink? or zhenk?

Range: Sw. U.S. to cen. Mexico. Map 270. Habitat: Open oak forests (Arizona); oak-pine woods (w. Texas).

BLUE JAY Cyanocitta cristata

M268

11-121/2" (28-31 cm). This showy, noisy, crested jay, widespread east of the Rockies (but expanding northwestward), is readily known from Steller's Jay by the white spots in wings and tail, the whitish or dull gray underparts, and the black necklace. Except for Steller's, other western jays lack crests. Has hybridized with Steller's Jay.

Voice: A harsh, slurring jeeah or jay; a musical queedle, queedle; also

many other notes. Often mimics cry of Red-tailed Hawk.

Range: S. Canada, mainly east of Rockies to Gulf states. West: Map 268. Habitat: Oak and pine woods, suburban gardens, groves, towns.

STELLER'S JAY Cyanocitta stelleri

M267

12-131/2" (30-34 cm). A large, dark, black and blue bird with a long crest. Foreparts blackish; rear parts (wings, tail, belly) deep blue. In the conifer woodlands between the Rockies and Pacific, this is the resident jay with a crest.

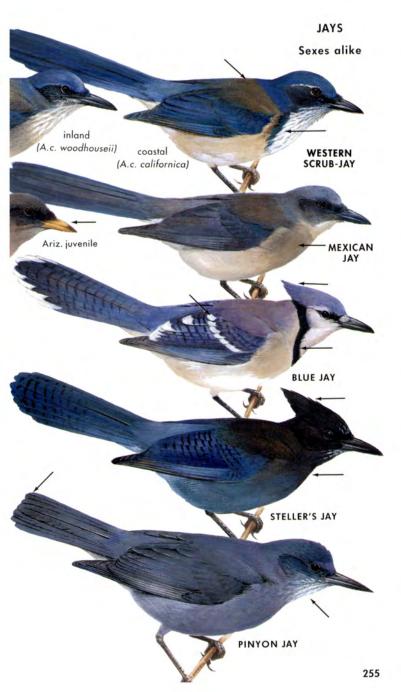
Similar species: (1) Scrub and (2) Gray-breasted jays are paler, lack crests; prefer oaks, scrub. (3) Blue Jay (east of Rockies) is a crested jay but has white spots in the wings and tail. A few wander in winter into n. Rockies (see Map 268).

Voice: loud shook-shook or shack-shack-shack wheck-wek-wek-wek or kwesh kwesh; many other

notes. Frequently mimics Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle.

Range: Western N. America south; se. Alaska, sw. Canada south through conifer regions of Pacific states and Rockies to Nicaragua. Map 267. Habitat: Conifer and pine-oak forests.

PINYON JAY Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus 9-11¾" (23-30 cm). Looks like a small dull blue crow, but nearer the size of a Robin, with a long sharp bill. Readily told from Scrub Jay by its short tail, uniform blue coloration, and crow-like flight; from Steller's Jay by lack of a crest. Text continued on p. 256.



PINYON JAY (continued). See illustration on p. 255.

(Caution: Steller's Jay depresses crest when flying). Pinyon Jays are gregarious, often gathering in large noisy flocks and walking about like small crows.

Voice: A high nasal cawing, kaa-eh, karn-eh (descending inflection);

has mewing effect. Also jay-like notes; chattering.

Ronge: Western U.S., n. Baja California. West: Map 271. Wanders widely. Habitat: Pinyon pines, junipers ("cedars"); ranges into sagebrush.

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER Nucifraga columbiana

M272

12–13" (30–33 cm). Built like a small crow, with a *light gray* body and large *white patches* in its black wings and tail. If these patches are seen, it should be confused with no other bird of the high mountains. Tame birds can often be fed by hand.

Similar species: Gray Jay does not have white patches.

Voice: A flat, grating caw, khaaa or khraa.

Ronge: Sw. Canada, w. U.S. to n. Mexico. West: Map 272. Habitat: High mountains; conifers near tree line; mountain resorts.

GRAY JAY Perisoreus canadensis

M266

11–13" (28–33 cm). A large, fluffy, gray bird of the cool northern forests; larger than a Robin, with a black patch or partial cap across the back of the head and a white forehead (or crown); suggests a huge overgrown chickadee. Juvenile birds in their first summer are a dark sooty color, almost blackish; the only distinguishing mark is a whitish whisker. Called "Whiskey Jack" by woodsmen.

Voice: A soft whee-ah; also many other notes, some harsh.

Ronge: Boreal forests of N. America. West: Map 266. Habitat: Spruce and fir forests. Becomes tame around mountain resorts.

YELLOW-BILLED MAGPIE Pica nuttalli

M273

16–18" (40–45 cm). Similar to the Black-billed Magpie, but the bill is yellow. At close range shows a crescent of bare yellow skin below the eye.

Voice: Similar to Black-billed Magpie's maag!, etc.

Ronge: California only; chiefly in Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys and adjacent low foothills; also valleys of Coast Ranges from San Francisco Bay to Santa Barbara Co. West: Map 273. Habitat: Stream groves, scattered oaks, ranches, farms.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE Pica pica

M273

 $17\frac{1}{2}$ –22" (44–55 cm); tail $9\frac{1}{2}$ –12" (24–30 cm). A large, slender, black and white bird, with a long, wedge-tipped tail. In flight, the iridescent greenish black tail streams behind and large white patches flash in the wings.

Voice: A harsh, rapid queg queg queg queg or wah-wah-wah.

Also a querulous, nasal maag! or aag-aag!

Ronge: Eurasia, w. N. America. West: Map 273. Habitat: Rangeland, brushy country, conifers, streamsides, forest edges, farms.



■ CHICKADEES, TITMICE. Family Paridae. Small, plump, small-billed birds. Acrobatic when feeding. Sexes usually alike. Food: Insects, seeds, acorn mast, berries; at feeders, suet, sunflower seeds. Range: Widespread in N. America, Eurasia, Africa. No. of species: World 62; West 9.

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE Poecile gambeli

M279

5-5¾" (13-14 cm). Similar to the Black-capped Chickadee, but black of cap interrupted by a *white line over the eye*.

Voice: Song, a clear whistled fee-bee-bee, first note higher; also tsick-z-

zee-zee-zee, huskier than Black-cap's.

Range: Resident, sw. Canada, w. U.S., n. Baja California. Map 279. Habitat: Mountain forests, conifers; lower levels in winter.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE Poecile atricapillus

M278

 $4\frac{1}{4}-5\frac{1}{4}$ " (12–14 cm). The small, tame Black-cap can be separated from the other widespread western chickadees by the *solid black cap* in conjunction with its *gray back* and buffy sides.

Voice: A clearly enunciated chick-a-dee-dee-dee. Song, a clear whistle,

fee-bee-ee or fee-bee, first note higher.

Range: Alaska, Canada, northern half of U.S. West: Map 278. Habitat: Mixed and deciduous woods; willow thickets, groves, shade trees. Visits feeders, eating suet, sunflower seeds.

MEXICAN CHICKADEE Poecile sclateri

M280

5" (13 cm). Similar to Black-capped Chickadee, but *black of throat more extensive*, spreading across upper breast. Note the *dark gray sides*. The only chickadee in its local U.S. range.

Voice: Nasal and husky for a chickadee. A low dzay-dzeee.

Range: Resident, Chiricahuas, se. Arizona; Animas Mts., sw. New Mexico; to Oaxaca. West: Map 280. Habitat: Conifers in mountains.

CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE Poecile rufescens

M281

4½-5" (11–13 cm). The cap, bib, and white cheeks indicate a chickadee; the *chestnut back* this species. Sides *chestnut* (or *gray*, in the race found along the coast of cen. California).

Voice: Hoarser than Black-cap's. No whistled song.

Range: Western N. America. Map 281. Habitat: Moist conifer forests; adjacent oaks, shade trees.

GRAY-HEADED CHICKADEE Poecile cinctus

(Siberian Tit, an inappropriate name.) 5½" (14 cm). This subarctic chickadee can be separated from the Boreal Chickadee by its *grayer cap* and *more extensive white cheeks*. Looks smaller-headed, longer-tailed, and not as brown on the flanks; it has a "dusty" appearance.

Voice: A peevish dee-deer or chee-ee.

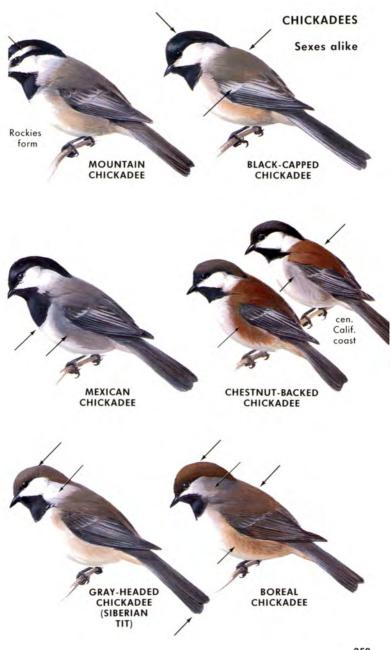
Range: N. Eurasia, nw. N. America. Very local in n. Alaska from tree limit to cen. Alaska range; also n. Yukon, nw. MacKenzie. Habitat: Spruce forest, streamside thickets.

BOREAL CHICKADEE Poecile hudsonicus

M280

 $5-5\frac{1}{2}$ " (13–14 cm). The small size, bib, and cap mark it as a chickadee; the *dull brown cap*, rich brown flanks, and restricted white on its *dusky cheeks* as this species.

Voice: Notes, slower, more drawling than those of Black-cap.
Range: Borcal woods of Alaska, Canada, ne. U.S. West: Map 280.



TUFTED TITMOUSE Baeolophus bicolor

M282

(Black-crested Titmouse) 5–6" (13–15 cm). A small gray bird, which in w. Texas has a *black crown and crest*. Underparts pale, sides rusty, light spot between the eye and bill. Females may have some gray in the crest. East of our area this species lacks the black on the crest. Young birds (gray-crested) are almost indistinguishable from Oak Titmouse.

Voice: Chickadee-like notes. Song, a whistled peter peter peter or

hear hear hear hear. Varied.

Range: Eastern N. America to w. Texas, ne. Mexico. The west Texas birds are regarded by some as a distinct species (*Parus atricristatus*) known as the "Black-crested Titmouse." West: Map 282. Hobitat: Oak woods, canyons, cedars, groves, towns.

OAK TITMOUSE Baeolophus inornatus

M282

5½" (14 cm). The birds bearing the name "titmouse" are our only *small*, gray-backed birds with pointed crests (female Phainopepla is larger). Previously called Plain Titmouse. Separate mainly by range. Oak Titmouse browner than Juniper Titmouse (*B. griseus*) which occurs east of California.

Voice: *Tchick-a-dee-dee*, similar to notes of chickadees. Song, a whistled weety weety or tee-wit tee-wit tee-wit.

Range: Resident, w. U.S. West: Map 282. Habitat: Oak woods, pinyon, juniper; locally river woods, shade trees.

BRIDLED TITMOUSE Baeolophus wollweberi

4½-5" (11-13 cm). The crest and black-and-white "bridled" face identify this small gray titmouse of the southwestern mountains.

Voice: Similar to that of other titmice and chickadees, but higher. Song, a repeated two-syllabled phrase.

Range: Resident from mountains of se. Arizona, sw. New Mexico to s. Mexico. **Habitat:** Oak and sycamore canyons, pine-oak woods.

BUSHTIT Psaltriparus minimus Family Aegithalidae

M284

4" (10 cm). Very small, plain birds that move from bush to tree in straggling flocks, conversing in light gentle notes. Nondescript; gray backs, pale underparts, brownish cheeks, stubby bills, longish tails. Birds in the Rockies and Great Basin have gray crowns. Males of the form known as "Black-eared Bushtit" in sw. New Mexico (San Luis Mts.) and w. Texas (Davis, Chisos Mts.) have black or black-flecked cheeks.

Voice: Insistent light tsit's, lisp's, and clenk's.

Range: Resident, sw. B.C. to Guatemala. West: Map 284. Habitat: Oak scrub, chaparral, mixed woods, pinyons, junipers.

VERDIN Auriparus flaviceps Family Remizidae

M283

4-4½" (10-11 cm). Tiny, gray, with a yellowish head, rufous bend of wing (often hidden). Juveniles lack these marks.

Similar species: Bushtit is longer-tailed than immature Verdin. Does not usually live in desert valleys; prefers oak slopes. See also Northern Bearless-Tyrannulet (pp. 238–239).

Voice: Insistent see-lip. Rapid chipping. Song, tsee, seesee.

Range: Resident, sw. U.S., n. and w. Mexico. Map 283. Habitat: Brushy desert valleys, mesquite, semi-arid plains and savannas.



■ NUTHATCHES. Family Sittidae. Small, stubby tree-climbers with strong, woodpecker-like bills and strong feet. The short, square-cut tails are not braced like woodpeckers' tails during climbing. Nuthatches habitually go down trees headfirst. Sexes similar. Food: Bark insects, seeds, nuts; attracted to feeders by suet, sunflower seeds. Range: Most of N. Hemisphere. No. of species: World 22: West 3.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH Sitta carolinensis

M286

5–6" (13–15 cm). Nuthatches climb down trees *headfirst*. This, the most familiar species, is known by its black cap and beady black eye on a white face. The undertail coverts are chestnut.

Voice: Song, a rapid series of low, nasal, whistled notes on one pitch: whi, whi, whi, whi, whi, whi, or who, who, who, etc. Note, a nasal yank; also a nasal tootoo.

Range: S. Canada to s. Mexico. West: Map 286. Habitat: Forests,

woodlots, groves, shade trees; visits feeders.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH Sitta canadensis M285

4½" (11 cm). A small nuthatch with a broad black line through the eye and a white line above it. The underparts are washed with rusty. **Voice:** Call higher, more nasal than that of White-breast; ank or enk, sounding like a baby nuthatch or a tiny tin horn.

Ronge: Se. Alaska, Canada, w. U.S., ne. U.S. Winters irregularly to s. U.S., nw. Mexico. West: Map 285. Habitat: Conifer forests; in win-

ter, also other trees, may visit feeders.

PYGMY NUTHATCH Sitta pygmaea

M287

3¾-4½" (9–11 cm). A very small, pine-loving nuthatch, with a *gray-brown cap coming down to the eye* and a whitish spot on the nape. Usually roams about in little flocks.

Voice: A piping kit-kit—kit or pit-pi-dit-pi-dit. Also a high ki—

dee; incessant, sometimes becoming an excited chatter.

Range: Resident from s. British Columbia to cen. Mexico. Map 287. Habitat: Yellow pines, other pines, Douglas fir.

reading renow price, other price, pouglas in

■ CREEPERS. Family Certhiidae. Small, slim, stiff-tailed birds, with slender, slightly curved bills that are used to probe the bark of trees. Food: Bark insects. Range: Cooler parts of N. Hemisphere. No. of species: World 7; West 1.

BROWN CREEPER Certhia americana

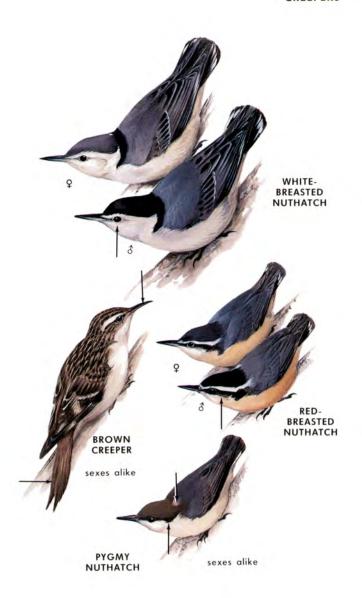
M288

5" (13 cm). A very small, slim, camouflaged tree-climber. Brown above, white below, with a *slender decurved bill* and a stiff tail, which is braced during climbing. Ascends trees spirally from the base, hugging the bark closely.

Voice: Note, a single high, thin seee, similar to the quick trebled note (see-see-see) of the Golden-crowned Kinglet. Song, a thin, sibilant see-ti-wee-tu-wee or "trees, trees, trees, see the trees."

Ronge: S. Alaska, Canada to Nicaragua. West: Map 288. Hobitot: Woodlands, groves, shade trees.

NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS



■ WRENS. Family Troglodytidae. Small, energetic brown birds; stumpy, with slim, slightly curved bills; tails often cocked. Food: Insects, spiders. Range: N., Cen., and S. America; one (Winter Wren) in Eurasia. No. of species: World 67; West 9.

HOUSE WREN Troglodytes aedon

M293

4½-5" (11-13 cm). A small, energetic gray-brown wren with a light eye-ring and no strong eyebrow stripe. A rustier form in the mountains of se. Arizona, the "Brown-throated Wren," was formerly rated a distinct species; it has a buff eyebrow.

Voice: A stuttering, gurgling song, rising in a musical burst, then

falling at the end.

Range: S. Canada to Tierra del Fuego. West: Map 293. Habitat: Open woods, thickets, towns, gardens; often nests in bird boxes.

WINTER WREN Troglodytes troglodytes

4" (10 cm). A very small, round, dark wren, known from House
Wren by its much stubbier tail, stronger eyebrow, and dark, heavily
barred belly. Often bobs head. Mouse-like; stays near ground.

voice: Song, rapid succession of high tinkling warbles, trills. Note,

a hard, two-syllabled kip-kip (suggests Song Sparrow's chip).

Ronge: Northern parts of N. Hemisphere. West: Map 294. Habitat:

Woodland underbrush; conifer forests (summer).

BEWICK'S WREN Thryomanes bewickii M292

5¼" (13 cm). Note the longish tail with white corners and the bold white eyebrow stripe. Western races are mouse-brown, less rusty.

Voice: Song suggests Song Sparrow's, but thinner, starting on two or three high notes, dropping lower, ending on a thin trill.

Range: S. Canada to Mexico. West: Map 292. Habitat: Thickets, underbrush, gardens, Often nests in bird boxes.

CAROLINA WREN Thryothorus ludovicianus

5¾" (14 cm). A large wren, near the size of a sparrow. Warm rusty brown above, buff below; conspicuous white eyebrow stripe.

Voice: A two- or three-syllabled chant. Variable; tea-kettle, tea-

kettle, tea kettle, or chirpity, chirpity, chirp,

Range: Resident, e. U.S., e. Mexico. West: Barely crosses our boundary in n. and w. Texas. Accidental, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico. Habitat: Tangles, undergrowth, suburbs, gardens, towns.

MARSH WREN Cistothorus palustris
(Long-billed Marsh Wren) 5" (13 cm). The white stripes on the back

and the white eyebrow stripe identify this marsh dweller.

Voice: Song, reedy, gurgling, often ending in a guttural rattle: cut-cut-turrrrrrrr-ur; sometimes at night. Note, a low tsuck.

Ronge: s. Canada to nw. Mexico. Winters to cen. Mexico. West: Map 295. Hobitot: Marshes (cattail, bullrush, or brackish).

SEDGE WREN Cistothorus platensis

(Short-billed Marsh Wren) 4½" (11 cm). Stubbier than a Marsh Wren; buffier, with buffy undertail coverts, streaked crown.

Range: S. Canada locally to Tierra del Fuego. West: Breeds in e.-cen. Alberta, s. Saskatchewan. Rare migrant on Great Plains; accidental, California. Habitat: Grassy marshes, sedgy meadows.



CANYON WREN Catherpes mexicanus

M291

5¾" (14 cm). Note the white bib. Rusty, with a dark rufous-brown belly contrasting with a white breast and throat.

Voice: A gushing cadence of clear, curved notes tripping down the scale; sometimes picking up at the end: *te-you*, *te-you te-you tew tew tew tew* tew or *tee tee tee tee tew tew tew tew*. Note a shrill *beet*.

Range: Resident, sw. British Columbia to s. Mexico. Map 291. Habitat: Cliffs, canyons, rockslides; stone buildings.

ROCK WREN Salpinctes obsoletus

M290

5½-6½" (14-16 cm). A gray wren of the rocks; has a finely streaked breast, light belly, rusty rump, buffy tail corners.

Voice: Song, a harsh chant. A loud, dry trill; also ti-keer.

Range: Sw. Canada, w. U.S. to Costa Rica. Map 290. Habitat: Rocky slopes, canyons.

CACTUS WREN Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus
7-8¾" (18-22 cm). A very large wren of arid country. Distinguished from other U.S. wrens by its much larger size and heavy spotting, which in adults gathers into a cluster on the upper breast. White stripe over eye and white spots in outer tail.

Similar species: Sage Thrasher (p. 270) is grayer; no back stripes.

Voice: A monotonous *chuh-chuh-chuh-chuh*, etc., or *chug-chug-chug-chug-chug-chug*, on one pitch, gaining rapidity; unbird-like.

Range: Sw. U.S. to cen. Mexico. Map 289. Habitat: Cactus, yucca, mesquite; arid brush, deserts.

WRENTIT Chamaea fasciata Family Timaliidae

M311

6-6½" (15-16 cm). Far more often heard than seen. The long, rounded, slightly cocked tail and obscurely *streaked* breast help identify this small, drab bird, which can be seen as it slips through the brush. Eye white. Behavior wren-like. Southern birds are grayer, northern ones browner.

Similar species: Bushtit (p. 260) is smaller; usually travels in flocks.

Voice: Song (heard throughout year), staccato ringing notes on one pitch; starting deliberately, running into a trill. Also a slower, double-noted version. Note, a soft *prr*.

Ronge: Oregon to n. Baja California. Map 311. Hobitot: Chaparral, brush, parks, garden shrubs.

■ DIPPERS. Family Cinclidae. Plump, stub-tailed; like very large wrens. Solitary. Dippers dive and swim under water, where they walk on the bottom. Food: Insects, aquatic invertebrates, small fish. Range: Eurasia, w. N. America, Andes of S. America. No. of species: World 5; West 1.

AMERICAN DIPPER Cinclus mexicanus (Water Ouzel) 7–8½" (18–21 cm). A chunky, slate-colored bird of rushing mountain streams. Shaped like a wren (size of a large thrush); tail stubby. Legs pale, eyelids white. Note bobbing motions, slaty color, flashing eyelid. Dives, submerges.

Voice: Note, a sharp zeet. Song clear and ringing, mockingbird-like in form (much repetition of notes), but higher, more wren-like.

Ronge: Resident, Alaska, w. Canada to w. Panama. Map 296. Habitat: Fast-flowing streams in mountains. Lower levels in winter.



■ KINGLETS Family Regulidae. Tiny active birds with thin bills.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET Regulus calendula M298

4" (10 cm). A tiny, stub-tailed birdlet; olive-gray with a strong black wing bar below the white ones. Male with a scarlet crown patch (usually concealed; erect when excited). Flicks wings. Broken white eye-ring gives a big-eyed look. Any kinglet without a crown patch and eyestripe is this species. See Hutton's Vireo, p. 284.

Voice: A husky ji-dit. Song, three or four high notes, several lower notes and a chant, tee tee tee-tew tew tew—ti-didee, ti-didee, ti-didee. Vari-

able.

Range: Canada, Alaska, w. U.S. Winters to Guatemala. West: Map 298. Habitat: Conifers; in winter, other woodlands.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET Regulus satrapa

M297

3½" (9 cm). Note the bright crown patch (*yellow* in female, *orange* in male) *bordered by black*, and the *whitish eyebrow stripe*. Kinglets are tiny, olive-gray birds, smaller than most warblers. An upward flick of the wings is characteristic.

Voice: A high, wiry see-see-see. Song, a series of high thin notes, ascend-

ing, then dropping into a little chatter.

Ronge: S. Alaska, Canada to Guatemala. West: Map 297. Hobitot: Conifers; in winter, also other trees.

■ GNATCATCHERS. Family Sylviidae. (in part Subfamily Polioptilinae). Very small active birds with slender cocked-up tails. Loud songs for their size.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER Polioptila caerulea

M299

4½" (11 cm). Suggests a miniature Mockingbird. A tiny, slim mite, smaller than a chickadee; blue-gray above, whitish below, with a narrow white eye-ring. The long, black and white tail is often cocked like a wren's tail and flipped about.

Voice: Note, a thin, peevish zpee or chee. Song, a thin, squeaky, wheezy

series of notes, easily overlooked.

Range: S. Utah, s. Ontario to Guatemala. Winters to Honduras. West: Map 299. Habitat: Open woods, oaks, pines, thickets.

BLACK-CAPPED GNATCATCHER Polioptila nigriceps

4½" (11 cm). *Male*: In breeding plumage puts on a *solid black cap*, lacing in winter and in females. Note the *largely white undertail* (largely black in Black-tailed Gnatcatcher).

Range: W. Mexico. Has bred in s. Arizona.

BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER Polioptila melanura

M300

4½" (11 cm). Similar to Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, but breeding male has a black cap and much less white on the tail (outer web only). Winter male (without cap) and female are duller than Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. From below, the tail is largely *black*.

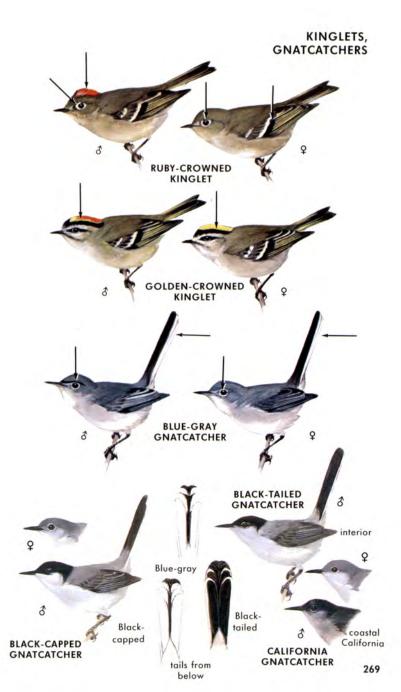
Voice: Note, a thin harsh chee, repeated two or three times (Blue-gray

Gnatcatcher usually gives a single notel; or pee-ee-ee.

Range: Resident, sw. U.S., n. Mexico. Map 300. Habitat: Desert brush, ravines, dry washes; mesquite, sage.

CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER Polioptila californica M300
("Plumbeous Gnatcatcher") Formerly regarded as a race of Black-tailed

Gnatcatcher, but dull gray below, less white on the underside of the tail. Resident, se. California and Baja California.



■ 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 more decurved. Food: Insects, fruits. Range: New World; Canada to Argentina. No. of species: World 35; West 9.

BROWN THRASHER Toxostoma rufum

M315

11½" (29 cm). Slimmer than a Robin; bright rufous above, heavily striped below. Note also the wing bars, the rather curved bill, the long tail, and the yellow eyes. The various brown thrushes (p. 276) have shorter tails, lack wing bars, are spotted (not striped), and have brown (not yellow) eyes.

Voice: Song, a succession of deliberate notes and phrases resembling the Catbird's song, but more musical and each phrase usually

in pairs. Note, a harsh chack!

Range: S. Canada to Gulf states; east of Rockies. West: Map 315.

Habitat: Thickets, brush, shrubbery, thorn scrub.

GRAY CATBIRD Dumetella carolinensis

M312

9" [23 cm]. Slate-gray; slim. Note the black cap. Chestnut undertail coverts (may not be noticeable). Flips tail jauntily.

Voice: Catlike mewing; distinctive. Also a grating tcheck-tcheck.

Song, disjointed notes and phrases; not repetitous.

Range: S. Canada, e. and cen. U.S. Winters to Panama, W. Indies. West: Map 312. Habitat: Undergrowth, brush, thorn scrub, suburban gardens.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD Mimus polyglottos

M313

9–11" (23–28 cm). Gray; slimmer, longer-tailed than a Robin. Note the *large white patches* on the wings and tail, conspicuous in flight. Similar species: Shrikes (pp. 280, 281) have black facial masks.

Voice: Song, a varied, prolonged succession of notes and phrases, each repeated a half-dozen times or more before changing. Often heard at night. Many Mockingbirds are excellent mimics of other species. Note, a loud *tchack*; also *chair*.

Range: S. Canada to s. Mexico, W. Indies, Hawaii (introduced). West:

Map 313. Habitat: Towns, farms, roadsides, thickets.

SAGE THRASHER Oreoscoptes montanus

M314

8–9" (20–23 cm). A bit smaller than a Robin; similar in shape and some actions. Gray-backed, with a heavily streaked breast, white spots at tip of tail. The eyes are pale yellow. Small size, shorter tail, shorter bill, and striped breast distinguish it from other typically western thrashers.

Similar species: (1) See Cactus Wren (pp. 266, 267). (2) Young Mockingbirds, which are spotted below, have large white patches in the wings and tail. (3) See also Bendire's Thrasher (pp. 272, 273).

Voice: Song, clear, ecstatic warbled phrases, sometimes repeated in thrasher fashion; more often continuous, suggestive of a Blackheaded Grosbeak. Note, a blackbird-like *chuck*.

Range: Sw. Canada, w. U.S. Map 314. Habitat: Sagebrush, brushy

slopes, mesas; in winter, also deserts.



CALIFORNIA THRASHER Toxostoma redivivum

M317

11-13" (28-33 cm). A large, dull gray-brown thrasher, with a pale cinnamon belly and undertail coverts; tail long; bill sickle-shaped. The eyes are dark brown. It is the only thrasher of this type in California west of the desert divides (except very locally, where Le Conte's and Crissal thrashers overlap).

Voice: Note, a dry chak, also a sharp g-leek. Song, a long, sustained series of notes and phrases, some musical, some harsh. Phrases may be repeated once or twice, but not several times as in Mockingbird; song more leisurely than Mocker's.

Range: California, n. Baja California. Map 317. Habitat: Chaparral, foothills, valley thickets, parks, gardens.

CRISSAL THRASHER Toxostoma crissale

M318

101/2-121/2" (27-31 cm). A rather dark thrasher of the desert, with a deeply curved bill. Note the dark chestnut undertail coverts (or crissum). darker than in other thrashers. No breast spots. The eyes are dull yellow-

Voice: Song sweeter and less spasmodic than in other thrashers. Note, pichoory or chideary, repeated two or three times.

Range: Sw. U.S. to cen. Mexico. Map 318. Habitat: Dense brush along

desert streams, mesquite thickets.

LE CONTE'S THRASHER Toxostoma lecontei

M319

10-11" (25-28 cm). A very pale thrasher of the desert, with a darker tail. The eyes are dark.

Similar species: (1) Crissal and California thrashers are much darker overall. (2) The other thrashers have spotted breasts.

Voice: Song [Jan.-Mar.] similar to songs of most other thrashers. Note, tirup, rising on second syllable.

Range: Sw. U.S., nw. Mexico. Map 319. Habitat: Desert flats with sparse bushes, Atriplex.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER Toxostoma curvirostre

M317

9½-11½" (24-29 cm). This, the commonest desert thrasher, can be told from the others that have well-curved bills by the mottled breast, which is indistinct in the westernmost form, palmeri. Some individuals have narrow white wing bars. Eves pale orange. Juvenile has yellow eves, straighter bill.

Voice: Note, a sharp, liquid whit-wheet! (like a whistle to attract attention). Song, a musical series of notes and phrases, almost grosbeak-like in quality but faster. Not much repetition.

Range: Resident, sw U.S. to s. Mexico. map 317. Habitat: Deserts, arid brush.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER Toxostoma bendirei

M316

9-11" (23-28 cm). Of the various drab desert thrashers, this one may be know by its shorter, more robin-like bill (lower mandible quite straight). Breast highly spotted. Eyes usually yellow.

Similar species: Curve-billed Thrasher usually has a longer, more curved bill; more blurry spotting; more orange eyes. Caution: Young Curve-bill may have a bill as short as Bendire's, and vellow eyes.

Voice: Song, a continuous, clear, double-noted warble, not broken into phrases. Note, a soft tirup.

Range: Sw. U.S. to Sinaloa, Mexico. Map 316. Habitat: Desert, farmland; cholla, thorny bushes.



■ THRUSHES. Family Turdidae

Large-eyed, slender-billed, usually strong-legged 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. Thrushes are often fine singers. **Food:** Insects, worms, snails, berries, fruits. **Range:** Nearly worldwide. **No. of species:** World 316; West 14 (+6 casual or accidental).

AMERICAN ROBIN Turdus migratorius

M309

9–11" (23–28 cm). A very familiar bird, often seen walking with an erect stance on lawns. Recognized by its dark gray back and brick-red breast. Dark stripes on a white throat. The head and tail of the male are blackish; those of the female grayer. The young bird has a speckled breast, but the rusty wash identifies it.

Voice: Song, a clear caroling; short phrases, rising and falling, often pro-

longed. Notes, tyeep and tut-tut-tut.

Ronge: Alaska, Canada to s. Mexico. West: Map 309. Habitat: Cities, towns, farmland, lawns, shade trees, forests; in winter, berry-bearing trees.

VARIED THRUSH Ixoreus naevius

M310

9–10" (23–25 cm). Similar to the American Robin, but with an *orangish eyestripe*, *orange wing bars*, and a wide *black band* (male) or *gray band* (female) across the rusty breast. *Young*: Breastband imperfect or speckled; rusty wing bars and eyestripe distinguish it from a young Robin.

Voice: A long, eerie, quavering, whistled note, followed, after a pause, by

one on a lower or higher pitch. A liquid chup.

Range: Alaska, w. Canada, nw. U.S. Map 310. Habitat: Thick, wet forest, conifers; in winter, woods, ravines, thickets.

RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN Turdus rufopalliatus

9" (23 cm). This rare Mexican visitor is like a pale American Robin (extensive cinnamon underparts, grayish head, wings, and tail), but with a rufous back and no white around the eye. A timid skulker.

Range: Western and S. Mexico. West: A rare but regular fall-winter visi-

tor to s. Arizona. Accidental, Texas, California.

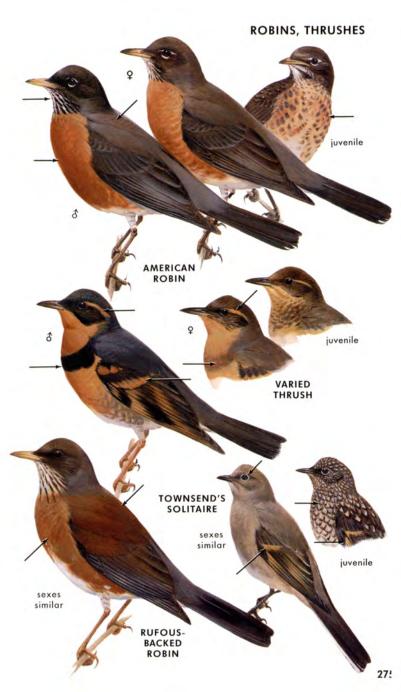
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE Mvadestes townsendi

M304

8" (20 cm). A slim gray bird with a white eye-ring, white sides on the tail, and buffy wing patches. The pattern in the wing and tail give it a not-too-remote resemblance to a Mockingbird, but note the eye-ring, darker breast, and especially the buff wing patches.

Range: Alaska, nw. Canada, w. U.S., n. Mexico. Map 304. Habitat: Conifer forests in mountains, rocky cliffs, thickets; in winter, chaparral,

pinyon-juniper, open woods, wooded streams.



6½-7½" (16-19 cm). Note the *uniform brown* cast above and the grayish tones on the flanks. No strong eye-ring (may have a dull whitish ring). Of all our brown thrushes, the least spotted; the spots may be indistinct in eastern birds, which are more tawny above than birds of the western mountains, which are darker brown.

Voice: Song, liquid, breezy, ethereal; wheeling downward: vee-ur,

vee-ur, veer, veer. Note, a low phew or view.

Ronge: S. Canada, n. and cen. U.S. Winters from Colombia to Brazil. West: Map 305. Habitat: Damp deciduous woods.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH Catharus ustulatus

M307

7" (18 cm). This spotted thrush is marked by its conspicuous buffy eye-ring, buff on cheeks and upper breast. Gray-cheeked Thrush has a less conspicuous eye-ring.

Voice: Song, breezy, flutelike phrases, each phrase sliding upward. Note, whit, or foot. Migrants at night (in sky), a short heep, or quee-

ah.

Ronge: Alaska, Canada, w. and ne. U.S. Winters Mexico to Peru. West: Map 307. Habitat: Spruce forests; in migration, other woods.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH Catharus minimus

M306

7–8" (18–20 cm). A dull gray-brown thrush, distinguished from Swainson's by its *grayish* cheeks and less conspicuous eye-ring. **Voice:** Song, thin and nasal; suggests Veery's, but often rising abruptly at close (Veery's goes down): *whee-wheeoo-titi-whee*. Note, *vee-a* or *quee-a*, higher and more nasal than Swainson's note.

Ronge: Ne. Siberia, Alaska, Canada, ne. U.S. Winters from W. Indies and Costa Rica to Brazil. West: Map 306. Habitat: Boreal forests, tundra scrub; in migration, other woodlands.

HERMIT THRUSH Catharus guttatus

M308

7" (18 cm). A spot-breasted brown thrush with a *rufous* tail. When perched, it has a habit of cocking its tail and dropping it slowly. **Similar species:** Fox Sparrow (some races have a rusty tail) is heavily streaked rather than spotted; note the conical bill.

Voice: Note, a low *chuck*; also a scolding *tuk-tuk-tuk* and a harsh pay. Song, clear, ethereal, flutelike; three or four phrases at *different*

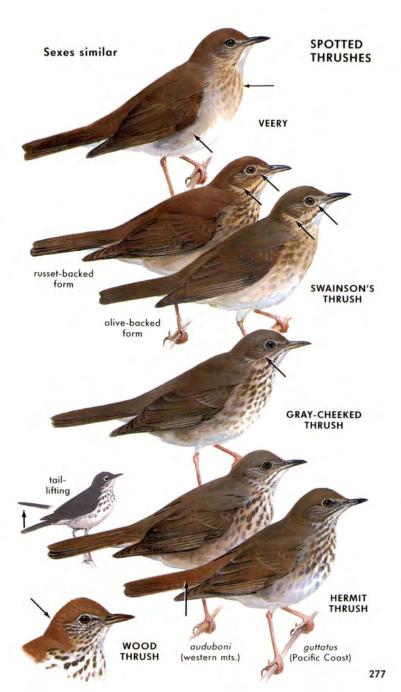
pitches, each with a long introductory note.

