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Village of Floral Park Department of Recreation



Birds of the Gardens

Introduction to the Gardens

This brochure was created for those bird lovers who frequent the gardens. Enclosed are some of the birds that have been spotted in the gardens over the years. We hope this will help you identify some of the birds you will spot while here. Pictures, behaviors, and food information are listed to answer some of the questions you might have about the beautiful animals. Birds are also a real monitor of changes in an environment. Bird watching is an inexpensive hobby. All you really need to begin is a pair of good binoculars. It can also be done with the naked eye. It really doesn't take much - and you can wear comfortable clothing. It is also a great excuse to spend time outdoors. Bird watching can be done by just about everyone, and can be done just about anywhere. It can be done alone or with others, and it can bridge the ages. You can watch for birds in your very own back yard or you can come down to the gardens. It's a relatively easy skill to develop and if you purchase a bird house and some seed, you can have a bird sanctuary of your own. Bird watching has a significant auditory component, as many bird species are more easily detected and identified by ear than by eye. It is a good way to get out and enjoy nature and a relaxing way to challenge your brain. We are acquiring plants that are more attractive to birds that frequent the gardens as a food source.

History: This is a 12-acre parcel of land, that for over 70 years served as an active storm basin. This Nassau County owned Storm Basin #120 collected waters in its primary, secondary, and tertiary basins. With the placement of storm sewers, the water table dropped about 9 feet in the Floral Park area in the late 1950's, thereby reducing the amount of water generally flowing into the storm basin. Thus, most of the basin is not needed for today's storms.

It's Future: Determining the future of the basin took nearly two years, but a committee of residents living nearby recommended the use of the basin area as a passive recreational area that would capitalize on the trees and birds already in place. In considering the possibilities, it was noted that other communities, including nearby Garden City and Hofstra University, had converted a portion of a storm basin into a bird sanctuary and special planting area. With the support of over 90% of the residents in the area, the Village initiated negotiations with Nassau County for use of the facility. Negotiations taking two years, the Nassau County Legislature approved a renewable, thirty-year lease with the Village of Floral Park.

Floral Park Conservation Society: Residents formed the Floral Park Conservation Society (FPCS), a non-profit organization formed to provide service to the community at the old storm basin. The FPCS received the 501(c)(3) non-profit status through the IRS allowing donors to deduct contributions to the FPCS from their taxes. The FPCS has dedicated countless hours of labor in transforming the barren lands into a landmark garden and bird sanctuary. The FPCS invites you to join. Whether you are a master gardener or hardly know a thing about flowers or birds, there is a place for you in the FPCS. They need trades people, and all types of workers willing to lend a hand, those with critical eyes and good ideas, and just about anyone who cares to volunteer.

- Over 100 damaged and poor quality trees were removed.
- The VFP DPW crew constructed the ½ mile pathway adjacent to the fence for walking and jogging.
- Over 100 truckloads of broken glass and debris were removed.
- In 2000, the FPCS received the distinction as a White House "Millennium Trail" for the new trail that was installed. Additionally, the FPCS received a Kodak Award grant of \$2,000 for planning the project and achieving educational objectives.
- The FPCS became a member of the Wildlife Habitat Council.
- October 28, 2000, the VFP officially named the area "Centennial Gardens & Bird Sanctuary" in a moving dedication ceremony.
- A wildflower meadow, over 100 feet in length and width, was been completed and is supplemented each fall and spring.



American Crow

Familiar over much of the continent: large, intelligent, all-black birds with hoarse, cawing voices. Their flight style is a methodical flapping that is rarely broken up with glides.

Behavior: They are very social, sometimes flocking in the millions. They can be inquisitive, mischievous, and aggressive, they are good learners and problem-solvers.

Food: They eat a vast array of foods, including grains, seeds, nuts, fruits, berries, and many kinds of small animals and insects. They eat eggs and nestlings of bird species.



American Gold Finch

The state bird of New Jersey, Iowa, and Washington, is welcome and common at feeders, where it takes primarily sunflowers. Spring males are brilliant yellow and shiny black with a bit of white. Females are more dull but identifiable by their conical bill; pointed, notched tail; wing bars; and lack of streaking. During molts they look bizarrely patchy.

