

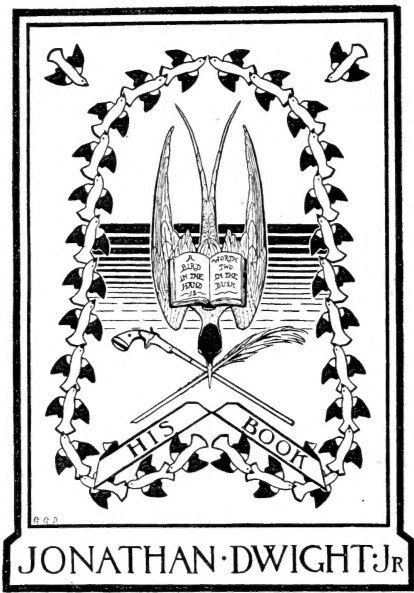
**LAND BIRDS**  
**OF**  
**NORTHERN**  
**NEW YORK**

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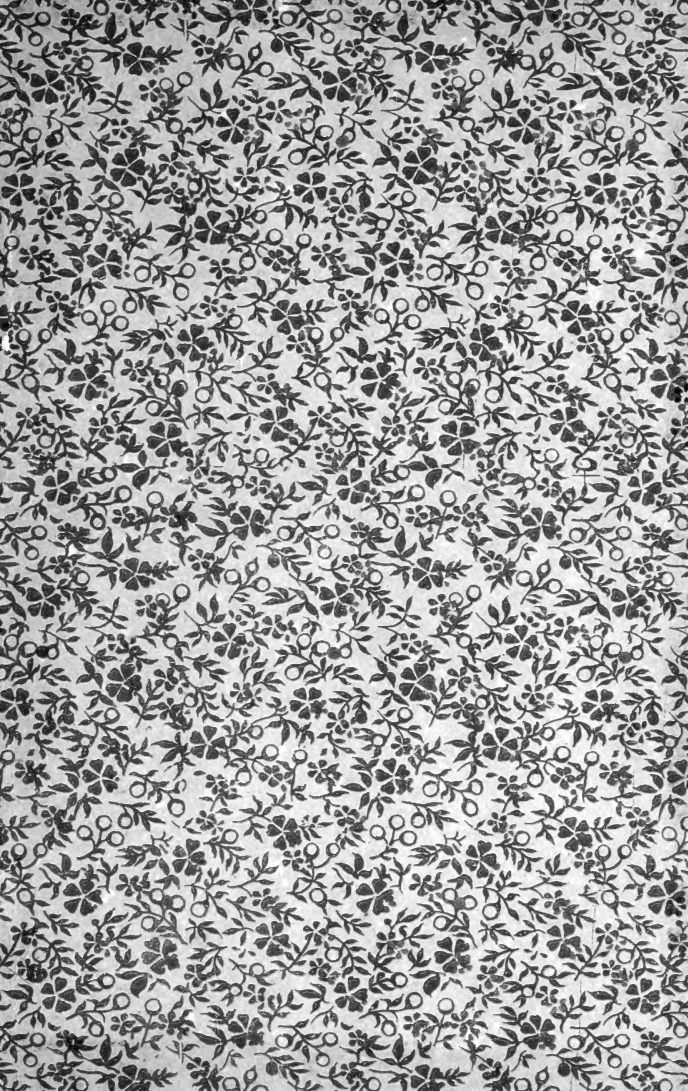
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**EDMUND J. SAWYER**



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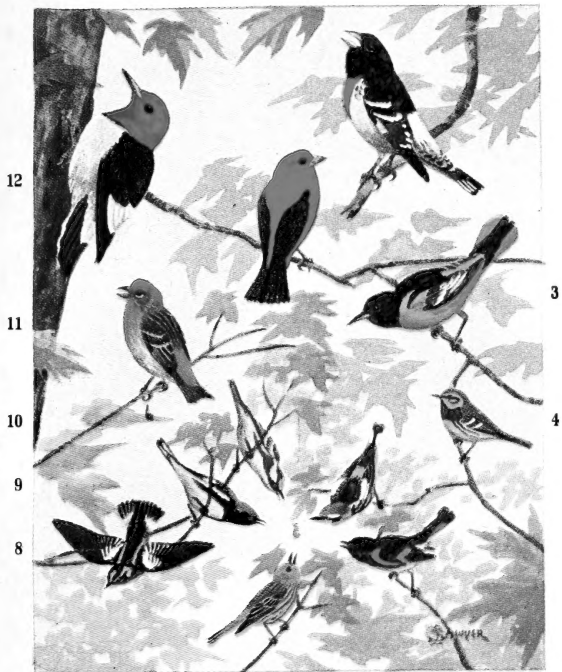
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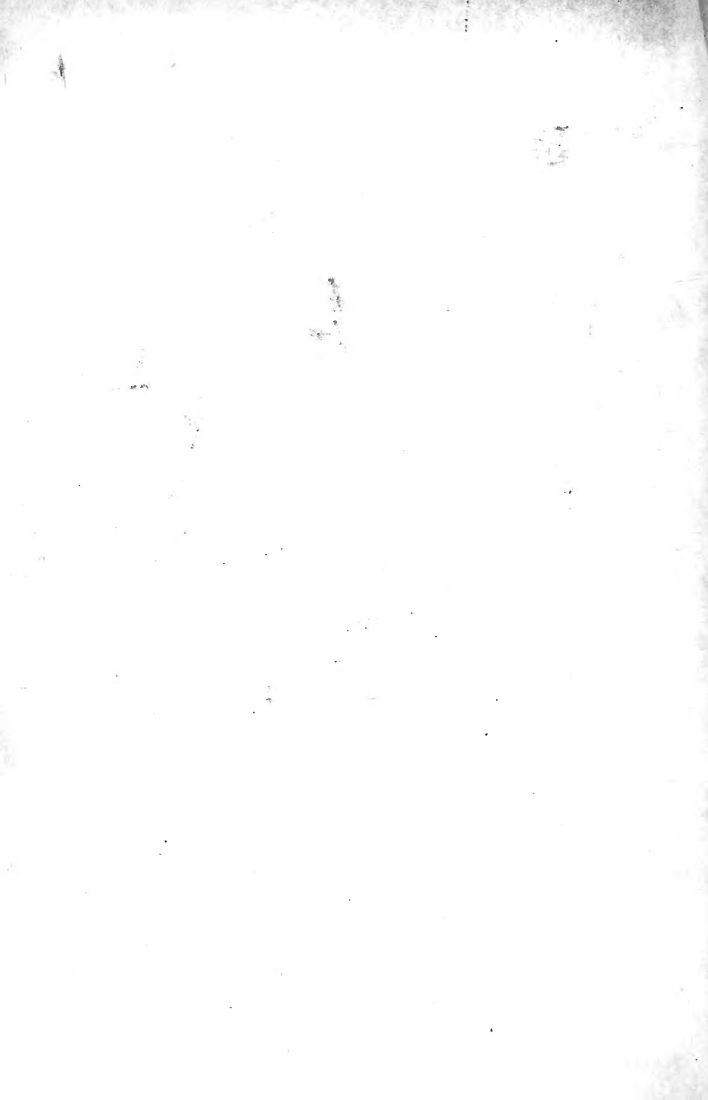
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### BRIGHTLY COLORED BIRDS (Males)

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Scarlet Tanager              | 6. Magnolia Warbler            |
| 2. Rose-breasted Grosbeak       | 7. Yellow Warbler              |
| 3. Baltimore Oriole             | 8. Blackburnian Warbler        |
| 4. Black-throated Green Warbler | 9. Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| 5. Redstart                     | 10. Chestnut-sided Warbler     |
|                                 | 11. Purple Finch               |
| 12. Red-headed Woodpecker       |                                |





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Birds

# Land Birds of Northern New York

A Pocket Guide to Common Land  
Birds of the St. Lawrence Valley  
and the Lowlands in General  
of Northern New York

BY *Joseph*

EDMUND J. SAWYER

American Ornithologists' Union  
Honorary Corresponding Member of the Agassiz Association  
Honorary President of Watertown Bird Club  
Etc.

ILLUSTRATED  
BY THE  
AUTHOR



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Watertown Bird Club

(1916)

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**BY EDMUND J. SAWYER**

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### DEDICATORY

After all has been said for the observant love of nature the best is that it can keep its votary young at heart in a world like this. The birds in particular, friends the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, may even prove the source of a certain faith. Confiding, vivacious; so intense in their feelings, so impulsive, so overflowing with life, so full of freedom and song or the spirit of song—they are in a remarkable degree congenial with what is fairest and best in childhood; indeed they may well be regarded as symbolic of it. To "Joe," "Brownie" and "Hope," his children, in whose presence and the birds' he finds his own childhood largely revived, the author lovingly dedicates this little book.

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\*A bird may be so near the dividing line in size as to make it a question in which group to look. Therefor it has been deemed advisable to arrange the species comprising these groups in practically the order of relative size, from largest to smallest, regardless of real relationships. But where related species do not differ greatly in size such species have not been separated, but occur in their established order.

The numbers given before names of species are those of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list. In systematic works the species will be found according to these numerals.

## INTRODUCTION

About one hundred and thirty of the most common and interesting land birds of the non-mountainous parts of Northern New York are mentioned in this pocket booklet. The latter therefor has for its scope practically all the land birds one is likely to find near the northern New York border in the course of a year's observation. Four species of water birds, being commonly found in generally dry situations inland, are included.

The illustrations, based as they are on life sketches of wild birds, may give helpful impressions of the appearance of the birds in nature. Many of these drawings were made especially for the present use and now appear for the first time. Others have appeared in *The Guide to Nature* magazine, and the picture of a grouse has been printed in "Field and Stream." The general arrangement of both text and drawings is calculated to serve as a convenient key to species. In this connection the species are considered from the point of view of the beginner who naturally sees what is most apparent rather than what is most characteristic. While, therefore, there could be little adherence to scientific classification under this arrangement, it is hoped the booklet will prove even more practical and usable, within its scope, than the usual rather intricate and complicated color-key. This, particu-

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larly, since color is often of secondary or no value in distinguishing live birds as found in the field; while various other features *may* serve this purpose., often completely, still more often as the chief clues. These "other features," as size, voice, habits, considered as aids to identifying the birds, are given in approximately the order of their relative value with each species.

It is taken for granted that the serious observer who makes use of this booklet will have access upon returning from the field, to a volume such as "Bird Life," "Hand-book of Birds of Eastern N. A." (Chapman), or "Birds of New York State" (Eaton, University of the State of New York, Albany); not only that he may verify his possibly doubtful identifications, but to find descriptions of such of the less common species as cannot be given space in these limited pages:

It is hoped the beginner will find this unconventional summary of our common birds so convenient to carry and so simple for reference that its use in the field may not seem such a task as to impair the joy and freedom which should accompany his communion with Nature through the most inspiring, the most joyous and beautiful of all her creatures—the birds.