Range: Alaska, Canada, w. and ne. U.S. Winters U.S. to El Salvador. West: Map 308. Habitat: Conifer or mixed woods, forest floor; in winter, woods, thickets, parks.

WOOD THRUSH Hylocichla mustelina

8" (20 cm). Rusty-headed. Smaller than a Robin; plumper than the other brown thrushes, distinguished by the deepening rufous about the head, the *striped cheeks*, and the rounder, more numerous breast spots.

Ronge: Breeds se. Canada, e. and cen. U.S.; a very rare or casual stray in most western states west to Idaho, Oregon, and California.



6½-7" (16-18 cm). A bit larger than a sparrow; appears round-shouldered when perched. Head, wings, and tail blue; breast and back rusty red. (In some birds the back is partially or wholly blue.) Throat blue. Females are paler, duller, with rusty breast, grayish throat and belly. Young birds are speckle-breasted, grayish, devoid of red, but with some telltale blue in wings and tail.

Similar species: (1) Lazuli Bunting has white wing bars. (2) Male

Mountain Bluebird has a blue breast (see also female).

Voice: A short pew or mew. Also a hard, chattering note.

Range: Breeds from s. British Columbia, western U.S. to mountains of cen. Mexico. Map 302. Habitat: Scattered trees, open conifer forests, farms; in winter, semi-open terrain, brush, deserts.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD Sialia sialis

M301

7" (18 cm). Similar to Western Bluebird but throat rusty, not blue. Belly and undertail whiter, not as gray. Western Bluebird has a blue throat and usually some rust color on the back. Female duller than male; has a rusty throat and breast, white belly. Juvenile: Specklebreasted; similar to juvenile Western Bluebird.

Voice: Note, a musical *chur-wi*. Song, 3 or 4 gurgling notes.

Range: East of Rockies; s. Canada to Gulf states; also se. Arizona to Nicaragua. West: Map 301. Habitat: Open country with scattered trees: farms, roadsides.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD Sialia currucoides

M303

7" (18 cm). Male: Turquoise blue, paler below; belly whitish. No rusty. Female: Dull brownish, with a touch of blue on rump, tail, and wings. Has a straighter posture than female Western Bluebird and lacks rusty wash on gray-brown breast.

Voice: A low chur or phew. Song, a short, subdued warble.

Ronge: Alaska, w. Canada to sw. U.S. West: Map 303. Habitat: Open country with some trees; in winter, also treeless terrain.

BLUETHROAT Luscinia svecica

5½" (14 cm). A small, sprightly bird; when flirted, the tail shows a chestnut base. Male in summer: Blue throat patch, with a reddish spot and a reddish band separating the blue from the white. Female has a white throat with a dark necklace.

Voice: A sharp *tac* and a soft *wheet*. Song, repetitious notes, musical and varied; often a cricketlike note.

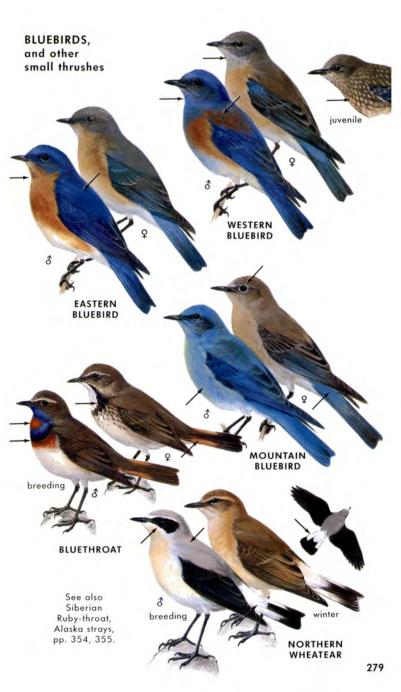
Range: Eurasia, Alaska; winters to India, n. Africa. West: Breeds in n. and w. Alaska from Brooks Range to Seward Peninsula. Habitat: Dwarf willow, thick brush.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR Oenanthe oenanthe

6" (15 cm). A small, dapper bird of arctic barrens, flitting from rock to rock, fanning its tail and bobbing. Note the white rump and sides of the tail. The black on the tail forms a broad inverted T. Breeding male has a blue-gray back, black wings, and a black ear patch. Female and autumn male are buffier, with a brown back.

Voice: Note, a hard chak-chak or chack-weet, weet-chack.

Ronge: Eurasia, Alaska, Canada, Greenland. Migrates to Africa, India. West: Breeds from n. Alaska, n. Yukon to coastal Alaska, sw. Yukon. Accidental, British Columbia, Oregon, n. California.



■ SHRIKES. Family Laniidae. Songbirds with hook-tipped bills, hawk-like behavior. Shrikes perch watchfully on treetops, wires; often impale prey on thorns, barbed wire. Food: Insects, lizards, mice, small birds. Range: Widespread in Old World; 2 in N. America. No. of species: World 74; West 2 (+1 accidental).

NORTHERN SHRIKE Lanius excubitor

M325

9-10" (23-25 cm). Similar to the Loggerhead Shrike; note the *faintly barred* breast and the *pale base* of the lower mandible. Bill longer, more hooked. *luvenile*: Brown, with *fine bars* on breast.

Similar species: Adult Loggerhead Shrike has a solid black bill; black mask meets over base of bill. Juvenile may have faint bars,

but is grayer than the young Northern.

Voice: Song, a disjointed, thrasher-like succession of harsh notes and musical notes. Note, *shek-shek*; a grating *jaaeg*.

Range: N. America, Eurasia, n. Africa. West: Map 325. Habitat:

Semi-open country with lookout posts; trees, scrub. LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE Lanius ludovicianus

M326

9" (23 cm). Big-headed, slim-tailed; gray, black, and white, with a black mask. Sits quietly on wires or bush tops; taking off, flies low with flickering flight showing white patches, then swoops upward to its perch. Suggests a Mockingbird (p. 271).

Voice: Song, harsh, deliberate notes and phrases, repeated 3-20 times, suggesting Mockingbird's song; queedle, queedle, over and

over, or tsurp-see, tsurp-see. Note, shack shack.

Ronge: S. Canada to s. Mexico. West: Map 326. Habitat: Semi-open country with lookout posts; wires, trees, scrub.

■ STARLINGS. Family Sturnidae. A varied family; some black-bird-like. Usually short-tailed, sharp-billed. Gregarious. Food: Insects, seeds, berries. Range: Widespread in Old World. No. of species: World 109: West 2 (introduced).

EUROPEAN STARLING Sturnus vulgaris

M327

7½-8½" (19-21 cm). A gregarious, garrulous, short-tailed "black-bird"; shape of a meadowlark. In flight, looks triangular; flies swiftly and directly. In spring iridescent; bill *yellow*. In winter, heavily speckled; bill dark, changing to yellow in spring. Young Starling is dusky, a bit like female Cowbird, but tail shorter, bill longer.

Voice: A harsh tseeeer; a whistled whooee. Also clear whistles,

clicks, chuckles; sometimes mimics other birds.

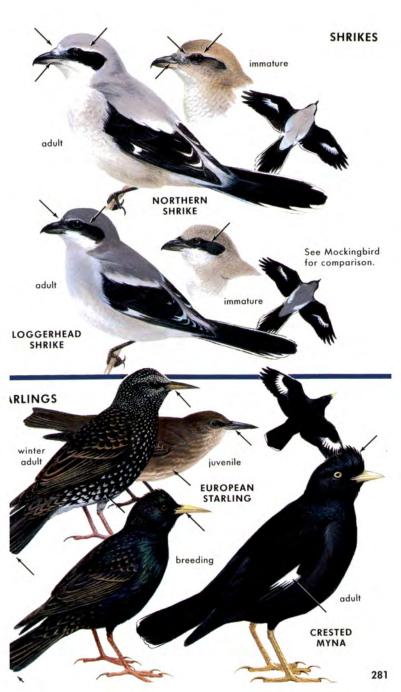
Ronge: Eurasia, n. Africa. Introduced N. America and elsewhere. West: Map 327. Habitat: Cities, parks, farms, open groves, fields.

CRESTED MYNA Acridotheres cristatellus

10½" (26 cm). A large, chunky, short-tailed bird; black, with large white wing patches; bill yellow; legs yellow. The forehead is adorned with a short bushy crest.

Voice: Starling-like; repeated phrases. An accomplished mimic.

Range: Se. Asia. Introduced in Philippines and British Columbia. West: Resident in and near Vancouver, British Columbia; local, s. Vancouver I. Casual, w. Washington, nw. Oregon.



■ WAXWINGS. Family Bombycillidae. The sleekest birds; a pointed crest may be raised or lowered. Waxy red tips on secondaries in most individuals. Gregarious. Food: Berries, insects. Range: N. Hemisphere. No. of species: World 3; West 2.

CEDAR WAXWING Bombycilla cedrorum

M323

7" (18 cm). Note the *yellow band* at the tip of the tail. A sleek, crested, brown bird, larger than a House Sparrow. Adults usually have *waxy red tips* on the secondaries. Differs from Bohemian Waxwing in having yellow on the belly, *white* (not rusty) undertail coverts. Juvenile is grayer, softly streaked below. Waxwings are gregarious; they fly and feed in compact flocks. Although they are berry-eaters, they often indulge in fly-catching.

Voice: A high, thin lisp or zeee; sometimes slightly trilled.

Ronge: Se. Alaska, Canada, to s.-cen. U.S. Winters s. Canada to Panama. West: Map 323. Habitat: Open woodlands, fruiting trees, orchards; in winter, widespread, including towns; nomadic.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING Bombycilla garrulus

M322

8" (20 cm). Similar to the Cedar Waxwing (yellow tip on tail), but larger and grayer, with no yellow on belly; wings with strong white or white and yellow markings. Note the deep rusty undertail coverts (these are white in Cedar Waxwing). Often travels in large nomadic flocks.

Voice: Zreee, rougher than thin note of Cedar Waxwing.

Ronge: N. Eurasia, nw. N. America. Winters to s. Eurasia, ne. and sw. U.S. West: Map 322. Habitat: In summer, boreal forests, muskeg, in winter, widespread in search of berries, especially in towns where plantings and fruiting trees attract them.

■ SILKY-FLYCATCHERS. Family Ptilogonatidae. Slim, crested, waxwing-like birds. Range: Sw. U.S. to Panama. Food: Berries, mistletoe; insects. No. of species: World 4; West 1 (+1 accidental).

PHAINOPEPLA Phainopepla nitens

M324

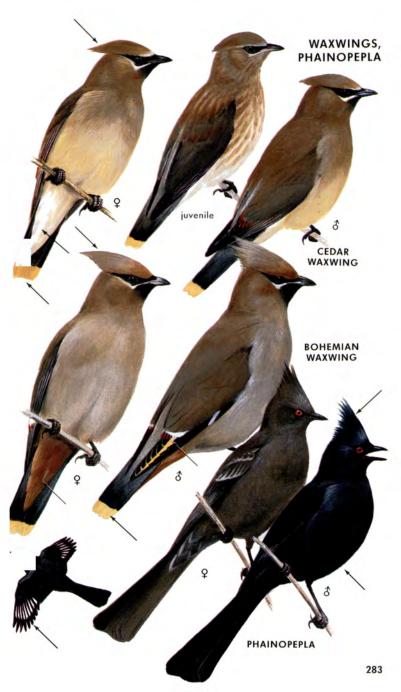
7-7¾" (18-19 cm). Male: A slim, glossy black bird with a slender crest. White wing patches are conspicuous in flight. Female: Dark gray with a slender crest; wing patches light gray, not conspicuous. Eats berries but also catches flies.

Similar species: (1) Cedar Waxwing is much browner than female Phainopepla, has a yellow tailband. (2) Mockingbird (white wing patches) is gray with much white in the tail.

Voice: Note, a soft low wurp. Song, a weak, casual warble, wheezy

and disconnected.

Range: Sw. U.S. to s. Mexico. Map 324. Habitat: Desert scrub, mesquite, oak foothills, mistletoe, pepper trees.



■ VIREOS. Family Vireonidae. Small, olive- or gray-backed birds, much like wood warblers, usually less active. Bills with a more curved ridge and slight hook. May be divided into those with wing bars (and "spectacles") and those without (these have eyestripes). Food: Mostly insects. Range: Canada to Argentina. No. of species: World 43; West 9 (+1 accidental).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO Vireo solitarius

5-6" (13-15 cm). White "spectacles," gray head, olive or gray back, snowwhite throat. Two wing bars. See variation opposite. Split off from Blueheaded is Plumbeous Vireo (V. plumbeus) of the Great Basin area and Cassin's Vireo (V. cassinii) of the West Coast.

Voice: Song, sweet whistled phrases; short deliberate pauses.

Range: Canada to El Salvador. Winters to s. U.S. to Nicaragua, Cuba.

West: Map 330. Habitat: Mixed conifer-deciduous woods.

BLACK-CAPPED VIREO Vireo atricapillus

4½" (11 cm). A small, sprightly vireo; top and sides of head glossy black in male, slate gray in female. Two wing bars. White "spectacles" formed by eye-ring and loral patch; eyes red.

Voice: Song, hurried, harsh; phrases remarkable for restless, almost angry

quality. Alarm note, a harsh chit-ah.

Range: Breeds sw. Kansas, cen. Oklahoma, w. and cen. Texas (through Edwards Plateau and Big Bend) to Coahuila, Mexico. Winters in w. Mexico. Habitat: Oak scrub, brushy hills, rocky canyons.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO Vireo flavifrons

5" (13 cm). Note the bright yellow throat, yellow "spectacles," and white wing bars. See Pine Warbler (white tail spots, streaks).

Voice: Song, similar to Red-eyed Vireo's, but has a burry quality.

Range: Breeds e. U.S., se. Canada. West: Rare migrant east of Rockies; casual west to Utah, Nevada, California.

BELL'S VIREO Vireo bellii

M328

4½-5" (11-13 cm). Small, grayish; nondescript. One or two light wing bars, pale yellowish-washed sides. Distinguished from Warbling Vireo by the wing bar(s) and whitish eye-ring. Flicks tail.

Voice: Sings as if through clenched teeth; husky phrases at short intervals: cheedle cheedle cheedle cheedle chew!

Range: Cen. and sw. U.S., n. Mexico. Winters Mexico to Nicaragua.

West: Map 328. Habitat: Willows, streamsides.

M331

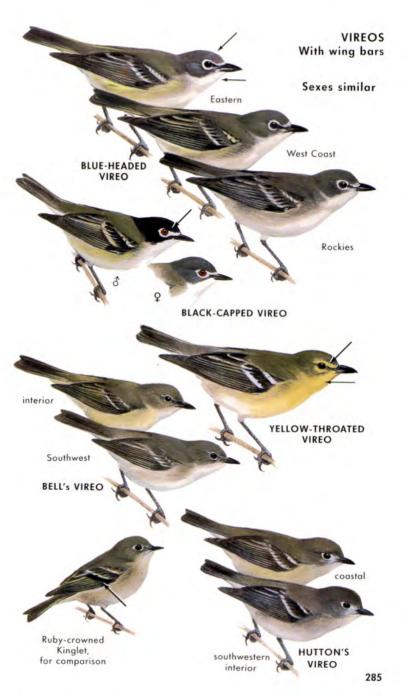
HUTTON'S VIREO Vireo huttoni 41/4-43/4" (11-12 cm). Note the incomplete eye-ring, broken by a dark spot above the eye. A small, olive-brown vireo with two broad white wing bars, a partial eye-ring, and a large light loral spot. Suggests a Rubycrowned Kinglet, but Hutton's Vireo is slightly larger, has a heavier bill, and lacks the dark wing bar. Does not twitch its wings like a kinglet.

Voice: A double-noted zu-weep (rising inflection), sometimes oft-repeated; vireo quality. A hoarse, deliberate day dee dee.

Range: Sw. British Columbia to Guatemala, Map 331. Habitat: Woods and adjacent brush: prefers oaks.

WHITE-EYED VIREO Vireo griseus (not shown)

Eastern. Barely reaches 100th meridian in Texas. Casual or accidental in Southwest (Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, California). See A Field Guide to the Birds (Eastern).



RED-EYED VIREO Vireo olivaceus

M334

6" (15 cm). Note the gray cap contrasting with the olive back, and the strong, black-bordered white eyebrow stripe. The red iris may not be obvious at a distance. The iris is brown in immature birds in fall.

Voice: Song, abrupt phrases, repeated as often as 40 times per minute; monotonous. Note, a nasal, whining chway.

Ronge: Canada to Gulf states. Winters in Amazon basin. West: Map 334. Habitat: Woodlands, shade trees, groves.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO Vireo flavoviridis

6" (15 cm). Very similar to Red-eyed Vireo (both in behavior and voice), but *strong yellow tones* on underparts; back greener; head stripes less distinct. Some authors lump the two species.

Ronge: Rio Grande delta, n. Mexico, to Panama. Winters in S. America. West: Casual fall visitor to southern and coastal California; recorded in summer in s. Arizona.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO Vireo philadelphicus

M333

4¾" (12 cm). This warbler-like vireo combines unbarred wings and strongly *yellow-tinged* underparts, especially on the breast.

Similar species: (1) Warbling Vireo usually lacks yellow (but may have a tinge on the sides). Note the *dark loral spot* (between eye and bill) in the Philadelphia. (2) Fall Tennessee Warbler (p. 300) has clear white (not yellow) undertail coverts.

Voice: Song similar to Red-eyed Vireo's; higher, slower.

Ronge: S. Canada, ne. edge of U.S. Winters in Cen. America. West: Map 333. Hobitot: Second-growth woodlands, poplars, willows, alders.

WARBLING VIREO Vireo gilvus

M332

5" (13 cm). In this very plain vireo, note the whitish breast and the lack of black borders on the eyebrow stripe.

Similar species: (1) Philadelphia Vireo is yellowish below, has dark lores. (2) Red-eyed Vireo has black borders on the eyebrow stripe. Voice: Song distinctive; a languid warble, unlike broken phrases of other vireos; suggests Purple Finch's song, but less spirited, with burry undertone. Note, a wheezy querulous twee.

Ronge: Canada to s. U.S., cen. Mexico. Winters Mexico to Nicaragua. West: Map 332. Habitat: Deciduous and mixed woods, aspen groves, poplars, shade trees.

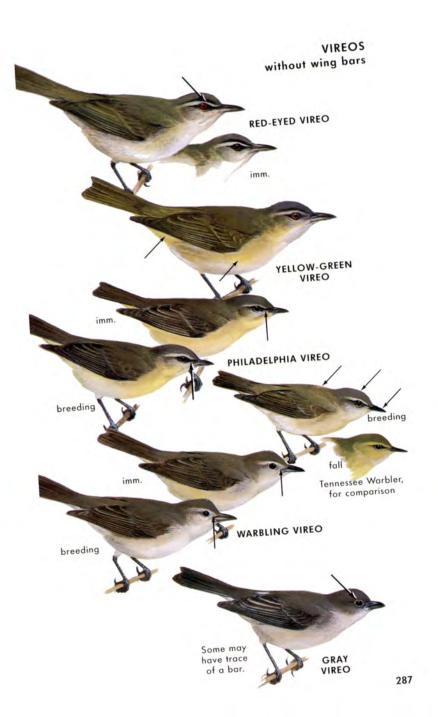
GRAY VIREO Vireo vicinior

M329

5-5¾" (13-14 cm). This plain, gray-backed vireo of arid mountains has a narrow white eye-ring but differs from other vireos with eyerings by having no wing bars or only one faint bar. Though drab, it has character, flopping its tail like a gnatcatcher.

Similar species: Bell's Vireo (p. 285) usually has two wing bars (sometimes only one). Habitat different (low stream edges).

Voice: Song similar to Solitary Vireo's, but more rapid, "patchy." Ronge: Sw. U.S. to cen. Mexico. Map 329. Habitat: Brushy mountain slopes, mesas, open chaparral, scrub oak, junipers.



■ WOOD WARBLERS. Family Parulidae. Subfamily Parulinae. Active, brightly colored birdlets, usually smaller than sparrows, with thin, needle-pointed bills. The majority have some yellow. Identification in autumn is often difficult. Food: Mainly insects. Ronge: Alaska and Canada to n. Argentina. No. of species: World 114; West 53 (including several that are purely casual or accidental, categories that are hard to define because recent intensive field work has shown they may be rare but regular as vagrants at certain coastal points and desert oases).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER Dendroica magnolia

M342

4¾" (12 cm). The "Black-and-yellow" Warbler. Upperparts blackish, with large white patches on wings and tail; underparts yellow, with heavy black stripes. Note the black tail crossed midway by a *broad white band* (from beneath, the tail is white with a broad black tip). Immature has weak breast stripes, but the tail pattern is distinctive.

Voice: Song suggests Yellow Warbler's but is shorter; weeta weeta weet-

see (last note rising), or weeta weeta wit-chew.

Range: Canada, ne. U.S. Winters Mexico, W. Indies to Panama. West: Map 342. Habitat: Low conifers, except in migration.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER Dendroica coronata

M344

[Including "Audubon" and "Myrtle" Warblers.) 5–6" (13–15 cm). Note the bright yellow rump and the note (a loud check or tchip). Male in spring: Blue-gray above; heavy black breast patch (like an inverted U); throat, crown, side patches yellow. "Audubon" form (Western U.S., sw. Canada) differs from "Myrtle" form (Alaska, Canada, e. U.S.) in having a yellow throat, large white wing patches. Female in spring: Brown, not gray; pattern similar except for wing patch (has two white bars). Winter adults and young: Brownish above; whitish below, streaked; throat yellowish (sometimes dim) in western "Audubon" form, rump yellow.

Voice: Song, junco-like but two-parted, rising or dropping in pitch, seet-

seet-seet-seet- seet, trrrrrrrr. Note, a loud check.

Range: Breeds Alaska, Canada, ne. and w. U.S. to Guatemala; winters to Panama. West: Map 344. Habitat: Conifer forests. In winter, varied; open woods, brush, thickets, gardens, even beaches.

CANADA WARBLER Wilsonia canadensis

M361

5-5¾" (13-14 cm). The "necklaced" warbler. *Male:* Solid gray above; bright yellow below, with *necklace of short black stripes. Female and immature:* Similar; necklace fainter or lacking. All have yellow "spectacles." No white in wings or tail.

Voice: Song, a staccato burst, irregularly arranged. Chip, chupety swee-

ditchety (Gunn). Note, tchip.

Range: Canada, e. U.S. Winters Oaxaca, Mexico, to e. Peru. West: Map 361. Habitat: Forest undergrowth, shady thickets.



TOWNSEND'S WARBLER Dendroica townsendi

M346

4½-5" (11-13 cm). Male: Easily distinguished by the black and yellow pattern of the head, with a blackish cheek patch; underparts yellow, with striped sides. Female: Throat largely yellow, not black; may be known by the well-defined dark cheek patch, bordered by yellow as in the male.

Similar species: Hermit Warbler lacks black cheek and crown.

Voice: Song, similar to Black-throated Gray's: dzeer dzeer dzeer tseetsee or weazy, weazy, seesee. "The first 3 or 4 notes similar in pitch, with a wheezy, buzzy quality, followed by 2 or more high-pitched sibilant notes" (H. H. Axtell).

Range: Breeds nw. N. America. Winters south to Nicaragua. Map 346. Habitat: Tall conifers, cool fir forests; in winter, also oaks,

madroñas, laurels.

HERMIT WARBLER Dendroica occidentalis

M347

4¾" (12 cm). Note the bright yellow face set off by the black throat and nape and dark gray back. In the female the black of the throat is much reduced or wanting, but the yellow face, gray back, and whitish underparts identify it.

Similor species: (1) Male Townsend's Warbler has black cheek patches. Female has olive back, yellow breast. (2) In Canada (east

of Rockies) see Black-throated Green Warbler.

Voice: Song, three high lisping notes followed by two abrupt lower ones: *sweety, sweety, sweety, chup'chup'* or *seedle, seedle, seedle, chup' chup'*. Abrupt end notes distinctive.

Ronge: Pacific states. Winters Mexico to California. Map 347. Hobitot: Conifer forests; in migration, conifers and deciduous woods.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER Dendroica virens

M34/

4½-5" (11-13 cm). Male: The bright yellow face is framed by the black throat and olive-green crown. Female: Recognized by the yellow face; much less black on the throat.

Similar species: Hermit Warbler (Pacific states) has yellow on

crown, lacks eye stripe. Back gray; no black on sides.

Voice: A lisping, dreamy zoo zee zoo zoo zee or zee zee zee zee zoo zee; the zee notes on same pitch, the zoo notes lower.

Range: Canada, ne. U.S. and south in mountains to Georgia. Winters s. Texas to Venezuela. West: Map 347. Habitat: Mainly conifers.

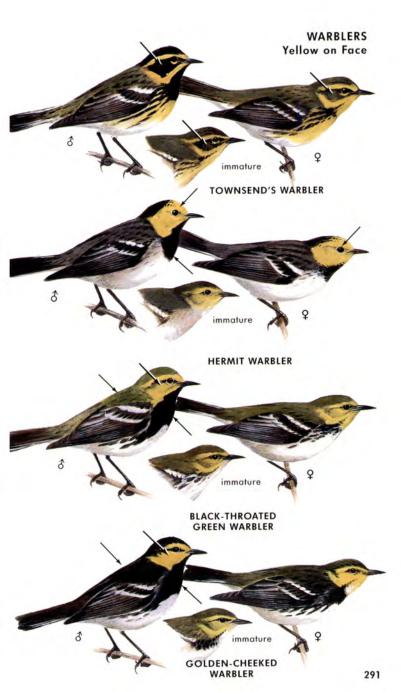
GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER Dendroica chrysoparia

4½-5" (11-13 cm). Breeds in the "cedar" hills of the Edwards Plateau, Texas; the warbler with yellow cheeks and a black throat usually found there. *Male*: Similar to Black-throated Green Warbler, but with a *black back* and blacker line through the eye. *Female*: Back olive-green; similar to a female Black-throated Green, but belly *snowy white* (lacking tinge of yellow).

Voice: Song, a hurried tweeah, tweeah, tweesy (H. P. Attwater) or

bzzzz, laysee, daysee (E. Kincaid).

Range: Breeds only in Texas; mainly on Edwards Plateau; west to San Angelo, Rocksprings. Winters s. Mexico to Nicaragua. Habitat: Junipers, oaks; also streamside trees. Endangered.



4½-5½" (11-14 cm). Creeps along trunks and branches. Striped lengthwise with black and white; has a striped crown and white stripes on its back. Female lacks the black throat and cheek.

Voice: Song, a thin weesee weesee weesee weesee weesee; suggests one of Redstart's songs, but higher-pitched, longer.

Range: Canada to Gulf states. Winters s. U.S. to n. S. America.

West: Map 352. Habitat: Woods; trunks, limbs of trees.

M351

BLACKPOLL WARBLER Dendroica striata 5" (13 cm). Male, spring: A striped gray warbler with a black cap, white cheeks. Female, spring: Less heavily streaked, lacking the black cap; greenish gray above, whitish below, streaked. Autumn: Olive above, greenish yellow below, faintly streaked; two wing bars; white undertail coverts; usually pale vellowish legs. Fall Baybreasted Warbler (p. 295) has dark legs.

Voice: Song, a thin, deliberate, mechanical zi-zi-zi zi-zi-zi-zi-zi-zi

on one pitch, becoming stronger, then diminishing.

Ronge: Alaska, Canada, ne. U.S. Winters in tropical S. America. West: Map 351. Habitat: Conifers; broadleaf trees in migration.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER Dendroica nigrescens 41/2-5" (11-13 cm). Male: Gray, with a black throat, cheek, and crown patches separated by white. Female: Slaty crown and cheek: light throat. Suggests Black-and-white Warbler, but lacks the white stripes on the back and crown.

Voice: Song a buzzy chant, zeedle zeedle zeedle zeet' che (next to

last or last note higher). Variable; "full of Z's."

Range: Western N. America. Map 345. Winters s. California to s. Mexico. Habitat: Dry oak slopes, pinyons, junipers, open mixed woods.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER Dendroica caerulescens

5-51/2" (13-14 cm). Male: Clean-cut; upperparts deep blue: throat and sides black, belly white; wing with white spot. Female: Brownbacked, with a light line over the eye and a small white wing spot. Immature and fall female may lack this white "pocket handkerchief," but note the dark cheek.

Voice: Song, a husky, lazy zur, zur, zur, zreee, or beer, beer, beer, bree (ending higher). May be shortened to two or three notes.

Range: Eastern N. America. Winters W. Indies. West: Casual migrant along w. edge of Plains from Alberta to Texas Panhandle; a few recorded west to Oregon, California, mainly in fall.

CERULEAN WARBLER Dendroica cerulea

41/2" (11 cm). Male: Blue above, white below. Note the narrow black ring across the chest. Female: Blue-gray and olive-green above, whitish below; two white wing bars, whitish eyebrow.

Similar species: Female suggests (1) Tennessee Warbler (p. 301), which has no wing bars, or (2) a fall Blackpoll, but has a more conspicuous eyebrow; lacks stripes on the back.

Voice: Rapid buzzy notes on the same pitch, followed by a longer

note on a higher pitch: zray zray zray zreeeee. Range: Eastern U.S.; winters Colombia to Bolivia. West: Accidental stray west to Colorado, Nevada, Arizona, California.



CAPE MAY WARBLER Dendroica tigrina

M343

5" (13 cm). Male, breeding: Note the chestnut cheeks. Yellow below, striped with black; rump yellow, crown black. Female and autumn birds: Lack chestnut cheeks; duller, breast often whitish, streaked. Note the dull patch of yellow behind the ear.

Voice: Song, a very high, thin seet seet seet. May be confused

with song of Bay-breasted or Black-and-white Warbler.

Ronge: Canada, ne. edge of U.S. Winters in Caribbean area. West: Map 343. Habitat: Spruce forest; broadleaf trees in migration.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER Dendroica pensylvanica M341 4½-5½" (11-14 cm). Adult, breeding: Identified by combination of yellow crown, chestnut sides. Autumn: Lemon-greenish above, whitish below; narrow white eye-ring, two pale yellow wing bars. Adults retain some chestnut, immatures do not.

Voice: Song, similar to Yellow Warbler's: see see see see Miss Beech'er or please please pleased to meet'cha; penultimate note accented, last note dropping. Also a more rambling song.

Range: Mainly s. Canada, ne. U.S. Winters se. Mexico to n. S.

America. West: Map 341. Habitat: Slashings, bushy pastures.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER Dendroica castanea M350 5-6" (13-15 cm). Male, spring: Dark-looking, with a chestnut throat, upper breast, and sides. Note the large spot of pale buff on the neck. Female, spring: Paler, more washed out. Autumn: Olivegreen above; two white wing bars; dull buff-white below. May have trace of bay on sides. Buff undertail coverts, dark legs. Fall Blackpoll (p. 293) usually has pale legs.

Voice: A high, sibilant tees teesi teesi; resembles song of Black-and-

white Warbler; thinner, shorter, more on one pitch.

Ronge: Canada, ne. edge of U.S. Winters Panama to Venezuela. West: Map 350. Hobitot: Woodlands, conifers in summer.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER Dendroica fusca

5" (13 cm). The "Fire Throat." Male, spring: Black and white, with flame orange on head and throat. Female and autumn birds: Paler orange on throat. Note the yellow head stripes, pale back stripes. Voice: Song, zip zip zip titi tseeeeee, ending on a very high, upslurred note (inaudible to some ears). Also a two-parted teetsa teet

Ronge: Canada, e. U.S. Winters Costa Rica to Bolivia. West: Breeds locally in cen. Saskatchewan, cen. Alberta. Rare migrant on Plains west to Rockies; each year a few strays reach California coast. Hab-

itat: Woodlands; conifers in summer.

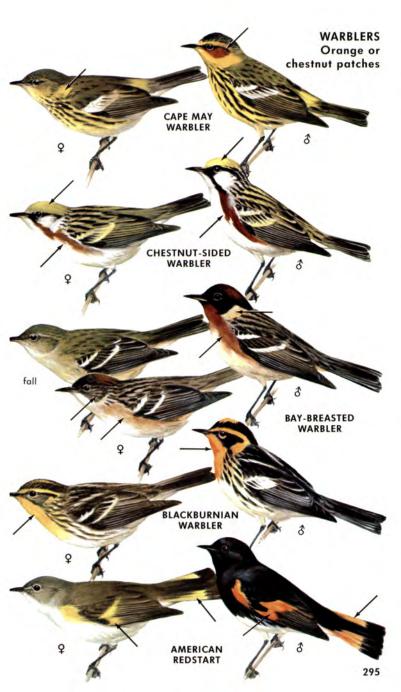
AMERICAN REDSTART Setophaga ruticilla

M353

5" (13 cm). Butterfly-like; actively flitting, with drooping wings and spread tail. Male: Black; bright orange patches on wings and tail. Female: Olive-brown; yellow flash-patches on wings and tail. Immature male: Like female, but tinged with orange on the chest.

Voice: Songs (often alternated), zee zee zee zee zwee (last note higher), tsee tsee tsee tsee tsee o (last syllable dropping), and teetsa te

Range: Canada, e. U.S. Winters Mexico, W. Indies to nw. Brazil. West: Map 353. Habitat: Second-growth woods, river groves.



PAINTED REDSTART Myioborus picta

M363

5½" (14 cm). Beautiful; postures with half-spread wings and tail, showing off *large white patches*. Black head and upperparts; *large bright red patch* on lower breast. Also called Painted Whitestart.

Voice: Song, a repetitious weeta weeta weeta wee or weeta weeta chilp

chilp chilp. Note, an unwarbler-like clee-ip.

Range: Sw. U.S. to n. Nicaragua. Map 363. Habitat: Oak canyons, pine-oak forests in mountains.

RED-FACED WARBLER Cardellina rubrifrons

M362

5-5½" (13-14 cm). The only U.S. warbler with a *bright-red face*. It has a gray back, a black patch on the head, and a white nape.

Voice: A clear, sweet song, similar to that of Yellow Warbler.

Range: Sw. U.S. to Durango, Mexico. Map 362. Winters Mexico, Guatemala. Habitat: Open pine-oak forests in high mountains.

OLIVE WARBLER Peucedramus taeniatus

M365

Family Peucedramidae

4½"-5" (11-13 cm). *Male:* Note the *orange-brown head and chest* and the *black ear patch. Female:* Duller crown, nape olive, breast yellowish. It has the dusky ear patch.

Voice: Song, a ringing peter peter peter peter. Variable.

Range: Sw. U.S. to Nicaragua. Map 365. Habitat: Pine and fir forests of high mountains.

COLIMA WARBLER Vermivora crissalis

5½" (14 cm). Found in the high Chisos Mts. in Texas. Drab, with a *yellow* rump and undertail coverts. Larger than Virginia's Warbler; sides *brownish*; lacks yellow on the breast.

Voice: Song, "a simple trill, like that of Chipping Sparrow but more musi-

cal and ending in two lower notes" (J. Van Tyne).

Range: Breeds in w. Texas (Chisos Mts.), n.-cen. Mexico. Winters in Mexico to Colima, Guerrero. Habitat: Oak-pine canyons.

GRACE'S WARBLER Dendroica graciae

M348

4½-5" (11-13 cm). Gray-backed, with a yellow throat, two wing bars, yellowish eyebrow stripe, stripes on sides. Resembles Yellow-throated Warbler, which has a white patch behind the ear.

Voice: Cheedle cheedle che che che, etc. (ends in a trill).

Range: Breeds from sw. U.S. to n. Nicaragua. Map 348. Winters south of U.S. Habitat: Pine-oak forests of mountains.

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER Vermivora virginiae

M338

4-4½" (10-11 cm). Male: A small gray warbler, with a yellowish rump and undertail coverts, narrow white eye-ring, rufous spot on the crown (usually concealed), and touch of yellow on the breast. Flicks tail. Female duller. Immature may lack the yellow.

Voice: Song, loose, colorless notes on nearly the same pitch; chlip-chlip-

chlip-chlip-wick-wick.

Range: Sw. U.S. Map 338. Winters in s. Mexico. Habitat: Oak canyons, brushy slopes, pinyons.

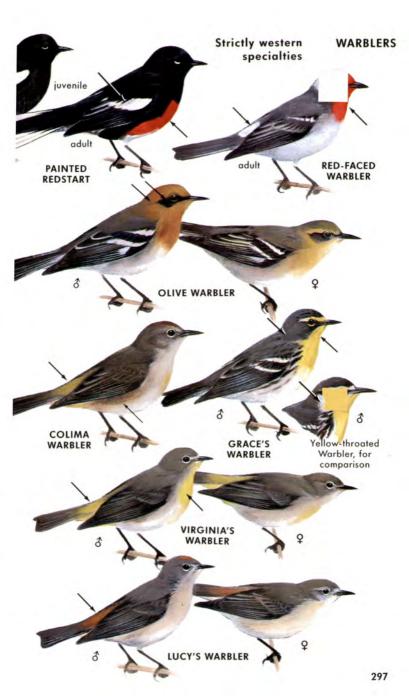
LUCY'S WARBLER Vermivora luciae

M339

4" (10 cm). A small desert warbler; known by its *chestnut rump patch*. White eye-ring, small patch of chestnut on the crown.