Behavior: These are active and acrobatic and cling to weeds and seed socks, and sometimes mill about in large numbers at feeders or on the ground beneath them.

Food: They eat seeds almost exclusively.



American Kestrel

North America's littlest falcon, they pack a fierce intensity into its small body. One of the most colorful raptors: the male's slate-blue head and wings contrast elegantly with his rusty-red back and tail; the female has the same warm reddish on her wings, back, and tail. Kestrels are declining in parts of their range; you can help them by putting up nest boxes.

Behavior: They usually snatch victims from the ground, but some catch quarry on the wing. They are gracefully buoyant in flight, and are small enough to get tossed around in the wind.

Food: They eat mostly insects and other invertebrates, as well as small rodents and birds. Sometimes they will eat small snakes, lizards, and frogs.



American Redstart

The American Redstart is a smallish warbler. It measures 11 to 14 cm (4.3 to 5.5 in) in total length, has a wingspan of 6.3 to 9.1 in and weighs 2.6 to 4.7 in. The breeding males are jet black with orange-red patches on their wings, tails, and breast sides. Their under parts are colored white. In their other plumages they display green in their upperparts, along with black central tails and grey heads. Their song is a series of musical notes and their call is a soft chip. They frequently fan tail and spreads wings.

Behavior: Moves rapidly while foraging. Flashes wings and tail to flush insect prey. Frequent fly catching.

Food: Insects, some small fruits.



American Tree Sparrow

Plump and long-tailed, they are busy in winter backyards and weedy, snow-covered fields. Hopping up at bent weeds or even beating their wings to dislodge seeds from grass heads, they scratch and peck the ground in small flocks, trading soft, musical twitters. Come snowmelt, these small rusty-capped and smooth-breasted sparrows begin their long migrations to breeding grounds in the tundra of the far North.

Behavior: They hop about on the ground, scrabbling for grass and weed seeds, calling back and forth with a soft, musical twitter.

Food: Fall through spring, almost exclusively vegetarian. In summer they begin eating a wide variety of insects.



Baltimore Oriole

The whistling song of the Baltimore Oriole, echoing from treetops near homes and parks, is a sweet herald of spring. Look way up to find these singers: the male's brilliant orange plumage blazes from high branches like a torch. Fond of fruit and nectar as well as insects, Baltimore Orioles are easily lured to backyard feeders.

Behavior: Baltimore Orioles are more often heard than seen as they feed high in trees, searching for insects, flowers, and fruit. You may spot them lower down, plucking fruit from vines

or sipping from hummingbird feeders.

Food: Baltimore Orioles eat insects, fruit, and nectar.



Barn Swallow

Barn Swallows dart gracefully over fields, barnyards, and open water in search of flying insect prey. Look for the long, deeply forked tail that streams out behind this agile flyer. Barn Swallows often cruise low, flying just a few inches above the ground or water. True to their name, they build their cup-shaped mud nests almost exclusively on human-made structures.

Behavior: Barn Swallows feed on the wing, snagging insects from just above the ground or water to heights of 100 feet or more.

They fly with fluid wing beats in bursts of straight flight, rarely gliding, and can execute quick, tight turns and dives. When aquatic insects hatch, Barn Swallows may join other swallow species in mixed foraging flocks.

Food: Flies of all types make up the majority of the Barn Swallow's diet



Black and White Warbler

The Black-and-white Warbler forages for insects while creeping along the trunks and branches of trees. They have an unusually long hind toe and claw on each foot. This allows it to move securely on the surface of tree bark. Unusually aggressive for a warbler, they sometimes attack and fight other species.

Behavior: Hops and creeps on tree trunks and branches, picking insects from bark; also gleans from leaves.

Food: Caterpillars, adult insects, and spiders



Black-Capped Chickadee

Considered "cute" thanks to its oversized round head, tiny body, and curiosity about everything. They have black cap, bib; white cheeks; gray back, wings, tail; and whitish under-side with Puffy sides are distinctive. Everything in its territory, and quickness to discover bird feeders.

