



**Village of Floral Park
Department of Recreation**



Birds of the Gardens

Introduction to the Gardens

This brochure was created for 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 these 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 backyard 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, it has reduced the amount of water 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. With 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). This 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 them, 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.

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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, They are common at feeders, where it takes primarily sunflowers seeds. 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:** They 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. A colorful raptors: the male's slate-blue head and wings contrast with its rusty-red back and tail. Kestrels are declining in parts of their habitat; 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 lbs. 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.

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 tree tops 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 insects. Look for the long, deeply forked tail that streams out behind them. They often cruise low, flying just a few inches above the ground or water. They build their cup-shaped mud nests almost exclusively on human-made structures.

Behavior: They feed mid air, 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.

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 a black cap, black bib, white cheeks, gray back, gray wings, gray tail; and whitish underside with puffy sides. It checks out everything in its territory, and quickness to discover bird feeders.

Behavior: They usually 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 it can be seen in a variety of habitats, including parks and gardens. In winter the sexes use slightly different habitats. The male is most common in forest at lower to mid-elevations, while the female uses shrubbier habitat at higher elevations. Winters in dense tropical forests.

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

Food: In summer, feeds mostly on insects. In winter they will also eat seeds, berries, small fruits, and flower nectar. Will visit hummingbird feeders for sugar water.



Bluejay

Familiar to many people, with a perky crest; blue, white, and black plumage; and noisy calls. They are intelligent with a complex social system 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 animals. They raid nests for eggs and nestlings. They will 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 trees, sometimes downward-facing. They probe into crevices and pick loose bark with their down curved bills. Their piercing calls can make it much easier to find.

Behavior: They move with short, jerky motions using their stiff tails for support. To move to a new tree, they fly making a constant stream of rattles, 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.



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 in 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, like black oil sunflower seeds.



Chipping Sparrow

A crisp, pretty sparrow whose bright cap both provides a splash of color and makes adults fairly easy to identify. They are common wherever trees are inter-spersed 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 outerlimbs. 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 small animals, insects, fish, 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. 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 glean their food while perched. They also eat grit, which aids digestion and minerals to their diet.



Downy Woodpecker

A familiar sight at backyard feeders and in parks. They are at home on tiny branches or balancing on plants and suet feeders. In winter they are frequent members of mixed species flocks. Flocking helps spend less time watching out for predators and better luck finding food. **Behavior:** They hitch onto tree limbs and trunks or drop into tall weeds to feed. In spring or summer, you'll hear them, with their shrill whinnying calls or by the drumming 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 they're 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.

Behavior: They fly with very shallow, rowing wing beats and a raised head, with a metallic, sputtering call.

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, their call is a frequent sound 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 their diet.

They also eat spiders, ticks, and millipedes, as well as occasional small fruits or seeds.



Fox Sparrow

They may be seen kicking up leaf litter as they search for food. Fox Sparrows are dark, splotchy sparrows with rich red hues like a Fox. They breed primarily in remote areas, many people see them in winter when the birds move into backyard thickets. They nest on the ground or in the "V" of bushes, trees, or dense shrubbery.

Behavior: They rarely make long flights during their day-to-day activities. Within one day of arriving on the

breeding ground they establish territories of up to 2.5 acres. They pair off with mates within a week.

Food: They eat a balanced mixture of plant and insect material.



Gray Catbird

Once you've heard its cat like meow 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. They are relatives of mocking-birds and thrashers, they share that group's vocal abilities, copying the sounds of other species stringing them together to make their own song.

Behavior: They're 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.



Great Horned Owl

It has earlike tufts, intimidating yellow-eyed stare, and deep hooting voice. They can take down birds and mammals larger than itself. One of the most common owls, it's at home in any semi-open area. Forests, grass lands, backyards, cities, from the Arctic to the tropics.

Behavior: They roost in trees, thick brush, and cavities. Active mostly at night - especially at dusk and before dawn. They respond to intruders and threats with

bill-clapping, hisses, screams, spreading their wings and striking with their feet. When clenched, its talons require 28 pounds of force to open.

Food: Mostly mammals and birds, also mice, rats, geese, squirrels, bats, cats, crows, ravens, doves, and starlings. They supplement their diet with reptiles, insects, and fish.



Hermit Thrush

An unassuming bird with a lovely, melancholy song. It forages on the forest floor by rummaging through leaf litter or seizing insects with its bill. With a rich brown upper body and smudged spots on the breast, and 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. Sometimes it 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.

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. They eat black oil sunflower seeds 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. They hide their nests behind shop signs, traffic lights, or anywhere they can find a hole.

Food: Grains, seeds and readily eat birdseed including millet, milo, and sunflowerseeds. In summer, House Sparrows eat insects and feed them to their young.



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 killdeer, 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.

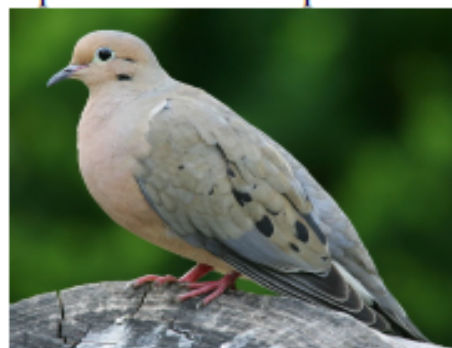


Mockingbird

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 up high off the ground, 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. They've been seen drinking sap from the cuts on pruned trees.