Voice: A high weeta weeta weeta che che che, on two pitches.

Range: Breeds sw. U.S., nw. Mexico. Map 339. Habitat: Mesquite along desert streams and washes; willows, cottonwoods.



NASHVILLE WARBLER Vermivora ruficapilla

M337

4¾/″ (12 cm). Note the *white eye-ring* in combination with the *yel-low* throat. *Head gray*, contrasting with the olive-green back. No wing bars. The yellow undertail coverts are separated from the yellow of the belly by a white area. Males may show a dull chestnut crown patch (seldom visible).

Similar species: Male Connecticut Warbler also has a complete white eye-ring and lacks wing bars, but its throat is grayish.

Voice: Song, two-parted: seebit, seebit, seebit, seebit, tititititi (ends like Chipping Sparrow's song).

Range: S. Canada, w. and n. U.S. Winters to Honduras. West: Map 337. Habitat: Cool, open mixed woods with undergrowth; forest edges. bogs.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER Oporornis agilis

M356

5½-6" (13-15 cm). Similar to MacGillivray's and Mourning warblers (gray hood, yellow and olive body), but note the *complete white eye-ring*. Fall female and young are duller and lack the gray hood, but have a suggestion of one (a brownish stain across the upper breast). The eye-ring is always present. This species walks. Similar species: (1) Breeding Mourning Warbler lacks eye-ring (in fall, often has a broken one). Breeding male has a black throat. The yellow undertail coverts reach the middle of the tail (nearly to the end in Connecticut). (2) Nashville Warbler also has an eye-ring, but the bird is much smaller. It has a *yellow throat* and is more active. **Voice:** A repetitious *chip-chup-ee*, *chip-chup-*

Range: Cen.-s. Canada, cen.-n. U.S. Winters n. S. America. West: Map 356. Habitat: Poplar bluffs, muskeg, mixed woods near water;

in migration, undergrowth. Feeds mostly on the ground. **MOURNING WARBLER** Opporornis philadelphia

M357

5-5¾" (13-14 cm). Similar to MacGillivray's Warbler, but the male has no eye-ring. Female and immature may have a very light broken eye-ring and are therefore very difficult to separate from MacGillivray's. See basic ranges on maps.

Voice: Song, chirry, chirry, chorry, chorry (chorry lower). Consider-

able variation.

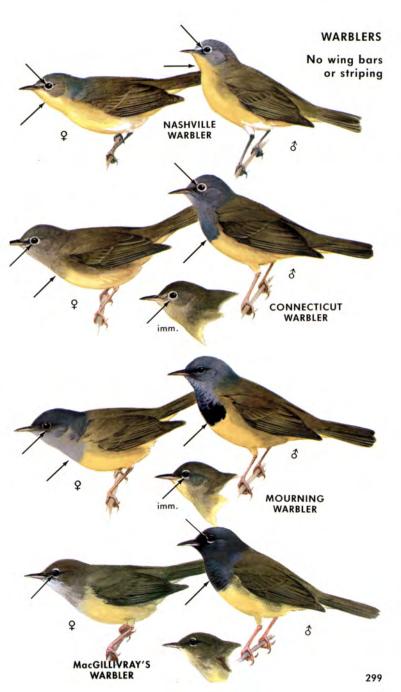
Range: Canada, ne. U.S. Winters Nicaragua to nw. Amazonia. West: Map 357. Habitat: Clearings, thickets, slashings, undergrowth.

MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER Oporornis tolmiei

4¾-5½" (12-14 cm). Male: Olive above, yellow below, with a slategray hood (blackish on the throat) completely encircling the head
and neck. Partial white eye-ring is broken fore and aft. Female:
Similar, but the hood is much paler, washed out on the throat. Immature may have only a suggestion of the hood and is difficult to
separate from immature Mourning Warbler, which breeds in Canada
east of the Rockies.

Voice: Song, a rolling *chiddle-chiddle-chiddle*, *turtle-turtle*, last notes dropping; or *sweeter-sweeter*, *sugar-sugar*.

Range: Breeds w. N. America. Map 358. Winters Sonora to w. Panama. Habitat: Low dense undergrowth; shady thickets.



YELLOW WARBLER Dendroica petechia

M340

5" (13 cm). No other warbler is so extensively yellow. Even the tail spots are yellow (other warblers have white tail spots or none). Male has rusty breast streaks (in female, these are faint or lacking).

Voice: Song, a bright cheerful tsee-tsee-tsee-tsee-titi-wee or weet weet

weet weet tsee tsee, given rapidly. Variable.

Range: Alaska, Canada to Peru. Winters Mexico to Peru. West: Map 340. Habitat: Bushes, swamp edges, streams, gardens.

PALM WARBLER Dendroica palmarum

M349

4½–51/2" (11–14 cm). Note the constant *bobbing* of the tail. Brown above; yellowish or whitish below, narrowly streaked; *yellow* undertail coverts, white spots in tail corners. In spring, has a *chestnut cap* (obscure in fall, winter). Sexes similar.

Voice: Song, weak, repetitious notes: zhe-zhe-zhe-zhe-zhe-zhe.

Range: Canada, ne. edge of U.S. Winters in s. U.S., Caribbean area. West: Map 349. Habitat: Wooded borders of muskeg (summer). In migration, low trees, bushes, ground. A ground-loving warbler.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER Vermivora celata

M336

4¾-5½" (11-14 cm). Dingy, without wing bars or other distinctive marks; olive-green above, greenish yellow below. Note the faint breast streaks and lack of wing bars. "Orange" of crown is seldom visible. In fall and winter many birds are quite gray.

Similar species: Autumn Tennessee Warbler has white undertail coverts. Voice: Song, a colorless trill, becoming weaker toward the end. Often

changes pitch, rising then dropping.

Range: Alaska, Canada, w. U.S. Winters to Guatemala. West: Map 336. Habitat: Brushy clearings, aspens, undergrowth.

TENNESSEE WARBLER Vermivora peregrina

M335

4¾" (12 cm). Quite plain. *Male, spring:* Note the white eyebrow stripe and gray head contrasting with its greenish back. Female, spring: Similar, head less gray, underparts slightly yellowish. Fall: Greenish; note the unstreaked yellowish breast, strong yellowish eyebrow stripe, and trace of a wing bar. A vireo-like species.

Similar species: (1) Autumn Orange-crowned Warbler has yellow under-

tail coverts. (2) See also vireos without wing bars (pp. 286, 287).

Voice: Song, staccato, two- or three-parted: *ticka ticka ticka ticka, swit swit, chew-chew-chew-chew-chew* (Gunn). Suggests Nashville Warbler's song, but louder, more tirelessly repeated.

Range: Canada, ne. edge of U.S. Winters Mexico to Venezuela. West: Map 335. Habitat: Deciduous and mixed forests; in migration, groves,

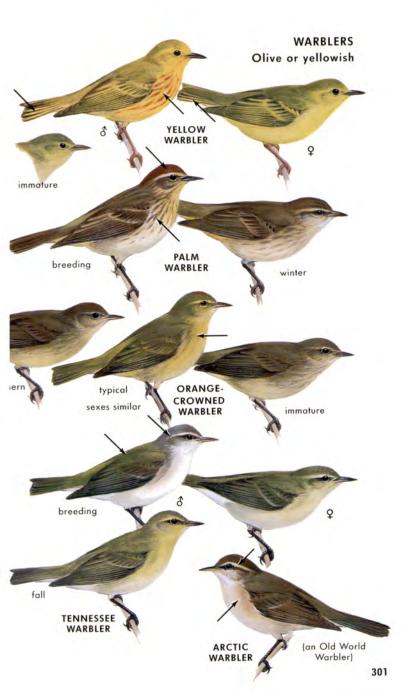
brush.

ARCTIC WARBLER Phylloscopus borealis Family Sylviidae

4¾" (12 cm). A small, plain, Old World warbler. Dull greenish brown above, whitish below; light stripe over eye, a trace of a narrow whitish wing bar; pale legs. Sexes similar. Keep in mind Orange-crowned and Tennessee warblers.

Voice: Song, a repeated tchick followed by a short trill.

Range: Near tree limit, n. Eurasia, Alaska. Winters tropical Asia. West: Breeds in w. Alaska from w. Brooks Range, Colville R., south to Katmai, Mt. McKinley, Denali. Habitat: Willow scrub.



COMMON YELLOWTHROAT Geothlypis trichas

M359

4½-5½" (11-14 cm). Wren-like. *Male* with a *black* (Lone Ranger) mask, yellow throat. Female and immature: Olive-brown, with a rich yellow throat, buffy yellow breast; no black mask. Known from similar warblers by its whitish belly, tan sides, and habitat.

Voice: A bright rapid chant, witchity-witchity-witchity-witch; sometimes witchy-witchy-witchy-witch. Note, a husky tchep.

Ronge: Canada to s. Mexico. Winters s. U.S. to W. Indies, Panama. West: Map 359. Habitat: Swamps, marshes, wet thickets, edges.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT Icteria virens

M364

7" (18 cm). Note the *white* "spectacles," bright *yellow* throat and breast. No wing bars. Size (very large for a warbler), bill, long tail, actions, and habitat suggest a mimic thrush.

Voice: Repeated whistles, alternating with harsh notes and soft *caw's*. Suggests a Mockingbird, but repertoire more limited; much longer pauses between phrases. Single notes: *whoit, kook,* etc.

Range: S. Canada to cen. Mexico. Winters s. U.S. to Panama. West: Map 364. Habitat: Brushy tangles, briars, stream thickets.

WILSON'S WARBLER Wilsonia pusilla

M360

4¾" (12 cm). Male: Golden, with a round black cap. Female may show trace of a cap; immature does not. They are small, golden-looking birds with a yellow stripe above the beady eye.

Voice: Song, a thin, rapid little chatter, dropping in pitch at the end:

chi chi chi chi chet chet.

Range: Alaska, Canada, w. and ne. U.S. Winters Mexico to Panama. West: Map 360. Habitat: Thickets along wooded streams, moist tangles, low shrubs, willows, alders.

HOODED WARBLER Wilsonia citrina

5½" (14 cm). The black hood or cowl of the male encircles the yellow face and forehead. Female and young lack the hood, although the yellow face may be sharply outlined in some females. Aside from white tail spots, they may lack other marks.

Ronge: E. and cen. U.S. Winters in Cen. America. West: Casual or accidental vagrant in most western states. Hobitot: Forest under-

growth.

NORTHERN PARULA Parula americana

4½" (11 cm). Bluish, with a yellow throat and breast and two white wing bars. A suffused *greenish patch* on back. The male's best mark is a *dark breastband* (indistinct or lacking in the female).

Voice: Song, a buzzy trill or rattle that climbs the scale and trips

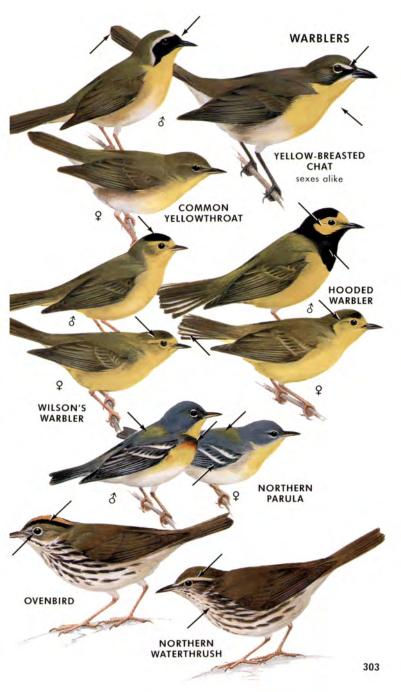
over the top: zeeeeeeeee-up. Also zh-zh-zh-zheeeeee.

Ronge: Se. Canada, e. U.S. Winters Florida, Mexico to W. Indies, Nicaragua. West: Rare or casual vagrant west to Pacific states, but found annually in California (has bred there).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH

Text on p. 304.

6" (15 cm). When breeding, more often heard than seen. Usually seen walking on pale pinkish legs on the leafy floor of the woods. Suggests a small thrush, but striped rather than spotted beneath. Orangish patch on the crown. Song, an emphatic teach'er, TEACH'ER, TEACH'ER, etc., in crescendo. In some areas, monosyllabic, TEACH, TEACH, TEACH, etc.. (continued on p. 304)



OVENBIRD (continued). Ronge: S. Canada, U.S. mainly east of Rockies. Winters se. U.S. to n. S. America. West: Map 354. Habitat: Near ground in leafy woods; in migration, thickets.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH Seiurus noveboracensis (Illustrated on p. 303.) 6" (15 cm). Suggests a small thrush. Walks along the water's edge and teeters like a Spotted Sandpiper. Brownbacked, with striped underparts, strong eyebrow stripe.

Voice: Note, a sharp chip. Song, a vigorous, rapid twit twit sweet sweet sweet chew chew chew (chew's drop in pitch).

Ronge: Alaska, Canada, n. edge of U.S. Winters mainly in tropics. West: Map 355. Habitot: Swampy or wet woods, streamsides, lake shores; in migration, also thickets.

■ MISCELLANEOUS STRAY WARBLERS FROM THE EAST. For further details see the eastern Field Guide to the Birds.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER Protonotaria citrea

5½" (14 cm). A bird of wooded swamps. Head and breast deep yellow. Wings blue-gray, with no bars. Female duller. Casual stray, Colo., N.M., Ariz., Calif. Accidental, Ore., Wash.

PINE WARBLER Dendroica pinus

5-5½" (13-14 cm). Yellow-breasted, with white wing bars; no other obvious field marks. Breast dimly streaked; back unstreaked. White spots in tail corners. Female duller; autumn birds often obscure (see eastern Field Guide). Casual west to Great Plains. Accidental, coast of Calif. Not always in pines.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER Vermivora pinus

4½-5" (11-13 cm). Face and underparts yellow; wings blue-gray, with two white bars. Note the narrow black mark through the eye. Accidental, Colo., Utah, N.M., Ariz., Calif.

WORM-EATING WARBLER Helmitheros vermivorus

5-5½" (13-14 cm). A modest forager of leafy wooded slopes. Dull olive, with *black stripes* on a buffy head. Breast rich buff. Accidental, Wyo., Nev. Casual stray w. Texas, Colo., N.M., Ariz., Calif., Nev., Wyo., Sask.

PRAIRIE WARBLER Dendroica discolor

5" (13 cm). Bobs its tail (like Palm Warbler). Yellow below; black stripes confined to the sides. Two black face marks; one through the eye, one below. Very rare but regular fall vagrant, Calif. Accidental, Ore., Mont., Colo., Ariz., N.M.

KENTUCKY WARBLER Oporornis formosus

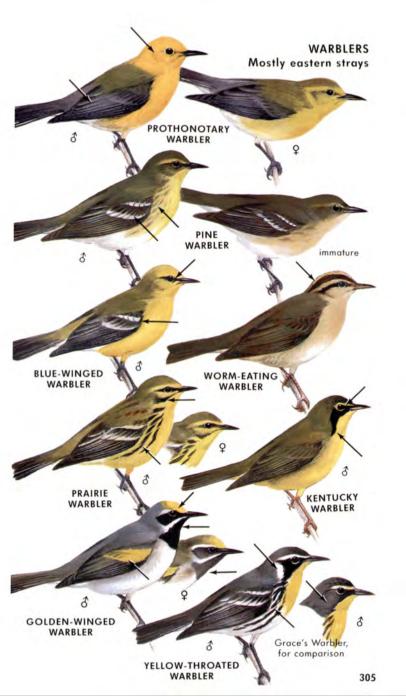
5½" (14 cm). Black sideburns below the eyes; yellow "spectacles." Casual stray through sw. border states to Calif. Accidental, Nev., Colo., Wyo., Mont., Sask., Alaska.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER Vermivora chrysoptera

5-5½" (13-14 cm). Note the combination of *yellow wing patch* and *black throat* (female, gray); also yellow forehead, black ear patch. Accidental, Idaho, Ore., Colo., N.M., Ariz., Calif.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER Dendroica dominica

5-5½" (13-14 cm). Very similar to Grace's Warbler, but note the white patch behind the ear. Creeps about branches. Accidental west to Rocky Mt. states; very rare in Southwest to Calif.



■ BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, etc. Family Icteridae. Subfamily Icterinae. A varied group of birds with conical, sharp-pointed bills and rather flat profiles. Collectively known as "icterids." Some are black and iridescent; others, such as orioles (p. 313), are highly colored. Sexes usually not alike. Food: Insects, small fruits, seeds, waste grain, small aquatic life. Range: New World; most in tropics. No. of species: World 94; West 16 (+2 casual or accidental).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD Euphagus cyanocephalus

M421

9" (23 cm). A very common and familiar blackbird. *Male:* All black, with a whitish eye; in good light, *purplish* reflections may be seen on the head and greenish reflections on the body. *Female:* Brownish gray, with a *dark* eye.

Similar species: Breeding male Rusty Blackbird has dull *greenish* head reflections (hard to see); the bill is longer. Female Rusty has a *light* eye. Unlike the Rusty (both sexes), Brewer's does not acquire an extensive rusty look in fall and winter (but may have a trace).

Voice: Song, a harsh wheezy, creaking ksh-eee. Note, chack.

Range: Sw. Canada, w. and n.-cen. U.S. Winters to s. Mexico. West: Map 421. Habitat: Fields, prairies, farms, parks.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD Euphagus carolinus

M420

9" (23 cm). Rusty only in fall or winter; otherwise suggests Brewer's Blackbird. *Male, spring:* A Robin-sized blackbird with a pale yellow eye. Black head of breeding male may show faint *greenish* gloss (not purplish). *Female, spring:* Slate-colored, with a *light eye. Fall and winter adults:* Washed with rusty; males *barred* below.

Voice: Note, a loud chack. "Song," a split creak, like a rusty hinge: kush-

a-lee, alternating with ksh-lay.

Range: Alaska, Canada, ne. edge of U.S. Winters mainly to se. U.S. West: Map 420. Habitat: River groves, wooded swamps; muskeg.

COMMON GRACKLE Quiscalus quiscula

M423

11–13½" (28–34 cm). *Male:* A large *very iridescent*, yellow-eyed blackbird, larger than a Robin, with a long, wedge-shaped or *keel-shaped tail*. Flight more level than that of other blackbirds. Iridescent purple on head, deep bronze on back. Females are somewhat smaller and duller; juveniles are sooty, with dark eyes.

Voice: Note, chuck or chack. "Song," a split rasping note.

Range: Canada, U.S., mainly east of Rockies. West: Map 423. Habitat: Croplands, towns, groves, streamsides.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE Quiscalus mexicanus

M422

Male, 18" (45 cm); female, 14" (35 cm). Male, a very large, purple-glossed blackbird, much larger than the Common Grackle and with a longer, more ample tail. Female is much smaller than the male; brown, with a pale breast. Adults have yellow eyes.

Voice: A harsh *check check check*; also a high *kee-kee-kee-kee*. Shrill, discordant notes, whistles, and clucks. A rapid, upward-slurring *ma-ree*. Range: Sw. U.S. to Peru. West: Map 422. Habitat: Groves, thickets, farms, towns, city parks.



7–9½" (18–24 cm). Male: Black, with bright red epaulets, most conspicuous in spring display. Much of the time the scarlet is concealed and only the yellowish margin shows. Immature male: Sooty brown, mottled, but with red shoulders. Female: Brownish, with a sharply pointed bill, "blackbird" appearance, and well-defined dark stripings below; may have pinkish tinge around throat. Gregarious, traveling and roosting in flocks. One race, the "Bicolored Blackbird" of cen. California, has solid red epaulets without the yellow border. Voice: Notes, a loud check and a high, slurred tee-err. Song, a liquid, gurgling konk-la-ree or o-ka-lay.

Range: Canada to W. Indies, Costa Rica. West: Map 415. Habitat: Breeds in marshes, brushy swamps, hayfields; forages also in cul-

tivated land, along edges of water, etc.

TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD Agelaius tricolor

M416

7½-9" (19-23 cm). *Male:* Similar to the Red-winged Blackbird, but the red shoulder patch is darker, with a conspicuous *white margin. Female:* Much darker than most races of the Red-wing, bill thicker at the base, more sharply pointed. Highly gregarious. Nests in dense colonies often numbering many thousands, whereas the Red-wing is territorial.

Voice: More nasal than Red-wing's: on-ke-kaangh. A nasal kemp. Range: Breeds from s. Oregon to nw. Baja California. Map 416. Habitot: Cattail or tule marshes; forages in fields, farms.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

M419

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus

8–11" (20–28 cm). *Male:* A Robin-sized marsh blackbird, with an *orange-yellow head and breast;* in flight, shows a *white wing patch. Female:* Smaller and browner; most of the yellow is confined to the throat and chest; lower breast streaked with white. Gregarious.

Voice: Song, low, hoarse rasping notes produced with much effort; suggests rusty hinges. Note, a low *kruck* or *kack*.

Range: S. Canada, w. U.S., upper Mississippi Valley to nw. Mexico. Winters sw. U.S., Mexico. West: Map 419. Habitat: Fresh marshes. Forages in fields, open country.

BOBOLINK Dolichonyx oryzivorus

M414

6–8" [15–20 cm]. Male, spring: Our only songbird that is solid black below and largely white above, suggesting a dress suit on backward. Has a buff-yellow nape. Female and autumn male: A bit larger than a House Sparrow; rich buff, with dark stripings on crown and back. Bill is more like a sparrow's than a blackbird's.

Similar species: (1) Male Lark Bunting has white confined to wings; (2) female Red-wing is heavily striped below and has a longer bill. **Voice:** Song, in hovering flight and quivering descent, ecstatic and bubbling: starts with low, reedy notes and rollicks upward. Flight note, a clear *pink*, often heard overhead in migration.

Range: S. Canada, n. U.S. Winters in s. S. America. West: Map 414.

Habitat: Hayfields, meadows. In migration, marshes.



M417

9" (23 cm). Nearly identical with Western Meadowlark; darker brown above; yellow of throat does not invade the cheek. Easily recognized by song. Pale southwestern form has more white in the tail.

Voice: Song, unlike the flutelike gurgling of Western Meadowlark, is composed of two clear, slurred whistles, musical and pulled out, *tee-yah*, *tee-yair* (last note skewy and descending). Note, a rasping or buzzy *dzrrt*; also a guttural chatter.

Range: Se. Canada through e. and cen. U.S. to Brazil. West: Map

417. Habitat: Open fields and pastures, meadows, prairies.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK Sturnella neglecta

M418

9" (23 cm). In grassy country, a chunky brown bird flushes, showing a conspicuous patch of *white* on each side of its short wide tail. Several rapid wingbeats alternate with short glides. Should it perch on a post, the glass reveals a bright yellow breast crossed by a *black V*. Walking, the bird flicks its tail open and shut. Starling shape.

Voice: Song variable; 7–10 flutelike notes, gurgling and doublenoted, unlike the clear whistles of Eastern Meadowlark. Note, *chupp*, lower than the rasping *dzrrt* of Eastern Meadowlark.

Range: Sw. Canada, through w. U.S. to highlands of cen. Mexico. West: Map 418. Habitat: Grasslands, cultivated fields and pastures, meadows, prairies.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD Molothrus ater

M424

7" (18 cm). A rather small blackbird with a short, sparrow-like bill. *Male*: Black, with a *brown head. Female*: Mouse-gray with a lighter throat; note the short *finch-like bill. Juvenile*: Paler than female—buffy gray, with soft breast streaks; often seen being fed by smaller birds whose nests have been parasitized. Young males in late summer molt may be bizarrely patterned with tan and black. When flocking or with other blackbirds, Cowbirds are smaller and feed on the ground with their tails lifted high.

Similar species: Gray female Cowbird can be told from (1) female Brewer's and (2) female Rusty Blackbird by its stubby bill and smaller size. (3) Young Starling has a longer bill and a shorter tail. Voice: Flight call, weee-titi (high whistle, two lower notes). Song,

a bubbly and creaky glug-glug-gleeee. Note, chuck.

Ronge: S. Canada to Mexico. West: Map 424. Hobitot: Farms, fields, barnyards, roadsides, wood edges, river groves.

BRONZED COWBIRD Molothrus aeneus

6½-8¾" (16-22 cm). *Male:* Larger than Brown-headed Cowbird; does *not* have a brown head. Bill longer. Red eye can be seen only at close range. In breeding season, a conspicuous *ruff* on the nape. *Female:* Smaller, with a smaller ruff; dull blackish, much like male, not gray like female of other Cowbird.

Voice: High-pitched mechanical creakings.

Range: Southwestern U.S. to w. Panama. Summers in extreme se. California, cen. and s. Arizona, sw. New Mexico, s. Texas (north to Eagle Pass). Winters in s. Arizona (rarely), s. Texas. Habitat: Croplands, brush, semi-open country, feedlots.



■ ORIOLES. Smaller, slimmer than a Robin; a brightly colored genus (*Icterus*) of subfamily Icterinae (blackbirds, etc.).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE Icterus galbula

M426

7–8" (18–20 cm). *Male:* Flame-orange and black, with a solid black head. *Female and young:* Olive-brown above, burnt orange-yellow below; two white wing bars. Some females may have traces of black on the head, suggesting the hood of the male.

Note: This eastern form of the Northern Oriole was formerly regarded as

a separate species; systematists may yet restore it.

Voice: S. Rich, piping whistles. Note, a low, whistled hewli.

Ronge: S. Canada, e. and cen. U.S. Winters sc. U.S. to Venezuela. West: Map 426. Habitat: Open woods, elms, shade trees.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE Icterus bullockii

M426

7-8½" (18-21 cm). The western form. *Male:* Differs from male "Baltimore" by *orange cheeks, large white wing patches,* tail pattern. *Female:* Differs from female "Baltimore" by grayer back, *whiter belly. Immature male:* Similar to female, but throat black.

Voice: Accented double notes and one or two piping notes.

Range: Breeds sw. Canada, w. U.S., n. Mexico. Winters s. U.S. to Guatemala. West: Map 426. Breeds east to Great Plains (S. Dakota, cen. Nebraska, w. Kansas, w. Oklahoma), where it may hybridize with "Baltimore" Oriole.

HOODED ORIOLE Icterus cucullatus

M425

7½" [19 cm). *Male:* Orange and black, with a black throat and an *orange crown*. In winter, back obscurely scaled. *Female:* Similar to female Bullock's Oriole, but entire underparts yellowish; bill longer, more curved. Back olive-gray; head and tail more yellowish.

Voice: Song, throaty notes and piping whistles: chut chut whew

whew; opening notes throaty. Note, a sharp eek or wheenk.

Range: Breeds sw. U.S. to s. Mexico. Map 425. Winters in Mexico; rarely sw. U.S. Habitat: Open woods, shade trees, palms.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE Icterus parisorum

M427

7¾" (19 cm). *Male*: Solid black head and back and *lemon-yellow* pattern distinguish it. *Female*: More greenish yellow beneath than most other females (except Orchard Oriole). *Immature male*: Throat black; similar to other young male orioles, but more black on face.

Voice: Song, rich whistles; suggests Western Meadowlark.

Range: Sw. U.S., n. Mexico. Map 427. Habitat: Dry woods and scrub in desert mountains, yucca "forests," Joshua-trees, pinyons.

ORCHARD ORIOLE Icterus spurius

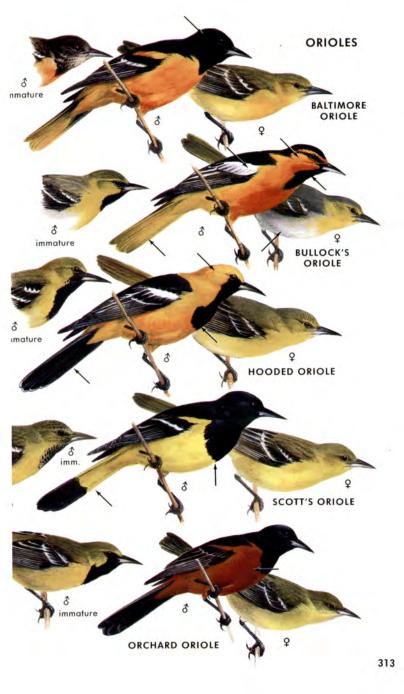
M416

6–7" (15–18 cm). *Male:* An all-dark oriole. Rump and underparts *deep chestnut. Female, young:* Olive-green above, yellowish below; two white wing bars. *Immature male:* Black bib down to chest.

Voice: A fast-moving outburst interspersed with piping whistles and gut-

tural notes. Suggests Purple Finch's song.

Range: Se. Canada, e. and cen. U.S. to cen. Mexico. Winters from Sinaloa to Venezuela. West: Map 416. Habitat: Wood edges, orchards, shade trees.



■ TANAGERS. Family Thraupidae (in part). Subfamily Thraupinae. Male tanagers are brightly colored; females of our species are greenish above and yellow below, suggesting large, thick-billed vireos. Females may be confused with female orioles, but have darker cheeks and most species lack wing bars. The rather stout bills are notched. Food: Insects, fruits. Range: New World; most species in tropics. No. of species: World 215: West 4.

WESTERN TANAGER Piranga ludoviciana

M368

7" (18 cm). The only U.S. tanager with strong wing bars. Male: Yellow, with a black back, wings, and tail, two wing bars, and a red head. The red disappears in autumn and winter. Female: Yellowish below; dull olive above, with white and yellow wing bars. Resembles female orioles (pp. 312, 313), but the tail and sides of the face are darker, and the bill is less sharply pointed.

Voice: Song, short phrases; similar to Robin's in form, but less sustained,

hoarser. Note, a dry pi-tic or pit-i-tic.

Range: Western N. America; winters w. Mexico to Costa Rica. Map 368.

Habitat: Open conifer or mixed forests; widespread in migration.

SUMMER TANAGER Piranga rubra 7-73/4" (18-19 cm). Male: Rose-red all over, with a yellowish bill; no crest. Female: Olive above, deep yellow below; yellowish bill. Young males acquiring adult plumage may be patched with red, yellow and green.

Similar species: (1) Male Cardinal has a crest and a black face. (2) Hepatic

Tanager is darker, with a blackish bill.

Voice: Note, a staccato pi-tuk or pik-i-tuk-i-tuk. Song, robin-like phrases, less nasal and resonant than Scarlet Tanager's.

Range: Cen. and s. U.S. to n. Mexico. Winters Mexico to Brazil. West: Map 367, Habitat: Woods, groves (especially oaks).

HEPATIC TANAGER Piranga flava

M366

71/2" (19 cm). Male: Darker than Summer Tanager; orange-red, with a dark ear patch, blackish bill. Male Summer Tanager is rosier, has a pale vellow bill. Female: Known from female Summer Tanager by its more orange-yellow throat, gray ear patch, blackish bill.

Voice: Song, very similar to Black-headed Grosbeak's Summer Tanager

sounds more like a Robin). Call note, a single chuck.

Range: Breeds sw. U.S. to Argentina. Winters mainly south of U.S. Map 366. Habitat: Open mountain forests, oaks, pines.

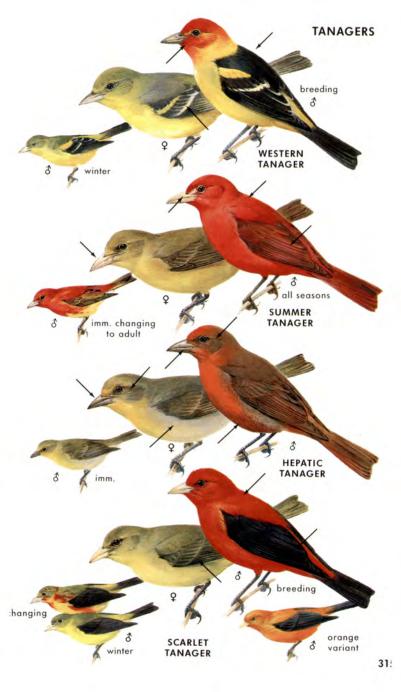
SCARLET TANAGER Piranga olivacea

7" (18 cm). Male: Flaming scarlet, with jet-black wings and tail. Female. immature, and winter male: Dull greenish above, yellowish below; has dark brownish or blackish wings; normally no wing bars, but young birds may. Molting male patched with red.

Voice: Song, four or five short phrases, robin-like but hoarse (suggesting a

Robin with a sore throat). Note, chip-burr.

Range: Se. Canada, e. U.S. Winters S. America. West: Breeds east of 100th meridian. In migration, a few wander onto Great Plains from Saskatchewan to Texas Panhandle. Rare or casual stray to sw. states, especially California. Accidental in Northwest to British Columbia. Alaska. Habitat: Forests and shade trees (especially oaks).



■ SPARROWS. Family Emberizidae.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW Zonotrichia albicollis

M404

6½–7" (16–18 cm). A gray-breasted sparrow, similar to White-crown but browner, with a well-defined white throat patch and a yellow spot between the eye and bill. Bill blackish, not pink. Polymorphic; adults with black and white head stripes mate with birds having brown and tan head stripes. Winter: Duller; head stripes vary.

Voice: Song, several clear pensive whistles, easily imitated; one or two clear notes, followed by three quavering notes on a different pitch. Note,

a slurred tseet; also a hard chink.

Range: Canada, ne. U.S. Winters to s. U.S., ne. Mexico (rarely). West: Map 404. Habitat: Thickets, brush, undergrowth of conifer and mixed woodlands. Patronizes bird feeders.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW Zonotrichia leucophrys M406

6½-7½" (16-19 cm). Adult: Clear grayish breast and puffy crown striped with black and white. Bill pink or yellowish. Immature: Browner, with head stripes of dark red-brown and light buff, bill pinkish. In birds of high Sierra and Rockies, the white eyestripe extends from the eye instead of from the bill.

Voice: Song, one or more clear, plaintive whistles, followed by husky

trilled whistles. Variable; many local dialects.

Range: Across Canada to Alaska; south through w. U.S. Winters w. and s. U.S., Mexico, Cuba. West: Map 406. Habitat: Brushland, forest edges, thickets, chaparral, gardens, parks; in winter also farms and desert washes. Patronizes feeders.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW Zonotrichia atricapilla M405

6–7" (15–18 cm). Similar to White-crowned Sparrow, but without white head stripes; instead a *dull yellow central crown stripe*, usually bordered broadly with black. Immature birds and some winter adults may look like large female House Sparrows, but are longer-tailed and darker, usually with a dull yellow suffusion on the forecrown. Some lack the yellow and have little to distinguish them except the fine streaking on the crown.

Voice: Song, 3-5 high whistled notes of plaintive minor quality, coming

down the scale, "oh-dear-me." Sometimes a faint trill.

Range: Nw. N. America, wintering through Pacific states. Map 405. **Habitat:** Boreal scrub, spruce; in winter, similar to that of White-crown, but Golden-crown favors denser shrubs.

HARRIS'S SPARROW Zonotrichia querula

7½" (19 cm). Large, size of Fox Sparrow. In breeding plumage, has a black

7½" (19 cm). Large, size of Fox Sparrow. In breeding plumage, has a *black* crown, face, and bib encircling a pink bill. In winter adults, the black crown is scaled with gray. First-winter young have white on the throat, less black on the crown, buffy brown on the rest of the head; blotched and streaked on the breast. In the second winter the chin is black.

Voice: Song has quavering quality of White-throat's: clear whistles on same pitch, or one or two at one pitch, the rest slightly lower, general ef-

fect minor. Alarm note, wink.

Ronge: N.-cen. Canada. Winters s.-cen. U.S. West: Map 407. Habitat: Stunted boreal forest; in winter, brush, open woods.



LARK SPARROW Chondestes grammacus

M391

5½-6½" (14-16 cm). Note the black tail with much white in the corners: also the single dark central breast spot and quail-like head pattern, with the chestnut ear patch and striped crown. Young birds are duller; finely streaked on the sides of the breast.

Voice: A broken song; clear notes and trills with pauses between; charac-

terized by buzzing and churring passages.

Range: S. Canada south (west of Appalachians) to n. Mexico. Winters s. U.S. to El Salvador. West: Map 391. Habitat: Open country with bushes, trees; pastures, farms, roadsides.

SAGE SPARROW Amphispiza belli

M393

5-6" (13-15 cm). A gray sparrow of arid brush. Note the combination of a single breast spot and heavy dark "whiskers" on each side of the throat. Dark cheek, white eye-ring, touch of whitish over the eye. "Bell's" Sparrow, a race resident west of the Sierra in California, was until recently regarded as a distinct species. It is much darker, with heavier black whiskers.

Voice: Song, four to seven notes, tsit-tsoo-tseee-tsay (third note highest).

Or, tsit, tsit, tsi vou, tee a-tee.

Range: Western U.S. to n. Mexico. Map 393. Habitat: Dry brushy foothills; chaparral, sage; in winter, also deserts.

FIVE-STRIPED SPARROW Aimophila quinquestriata

6" (15 cm). A rare Mexican sparrow. Dusky, with five white stripes on the head (white throat, eyebrows, and jaw lines) and a single black spot on the dark gray breast.

Range: Very local in se. Arizona; found in dense shrubs on dry canyon

slopes, rocky arid hillsides.

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW Amphispiza bilineata

M392

4¾-5¼" (12-13 cm). Note the face pattern. A pretty, gray desert sparrow. with white face stripes and a jet-black throat and chest. Young birds lack the black throat, but have a similar cheek pattern; the breast is finely streaked.

Similar species: (1) Young birds somewhat resemble Sage Sparrow. (2) Black-throated Gray Warbler (similar face pattern) has wing bars and a thin, warbler-like bill (see p. 293).

Voice: Song, a sweet cheet cheet cheeeeeeeee (two short, clear opening notes and a fine trill on a lower or higher pitch).

Range: Western U.S., n. Mexico. Map 392. Habitat: Arid brush, creosotebush deserts, "cholla gardens."

