

Guide to the Common Birds of The Land Between



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**The Land
Between**

Cottage Country's
Conservation Organization

Common Birds of The Land Between

- Black-capped Chickadee
- Blue Jay
- Mallard
- Red-winged Blackbird
- American Robin
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Downy Woodpecker
- Song Sparrow
- American Goldfinch
- Northern Cardinal
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Common Loon
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Great Blue Heron
- Wood Duck
- Wild Turkey
- Trumpeter Swan
- European Starling
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Ring-billed Gull
- Mourning Dove
- Cedar Waxwing
- American Crow
- Chipping Sparrow



Black-capped Chickadee

Poecile atricapillus

- Small, round body
- Small, black bill
- Black cap and throat
- White cheeks
- Buffy sides
- Gray/black upperparts
- Steel-blue/black wings
- Habitat generalist
- Male and female similar
- Common throughout the year



Blue Jay

Cyanocitta cristata

- Medium, plump body
- Large, black bill
- Blue upperparts
- White underparts
- Blue-crested head
- White face with black lines
- Neon blue wings and tail with black and white markings
- Habitat generalist
- Male and female similar
- Common throughout the year



Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

- Large, thick body
- Siphoning type Beak
- Prefers wetlands, waterbodies and wet fields
- Common throughout the year

Male (Right):

- Green head with olive-yellow beak
- Gray sides with brown back
- White tail feathers on a black rump

Female (Left):

- Brown overall
- Orange/black beak
- Dark brown back feathers with light brown edging



Red-winged Blackbird

Agelaius phoeniceus

- Medium bodied
- Pointed, black beaks
- Prefer marshes, wetlands and fields
- Spring-fall



Female (Left):

- Brown upperparts with streaked underparts
- Red-wash on face



Male (Above):

- Black overall
- Red/Orange patch on wing

American Robin

Turdus migratorius

- Medium bodied with plump belly
- Yellow, pointed beak
- Buffy-red breast
- Dark upperparts
- White eye ring
- Habitat generalist
- Males have more distinct eye ring, darker chest and head
- Common throughout the year



White-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta carolinensis

- Small, plump bodied
- Long, black, pointed beak
- Black forehead and nape
- Blue-gray upperparts
- White underparts
- Buffy-orange between legs
- Prefers forests
- Females have gray cap
- Common throughout the year



Downy Woodpecker

Picoides pubescens

- Small, slender body
- Short, black pointed beak
 - Beak shorter than head is wide
- Black-and-white face
- White underparts
- Black upperparts and tail
- White patch on back
- White barring on black wings
- Prefers forests
- Male and female similar
 - Male (Right) has red spot on back of head, females lack red spot
- Common throughout the year



Song Sparrow

Melospiza melodia

- Small, plump body
- Thick, dark beak
- Rufous-brown crown
- Gray eyebrow
- Whitish throat
- Coarsely streaked underparts
- Central breast spot
- Habitat generalist
- Male and female similar
- Common throughout the year



American Goldfinch

Spinus tristis



- Small, thick body
- Thick, pinkish beak
- Yellow overall
- White rump
- Black tail
- White wing bar
- Habitat generalist
- Common throughout the year

Male (Right):

- Brighter yellow
- Black cap and wings

Female (Left):

- Duller yellow chest
- Brown/olive upperparts
- Brown/black wings

Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis

- Medium bodied
- Thick, orange-red beaks
- Crested heads
- