

American Crow

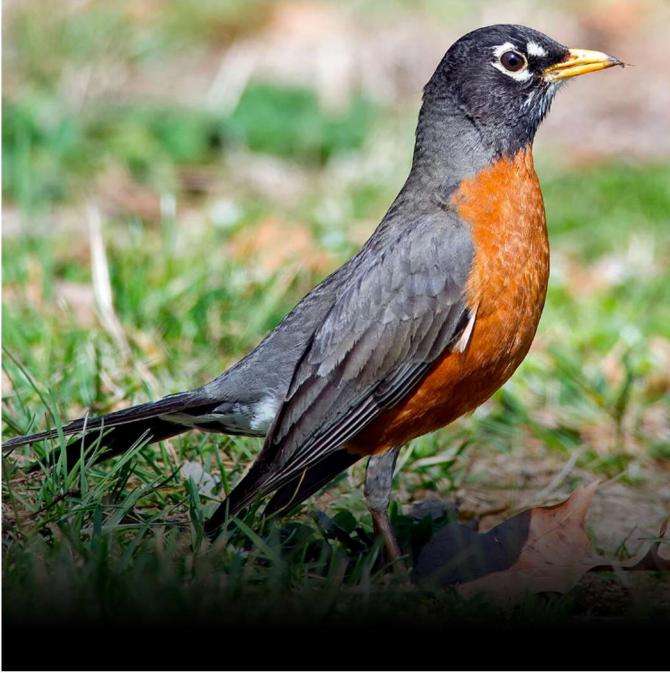
Corvus brachyrhynchos



- Among the most intelligent birds
- 16-21" with 33-39" wingspan; males larger
- Eggs dull blue- to gray-green, blotched brown and gray
- Lives in semi-open habitats, including woodlands, farms, fields and parks
- Nests in tree or large shrub 10-70' off ground
- Forages mostly on ground; omnivorous and opportunistic, eating anything it can find including carrion and garbage
- Sociable, gathering in communal roosts of thousands or tens of thousands

American Robin

Turdus migratorius



- Among the earliest birds heard at dawn
- 9.1-11" with 12-16" wingspan; males slightly larger
- Female incubates eggs; both parents feed young
- Lives in cities, towns, farmlands and forests
- Nests on horizontal branch of tree or shrub 5-25' high, also on ledges of houses, barns and bridges
- Forages on ground, running on open lawns; eats mostly insects, berries and earthworms
- In Fall, gather in roaming flocks concentrating on food sources

Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus



- Emblematic of the United States; builds the largest tree nests recorded for any animal species
- 28-42" with 71-91" wingspan; females much larger
- Eggs white
- Lives in open country, typically near water
- Nests in very tall trees or cliffs 180' high or more
- Swooping predator and scavenger; eats fish, birds and mammals, sometimes carrion
- Sometimes many winter along rivers or reservoirs

Bank Swallow

Riparia riparia



- All colony pairs may be synchronized in nesting activities
- 4.7-5.5" with 9.8-13" wingspan
- Eggs white
- Lives near water, including fields, marshes, streams, lakes
- Nests in dense colonies, in holes in steep vertical dirt or sand banks
- Feeds in flight over or near water; eats insects
- Colonies may have dozens to hundreds of nests

Barn Owl

Tyto alba



- Has attracted superstition for ghostly appearance
- 13-15" with 31-37" wingspan; females larger
- Eggs whitish, sometimes nest-stained
- Lives in open or semi-open country, including farmland and marsh
- Nests in caves and hollow trees, barn lofts, church steeples, bridges
- Hunts at night, flying low or diving from perch; eats mostly rodents, young rabbits and small mammals
- Usually mate for life

Belted Kingfisher

Megaceryle alcyon



- Reverse sexual dimorphism, female more brightly colored
- 11-14" with 19-23" wingspan; female slightly larger
- Eggs white
- Lives in most waterside habitats including streams, lakes, bays, coasts and marshes
- Nests in steep or vertical dirt bank
- Hunts by diving headfirst into water, capturing fish; eats mostly small fish, some insects and amphibians
- A group is known as a "kerfuffle"