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW Spizella atrogularis M389

5-5½" (13-14 cm). A somewhat junco-like sparrow (with no white in the tail); it has a streaked brown back, but head and underparts are gray. In the male the pinkish bill is encircled by a black chin and facial patch. Females lack the black and can be told by the unmarked gray head and breast, striped brown back.

Voice: Song, a series of notes on about the same pitch, or descending slightly; starts with several high, thin, clear notes and ends in a rough

trill, sweet, sweet, sweet, weet-trrrrrr.

Range: Sw. U.S. to s. Mexico. West: Map 389. Habitat: Brushy mountain slopes, open chaparral, sagebrush.



CHIPPING SPARROW Spizella passerina

M385

5½" (13 cm). Breeding: A small, gray-breasted sparrow with a bright rufous cap, a black line through the eye, and a white line over it. Winter: Browner, not so gray-breasted; cap and eyebrow line duller. Immature: Browner; light crown stripe, gray rump.

Similar species: See Clay-colored Sparrow.

Voice: Song, a chipping rattle on one pitch. Note, a dry chip.

Range: Canada to Nicaragua. Winters s. U.S. to Nicaragua. West: Map 385. Habitat: Open woods, conifers, especially yellow pine, Douglas fir; orchards, farms, towns.

FIELD SPARROW Spizella pusilla

M388

5" (13 cm). Note the pink bill of this rusty-capped sparrow. A narrow light eye-ring gives it a big-eyed expression. It has rather rusty upperparts and a clear breast; facial striping less noticeable than on the other rusty-capped sparrows. The juvenile has a finely streaked breast; note the eye-ring.

Voice: Song, opening on deliberate, sweet, slurring notes, speeding into a trill (which ascends, descends, or stays on the same pitch).

Note, tsee; has a querulous quality.

Ronge: Se. Canada, U.S. (east of Rockies). Winters to ne. Mexico. West: Map 388. Hobitot: Bushy pastures, brush, scrub, feeders.

SWAMP SPARROW Melospiza georgiana

M403

5-53/4" (13-14 cm). A rather stout, dark, rusty-winged sparrow with a dull gray breast, outlined white throat, rusty cap. No prominent wing bars. Winter birds and immatures are dimly streaked and have little rusty on the striped crown. They are sometimes misidentified as Lincoln's Sparrow (p. 324).

Voice: Song, a loose trill, similar to Chipping Sparrow's, but slower, sweeter, and stronger (sometimes on two pitches simultaneously).

Note, a hard chink similar to White-throat's.

Range: Canada (east of Rockies), ne. U.S. Winters s. U.S., n. Mexico. West: Map 403. Habitat: Fresh marshes with tussocks, bushes, or cattails; sedgy swamps.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW Spizella arborea

M384

6-6½" (15-16 cm). To identify this bird of the North, note the single dark spot or "stickpin" on the breast, and the red-brown cap. Bill dark above, yellow below; two white wing bars.

Voice: Song, sweet, variable, opening on one or two high clear

notes. Note, tseet; feeding note, a musical teelwit.

Range: Alaska, n. Canada. Winters s. Canada to cen. U.S. West: Map 384. Habitat: Arctic scrub, willow thickets; in winter, brushy roadsides, weedy edges, marshes; may patronize feeders.

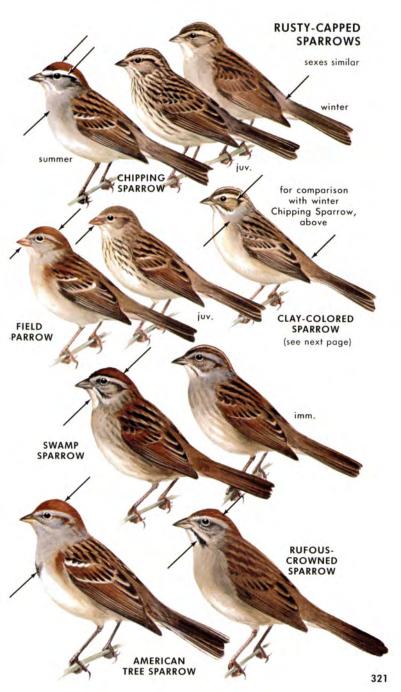
RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW Aimophila ruficeps

M383

5–6" (13–15 cm). A dark sparrow of the arid Southwest, with a plain dusky breast, rufous cap, and rounded tail. Note the *black whisker* bordering the throat.

Voice: Song, stuttering, gurgling. Note, a nasal dear, dear, dear.

Range: Sw. U.S. Map 383. Habitat: Grassy or rocky slopes with sparse low bushes; open pine-oak woods.



CLAY-COLORED SPARROW Spizella pallida

M386

51/4" (13 cm). Like a pale Chipping Sparrow, but buffier, with a sharply outlined ear patch. Chipping and Clay-colored sparrows are more obscure in fall and winter, with similar head markings, but the rump is brown in Clay-color, gray in Chipping.

Voice: Unbirdlike; 3-4 low, flat buzzes: bzzz, bzzz, bzzz.

Range: W. and cen. Canada, n.-cen. U.S. In winter, s. U.S. to Mexico. West: Map 386. Habitat: Scrub, brushy prairies, jack pines.

RUFOUS-WINGED SPARROW Aimophila carpalis

5-51/2" (13-14 cm). An Arizona specialty. Suggests a Chipping Sparrow, but tail not notched. Double black "whiskers;" gray stripe through rufous crown. Rufous shoulder not easily seen.

Voice: Song, one or two sweet introductory notes and a rapid series

of musical chips on one pitch.

Range: Resident from cen. to s. Arizona (local) and Sonora to Sinaloa. Hobitot: Tall desert grass, thorn brush, desert hackberry.

BREWER'S SPARROW Spizella breweri 51/4" (13 cm). A small pale sparrow of the sagebrush. Clear-breasted;

resembles a Chipping Sparrow but sandier; crown finely streaked, with no hint of a median line (as in Chipping and Clay-colored sparrows in fall and winter).

Voice: Song, long, musical buzzy trills on different pitches; sounds

like a Chipping Sparrow trying to sing like a Canary.

Range: Breeds w. Canada, w. U.S. Winters s. U.S. to n. Mexico. Map 387. Habitat: Sagebrush, brushy plains; also near tree line in n. Rockies: in winter, also weedy fields.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW Ammodramus savannarum M397 41/2-51/4" (11-13 cm). A little sparrow of open fields, with a short

sharp tail, flat head, and yellow shoulder (hard to see). Crown with a pale median stripe; note the relatively unstriped buffy breast. However, the juvenile (p. 327) has a streaked breast.

Voice: A thin dry buzz, pi-tup zeeeeeeeeeee.

Range: S. Canada to s. U.S., W. Indies; also Mexico to Ecuador. West: Map 397. Habitat: Grassland, hayfields, prairies.

BOTTERI'S SPARROW Aimophila botterii

51/4-61/4" (13-16 cm). Very local; nondescript. Cassin's Sparrow, breeding in the same habitat, is almost identical, but grayer. Botteri's has a buffy breast, plain brown tail. Best told by voice.

Voice: Song, a constant tinkling and "pitting," sometimes running into a dry trill on same pitch. Very unlike song of Cassin's.

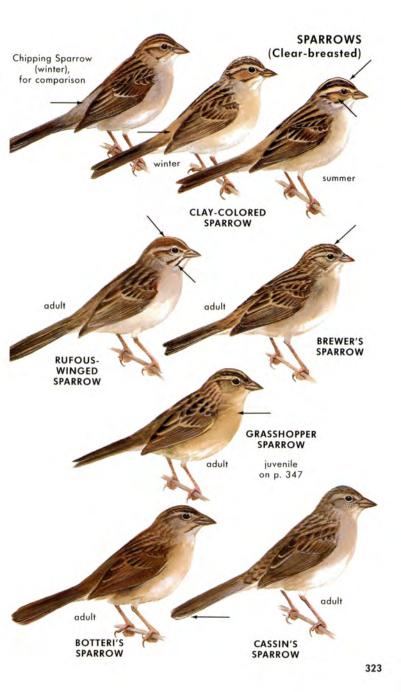
Range: Se. Arizona (local), s. tip of Texas to Costa Rica. Winters south of U.S. Habitat: In Arizona, desert grass.

CASSIN'S SPARROW Aimophila cassinii 5½" (14 cm). A drab sparrow of open arid country; underparts dingy without markings, or with faint streaking on flanks. Pale or whitish tips on gray-brown outer tail feathers. Best clue is the "skylarking"

song. Botteri's Sparrow (very local) does not skylark. Voice: Song, one or two short notes, a high sweet trill, and two

lower notes: ti ti tseeeeeee tay tay; vaguely suggests Savannah Sparrow. Often "skylarks" in the air, giving trill at climax.

Range: Sw. U.S., ne. Mexico. Map 382. Habitat: Grassland, bushes.



FOX SPARROW Passerella iliaca

M400

6¾-7½" (17-19 cm). Larger than a House Sparrow; most forms have a rusty rump and tail. Action towhee-like, kicking among dead leaves. Breast heavily streaked with triangular spots, shaped like inverted V's; these often cluster in a large blotch on the upper breast. Fox Sparrows vary widely. Many races; can be roughly divided into three basic types: (1) bright rusty (northern and eastern); (2) dusky head, back, and upper breast (humid Northwest); (3) grayheaded, large yellowish bills (Rockies, Great Basin, Sierra). It is frustrating to try to separate them further; in winter they intermingle. Voice: Song, brilliant and musical; a varied arrangement of short clear notes and sliding whistles.

Range: Alaska, Canada; western mountains to cen.-w. U.S. Winters to s. U.S. West: Map 400. Habitat: Wooded undergrowth, brush.

SONG SPARROW Melospiza melodia

M401

5-6½" (13-16 cm). The heavy breast streaks merge into a *large central spot*. The bird pumps its rounded tail as it flies. Young birds, more finely streaked, often lack the central spot. Song Sparrows vary widely in color and size, as shown opposite, from typical birds, to small pale forms in the sw. deserts, and very large dark forms in Alaska and Aleutians. Many races 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 note, a low, nasal *tchep*.

Range: Alaska, Canada to cen. Mexico. West: Map 401. Habitat:

Thickets, brush, marshes, roadsides, gardens.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW Melospiza lincolnii

M402

5½" (14 cm). A skulker, "afraid of its shadow." Similar to a Song Sparrow, but trimmer, side of face grayer, breast streaks *much finer* and often not aggregated into a central spot. Note the band of *creamy buff* across the breast and the narrow eye-ring.

Similar species: Immature or winter Swamp Sparrow, sometimes mistaken for Lincoln's Sparrow, has a duller breast, with blurry

streaks. Lincoln's is grayer, with a more striped crown.

Voice: Song, sweet and gurgling; suggests both House Wren's and Purple Finch's; starts with low passages, rises abruptly, drops.

Ronge: Alaska, Canada, w. and ne. U.S. Winters s. U.S. to Panama. West: Map 402. Hobitot: Willow and alder thickets, muskeg, brushy bogs. In winter, thickets, weeds, bushes.

VESPER SPARROW Pooecetes gramineus

M390

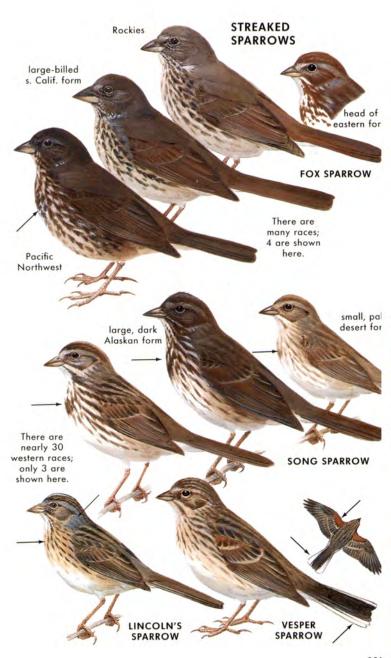
6" (15 cm). The white outer tail feathers are conspicuous when the bird flies. Otherwise it suggests a grayish Song Sparrow, but has a whitish eye-ring. Bend of wing chestnut.

Similar species: Other sparrow-like field birds with white tail sides are pipits, longspurs, and Lark Sparrow.

Voice: Song, throatier than a Song Sparrow's; usually begins with two clear minor notes, followed by two higher ones.

Range: Canada to cen. U.S. Winters to s. Mexico. West: Map 390.

Habitat: Meadows, fields, prairies, roadsides.



4½-5¾" [11–14 cm]. This streaked open-country sparrow suggests a Song Sparrow, but usually has a *yellowish eyebrow stripe*, whitish stripe through the crown, a short notched tail, pinker legs. Some birds may lack the yellowish on the eyebrow. The tail notch is an aid to recognition when flushing sparrows (Song Sparrow's tail is longer, *rounded*). A small dark race, "Belding's Sparrow" (*beldingi*), resident in salt marshes of s. California was formerly regarded as a species. Its breast streaks are heavier, the median line on the crown is indistinct, the legs browner. A larger Mexican race, "Large-billed Sparrow" (*rostratus*), which winters north to cen. California, is pale without well-defined markings on the back and crown; the breast streaks are more diffuse. It too was regarded as a species.

Voice: Song, a dreamy, lisping tsit-tsit-tsit, tseeee-tsaay (last note lower).

Note, a light tsip.

Range: Alaska, Canada to Guatemala. Winters to Honduras, W. Indies. West: Map 395. Habitat: Open fields, meadows, salt marshes, prairies, dunes, shores.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW Ammodramus leconteii

M398

4½-5½" (11–14 cm). A sharp-tailed sparrow of weedy prairie marshes. Note the *bright buff-ochre* eyebrow stripe and breast (with streaks *confined to the sides*). Other points are the *pinkish-brown nape*, white stripe through the crown, strong stripes on the back.

Voice: Song, two extremely thin, grasshopper-like hisses.

Range: S.-cen. Canada to n. prairie states. Winters se. U.S. West: Map 398. Habitat: Tall grass, weedy hayfields, marshes.

BAIRD'S SPARROW Ammodramus bairdii

M396

51/4" (13 cm). An elusive prairie sparrow. Light breast crossed by a *narrow* band of fine black streaks. Head yellow-brown, streaked. The key mark is a broad *ochre* median crown stripe.

Similar species: Savannah Sparrow has more extensive streaking; strip on

midcrown is narrower (whitish, not ochre).

Voice: Song begins with 2–3 high musical *zip's*, and ends with a trill on a lower pitch; more musical than Savannah's.

lower pitch; more musical than savannan s

Range: N. Great Plains. Winters sw. U.S., n. Mexico. West: Map 396. Habitat: Native longgrass prairies; local.

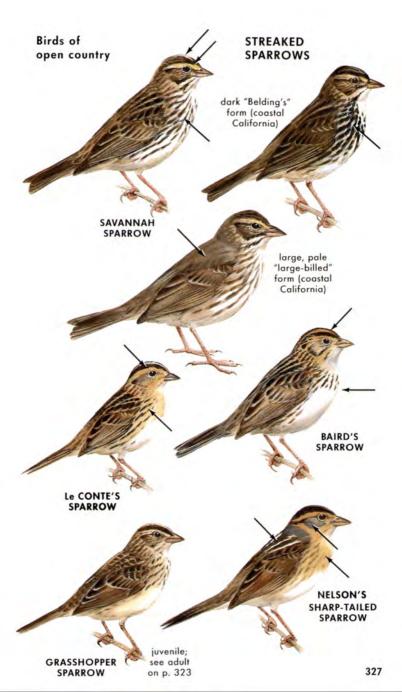
NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW Ammodramus nelsoni

5-6" $[13-15\ cm)$. A marsh sparrow. Note the bright *ochre-orange* on the face, completely surrounding the gray ear patch. Breast very warm ochre, with faint blurry streaks, mostly on the sides. Back sharply striped with white.

Similar species: Le Conte's Sparrow of the prairies has sharp stripes on the sides, a white median stripe through the crown.

Voice: Song, a gasping buzz, tuptup-sheeeeeeeee.

Range: Canadian prairies; Atlantic Coast. Winters mainly on Atlantic and Gulf coasts. West: Breeds ne. British Columbia, Great Slave Lake to cen. Alberta; e. Montana, North Dakota. Very rare winter visitor to California coast. Habitat: Prairie marshes, muskeg; in winter, coastal marshes.



LAPLAND LONGSPUR Calcarius Iapponicus

M410

6½" (16 cm). Lapland Longspurs, like Horned Larks, the pipits, and the other longspurs, are birds of open country; in flight, they appear to have shorter tails. Male, breeding: The black face outlined with white is distinctive. Rusty collar. Male, winter: Sparse black streaks on the sides, a rusty nape, and a smudge across the breast help identify it. Female, breeding: Resembles a winter male. Female, winter: More nondescript; note the tail pattern (opposite).

Similar species: (1) Other longspurs have more white in the tail (see

opposite). (2) Pipits and Horned Lark have thin bills.

Voice: A musical teew; also a rattle and a whistle, ticky-tick-tew. Song in display flight, vigorous, musical.

Range: Arctic, circumpolar. Winters from s. Canada to s. U.S. West: Map 410. Habitat: In summer, tundra; in winter, fields, prairies.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR Calcarius ornatus M412

5½-6½" (14-16 cm). Male, breeding: Solid black below, except on the throat and lower belly; nape chestnut. Female and winter: Sparrow-like; the best field mark is the tail pattern (a dark triangle on a white tail).

Voice: Song, short, feeble, but musical; suggestive of Western Meadowlark's. Note, a finch-like *ii-iiv* or *kittle*.

Ronge: S. Canadian prairies; n. prairie states. Winters sw. U.S., n. Mexico. West: Map 412. Hobitot: Plains, prairies.

McCOWN'S LONGSPUR Calcarius mccownii

M409

6" (15 cm). Male, breeding: Crown and patch on breast black, tail largely white. Hind-neck gray (brown or chestnut in other long-spurs). Female and winter male: Sparrow-like; note the tail pattern (an inverted T of black on white).

Similar species: (1) Male Chestnut-collared Longspur in summer has a chestnut collar, black belly. (2) Horned Lark (similar breast

splotch) has a thin bill, yellow throat.

Voice: Song in display flight, clear sweet warbles, suggestive of Lark Bunting. Note, a dry rattle, softer than Lapland's. Also a soft pink. Ronge: Prairies of s.-cen. Canada, n.-cen. U.S. Winters sw. U.S. to n. Mexico. West: Map 409. Hobitot: Plains, prairies.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR Calcarius pictus

M411

6" (15 cm). A buffy longspur; warm buff on entire underparts. Tail edged with white, as in Vesper Sparrow (no dark band at tip). Male, breeding: Deep buff; ear patch with a white spot, strikingly outlined by a black triangle. Female and winter: Less distinctive; buffish breast lightly streaked; some males may show a white shoulder.

Similar species: See (1) Vesper Sparrow (p. 324), (2) Sprague's Pipit

(p. 244), and (3) other longspurs (study the tail diagrams opposite). **Voice:** Rattling or clicking notes in flight (has been likened to the winding of a cheap watch). Song, sweet, warbler-like, terminating in we'chew. Does not sing in flight.

Range: N. Alaska to Hudson Bay. Winters s.-cen. U.S. West: Map

411. Habitat: Prairies, fields, airports; in summer, tundra.



SPOTTED TOWHEE Pipilo maculatus

M379

7-8½" (18-21 cm). Smaller and more slender than a Robin, this towhee rummages noisily among the dead leaves. It is readily recognized by its rufous sides. Male: Head and chest black; sides robin-red, belly white, back heavily spotted with white. It flashes large white patches in the tail corners. Eye fiery red. Female: Similar, but dusky brown where the male is black. Juvenile, summer: Streaked below, like a large sparrow, but with the flash pattern in the tail. There are 5 races that can be separated in the field.

Voice: Song, a drawn-out, buzzy *chweeeeee*. Sometimes *chup chup chup zeeeeeeee*; variable. Note, a cat-like guee or *cheeee*.

Range: Great Plains West. S. Canada south to Guatemala. West: Map 379. **Habitat:** Open woods, undergrowth, brushy edges.

CALIFORNIA TOWHEE Pipilo crissalis

M380

(Brown Towhee) 8½–10° [21–25 cm]. A common, dull brown, ground-loving bird, with a moderately long dark tail; suggests a very plain, slim, overgrown sparrow. Note the pale rusty undertail coverts and the streaked buffy or rusty throat.

Similar species: See (1) Canyon Towhee and (2) Abert's Towhee. Most

thrashers (pp. 272-273) are larger, with slim curved bills.

Voice: Note, a metallic *chink*. Song, a rapid *chink-chink-ink-ink-ink-ink-ink-ink* on one pitch. Often ends in a trill.

Range: Resident from sw. Oregon to Baja California. Map 380. **Habitat:** Brushy, stony area, open chaparral, open woods, canyons, pinyon, junipers, gardens.

CANYON TOWHEE Pipilo fuscus

M380

Formerly regarded as conspecific with the preceding species under the name of "Brown Towhee"; it has now been split. Paler and grayer than California Towhee, with a rufous crown and black spot on the breast. Vocalizations differ.

Range: Resident from Arizona, n. New Mexico, Colorado, w. Texas to s. Mexico. Map 380. Habitat: Similar to California Towhee's, but drier.

ABERT'S TOWHEE Pipilo aberti

M381

8–9" (20–23 cm). A shy, skulking desert species, similar to the California Towhee, but paler and browner, the entire underparts buffy brown. Note the *black patch* embracing the base of the bill.

Voice: Note, a sharp peek. Song similar to Canyon Towhee's.

Range: Resident sw. U.S., nw. Mexico. Map 381. Habitat: Desert streams, brush, mesquite.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE Pipilo chlorurus

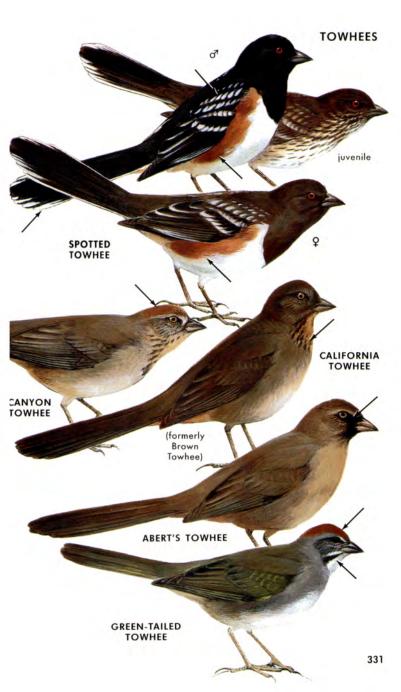
M378

6½" (16 cm). This slender finch-like bird of the mountains may be known by its *rufous cap*, conspicuous *white throat*, black mustache, gray chest, and plain *olive-green upperparts*.

Voice: A cat-like mewing note, and a *chink* like that of California Towhee. Song variable; opening with sweet notes, followed by burry

notes; weet-churr-cheeeeee-churr.

Range: Breeds w. U.S. Map 378. Winters sw. U.S. to s. Mexico. **Habitat:** Dry brush mountain slopes, low chaparral, open pines, sage, manzanita, riverine woods.



5½-6¾" (14-17 cm). This hooded, sparrow-shaped bird is characterized by white outer tail feathers that flash conspicuously as it flies away. The bill and belly are usually whitish. Males may have dark hoods; females and immatures are duller. The juvenile bird in summer is finely streaked on the breast, hence its white outer tail feathers might even suggest a Vesper Sparrow.

Note: Until recently this species was divided into four full species (plus several subspecies) in N. America. Some have gray sides, others rusty or "pinkish." They tend to hybridize or intergrade and are now lumped as one highly complex species. Treated separately,

the main forms were known as follows:

(1) "OREGON JUNCO" (J. h. oreganus) of se. coastal Alaska, sw. Canada southward in Pacific states to Baja California and in Rockies to s. Idaho, n. Wyoming. Male rusty-backed, with a black head and buffy or rusty sides.

[2] "GRAY-HÉADED JUNCO" [J. h. caniceps] of the Great Basin and s. Rockies. Rufous back like that of "Oregon Junco," but differs in

having grav sides and a gray head.

(3) "SLATE-COLORED JUNCO" (J. h. hyemalis), the northern and eastern form, wintering mainly east of the Rockies, sparingly westward. A gray junco with a gray back and white belly. The uniform coloration, lacking rusty or brown areas, is distinctive.

(4) "WHITE-WINGED JUNCO" (J. h. aikeni), of the Black Hills area. A large pale form with a gray back; it usually has two whitish wing bars and exhibits considerably more white in the tail (four outer

feathers on each side).

Voice: Song, a loose trill, suggestive of Chipping Sparrow's song, but more musical. Note, a light *smack*; also clicking or tickering notes.

Range: Breeds Alaska, Canada; south in mountains to n. Georgia, sw. U.S. Winters to Gulf states, n. Mexico. West: Map 408. Habitat: Conifer and mixed woods. In winter, open woods, undergrowth, roadsides, brush; also patronizes feeders.

YELLOW-EYED JUNCO Junco phaeonotus

(Mexican Junco) 5½-6½" (14–16 cm). Our only junco with yellow eyes. It also lacks the hooded effect and is whitish-throated. Walks rather than hops. The combination of grayish sides and bright rufous back distinguishes this pale-breasted species from all other juncos except the "Gray-headed" form of the Dark-eyed Junco.

Voice: Song, musical, unjunco-like; more complicated, threeparted: chip chip chip, wheedle wheedle, che che che che.

Range: Resident in high mountains of se. Arizona, extreme sw. New Mexico; south to Guatemala. Habitat: Conifer forests, pine-oak woods.



■ BUNTINGS. Family Emberizidae (in part).

SNOW BUNTING Plectrophenax nivalis

M413

6–7½" (15–19 cm). Snow Buntings often swirl over snowy fields in large flocks. No other songbird (except McKay's Bunting) shows so much white. In winter some individuals, especially females, may look quite brown, but when they fly their flashing white wing patches identify them. Overhead, Snow Buntings look almost entirely white, whereas American Pipits and Horned Larks are black-tailed. In summer in the Arctic the male has a black back, contrasting with its white head and underparts.

Voice: Note, a sharp, whistled teer or tew; also a rough, purring brrt.

Song, a musical ti-ti-chu-ree, repeated.

Range: Arctic, circumpolar; in winter to cen. Eurasia, cen. U.S. West: Map 413. Habitat: Prairies, fields, dunes, shores. In summer, tundra.

McKAY'S BUNTING Plectrophenax hyperboreus

7" (18 cm). An Alaskan specialty. The male in breeding plumage is almost pure white, except for the ends of the primaries and scapulars and the tips of the central tail feathers. Females show some dark on the back. In winter, there are light touches of brown, but less than in the Snow Bunting.

Similar species: Breeding male Snow Bunting has a black back. Females

and winter birds are much browner.

Voice: Song of male is said to suggest an American Goldfinch.

Range: Breeds mainly on Hall I. and St. Matthew I. in Bering Sea; rarely on Pribilofs and St. Lawrence I. Winters to coast of w. Alaska, Nunivak; casual, Aleutians, coastal s. Alaska; accidental, Vancouver I., Washington, Oregon. Habitat: Tundra, barrens, shores.

■ FINCHES. Family Fringillidae (in part).

M428

At one time considered full species, then classified as 3 races, Rosy-Finches have now regained full species status. Sparrow-sized birds of snow fields, mountain tops, and rocky islands off Alaska. They do not hop, they walk. Brownish or black with pink wash to wings, rump, and belly. Two have gray head patches.

Voice: All 3 have high chirping notes suggestive of a House Sparrow.

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH Leucosticte tephrocotis

6" (15 cm). Gray cap, with brown throat and chest. Widespread in Alaska, Canada, and nw. U.S. (Aleutian birds are largest). "Hepburn's" and "Pribilof" races have black throats.

BROWN-CAPPED ROSY-FINCH Leucosticte australis

5.5" (14 cm). Male lacks gray cap and black forehead. High mountains of s. Wyoming, Colorado, n. New Mexico.

BLACK ROSY-FINCH Leucosticte atrata

5.5" (14 cm). Male with gray cap and black rather than brown on neck and underbelly. Sw. Montana, cen. Idaho, w. Wyoming, ne. Nevada, n. Utah.



■ GROSBEAKS. Family Cardinalidae (in part). Finch-like birds, larger than sparrows, with thick, strong triangular bills adapted for seed-cracking. See also pp. 338, 340.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK Pheucticus Iudovicianus

M371

7-8½" (18-212 cm). Size and shape of Black-headed Grosbeak, Male: Black and white, with a large triangle of rose-red on the breast and a thick pale bill. In flight, a pattern of white flashes across the black upper plumage: from below, rose-red wing linings, Female: Streaked, like a large sparrow or female Purple Finch; recognized by the large "grosbeak" bill, white wing bars, striped crown, broad white eyebrow stripe, and dark cheek. Wing linings vellow, Differs from the female Black-headed Grosbeak in being heavily striped on the underparts.

Voice: Song very similar to Black-headed Grosbeak's; resembles Robin's song, but mellower (suggesting a Robin that has taken voice lessons).

Note, a metallic kik or kek.

Range: S. Canada, e. and cen. U.S. Winters W. Indies, Mexico to e. Peru. West: Map 371. Habitat: Deciduous woods, orchards, groves.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK Pheucticus melanocephalus

6½-7¾" (16-19 cm). A stocky bird, larger than a sparrow, with an outsized bill. Male: Breast, collar, and rump dull orange-brown. Otherwise, the black head; bold, black and white wing and tail pattern; and pale bill are similar to those of its eastern counterpart, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Female: Largely brown, with sparrow-like streaks above; head strongly patterned with light stripes and dark ear patch. Breast strongly washed with ochre-brown: streaks on sides fine, nearly absent across the chest. Female Rose-breast is more heavily striped below, lacks the strong

Voice: Song, rising and falling passages; resembles a Robin's song but

more fluent and mellow. Note, a flat ik or eek.

Range: Sw. Canada, w. U.S. to s. Mexico. Winters in Mexico. Map 372. Sometimes hybridizes with Rose-breasted Grosbeak where ranges overlap.

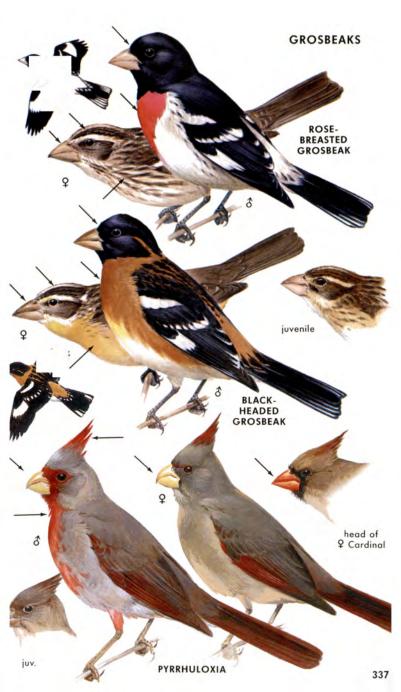
PYRRHULOXIA Cardinalis sinuatus

M370

71/2"-81/2" (19-21 cm). Male: A Slender, gray and red bird, with a crest and a red, stubby, almost parrot-like bill. The rose-colored breast and crest suggest a Cardinal, but the gray back and yellow bill set it apart. Female: Note the yellow bill. The gray back, buff breast, and touch of red in the wings and crest separate it from the female Cardinal, which is browner with a reddish bill.

Voice: Song, a clear quink quink quink quink, on one pitch; also a slurred, whistled what-cheer, what-cheer, etc., thinner and shorter than Cardinal's song.

Range: Sw. U.S. to cen. Mexico. Map 370. Habitat: Mesquite, thorn scrub, deserts.



M373

6-71/2" (15-19 cm). Male: Deep dull blue, with a thick bill, two broad tan wing bars. Often flips tail. Immature male, a mixture of brown and blue. Female: About size of Cowbird; warm brown, lighter below, with two tan wing bars; rump tinged with blue.

Similar species: Indigo Bunting is smaller, lacks the wing bars. Voice: A warbling song, phrases rising and falling; suggests Purple

or House Finch; slower, more guttural. A sharp chink. Range: Cen. U.S. to Costa Rica. Winters Mexico to Panama. West:

Map 373. Habitat: Brush, roadsides, streamside thickets. INDIGO BUNTING Passerina cyanea

5½" (14 cm). Male: A small finch; rich deep blue all over. In autumn more like the brown female, but usually with some blue in the wings and tail. Female: A small, plain brown finch; breast paler, with faint streaks; no strong wing bars or other obvious marks. May hybridize with Lazuli Bunting where their ranges overlap.

Voice: Song, lively, high, and strident; measured phrases, usually paired: sweet-sweet, chew-chew, etc. Note, a sharp, thin spit.

Range: Breeds se. Canada, U.S. west to Great Plains and recently through New Mexico and Arizona locally to se. California (Colorado R.J. Rare or casual elsewhere in West. Winters from se. U.S., Mexico to nw. Colombia. Habitat: Brushy pastures, bushy wood edges.

LAZULI BUNTING Passerina amoena 5-51/2" (13-14 cm). Male: A small, turquoise-blue finch, suggesting a Bluebird, but with two white wing bars. Female: A small finch with an unstreaked brown back, a trace of blue in wings and tail, and two pale wing bars (stronger than in female Indigo Bunting).

Hybrids are frequent where range overlaps that of Indigo. Voice: Song, similar to Indigo Bunting's, but faster.

Range: Sw. Canada, w. U.S. Winters in Mexico. Map 374. Habitat: Open brush, streamside shrubs.

PAINTED BUNTING Passerina ciris

VARIED BUNTING Passerina versicolor

51/2" (14 cm). The most gaudily colored North American songbird. Male: A patchwork of blue-violet on head, green on back, red on rump and underparts. Female: Very plain; greenish above, paling to lemon-green below: no other small finch is so uniformly green.

Voice: Song, a wiry warble; suggests song of Warbling Vireo. Range: S. U.S., ne. Mexico. Winters to Panama. West: Map 376. Hab-

itat: Woodland edges, roadsides, brush, towns, gardens.

4½-5½" (11-14 cm). Male: A small dark finch with a plum-purple body (looks black at a distance). Crown, face, and rump blue, with a bright red patch on the nape; "colored like an Easter egg." Female: A small, plain gray-brown finch with lighter underparts. No strong wing bars, stripes, or distinctive marks of any kind.

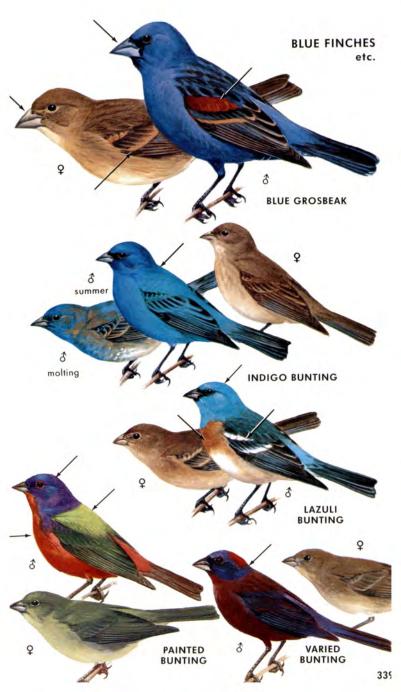
Similar species: Male Painted Bunting has a bright red breast. Fe-

male Indigo is browner, with a hint of breast streaks.

Voice: Song thin, bright, more distinctly phrased, less warbled than

Painted Bunting's; notes not as paired as in Lazuli's.

Range: Breeds sw. U.S. to Guatemala. Map 375. Winters from n. Mexico south. Habitat: Streamside thickets, brush.



7½-9" (19-23 cm). Male: An all-red bird with a pointed crest and a black patch at the base of its heavy, triangular red bill. Female: Buff-brown, with some red on the wings and tail. The crest, dark face, and heavy red bill are distinctive. Immature: Similar to the female, but with a blackish bill (see Pyrrhuloxia, p. 337, and Hepatic Tanager, p. 315).

Similar species: Male Summer and Hepatic tanagers, the other all-

red birds of the Southwest, have no crests.

Voice: Song, clear, slurred whistles; repeated. Several variations: what-cheer cheer cheer, etc.; whoit whoit or birdy birdy birdy, etc. Note, a short, light tik.

Range: S. Quebec to Gulf states; sw. U.S., Mexico to Belize. West: Map 369. Habitat: Woodland edges, thickets, suburban gardens,

towns, bird feeders.

■ FINCHES. Family Fringillidae. These birds have seed-cracking bills of three main types: (1) very large and grosbeak-like, as in the Evening Grosbeak; (2) rather canary-like, as in most of the lesser finches such as the Goldfinch; and (3) cross-tipped, as in the two crossbills. Until recently, all the other grosbeaks as well as the sparrows and buntings were also put into this family, but now they are lumped with such unlikely associates as the tanagers, warblers, blackbirds, and orioles in the catch-all family Emberizidae. See the Systematic Checklist, pp. 409–416.

RED CROSSBILL Loxia curvirostra

M433

5½-6½" (14–16 cm). Near the size of a House Sparrow, with a heavy head and short tail. Note the *crossed mandibles*. The sound when it cracks the cones of evergreens often betrays its presence. It acts like a small parrot as it dangles while feeding. *Male: Dull red,* brighter on the rump; wings and tail blackish. Young males are more orange. *Female:* Dull olive-gray; yellowish on the rump and underparts. *Juvenile:* Striped above and below, suggesting a large Pine Siskin; note the bill.

Voice: Note, a hard jip-jip or jip-jip-jip. Song, finch-like warbled

passages, jip-jip-jip-jeeaa-jeeaa; trills, chips.