EDMUND J. SAWYER.

Watertown, N. Y., April 12, 1916.

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## BIRDS OF THE CITY PARK, WATERTOWN, N. Y.

In no locality within the scope of this booklet, familiar to the writer, are birds more abundant in species and in individuals than they are in the City Park of Watertown, Jefferson County. There are suitable habitats here for most of the smaller land birds. Each of the seven existing orders of North American land birds is represented. Even the water birds are represented by four species of the order of shore birds. If one chooses to add also the gulls, ducks and herons which have been seen here in flight at least, then twelve of the thirteen orders of inland birds may be included in the avifauna of this limited area. That which includes rails and coots is thus the only order entirely absent. The freedom of this territory from cats, and the strict prohibition of all shooting, are doubtless the chief reasons for its abundant bird-life. For no locality, however fair and inviting with meadow, field and wood, can have a rich avifauna when its guardians are boys with slingshots and the chief warden of its bird-life is the murderous house-cat.

Added to the foregoing considerations, the convenience for observation of this field, and its direct accessibility to the thirty thousand residents of Watertown seem sufficient reasons for the following review of this locality:

Land birds are sometimes divided into two groups, namely: *arboreal*, those which inhabit the leafy coverts of trees and shrubs; *terrestrial*, those whose haunts are on the ground. This division is marked by no very sharply drawn line. However, according to this classification nearly all the birds

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\*The lack of a swampy tract of any considerable extent accounts for the absence not only of birds of this order, but explains the absence of the swamp sparrow and marsh wrens among land birds.

---

of the park are arboreal. The only notable exceptions are the four water birds, woodcock, upland plover, spotted sandpiper and killdeer plover; and the prairie horned lark, bob-o-link, meadowlark, vesper sparrow.

ARBOREAL SPECIES are generally most abundant where the leafy growth is of greatest extent and density, as along the edge of the park below the main pinnacle near the Franklin street entrance, in places near the "goose pond," the woods on three sides of the reservoir, the woods about the stone stairways leading into the park from the State street entrance.

TERRESTRIAL SPECIES may be roughly said to inhabit the open fields in and about the edges of the park, and each grassy or barren area of a few acres or more in extent which is never cut with the lawn mowers.

PARTICULAR HAUNTS, that is considerably restricted or special ranges, occur with certain species within these general haunts. The *upland plover* is found chiefly in the large hay field on the south side of the park. The *spotted sandpiper* is almost confined to the immediate vicinity of the "goose pond," where no doubt it nests. The *screech owl* nests in the hollow trees near the horse-sheds. The *red-headed woodpecker* is usually found in the grove about the horse-sheds and in the woods south and west of the reservoir. The *crested flycatcher* occurs most regularly in the woods south of the reservoir, where it appears to nest; the *phoebe*, in the old quarry below the reservoir; the *barn swallow*, about the barn near the Franklin street entrance; *migrant shrike*, in the out-lying thorn trees (where it nests) between the main pinnacle and Gifford's woods.



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Following is a list of birds as observed in the park by the writer:

PERMANENT RESIDENTS:

Ruffed Grouse  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Screech Owl  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Blue Jay  
Crow  
Purple Finch\*  
Goldfinch\*  
Cedar Waxwing\*  
Brown Creeper\*  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Chickadee  
English Pheasant\*\*\*  
English Sparrow \*\*\*

SUMMER RESIDENTS (given in about the order of their first appearance in spring):

Sparrow Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Marsh Hawk  
Slate-colored Junco  
Robin  
Song Sparrow  
Bluebird  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Bronzed Grackle  
Belted Kingfisher  
Cowbird  
Phoebe  
Meadowlark  
Mourning Dove

---

\*Found in reduced numbers, or of irregular occurrence, in winter.

\*\*\*Introduced species.

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Kildeer Plover  
Migrant Shrike  
Prairie Horned Lark  
Northern Flicker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Woodcock  
Upland Plover.  
Vesper Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Grasshopper Sparrow  
Towhee  
Veery  
Field Sparrow  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Tree Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Purple Martin  
Cliff Swallow  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Ovenbird  
House Wren  
Kingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
Catbird  
Bob-o-Link  
Baltimore Oriole  
Yellow Warbler  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Warbling Vireo  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Redstart  
Maryland Yellow-throat  
Scarlet Tanager  
Whip-poor-will  
Chestnut-sided Warbler  
Crested Flycatcher  
Magnolia Warbler  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Black-billed Cuckoo  
Chimney Swift

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Wood Pewee  
Chebec  
Nighthawk

TRANSIENT VISITANTS (migrants which pass or so-  
journ in spring and autumn or late summer):

White-crowned Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Tree Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow  
Northern Parula Warbler  
Cape May Warbler  
Black-throated Blue Warbler  
Myrtle Warbler  
Bay-breasted Warbler  
Blackburnian Warbler  
Black-throated Green Warbler  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

WINTER VISITANTS\*\*

Pine Siskin

BIRDS WHICH NEST IN THE PARK. Occupied nests  
of the following species have been found:

Kildeer Plover, April 28 (about)\*  
Black-billed Cuckoo, June 3  
Red-headed Woodpecker, July 14  
Northern Flicker, May 17  
Kingbird, July 8  
Wood Pewee, July 16  
Crow, May 19  
Cowbird, July 8 (in Field Sparrow's nest)  
Meadowlark, May 24  
Baltimore Oriole  
Goldfinch, July 22

---

\*\*Winter visitants of the park have been given little attention. It is likely that the redpoll, snow bunting, horned lark, northern shrike and winter wren occur; other winter visitants are of irregular occurrence.

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Vesper Sparrow, June 12\*  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow, July 8  
Song Sparrow, May 24  
Barn Swallow, July  
Cedar Waxwing, June 20  
Migrant Shrike  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Yellow Warbler, May 21  
Catbird, May 25  
Brown Thrasher, May 26  
Robin, May 24

The following species have shown undoubted evidence of nesting: upland plover, spotted sandpiper, screech owl, crested flycatcher, phoebe, prairie horned lark, redstart, white-breasted nuthatch. It is probable that the hairy and downy woodpeckers and the chickadee also sometimes nest in the park. Finally, all the birds in the above list of "summer residents" *may* be found to nest here, with the following probable EXCEPTIONS: woodcock, marsh hawk, red-shouldered hawk, belted kingfisher, chimney swift, cliff swallow, bank swallow.

#### A GENERAL LIST

The lists in the foregoing chapter (which see) contain 89 of the 129 land birds which, at least, we consider to be of fairly common occurrence in northern New York. To those lists, therefore, should here be added the following 40 species:

#### PERMANENT RESIDENTS:

Canada Ruffed Grouse  
Cooper's Hawk  
Bald Eagle  
Long-eared Owl

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\*Dr. Edward W. Jones, who, accompanied by the author, inspected this nest, has furnished from his record the date stated.

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Short-eared Owl  
Barred Owl  
Great Horned Owl

SUMMER RESIDENTS:

Osprey  
Broad-winged Hawk  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Alder Flycatcher  
Savannah Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
Indigo Bunting  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Pine Warbler  
Water-Thrush  
Canada Warbler  
Long-billed Marsh Wren  
Hermit Thrush

TRANSIENT VISITANTS:

Rusty Blackbird  
Worm-eating Warbler  
Nashville Warbler  
Cerulean Warbler  
Black-poll Warbler  
Yellow Palm Warbler  
Wilson's Warbler  
Pipit  
Gray-cheeked Thrush  
Olive-backed Thrush

WINTER VISITANTS:

Goshawk\*  
Snowy Owl  
Evening Grosbeak\*  
Pine Grosbeak\*  
Crossbill\*  
White-winged Crossbill\*  
Redpoll  
Snow Bunting  
Northern Shrike  
Winter Wren

---

## HINTS ON FINDING AND NAMING BIRDS

Carry a pencil and pocket memorandum book and use them on the spot. A field glass or an opera glass is a great help. It is best to dress plainly, and well to wear waterproof shoes. If the sun shines brightly try to keep it at your back, so that your birds shall be in a favorable light. The earliest and the latest hours of daylight are best, morning preferred for most species. Above all *aim to see particularly and distinctly*. General and inaccurate impressions are of little or no use. When still in doubt of a species on reaching home consult as soon as possible an authentic book\* or, if you have one, an ornithological friend. You will accomplish most if you go afield alone or with one agreeable companion. This study demands great patience, a reasonable amount of caution, and at least some common sense.

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\*See Introduction.

## BIRD VOICES

The voices of birds play a prominent part in the identification of birds in the field, particularly in subsequent meetings with birds which we have already come to know. It seems to the writer that the voices of our common birds are more distinctive, generally speaking, than their colors. And yet, as with the speech of individual persons, it is no simple task to convey to another descriptions of these voices which will prove of practical guidance to the identity of their owners. Various methods of expression have been tried. Musical notation and written words are successful in some cases. But this is a large subject and requires, if it is to be of any practical value, too much space and detail to be more than touched on here.\*

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\* For detailed and helpful descriptions of bird voices, "Fieldbook of Wild Birds and Their Music" (Mathews) is recommended.

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It is attempted in the following lists to summarize the more outstanding voices, particularly in cases where such voices are comparatively important as aids to identification.

Birds having songs remarkable for *volume, scope, copiousness*:

Bob-o-link  
Brown Thrasher  
Catbird

Songs of *refined* or *spiritual* quality:

Thrushes

*Typical songs, striking, musical*:

Purple Finch  
Goldfinch  
Meadowlark  
House Wren  
Warbling Vireo  
Fox Sparrow  
Water-Thrush

Notes heard by day of an *unmusical, weird, striking, or "unbird-like"* quality:

Bald Eagle  
Blue Jay  
Hawks  
Bronzed Grackle  
Belted Kingfisher  
Mourning Dove  
Kildeer Plover  
Northern Flicker  
Upland Plover  
Towhee  
Crested Flycatcher  
Cuckoos  
Chebec

Notes *not unmusical, but simple, distinctive* or *suggesting spoken words*:

Chick-a-dee  
Ovenbird

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Wood Pewee  
White-throated Sparrow

Night songs or notes:

Barred Owl  
Great Horned Owl  
Screech Owl  
Whip-poor-will  
Nighthawk

### BRIGHTLY COLORED BIRDS

NOTE—The FEMALES of most of these are comparatively DULL-COLORED; see descriptions here given.

Group 1—Birds in Which Red or Orange is Prominent (page 16).

Group 2—Birds in Which Yellow Is Prominent (page 20).

Group 3—Birds in Which Blue Predominates (page 22).

Group 4—Small Birds in Which No One Color Greatly Predominates (page 24).

#### GROUP 1—RED OR ORANGE

406. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER — *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.

Length  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Entire head red, underparts white (see frontispiece).

498. Red-winged Blackbird (see page 33).

507. BALTIMORE ORIOLE—*Icterus galbula*.

Length  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Male—Orange and black (see frontispiece).  
Female—Upper parts brownish orange; head and back mottled with black; wings blackish, trimmed with white, under parts dull orange, sometimes spotted with black on throat; tail paler and duller than in male (see frontispiece).

\*Chiefly winter visitants, but irregular in their occurrence.



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In shade trees and groves; builds hanging nest, commonly in elms and maples. Has a short and rather simple song, but of rich tone.



Pine Grosbeak (Male)

515. PINE GROSBK—*Pinicola enucleator leucura*.

Length  $9\frac{1}{8}$  inches; nearly robin-size.

Bill large, short. Male—General color red, in places mixed with grayish; wings and tail blackish, wings trimmed with white. Female—Body slaty gray and olive-yellow; wings and tail like male.

A tame bird, usually found in small flocks, in winter in mountain ash or other fruit-bearing trees.

517. PURPLE FINCH—*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*.

Sparrow-size; length  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

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Male—Body deep rose-red (see frontispiece).  
Female—Plain, sparrow-like; underparts white, heavily streaked with blackish; upperparts dull brown, streaked with black, a whitish line over eye.

The song is a sweet and varied warble. A stout little bird; feeds largely on the berries of trees, in flocks except in summer. Call-note a low "hol-low" whistle.

521. CROSSBILL—*Loxia curvirostra minor*.

Sparrow-size; length  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Male—Body dull red; wings and tail blackish.  
Female—Dull olive-green, mixed with blackish on upperparts and with white on under parts; wings and tail similar to male.

Seen mostly in winter in flocks in coniferous trees, but irregular. Upper and lower mandibles crossed near their tips.

522. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL—*Loxia leucoptera*.

Sparrow-size; length 6 inches.

Male—Rosy in general color; whitish on middle belly; wings and tail black; wings with two white bars. Female—Body largely olive and yellow; wings and tail like male.

Habits similar to the preceding, bill similar.

595. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK—*Zamelodia ludoviciana*.

Length  $8\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

Male—Breast rose-red; head black (see frontispiece). Female—Like female of No. 517 (which see); a pale line through center of crown.

A bird of the leafy trees. Call note a sharp *peek, peek*; song sweet, joyous; resembles the Baltimore oriole's and purple finch's combined.

608. SCARLET TANGER—*Piranga erythromelas*.

Length  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Male—Body all scarlet (see frontispiece). Female—Upper parts olive-green; wings and tail blackish; under parts greenish yellow.

---

The male is the most gorgeous of our common birds. Inhabits woods and groves of maple, oak and so on. Song loud, rich—his color expressed in music.

662. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER—*Dendroica fusca*.  
Smaller than sparrow; length  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Male—Various patches and stripes of orange, yellow, white (see frontispiece). Female—Like the male in color-pattern, but paler in general, less white on wings and tail.

Mingles with other warblers in the budding trees of spring; stands out as one of the most beautiful of them.

687. REDSTART—*Setophaga ruticilla*.

Smaller than sparrow; length  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Male—Orange, black and white (see frontispiece). Female—Color-pattern like male; but yellow instead of salmon, head grayish; back greenish gray.

Inhabits leafy woods. Song like that of common yellow warbler. A summer resident. The male is one of the most beautiful of our birds.

GROUP 2—YELLOW



Goldfinch (Male in Winter Plumage)

529. GOLDFINCH—*Astragalinus tristis tristis*.

Small sparrow-size; length  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

Male—Body bright yellow; top of head, wings and tail black, the wings barred and trimmed with white; white on inside of tail. Female—General color-pattern, except top of head, similar to male; upper parts yellowish brown; under parts dull yellow; wings less black than in male. Male *in winter* resembles female.

Flies in long, sweeping undulations, uttering sweet call-notes; song very sweet, canary-like. Found in open places; feeds on thistle seeds, sunflower seeds and so on.

628. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO—*Lani-vereo Flavi-frons*.

Sparrow-size; length 6 inches.

---

Breast, throat and around eye bright yellow; upperparts bright olive-green, becoming gray towards tail; two white bars on wing; inner wing feathers edged with white; belly white.

Clearly distinguished from other vireos by the brightly colored breast.

652. YELLOW WARBLER — *Dendroica aestiva aestiva*.

Smaller than sparrow; length  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

Male—Largely yellow (see frontispiece). Female—Similar to male, the markings less distinct or absent.

A common summer resident of garden, lawn and orchard as well as of wild growths of shrubbery. Not a timid bird, but, like most warblers, always on the move. The song is sweet and high-pitched—a typical warbler song.

686. CANADA WARBLER—*Wilsonia canadensis*.

Smaller than sparrow; length  $5\frac{5}{8}$  inches.

Male—Underparts yellow; black spots across the breast; yellow between eye and bill; side of neck black; rest of plumage plain gray, marked with black on crown. Female—Similar, but without black; spots on breast much paler.

A summer resident, low in wet woods, nesting *on ground*. The song is rather simple but loud and ringing for a warbler. In spring the bird mingles with other warblers in drier woods.

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### GROUP 3—BLUE

477. BLUE JAY—*Cyanocitta cristita cristita*.

Robin-size (larger); length  $11\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Crested; upperparts dull blue; wings and tail bright blue; underparts whitish; outer tail feathers white-tipped; inner wing feathers white-tipped and white-barred; a broken irregular festoon of black crossing forehead and breast.

The only distinctly blue bird of such large size. The notes are many, but nearly all are harsh. The most common call-note is a very loud *jay, jay*.

Mostly a bird of the woods. Usually timid.

598. INDIGO BUNTING—*Passerina cyanea*.

Sparrow-size (small); length  $5\frac{5}{8}$  inches.

Male—Rich, deep blue; blackish towards base of bill, wings and tail largely black. Female—Quite different. Upperparts grayish brown; underparts light, washed and streaked with grayish; belly white; wings and tail blackish, feathers margined lighter.

Haunts—Tangles of bushes, especially along edges of woods. The male usually selects a rather high perch from which to sing, often repeating the song over and over many times from the same place. The female usually stays among the bushes and tall weeds where her nest is built.

654. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER—*Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*.

Smaller than sparrow; length  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Male—Upperparts mostly blue, throat and sides black (see frontispiece). Female—Upper parts olive-green; little white at base of main wing feathers; underparts dull buffy yellowish; sides of head dusky gray.

658. CERULEAN WARBLER—*Dendroica cerulea*.

Smaller than sparrow; length  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Male—Upperparts light blue; under parts white, a bluish black band across the breast; sides streaked with bluish black; two white wing-bars;

---

white patches near tips of most of tail feathers; sides of head and back streaked with black. Female—Upper parts dull olive-green; wings and tail similar to male; underparts white, usually tinged with yellowish.



Bluebird (Male)

766. BLUEBIRD—*Sialia sialis sialis*.

Length 7 inches.

Male—Upper parts, including wings and tail, bright blue; under parts reddish brown, except

---

white belly and under tail coverts. Female—Like male, but paler and much duller.

The song notes resemble the syllables *pure-er*, *pure-er*. The only bird of about its size that is largely blue.

**GROUP 4—SMALL BIRDS, NO ONE COLOR GREATLY  
PREDOMINATING**

655. MYRTLE WARBLER—*Dendroica coronata*.

Smaller than sparrow; length  $5\frac{5}{8}$  inches.

Male—Yellow on each side of breast and on rump and crown; upperparts bluish gray, streaked with black; two white wing-bars; outer wing feathers with white spots near their tips; breast and upper belly heavily marked black; rest of under parts white. Female—Similar, less black below; upper parts more brown.

657. MAGNOLIA WARBLER—*Dendroica magnolia*.

Smaller than sparrow; length  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

Male—Underparts yellow, marked with black, a large white patch on wings, a white spot above eye; back black (see frontispiece). Female—Similar, colors duller and not so clean-cut; back greenish.

659. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER — *Dendroica pensylvanica*.

Smaller than sparrow; length  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

Male—A broad stripe of chestnut along each side (see frontispiece). Female—Similar, rather duller in color.

A summer resident in the lower growth of our woods; local in distribution.

667. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER—*Dendroica virens*.

Smaller than sparrow; length  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

Male—Sides of head bright yellow, throat black, sides striped with black (see frontispiece). Female—Similar, the black of throat and breast mixed with yellowish.



1

2



6

### TREE-CLIMBERS AND -CREEPERS (Male)

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Downy Woodpecker         | 4. Brown Creeper           |
| 2. Black and White Warbler  | 5. Red-breasted Nuthatch   |
| 3. Hairy Woodpecker         | 6. White-breasted Nuthatch |
| 7. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker |                            |

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## TREE-CLIMBERS AND -CREEPERS

393. HAIRY WOODPECKER—*Dryobates villosus villosus*.

Length  $9\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

Male—Upperparts black and white; underparts white; red on back of head. Female very similar, but without red on head.

Notes louder and harsher than those of the smaller and more common Downy Woodpecker. A permanent resident.

394c. DOWNY WOODPECKER—*Dryobates pubescens medianus*.

Sparrow-size; length  $6\frac{7}{8}$  inches.

Male—Upperparts black and white; underparts white; red on back of head. Female closely similar, but no red on head.

This is the common little black and white woodpecker found all the year round. See number 393.

402. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER—*Sphyrapicus varius varius*.

Length  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Male—Most of underparts washed with yellow and barred with black; throat and top of head red. Female—Without red throat; otherwise like male.

Most abundant as a migrant in spring. It is this woodpecker which drills the *circles of holes* round tree trunks.

406. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (See frontispiece).



Northern Flicker

412a. NORTHERN FLICKER — *Colaptes auratus luteus*.

Robin-size, larger. Length 12 inches.

Male—A large black patch across the breast; rump white (showing conspicuously in flight); underparts buffy with round black spots; tail mostly yellow below; a black stripe on the side of the throat; bright red on back of neck; back brownish gray, barred with black. Female—Similar, but without black streaks at sides of throat.

Often seen *on ground* in quest of ants. This woodpecker has a great variety of calls, also many local names; of the latter, "high-holer" is perhaps the most familiar.

636. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER—*Mniotilta varia*.

Smaller than sparrow. Length  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Male—Black and white. Female—Similar to male, but without black throat.