Black-capped Chickadee

Poecile atricapillus



- Known for boldness near humans, will eat from hand
- 4.7-5.9" with 6.3-8.3" wingspan; males slightly larger
- Eggs white with fine reddish-brown dots
- Lives in open woods and edges of forest, especially birch and alder groves
- Nests in hole in tree, sometimes old woodpecker hole or nesting box, 5-20' above ground
- Forages by hopping twigs and branches, readily comes to bird feeders; eats insects, seeds and berries
- Flies between trees in small flocks, often with other birds

Blackpoll Warbler

Steophaga striata



- Female returns to previous year's nest site and mates with male holding that territory, even if he is mated
- 4.9-5.9" with 7.9-9.8" wingspan
- Eggs off-white with brown and lavender spots
- Lives in conifer forests, mainly spruce
- Nest is placed next to trunk, usually 2-12' above ground
- Forages along branches of tall trees, and flies out for insects; eats mainly insects and berries
- Migrates every Fall from Northeast USA over water to South America, often flying nonstop for 72 hours

Blue Jay

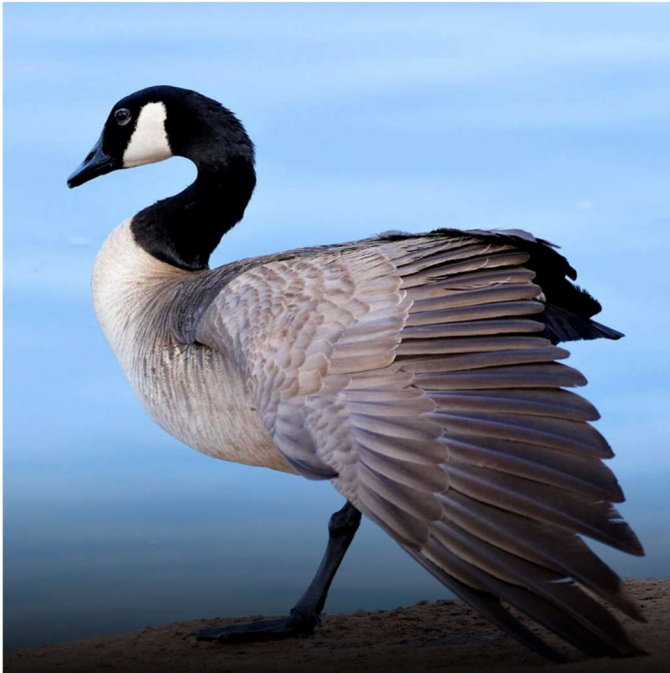
Cyanocitta cristata



- One of the loudest and most colorful birds
- 9-12" with 13-17" wingspan; males slightly larger
- Eggs greenish, buff or pale blue, spotted brown and gray
- Favors habitat with many oak or beech trees; common in suburbs and parks
- Nest is built by both sexes, in forks of tree limbs 8-30' above ground
- Forages in trees, at birdfeeders, and may rob nests; omnivorous, eating insects, nuts and seeds, small animals, carrion
- Can make musical sounds and imitate the call of hawks