Range: Conifer forests of N. Hemisphere. In N. America, south in mountains to Nicaragua; in East, locally to s. Appalachians. Erratic wanderings in winter. West: Map 433. Habitat: Conifers.

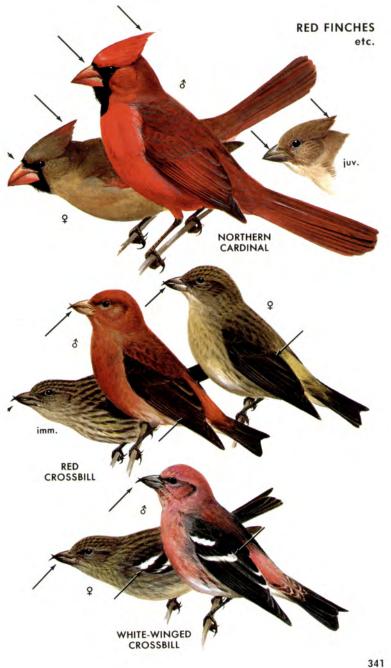
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL Loxia leucoptera M434

6-6¾" (15-17 cm). Note the wing bars and crossed mandibles. *Male*: Dull *rose-pink*, with black wings crossed by *two broad white* wing bars; tail black. *Female*: Olive-gray, with a yellowish rump similar to female Red Crossbill's, but with *two broad white wing* bars. The wing bars are often quite evident in flight and help pick out this species in mixed flocks of crossbills.

Voice: Notes, a liquid peet and a dry chif-chif. Song, a succession

of loud trills on different pitches.

Range: Boreal forests of N. Hemisphere. Also Hispaniola. West: Map 434. Habitat: Spruce and fir forests, hemlocks.



5-51/2" (13-14 cm). Note the bright red cap on the forehead of this little winter finch. Gray-brown, streaked: note the black chin and dark flank streaks. Male has a pink breast. Among the more typical Redpolls, look for "frostier" birds. If the rump is without streaks and the bill is smaller, the bird is a "Hoary" Redpoll-until recently designated a species (Carduelis hornemanni), but now regarded as a northern population of the Common Redpoll.

Voice: In flight, a rattling chet-chet-chet-chet. Song, a trill, followed by

the rattling chet-chet-chet.

Range: Circumboreal. West: Map 435. Habitat: Birches, tundra scrub. In winter, weeds, brush.

HOUSE FINCH Carpodacus mexicanus

M432

5-5¾" (13-14 cm). Male: Bright red breast, forehead, stripe over the eye and rump. Resembles male Purple and Cassin's finches but slighter: male brighter red. Note the dark stripes on the sides and belly. The striped brown female is separated from female Purple and Cassin's finches by its smaller head, bill, and bland face (no heavy mustache or dark cheek patch). Some males may be orange.

Voice: Song, bright, loose and disjointed; often ends in a nasal wheer.

Notes suggest a House Sparrow's, but more musical.

Range: British Columbia to s. Mexico. Introduced in e. U.S.; spreading. West: Map 432. Habitat: Cities, suburbs, farms, canyons; feeders.

PURPLE FINCH Carpodacus purpureus

M430

5½-6" (14-15 cm). Like a sparrow dipped in raspberry juice. Male: Dull rose-red. brightest on the head, chest, and rump. Female and immature: Heavily striped, brown; similar to a female House Finch, but note the broad dark jaw stripe, dark ear patch, and broad light stripe behind the

Voice: Song, a fast lively warble; note, a dull metallic tick.

Range: Canada, Pacific states, n. Baja California, ne. U.S. Winters to S.

U.S. West: Map 430. Habitat: Woods, groves, suburbs, feeders. CASSIN'S FINCH Carpodacus cassinii

M431

6-61/2" (15-16 cm). Male: Very similar to Purple Finch, but red of breast paler; squarish red crown patch contrasts abruptly with the brown of the nape; bill has a straighter ridge. Note, a musical chidiup. Female: Whiter underparts, sharper stripings, streaked undertail coverts, and bill shape distinguish it from female Purple Finch.

Range: Sw. Canada, w. U.S. Winters to mountains of Mexico. Map 431. Habitat: Conifers in high mountains; lower levels in winter.

M429

PINE GROSBEAK Pinicola enucleator 8-10" (20-25 cm). Near size of Robin; a large, tame "winter" finch with a stubby bill, longish tail. Not a true Grosbeak. Flight undulates deeply. Male. adult: Dull rose-red, dark wings with two white bars. Male, immature: Similar to the gray female, but with a touch of russet on the head and rump. Female: Gray, with two white wing bars; head and rump tinged with dull vellow.

Voice: Call, a whistled tee-tew-tew, suggesting that of Greater Yel-

lowlegs, but finch-like; also a musical chee-vli.

Range: Boreal forests of N. Hemisphere; winters irruptively southward.

West: Map 429. Habitat: Conifers: in winter, other trees.



EVENING GROSBEAK Coccothraustes vespertinus

M440

8" (20 cm). Size of a starling. A chunky, *short-tailed* finch with a *very large*, *pale*, *conical bill*. *Male*: Dull yellow, with a dark head, yellow eyebrow, and black and white wings; suggests an overgrown Goldfinch. *Female*: Silver-gray, with enough yellow, black, and white to be recognized. Gregarious. Undulating flight, shape, and *large white wing patches* identify them.

Voice: A ringing, finch-like clee-ip; a high, clear thew.

Range: Spruce belt of Canada, ne. and w. U.S. to Oaxaca. Winters to se. U.S., Mexico. West: Map 440. Habitat: Conifer forests; in winter, box-elders and other maples; also fruiting shrubs; often swarm at feeding trays.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH Carduelis tristis

M439

5" (13 cm). Male, summer: A small yellow bird with black wings; tail and forehead also black. Female, summer: Dull yellow-olive; darker above, with blackish wings and conspicuous wing bars. Goldfinches are distinguished from other small, olive-yellow birds [warblers, etc.] by their short, conical bills. Winter, both sexes: Much like summer female, but gray-brown; yellow on throat.

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."

Range: S. Canada to s. U.S., n. Baja California. West: Map 439. Habitat: Patches of thistles and weeds, dandelions on lawns, roadsides, open woods, edges; in winter, also feeders.

LESSER GOLDFINCH Carduelis psaltria

M437

3¾-4¼" (9-11 cm). Male: A very small finch with a black cap, black or greenish back, and bright yellow underparts; white on the wings. Black cap retained in winter. Males of race psaltria (s. Rockies) have black backs; males of western race hesperophilus have greenish backs. Female: Similar to American Goldfinch, but smaller, more greenish; rump dark (not pale).

Voice: Sweet, plaintive notes tee-yee (rising) and tee-yer (dropping). Song,

more phrased than American Goldfinch's.

Range: Breeds from w. U.S. to Peru. Map 437. Habitat: Open brushy country, open woods, wooded streams, gardens.

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH Carduelis lawrencei

M438

4½" (11 cm). In all plumages known by the *large amount of yellow in the wings*. Male has a *black face* (including chin).

Voice: Song similar to that of American Goldfinch. Call note, distinctive:

tink-oo, syllables emphasized equally.

Range: Breeds n. California to n. Baja California. Winters sw. U.S., nw. Mexico. Map 438. Habitat: Oak-pine woods, chaparral.

PINE SISKIN Carduelis pinus

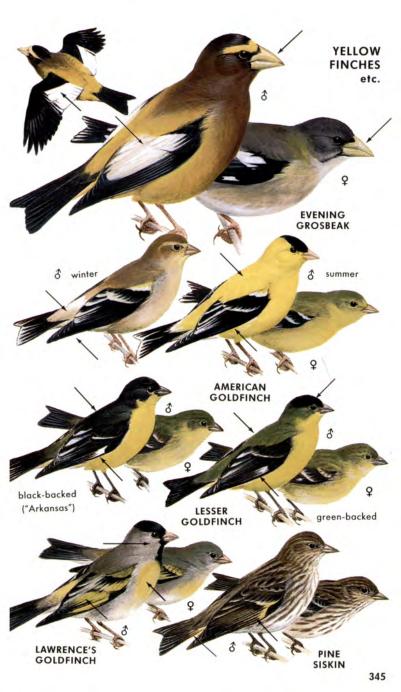
M436

4½-5" (11–13 cm). Size of a Goldfinch. A small, dark, heavily streaked finch with a deeply notched tail, sharply pointed bill. A touch of yellow in the wings and at the base of the tail (not always evident). Most Siskins are detected by voice, flying over.

Voice: Call, a loud chlee-ip; also a light tit-i-tit; a buzzy shreeeee. Song

suggests Goldfinch's, but coarser, wheezy.

Range: S. Canada to s. U.S. Winters to cen. Mexico. West: Map 436. Habitat: Conifers, mixed woods, alders, weedy areas, feeders.



■ OLD WORLD SPARROWS. Family Passeridae. Old World sparrows, unrelated to our native sparrows, which are lumped with the Emberizidae. Food: Insects, seeds. Range: Widespread in Old World: 301 species (sparrow-weavers, 35); West 2 (introduced).

HOUSE SPARROW Passer domesticus

6" (15 cm). Familiar to everyone. Sooty city birds often bear little resemblance to clean country males with the black throat, white cheeks, chestnut nape. Females and young lack the black throat, have a dingy breast, rusty wings, and dull eyestripe.

Range: Eurasia, n. Africa. Introduced N. and S. America, S. Africa, Aus-

tralia. West: Map 441. Habitat: Cities, farms.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW Passer montanus (not shown)

5½" (14 cm). Both sexes resemble male House Sparrow, but black throat patch smaller. Key mark is a black ear spot. Crown brown. Illustrated in the eastern Field Guide.

Range: Eurasia. Introduced; local resident in vicinity of St. Louis, Mis-

souri. West: Reported recently from s. Vancouver I.

■ MISCELLANEOUS SPARROW-LIKE SPECIES.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD Molothrus ater

7" (18 cm). The gray-brown female and the juvenile with its soft streaking may be taken for sparrows of some sort because of their short, finchlike bills. See fuller coverage on p. 310.

DICKCISSEL Spiza americana

6-7" (15-18 cm). A grassland bird; often travels in large flocks. Sits on fenceposts. Male: Suggests a miniature Meadowlark (black bib, yellow chest). In fall the bib is obscure or lacking, Female: Very much like a female House Sparrow, but paler, with a lighter stripe over the eye, touch of yellow on the breast, and a bluish bill. The chestnut shoulder is also an aid.

Voice: Song, a staccato dick-ciss-ciss-ciss or chup-chup-klip-klip-klip. A short buzzing call is often heard at night in migration.

Range: S. Canada and interior of U.S. Winters mainly from Mexico to n. S. America. Very rare migrant and winter visitor to California. West: Map 377. Habitat: Alfalfa and other fields, meadows, prairies.

BOBOLINK Dolichonyx oryzivorus

Because of the short bill, female Bobolinks and autumn males may suggest sparrows or finches. They are a bit larger than House Sparrows; rich buff, with dark stripings on the crown and back. For a fuller discussion, see p. 308.

LARK BUNTING Calamospiza melanocorys

M394

7" (18 cm). A prairie bird. Gregarious. Male in spring: Black, with large white wing patches (male Bobolink has white patches on the body, not on the wings). Female, young, and winter male: Brown, streaked; pattern suggests female Purple Finch. Usually some birds in the flock show whitish wing patches.

Voice: Song, cardinal-like slurs, unmusical chat-like chug's; piping whis-

tles and trills; each note repeated 3-11 times.

Range: Prairies of s. Canada to n. Texas. Winters sw. U.S. to cen. Mexico.

West: Map 394. Habitat: Plains, prairies.



- MISCELLANEOUS STRAYS FROM MEXICO. The birds shown opposite and on the next plate may be found by the birder who travels to Mexico to sample its rich avifauna. On very rare occasion, one of these strays from the neotropics slips across the border to our side. Arizona has been especially favored. A few other Mexican rarities or accidentals have been treated earlier in this book—the Eared Trogon (p. 206), a few hummingbirds (pp. 220–221), and the Rufous-backed Robin (pp. 274–275). Still others may eventually be added to our U.S. list by perceptive birders. To prepare for the unexpected, study A Field Guide to Mexican Birds.
- STREAK-BACKED ORIOLE Icterus pustulatus (Scarlet-headed Oriole) 8" (20 cm). The breeding adult has a striped back. Much white in the wing. Otherwise resembles Hooded Oriole. Male is basically yellow-orange, head becoming almost red. Female is duller, back more olivaceous, but the streaking is still obvious. West: Sparse wanderer in fall and winter to s. Arizona (where it has visited hummingbird feeders around Tucson). Casual stray, s. California.

BLACK-VENTED ORIOLE Icterus wagleri

7½-9" (19-23 cm). This black-hooded oriole differs from the yellow and black Scott's Oriole in being more orangish, with no white in the wing. Note the black vent (undertail coverts), all-black tail. Sexes alike. West: Accidental, w. Texas (Big Bend, San Ygnacio).

RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN Turdus rufopalliatus

9" (23 cm). Like a pale American Robin, but with a *rufous back* and no white around the eye. **West**: Rare fall and winter visitor s. Arizona. Accidental, Texas, New Mexico, California. See also p. 275.

AZTEC THRUSH Ridgwayia pinicola

8½" (21 cm). A robin-like thrush with a dark hood, white belly, white rump. Wings strikingly patched with white. Male, blackish on head, breast, and back; female brownish. West: Casual stray near Mexican border of w. Texas (Big Bend) and mountains of se. Arizona.

FLAME-COLORED TANAGER Piranga bidentata

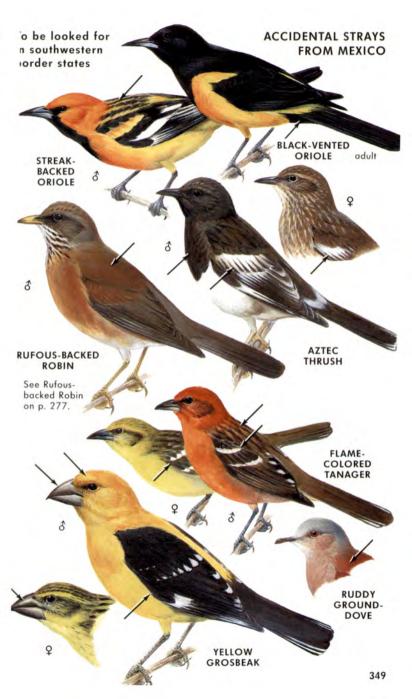
(Stripe-backed Tanager) 6–7½" (15–19 cm). The male is *fire-red* with a *striped back*, dusky ear patch and two whitish wing bars. Dark tail tipped in corners with white. The female looks somewhat like a female Western Tanager (two white wing bars), but the *striped back* is a giveaway. **West:** Accidental, se. Arizona (Chiricahua Mts., where a male apparently nested with a female Western Tanager).

YELLOW GROSBEAK Pheucticus chrysopeplus

8½" (21 cm). Size and shape of Black-headed Grosbeak; male golden yellow and black, suggesting an overblown Goldfinch except for the large, black grosbeak bill. Female duller, with a streaked back and crown. West: Casual vagrant in summer, s. Arizona.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE Columbina talpacoti

6–7" (15–18 cm). Male, a small, reddish-looking dove with a light blue-gray crown and black underwing coverts. The dull gray-brown female resembles the Common Ground-Dove somewhat, but lacks the scaly appearance on the sides of the breast. **West:** Accidental, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas.



CRESCENT-CHESTED WARBLER Parula superciliosa

4-4¾" (10_12 cm). Note the *chestnut crescent* on a yellow breast, and the strong *white eyebrow stripe* on a gray head. Back olive-green. **West:** Accidental, Texas, s. Arizona.

RUFOUS-CAPPED WARBLER Basileuterus rufifrons

4½-5" (11–13 cm). Rufous cap and cheek separated by a white eyebrow stripe. Breast yellow, upperparts olive. **West:** Casual, w. Texas, s. Arizona (has bred).

FAN-TAILED WARBLER Euthlypis lachrymosa

5½-6" (14-15 cm). A large warbler, blackish above, yellow below. Note the *yellow crown spot* and *tawny orange* wash on the breast. Flicks its long, fan-shaped, white-tipped tail a great deal. **West:** Accidental, se. Arizona.

SLATE-THROATED REDSTART Myioborus miniatus

5" (13 cm). Very much like Painted Redstart, but *lacks the white wing patch*. Breast *orange-red* rather than rose-red. Female has a salmon-pink breast. **West:** Accidental. New Mexico, s. Arizona.

XANTUS'S (BLACK-FRONTED) HUMMINGBIRD Hylocharis xantusii

3½" (9 cm). A female of this Baja California species has occurred once in s. California, where it actually nested and laid eggs that did not hatch. Female resembles White-eared Hummingbird, but has buff underparts, rusty sides of tail. The male has a green throat, cinnamon belly, chestnut tail, and white strip behind the eye.

Note: On p. 221, see other rare or vagrant hummingbirds from Mexico

(Berylline, Bumblebee, and Plain-capped Starthroat).

NUTTING'S FLYCATCHER Myiarchus nuttingi

7" (18 cm). Similar to Ash-throated Flycatcher (p. 234), but a shade smaller, and a bit browner above. Interior of mouth *orange*. Probably not safely separable in the field except by voice—a clear, whistled *peer*; suggests voice of Dusky-capped Flycatcher, but higher, less plaintive. **West**: Accidental, s. Arizona, w. Texas (Big Bend).

GRAY SILKY-FLYCATCHER Ptilogonys cinereus

7½-8½" (19-21 cm). Related to the Phainopepla. A slim, crested, waxwing-like bird with a long, strikingly patterned black and white tail and yellow undertail coverts. *Male:* gray; *female:* brown. **West:** Accidental, s. Texas (confirmed by photograph), se. Ariz., s. Calif.(?).

CRIMSON-COLLARED GROSBEAK Rhodothraupis celaeno

7–8" (18–20 cm). *Male*: A blackish grosbeak with a *dark red collar* encircling the black head and chest. The red underparts are often spotted or blotched with black. *Female and immature*: Patterned like the male, but *dull green* replaces the red. **West**: Casual stray, s. Texas just south of our area.

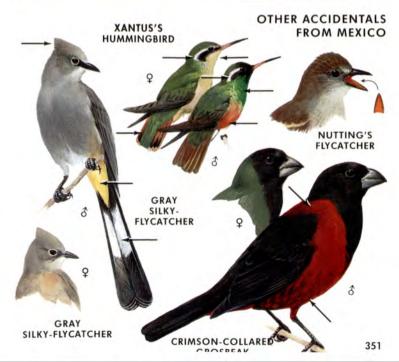
MOTTLED OWL Ciccaba virgata (not shown)

12–15" (30–38 cm). This dark Mexican owl, unlike the somewhat larger Barred Owl, is uniformly dark above (with fine mottlings). Streaked lengthwise below. No ear tufts. Eyes *brown*. **West**: A road-killed specimen has been recorded from s. Texas near the Rio Grande, but south of our area.

IMPERIAL WOODPECKER Campephilus imperialis (not shown)

21" (53 cm). This very large (near extinct) woodpecker was possibly seen but not confirmed in Big Bend National Park in 1958. See illustration in A Field Guide to Mexican Birds.





■ ALASKAN STRAYS FROM ASIA. On the next three plates a number of rarities from Asia are shown. Whereas the shores and islands of/the Bering Sea have produced most records, a very few have occurred south along the Pacific Coast. A few other Alaskan strays have been shown on previous plates: waterfowl (pp. 49, 63); sandpipers (pp. 151, 153, 155, 157); wagtails (p. 243); pipits (p. 245); swifts (p. 247). For further information, consult A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe. For other possibilities, see A Field Guide to the Birds of Japan (Wild Bird Society of Japan).

COMMON HOUSE-MARTIN Delichon urbica

8" (20 cm). Like a Tree Swallow with a white patch completely across the rump. West: Accidental, Bering Sea area (Nome, St. Paul I., St. Matthew I.).

EYEBROWED THRUSH Turdus obscurus

7½" (19 cm). Robin-like; smaller, with reddish confined to the sides. Gray back and breast; white eyebrow, chin and belly. **West:** Rare in spring, w. Aleutians, casual, Pribilofs, w. and n. Alaska.

FIELDFARE Turdus pilaris

10" (25 cm). Robin-like, with a heavily striped tawny breast. *Back rusty*; head, rump gray. **West:** Accidental, n. Alaska, St. Lawrence I.

DUSKY THRUSH Turdus naumanni

9" (23 cm). Robin-like. Head and underparts dusky; heavily scaled. Rufous wings. **West:** Casual, w. Aleutians and St. Lawrence I.; accidental, n. Alaska (Pt. Barrow).

BROWN SHRIKE Lanius cristatus

8" (20 cm). A small shrike, *brown* above, white below, with a *dark mask*. **West:** Accidental, w. Aleutians, St. Lawrence I., Anchorage, Alaska; also California (Farallons).

STONECHAT Saxicola torquata

5" (13 cm). Small, plump, upright. Male has a black head and throat, white half-collar, rusty breast. West: Accidental, St. Lawrence I.

EURASIAN WRYNECK Jynx torquilla

6½" (16 cm). Woodpecker-like; mottled gray-brown, underparts finely barred. **West:** Accidental, nw. Alaska (Seward Peninsula).

НООРОЕ *Upupa epops*

11" (28 cm). Pinkish brown with boldly barred, black and white wings and tail and a long erectile crest (usually depressed). West: Accidental, w. Alaska (Old Chevak).

ORIENTAL TURTLE-DOVE Streptopelia orientalis

13" (33 cm). Striped patch on neck; rufous in wings. West: Accidental, Attu, Probilofs.

COMMON CUCKOO Cuculus canorus

13" (33 cm). Slender; looks falconlike. Gray, with *barred underparts*. Rufous morph of female (rare) is barred except on rump. **West:** Rare overshoot in outer Aleutians, Pribilofs. Accidental, mainland of w. Alaska.

ORIENTAL CUCKOO Cuculus saturates

13" (33 cm). Darker than the Common Cuckoo, with a shorter bill and wider bars on the belly. Rufous morph of the female has heavier barring, has strong barring on the rump. **West:** Very rare vagrant (June–July) in outer Aleutians.



LANCEOLATED WARBLER Locustella lanceolata

4½" (11 cm). Small skulking. Streaked brown upperparts, band of *fine streaks* on whitish breast. Light eyebrow stripe, white throat. **West:** Casual or accidental, outer Aleutians (Attu).

MIDDENDORFF'S GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER Locustella ochotensis

6½" (16 cm). A rather large Old World warbler; brown above, white below, with tan sides and a tapered white-tipped tail. Light eyebrow. **West:** Summer and fall vagrant to Bering Sea Islands (Attu, Nunivak, Pribilofs, St. Lawrence I.).

DUSKY WARBLER Phylloscopus fuscatus

4½" (11 cm). A small, very plain Old World warbler; dusky-brown above, no wing bars. Whitish below, with buffy eyebrows, sides, and undertail coverts. **West**: Casual or accidental in fall, Gambell, outer Aleutians; accidental, California.

SIBERIAN BLUE ROBIN Luscinia cyane

5½" (14 cm). Dull blue above, pure white below, separated by black on the sides of the face and neck. *Female*: Brown above, mottled buff below, tail bluish. **West:** Accidental, outer Aleutians (Attu).

SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT Luscinia calliope

6" (15 cm). Small and dark; note the *ruby-red throat*, gray breast. *White eyebrows and whiskers*. Female has a *white throat*. **West:** Rare but regular migrant, w. Aleutians; casual, Pribilofs, St. Lawrence I.

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL Tarsiger cyanurus

5½" (14 cm). *Male:* Deep blue above with *bright orange-red flanks*. white throat. *Female:* Dusky brown, with a dark chest, white throat, *orange flanks.* West: Accidental, outer Aleutians (Attu).

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER Ficedula parva

4½" (11 cm). A tiny flycatcher. *Male: Orange throat*, gray cheeks, narrow eye-ring, *white tail patches. Female:* Browner, without the orange throat. **West:** Casual, w. Aleutians; accidental, St. Lawrence I.

GRAY-SPOTTED FLYCATCHER Muscicapa griseisticta

5½" (14 cm). Empidonax-like. Strongly streaked breast and flanks. West: Rare, irregular, perhaps regular (May–June), w. Aleutians.

SIBERIAN FLYCATCHER Muscicapa sibirica (Sooty Flycatcher)

5" (13 cm). Suggests a sooty *Empidonax* flycatcher (eye-ring, wing bar, etc.). Note the *broad dark band across the breast*. **West**: Accidental, w. Aleutians.

ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER Muscicapa dauurica

5" (13 cm). Similar to Siberian Flycatcher, but smaller, and much paler on the breast. **West:** Accidental, w. Aleutians (Attu).

NARCISSUS FLYCATCHER Ficedula narcissina

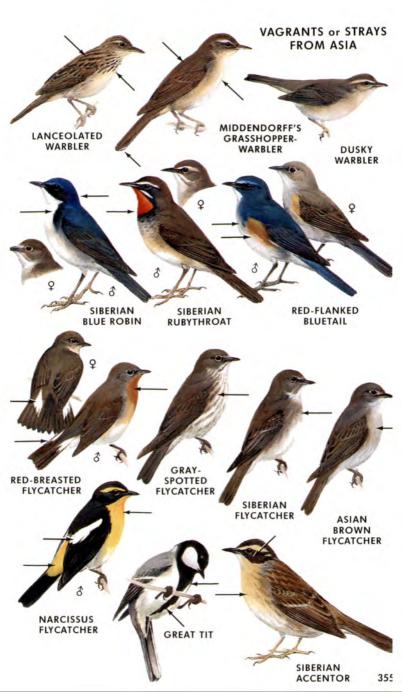
5" (13 cm). Black back, orange throat (male), yellow rump and eyebrow, white wing patch. West: Accidental, w. Aleutians (Attu).

GREAT TIT Poecile major

5½" (14 cm). A large "chickadee" with a black stripe extending from its black throat through its whitish underparts. **West:** Accidental, Little Diomede I. (at a feeder).

SIBERIAN ACCENTOR Prunella montanella (Family Prunellidae)

5½" (14 cm). Dark cheeks separate ochre eyebrows from the bright ochre-buff throat and underparts. Sides striped; bill warbler-like. West: Casual fall visitor, Nunivak I., St. Lawrence I. and mainland Alaska. Accidental, Washington.



YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING Emberiza aureola

5½" (14 cm). Male has a black head, chestnut band across its yellow breast. West: Accidental, Attu. Buldir, St. Lawrence I.

RUSTIC BUNTING Emberiza rustica

53/4" (15 cm). A rusty, sparrow-like bird with a rusty breast band, black crown, and black cheek outlined in white. Female has a light spot on its brown cheek patch. Regular but scarce; mainly in spring, outer Aleutians. **West:** Casual, St. Lawrence I. Accidental, British Columbia, Oregon, California.

LITTLE BUNTING Emberiza pusilla

5" (13 cm). Suggests a Savannah Sparrow, but the *rufous crown* and *rufous cheek patches* are outlined with black. **West:** Accidental, outer Aleutians. Chukchi Sea.

REED BUNTING Emberiza schoeniclus

6" (15 cm). Male has a black head and bib, white collar and malar stripe in summer. Rusty wings. **West:** Casual or accidental in spring in outer Aleutians.

PALLAS'S BUNTING Emberiza pallasi

5½" (14 cm). Similar to Reed Bunting, but smaller. Shoulders blue-gray, lacking the bright rusty tone. Upper ridge of bill straight. Rump paler. **West:** Accidental, n. Alaska (St. Lawrence I., Barrow).

GRAY BUNTING Emberiza variabilis

6" (15 cm). Male: Dark slate gray above and below. Female: Dark brown, paler below; chestnut rump, no white in tail. West: Accidental, outer Aleutians.

HAWFINCH Coccothraustes coccothraustes

7" (18 cm). A chunky finch with a massive bill and a short tail. Bold white patches high on black wings. Female paler; less rufous on crown. West: A rare stray, mainly in spring, Bering Sea area (Aleutians, Pribilofs, St. Lawrence I.).

EURASIAN BULLFINCH Pyrrhula pyrrhula

5¾" (15 cm). A stubby-billed finch with a black cap and a *white rump. Male: Rose-red breast and cheeks.* Female: Similar pattern, but breast is warm pinkish brown. **West:** Casual stray in Bering Sea islands (outer Aleutians, Nunivak I., St. Lawrence I.). Accidental in winter on mainland Alaska.

ORIENTAL GREENFINCH Carduelis sinica

6" (15 cm). An olive and brown, siskin-like bird without striping. *Large yellow patches* on wings and tail. Female browner than male. **West:** Rare vagrant, outer Aleutians. Accidental, California.

BRAMBLING Fringilla montifringilla

5¾" (15 cm). *Tawny* breast and shoulders, white rump. *Male* in summer has black head and back. **West:** Rare stray, Bering Sea area (Aleutians, Pribilofs, St. Lawrence I.), and various points in Alaska. Accidental, British Columbia, Manitoba, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado.

COMMON ROSEFINCH Carpodacus erythrinus

5¾" (15 cm). Resembles Purple Finch, but without the facial striping. Upper ridge of bill more curved. **West:** Rare in spring in outer Aleutians (Purple Finch does not occur within 2,000 miles). Casual, St. Paul, Gambell. Accidental on mainland Alaska.



■ OTHER ASIAN STRAYS (not shown). The following species have been recorded only once or twice in Alaska and (with two exceptions) are not illustrated in this book. They could occur again, as could others. For further possibilities, see A Field Guide to the Birds of Japan (Wild Bird Society of Japan).

CHINESE EGRET Egretta eulophotes

See illus., p. 113. When breeding, resembles Snowy Egret (black legs, yellow feet), but bill *yellow*, lores *dark*. This endangered Asiatic has occurred once in the w. Aleutians (Aggatu I.).

YELLOW BITTERN Ixobrychus sinensis

14" (36 cm). Rather like our Least Bittern. Has occurred as an accidental at Attu in the Aleutians, where Least Bittern would not occur.

GREYLAG GOOSE Anser anser

An unconfirmed sighting of this large, pale gray Eurasian goose was reported at Attu.

EURASIAN KESTREL Falco tinnunculus

Larger than the American Kestrel, with a longer tail, which in males is gray. Wings largely rufous (blue-gray in American). Female Eurasian Kestrel has only one black facial bar. **West:** Accidental, w. Aleutians (where American Kestrel would not occur).

EURASIAN HOBBY Falco subbuteo

Near size of a Merlin; suggests a small Peregrine. Slaty-backed, heavily striped below, with *rufous "trousers"*; narrow mustache. **West**: Accidental at sea near Aleutians, Pribilofs.

EURASIAN COOT Fulica atra

See illus. of head, p. 63. Similar to the American Coot, but with an entirely white frontal shield above the bill. No white on the undertail coverts. West: Accidental, Pribilofs.

BLACK-WINGED STILT Himantopus himantopus

Like the Black-necked Stilt, but head and neck largely white, without black pattern. West: Accidental, Nizki I., Alaska.

BLACK-TAILED GULL Larus crassirostris

A medium-sized gull with a dark mantel and a *broad black band* across the white tail. Yellow legs: yellow bill with a *black ring and red tip*. **West:** Accidental, w. Aleutians; also San Diego, California (perhaps an escape?).

ORIENTAL SCOPS-OWL Otus sunia

Resembles a small Screech-Owl. **West:** Accidental, w. Aleutians (nearly 2,000 miles west of Screech-Owl's normal range).

JUNGLE NIGHTJAR Caprimulgus indicus

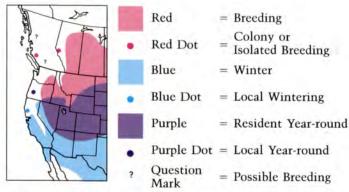
Similar to a Nighthawk (white bar near wing tip), but grayer, tail rounded, breast not barred. West: Accidental, w. Aleutians.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER Dendrocopos major

Size of a Hairy Woodpecker, with a black back separating the *large white* scapular patches. Undertail coverts crimson. West: Accidental outer Aleutians (Attu).

Range Maps

BY VIRGINIA MARIE PETERSON

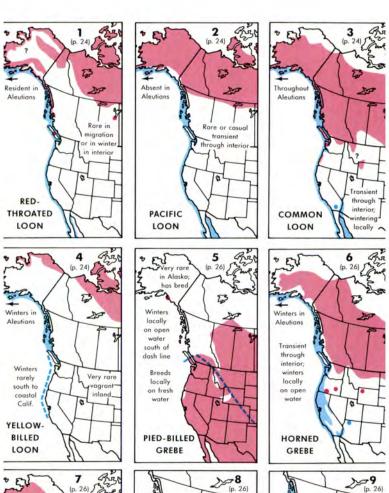


The maps on the following pages are approximate, giving the general outline of the range of each species. Within these broad outlines may be many gaps—areas that are ecologically unsuitable for the species. A Marsh Wren must have a marsh, a Meadowlark a meadow, a Ruffed Grouse a woodland or a forest. Certain species may be extremely local or sporadic for reasons that are not clear. Some birds are extending their ranges, a few explosively. Others are declining or even disappearing from large areas where they were formerly found. Some of these increases and declines, as well as extralimital occurrences, are noted on the maps. The maps are based on data from many state and regional publications and modified by the observations of a myriad of birders as reported in American Birds, Birding, NARBA, Western Birds, and various other journals and checklists.

Winter ranges are not as definite as breeding ranges. A species may exist at a very low density near the northern limits of its winter range, surviving in mild seasons through December but often succumbing to the bitter conditions of January and February.

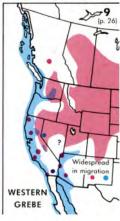
The maps are specific only for the area covered by this *Field Guide*. The Mallard, for example, is found over a large part of the globe. Its world range is briefly stated in the main text. The map shows only its range in western North America. The maps are in phylogenetic sequence (see the Systematic Checklist on p. 409) and are not arranged in the arbitrary visual order in which the species appear in this book. The small page number under the map number refers back to the main text.

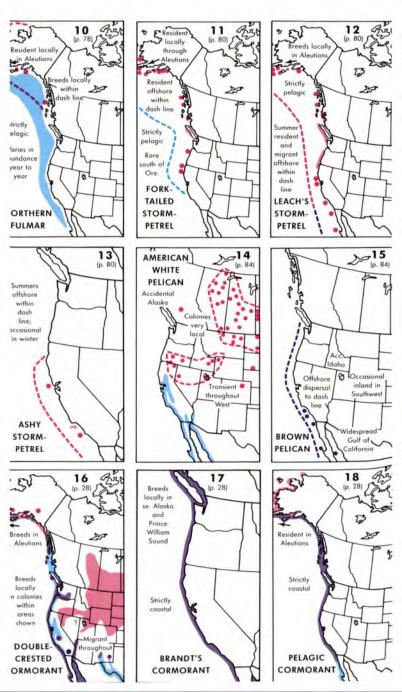
Note: The Aleutian Chain, extending for another 1,000 miles to the west, is not shown, but pertinent information applying to these islands is included on the maps.