Behavior: They seldom remain at feeders except to grab a seed to eat elsewhere. Acrobatic and associate in flocks-the sudden activity when a flock arrives is distinctive.

Food: In spring, summer, and fall insects make up 80-90 percent of their diet. At feeders they like sunflower seeds, peanuts, suet, peanut butter, and mealworms.



Black Throated Blue Warbler

A bird of the deep forest, they breed in the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada. On migration to its Caribbean wintering grounds it can be seen in a variety of habitats, including parks and gardens. On the wintering grounds the sexes use slightly different habitats. The male is most common forests at lower to mid-elevations, while the female uses shrubbery at higher elevations. Winters in dense tropical forests. In migration, found in variety of habitats, including forests, parks, and gardens.

Behavior: Forages mostly in lower to mid-levels of forest, taking insects mostly from the underside of leaves.

Food: Insects and some small fruits.



Blue Jays

A familiar songbird to many people, with a perky crest; blue, white, and black plumage; and noisy calls. They are intelligent and have a complex social systems with tight family bonds. Their fondness for acorns is credited with helping spread oak trees after the last glacial period.

Behavior: They have a large variety of calls, most produced while it is perched. They stuff food in throat pouch to eat elsewhere; it holds a seed or nut in feet and pecks it open.

Food: 22 % insects, nuts and seeds in trees They also take dead and injured small vertebrates. They raid nests for eggs and nestlings, and may pick up dead or dying adult birds. They store food in caches to eat later.



Brown Creeper

Tiny woodland birds with an affinity for big trees. Look for the little, long-tailed scraps of brown and white on trunks and main branches, sometimes downward-facing along the way. They probe into crevices and pick loose bark with their slender, down curved bills. Their piercing calls can make it much easier to find this hard-to-see but common species.

Behavior: They move with short, jerky motions using their stiff tails for support. To move to a new tree, they fly weakly to its base and resume climbing up. Brown Creepers sing a

high, warbling song.

Food: During breeding season, insects. They patrol large trees with deeply furrowed bark, which harbors the highest densities of insects.



Cardinals

The male Cardinal is responsible for getting more people to open up a field guide than any other bird. Cardinals don't migrate and they don't molt into a dull plumage. In summer, their sweet whistles are one of the first sounds of the morning.

Behavior: They sit low in shrubs and trees or forage on or near the ground. Common at bird feeders, sometimes inconspicuous, at least until you learn their loud, metallic chip note.

Food: Cardinals eat mainly seeds and fruit, supplementing these with insects. Cardinals eat many kinds of birdseed, particularly black oil sunflower seed.



Chipping Sparrow

A crisp, pretty sparrow whose bright cap both provides a splash of color and makes adults fairly easy to identify. Chipping Sparrows are common wherever trees are interspersed with grassy openings. Their loud, trilling songs are one of the most common sounds of spring woodlands and suburbs.

Behavior: You'll often see loose groups of them flitting up from open ground. When singing, they cling to high outer limbs. On the ground they hop or run through grasses searching for seeds.

Food: Chipping Sparrows mainly eat seeds of a great variety of grasses and herbs. During the breeding season they also hunt for protein-rich insects, and these form a large part of their summer diet. Chipping Sparrows sometimes eat small fruits such as cherries.



Common Grackle

Common Grackles are blackbirds that look like they've been slightly stretched. Taller and longer tailed, with a longer, tapered bill and glossy iridescent bodies. They walk around lawns, fields, & gather in groups.

Behavior: They strut on their long legs, pecking for food rather than scratching. At feeders Common Grackles dominate smaller birds. When resting they sit atop trees or on telephone lines, keeping up a raucous chattering.

Food: Mostly seeds, particularly corn and rice. In summer, one-quarter or more may be animals, insects, fish, frogs, salamanders, mice, and other birds.



Common Yellowthroat

Look for these yellow-and-olive warblers skulking in tangled vegetation. Females lack the mask and are much browner, with a hint of warm yellow at the throat. Yellowthroats are vocal birds, and both their songs and distinctive call notes help reveal the presence of this, one of our most numerous warblers.

Behavior: Males sing a very distinctive, rolling wichety-wichety-wichety song. It sometimes joins other warbler species in mixed foraging flocks.