Canada Goose

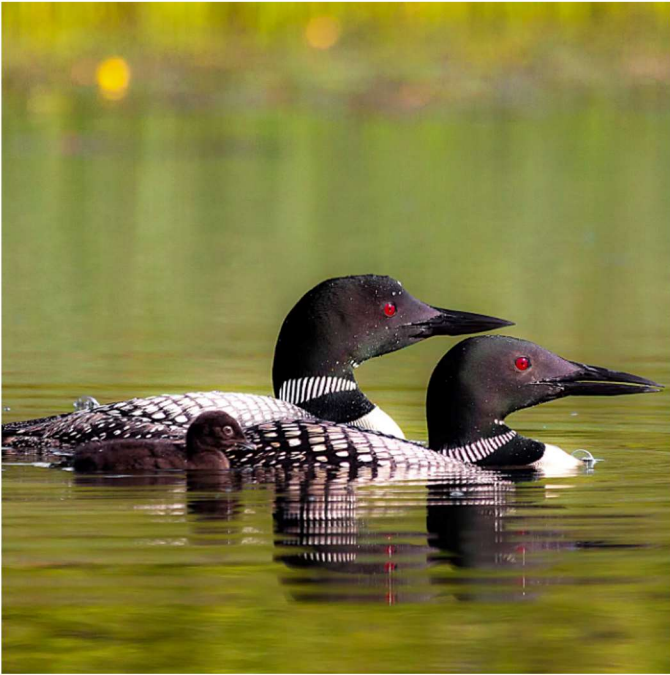
Branta canadensis



- Well adapted to human civilization, including park ponds and golf courses
- 30-43" with 50-73" wingspan
- Eggs white
- Lives near water in many habitats and regions, including lakes, marshes, bays and tundra
- Nests on elevated dry ground near water
- Forages by grazing on land, sometimes in water; eats mostly plants, sometimes insects and small fish
- May mate for life; flocks fly in V-formation

Common loon

Gavia immer



- Considered by many a symbol of the wilderness
- 26-36" with 50-58" wingspan; males much larger
- Eggs olive with brown or black
- Lives on large lakes and ocean with plentiful fish
- Nests very near water on island or shore, hidden by vegetation
- Forages by diving and swimming underwater; eats mainly fish, some aquatic plants
- Solitary when feeding, but gather in flocks at night

Common Raven

Corvus corax



- Largest of "songbirds" class and highly intelligent
- 21-26" with 45-51" wingspan
- Eggs greenish, blotched with olive or brown
- Lives in varied habitats, including tundra and desert
- Nests on ledge of rock cliff or high in tall tree; may reuse nest
- Forages mainly on ground; omnivorous, eating insects, small animals and birds, carrion and garbage
- Typically forage in pairs, sometimes cooperating to flush prey

Double-crested Cormorant

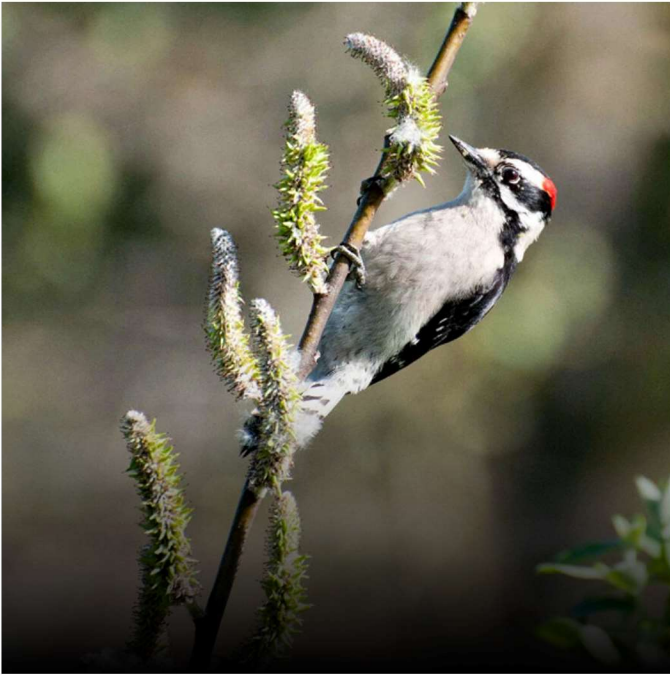
Nannopterum auritum



- Although a water bird, its feathers are not waterproof and must be dried out
- 28-35" with 45-48" wingspan
- Eggs bluish white, becoming nest-stained
- Lives in any aquatic habitat
- Nests near water on cliff ledge, island ground, or tree
- Forages by diving and swimming underwater; eats mainly fish and shellfish, some snakes
- Nests in colonies, sometimes with wading birds

Downy Woodpecker

Dryobates pubescens



- Males and females have separate feeding areas in Fall and early Winter
- 5.5-7.1" with 9.8-12.2" wingspan
- Eggs white
- Lives in variety of forested habitats from wilderness to suburban yards
- Nests in excavated cavity in dead tree or limb, 12-30' above ground
- Forages on trunks and major tree limbs, at birdfeeders; eats mostly insects, some seeds and berries
- In Winter, joins roving mixed flocks of bird species

Eastern Bluebird

Sialia sialis



- High percentage nest in birdhouses placed for species
- 6.3-8.3" with 9.8-12.6" wingspan
- Eggs pale blue, sometimes white
- Lives in open country with scattered trees, including farms, suburbs and forest clearings
- Nests in natural tree cavity, old woodpecker hole or birdhouse
- Forages by perching low and flying to ground, hovering to catch insects; eats mostly insects and berries
- Sometimes gather in flocks of more than one hundred