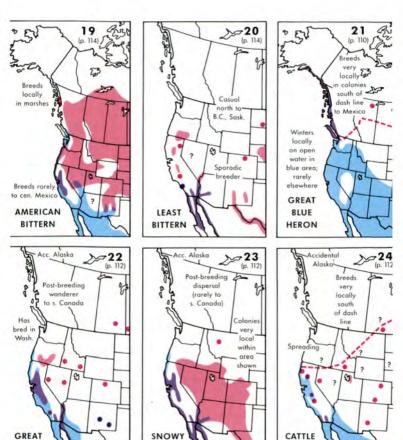


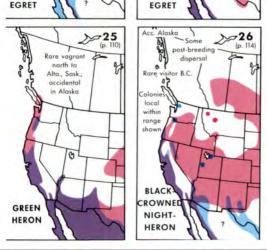






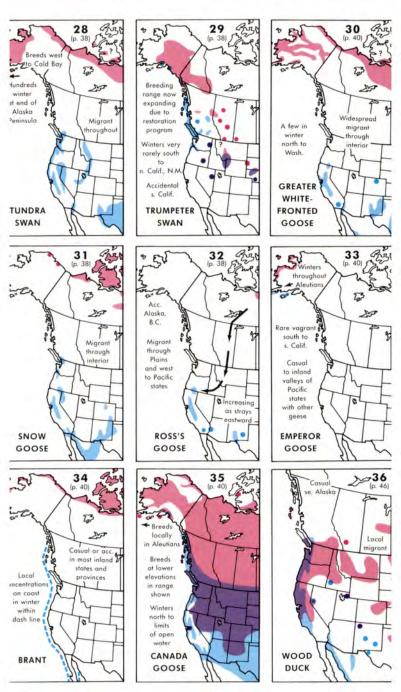


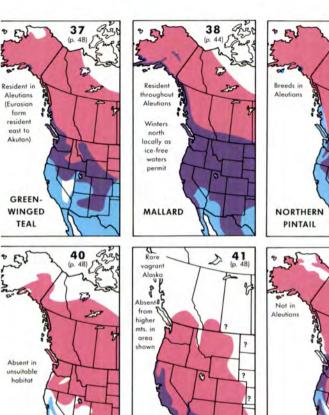


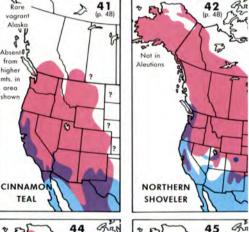


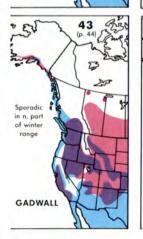


EGRET









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BLUE-

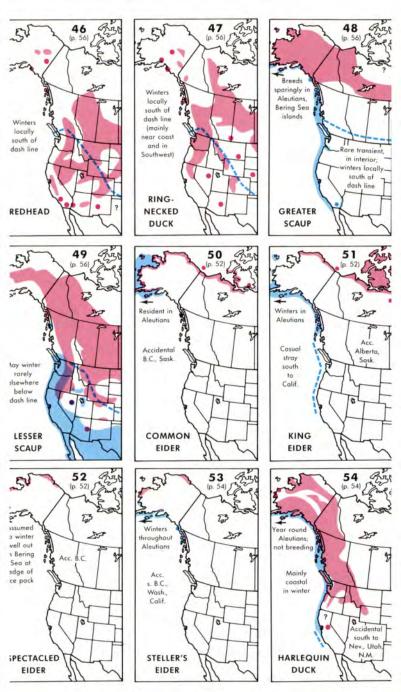
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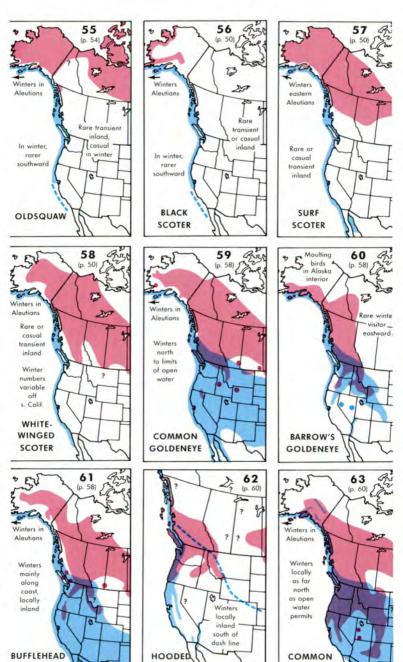
TEAL





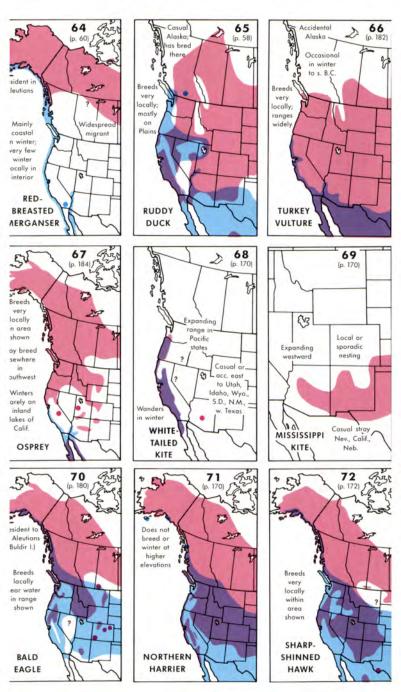
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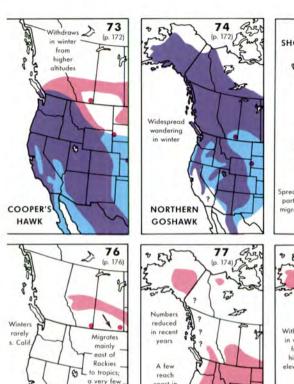




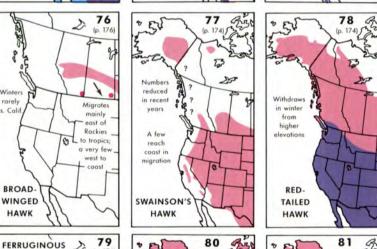
MERGANSER

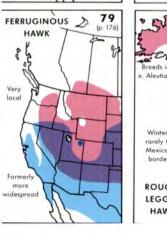
MERGANSER





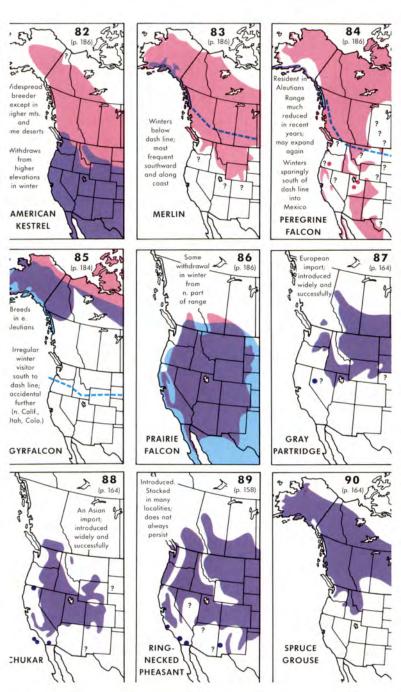


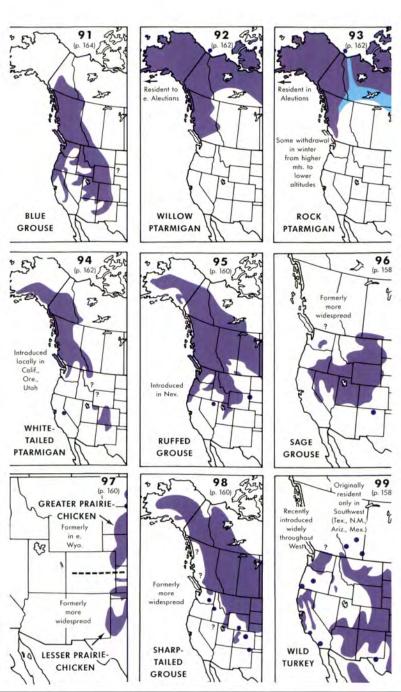


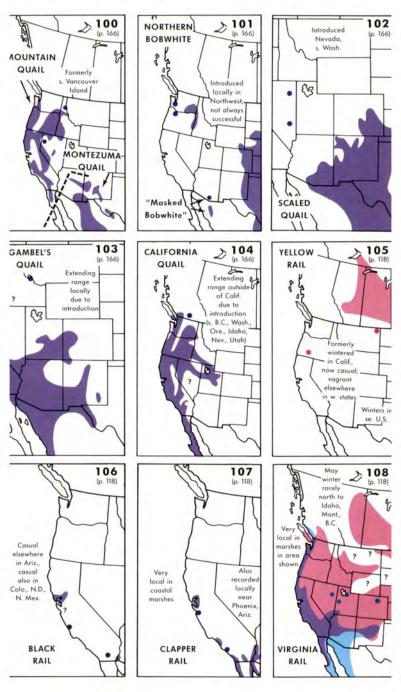


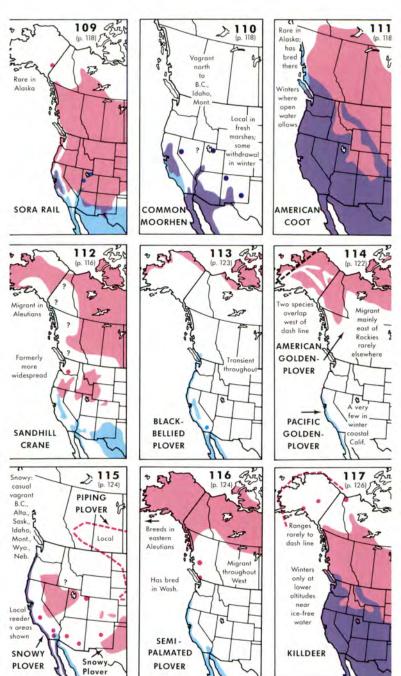


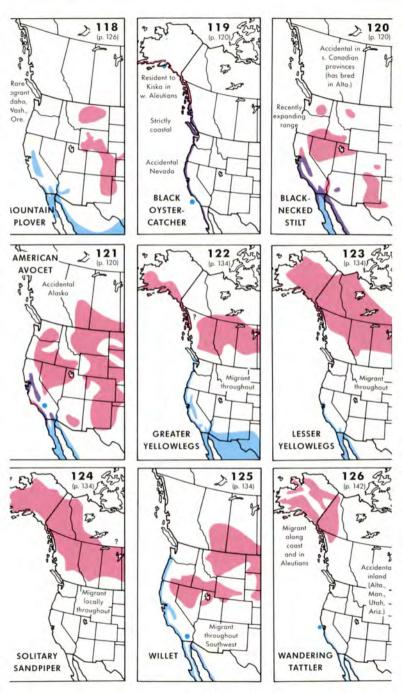


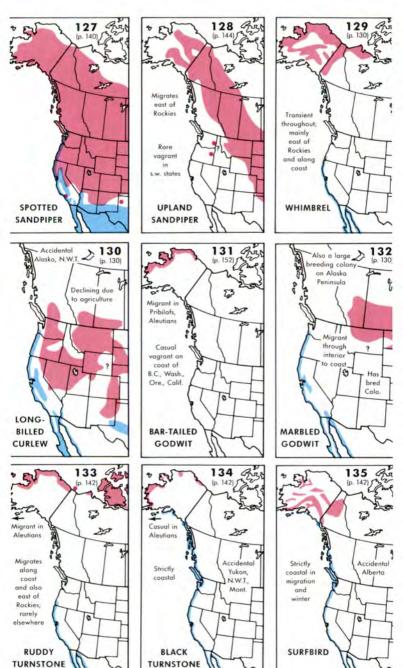


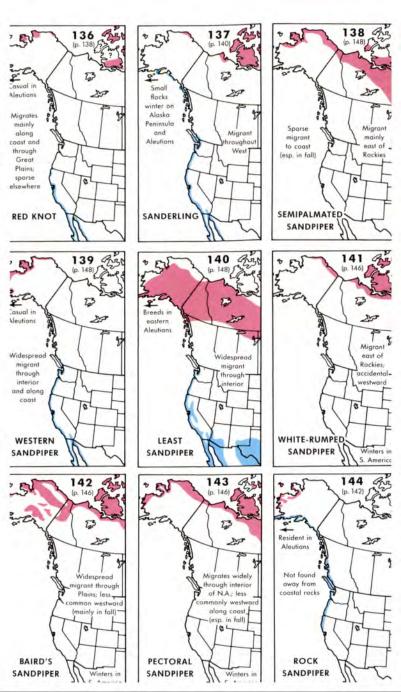


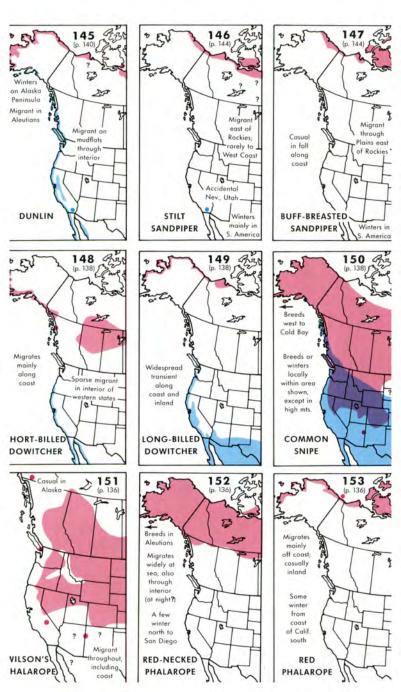


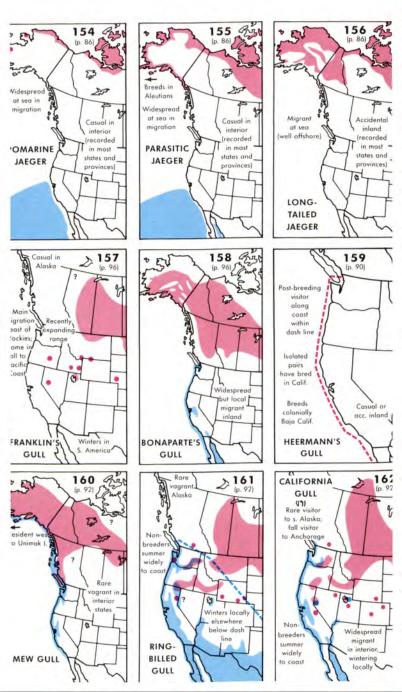


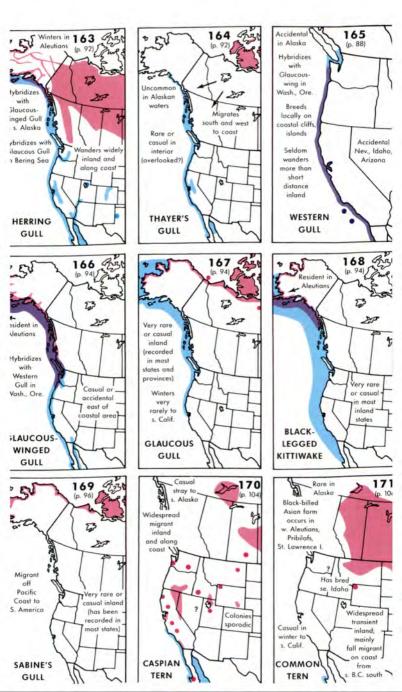


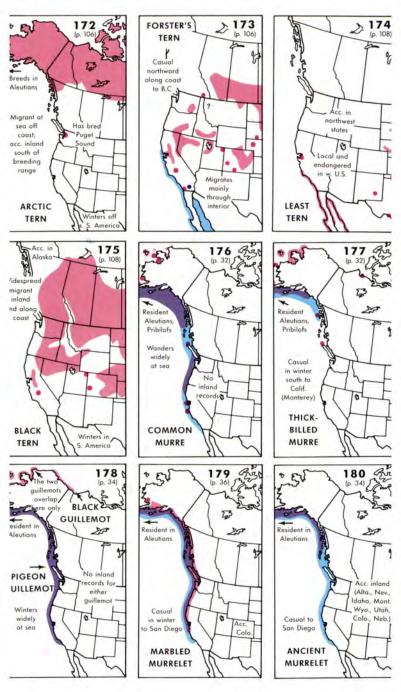


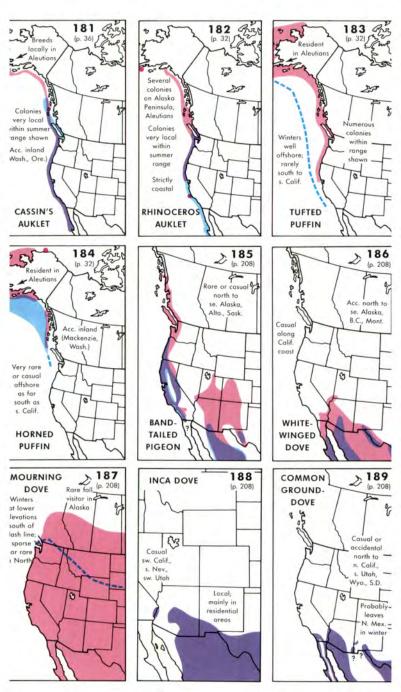


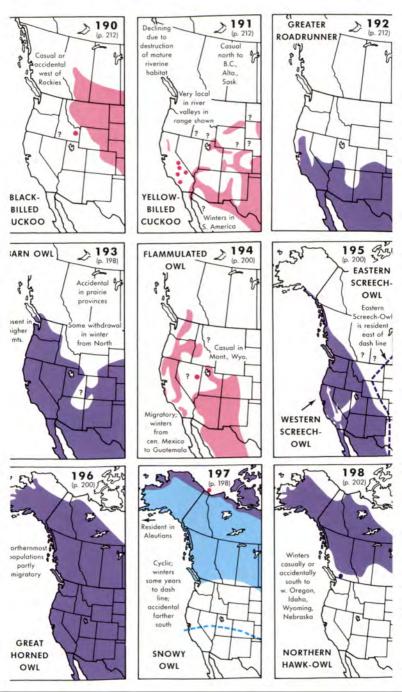


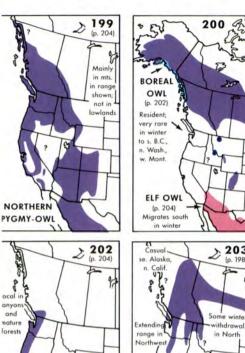
















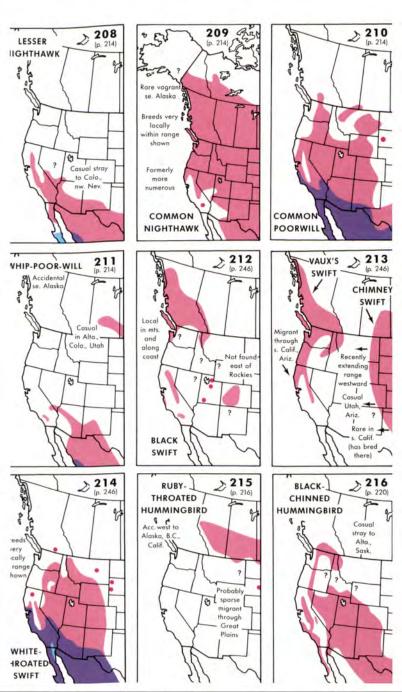


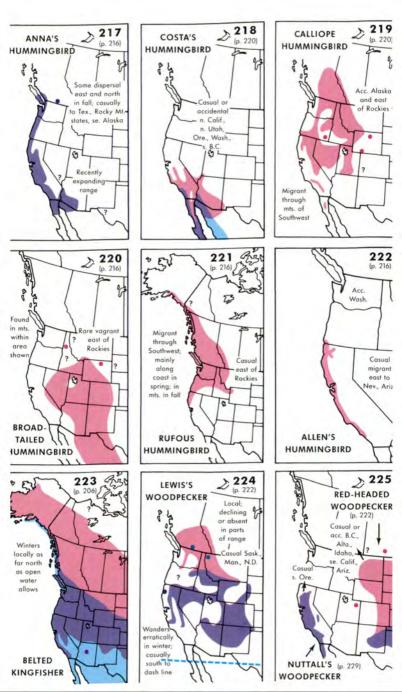


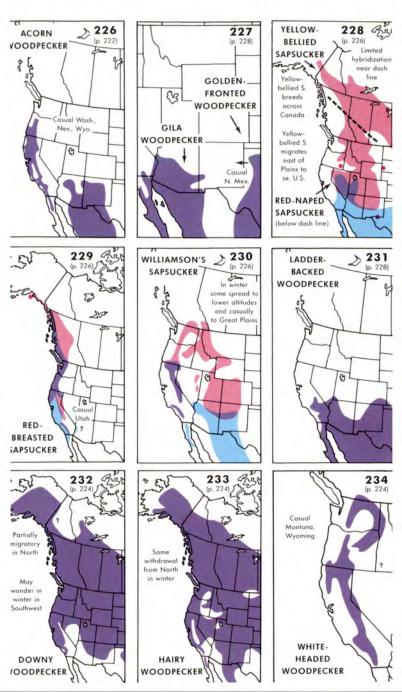


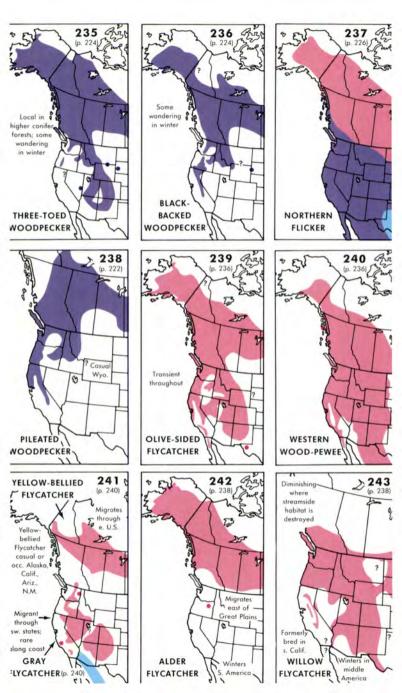


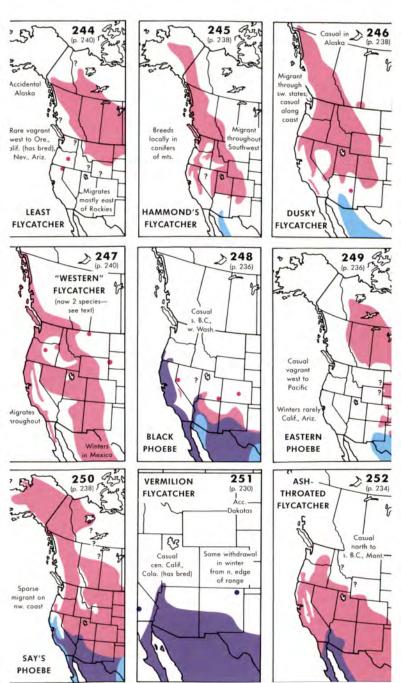


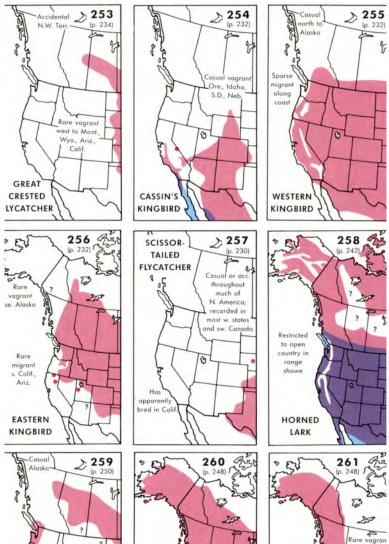


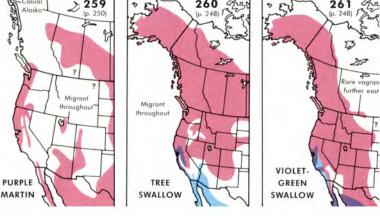


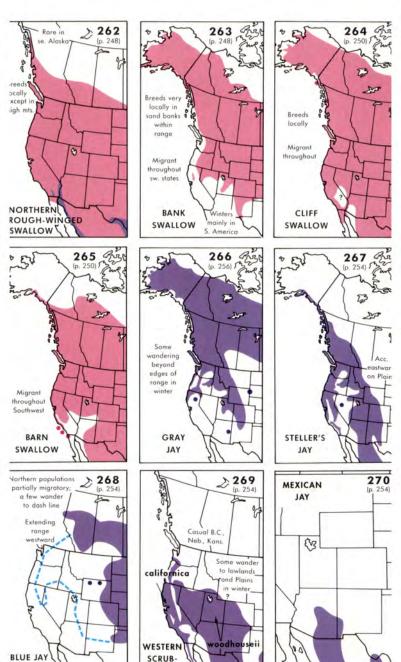




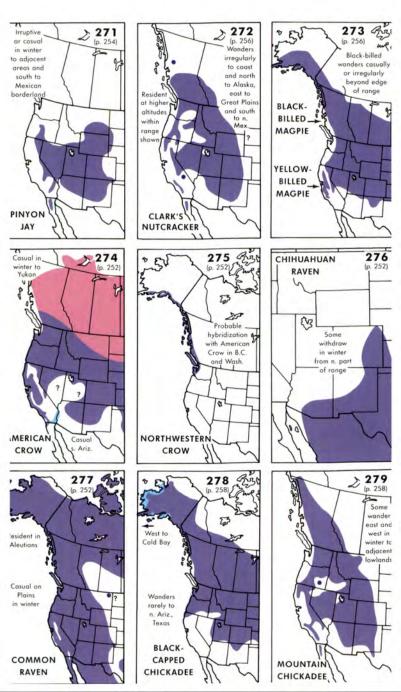








JAY

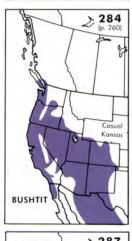










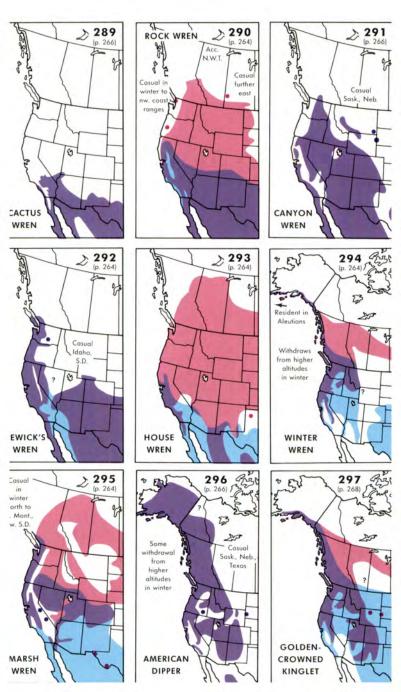


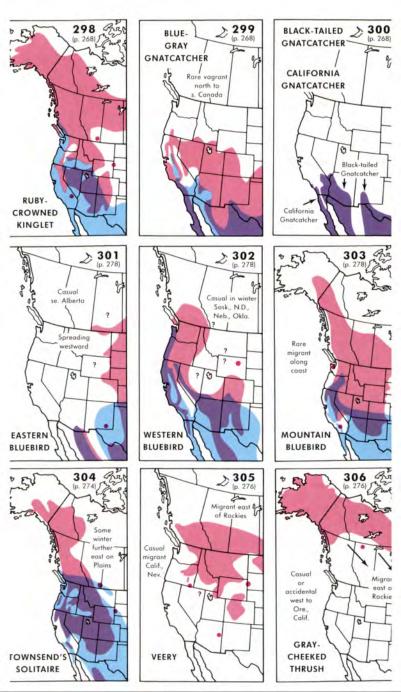


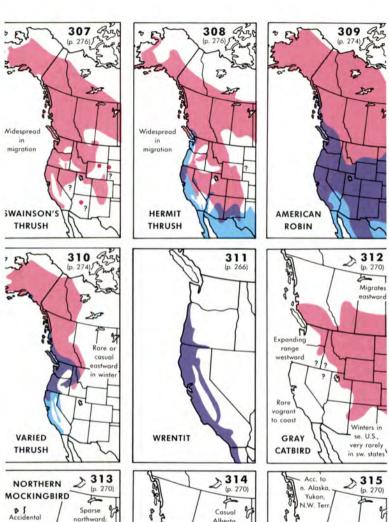


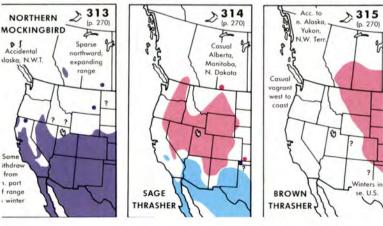


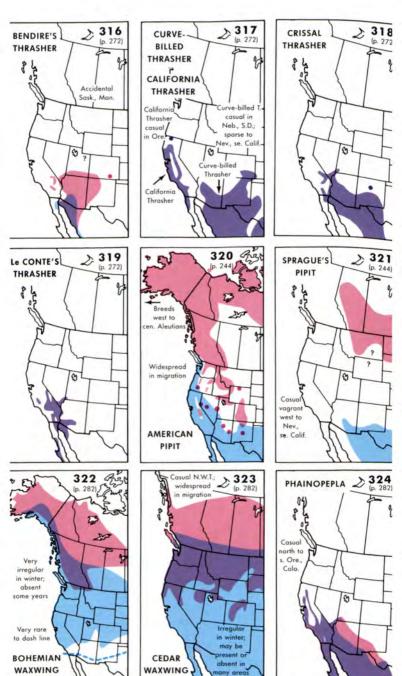


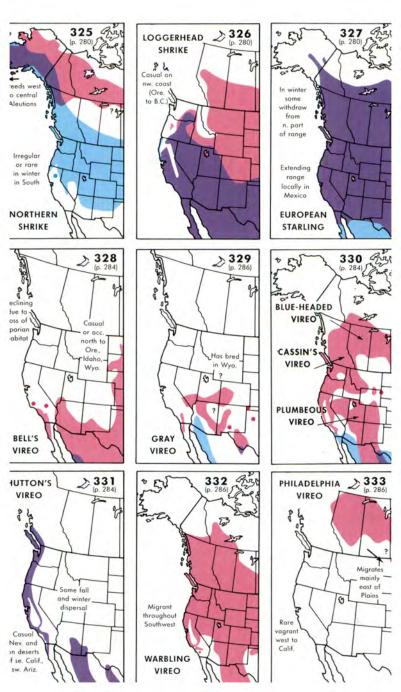


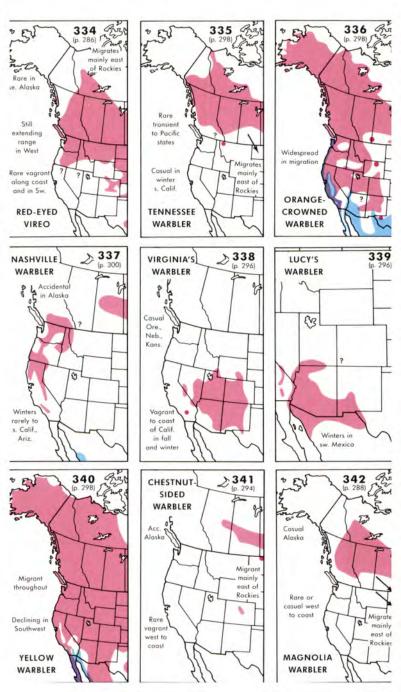


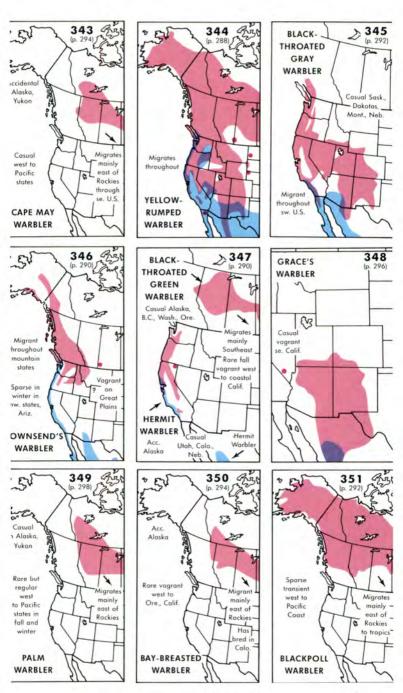


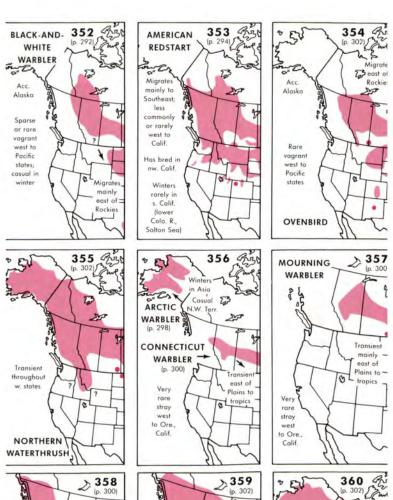








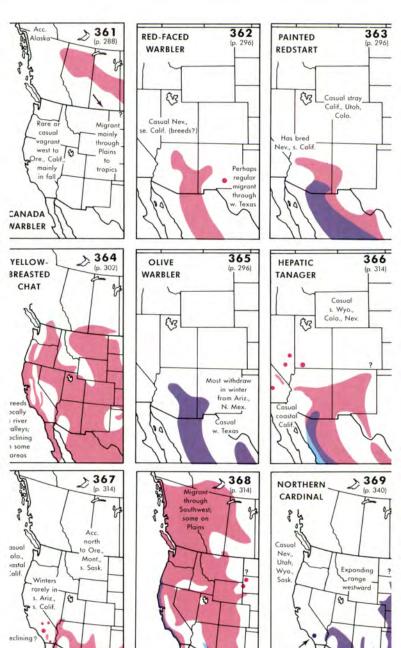












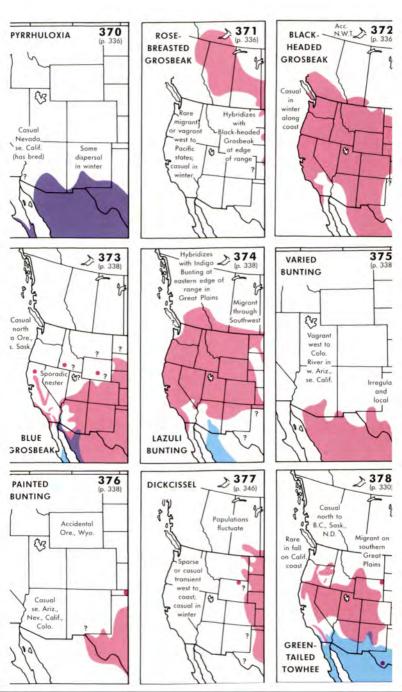
WESTERN

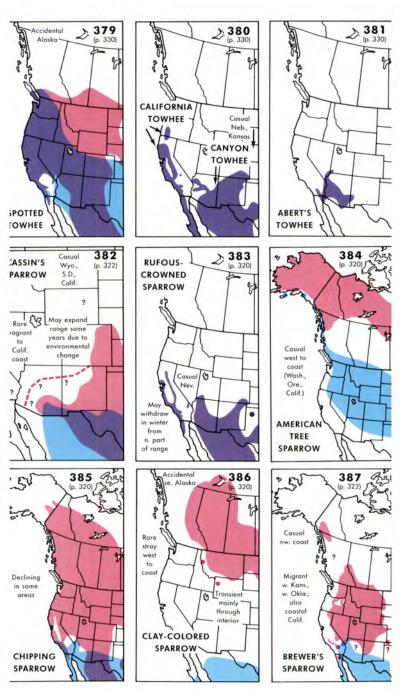
TANAGER

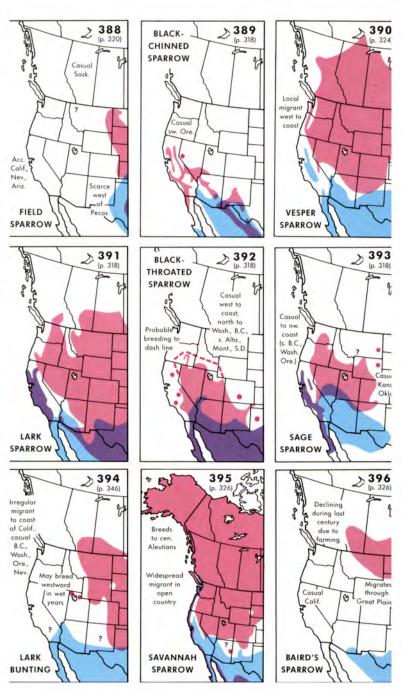
SUMMER

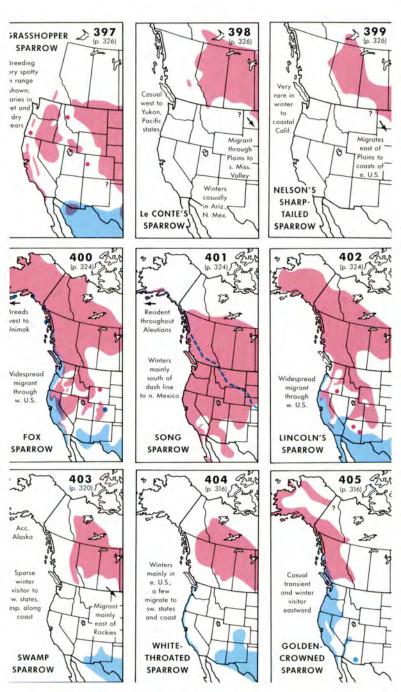
ANAGER

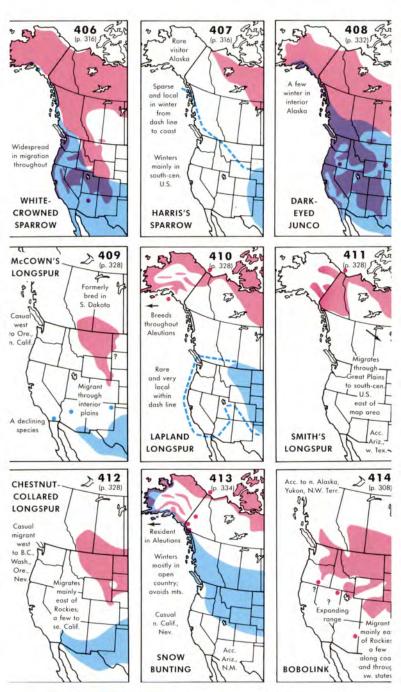
Introduced

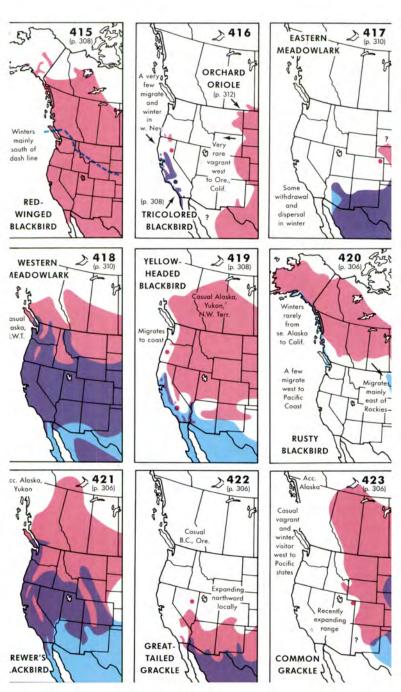


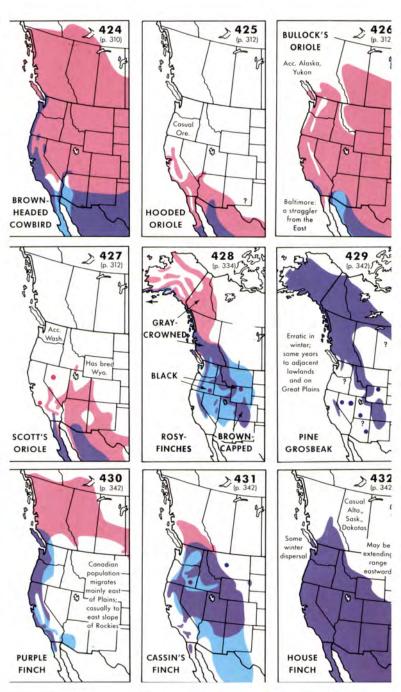


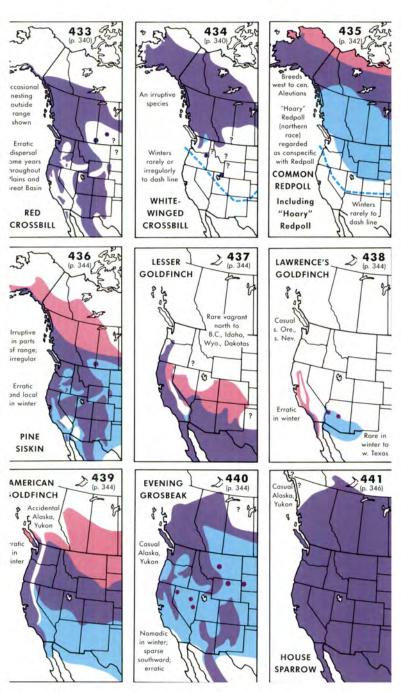












Systematic Checklist

Keep a "Life List." Check the birds you have seen.