Food: They forage on or near the ground, eating insects and spiders. They mostly clean their food while perched. They eat grit, which aids digestion, and adds minerals to their diet.



Downy Woodpecker

A familiar sight at backyard feeders and in parks. This wood-pecker is at home on tiny branches or balancing on slender plants and suet feeders. In winter they are frequent members of mixed species flocks. Advantages of flocking include spending less time watching out for predators and better luck finding food from having other birds around.

Behavior: They hitch onto tree limbs and trunks or drop into tall weeds to feed. In spring and summer, they make lots of noise, both with their shrill whinnying call and by drum-ming on trees.

Food: Mainly insects, but a quarter of their diet is plant material, particularly berries, acorns, and grains. Downy Woodpeckers will eat suet and black oil sunflower seeds.



Eastern Kingbird

Dark gray upperparts and a neat white tip to the tail, they look like their wearing a business suit. This big-headed, broad-shouldered bird does mean business-just watch one harassing crows, or Hawks, and other birds that pass over its territory. Often perching on wires in open areas and watching out for flying insects or flutter slowly over the tops of grasses.

Behavior: They fly with very shallow, rowing wing beats and a raised head, usually accompanied by metallic, sputtering calls.

Food: Eating large insects, they take back to the perch, beat into submission, and swallow whole. In the absence of a perch, kingbirds face the wind and hover.



Eastern Phoebe

One of our most familiar eastern flycatchers, the "phoebe" call is a frequent sound around yards in spring and summer. These songbirds sit upright and wag their tails. They typically place their mud-and-grass nests in protected nooks on bridges, and houses, which adds to the species' familiarity to humans.

Behavior: They generally perch low in trees or on fence lines. They are very active, making short flights to capture insects and very often returning to the same perch.

Food: Flying insects make up the majority of the diet. Common prey include wasps, beetles, dragonflies, butterflies and moths, flies, midges, and cicadas; they also eat spiders, ticks, and millipedes, as well as occasional small fruits or seeds.



Gray Catbird

Once you've heard its catty mew you won't forget it. Follow the sound into thickets and vine tangles and you'll be rewarded by a somber gray bird with a black cap and bright rusty feathers under the tail. Gray Catbirds are relatives of mocking-birds and thrashers, and they share that group's vocal abilities, copying the sounds of other species and stringing them together to make their own song.

Behavior: Catbirds are secretive but energetic, hopping and fluttering from branch to branch. Singing males sit atop shrubs

and small trees. Catbirds are reluctant to fly across open areas, preferring quick, low flights.

Food: In summer they eat mainly insects, but also fruits when they are available.



Hermit Thrush

An unassuming bird with a lovely, melancholy. It forages on the forest floor by rummaging through leaf litter or seizing insects with its bill. They have a rich brown upper body and smudged spots on the breast, with a reddish tail that sets it apart from similar species in its genus.

Behavior: They perch low to the ground on fallen logs and shrubs, often wandering into open areas such as forest clearings or trails. Sometimes a Hermit Thrush will cock its tail and bob it slowly, while flicking its wings.

Food: In spring, they eat mainly insects, they also occasionally eat small amphibians and reptiles. In the winter, they change their diet to eat more fruit, including wild berries.



House Finch

A recent introduction from western North America, it has received a warmer reception. Partly due to the red head and breast of males, and to the long, twittering song, which can now be heard in most of the neighborhoods of the continent.

Behavior: They are gregarious birds that collect at feeders or perch high in nearby trees. They move fairly slowly and sit still as they shell seeds by crushing them with rapid bites. Flight is bouncy, like many finches.

Food: Almost exclusively plant materials. Wild foods include mustard seeds, knotweed, thistle, mulberry, poison oak, cactus, and many other species. At feeders they eat black oil sunflower over the larger, striped sunflower seeds, and. Millet.



House Sparrow

Found most places where there are houses. They are some of our most common birds. Their constant presence outside our doors makes them easy to overlook, and their tendency to displace native birds from nest boxes causes some people to resent them.