Eastern Screech-Owl

Megascops asio



- Despite name, has a soft call
- 6.5-10" with 18-24" wingspan; females slightly larger
- Eggs white
- Lives in woodlands with some open ground, including farms, parks and suburban yards
- Nests in tree cavity 10-30' above ground, including natural hollows and abandoned woodpecker holes
- Forages at dusk and night, swooping from a perch; eats large insects and small rodents, some bats and fish
- Adults may bring small Blind Snakes and release them in nest, where they live at bottom and feed on insects, protecting young from parasites

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus



- Breaks hard-shelled molluscs by flying high and dropping them on rocks
- 25-31" with 59-67" wingspan; males larger
- Eggs olive to buff with brown blotches
- Lives on coastal waters and estuaries
- Nests in colonies on islands, sea cliffs, sometimes beaches, often mixed with other birds
- Forages on foot, while flying or swimming; omnivorous, eating fish, shellfish, insects, rodents, berries, garbage
- Has benefitted from human activity (garbage dumps, fishing fleets) to expand territory southward

Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias



- Large birds, flying with slow wingbeats
- 35-54" with 66-79" wingspan; males slightly larger
- Eggs pale blue
- Lives in marshes, swamps, shores and tidflats
- Nest is platform of sticks, often quite large, 20-60' up in trees
- Forages by standing or wading in water, waiting for fish to swim near; eats mostly fish, some other animals
- Breeds in colonies, sometimes mixed with other wading birds

Great Egret

Ardea alba



- Nearly extinct in late 1800s when its plumes were sought for use in fashion
- 31-41" with 52-67" wingspan
- Eggs pale blue-green
- Lives in marshes, ponds, shores and mud flats
- Nests in trees or shrubs near water, 10-40' off ground, sometimes low in marsh or 90' up in cypress
- Forages while walking in water; eats mostly fish, aquatic animals, insects, sometimes rodents and other birds
- Usually live in colonies, including with other species of birds, and sometimes in isolated pairs

Great Horned Owl

Bubo virginianus



- In Winter, may store uneaten prey, thawing carcass by "incubating" it
- 17-25" with 36-60" wingspan; females larger
- Eggs dull whitish
- Found in nearly all habitats in North America, from swamps to deserts to northern coniferous forests
- Typically uses old nest of another large bird 20-60' off ground, sometimes on cliff ledges or caves
- Hunts mostly at night, swooping from perch; eats mostly mammals and birds, and will even attack porcupines with often fatal results for both
- Most mate for life

House Finch

Haemorhous mexicanus



- New York pet shops released birds in 1940 to avoid prosecution for illegal sale; they colonized the suburbs and then the entire eastern USA
- 5-6" with 8-10" wingspan
- Eggs pale blue with black and lavender dots
- Lives mostly near humans in cities, towns and farmland
- Nests in wide variety of sites in existing holes or nests, in trees, bushes or manmade structures
- Forages on ground in flocks; eats mostly weed seeds and berries, some small insects
- Males sing all year, females only in Spring

House Wren

Troglodytes aedon



- Named long ago for its tendency to nest around human homes or in birdhouses
- 4.3-5.1" with approx 5.9" wingspan
- Eggs white, heavily dotted with reddish brown
- Lives in semi-open habitats, including open forests, suburbs and orchards
- Nests in any kind of cavity, including in trees and stumps, building crevices, nest boxes, flowerboxes
- Forages in dense vegetation, usually low but sometimes high in trees or on ground; eats mostly insects
- Adults often puncture eggs of other birds nesting nearby

Laughing Gull

Leucophaeus atricilla



- May steal food from pelican by landing on its head and snatching fish from its bill pouch
- 14-16" with 39-43" wingspan
- Eggs olive to buff or brown, blotched with brown
- Lives in coastal regions and salt marshes
- Nests on ground in grass or bushes near ocean beaches and salt marshes
- Forages while walking, wading or swimming, or in flight dipping to water; eats fish, insects, shellfish, garbage
- Breeds in colonies, sometimes with thousands of nests