This list covers the western part of the continent east to the 100th meridian on the Great Plains. It includes only those species that are described and illustrated in this *Field Guide*, but excludes most of those strays from Mexico or Asia that are shown or listed on pp. 348–58 and the escaped parrots shown on p. 211, as well as a few other accidental vagrants covered elsewhere in the pages of this book. However, space is left at the end of the Checklist for listing any such species that you may observe. *Accidentals* are defined as those birds that have been recorded less than a dozen times within our area; this is an arbitrary category that could change over the years with increased observation.

For a convenient and complete continental list, the A.B.A. *Checklist*, prepared by the Checklist Committee of the American Birding Association (P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80934), is recommended. It lists every species recorded north of the Mexican border, East and West, including the accidentals.

In the following list, birds are grouped first under orders (identified by the Latin ending -formes), followed by families (-dae ending), sometimes subfamilies (-nae ending), or tribes (-ni ending), and then species. Scientific names of genera and species are not given here but will be found in the species accounts throughout this book. The vernacular names are those endorsed by the Checklist Committee of the American Birding Association (A.B.A). They are essentially the same as those adopted in the Checklist of the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.). So that there will be no confusion, names used in the previous edition of this Field Guide that differ from those in current usage are included in parentheses. All scientific names are the latest official ones decreed by the A.O.U. Checklist Committee (and accepted by the A.B.A.).

Gaviiformes
LOONS: Gaviidae
RED-THROATED LOON
ARCTIC LOON
PACIFIC LOON
COMMON LOON
YELLOW-BILLED LOON
POdicipediiformes
GREBES: Podicipedidae
PIED-BILLED GREBE

HORNED GREBE

RED-NECKED GREBE
EARED GREBE
WESTERN GREBE
CLARK'S GREBE

Procellariiformes

ALBATROSSES: Diomedeidae
__SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS
__BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS
_LAYSAN ALBATROSS

SHEARWATERS, PETRELS: Procellariidae NORTHERN FULMAR

MOTTLED PETREL GEESE: Anserini PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER BEAN GOOSE FLESH-FOOTED SHEARW. GR. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE BULLER'S SHEARWATER SNOW GOOSE ROSS'S GOOSE SOOTY SHEARWATER SHORT-TAILED SHEARW. EMPEROR GOOSE BLACK-VENTED SHEARW. BRANT STORM-PETRELS: Hydrobatidae CANADA GOOSE WILSON'S STORM-PETREL **DUCKS**: Anatinae FORK-T. STORM-PETREL WOOD DUCK LEACH'S STORM-PETREL GREEN-WINGED TEAL ASHY STORM-PETREL BAIKAL TEAL BLACK STORM-PETREL FALCATED DUCK LEAST STORM-PETREL AMERICAN BLACK DUCK MALLARD Pelecaniformes NORTHERN PINTAIL TROPICBIRDS: Phaethontidae GARGANEY RED-B. TROPICBIRD BLUE-WINGED TEAL **BOOBIES:** Sulidae CINNAMON TEAL BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY NORTHERN SHOVELER BROWN BOOBY GADWALL PELICANS: Pelecanidae **EURASIAN WIGEON** AM. WHITE PELICAN AMERICAN WIGEON BROWN PELICAN COMMON POCHARD CANVASBACK CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae DOUBLE-CR. CORMORANT REDHEAD NEOTROPIC CORMORANT RING-NECKED DUCK BRANDT'S CORMORANT TUFTED DUCK PELAGIC CORMORANT GREATER SCAUP RED-FACED CORMORANT LESSER SCAUP FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae COMMON EIDER MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD KING EIDER SPECTACLED EIDER Ciconiiformes STELLER'S EIDER HERONS, BITTERNS: Ardeidae HARLEQUIN DUCK AMERICAN BITTERN OLDSQUAW LEAST BITTERN BLACK SCOTER GREAT BLUE HERON SURF SCOTER GREAT EGRET WHITE-WINGED SCOTER LITTLE EGRET COMMON GOLDENEYE SNOWY EGRET BARROW'S GOLDENEYE LITTLE BLUE HERON BUFFLEHEAD TRICOLORED HERON SMEW REDDISH EGRET HOODED MERGANSER CATTLE EGRET COMMON MERGANSER GREEN HERON RED-BR. MERGANSER BLK.-C. NIGHT-HERON RUDDY DUCK Y .- C. NIGHT-HERON *Falconiformes* IBISES, etc.: Threskiornithidae WHITE IBIS AM. VULTURES: Cathartidae WHITE-FACED IBIS BLACK VULTURE ROSEATE SPOONBILL TURKEY VULTURE STORKS: Ciconiidae HAWKS, etc.: Accipitridae WOOD STORK OSPREY WHITE-TAILED KITE Anseriformes MISSISSIPPI KITE WATERFOWL: Anatidae BALD EAGLE WHISTLING DUCKS: Dendrocygnini WHITE-TAILED EAGLE FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK NORTHERN HARRIER BLACK-BELLIED WH.-DUCK SHARP-SHINNED HAWK SWANS: Cygnini COOPER'S HAWK

NORTHERN GOSHAWK COMMON BLACK-HAWK

HARRIS'S HAWK

TUNDRA SWAN

WHOOPER SWAN
TRUMPETER SWAN

GRAY HAWK	PIPING PLOVER
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	KILLDEER
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	MOUNTAIN PLOVER
SWAINSON'S HAWK	EURASIAN DOTTEREL
ZONE-TAILED HAWK	OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae
RED-TAILED HAWK	BLACK OYSTERCATCHER
FERRUGINOUS HAWK	STILTS, AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK	BLACK-NECKED STILT
GOLDEN EAGLE	AMERICAN AVOCET
CARACARAS, FALCONS: Falconidae	SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES: Scolopacidae
CRESTED CARACARA	COMMON GREENSHANK
AMERICAN KESTREL	GREATER YELLOWLEGS
MERLIN	LESSER YELLOWLEGS
PEREGRINE FALCON	SPOTTED REDSHANK
GYRFALCON	WOOD SANDPIPER
PRAIRIE FALCON	SOLITARY SANDPIPER
	WILLET
C-11:/	WANDERING TATTLER
Galliformes	GRAY-TAILED TATTLER
FOWL-LIKE BIRDS: Phasianidae	COMMON SANDPIPER
GRAY PARTRIDGE	SPOTTED SANDPIPER
CHUKAR	TEREK SANDPIPER
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	UPLAND SANDPIPER
SPRUCE GROUSE	WHIMBREL
BLUE GROUSE	BRTHIGHED CURLEW
WILLOW PTARMIGAN	FAR EASTERN CURLEW
ROCK PTARMIGAN	LONG-BILLED CURLEW
WHTAILED PTARMIGAN	BLACK-TAILED GODWIT
RUFFED GROUSE	HUDSONIAN GODWIT
SAGE GROUSE	BAR-TAILED GODWIT
GR. PRAIRIE-CHICKEN	MARBLED GODWIT
L. PRAIRIE-CHICKEN	RUDDY TURNSTONE
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	BLACK TURNSTONE
WILD TURKEY	SURFBIRD
MONTEZUMA QUAIL	RED KNOT
NORTHERN BOBWHITE	SANDERLING
SCALED QUAIL	SEMIPALM. SANDPIPER
GAMBEL'S QUAIL	WESTERN SANDPIPER
CALIFORNIA QUAIL	RED-NECKED STINT
MOUNTAIN QUAIL	TEMMINCK'S STINT
Gruiformes	LONG-TOED STINT
	LEAST SANDPIPER
RAILS, etc.: Rallidae	WHITE-R. SANDPIPER
YELLOW RAIL	BAIRD'S SANDPIPER
BLACK RAIL	PECTORAL SANDPIPER
CLAPPER RAIL	SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER
VIRGINIA RAIL	PURPLE SANDPIPER
SORA	ROCK SANDPIPER
PURPLE GALLINULE	DUNLIN
COMMON MOORHEN	CURLEW SANDPIPER
AMERICAN COOT	STILT SANDPIPER
CRANES: Gruidae	BUFF-BR. SANDPIPER
SANDHILL CRANE	RUFF
WHOOPING CRANE	SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER
	LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER
Charadriiformes	COMMON SNIPE
PLOVERS: Charadriidae	WILSON'S PHALAROPE
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER	RED-NECKED PHALAROPE
AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER	RED PHALAROPE
PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER	JAEGERS, SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS,
MONGOLIAN PLOVER	SKIMMERS: Laridae
SNOWY PLOVER	POMARINE JAEGER
WILSON'S PLOVER	PARASITIC JAEGER
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER	LONG-TAILED JAEGER

SISTEMAI	IC CHECKLIST
SOUTH POLAR SKUA	Cuculiformes
LAUGHING GULL	CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS, ANIS: Cuculi-
FRANKLIN'S GULL	dae
LITTLE GULL	COMMON CUCKOO
BLACK-HEADED GULL	BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO
BONAPARTE'S GULL	YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO
HEERMANN'S GULL	GREATER ROADRUNNER
MEW GULL	GROOVE-BILLED ANI
RING-BILLED GULL	
CALIFORNIA GULL	Strigiformes
HERRING GULL	BARN OWLS: Tytonidae
THAYER'S GULL	BARN OWL
SLATY-BACKED GULL	TYPICAL OWLS: Strigidae
YELLOW-FOOTED GULL	FLAMMULATED OWL
WESTERN GULL	EASTERN SCREECH-OWL
GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL	WESTERN SCREECH-OWL
GLAUCOUS GULL	WHISKERED SCREECH-OWL
BLACK-L. KITTIWAKE	GREAT HORNED OWL
RED-L. KITTIWAKE	SNOWY OWL
ROSS'S GULL	NORTHERN HAWK OWL
SABINE'S GULL	NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL
IVORY GULL	FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL
GULL-BILLED TERN	ELF OWL
CASPIAN TERN	BURROWING OWL
ROYAL TERN	SPOTTED OWL .
ELEGANT TERN	BARRED OWL
COMMON TERN	GREAT GRAY OWL
ARCTIC TERN	LONG-EARED OWL
FORSTER'S TERN	
	SHORT-EARED OWL
LEAST TERN	BOREAL OWL
ALEUTIAN TERN	N. SAW-WHET OWL
BLACK TERN	0 1 1
BLACK SKIMMER	Caprimulgiformes
AUKS, etc.: Alcidae	GOATSUCKERS: Caprimulgidae
COMMON MURRE	LESSER NIGHTHAWK
THICK-BILLED MURRE	COMMON NIGHTHAWK
BLACK GUILLEMOT	COMMON POORWILL
PIGEON GUILLEMOT	BUFF-COLLARED NIGHTIAR
MARBLED MURRELET	WHIP-POOR-WILL
KITTLITZ'S MURRELET	
XANTUS'S MURRELET	Apodiformes
CRAVERI'S MURRELET	SWIFTS: Apodidae
ANCIENT MURRELET	BLACK SWIFT
CASSIN'S AUKLET	CHIMNEY SWIFT
PARAKEET AUKLET	VAUX'S SWIFT
LEAST AUKLET	WHITE-THROATED SWIFT
WHISKERED AUKLET	HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae
CRESTED AUKLET	BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD
RHINOCEROS AUKLET	WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD
TUFTED PUFFIN	BERYLLINE HUMMINGBIRD
HORNED PUFFIN	VIOLET-CR. HUMMINGBIRD
	BLUE-THR. HUMMINGBIRD
Columbiformes	MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD
PIGEONS, DOVES: Columbidae	LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD
ROCK DOVE	RUBY-THROATED HUMMING-
BAND-TAILED PIGEON	BIRD
RINGED TURTLE-DOVE	
	BLKCHINNED HUMMINGBIRD
SPOTTED DOVE	ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD
WHITE-WINGED DOVE	COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD
MOURNING DOVE	CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD
INCA DOVE	BROAD-TAILED HUMMING-
COMMON GROUND-DOVE	RIRD

BIRD

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD

COMMON GROUND-DOVE

Trogoniformes TROGONS: Trogonidae

ELEGANT TROGON

Coraciiformes

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae BELTED KINGFISHER GREEN KINGFISHER

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

ACORN WOODPECKER GILA WOODPECKER

GOLDEN-FR. WOODPECKER

RED-B. WOODPECKER YELLOW-B. SAPSUCKER

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER

RED-BR. SAPSUCKER WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER

LADDER-BACKED WOODP.

NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER DOWNY WOODPECKER

HAIRY WOODPECKER

STRICKLAND'S WOODP

WHITE-HEADED WOODP.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER BLACK-BACKED WOODP.

NORTHERN FLICKER

PILEATED WOODPECKER

Passeriformes FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae

NORTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER GREATER PEWEE

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYC

ALDER FLYCATCHER WILLOW FLYCATCHER

LEAST FLYCATCHER

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER

DUSKY FLYCATCHER

GRAY FLYCATCHER PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYC

CORDILLERAN FLYC

BUFF-BREASTED FLYC.

BLACK PHOEBE EASTERN PHOEBE

VERMILION FLYCATCHER

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYC. ASH-THROATED FLYC

GREAT CRESTED FLYC

BROWN-CRESTED FLYC

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYC.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD CASSIN'S KINGBIRD

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD

WESTERN KINGBIRD EASTERN KINGBIRD

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

ROSE-THROATED BECARD

LARKS: Alaudidae

SKYLARK

HORNED LARK

SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae PURPLE MARTIN

TREE SWALLOW

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW

N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW BANK SWALLOW

CLIFF SWALLOW

CAVE SWALLOW BARN SWALLOW

JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS: Corvidae

GRAY JAY

STELLER'S JAY BLUE JAY

WESTERN SCRUB-JAY

MEXICAN JAY PINYON IAY

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE YELLOW-BILLED MAGPIE

AMERICAN CROW NORTHWESTERN CROW

CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN

COMMON RAVEN

CHICKADEES, TITMICE: Paridae BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

MEXICAN CHICKADEE

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE GRAY-H. CHICKADEE

BOREAL CHICKADEE

CHESTNUT-B. CHICKADEE BRIDLED TITMOUSE

OAK TITMOUSE TUFTED TITMOUSE

VERDIN: Remizidae

VERDIN

BUSHTIT: Aegithalidae BUSHTIT

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae

RED-BR. NUTHATCH

WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH PYGMY NUTHATCH

CREEPERS: Certhiidae BROWN CREEPER

WRENS: Troglodytidae

CACTUS WREN ROCK WREN

CANYON WREN

CAROLINA WREN BEWICK'S WREN

HOUSE WREN WINTER WREN

SEDGE WREN

MARSH WREN DIPPERS: Cinclidae

AMERICAN DIPPER

KINGLETS: Regulidae

GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

GNATCATCHERS: Sylviidae

ARCTIC WARBLER

CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER

WOOD WARBLERS: Parulidae

BLUE-GR. GNATCATCHER

BLUE-GR. GNATCATCHER	WOOD WARBLERS; Parundae
BLTAILED GNATCATCHER	GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER
BL,-CAPPED GNATCATCHER	TENNESSEE WARBLER
GRAY-SPOTTED FLYC.	ORANGE-CR. WARBLER
THRUSHES: Turdidae	NASHVILLE WARBLER
SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT	VIRGINIA'S WARBLER
BLUETHROAT	COLIMA WARBLER
NORTHERN WHEATEAR	LUCY'S WARBLER
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	NORTHERN PARULA
WESTERN BLUEBIRD	YELLOW WARBLER
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD	CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE	MAGNOLIA WARBLER
VEERY	CAPE MAY WARBLER
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	BLKTHR. BLUE WARBLER
SWAINSON'S THRUSH	YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER
HERMIT THRUSH	BLKTHR. GRAY WARBLER
EYEBROWED THRUSH	TOWNSEND'S WARBLER
DUSKY THRUSH	HERMIT WARBLER
RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN	BLKTHR. GREEN WARBLER
AMERICAN ROBIN	GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER
VARIED THRUSH	BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER
WRENTITS: Timaliidae	YELLOW-THR, WARBLER
WRENTIT	GRACE'S WARBLER
MIMIC THRUSHES: Mimidae	PRAIRIE WARBLER
GRAY CATBIRD	PALM WARBLER
N. MOCKINGBIRD	BAY-BREASTED WARBLER
SAGE THRASHER	BLACKPOLL WARBLER
BROWN THRASHER	CERULEAN WARBLER
BENDIRE'S THRASHER	BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER
CURVE-BILLED THRASHER	AMERICAN REDSTART
CALIFORNIA THRASHER	PROTHONOTARY WARBLER
CRISSAL THRASHER	WORM-EATING WARBLER
Le CONTE'S THRASHER	OVENBIRD
WAGTAILS, PIPITS: Motacillidae	NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH
YELLOW WAGTAIL	KENTUCKY WARBLER
WHITE WAGTAIL	CONNECTICUT WARBLER
BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL	MOURNING WARBLER
OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT	MOORNING WARBLER MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER
	MacGILLIVKAI S WARBLER
RED-THROATED PIPIT	COMMON YELLOWTHROAT
AMERICAN PIPIT	HOODED WARBLER
SPRAGUE'S PIPIT	WILSON'S WARBLER
WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae	CANADA WARBLER
BOHEMIAN WAXWING	RED-FACED WARBLER
CEDAR WAXWING	PAINTED REDSTART
SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: Ptilogonatidae	YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT
PHAINOPEPLA	OLIVE WARBLER: Peucodramidae
SHRIKES: Laniidae	OLIVE WARBLER
NORTHERN SHRIKE	TANAGERS: Thraupidae
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	HEPATIC TANAGER
STARLINGS: Sturnidae	SUMMER TANAGER
EUROPEAN STARLING	SCARLET TANAGER
CRESTED MYNA	WESTERN TANAGER
VIREOS: Vireonidae	GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS, etc.: Cardinalidae
WHITE-EYED VIREO	NORTHERN CARDINAL
BELL'S VIREO	PYRRHULOXIA
BLACK-CAPPED VIREO	ROSE-BR, GROSBEAK
GRAY VIREO	BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK
BLUE-HEADED VIREO	BLUE GROSBEAK
YELLOW-THR. VIREO	LAZULI BUNTING
HUTTON'S VIREO	INDICO BUNTING
HUTTON'S VIKEO	INDIGO BUNTING

VARIED BUNTING PAINTED BUNTING

DICKCISSEL

WARBLING VIREO

PHILADELPHIA VIREO RED-EYED VIREO

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO

SNOW BUNTING McKAY'S BUNTING BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, etc.: Icteridae BOBOLINK RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD EASTERN MEADOWLARK WESTERN MEADOWLARK YELLOW-H. BLACKBIRD RUSTY BLACKBIRD
BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, etc.: Icteridae BOBOLINK RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD EASTERN MEADOWLARK WESTERN MEADOWLARK YELLOW-H. BLACKBIRD RUSTY BLACKBIRD
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RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD EASTERN MEADOWLARK WESTERN MEADOWLARK YELLOW-H. BLACKBIRD RUSTY BLACKBIRD
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YELLOW-H. BLACKBIRD RUSTY BLACKBIRD
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BREWER'S BLACKBIRD
GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE
COMMON GRACKLE
BRONZED COWBIRD
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD
ORCHARD ORIOLE
HOODED ORIOLE
STREAK-BACKED ORIOLE
BALTIMORE ORIOLE
BULLOCK'S ORIOLE
SCOTT'S ORIOLE
FINCHES: Fringillidae
BRAMBLING
GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH
BLACK ROSY-FINCH
BROWN-CAPPED ROSY-FINCH
PINE GROSBEAK
COMMON ROSEFINCH
PURPLE FINCH
CASSIN'S FINCH
HOUSE FINCH
RED CROSSBILL
WHITE-W. CROSSBILL
COMMON REDPOLL
PINE SISKIN
LESSER GOLDFINCH
LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH
EVENING GROSBEAK
OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae
HOUSE SPARROW
VS AND OTHERS
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Key Sources for Further Reference

The Field Guides (listed on p. 1) have a basic function — to make it easier to name things. They stress field marks, the "trademarks of nature," by which one species can be known from another. Obviously you own this Field Guide and probably its eastern counterpart. Two excellent guides covering all of North America — East and West - in single, pocket-sized books, are the Birds of North America (Golden Press) by Robbins, Singer, Bruun, and Zim, and the National Geographic Society's Birds of North America. Both are illustrated with well-executed artwork. The several Audubon Society bird guides are lavishly illustrated with fine photographs and some drawings. Especially recommended is the threevolume Master Guide to Birding (Knopf) by John Farrand, et al. You will also profit from The Western Bird Watcher by Kevin Zimmer, and Paul Johnsgaard's several books on bird families. A well-written book that helps mid-level or advanced birders put their act together is The Complete Birder (HMCo.) by Jack Connor, and for the serious birder who is challenged by difficult identification problems, the ultimate authority is A Field Guide to Advanced Birding (HMCo.) by Kenn Kaufmann. Should you want more than names, the Stokes' nature guides to Bird Behavior are the next step.

Books on attracting birds are many and so are "where to go" Baedeckers, but what else might you add to your basic bird library? I cannot list all state or regional works here. No single book can give all the answers, although the massive Encyclopedia of North American Birds (Knopf) by John Terres goes a long way. Another good encyclopedic handbook is The Birdwatcher's Companion (Hill and Wang) by Christopher Leahy. The Audubon Society's Handbook for Birders (Scribner's) by Stephen Kress is a good general guide to observing birds. The standard species-by-species reference is the Handbook of North American Birds (Yale University Press) by Ralph Palmer. This covers the innumerable details in several volumes. Canadians will also want The Birds of Canada by Earl Godfrey. However, the ideal supplement to your favorite field guide is The Birder's Handbook (Simon and Schuster) by Ehrlich, Dobkin, and Wheve. It is a mine of information that is beautifully boiled down, but, handy as it is, it still won't quite fit the pocket.

In addition to the academic ornithological journals, the Auk, Condor, and Wilson Bulletin, and the more popular magazines such as Bird Watcher's Digest, Birder's World, The Living Bird, and Wildbird, there are literally hundreds of journals, newsletters, and checklists published by regional or local bird clubs, but every serious birder should subscribe to American Birds, published by the National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Bimonthly, it monitors migration, breeding, population trends, and accidentals for every section of North America. Susan Drennan, the editor, has prepared a selection of the best state and regional books in a Special Book Supplement. Birders who wish to keep up-to-date on the sporting or competitive aspects of their hobby might also subscribe to Birding (American Birding Association, P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80934).

tion, 1.0. box 0577, Colorado Springs, Colo. 007541.

Index

Accentor, Siberian, 354	savannarum, 322, M397
Accipiter cooperii, 172, 196, M73	Amphispiza belli, 318, M393
gentilis, 172, 196, M74	bilineata, 318, M392
striatus, 172, 196, M72	Anas acuta, 46, 66, M39
Accipitridae, 168	americana, 46, 66, M44
Acridotheres cristatellus, 280	clypeata, 48, 66, M42
Actitis hypoleucos, 154	crecca, 48, 66, M37
macularia, 140, M127	cyanoptera, 48, M41
Aechmophorus clarkii, 26	discors, 48, 66, M40
occidentalis, 26, M9	falcata, 48, 62
Aegithalidae, 260	
Aegolius acadicus, 202, M207	formosa, 48, 62
	penelope, 46
funereus, 202, M200	platyrhynchos, 44, 68, M38
Aeronautes saxatalis, 246, M214	poecilorhyncha, 62
Aethia cristatella, 34	querquedula, 48, 62
psittacula, 34	rubripes, 44, 68
pusilla, 36	strepera, 44, 66, M43
pygmaea, 34	Anatidae, 38–72
Agelaius phoeniceus, 308, M415	Ani, Groove-billed, 212
tricolor, 308, M416	Anser anser, 358
Aimophila botterii, 322	albifrons, 40, 42, M30
carpalis, 322	fabalis, 40, 62
cassinii, 322, M382	Anthus cervinus, 244
quinquestriata, 318	gustavi, 244
ruficeps, 320, M383	hodgsoni, 244
Aix sponsa, 46, 66, M36	rubescens, 244, M320
Ajaia ajaja, 112, 114	spragueii, 244, M321
Alauda arvensis, 242	trivialis, 244
Alaudidae, 242	Aphelocoma californica, 254, M269
Albatross(es), 74	ultramarina, 254, M270
Black-footed, 74	Aphriza virgata, 142, M135
Laysan, 74	Apodidae, 246
Short-tailed, 74	Apus apus, 246
Shy, 74	pacificus, 246
Wandering, 74	Aquila chrysaetos, 180, M81
Alcedinidae, 206	
	Archilochus alexandri 220 M216
Alcidae, 32	Archilochus alexandri, 220, M216
Alcids. See Auks, 32.	colubris, 216, M215
Alectoris chukar, 164, M88	Ardea alba, 112
rufa, 164	herodias, 110, M21
Alle alle, 36	Ardeidae, 110
Amazilia beryllina, 220	Arenaria interpres, 142, M133
violiceps, 220	melanocephala, 142, M134
Amazona finschi, 212	Asio flammeus, 200, M206
ochrocephala, 212	otus, 200, M205
viridigenalis, 210	Asturina nitida, 178, 194
Ammodramus bairdii, 326, M396	Athene cunicularia, 202, M201
leconteii, 326, M398	Atthis heloisa, 220
nelsoni, 326, M399	Auklet(s), Cassin's, 36, M181

Auklet(s), cont. Crested, 34 Least, 36 Parakeet, 34 Rhinoceros, 32, M182 Whiskered, 34 Auks, 32 Auriparus flaviceps, 260, M283 Avocet(s), 120 American, 120, M121 Aythya affinis, 56, 72, M49 americana, 56, 72, M46 collaris, 56, 72, M47 ferina, 62 fuligula, 56, 62 marila, 56, 72, M48 valisineria, 56, 72, M45 Baeolophur bicolor, 260, M282 inornatus, 260, M282 wollweberi, 260 Barn Owls, 198 Bartramia longicauda, 144, M128 Basileuterus rufifrons, 350 Beardless-Tyrannulet, Northern, 238 Becard, Rose-throated, 230 Bittern(s), American, 114, M19 Least, 114, M20 Yellow, 358 Blackbird(s), 306 Brewer's, 306, M421 Red-winged, 308, M415 Rusty, 306, M420 Tricolored, 308, M416 Yellow-headed, 308, M419 Bluebird(s), Eastern 278, M301 Mountain, 278, M303 Western, 278, M302 Bluetail, Red-flanked, 354 Bluethroat, 278 Bobolink, 308, 346, M414 Bobwhite, "Masked." See Northern, 166. Northern, 166, M101 Bombycilla cedrorum, 282, M323 garrulus, 282, M322 Bombycillidae, 282 Bonasa umbellus, 160, M95 Booby(ies), 82 Blue-footed, 82 Brown, 82 Masked, 82 Red-footed, 82 Botaurus lentiginosus, 114, M19 Brachyramphus brevirostris, 36 marmoratus, 36, M179 Brambling, 356

Branta bernicla, 40, 42, M34 canadensis, 40, 42, M35 Brotogeris versicolurus, 210 Bubo virginianus, 200, M196 Bubulcus ibis, 112, M24 Bucephala albeola, 58, 72, M61 clangula, 58, 72, M59 islandica, 58, M60 Bufflehead, 58, 72, M61 Bullfinch, Eurasian, 356 Bunting(s), 338, 356 Gray, 356 Indigo, 338 Lark, 346, M394 Lazuli, 338, M374 Little, 356 McKay's, 334 Painted, 338, M376 Pallas's, 356 Reed, 356 Rustic, 356 Snow, 334, M413 Varied, 338, M375 Yellow-breasted, 356 Bushtit, 260, M284 Black-eared. See Bushtit, 260. Buteo albicaudatus, 178, 194 albonotatus, 178, 190 jamaicensis, 174, 190, 192, M78 lagopus, 176, 190, 192, M80 lineatus, 176, 192, M75 platypterus, 176, 192, M76 regalis, 176, 190, 194, M79 swainsoni, 174, 190, 192, M77 Buteogallus anthracinus, 178, 190 Butorides virescens, 110

Calamospiza melanocorys, 346, Calcarius lapponicus, 328, M410 mccownii, 328, M409 ornatus, 328, M412 pictus, 328, M411 Calidris acuminata, 146 alba, 140, M137 alpina, 140, M145 bairdii, 146, M142 canutus, 138, M136 ferruginea, 154 fuscicollis, 146, M141 himantopus, 134, 144, M146 mauri, 148, M139 melanotos, 146, M143 minuta, 150 minutilla, 148, M140 ptilocnemis, 142, M144 pusilla,, 148, M138 ruficollis, 150 subminuta, 150

Brant, 40, 42, M34

Black, See Brant, 40, 42.

temminckii, 150	Charadriidae, 122
tenuirostris, 154	Charadrius alexandrinus, 124,
Callipepla californica, 166, M104	M115
gambelli, 166, M103	dubius, 124
squamata, 166, M102	hiaticula, 124
Calonectris leucomelas, 78	melodus, 124, M115
Calothorax lucifer, 220	mongolus, 126
Calypte anna, 216, M217	montanus, 126, M118
costae, 220, M218	morinellus, 126
Campephilus imperialis, 350	semipalmatus, 124, M116
Camptostoma imberbe, 240	vociferus, 126, M117
Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus,	wilsonia, 124
266, M289	Chat, Yellow-breasted, 302, M364
Canvasback, 56, 72, M45	Chen caerulescens, 38, 40, 42, M31
Caprimulgidae, 214	canagica, 40, 42, M33
Caprimulgus indicus, 358	rossii, 38, 42, M32
ridgwayi, 214	Chickadee(s), 258
vociferus, 214	Black-capped, 258, M278
Caracara, Crested, 184, 190	Boreal, 258, M280
Caracara plancus, 184, 190	Chestnut-backed, 258, M281
Cardellina rubrifrons, 296, M362	Gray-headed, 258
Cardinal, Northern, 340, M369	Mexican, 258, M280
Cardinalidae, 336-40	Mountain, 258, M279
Cardinalinae. See Grosbeaks,	Chlidonias leucopterus, 108
Buntings, 336–340, 356.	niger, 108, M175
Cardinalis cardinalis, 340, M369	Chloroceryle americana, 206
sinuatus, 336, M370	Chondestes grammacus, 318, M391
Carduelis flammea, 342, M435	Chordeiles acutipennis, 214, M208
hornemanni, 342	minor, 214, M209
lawrencei, 344, M438	Chukar, 164, M88
pinus, 344, M436	Ciccaba virgata, 350
psaltria, 344, M437	
sinica, 356	Ciconiidae, 116
tristis, 344, M439	Cinclidae, 266
Carpodacus cassinii, 342, M431	Cinclus mexicanus, 266, M296
erythrinus, 356	Circus cyaneus, 170, 194, M71
	Cistothorus palustris, 264, M295
mexicanus, 342, M432	platensis, 264
purpureus, 342, M430	Clangula hyemalis, 54, 70, M55
Cathird, Gray, 270, M312 Catharacta maccormicki, 86	Coccothraustes coccothraustes, 356
Cathartes aura, 182, M66	Vespertinus, 344, M440
Cathartidae, 182	Coccyzus americanus, 212, M191
Catharus fuscescens, 276, M305	erythropthalmus, 212, M190
guttatus, 276, M308	Collaptes auratus, 226, M237
	Colinus virginianus, 166, M101
minimus, 276, M306 ustulatus, 276, M307	Columba fasciata, 208, M185
Catherpes mexicanus, 266, M291	flavirostris, 208 livia, 210
Catoptrophorus semipalmatus, 132,	Columbidae, 208
134, M125	Columbina inca, 208, M188
Cepphus columba, 34, M178	passserina, 208, M189
grylle, 34, M178	talpacoti, 348
Centrocercus urophasianus, 158,	Common Redpoll, 342, M435
M96	Condor, California, 182
Cerorhinea monocerata, 32, M182	Contopus cooperi, 236, M239
Certhia americana, 262, M288	pertinax, 236
Certhiidae, 262	sordidulus, 236, M240
Ceryle alcyon, 206, M223	Virens, 236
Chaetura pelagica, 246, M213	Coot(s), American, 64, 118, M111
vauxi, 246, M213	Eurasian, 62, 358
Chamaea fasciata, 266, M311	Coragyps atratus, 182

Cormorant(s), 28, 30

discolor, 304

Brandt's, 28, 30, M17 dominica, 304 Double-crested, 28, 30, M16 fusca, 294 Neotropic, 28 graciae, 296, M348 Pelagic, 28, 30, M18 magnolia, 288, M342 Red-faced, 28 nigrescens, 292, M345 Corvidae, 252 occidentalis, 290, M347 Corvus brachyrhynchos, 252, M274 palmarum, 300, M349 caurinus, 252, M275 pensylvanica, 294, M341 corax, 252, M277 petechia, 298, M340 cryptoleucus, 252, M276 pinus, 304 Coturnicops noveboracensis, 118, striata, 292, M351 M105 tigrina, 294, M343 Cowbird(s), Bronzed, 310 townsendi, 290, M346 virens, 290, M347 Brown-headed, 310, 346, M424 Dickcissel, 346, M377 Crane(s), 116 Common, 116 Diomedea exulans, 74 Sandhill, 116, M112 Diomedeidae, 74 Whooping, 116 Dipper(s), 266 Creeper(s), 262 American, 266, M296 Brown, 262, M288 Dolichonyx oryzivorus, 308, 346, rossbill(s), Red, 340, M433 M414 White-winged, 340, M434 Dotterel, Eurasian, 126 Crotophaga sulcirostris, 212 Dove(s), 208 Crow(s), 252 Common Ground-, 208, M189 American, 252, M274 Inca, 208, M188 Northwestern, 252, M275 Mourning, 208, M187 Oriental Turtle-, 352 Cuckoo(s), 352 Black-billed, 212, M190 Ringed Turtle-, 210 Common, 352 Rock, 210 Oriental, 352 Ruddy Ground-, 348 Yellow-billed, 212, M191 Spotted, 210 Cuculidae. See Cuculus, 352. White-tipped, 208 White-winged, 208, M186 Cuculus canorus, 352 saturatus, 352 Dovekie, 36 Curlew(s), Bristle-thighed, 132, 152 Dowitcher(s), Long-billed, 138, M149 Eskimo, 130, 152 Short-billed, 138, M148 Far Eastern, 152 Dryocopus pileatus, 222, M238 Little, 152 Duck(s), 44-72 Long-billed, 130, 132, M130 American Black, 44, 68 Cyanocitta cristata, 254, M268 Black-bellied Tree-. See Whistlingstelleri, 254, M267 Duck, Black-bellied, 42. Cygnus buccinator, 38, M29 Falcated, 48, 62 columbianus, 38, 42, M28 Fulvous Tree-. See Whistling-Duck, cygnus, 38 Fulvous, 42, 68. Harlequin, 54, 70, M54 olor, 38 Cyanthus latirostris, 218 "Mexican." See Mallard, 44. Cypseloides niger, 246, M212 Ring-necked, 56, 72, M47 Ruddy, 58, 72, M65 Cyrtonyx montezumae, 166, M100 Spot-billed, 62 Tufted, 56, 62 Delichon urbica, 352 Dendragapus obscurus, 164, M91 Wood, 46, 66, M36 Dendrocygna autumnalis, 42, 68 Dumetella carolinensis, 270, M312 bicolor, 42, 68 Dunlin, 140, M145 Dendroica caerulescens, 292 castanea, 294, M350 Eagle(s), 180 cerulea, 292 Bald, 180, 188, M70 chrysoparia, 290 Golden, 180, 188, M81