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Has the habit, unique among warblers, of climbing about the trunks and larger branches much in the manner of a nuthatch.

726. BROWN CREEPER—*Certhia familiaris Americana*.

Smaller than sparrow. Length  $5\frac{5}{8}$  inches.

Upperparts brownish gray mixed with blackish and white; underparts white.

An easy bird to overlook as it creeps over the tree trunk, clinging closely like a living scale of the gray bark; its note is a high-pitched lisp.

727. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH—*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*.

Sparrow-size. Length  $6\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

Male—Upperparts mostly bluish gray; underparts and sides of head white; lower belly and under tail-coverts brownish red; top of head glossy black. Female—Similar, but top of head more like back.

Climbs up and down tree trunks, always progressing head first. Has several distinctive notes.

728. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH—*Sitta canadensis*.

Smaller than sparrow. Length  $4\frac{5}{8}$  inches.

Male—Upperparts bluish gray; black stripe on side of head, passing through eye, and top of head black; underparts buffy. Female—Similar, but top of head and stripe on side of head bluish gray; underparts paler.

See habits of number 727. call-notes feeble.

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## SMALL SAILING AND SKIMMING BIRDS

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Barn Swallow         | 4. Purple Martin (female) |
| 2. Tree Swallow         | 5. Bank Swallow           |
| 3. Rough-winged Swallow | 6. Purple Martin (male)   |
| 7. Cliff Swallow        |                           |

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## SMALL SAILING AND SKIMMING BIRDS

(Swallows.)

See plate three

611. PURPLE MARTIN—*Progne subis subis*.

Length 8 inches.

Male—Glossy black with brilliant bluish and purple reflections. Female—Upperparts duller than male; underparts brownish gray, except white belly.

The largest of the swallow family. Often nests in colonies in bird-houses and under the cornices of office buildings.

612. CLIFF SWALLOW—*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*.

Sparrow-size. Length 6 inches.

Forehead whitish; throat and sides of head chestnut; upper tail-coverts buffy; tail *nearly square*.

Builds mud nests under the eaves on the *outside* of barns; nests in colonies.

613. BARN SWALLOW—*Hirundo erythrogaster*.

Sparrow-size. Length 7 inches.

Male—Tail *deeply forked*; upper breast, throat and forehead bright chestnut; lower breast and below the same, except lighter; upperparts steel-blue. Female—Similar.

Nests *inside* the barn or other building; the nest, of mud, cup-like, open at the top.

614. TREE SWALLOW—*Iridoprocne bicolor*.

Sparrow-size. Length  $5\frac{7}{8}$  inches.

Upperparts steel-blue or steel-green; underparts white.

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In early summer found in scattered pairs which nest in hollow trees, stumps, fence-posts, bird-boxes.

616. BANK SWALLOW *Riparia riparia*.

Sparrow-size. Length  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Upperparts brownish gray; underparts white; a dark band across the breast.

Nests in colonies which honey-comb sandy banks of rivers, sand pits and railroad cuts with the tunneling of their nesting chambers.

617. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW — *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*.

Sparrow-size. Length  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Upperparts brownish gray, paler on throat and breast; belly white.

Resembles somewhat the Bank Swallow, but lacks the breast-band and white throat; sometimes nests about bridges and similar structures as well as in sandy banks.

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## BIRDS ENTIRELY OR MOSTLY BLACK



Crow

488. CROW—*Corvus Brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*.

Length  $19\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Black, glossy with blue and purple reflections above; underparts duller, but black.

Much the *largest* of any of our *common black birds*.

495. COWBIRD—*Molothrus ater ater*.

Larger than sparrow. Length 8 inches.

Male—Head and neck dark brown; rest of plumage glossy black with metallic reflections. Female—Dull brownish gray, paler below; a very plain bird.

Often seen in small flocks about cattle in the pasture. The male has the habit of extending his feathers in a remarkable way while uttering cer-





Cowbird

tain of his notes. No nest is made; the eggs are laid in the nests of other small birds, especially sparrows and warblers.

498. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD—*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*.

Somewhat smaller than robin. Length  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Male—"Shoulder" bright red, its outer border buffy and whitish; rest of plumage black, glossy with metallic luster above. Female—A dark striped bird; head and back streaked with black, rusty and buffy; wings blackish edged with buffy; under parts black and white streaked; throat tinged with yellowish.

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A marsh bird; nests among the flags or bushes, sometimes along streams having little or no swampy character.

509. RUSTY BLACKBIRD—*Euphagus carolinus*.

Length  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Eye pale yellow, apparently whitish.

Male—Glossy bluish black. Female—Slate-color, glossy above, dull below; wings and tail more glossy, darker.

In flocks in spring and autumn in marshy places.

511b. BRONZED GRACKLE—*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*.

Robin-size, larger. Length about 12 inches.

Male—Upper breast, throat, neck, head, varying from brilliant purple to bluish green or steel-blue; back metallic bronze; wings and tail metallic purplish or glossy bluish black; lower breast and belly like back, but duller. Female—Much duller; back and belly brownish, less glossy.

The common or crow-blackbird. It has a habit of greatly expanding its plumage while it utters its grating, squeaky notes.

611. PURPLE MARTIN.

Length 8 inches.

(See page 30.)

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## BIRDS DISTINCTLY MARKED



**Killdeer Plover**

273. KILLDEER PLOVER—*Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*.

Length  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

A long-winged, long-legged bird. Underparts, forehead and spot behind eye white; a black band on neck and one on upper breast; black on upper crown and before eyes; rump and upper tail-coverts rich light buffy; crown and back grayish brown.

Common on wet mud flats and on river and lake shores in spring and autumn. In summer nesting pairs occur in high pasture lands. The notes, *Kildeer, Kildeer*, or *Kildee, Kildee*, are loud and readily identify the species.

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331. MARSH HAWK—*Circus hudsonius*.

Length, male 19 inches; female 22 inches.

Male—Upper tail-coverts white, forming a distinct white patch; upper parts gray or ashy; tail barred with blackish; upper breast light gray; lower breast and belly white, spotted or barred with pale reddish brown. Female—a white patch over tail; upperparts blackish; head and neck streaked with reddish brown; wing-coverts marked with the same; underparts buffy, streaked with blackish; barred tail.

This is the hawk that courses back and forth low over the marsh or other open place, where the white rump-patch, long, rather pointed wings and graceful sweeping flight serve unmistakably to identify the species. The female is noticeably *larger* and in general *darker* than the male.

444. KINGBIRD—*Tyrannus tyrannus*.

Length  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

(See illustration, page 75.)

A broad white tip on the black tail; upperparts dark grayish slate, blackish on head and just over tail; underparts white, washed with gray on breast.

A bird of the orchard and roadside; fond of chasing larger birds, especially crows; often selects, like other flycatchers, a perch which commands a wide outlook; the dead upper branches of orchard trees, fence posts and telegraph wires are favorite resting places. The notes are loud and harsh and are sometimes repeated insistently.



**Bobolink**

494. BOBOLINK—*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.

Length  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Male—Black, with buffy yellow patch covering back of head; lower back and rump white or whitish; a large white patch over wing at its base; upper back streaked with black and buffy yellow. Female—Very different. Upperparts buffy, streaked with black; crown blackish with buffy stripe through its center; neck streaked with black; tail and wings blackish, the wing feathers edged and tipped with pale buffy or yellowish; under-

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parts pale buffy, spotted with blackish on sides and flanks.

A dweller in open fields and meadows. The male is known by its strikingly marked plumage and wonderful song. The female is sparrow-like in color and keeps mostly in cover of the grass, where her nest is hidden.



Vesper Sparrow

540. VESPER SPARROW — *Pooecetes gramineus gramineus*.

Length  $6\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

Outer tail feathers *white*, showing plainly in flight; "shoulders" reddish brown; underparts white breast and sides streaked with black and buffy; upperparts brownish, streaked with black.

The chosen haunts of this sparrow are pastures and open waste places. It runs before you; often it will fly on a short distance and await your approach, then fly again. Farm fences and telegraph wires are much favored when it seeks a perch from

which to sing. In flight, which is usually near the ground, the white outer tail feathers constitute a good field-mark.



Slate-colored Junco

567. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO—*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*.

Sparrow-size. Length  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Male—Upperparts, throat and breast grayish slate; belly white; sides grayish; no wing-bars; tail blackish, with outer feathers white; bill flesh-color. Female—Similar, paler; upper parts more brownish.

The white outer tail feathers in strong contrast to the other blackish feathers, and the dark slaty parts sharply separated from the white of the belly are unmistakable. The common call note is a distinctive sharp *chip*.



Fox Sparrow

585. FOX SPARROW—*Passerella iliaca iliaca*.

Sparrow-size, large. Length  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Upperparts rich reddish brown, upper tail-coverts and tail brighter; underparts white, *heavily streaked and spotted* with brown and blackish.

Distinctly a large reddish brown sparrow. This is the bird occasionally seen in spring or autumn scratching vigorously among the dry leaves in the thickets or at least under bushes. It is the finest singer among the sparrows, but we seldom hear its song.





Towhee

587. TOWHEE—*Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*.

Length  $8\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

Male—Sides rufous; belly white; upperparts, throat and breast black; wings and tail black, trimmed with white. Female—Upperparts, wings, throat and breast bright grayish brown; tail brownish, its outer feathers tipped with white; sides rufous, belly white.

Call-note, an unmistakable "tow-hee." The long black and white tail of this *ground* bird, and the distinct tri-color—rufous, black and white—of the plumage readily identify the Towhee. Like the Fox Sparrow, it is a vigorous scratcher among the underbrush.

636. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.

Smaller than sparrow.

(See page 25.)

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66I. BLACK-POLL WARBLER—*Dendroica striata*.

Smaller than sparrow. Length  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Male—Crown black; cheeks white; two white wing-bars; underparts white, streaked with black; outer tail-feathers with white patches at their tips; black streaks heavy on sides, disappearing on middle belly; back of neck streaked black and white; back and rump grayish, streaked with black. Female—Upperparts olive-green, streaked with black; wings and tail like male; underparts white, tinged with yellow; breast and sides distinctly streaked with black.

Resembles more nearly than any other the Black and White Warbler.

68I. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT — *Geothlypis trichas trichas*.

Smaller than sparrow. Length  $5\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

Male—Forehead and on sides of head black; throat and breast bright yellow, whitish on the belly; upperparts, wings and tail olive; *no* wing-bars or tail-patches; sides washed with brownish; under tail-coverts yellow. Female—Similar, but without the black on the head.