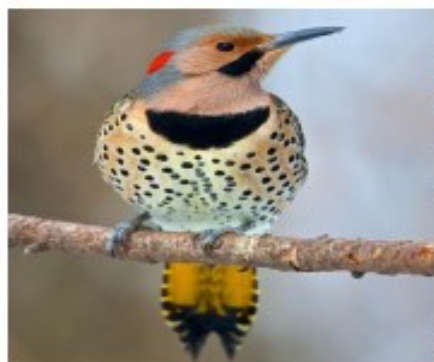


Mourning Dove

A common slender-tailed, small-headed dove. They perch on telephone wires and forage for seeds on the ground; their flight is fast and bullet straight. Their soft calls sound like crying. On take off, their wings make a sharp whistling. They are the most frequently hunted species in North America.

Behavior: They fly fast on powerful wing beats, sometimes making sudden ascents, descents, and dodges.

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



Northern Flicker Woodpecker

Large, brown woodpeckers with black-scalloped plumage. 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: They spend lots of time on the ground, and when in trees they're often perched upright on horizontal branches.

Food: Mainly insects that are gathered 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, they are one of the most characteristic birds. Hard to be seen, but you will hear its song, "teacher, teacher, teacher," ring out.

Behavior: Picks insects off leaf litter on the forest floor. Male Ovenbirds will sing together. One male starts singing, and the second will immediately join in. 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 and other invertebrates, they may add seeds to their diets and local prey.



Palm Warbler

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 U.S. 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. You may see them atop telephone poles, eyes fixed on the ground to catch the movements of their prey 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: Animals make up of most meals. Individual prey items can weigh 1 ounce to 5 lbs.

Red-Wing Blackbird



One of the most abundant birds and 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: Mainly insects in the summer, then seeds, including corn and wheat, in winter.



Red-Bellied Woodpecker

A pale, medium-sized woodpecker. 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: This bird mainly eats insects, spiders, and plenty of plant material, too. Including, acorns, nuts

and pine cones, as well as seeds. In fall and winter, they eat fruits ranging from grapes and hackberries to oranges and mangoes. Occasionally eating lizards, nestling birds, even minnows.



Ringneck Pheasant

They will stride across fields and burst into flight. They are large birds, approaching nearly 3 feet, with a long, pointed tail. Males perform their calls and wing-flapping displays in open areas.

Behavior: They forage in fields, eating grains, seeds, and insects. They usually walk or run and on occasion will resort to flying.

Food: They eat seeds, grasses, leaves, roots, fruits, nuts,

and insects. Their spring/summer has a greater emphasis on insects. They take most of their food from the ground, scratching or digging with their bills.



Robbin

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 environment. When stopping 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 eat many types of insects and a small amount of seeds and fruit, from from poison-oak berries to the pulp of dogwood berries.



Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

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 them. In 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 and often disappear 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

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. Covered in white spots during winter, they turn dark and glossy in summer.

Behavior: Starlings are loud, and they travel in large groups. They race across fields, beak down and probing the grass for food; or up on wires or trees making constant noise

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

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 bluegreen feathers flashing in the sunlight.

Behavior: As part of their spring migration progresses, flocks dissolve and they pair up. Females spend much of their time on the nest they build and rarely venture outside the male's territory. Males roost nearby, visiting the nest frequently. Pairings don't outlast breeding season. 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.

Tufted Titmouse



Its echoing voice is a common visitor to feeders. They have large black eyes, small, round bill, and brushy crest that gives them an eager expression that matches the way they flutter through canopies. When a titmouse finds a large seed, it will 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 trees, then whacking them to "hatch" out the seed. Their voices are loud, and often their insistent 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: Mainly insects, but also eat seeds and nuts, sunflower seeds, peanuts, suet, and peanut butter.

White-Throated Sparrow



The black eye stripe, white crown and super cilium, yellow lures, white throat bordered by a black whisker, or malar stripe, that make them an attractive bird.

With their 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.

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. 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, around fallen dead wood.
Food: Invertebrates, including insects, insect larvae, millipedes, spiders, and others.



Yellow Rump Warbler

Impressive in the sheer numbers, they fill shrubs and trees with their sharp chirps. 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. You'll often see them 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: Mainly insects in the summer, in winter they eat great numbers of fruits, particularly bayberry and wax myrtle, which their digestive systems are uniquely suited.



Yellow Throated Vireo

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. Breeds in a variety of edge habitats in mature deciduous and mixed deciduous forests. Nests are an open cup suspended from the fork of a small branch. Made of bark, grasses, pine needles, and leaves held together by insect silk and spider webbing.

Behavior: Moves slowly from place to place and searches

a relatively long time from one spot. Solitary bird in winter, it forms only loose unions with mixed foraging flocks. In the summer, they pair only long enough to raise a brood.

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 on small branches and twigs to eat insects. Males sing their sweet, whistled songs from high perches.

Food: They eat mostly insects they capture on short flights. Typical prey includes midges, caterpillars, beetles, leafhoppers and other bugs, and wasps.



Acknowledgements

Inc. Village of Floral Park

www.fpvillage.org

1 Floral Boulevard., P.O. Box 27

Floral Park, NY 11002

(516) 326-6300

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

www.birds.cornell

159 Sapsucker Woods Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850

(800) 843-2473

Floral Park Department of Recreation

Kurt W. Meyfohr - *Superintendent*

Don Haug Sr. - *Staff Ornithologist*

Gena King / Finola McGovern - *Editor*

(516) 326-6336

Centennial Gardens ~ Bird Sanctuary

243 Floral Pkwy, Floral Park, NY 11001

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