Magnolia Warbler

Setophaga magnolia



- Named by chance by an ornithologist who spotted his first in a magnolia tree
- 4.3-5.1" with 6.3-7.9" wingspan
- Eggs white, marked with brown, lavender, olive and gray
- Lives in low conifer forests, especially spruce
- Nests in dense low conifer near trunk, usually less than 10' above ground
- Forages by hopping on branches; eats mostly insects, especially caterpillars, sometimes berries
- Frequently join foraging flocks of chickadees during migration

Mourning Dove

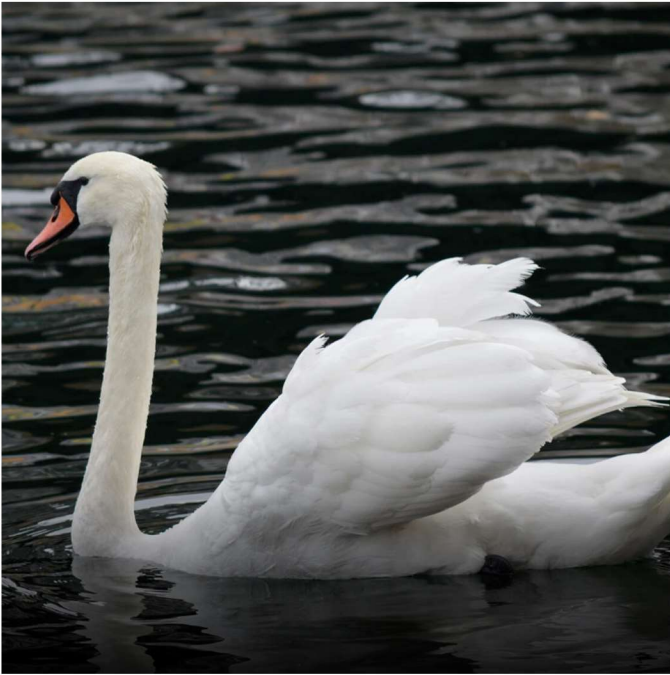
Zenaida macroura



- Named for their call, which sounds like a lament
- Approx 12" with 14.6-17.7" wingspan
- Eggs white
- Lives in almost any open or semi-open habitat
- Nests in tree or shrub, sometimes on ground or structures, usually lower than 40' above ground
- Forages mostly on ground, will come to birdfeeders; eats almost entirely seeds, and swallows small gravel to aid in digestion
- May raise up to six broods per year, more than any other native North American bird

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor



- Originally brought from Europe as an ornamental bird; its wingbeats can be heard up to a mile away
- 56-62" with 84-96" wingspan; males are larger
- Eggs very pale green, becoming nest-stained
- Lives in fresh and saltwater wetlands, near ponds, lakes, and bays, often near humans
- Nests on shoreline, small islands or mound built in shallow water
- Feeds mainly on water by dipping and diving, also fed by humans; eats aquatic plants, insects and small fish
- Usually mate for life; aggressively defend their young

Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis



- State bird of seven Eastern states
- 8.3-9.1" with 9.8-12.2" wingspan
- Eggs whitish to pale bluish or greenish, marked with brown, purple and gray
- Lives in brushy or semi-open habitats
- Nests are well hidden in dense shrubs, vines or low trees, 3-10' off ground
- Forages hopping on ground or in low bushes; eats mostly seeds, various insects and berries
- Males aggressively defend the nest, and will attack their reflection in windows and mirrors

Northern Mockingbird

Mimus polyglottos



- Captured for sale as pets in late 1700s to early 1900s
- 8.1-11" with 12-15" wingspan
- Eggs greenish to bluish gray, blotched brown
- Lives in areas with dense shrubs and open ground, including suburbs and farmland
- Nests in dense shrub or tree usually 3-10' above ground
- Forages on ground, sometimes flies from perch; eats mostly insects and berries, some fruits
- Bold in defense of their nests, attacking cats and humans

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus



- In many areas, landowners put up tall poles near water to attract nesting
- 20-26" with 50-71" wingspan
- Eggs creamy white blotched with brown
- Lives near fresh or salt water with large numbers of fish
- Nests at top of large tree not far from water, often with dead or broken top, sometimes on utility poles
- Hunts flying over water and plunging feet-first to catch fish; eats almost exclusively fish
- May use the same nest for years, adding material each year so that nest becomes very large