Unlike most warblers, this bird frequents rather open grassy or weedy places, the nest being placed among the tall weeds. The plain upperparts, wings and tail and the bright yellow of the throat and breast are distinguishing features, while the black face-patch of the male is an excellent field-mark.



Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Chickadee                      Ruby-crowned Kinglet

735. CHICKADEE—*Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*.

Smaller than sparrow. Length  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Top of head and the throat shining black; sides of head and neck white; back ashy; belly and sides washed with pale buffy.

A tame, saucy little bird of the trees, always on the go. Says *chick-a-dee*; has a spring song similar to that of the White-throated Sparrow. Like other titmice, it has a habit while feeding of hanging back downwards from the twigs.

755. WOOD THRUSH—*Hylocichla mustelina*.

Length  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Upperparts rich cinnamon-brown, *brightest on the head*, and obscured by olive-brown on the upper tail-coverts and tail; underparts white, *thickly speckled with very distinct round black spots*, except on throat and middle of lower belly.

From the other thrushes of the woods the Wood Thrush is distinguished by its larger size, the

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*brighter* brown of the upper parts and the distinctness and size of the black spots on the *clear white* of the underparts, including the sides.

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## BIRDS OF DISTINCTIVE OUTLINE OR FORM.

228. AMERICAN WOODCOCK—*Philohela minor*.

Length 11 inches.

Very long, straight bill; very short tail; a buffy or brownish bird. Upperparts mottled black, slaty and buffy; back of head black, crossed by two or three narrow buffy bars; a blackish line down the center of the light forehead; a black line from eye to bill. Underparts rich buff.

This *snipe*, unlike its near relatives, is a bird of the alder thickets and other bushy places, where the ground is low and wet. Here it probes in the mud for worms with its long bill. It is seldom seen until it rises on its whistling wings, often almost at your feet; then it appears as a brown bird about the size of a robin, which darts upward above the bushes, then straight off over their tops.

261. UPLAND PLOVER—*Bartramia longicauda*.

Larger than robin. Length 11½ inches.

A long-winged, long-legged bird of the open fields. Belly white or whitish, breast and sides buffy, barred with black, back and wing-coverts buffy, barred with black; main wing-feathers blackish, outer one barred with white; head and neck finely streaked with black and buffy.

Has striking call-notes, one a long drawn weird whistle, one a frog-like bubbling call. In the nesting season it often soars at a great height and there utters its far-reaching whistle. Like some of its relatives, it has the habit of holding its long wings extended over its back for awhile after alighting.

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It often selects a fence-post for a look-out station, and here its long legs and general long geared appearance and its large size serve to identify it.

263. SPOTTED SANDPIPER—*Actitis macularia*.

Smaller than robin. Length  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

A long-legged, long, slender-winged little bird. Underparts white, spotted everywhere with black; upperparts brownish gray with a greenish tinge; head and neck streaked with black; back barred or spotted with black; outer tail-feathers white, with blackish bars.

A bird of the river and lake shores. Has a habit of "tectering" its tail. It flies low over the water on rapidly vibrating wings, while it utters its unmistakable "tweet, tweet-e-e-e-t."

316. MOURNING DOVE—*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*.

Larger than robin. Length  $11\frac{7}{8}$  inches.

A long-tailed bird. Upperparts olive brownish, forehead paler; breast pale buffy; belly creamy; outer tail-feathers tipped with white; sides of neck with metallic reflections; a small black mark on the side of the head.

The wings of this bird make a *whistling* sound in flight. Usually a quiet bird. Its note is a peculiar brooding "coo-oo-oo-oo." The flight is rapid and straight. The long pointed tail is conspicuous whether the bird is in flight or at rest.

387. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO—*Coccyzus americanus americanus*.

Length  $12\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Upperparts brownish gray, tinged with greenish; main wing-feathers *rufous*, except at their tips; underparts whitish; bill black, but the lower mandible mostly yellow; outer tail-feathers black, conspicuously tipped with white; outer edge of outer tail-feather white.

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A long, slender bird, of elusive gliding flight. He does *not* say "cuckoo," but something like *cluck-uck-uck-uk-uk, coow, coow, coow, coow*. When seen at all he is pretty sure to be skulking in the bushes or low leafy trees or in flight from one such covert to another.

388. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO—*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*.

Length  $11\frac{7}{8}$  inches.

Resembles number 387 in nearly all respects, and it is usually difficult when not impossible to distinguish either species in life in the field. The present species differs from the former (which see), chiefly in having a black bill and the tail *narrowly* tipped with white; wings and tail grayish brown like the back.

The voice of the Black-bill is softer and the notes more connected than in the Yellow-bill. Both species *do* make nests of their own, tho these nests are rude affairs of coarse sticks, lined with a little softer material. The eggs are dull blue.



**Belted Kingfisher**

390. BELTED KINGFISHER—*Ceryle alcyon*.

Larger than robin. Length 13 inches.

Conspicuous "top-knot." Male—Upperparts bluish. Underparts mostly white; throat and sides of neck white, appearing like a white collar; bluish gray band across the breast; white spot before the eye; bill large, straight. Female—Similar, but sides and a band on belly rufous.

Has a loud, rattling call. Found along waterways. Often hovers over the water on rapidly beating wings before plunging down for fish; likes to perch on a dead branch over the water, or on the peak of a boat-house. It tunnels into sandy banks and lays its eggs in a chamber hollowed out at the end of this tunnel.

613. BARN SWALLOW.

Sparrow-size (see page 30).

619. CEDAR WAXING—*Bombycilla cedrorum*.

Length  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

A long crest. Upperparts rich grayish brown; breast similar, changing into yellowish on belly;

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tail tipped with yellow; forehead, chin and a line through eye black; wings and tail gray; secondary wing feathers often with narrow red, wax-like tips.

Usually seen in small compact flocks, except in summer. The common call-note is a very fine high-pitched whistle. Sometimes remains through the winter, when its usual food is mountain ash and other tree berries. The *long, slender* crest and yellow-tipped tail are diagnostic characters.

## OWLS

366. LONG-EARED OWL—*Asio wilsonianus*.

Length  $14\frac{7}{8}$  inches.

Long ear-tufts; upperparts blackish brown, mottled with white and buffy; tail with 6 to 8 blackish bars; face buffy, bordered with black; under parts white and buffy; breast broadly streaked, sides and belly irregularly barred, with blackish; eyes yellow.

Not a timid owl, and often may be closely approached.

367. SHORT-EARED OWL—*Asio flammeus*.

Length  $15\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Male—Ear-tufts very small, apparently wanting. Upperparts mottled buffy, creamy and blackish; tail with alternate buffy and blackish bands; underparts whitish, breast broadly and belly finely streaked with blackish; eyes yellow. Female—Similar; under parts rich buffy.

A pale, rather small owl. Unlike other owls, this is a bird of the open, hiding in the long grass of marshy places. It rises noiselessly almost at your feet and flies off low over the marsh.

338. BARRED OWL—*Strix varia varia*.

Large. Length 20 inches.

No ear-tufts; upperparts grayish brown, with numerous light bars; underparts white, breast



*barred*, sides and belly broadly *streaked* with blackish; eyes deep brown, apparently black; face gray, finely barred with blackish; legs, feet and toes feathered.

A large gray owl, with apparently *black* eyes; the smooth round head is another striking character.



Screech Owl

373. SCREECH OWL—*Otus asio asio*.

A small owl. Length  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Individuals may be reddish or grayish. Reddish phase—Upperparts bright rufous, finely streaked with black; underparts white, feathers streaked with black and barred with rufous; eyes bright yellow. Gray phase—Upperparts brownish gray, streaked with black and mottled finely with buffy; underparts white, finely streaked and finely barred with black, bordered with some rufous.

The smallest of our common owls; seen in various sorts of places, as in trees and on or about buildings, both in and out of towns. Its weird,

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tremulous notes at sun-set or later are characteristic.



**Great Horned Owl**

375. GREAT HORNED OWL—*Bubo virginianus virginianus*.

Very large. Length 22 inches.

Conspicuous ear-tufts; upperparts mottled buffy and black; face rich buff, white patch on throat; underparts buffy, thickly barred with black.

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A big grayish brown, mottled, "eared" owl. Its common call is a loud hoot; *whoo*, hoo- hoo, hoo, whooo, whooo.

376. SNOWY OWL—*Nyctea nyctea*.

Large. Length 25 inches.

*White*, but more or less barred with blackish or grayish brown; legs, feet and toes heavily feathered; eyes yellow; no ear-tufts.

A big white owl; cannot be mistaken for any other; a winter visitant. This owl is active during the *day*.

(If not in the foregoing groups:)

### BIRDS OF ROBIN SIZE OR LARGER

325. BALD EAGLE—*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*.

Length, male  $32\frac{7}{8}$  inches; female  $35\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Head, neck and tail white, the rest of plumage blackish; bill yellow; *not* feathered to toes.

Immature specimens are without white on the head and neck; the tail is only marked with white; bill black.

364. OSPREY—*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*.

Length  $23\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

Male—Underparts white, breast sometimes spotted with brownish; upperparts blackish; head and back of neck varied with white. Female—Similar, but the breast always spotted with grayish brown.

This is the Fish Hawk; much the largest of our hawks. It is seen near lakes and rivers.

334. GOSHAWK—*Astur atricapillus atricapillus*.

A very large hawk. Length, male 22 inches; female 24 inches. Upperparts bluish slate; head blackish; a white line over and behind eye; underparts everywhere evenly barred with gray and

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white, the feathers of throat and breast with blackish streaks; inner tail-feathers like back, outer ones blackish, tip whitish.

The flight of this hawk is straight, *not soaring*; and its manner is bold, especially when in pursuit of its prey, which consists largely of game and domestic fowls.



Red-shouldered Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

337. RED-TAILED HAWK—*Buteo borealis borealis*.  
A large hawk. Length, male 20 inches; female  
23 inches.

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Tail, above, rich rufous; a narrow black band near its end, tip white; upper breast heavily streaked with grayish brown and buffy; lower breast lightly or not at all streaked; upper belly heavily marked with blackish; lower belly white; upperparts dark grayish brown, edged with buffy and whitish.

This is the *larger* of our two common *soaring* hawks. From the following species it may be distinguished also by the reddish tail, heavily mottled upper belly, and *lack* of rufous on the wing-coverts. The call, a long harsh whistle, is also distinctive.

339. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK—*Buteo lineatus lineatus*.

A large hawk. Length, male  $18\frac{1}{4}$  inches; female  $20\frac{3}{8}$  inches. (See cut, page 52.)

“Shoulders” *rufous*; underparts rufous or buffy, barred with white or whitish; throat streaked with blackish; upperparts blackish brown, edged with buffy and whitish; main wing-feathers barred with black and white; tail blackish with four or five white bars and a white tip.