Behavior: They are noisy and flutter down from their perch to hop and peck at crumbs or birdseed. Their hide nest behind shop signs, traffic lights, or anywhere they can find a hole.

Food: Mostly grains and seeds, & discarded food. Sparrows readily eat birdseed including millet, milo, and sunflower seeds. In summer, House Sparrows eat insects and feed them to their young. They catch insects in the air, by pouncing on them, or by following lawnmowers or visiting lights at dusk.



Killdeer

A shorebird without going to the beach! Killdeer are plovers common to lawns, golf courses, athletic fields, and parking lots. They run across the ground in spurts, stopping with a jolt every so often to see if they've startled up any insects. Their voice, a far-carrying, excited kill-deer, is common after dark.

Behavior: They spend their time walking along the ground or running ahead a few steps, stopping to look around, and running on again. When disturbed they break into flight and circle overhead, calling repeatedly.

Food: Feeds primarily on invertebrates, such as earthworms, grasshoppers, beetles, and aquatic insect larvae. They follow farmers' plows in hopes of retrieving any unearthed worms or insect larvae. Will also eat seeds left in agricultural lands.



Mockingbird

They can string together 10 or 15 different birds songs. They sing endlessly, even at night. They harass birds that intrude on their territories, flying slowly around them or prancing toward them, legs extended, flaunting their bright white wing patches.

Behavior: They usually sit on up high, or run and hop along the ground. Found alone or in pairs, they are aggressive.

Food: Mainly insects in summer but switch to mostly fruit in fall and winter. They eat a wide variety of berries, including from ornamental bushes, as well as fruits from multi-flora rose. They've been seen drinking sap from the cuts on recently pruned trees.



Mourning Dove

A slender-tailed, small-headed dove that's common across the continent. They perch on telephone wires and forage for seeds on the ground; their flight is fast and bullet straight. Their soft, drawn-out calls sound like crying. When taking off, their wings make a sharp whistling or whinnying. Mourning Doves are the most frequently hunted species in North America.

Behavior: They fly fast on powerful wing beats, sometimes making sudden ascents, descents, and dodges, their pointed tails stretching behind them.

Food: Seeds make up 99 percent of the diet, wild grasses, weeds, and occasionally berries. They eat roughly 12 to 20 percent of their body weight per day, or 71 calories on average.



Northern Flicker Woodpecker

They are large, brown woodpeckers with black-scalloped. When they fly you'll see a flash of color in the wings – yellow if you're in the East, red if you're in the West – and a bright white flash on the rump.

Behavior: Flickers spend lots of time on the ground, and when in trees they're often perched upright on horizontal branches.

Food: Mainly insects that are gather from the ground. Mostly fruits and seeds, in winter. Flickers often go after ants underground hammering at the soil the way other woodpeckers drill into wood. Their tongues can dart out 2 inches beyond the end of the bill to snare prey. Flickers also eat berries and seeds.



Ovenbird

A small, inconspicuous bird of the forest floor, the Ovenbird is one of the most characteristic birds of the eastern forests. Its loud song, "teacher, teacher, teacher," rings through the summer forest, but the bird itself is hard to see.

Behavior: Picks insects off leaf litter on the forest floor. Male Ovenbirds sing together. One male starts singing, and the second will join in immediately after. They pause, and then sing one after the other again, for up to 40 songs. The second joins in so quickly that they may sound from a

distance as if only one bird is singing. Ovenbirds rarely overlap the song of their neighbors.

Food: Forest insects.



Palm Warbler

The rusty-capped Warbler is recognized by its tail-wagging habit showing off its yellow under tail. The Palm Warbler is found in two different forms. Birds that breed in the eastern part of the range are entirely yellow underneath. Despite its tropical sounding name, the Palm Warbler lives farther north than most other warblers. It breeds far to the north in Canada, and winters primarily in the southern United States and northern Caribbean.

Behavior: Feeds on the ground and in short shrubs and trees. Forages in open grassy areas in winter.
Food: Insects; some seeds and fruits in fall and winter.



Red-Tail Hawk

The most common hawk in North America. They soar above open fields, slowly turning circles on their broad, rounded wings. Other times you'll see them atop telephone poles, eyes fixed on the ground to catch the movements of a vole or a rabbit, or simply waiting out cold weather before climbing a thermal updraft into the sky.