Ovenbird

Seiurus aurocapilla



- Name is a reference to shape of its nest
- 4.3-6.3" with 7.5-10.2" wingspan
- Eggs white with gray and brown spots
- Lives in forests with closed canopy cover, large trees, and mixed ground cover
- Nests on ground where cover is sparse; female builds domed nest and lines it with animal hair
- Forages on ground, sometimes hovers to take insects; eats mostly insects, some seeds and snails
- Females perform a distraction display, mimicking a crippled bird, when predators near the nest

Peregrine Falcon

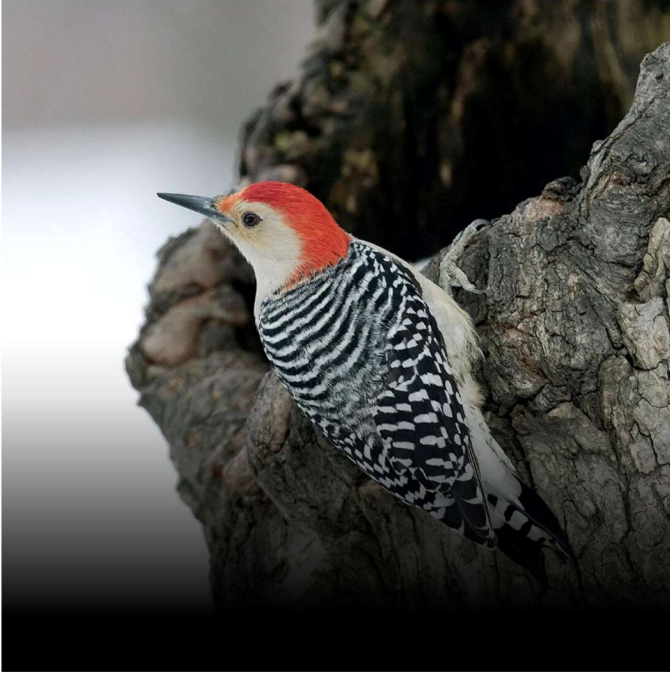
Falco peregrinus



- One of the world's fastest birds, many live in cities and feed on pigeons
- 13-23" with 29-47" wingspan
- Eggs whitish to pale reddish-brown, marked with warm brown
- Lives in open country, cliffs, sometimes cities
- Nests are usually on a cliff ledge, hollow of tall tree, or ledges of buildings and bridges
- Hunts by flying very high and diving to strike prey; eats mainly birds, as large as loons and geese
- May mate for life

Red-bellied Woodpecker

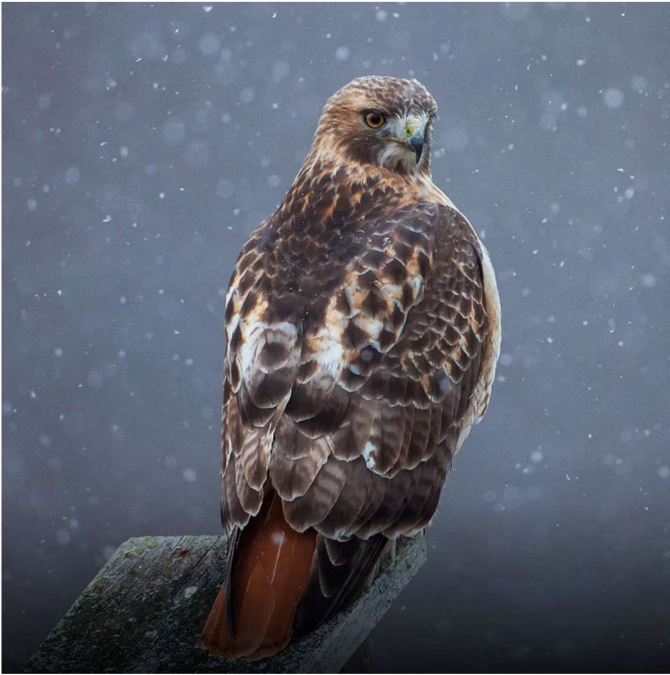
Melanerpes carolinus



- Squirrels, bats and other birds use their abandoned nests as shelter
- 9-10.5" with 15-18" wingspan
- Eggs white
- Often lives near water, in riverside woods, swamps, suburbs and city parks
- Nests are excavated in dead trees or poles, usually less than 50' above ground
- Forages by searching for insects on tree trunks and major limbs; eats mainly insects, nuts, fruit and seeds
- Defends nest aggressively and may attack approaching predators

Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis



- Most prevalent bird of prey in North America
- 18-26" with 43-56" wingspan; females larger
- Eggs whitish, blotched brown
- Found in habitats that provide open ground and high perches, including woodland, grassland and desert
- Nests in tallest trees up to 120' above ground, on cliff ledges, buildings, and giant cactus
- Hunts by swooping from high perch; eats small mammals, birds, and reptiles, sometimes carrion
- In courtship, males may catch prey and pass it to female in flight

Ring-necked Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus



- Asian bird introduced to North America as game bird
- 23-35" with 22-34" wingspan
- Eggs olive-buff, rarely pale blue
- Lives in semi-open habitats such as fields, marsh and forest edges, brushy meadows
- Nests on ground in dense cover
- Forages on ground, sometimes in trees; eats mainly grain and seeds, berries, also insects and earthworms
- In Winter, flocks are often segregated into small groups of males and larger flocks of females

Rock Pigeon (aka Rock Dove)

Columba livia



- Closely associated with humans, it has been raised for food, and trained for homing and racing
- 11-15" with 24-28" wingspan
- Eggs white
- Lives mostly in and around cities, suburbs and farms
- Native nesting sites are sheltered cliff ledges; around humans, nests on window ledges, rain gutters, barns
- Forages mostly on ground, sometimes in trees or shrubs, and often feeds in flocks; eats mostly seeds and berries, in cities eats bread or other food provided by humans
- May mate for life

Ruffed Grouse

Bonasa umbellus



- Most widely distributed game bird in North America
- 16-20" with 20-25" wingspan
- Eggs pinkish-buff
- Lives in young forests, particularly in aspen woods
- Nests on ground, usually at base of tree, stump or in brush
- Forages mostly on ground; eats buds, berries, seeds and insects
- Often spends afternoon in sandy areas to dust feathers and socialize with mate

Song Sparrow

Melospiza melodia



- One of the most abundant species in North America
- 4.3-7.1" with 7-10" wingspan
- Eggs pale greenish white, heavily spotted red-brown
- Lives in brushy fields, streamsides, marsh and woodland edges, and gardens
- Nests in dense brush on the ground or less than 4' up
- Forages mostly on the ground, sometimes in very shallow water or shrubs and trees, and will come to birdfeeders; eats mostly insects and seeds, occasionally small fish
- Able to tell neighbors from strangers by song

Tufted Titmouse

Baeolophus bicolor



- May pluck hair for their nests from live woodchuck, dog or other animal, including humans
- 5.5-6.3" with 7.9-10.2" wingspan; males larger
- Eggs white, finely dotted brown, reddish or purple
- Lives in woodlands, shade trees and groves with tall trees
- Nests in hole in tree, usually 35' off ground
- Forages by hopping branches, will eat from birdfeeders; eats mostly insects and seeds
- Breeding pair may have a "helper," one of their offspring from a previous year

Wild Turkey

Meleagris gallopavo



- Benjamin Franklin preferred this bird to Bald Eagle as the national symbol of the United States
- 39-49" with 49-57" wingspan; males much larger
- Eggs white to pale buff, dotted reddish brown
- Lives in wooded areas; roosts overnight in tall trees
- Nests on ground, often at base of tree, under shrub or in tall grass
- Forages on ground, sometimes in shrubs or trees to eat berries; eats mostly plants, some insects, small animals
- Sometimes more than one female will lay eggs in the same nest

Wilson's Snipe

Gallinago delicata



- When diving in the air, vibration of outer tail feathers produces a hollow whinnying sound
- 9-11" with 15-18" wingspan
- Eggs brown to olive-buff, marked with dark brown
- Lives in marshes, bogs and wet meadows
- Nests on ground, usually well hidden in grass or tundra vegetation
- Forages by probing in soft mud; eats mostly earthworms, and insects that live in damp soil or shallow water
- Migrates alone, not in flocks; some travel as far as Lesser Antilles and South America