A common *soaring* hawk. Its usual call-note is a harshly whistled *kee-you, kee-you*; it is frequently and closely imitated by the Blue Jay. Its chosen haunts are low wet woodlands. See number 337.

343. BROAD-WINGED HAWK—*Buteo platypterus platypterus*.

Length, male  $15\frac{7}{8}$  inches; female  $16\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Underparts *heavily* barred with brownish buff; upperparts dark grayish brown or blackish, margined with buffy and rufous; tail blackish, two bars and the tip grayish white.

For a hawk, this bird is very unsuspecting and often may be closely approached. Usually I find it on a low branch well within the woods.

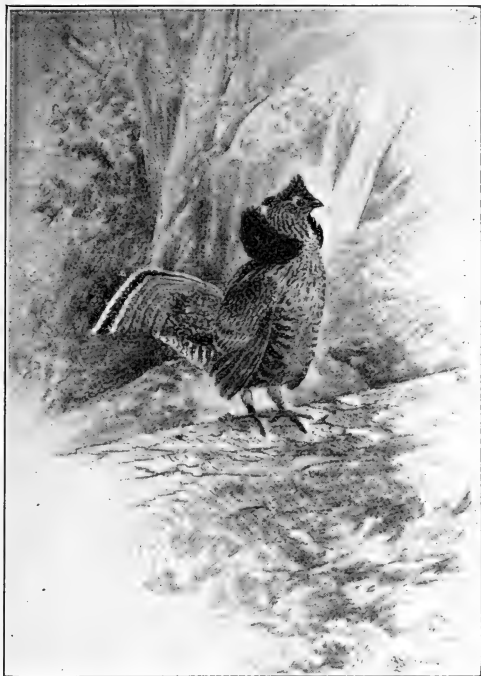
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333. COOPER'S HAWK—*Accipiter cooperi*.

Length, male 15½ inches; female 19 inches.

Upperparts slaty gray; main wing-feathers barred with blackish; tail *rounded*, ashy gray with blackish bars, white tip; throat white, streaked with blackish; underparts thickly barred with white and buffy or rufous; crown blackish.

This is a stealthy hawk, *not* given to soaring; he stands motionless in a *leafy* tree, watching for feathered prey; or, if seen going or coming, his manner "means business." Though *smaller* than the so-called Hen Hawks, this bird is much more destructive to poultry.



Ruffed Grouse

300. RUFFED GROUSE—*Bonasa umbellus umbellus*.

Length 17 inches.

Male—Upperparts rufous, varied with black, gray, buffy and whitish; underparts whitish and buffy, barred with blackish; tail gray to rufous,

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barred with black, a broad band of black near the tip; a tuft of broad glossy black feathers on each side of the neck. Female—Similar, but the neck-tufts smaller and brownish.

Commonly called the Partridge. A royal game-bird; its haunt is the deep woods; it rises from the ground before you, startling you with the roar of its wings; its flight is swift, and bullet-like in its course. Its celebrated "drumming" is a low, mysterious rumble, heard most regularly near sunrise and sunset in spring, but often also in summer and autumn at all times of day.

300a. CANADA RUFFED GROUSE—*Bonasa umbellus togata*.

Similar to number 300; but the prevailing color of *upperparts gray*; underparts more distinctly barred; tail generally gray.

332. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK—*Accipiter velox*.

A small hawk. Length, male 11¼ inches; female 13½ inches.

Tail nearly *square* at end; crown like back. Otherwise a "small edition" of number 333, which see.

Habits similar to number 333, but necessarily preys mostly on smaller birds.





**Sparrow Hawk**

360. SPARROW HAWK—*Falco sparverius sparverius*.

Robin-size. Length 10 inches.

Male—Back rufous, barred with black; tail rufous, black band near its end, tip white; head

slaty blue, rufous spot on crown; two black marks on each side of the head; under parts buffy, belly and sides *spotted* with black; wing-coverts slaty blue; main wing feathers blackish, barred with white. Female—Back, tail and wing-coverts rufous, barred with black; head like male; under parts heavily streaked with dark buffy.

The small size of this hawk, together with its *long, pointed wings*, serves to distinguish it from the male Sharp-shin when in flight. It may often be seen on an upper branch in a tall dead tree, where it usually stands bolt upright, its relatively long tail pointing about straight downward. Its eggs are laid in a hollow tree, usually in an old woodpecker's hole. The note is a quickly repeated *Killy-Killy-Killy-Killy*, and cannot be mistaken when once learned.



Brown Thrasher

Catbird

705. BROWN THRASHER—*Toxostoma refum.*

Robin-size, larger. Length  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Upperparts, wings and tail rufous; two white wing-bars; underparts white, heavily streaked

with blackish, except on throat and middle of belly.

A very long-tailed bird of a rich reddish brown above. The song is highly remarkable; it is loud and wonderfully varied. This is a bird of the bushes and thickets.



Meadowlark

501. MEADOWLARK—*Sturnella magna magna*.

Robin-size, larger. Length  $10\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

*Outer tail-feathers mainly white*; throat, breast and middle of upper belly bright yellow; a black crescent on breast; upperparts mottled black and brown; a buffy line through center of crown; sides and lower belly whitish, spotted or streaked with black.

A bird of the open fields and meadows; the flight is straight on sailing or rapidly beating wings; the song is a musical far-reaching whistle; there are several distinguishing call-notes. The

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white outer tail-feathers show plainly as seen against the usual background.

621. NORTHERN SHRIKE—*Lanius borealis*.

Robin-size. Length  $10\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

Upperparts gray; wings and tail black; wings trimmed with white; tail tipped with white, the white broadest on outer feathers; a black patch on side of head; underparts white, finely barred with black.

A winter visitant. This is a gray and black bird, wings and *long* tail marked with white. The wings appear small and rounded, as they are, in flight. While with us its food consists of mice and smaller birds; these it impales on the thorns of trees, a habit which has given it the name of Butcher-bird in common with the following species which it resembles in general appearance.



Migrant Shrike

622e. MIGRANT SHRIKE—*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*.

Robin-size, smaller. Length 9 inches.

Upperparts gray, wings and tail black, trimmed with white as in number 621, which see; black patch on side of head; underparts white, perhaps tinged with gray.

A summer resident. Feeds on large insects as well as mice, moles and small birds. See habits of the preceding species, which it resembles.

420. NIGHTHAWK—*Chordeiles virginianus virginianus*.

Male—Upperparts mottled black and buffy; main wing-feathers blackish with a large white central patch; tail blackish with buffy bars, a white

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band near the tips of the outer feathers; throat white; chin and upper breast black; rest of underparts barred with black and white, sometimes tinged with buff. Female—Similar, but no white on tail; throat-patch buffy; underparts washed with buffy.

The Nighthawk is the long-winged bird that flies about erratically in summer evenings, uttering its weird calls, now and then swooping earthward with a booming sound caused by the rush of air through its rigid wings. It passes the day, ordinarily, resting in a prone position on a roof, horizontal branch or on a flat rock; yet it is often to be seen in flight high overhead and heard calling, as it hunts its insect food even at midday.

417. WHIP-POOR-WILL — *Antrastomus vociferus vociferus*.

Robin-size. Length  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Male—Upperparts streaked with black; head finely mottled with black and white; end *half* of three outer tail-feathers *white*; belly cream-buff, irregularly barred with blackish; main wing-feathers black, with *rufous* bars; central tail-feathers irregularly barred with black and mottled with buffy and whitish; back mottled with buffy and black; a narrow white band across upper breast. Female—Similar, but outer tail-feathers narrowly tipped with buffy; throat-band buffy instead of white.

The Whip-poor-will keeps on or near the ground. In general appearance it resembles the Nighthawk, but is a rather *brownish* bird, the Nighthawk grayish. Its call, *Whip-poor-will*, is unmistakable. It is active only at night or at least in the hours of dusk.



**Robin**

761. ROBIN—*Planesticus migratorius migratorius*.

Length 10 inches.

Breast *rufous*; middle of lower belly white; top and sides of head black; white spots about the eye; tail blackish, white spots at tips of outer tail-feathers. *Immature* females *average* paler below, less black on head.

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## BIRDS BETWEEN A ROBIN AND SPARROW IN SIZE

704. CATBIRD—*Dumetella carolinensis*.

Length 9 inches. (See cut, page 58.)

Plumage in general dark slaty gray; crown and tail black; under tail-coverts chestnut.

A long-tailed, blackish bird of the bushes and thickets. One call is a cat-like *mew*. It has a varied song suggesting the Thrasher's, but harsher and simpler.

452. CRESTED FLYCATCHER—*Myiarchus crinitus*.

Length 9 inches. (See cut, page 75.)

Belly sulphur-yellow; the spread tail shows largely rufous; throat and breast gray; upperparts grayish brown, washed with olive-green; wings trimmed with white.

Its comparatively large size distinguishes this from our other flycatchers excepting the Kingbird; from the latter, however, it differs widely in color, and it has a thick but not a long crest. Its most common call-note is a loud human-like whistle—one of the mysterious voices of the woods. Unlike our other flycatchers, the Crested builds its nest in a hole in a tree.

514. EVENING GROSBEEK—*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*.

Length 8 inches.

Male—Belly and a broad stripe over wings, yellow; upperparts olive-brown, becoming dull yellow on rump; wings and tail black; a large white patch on the inner wing-feathers; forehead yellow; crown black. Female—Brownish gray; underparts more or less tinged with yellow, especially on back of neck; wings and tail similar to male,



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but both trimmed with white; upper tail-coverts black, tipped with white.

A winter bird, very irregular in occurrence. It appeared in Watertown and vicinity in the winter of 1915-16. It is usually in flocks; feeds on berries such as Mountain Ash and Sumach.



Veery

756. VEERY—*Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens*.

Length  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Sides of the throat and breast tinged with cream-buff, faintly spotted with small wedge-shaped spots; belly white; sides white with a faint tinge of grayish; upperparts, wings and tail about uniform cinnamon-brown.

The ringing voice of the Veery is distinctive, but not easily described; it has a metallic, vibrating, lingering quality. This is usually a quiet bird of the deep, or at least shady and often damp, woods. From other thrushes it may be known by its delicately buff-tinted upper breast, upperparts as described, and nearly white sides.

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757. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH—*Hylocichla aliciae aliciae*.

Length  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Upperparts uniform *olive*, wings and tail similar; eye-ring whitish; sides of throat and breast *very faintly* tinged with cream-buff (richer in fall); sides brownish gray or brownish ashy; sides of throat with wedge-shaped spots; breast spotted with black; middle of throat and middle of belly white.