Steller's Sea-, 180

coronata, 288, M344

White-tailed, 180, 188 Fieldfare, 352 Egret(s), Cattle, 112, M24 Finch(es), 340 Chinese, 112, 358 Black Rosy. See Rosy, 334. Common. See Great, 112. Brown-capped Rosy, See Rosy, 334. Great, 112, M22 Cassin's, 342, M431 Reddish, 110 Gray-crowned Rosy. See Rosy, 334. Snowy, 112, M23 House, 342, M432 Egretta caerulea, 110, 112 Purple, 342, M430 eulophotes, 112, 358 Rosy, 334, M428 Finches (true), 334, 340-344 rufescens, 110 Flicker, "Gilded." See Northern, 226. thula, 112, M23 tricolor, 110 Northern, 226, M237 Eider(s), Common, 74, 70, M50 "Red-shafted." See Northern, 226. King, 52, 70, M51 "Yellow-shafted." See Northern, Spectacled, 52, M52 226. Steller's, 54, M53 Flycatcher(s), 236 Elanus leucurus, 170, 194, M68 Alder, 238, M242 Emberiza aureola, 356 Ash-throated, 234, M252 pallasi, 356 Asian Brown, 354 pusilla, 356 Beardless. See Tyrannulet, Northrustica, 356 ern Beardless-, 240. schoeniclus, 356 Brown-crested, 234 variabilis, 356 Buff-breasted, 240 Emberizidae, 316-36 Cordilleran, 240, M247 Emberizinae. See Towhees, Sparrows, Coues'. See Pewee, Greater, 236. etc., 316-334. Dusky, 238, M246 Empidonax alnorum, 238, M242 Dusky-capped, 234 difficilis, 240, M247 Gray, 238, 240, M241 flaviventris, 240, M241 Gray-spotted, 354 fulvifrons, 240 Great Crested, 234, M253 hammondii, 238, M245 Hammond's, 238, M245 minimus, 240, M244 Least, 240, M244 oberholseri, 238, M246 Narcissus, 354 occidentalis, 240, M247 Nutting's, 350 traillii. 238, M243 Olivaceous. See Dusky-capped, wrightii, 238, 240, M241 Eremophila alpestris, 242, M258 Olive-sided, 236, M239 Eudocimus albus, 112 Pacific-slope, 240, M247 Eugenes fulgens, 218 Red-breasted, 354 Euphagus carolinus, 306, M420 Scissor-tailed, 230, M257 cyanocephalus, 306, M421 Siberian, 354 Euptilotis neoxenus, 206 Sulphur-bellied, 234 Eurynorhynchus pygmeus, 150 Traill's. See Alder and Willow, 238. Euthlypis lachrymosa, 350 Vermilion, 230, M251 Western, 240, M247 Falcipennis canadensis, 164, M90 Wied's Crested. See Brown-crested, Falco columbarius, 186, 196, M83 234.Willow, 238, M243 femoralis, 186, 196 mexicanus, 186, M86 Yellow-bellied, 240, M241 peregrinus, 186, 196, M84 Fratercula cirrhata, 32, M183 rusticolus, 184, 196, M85 corniculata, 32, M184 sparverius, 186, 196, M82 Fregata magnificens, 84 subbuteo, 358 minor, 84 Fregatidae, 84 tinnunculus, 358 Falcon(s), 186 Frigatebird(s), 84 Peregrine, 186, 196, M84 Great, 84 Prairie, 186, M86 Magnificent, 84

Falconidae, 184 Ficedula narcissina, 354 Fringilla montifringilla, 356

Fringillidae, 340

Fulica atra, 62, 358

Greenshank, Common, 156

Cooper's, 172, 196, M73

Grosbeak(s), Black-headed, 336, M372 americana, 64, 188, M111 Fulmar, Northern, 78, M10 Blue, 338, M373 Fulmarus glacialis, 78, M10 Crimson-collared, 350 Evening, 344, M440 Pine, 342, M429 Gadwall, 44, 66, M43 Gallinago gallinago, 138, M150 Rose-breasted, 336, M371 Yellow, 348 Gallinula chloropus, 64, 118, M110 Gallinule, Common. See Moorhen, Grouse, Blue, 164, M91 Franklin's. See Spruce, 164. Common, 64. Ruffed, 160, M95 Purple, 64 Garganey, 48, 62 Sage, 158, M96 Gavia adamsii, 24, M4 Sharp-tailed, 160, M98 arctica, 24, 30 Spruce, 164, M90 immer, 24, 30, M3 Gruidae, 116 pacifica, 24, 30, M2 Grus americana, 116 stellata, 24, 30, M1 canadensis, 116, M112 Gaviidae, 24 grus, 116 Geese, 38, 40, 42 Guillemot(s), Black, 34, M178 Geococcyx californianus, 212, M192 Pigeon, 34, M178 Geothlypis trichas, 302, M359 Guiraca caerulea, 338, M373 Glareola maldivarum, 156 Gull(s), 88 Black-headed, 96, 102 Glaucidium brasilianum, 204 gnoma, 204, M199 Black-tailed, 358 Gnatcatcher(s), Black-capped, 268 Bonaparte's, 96, 102, M158 Black-tailed, 268, M300 California, 92, 100, M162 Blue-gray, 268, M299 Franklin's, 96, 102, M157 California, 268, M300 Glaucous, 94, 98, M167 Goatsucker(s), 214 Glaucous-winged, 94, 98, M166 Godwit(s), Bar-tailed, 152, M131 Heermann's, 90, 98, M159 Black-tailed, 152 Herring, 92, 100, M163 Hudsonian, 130, 132 Ivory, 94, 102 Marbled, 130, 132, M132 Laughing, 96, 102 Little, 96, 102 Mew, 92, 100, M160 Goldeneye(s), Barrow's, 58, M60 Common, 58, 72, M59 Goldfinch(es), American, 344, M439 Ring-billed, 92, 100, M161 "Arkansas." See Lesser, 344. Ross's, 90, 102 "Green-backed." See Lesser, 344. Sabine's, 96, 102, M169 Lawrence's, 344, M438 Slaty-backed, 90 Lesser, 344, M437 Thayer's, 92, 100, M164 Western, 88, 90, 98, M165 Goose, Bean, 40, 62 Canada, 40, 42, M35 Yellow-footed, 90 Emperor, 40, 42, M33 Gymnogyps californianus, 182 Greater White-fronted, 40, 42, M30 Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus, 254, Greylag, 358 M271 Ross's, 38, 42, M32 Gyrfalcon, 184, 196, M85 Snow, 38, 40, 42, M31 Goshawk, Northern, 172, 196, M74 Haematopodidae, 120 Grackle(s), Common, 306, M423 Haematopus bachmani, 120, M119 Great-tailed, 306, M422 palliatus, 120 Grebe(s), 26 Haliaeetus albicilla, 180 Clark's, 26 leucocephalus, 180, 188, M70 Eared, 26, M8 pelagicus, 180 Horned, 26, M6 Harrier, Northern, 170, 194, M71 Least, 26 Hawfinch, 356 Pied-billed, 26, M5 Hawk(s), 172 Red-necked, 26, M7 Broad-winged, 176, 192, M76 Western, 26, M9 Common Black-, 178, 190

Greenfinch, Oriental, 356

Ferruginous, 176, 190, 194, M79 Gray, 178, 194	Icteria virens, 302, M364 Icteridae, 306–313
"Harlan's." See Red-tailed, 174. Harris's, 178, 190	Icterinae. See Blackbirds, Orioles, etc., 306.
"Krider's." See Red-tailed, 174. Marsh. See Harrier, Northern, 170.	Icterus cucullatus, 312, M425 galbula, 312, M426
Pigeon. See Merlin, 186.	parisorum, 312, M427
Red-shouldered, 176, 192, M75	pustulatus, 348
Red-tailed, 174, 190, 192, M78	spurius, 312, M416
Rough-legged, 176, 190, 192, M80	wagleri, 348
Sharp-shinned, 172, 196, M72 Swainson's, 174, 190, 192, M77	Ictinia mississippiensis, 170, 194, M69
White-tailed, 178, 194	Ixobrychus exilis, 114, M20
Zone-tailed, 178, 190	sinensis, 358
Heliomaster constantii, 220	Ixoreus naevius, 274, M310
Helmitheros vermivorus, 304	
Heron(s), 110	Jaeger(s), 86
Great Blue, 110, M21	Long-tailed, 86, M156
Green, 110, M25	Parasitic, 86, M155
Little Blue, 110, 112	Pomarine, 86, M154
Louisiana. See Tricolored, 110.	Jay(s), 254
Tricolored, 110	Blue, 254, M268
Heteroscelus brevipes, 156	Gray, 256, M266 Mexican, 254, M270
incanus, 142, M126 Himantopus himantopus, 358	Pinyon, 254, M271
mexicanus, 120, M120	Steller's, 254, M267
Hirundapus caudacutus, 246	Western Scrub-, 254, M269
Hirundinidae, 248	Junco(s), 332
Hirundo rustica, 250, M265	Dark-eyed, 332, M408
Histrionicus histrionicus, 54, 70, M54	"Gray-headed." See Dark-eyed (in
Hobby, Eurasian, 358	part), 332.
Hoopoe, 352	"Oregon." See Dark-eyed (in part),
Hummingbird(s), 218	332.
Allen's, 216, M222	"Slate-colored." See Dark-eyed (in
Anna's, 216, M217	part), 332.
Berylline, 220	"White-winged." See Dark-eyed (in
Black-chinned, 220, M216	part), 332.
Blue-throated, 218	Yellow-eyed, 332
Broad-billed, 218	Junco hyemalis, 332, M408
Broad-tailed, 216, M220	phaeonotus, 332
Bumblebee, 220 Calliope, 220, M219	lynx torquilla, 352
Costa's, 220, M218	Kestrel(s), American, 186, 196, M82
Lucifer, 220	Eurasian, 358
Magnificent, 218	Killdeer, 126, M117
Rivoli's. See Magnificent, 218.	Kingbird(s), Cassin's, 232, M254
Ruby-throated, 216, M215	Eastern, 232, M256
Rufous, 216, M221	Thick-billed, 232
Violet-crowned, 220	Tropical, 232
White-eared, 218	Western, 232, M255
Xantus's, 350	Kingfisher(s), 206
Hydrobatidae, 80	Belted, 206, M223
Hylocharis leucotis, 218	Green, 206
xantusii, 350	Kinglet(s), Golden-crowned, 268,
Hylocichla mustelina, 276	M297
Thin/and 112	Ruby-crowned, 268, M298
Ibis(es), 112 White, 112	Kite(s), 170 Mississippi, 170, 194, M69
White-faced, 114, M27	Swallow-tailed, 170
Trilled Ideed, II.T, ITIM	MITTAGE TO SUMMENT A TO

Kite(s), cont. White-tailed, 170, 194, M68 Kittiwake(s), Black-legged, 94, 102, M168 Red-legged, 94, 102 Knot(s), Great, 154 Red, 138, M136

Lagopus lagopus, 162, M92

leucurus, 162, M94 mutus, 162, M93 Lampornis clemenciae, 218 Laniidae, 280 Lanius cristatus, 352 excubitor, 280, M325 ludovicianus, 280, M326 Laridae, 86 Lark(s), 242 Horned, 242, M258 Larus argentatus, 92, 100, M163 atricilla, 96, 102 californicus, 92, 100, M162 canus, 92, 100, M160 crassirostris, 358 delawarensis, 92, 100, M161 glaucescens, 94, 98, M166 heermanni, 90, 98, M159 hyperboreus, 94, 98, M167 livens, 90 minutus, 96, 102

philadelphia, 96, 102, M158 ridibundus, 96, 102 schistisagus, 90 thayeri, 92, 100, M164 Laterallus jamaicensis, 118, M106 Leptotila verreauxi, 208 Leucosticte atrata, 334, M428

occidentalis, 88, 90, 98, M165

pipixcan, 96, 102, M157

Leucosticte atrata, 334, M428 australis, 334,M428 tephrocotis, 334, M428

Limicola falcinellus, 150 Limnodromus griseus, 138, M148 scolopaceus, 138, M149 Limosa fedoa, 130, 132, M132

haemastica, 130, 132 lapponica, 132, 152, M131 limosa, 130, 152

Locustella lanceolata, 354 ochotensis, 354

Longspur(s), 328 Chestnut-collared, 328, M412 Lapland, 328, M410 McCown's, 328, M409 Smith's, 328, M411

Smith's, 328, M411 Loon(s), 24, 30 Arctic, 24 Common, 24, 30, M3 Pacific, 24, 30, M2 Red-throated, 24, 30, M1 Yellow-billed, 24, M4
Lophodytes cucullatus, 60, 68, M62
Loxia curvirostra, 340, M433
leucoptera, 340, M434
Luscinia calliope, 354
cyane, 354
svecica, 278
Lymnocryptes minimus, 156

Magpie(s), Black-billed, 256, M273 Yellow-billed, 256, M273 Mallard, 44, 68, M38 Martin(s), Common House-, 352 Purple, 250, M259

Meadowlark(s), 310 Eastern, 310, M417 Western, 310, M418

Melanerpes aurifrons, 28, M227 carolinus, 228 erythrocephalus, 222, M225 formicivorus, 222, M226 lewis, 222, M224

uropygialis, 228, M227 Melanitta fusca, 50, 70, M58 perspicillata, 50, 70, M57 nigra, 50, 70, M56

Meleagris gallopavo, 158, M99 Melospiza georgiana, 320, M403 lincolnii, 324, M402

melodia, 324, M401 Merganser(s), Common, 60, 68, M63 Hooded, 60, 68, M62 Red-breasted, 60, 68, M64

Mergellus albellus, 62 Mergus merganser, 60, 68, M63

serator, 60, 68, M64 Merlin, 186, 196, M83

Micrathene whitneyi, 204, M200 Mimidae (mimic-thrushes), 270

Mimus polyglottos, 270, M313 Mniotilta varia, 292, M352

Mockingbird(s), 270 Northern, 270, M313

Molothrus aeneus, 310 ater, 310, 346, M424

Moorhen, Common, 64, 118, M110 Motacilla alba, 242

cinerea, 242 flava, 242 lugens, 242

Motacillidae, 242, 244 Murre(s), Common, 32, M176

Thick-billed, 32, M177 Murrelet(s), Ancient, 34, M180

Craveri's, 36 Kittlitz's, 36 Marbled, 36, M179 Xantus's, 36

Muscicapa dauurica, 354 griseisticta, 354

121

sibirica, 354
Muscicapidae, 268–278
Myadestes townsendi, 274, M304
Mycteria americana, 116
Myiarchus cinerascens, 234, M252
crinitus, 234, M253
nuttingi, 350
tuberculifer, 234
tyrannulus, 234
Myioborus miniatus, 350
pictus, 296, M363
Myiodynastes luteiventris, 234
Myna, Crested, 280

Needletail, White-throated, 246 Nighthawk(s), Common, 214, M209 Lesser, 214, M208 Night-Heron(s), Black-crowned, 114, M26 Yellow-crowned, 114 Nightjar(s), Buff-collared, 214 Jungle, 358 Nucifraga columbiana, 256, M272 Numenius americanus, 130, 132, M130 borealis, 130, 152 madagascariensis, 152 minutus, 152 phaeopus, 130, 132, M129 tahitiensis, 132, 152 Nutcracker, Clark's, 256, M272 Nuthatch(es), 262 Pygmy, 262, M287 Red-breasted, 262, M285

White-breasted, 262, M286

Nyctanassa violacea, 114, M27

Nycticorax nycticorax, 114, M26

Nyctea scandiaca, 198, M197

Oceanites oceanicus, 80 Oceanodroma castro, 80 furcata, 80, M11 homochroa, 80, M13 leucorhoa, 80, M12 melania, 80 microsoma, 80 tethys, 80

Oenanthe oenanthe, 278 Oldsquaw, 54, 70, M55 Old World Sparrow(s), 346 Oporornis agilis, 298, M356 formosus, 304

philadelphia, 298, M357 tolmiei, 298, M358

Oreortyx pictus, 166, M100 Oreoscoptes montanus, 270, M314 Oriole(s), 312

Baltimore, 312 Black-vented, 348 Bullock's, 312 Hooded, 312, M425 Orchard, 312, M416 Scott's, 312, M427 Streak-backed, 348 Osprey, 184, 188, M67 Otus asio, 200, M195 flammeolus, 204, M194 kennicottii, 200, M195 sunia, 358 trichopsis, 200 Ovenbird, 302, M354 Owl[s], 198

Barn, 198, M193 Barred, 198, M203 Boreal, 202, M200 Burrowing, 202, M201

Eastern Screech-, 204, M195 Elf, 204, M200

Ferruginous. See Ferruginous Pygmy-, 204. Flammulated, 204, M194

Flammulated, 204, M194 Great Gray, 198, M204 Great Horned, 200, M196 Long-eared, 200, M205

Mottled, 350

Northern Hawk, 202, M198 Northern Pygmy-, 204, M199 Northern Saw-whet, 202, M207

Oriental Scops-, 358 Short-eared, 200, M206 Snowy, 198, M197 Spotted, 204, M202

Western Screech-, 200, M195 Whiskered Screech-, 198

Oystercatcher(s), 120 American, 120 Black, 120, M119

Pachyramphus aglaiae, 230 Pagophila eburnea, 94, 102 Pandion haliaetus, 184, 188, M67 Parabuteo unicinctus, 178, 190

Parakeet(s) Orange-from

Orange-fronted, 212 Rose-ringed, 210 White-winged, 210 gridae, 258

Paridae, 258 Parrot(s), 210

Lilac-crowned, 212 Red-crowned, 210 Thick-billed, 210

Yellow-headed, 212 Partridge(s), Gray, 164, M87 Red-legged, 164

Parula, Northern, 302 Parula americana, 302

superciliosa, 350 Parulidae, 288-305

Parulinae. See Warblers, 288. Parus major, 354

irus major, 554

Phoebastria albatrus, 74 Passer domesticus, 346, M441 montanus, 346 immutabilis, 74 Passerculus sandwichensis, 326, nigripes, 74 M395 Phoebe(s), Black, 236, M248 Eastern, 236, M249 Passerella iliaca, 324, M400 Say's, 237, 238, M250 Passeridae, 346 Passerina amoena, 338, M374 Phylloscopus borealis, 300 ciris, 338, M376 fuscatus, 354 Pica nuttalli, 256, M273 cyanea, 338 versicolor, 338, M375 pica. 256, M273 Picidae, 222 Pelecanidae, 84 Pelecanus erythrorhynchos, 84, M14 Picoides albolarvatus, 224, M234 occidentalis, 84, M15 arcticus, 224, M236 Pelican(s), 84 nuttallii, 228, M225 pubescens, 224, M232 American White, 84, M14 Brown, 84, M15 scalaris, 228, M231 stricklandi, 228 Perdix perdix, 164, M87 tridactylus, 224, M235 Perisoreus canadensis, 256, M266 villosus, 224, M233 Petrel(s), 76 Cook's, 78 Pigeon(s), 208 Mottled, 78 Band-tailed, 208, M185 Red-billed, 208 Murphy's, 78 Pinicola enucleator, 342, M429 Solander's, 78 Pintail, Northern, 46, 66, M39 Stejneger's, 78 See also Storm-Petrels, 80. Pipilo aberti, 330, M381 Petrochelidon fulva, 248 chlorurus, 330, M378 pyrrhonota, 250, M264 crissalis, 330, M380 fuscus, 330, M380 Peucedramus taeniatus, 296, M365 Pewee(s), Greater, 326 maculatus, 330, M379 Eastern Wood-, 236 Pipit(s), 244 Western Wood-, 236, M240 American, 244, M320 Phaethon aethereus, 82 Olive-backed, 244 lepturus, 82 Pechora, 244 rubricauda, 82 Red-throated, 244 Sprague's, 244, M321 Phaethontidae, 82 Tree-, 244 Phalacrocoracidae, 28 Phalacrocorax auritus, 28, 30, M16 Piranga bidentata, 348 brasilianus, 28 flava, 314, M366 pelagicus, 28, 30, M18 ludoviciana, 314, M368 olivacea, 314 penicillatus, 28, 30, M17 rubra, 314, M367 urile, 28 Phalaenoptilus nuttallii, 214, M210 Plectrophenax hyperboreus, 334 nivalis, 334, M413 Phainopepla, 282, M324 Phainopepla nitens, 282, M324 Plegadis chihi, 114, M27 Phalarope(s), 134, 136 Plover(s), 122 Northern. See Red-necked, 136. American Golden-, 122, M114 Black-bellied, 122, M113 Red, 136, M153 Common Ringed, 124 Red-necked, 136, M152 Wilson's, 134, 136, M151 Mongolian, 126 Mountain, 126, M118 Phalaropus fulicaria, 136, M163 lobatus, 136, M152 Pacific Golden-, 122, M114 tricolor, 134, 136, M151 Piping, 124, M115 Semipalmated, 124, M116 Phasianidae, 158 Snowy, 124, M115 Phasianus colchicus, 158, M89 Pheasant, Ring-necked, 158, M89 Upland. See Sandpiper, Upland, Pheucticus chrysopeplus, 348 144. ludovicianus, 336, M371 Wilson's, 124 Pluvialis dominica, 122, M114 melanocephalus, 336, M372 fulva, 122, M114 Philomachus pugnax, 144

squatarola, 122, M113 Quail, California, 166, M104 Pochard, Common, 62 Gambel's, 166, M103 Podicepedidae, 26 Harlequin. See Montezuma, 166. Podiceps auritus, 26, M6 Montezuma, 166, M100 grisegena, 26, M7 Mountain, 166, M100 nigricolis, 26, M7 Scaled, 166, M102 Podilymbus podiceps, 26, M5 Quiscalus mexicanus, 306, M422 Poecile atricapillus, 258, M278 quiscula, 306, M423 cinctus, 258 Oxyura jamaicensis, 58, 72, M65 gambeli, 258, M279 hudsonicus, 258, M280 Rail(s), 118 rufescens, 258, M281 Black, 118, M106 sclateri, 258, M280 Clapper, 118, M107 Polioptila caerulea, 268, M299 King, 120 californica, 268, M300 Virginia, 118, M108 melanura, 268, M300 Yellow, 118, M105 nigriceps, 268 Rallidae, 118 Polioptilini. See Kinglets, Gnatcatch-Rallus elegans, 120 ers, Old World Warblers, 268. limicola, 118, M108 Polysticta stelleri, 54, M53 longirostris, 118, M107 Pooecetes gramineus, 324, M390 Raven(s), Chihuahuan, 252, M276 Poorwill, Common, 214, M210 Common, 252, M277 Porphyrula martinica, 64 White-necked. See Chihuahuan. Porzana carolina, 118, M109 Recurvirostra americana, 120, M121 Prairie-Chicken(s), Greater, 160, Recurvirostridae, 120 M97 Redhead, 56, 72, M46 Lesser, 160, M97 "Hoary" Redpoll. See Common Red-Pratincole, Oriental, 156 poll, 342. Procellariidae, 76 Redshank, Spotted, 156 Progne subis, 250, M259 Redstart(s), American, 294, M353 Protonotaria citrea, 304 Painted, 296, M363 Prunella montanella, 354 Slate-throated, 350 Prunellidae, 354 Regulidae, 268 Psaltriparus minimus, 260, M284 Regulus calendula, 268, 284, M298 Psittacidae, 210 satrapa, 268, M297 Psittacula krameri, 210, 211 Remizidae, 260 Ptarmigan, Rock, 162, M93 Rhodothraupis celaeno, 350 White-tailed, 162, M94 Rhodostethia rosea, 90, 102 Willow, 162, M92 Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha, 210 Pterodroma cookii, 78 Ridgwayia pinicola, 348 inexpectata, 78 Riparia riparia, 248, M263 longirostris, 78 Rissa brevirostris, 94 solandri, 78 tridactyla, 94, 102, M168 ultima, 78 Roadrunner, Greater, 212, M192 Ptilogonatidae, 282 Robin(s), American, 274, M309 Ptilogonys cinereus, 350 Rufous-backed, 274, 348 Ptychoramphus aleuticus, 36, M181 Siberian Blue, 354 Puffin(s), Horned, 32, M184 Rosefinch, Common, 356 Tufted, 32, M183 Rubythroat, Siberian, 354 Puffinus bulleri, 76 Ruff, 144 carneipes, 76 Rynchops niger, 108 creatopus, 76 griseus, 76 opisthomelas, 76 Salpinctes obsoletus, 266, M290 pacificus, 78 Sanderling, 140, M137 Sandpiper(s), 134 tenuirostris, 76 Pyrocephalus rubinus, 230, M251 Baird's, 146, M142 Pyrrhula pyrrhula, 356 Broad-billed, 150 Pyrrhuloxia, 336, M370 Buff-breasted, 144, M147

Sandpiper(s), cont.	Loggerhead, 280, M326
Common, 154	Northern, 280, M325
Curlew, 154	Sialia currucoides, 278, M303
Green, 154	mexicana, 278, M302
Least, 148, M140	sialis, 278, M301
Marsh, 156	Silky-Flycatcher, Gray, 350
Pectoral, 146, M143	Siskin, Pine, 344, M436
Rock, 142, M144	Sitta canadensis, 262, M285
Rufous-necked. See Stint, Rufous-	carolinensis, 262, M286
necked, 150.	pygmaea, 262, M287
Semipalmated, 148, M138	Sittidae, 262
Solitary, 134, M124	Skimmer(s), 108
Spoonbill, 150	Black, 108
Spotted, 140, M127	Skua(s), 86
Stilt, 134, 144, M146	South Polar, 86
Terek, 154	Skylark, 242
Upland, 144, M128	Smew, 62
Western, 148, M139	Snipe(s), Common, 138, M150
White-rumped, 146, M141	Jack, 156
Wood, 154	Solitaire, Townsend's, 274, M304
Sapsucker(s), Red-breasted, 226,	Somateria fischeri, 52, M52
M229	
	mollissima, 52, M50 spectabilis, 52, M51
Red-naped, 226, M228	
Williamson's, 226, M230	Sora, 118, M109
Yellow-bellied, 226, M228	Sparrow(s), 316
Saxicola torquata, 352	American Tree, 320, M384
Sayornis nigricans, 236, M248	Baird's, 326, M396
phoebe, 236, M249	"Belding's." See Savannah (in part),
saya, 238, M250	326.
Scaup(s), Greater, 56, 72, M48	Black-chinned, 318, M389
Lesser, 56, M49	Black-throated, 318, M392
Scolopacidae, 128	Botteri's, 322
Scolopax minor, 138	Brewer's, 322, M387
Scoter, Common. See Black, 50.	Cassin's, 322, M382
Black, 50, 70, M56	Chipping, 320, M385
Surf, 50, 70, M57	Clay-colored, 320, 322, M386
White-winged, 50, 70, M58	Eurasian Tree, 346
Seiurus aurocapillus, 302, M354	Field, 320, M388
noveboracensis, 304, M355	Five-striped, 318
Selasphorus platycercus, 216, M220	Fox, 324, M400
rufus, 216, M221	"Gambel's." See White-crowned (in
sasin, 216, M222	part), 316.
Setophaga ruticilla, 294, M353	Golden-crowned, 316, M405
Shearwater(s), 76	Grasshopper, 322, M397
Black-vented, 76	Harris's, 316, M407
Buller's, 76	House, 346, M441
Flesh-footed, 76	Le Conte's, 326, M398
Manx. See Black-vented, 76.	Lincoln's, 324, M402
New Zealand. See Buller's, 76.	"Large-billed." See Savannah (in
Pale-footed. See Flesh-footed, 76.	part), 326.
Pink-footed, 76	Lark, 318, M391
Short-tailed, 76	Nelson's Sharp-tailed, 326
Slender-billed. See Short-tailed, 76.	"Nuttall's." See White-crowned (in
Sooty, 76	part), 316.
Streaked, 78	Rufous-crowned, 320, M383
Wedge-tailed, 78	Rufous-winged, 322
Shoveler, Northern, 48, 66, M42	Sage, 318, M393
Shrike(s), 280	Savannah, 326, M395
Brown 352	Song 324 M401

Swamp, 320, M403 Sturnidae, 280 Sturnella magna, 310, M417 Vesper, 324, M390 White-crowned, 316, M406 neglecta, 310, M418 White-throated, 316, M404 Sturnus vulgaris, 280, M327 Sphyrapicus nuchalis, 226, M228 Sula dactylatra, 82 ruber, 226, M229 leucogaster, 82 thyroideus, 226, M230 nebouxii, 82 sula, 82 varius, 228, M228 Spiza americana, 346, M377 Sulidae, 82 Spizella arborea, 320, M384 Surfbird, 142, M135 Surnia ulula, 202, M198 atrogularis, 318, M389 breweri, 322, M387 Swallow(s), 248 Bank, 248, M263 pallida, 322, M386 passerina, 320, M385 Barn, 250, M265 pusilla, 320, M388 Cave, 248 Cliff, 250, M264 Spoonbill, Roseate, 112, 114 Starling, European, 280, M327 Northern Rough-winged, 248, Starthroat, Plain-capped, 220 M262 Stelgedopteryx serripennis, 248, Tree, 248, M260 M262 Violet-green, 248, M261 Stellula callipe, 220, M219 Swan(s), 38, 42 Stercorarius longicaudus, 86, M156 "Bewick's" See Tundra, 38. parasiticus, 86, M155 Mute, 38 pomarinus, 86, M154 Trumpeter, 38, M29 Sterna aleutica, 108 Tundra, 38, 42, M28 antillarum, 108, M174 Whistling. See Tundra, 38, 42. caspia, 104, M170 Whooper, 38 elegans, 104 Swift(s), 246 forsteri, 106, M173 Black, 246, M212 hirundo, 106, M171 Chimney, 246, M213 maxima, 104 Common, 246 nilotica, 104 Fork-tailed, 246 paradisaea, 106, M172 Vaux's, 246, M213 White-throated, 246, M214 Stilt(s), 120 Black-necked, 120, M120 Sylviidae, 268, 300 Synthliboramphus antiquus, 34, Black-winged, 358 Stint(s), Little, 150 M180 craveri, 36 Long-toed, 150 Red-necked, 150 hypoleucus, 36 Temminck's, 150 Tachybaptus dominicus, 26 Stonechat, 352 Tachycineta bicolor, 248, M260 Stork, Wood, 116 Storm-Petrel(s) (formerly Petrels), 80 thalassina, 248, M261 Ashy, 80, M13 Tanager(s), 314 Band-rumped, 80 Flame-colored, 348 Hepatic, 314, M366 Black, 80 Fork-tailed, 80, M11 Scarlet, 314 Galápagos. See Wedge-rumped, 80. Summer, 314, M367 Western, 314, M368 Leach's, 80, M12 Tarsiger evanurus, 354 Least, 80 Wedge-rumped, 80 Tattler, Gray-tailed, 156 Wandering, 142, M126 Wilson's, 80 Streptopelia chinensis, 210 Teal(s), Baikal, 48, 62 orientalis, 352 Blue-winged, 48, 66, M40 risoria, 210 Cinnamon, 48, M41 Eurasian. See Green-winged, 48. Strigidae, 198 Green-winged, 48, 66, M37 Strix nebulosa, 198, M204 occidentalis, 204, M202 Tern(s), 104 varia, 198, M203 Aleutian, 108

Tern(s), cont.	melanoleuca, 134, M122
Arctic, 106, M172	nebularia, 156
Black, 108, M175	ocropus, 154
Caspian, 104, M170	solitaria, 134, M124
Common, 106, M171	stagnatalis, 156
Elegant, 104	Trochilidae, 216
Forster's, 106, M173	Troglodytes aedon, 264, M293
Gull-billed, 104	troglodytes, 264, M294
Least, 108, M174	Troglodytidae, 264
Royal, 104	Trogon(s), 206
White-winged, 108	Coppery-tailed. See Elegant, 206.
Thalassarche cauta, 74	Eared, 206
Thrasher(s), Bendire's, 272, M316	Elegant, 206
Brown, 270, M315	Trogon elegans, 206
California, 272, M317	Trogonidae, 206
Crissal, 272, M318	Tropicbird(s), 82
Curve-billed, 272, M317	Red-billed, 82
Le Conte's, 272, M319	Red-tailed, 82
Sage, 270, M314	White-tailed, 82
Thraupidae, 314	Tryngites subruficollis, 144
Thraupinae, 314	Turdidae, 274
Threskiornithidae, 112	Turdus migratorius, 274, M309
Thursh(es), 274	naumanni, 352
Aztec, 348	obscurus, 352
Dusky, 352	pilaris, 352
Eyebrowed, 352	rufopalliatus, 274, 348
Gray-cheeked, 276, M306	Turkey, Wild, 158, M99
Hermit, 276, M308	Turnstone(s), Black, 142, M134
Swainson's, 276, M307	Ruddy, 142, M133
Varied, 274, M310	Tympanuchus cupido, 160, M97
Wood, 276	pallidicinctus, 160, M97
Thryomanes bewickii, 264, M292	phasianellus, 160, M98
Thryothorus ludovicianus, 264	Tyrannidae, 230
Tinaliidae, 266	Tyrannulet, Northern Beardless-, 238
Tit, Great, 354	Tryannus crassirostris, 232
Siberian. See Chickadee, Gray-	forficatus, 230, M257
headed, 258	melancholicus, 232
Titmice, 260	tyrannus, 232, M256
Titmouse, "Black-crested," 260	verticalis, 232, M255
Bridled, 260	vociferans, 232, M254
Oak, 260, M282	Tyrant-Flycatchers, 230
Tufted, 260, M282	Tytonidae, 198
Towhee(s), 330	Tytomane, 150
Abert's, 330, M381	Upupa epops, 352
Brown, See California and Canyon	Upupidae, 352
towhees, 330.	Uria aalge, 32, M176
California, 330, M380	lomvia, 32, M177
Canyon, 330, M380	101111111, 02, 11111
Green-tailed, 330, M378	Veery, 276, M305
Spotted, 330, M379	Verdin, 260, M283
Toxostoma bendirei, 272, M316	Vermivora celata, 300, M336
crissale, 272, M318	chrysoptera, 304
curvirostre, 272, M317	crissalis, 296
lecontei, 272, M319	luciae, 296, M339
redivivum, 272, M317	peregrina, 300, M335
rufum, 270, M315	pinus, 304
Tringa erythropus, 156	ruficappilla, 298, M337
flavipes, 134, M123	virginiae, 296, M338
glareola, 154	Vireo(s), 284
	The state of the s

Bell's, 284, M328 Lucy's, 296, M339 Black-capped, 284 MacGillivray's, 298, M358 Blue-headed, 284, M330 Magnolia, 288, M342 Gray, 286, M329 Middendorff's Grasshopper-, 354 Hutton's, 284, M331 Mourning, 298, M357 Philadelphia, 286, M333 "Myrtle." See Yellow-rumped, 288. Red-eyed, 286, M334 Nashville, 298, M337 Warbling, 286, M332 Olive, 296, M365 White-eyed, 284 Orange-crowned, 300, M336 Yellow-green, 286 Palm, 300, M349 Yellow-throated, 284 Pine, 304 Vireo atricapillus, 284 Prairie, 304 bellii, 284, M328 Prothonotary, 304 flavifrons, 284 Rufous-capped, 350 Red-faced, 296, M362 flavoviridis, 286 gilvus, 286, M332 Tennessee, 300, M335 Townsend's, 290, M346 griseus, 284 Virginia's, 296, M338 huttoni, 284, M331 olivaceus, 286, M334 Wilson's, 302, M360 philadelphicus, 286, M333 Worm-eating, 304 solitarius, 284, M330 Yellow, 300, M340 vicinior, 286, M329 Yellow-rumped, 288, M344 Yellow-throated, 304 Vireonidae, 284 Waterthrush, Northern, 304, M355 Vulture(s), 182 Black, 182 Waxwing(s), 282 Bohemian, 282, M322 Turkey, 182, M66 Cedar, 282, M323 Wagtail(s), 242 Wheatear, Northern 278 Black-backed, 242 Whimbrel, 130, 132, M129 Whip-poor-will, 214, M211 Gray, 242 White, 242 Ridgway's. See Nightjar, Buff-col-Yellow, 242 lared, 214. Warbler(s), Arctic, 300 Whistling-Duck(s), "Audubon's." See Yellow-rumped, Black-bellied, 42 288. Fulvous, 42, 68 Bay-breasted, 294, M350 Wigeon(s), American, 46, 66, M44 Blackburnian, 294 Eurasian, 46 Willet, 132, 134, M125 Blackpoll, 292, M351 Black-throated Blue, 292 Wilsonia canadensis, 288, M361 Black-throated Gray, 292, M345 citrina, 302 pusilla, 302, M360 Black-throated Green, 290, M347 Woodcock, American, 138 Black-and-white, 292, M352 Blue-winged, 304 Woodpecker(s), 222 Canada, 288, M361 Acorn, 222, M226 Cape May, 294, M343 Arizona. See Strickland's, 228. Cerulean, 292 Black-backed, 224, M236 Chestnut-sided, 294, M341 Downy, 224, M232 Colima, 296 Gila, 228, M227 Connecticut, 298, M356 Golden-fronted, 228, M227 Crescent-chested, 350 Great Spotted, 358 Dusky, 354 Hairy, 224, M233 Fan-tailed, 350 Imperial, 350 Golden-cheeked, 290 Ladder-backed, 228, M231 Golden-winged, 304 Lewis's, 222, M224 Grace's, 296, M348 Nuttall's, 228, M225 Hermit, 290, M347 Pileated, 222, M238 Hooded, 302 Red-bellied, 228 Kentucky, 304 Red-headed, 222, M225

Strickland's, 228

Lanceolated, 354

Wren(s), 264 Three-toed, 224, M235 White-headed, 224, M234 Bewick's, 264, M292 "Brown-throated." See House, 264. Cactus, 266, M289 Canvon, 266, M291 Carolina, 264 House, 264, M293 Long-billed Marsh, See Marsh, 264. Marsh, 264, M295 Rock, 266, M290 Sedge, 264 Short-billed Marsh, See Sedge, 264. Winter, 264, M294 Wrentit, 266, M311

Wryneck, Eurasian, 352

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus, 308, M419 Xema sabini, 96, 102, M169 Xenus cinereus, 154

Yellowlegs, Greater, 134, M122 Lesser, 134, M123 Yellowthroat, Common, 302, M359

Zenaida asiatica, 208, M186 macroura, 208, M187 Zonotrichia albicollis, 316, M404 atricapilla, 316, M405 leucophrys, 316, M406 querula, 316, M407

CONSERVATION NOTE

Birds contribute to our pleasure and standard of living. But they are also sensitive indicators of the environment, a sort of "ecological litmus test." Help support the cause of wildlife conservation by taking an active part in the efforts of the National Wildlife Federation, as well as the work of the National Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy, and your state or local Audubon or natural history societies. On the international level, don't forget the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

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