Behavior: Their wing beats are heavy. In high winds they may face into the wind and hover without flapping, eyes fixed on the ground. They attack in a slow, controlled dive

with legs outstretched – much different from a falcon's stoop.

Food: Diet consisting of animals weighing 1oz. to 5lbs.



Red-Wing Blackbird

One of the most abundant birds and one of the most boldly colored. Glossy-black males have scarlet-and-yellow shoulder patches they can puff up or hide depending on how confident they feel. Their early arrival and tumbling song are happy indications of the return of spring.

Behavior: Male Red-winged Blackbirds do everything they can to get noticed, sitting on high perches and belting out their conk-la-ree! song all day long. In winter Red-winged Black-birds gather in huge flocks to eat grains with other blackbird species.

Food: They eat mainly insects in the summer, then seeds, including corn and wheat, in winter.



Red-Bellied Woodpecker

A pale, medium-sized woodpeckers. They have strikingly barred backs and gleaming red caps, that's mostly black on the back with big white wing patches. Once you hear them you'll notice these birds everywhere.

Behavior: Find them hitching along branches and trunks of medium to large trees, picking at the bark surface more often than drilling into it.

Food: They eat mainly insects, it also eats plenty of plant material, too. Occasionally eats lizards, nestling

birds, even minnows.



Robin

The early bird! Robins are common sights on lawns. Often tugging earthworms out of the ground. Robins are popular birds for their warm orange breast, cheery song, and early appearance at the end of winter

Behavior: They bound across lawns or stand erect, beak tilted upward, to survey their environs. When alighting they habitually flick their tails downward several times.

Food: American Robins eat large numbers of both invertebrates and fruit. Particularly in spring and summer they eat large numbers of earthworms as well as insects and some snails. Robins also eat an enormous variety of fruits.



Ruby-Crowned Kinglet

Overflowing with energy, they forage almost frantically through lower branches of shrubs and trees. The male's brilliant ruby crown patch usually stays hidden. Ruby-crowned Kinglets seem nervous as they flit through the foliage, flicking their wings nearly constantly.

Behavior: These are restless, acrobatic birds that move quickly through foliage, typically at lower and middle levels. They flick their wings almost constantly as they go.

Food: They many types of insects. These birds also eat a small amount of seeds and fruit, from poison-oak berries to the pulp of dogwood berries.



Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

They are eastern North America's sole breeding humming-bird. They glitter like jewels in the full sun, then vanish with a zip. Feeders and flower gardens are great ways to attract these birds. Enjoy them while they're around; by early fall they're bound for Central America, with many crossing the Gulf of Mexico in a single flight.

Behavior: They fly straight and fast but can stop instantly, hover, and adjust their position up, down, or backwards with exquisite control.

Food: Mostly the nectar of red or orange tubular flowers, feeders, tree sap. Main insect prey includes mosquitoes, gnats, fruit flies, and small bees; also eats spiders.



Sharp Shinned Hawk

This hawk appears in a blur of motion and often disappears in a flurry of feathers. The smallest hawk in North America. They have distinctive proportions: long legs, short wings, and very long tails.

Behavior: Agile fliers that surprise their prey, typically songbirds. They do not stoop on prey from high overhead. They may also pounce from low perches. When flying across open areas they have a distinctive flap-and-glide flight style.

Food: Songbirds make up 90 percent of the diet. Sharp-shins also eat small rodents, such as mice and voles, and an occasional moth or grasshopper.



Starling

They were brought to North America by Shakespeare enthusiasts in the nineteenth century. They are stocky black birds with short tails, triangular wings, and long, pointed bills. Sometimes resented for their abundance and aggressiveness. Covered in white spots during winter, they turn dark and glossy in summer.

Behavior: Starlings are boisterous, loud, and they travel in large groups. They race across fields, beak down and probing the grass for food; or they sit high on wires or trees making a constant stream of rattles, whirrs, and whistles.

Food: Starlings will eat nearly anything, but they focus on insects and other invertebrates when they're available, as well as grains, seeds, nectar, livestock feed, and garbage.