A migrant, spring and fall; one of the less common thrushes. The closely related sub-species, Bicknell's Thrush, nests in the Adirondacks.

758a. OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH—*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*.

Length  $7\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

Upperparts uniform olive, wings and tail practically the same; eye-ring and in front of eyes deep cream-buff; entire throat and the breast with a *deep* tinge of buff; sides of throat with wedge-shaped black spots, breast with rounded black spots; middle of belly white; sides grayish.

A transient; spring and fall. Resembles the Gray-cheeked and the Bicknell's Thrush, but has the breast more strongly tinged with buffy, and has the buff about the eye-region.

759b. HERMIT THRUSH—*Hylocichla guttata palasi*.

Length  $7\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

Upperparts olive-brown or cinnamon-brown; tail *light rufous*, distinctly different from the color of the back; sides of throat with wedge-shaped spots; breast with *large rounded spots*; sides grayish; throat and breast *slightly* buffy; middle of belly white.

The *rufous* tail, distinctly brighter than back color, serves fully to identify the Hermit.

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474b. PRAIRIE HORNED LARK—*Otocoris alpestris praticola*.

Sparrow-size, larger. Length  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Forepart of crown, slightly elongated feathers on sides of head, a patch on side of head and on breast, black; throat white or tinged with yellow; forehead and a line over eye, white; neck, back of head and the rump pinkish buffy, washed with grayish brown; back striped grayish brown and buffy; wing-coverts pinkish buff; tail mostly black, its outer feathers broadly edged with white; lower breast and belly whitish.

This is a true lark, and has the famous lark-like soaring and singing habit. When not actually soaring high in the air it is decidedly a bird of the ground, flying occasionally from field to field, but spending its time mainly in walking mouse-like on the ground. It is fond of open, well-cropped pastures. In general appearance and in ground-habits it somewhat resembles the Vesper Sparrow. Its greater size, large black breast-patch, black face-patch and white forehead are the chief distinguishing features of the Lark in this connection.

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## BIRDS OF SPARROW-SIZE OR SMALLER.

534. SNOW BUNTING — *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*.

Length  $6\frac{7}{8}$  inches.

Male—Upperparts pale rusty brown; back streaked with black; main wing-feathers mostly blackish, inner ones white; tail black, marked with white; underparts white; breast and sides washed with rusty. Female—Similar, but wings with the inner feathers tipped with rufous.

A winter bird; in flocks, often numbering a hundred or more; a bird of the open snowy fields. Our only *small, largely white* bird; its usual note is a real *twitter*.

542a. SAVANNAH SPARROW—*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*.

Small. Length  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Underparts white, heavily and nearly uniformly streaked with blackish and rufous; upperparts brownish black, streaked; tail blackish, with narrow margin of whitish; pale yellow before or over eye and on bend of wing.

A bird of the open fields, easy to pass unnoticed, or to mistake for the Vesper Sparrow. The song, however, readily identifies the bird, tho (or rather *because*) it is a low simple insect-like trill; it is somewhat like the song of the following species. From the Vesper Sparrow the Savannah is to be known by its smaller size, *less* white in the tail and absence of rufous on the wing-coverts; it is larger and longer of tail than the Grasshopper Sparrow.

546. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW — *Ammodramus savannarum australis*.

Small. Length  $5\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

Breast and sides buffy; belly white; upperparts mixed black, brownish, ashy and buffy; crown

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black with a buffy line through its center; back of neck brownish, spotted with black; bend of wing yellow; whitish wing-bar; tail short, its feathers pointed.

A timid little gray sparrow of the open fields; the song is a fine, grasshopper-like trill; and the bird in singing often selects a post of the fence, from which, as you approach, he flies away low on fast-beating little wings.

554. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW — *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*.

Length  $6\frac{7}{8}$  inches.

Center of crown *distinctly* white, bordered on the sides with black; no white before the eye; a white line from over eye extending backward; back grayish brown, margined gray; two distinct white wing bars; forward underparts, including *throat*, grayish; but the belly white, flanks and under tail-coverts buffy.

Seen in spring and fall; one of the less common sparrows; resembles the following species, with which it sometimes associates in thickets and among the bushes, along wayside fences. The pure white crown and uniformly gray throat and breast are the best field-marks of the White-crown.

558. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW — *Zonotrichia albicollis*.

Length  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Resembles number 554 (which see), but has the *throat white*, a yellow line in front of eye, center of crown with a *narrow* white stripe, bordered on either side by much wider black stripes; flanks and under tail-coverts tinged with grayish brown.

Chiefly seen in spring and fall, nests in the Adirondacks. Its song is simple but remarkable, one of the common and most striking wood-notes, especially in its summer home in the mountains; it suggests to some ears (tho not to the present writer's) the word *peabody*, with certain variations,

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hence "Peabody-bird." In spring and fall it occurs in loose, roving flocks in bushy places.

559. TREE SPARROW—*Spizella monticola monticola*.

Length  $6\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

Top of head rufous-brown, a stripe of the same behind eye; two white wing-bars; breast grayish white, an indistinct black spot in its center; sides tinged with grayish brown; middle of belly white; lower mandible yellow at base; outer tail feather edged with whitish. (See cut, page 73.)

A bird of spring and fall. Inhabits wayside thickets, alder thickets and other bushy tracts. *Not* distinctively a tree-bird; spends much of its time on the ground. Has a pretty spring song; its usual call-note is a low chirp.

560. CHIPPING SPARROW — *Spizella passerina passerina*.

Small. Length  $5\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

Top of head *rufous*; a pale line over eye and a black line behind eye; underparts grayish white, *without spots*, whiter on throat and belly; back streaked with black and buffy; two *narrow* wing-bars.

This is the common "Chippy"—the tame little bird that creeps daintily about the door-yard and lawn and lets you approach within a few feet of him. His song is a fine trilling and his call-note is a daintier little *chirp* than is usual with sparrows. The nest is a little cup-like affair, heavily lined with hair; this lining has a way of holding its shape when dislodged by the autumn winds, and it is then often found where it has fallen to the ground from a bush or tree.

563. FIELD SPARROW—*Spizella pusilla pusilla*.

Small. Length  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Top of head rufous, a gray line over eye; bill pale reddish brown; back rufous, finely streaked.

with black and grayish; two white wing-bars; under parts whitish without spots, but tinged with buffy on breast and sides.

Like the common Chipping Sparrow in size, form and general appearance; but not quite so tame as the Chippy and with a *widely different song*, which is the best distinguishing field-character of the present species; its haunts, too, differ in being almost *exclusively* fields with a scattered growth of bushes. The song has a particularly pleasing cadence; tho simple, the notes are clear and silvery.



Song Sparrow

581. SONG SPARROW—*Melospiza melodia melodia*.

Length  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Upperparts in general rufous-brown; underparts whitish, with streaks of wedge-shaped black

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and brown spots on breast; a dark patch on center of breast; a heavy black streak on each side of throat.

Our most common native sparrow; the familiar "Ground-bird," found everywhere along brooks, country road-ways, in waste fields, on grassy slopes, along rail-fences, at the edge of the wood—especially the cedar wood. This is the brown sparrow you hear so often as he sings from fence-post, stump or tree; at other times he is seen skulking in an angle of the rail-fence or in the edge of the thicket; or he may flush from his nest in the long grass and flit to the nearby cover of a bush or cluster of weeds. You will hear his insistent chirp or *tseep*, and notice his rather long tail.

584. SWAMP SPARROW—*Melospiza georgiana*.

Length  $5\frac{7}{8}$  inches.

Underparts without streaks; throat and middle of belly white; breast grayish; sides washed with grayish brown; crown chestnut-rufous; a blackish line behind eye; forehead black; a grayish line over eye; back broadly streaked with black.

In spite of differences in color and marking, this bird may easily be mistaken at first for a Song Sparrow as he skulks in the long grass or low bushes of his swampy retreat; but the Swamp Sparrow's song, so simple and characteristic, is unmistakable.





Tree Sparrow    Redpoll    Pine Siskin

528. REDPOLL—*Acanthis linaria linaria*.

Small. Length  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Male—Crown-patch bright red; rump and breast tinged with pink; belly white; sides streaked with blackish; chin and upper throat blackish; wings and tail blackish; trimmed with whitish, especially wings. Female—Similar, but no pink on breast or rump; sides more heavily streaked.

This is a winter visitor; it moves about in flocks in the fields, where it feeds on various weed-seeds, or again the flock resorts to the birches of the woods. The notes are musical and canary-like, closely resembling those of the Goldfinch. It is a

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very tame bird and will often allow you to come within a few feet of it as it feeds among the weeds.

533. PINE SISKIN—*Spinus pinus pinus*.

Length 5 inches.

Upperparts streaked with black, margined with buffy; wings blackish, margined with yellow, yellow at base of main feathers; tail blackish, all but middle feathers yellow at base; underparts white, with buffy tinge, heavily streaked with black. (See cut, page 73.)

A winter bird; in flocks in woods; especially in birches, on the seeds of which it feeds.

423. CHIMNEY SWIFT—*Chaetura pelagica*.

Length  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Blackish; paler on throat; wings long and slender; tail short, each feather ending in a sharp point.

This is the mis-called Chimney "Swallow"—the bird so often seen flying about singly or in pairs or trios; a singular looking bird, suggesting as it sails chattering by, a toy aeroplane, with its long stiff wings and bobbin-like body.

697. AMERICAN PIPIT—*Anthus rubescens*.

Length  $6\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

Outer tail-feather largely white, next ones with less white; upperparts grayish brown; wing-coverts light-tipped; pale line over eye; buffy below; breast and sides streaked with blackish.

During their migrations you may find Titlarks, as they are also called, in waste fields, pastures or in plowed ground. Their white partially-tipped tails as they *walk* or fly, and their *wagging tails* as they stand, will serve to identify them.



Kingbird    Phoebe    Crested Flycatcher    Wood Pewee

456. PHOEBE—*Sayornis phoebe*.  
Length 7 inches.

No distinct wing-bars; crown blackish; upperparts grayish brown, wings and tail darker; underparts white, slightly washed with yellowish, tinged with brownish gray on breast and sides; bill black.

His habit of *wagging his tail*, taken together with his size and pose, will always serve to distinguish this flycatcher. His haunts, too, are often diagnostic, for the nest is built in or on our buildings or in a niche of shelving rock.

461. WOOD PEWEE—*Myiochanes virens*.  
Smaller than Phoebe. Length  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Two *distinct* whitish wing-bars; upperparts blackish olive; wing and tail blackish; underparts white or washed with yellowish, tinged with olive-gray on sides of throat and breast.

This is a very common bird of the shady street and open groves, where its note, *pe-ee-wee*, is more

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in evidence, and more peculiar that the little gray bird that utters it from the branches above. Watch and you may see him dart out after a fly. However, the latter habit is common among flycatchers.

466a. ALDER FLYCATCHER—*Empidonax traillii alnorum*.

Length  $6\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

Two pale, but *not* white, wing-bars; underparts whitish, washed dusky grayish on breast and sides, pale yellowish on belly; throat white; upperparts olive.

This little flycatcher is best identified by his haunts and notes. Look for him, or rather listen for him, in wet alder thickets. He will flit ahead of you, keeping mostly hidden, but frequently giving his call-note, a single peep, or occasionally what answers for his song, a simple *ee-zee-ep*, impossible to mistake for the notes of the Pewee or the Chebec, which birds resemble the Alder Flycatcher in general appearance.

467. LEAST FLYCATCHER—*Empidonax minimus*.

Length  $5\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

Without distinct wing-bars; upperparts olive; wings and tail blackish; underparts whitish, washed with dusky grayish on breast and sides, white or yellowish white on belly.

The haunts and in general the habits of the Chebec, as this bird is called from its common note, are similar to the Wood Pewee's; but the present species is more fond of the orchard, frequently building in an apple tree. From the Wood Pewee he may be known by absence of distinct *white* wing-bars, smaller size, and his call *chee-beck* which he is apt to repeat insistently even in the hottest hours of the day.



Red-eyed Vireo

Warbling Vireo

624. RED-EYED VIREO—*Vireosylva olivacea*.

Length  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

A conspicuous white line over eye; no wing-bars; underparts pure white; crown slaty gray, bordered on side with blackish; back, wings and tail olive-green.

A bird of the woods and shady streets; he peers among the outermost branches, examining especially the under sides of the leaves. His song, peculiarly intermittent and rather loud, may attract your attention to the leafy branches above where you will probably search a while before discovering the modestly colored singer.

627. WARBLING VIREO—*Vireosylva gilva gilva*.

Length  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

No wing-bars; upperparts ashy olive-green; underparts white, tinged with yellowish. (See cut.)

Its smaller size and lack of blackish markings on the head should prevent confusing this bird with the Red-eyed Vireo, which it generally resembles. The *warbling* song is unmistakable.

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639. WORM-EATING WARBLER—*Helmitheros vermivorus*.

Length  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

A black line from eye to back of neck; a pale olive-buffy line over eye, another through center of crown; sides of crown black; no wing-bars; back, wings and tail olive-green; underparts pale cream-buff, whiter on throat and belly.

645. NASHVILLE WARBLER—*Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla*.

Length  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Top and sides of head bluish gray; an indistinct *chestnut patch* in center of crown; back and rump bright olive-green; no wing-bars; underparts bright yellow, whiter on belly.

648a. NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER—*Compsothlypis americana usneae*.

Length  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Male—Upperparts grayish blue; a greenish yellow patch in middle of back; two white wing-bars; throat and breast yellow, splashed with pale rufous; a dark band across breast; belly white; sides sometimes marked with rufous; white spots near end of outer tail-feathers. Female—Similar, but rufous breast-band sometimes absent.

650. CAPE MAY WARBLER—*Dendroica tigrina*.

Length 5 inches.

Male—Cheeks rufous, bounded behind by yellow; a *large white patch on wing coverts*; outer tail-feathers with each a large white patch near its tip, underparts yellow, heavily streaked with black; lower belly and under tail-coverts whitish; crown black; back olive-green, heavily streaked with black. Female—Less white on wings; no rufous on cheek; rump *yellowish*; back grayish olive green.

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660. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER — *Dendroica castanea*.

Length  $5\frac{5}{8}$  inches.

Male—*Throat, upper breast and sides chestnut-rufous*; crown chestnut; cream-buff on side of neck; forehead and cheeks black; two white wing-bars; lower breast and belly buffy white; white patches near tips of outer tail-feathers; back brownish, streaked with black. Female—Underparts buffy white; breast and sides tinged with rufous; crown olive-green, streaked with black, usually some chestnut.

671. PINE WARBLER—*Dendroica vigorsi vigorsi*.

Length  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Male—Upperparts olive-green; two whitish wing-bars; white patches near tips of outer tail feathers; *under parts bright yellow*, tinged with ashy, becoming white on belly and under tail-coverts; sides sometimes with a few black streaks. Female—Similar, but underparts soiled whitish, upperparts tinged with brown; breast tinged with yellow. Found in pine woods.

672a. YELLOW PALM WARBLER — *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*.

Length  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Crown chestnut; back brownish olive-green; rump olive-green; *no* white wing-bars; outer tail-feathers with spots near tips; eye-ring and line over eye yellow; all underparts bright yellow; breast, side of throat and sides streaked with chestnut rufous.

Found in *open places* on or near ground. Has the habit of wagging his tail.

674. OVEN-BIRD—*Seiurus aurocapillus*.

Sparrow-size. Length  $6\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

Center of crown bright buffy, bordered on its sides with black; upperparts, wings and tail brownish olive-green; *no* wing-bars or tail

patches; underparts white; breast, sides and sides of throat streaked with black.

A graceful *walker* on the ground in woods. His ordinary song is a repetition of notes suggesting the word *teacher*, repeated several times, each time louder than before. He has a rather rare flight-song.



Water-Thrush

675. WATER-THRUSH — *Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis*.

Sparrow-size. Length 6 inches.

Upperparts, wings and tail olive; no wing-bars or tail-patches; a buffy line over eye; underparts white; tinged with pale yellow; streaked, including throat, with black.

This *warbler walks with a bobbing motion*; his favorite haunt is along a wooded brook or at least



beside the water. The call-note is a peculiarly sharp, metallic *chink*.

685. WILSON'S WARBLER—*Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*.

Length 5 inches.

Male—Forehead yellow; crown black; upperparts, wing and tail bright olive-green; no wing-bars or tail-patches; underparts bright yellow. Female—Similar, but usually without black crown.

Found low in the woods.



House Wren

721. HOUSE WREN—*Troglodytes aedon aedon*.

Length 5 inches.

Above cinnamon olive-brown, more rufous on rump and tail; back with indistinct bars; below grayish white; flanks rusty; sides and flanks and under tail-coverts barred with blackish.

A little brown bird with a turned up tail; it has a wonderful song, loud and warbling, very

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animated and gushing. Lives about buildings or beside woods or in orchards—in the neighborhood of hollow trees, posts, or near a porch or bird-house in which the nest is concealed.

722. WINTER WREN—*Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*.  
Length 4 inches.

Tail very short and abruptly tilted up; upperparts dark cinnamon-brown; underparts cinnamon-buff; flanks and belly barred with black; wings and tail barred; a pale line over eye.

A pert little brown bird found in the woods from autumn till spring. His dark brown back, very short tail pointing straight upward or even inclined towards the back of his head will identify him, especially in his favorite haunts, the dark woods, where he loves to skulk among brush heaps and other tangles.

725. LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN—*Telmatodytes palustris palustris*.

Length 5 inches.

Back black, broadly streaked with white; a white line over eye; below white, sides and flanks pale cinnamon-brown; crown olive-brown, with a black border on side.

A little brown bird that plays hide and seek among the cattails and reeds where its nest is built. It has a warbling song and occasionally a song-flight which carries it on trembling wings a few yards above the reeds. It will often come within a few feet of you, but it persistently bobs and skulks and fusses.

748. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET—*Regulus satrapa satrapa*.

Length  $4\frac{1}{8}$  inches. (See cut, page 43.)

Male—Center of crown bright reddish orange, bordered by yellow and black; a whitish line over eye; upper parts olive-green, wings and tail blackish, margined with olive-green; underparts soiled

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whitish; tail slightly forked. Female—Similar, but center of crown bright yellow.

Kinglets are tiny, dainty birds of the trees, especially evergreen trees, where they often cling back downward at the ends of the branches; their call-notes are a fine lisp. The present and the following species are usually to be determined only by a close view; *note the crowns*.

749. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET—*Regulus calendula calendula*.

Length  $4\frac{3}{8}$  inches. (See cut, page 43).

Male—Bright red partly concealed patch in center of crown; upperparts grayish olive-green, brighter on rump; two whitish wing-bars, underparts more or less tinged with buffy. Female—Similar, but no red on crown.

See above description of number 748.

428. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD—*Archilochus colubris*.

Exceedingly small. Length  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Male—Upperparts brilliant green; throat shining ruby-red. Female—No red on throat; more whitish below; outer tail-feathers tipped with white.

Hovers before flowers and darts here and there; wings make a humming or buzzing sound. This is our *only* hummingbird.

## Appendix

### OMITTED SPECIES

As space is not available for descriptions of all the least common birds the following remarks are offered to guide the observer who may not find his bird described in these pages.

The chief omissions will be found to occur in the order, *Raptores* (Birds of Prey) and the following *families* in the order of *Passeres* (Perching Birds):

Fringillidæ (Sparrows, Finches)

Vireonidae (Vireos)

Mniotiltidae (Wood Warblers)

BIRDS OF PREY (see pages 49, 52) may usually be recognized as such by their large size and a certain general resemblance in the respective groups. But it should be remembered that the extremes in size are great and that their habits differ widely. The bill is always hooked; the plumage is usually dull, though it may be beautifully mottled. Their voices are generally harsh or weird.

SPARROW (see page 73) are in general small, brownish or grayish birds, often with striped breasts, averaging larger than the two following groups. The species of that description are mostly birds of the ground. Other members of this family are brightly colored tree-inhabiting birds.

VIREOS (see page 77) are all small arboreal birds. Their colors are mostly a sober grayish, olive and whitish. The Yellow-throated vireo well deserves that distinctive name for being the only attractively colored member. Their insect food is

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gleaned from the under side of leaves, and to find it they are in the habit of turning this way and that as they crane their necks to peer under the leaves of the outermost twigs of maples, beeches and other shade trees. Their songs are simple but pleasing.

WARBLERS (see frontispiece), like vireos, are generally tree-inhabiting small birds. The females are apt to be confused with vireos, but attention to their movements should serve to distinguish them. Warblers flit here and there among the budding or leafy branches, and from tree to tree, with a certain freedom unknown to the care-taking vireos. Unlike the vireos, the males and females often differ widely in plumage, the male commonly being attractively or even brilliantly colored. Their notes have a general lispng or sibilant quality; but many of them amount to pleasing refrains, and a few well deserve the name of song.

A few species, such as the Canada Grouse and Northern Pileated Woodpecker, occurring in the Adirondacks, sometimes wander to the foothills and occasionally to lower levels.

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\*The order and numerals are those of the American Ornithologists' Union Check List (1910). In systematic works species will be found according to these numerals.

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