Tree Swallow

Deep-blue iridescent backs and clean white fronts, They are a familiar sight in summer. They chase after flying insects with acrobatic twists and turns, their steely blue-green feathers flashing in the sunlight.

Behavior: They gather in large flocks to molt and migrate. They usually form huge communal roosts.

Food: A diet of insects, occasionally other small animals and may eat plant foods during bad weather. They feed from dawn to dusk in sheltered areas full of flying insects. They

eat high-calcium items like fish bones, crayfish exoskeletons, clamshells, and eggshells.



Tufted Titmouse

It's echoing voice is common at feeders. They have large black eyes, small, round bill, and bushy crest that gives them an eager expression that matches the way they flutter through canopies. When a titmouse finds a large seed, you'll see it carry the prize to a perch and crack it with sharp whacks of its stout bill.

Behavior: They are acrobatic foragers, and a bit slower and more methodical than chickadees. They often flock with chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers.

Food: They eat mainly insects in the summer. They also eat seeds, nuts, and berries.



White Breasted Nuthatch

A common bird with clean black, gray, and white markings, Their active, agile little birds with an appetite for insects and large seeds. They get their common name from jamming nuts/acorns into tree, then whacking them to "hatch" out the seed. Their voices are loud, and often their insistent nasal yammering will lead you right to them.

Behavior: They creep along trunks and large branches, probing into bark furrows with their straight, pointed bills. They will turn sideways and upside down to feed.

Food: They eat mainly insects, but also eat seeds and nuts. At birdfeeders they eat sunflower seeds, peanuts, suet, and peanut butter.



White-Crowned Sparrow

They appear in winter to grace our gardens. The smart black-and-white head, pale beak, and crisp gray breast combine for a dashing look. Watch for flocks of these sparrows scurrying through brushy borders and overgrown fields, or feeders. As spring approaches, listen out for this bird's thin, sweet whistle.

Behavior: You'll see them low at the edges of brushy habitat.

Food: They eat mainly seeds of weeds and grasses, plus considerable numbers of insects during the summer. They also eat grains such as oats, wheat, barley, and corn, and fruit including elderberries and blackberries.



White-Throated Sparrow

There's the black eye stripe, the white crown and supercilium, the yellow lures, the white throat bordered by a black whisker, or malar stripe. Their pretty, wavering whistle of Oh-sweet-Canada. They're familiar winter birds across most of eastern and southern North America and California.

Behavior: They stay near the ground, scratching through leaves in search of food, often in flocks. You will see them in low bushes, particularly in spring when they eat fresh buds. White-throated Sparrows sing their distinctive songs frequently, even in winter.

Food: They eat mainly the seeds, and some fruits. In summer they eat large numbers of insects, and in spring they eat buds, blossoms, and seeds.



Winter Wren

Small in stature and very energetic in voice, they inhabit moist forests and other habitats across much of eastern North America. They were formerly considered one species that occupied northern forests across the globe. But in 2010, on the basis of vocalizations and genetics, they were split into three species, including the Pacific Wren of western North America and the Eurasian Wren in the Old World.

Behavior: Feeds methodically in low shrubs, on the ground, near the bases of trees, and around fallen dead wood.

Food: Invertebrates, including insects, insect larvae, millipedes, spiders, and others.



Yellow Rump Warbler

They are impressive in the sheer numbers. They fill shrubs and trees with their distinctive, sharp chips. Spring molt brings a transformation, leaving them a dazzling mix of bright yellow, charcoal gray and black, and bold white.

Behavior: They typically forage in the outer tree canopies at middle heights. They're active, and you'll often see them sally out to catch insects in midair, sometimes on long flights. In winter they spend lots of time eating berries from shrubs, and they often travel in large flocks.

Food: They eat mainly insects in the summer. They also eat spruce budworm, a serious forest pest, during outbreaks. In winter they eat great numbers of fruits, particularly bayberry and wax myrtle, which their digestive systems are uniquely suited among warblers to digest.



Yellow Throated Vireo

A bird of open deciduous forests, the Yellow-throated Vireo is the most colorful member of its family in North America. Forages in middle and upper stories of forest, gleaning insects off trunks, branches and leaves. A solitary bird on migration and during the winter. It forms only loose associations with mixed-species foraging flocks. In the summer, pairs associate only long enough to raise a brood of young.

Behavior: Moves slowly from place to place and searches for a relatively long time from one spot. Typically a solitary, it forms

only loose associations with mixed-species foraging flocks. In the summer, pairs associate only long enough to raise a brood of young.

Food: Arthropods, some fruits and seeds.



Yellow Warbler

Few warblers combine brilliant color and easy viewing quite like the Yellow Warbler. In summer, the buttery yellow males sing their sweet whistled song from willows, wet thickets, and roadsides across almost all of North America.

Behavior: They forage restlessly, with quick hops along small branches and twigs to glean caterpillars and other insects. Males sing their sweet, whistled songs from high perches.

Food: They eat mostly insects that they pick from foliage or capture on short flights. Typical prey include midges,

caterpillars, beetles, leafhoppers and other bugs, and wasps.



Yellow-Breasted Chat

Despite its bright yellow chest, loud song, and conspicuous display flights, the Yellow-breasted Chat is easily over-looked because of its skulking nature and the denseness of its brushy haunts. Nests are made of bulky cup of grasses, leaves, strips of bark, stems of weeds; lined with finer grasses, wiry plant stems, pine needles, and sometimes roots and hair. Placed in dense shrubs.

Behavior: Gleans prey from foliage of low, dense shrubs, or from ground. Holds food with foot.

Food: Small invertebrates, fruits.



Vesper Sparrow

A large sparrow, the Vesper Sparrow inhabits grasslands and fields across much of the north-central United States and Canada. As its name suggests, it often sings in the evening twilight, though it sings actively in early morning as well. The Vesper Sparrow responds quickly to changes in habitat; it is often the first species to occupy reclaimed mine sites and abandon old farm fields as they return to forest.

Behavior: Scratches on the ground, sometimes using both feet.

Food: Seeds of grasses, weeds, and grain crops; also insects during the breeding season.

Bird Name:	Time of Year to Seen:	Page No.
American Crow	Year Round	Page 2
American Gold Finch	Spring/Winter/Fall	
American Kestrel	Fall	
American Redstart	Summer	
American Tree Sparrow	Fall/Winter	Page 3
Baltimore Oriole	Summer	
Barn Swallow	Summer	
Black & White Warbler	Spring/Fall	
Black-Capped Chickadee	Spring/Fall	Page 4
Black Throated Blue Warbler	Fall	
Blue Jays	Year Round	
Brown Creeper	Fall	
Cardinals	Year Round	Page 5
Chipping Sparrow	Year Round	
Common Grackle	Year Round	
Common Yellow Throat	Summer	
Downy Woodpecker	Year Round	Page 6
Eastern Kingbird	Summer	
Eastern Phoebe	Spring/Fall	
Gray Catbird	Summer	
Hermit Thrush	Fall	Page 7
Hose Finch	Year Round	
House Sparrow	Year Round	
Killdeer	Late Spring/Early Summer	
Mockingbird	Year Round	Page 8
Mourning Dove	Year Round	
Northern Flicker Woodpecker	Year Round	
Ovenbird	Fall	
Palm Warbler	Fall	Page 9
Red-Tail Hawk	Fall/Winter	
Red-Winged Blackbird	Spring/Summer/Fall	
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	Year Round	
Robin	Year Round	Page 10
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	Fall	
Ruby-Throated Hummingbird	Summer/Fall	
Sharp Shinned Hawk	Fall/Winter	
Starling	Year Round	Page 11
Tree Sparrow	Summer	
Tufted Titmouse	Summer/Fall	
White Breasted Nuthatch	Spring/Fall	
White-Crowned Sparrow	Fall/Winter	Page 12
White-Throated Sparrow	Fall	
Winter Wren	Fall/Winter	
Yellow Rump Warbler	Year Round	
Yellow Throated Vireo	Summer	Page 13
Yellow Warbler	Fall/Winter	
Yellow-Breasted Chat	Summer	
Vesper Sparrow	Fall	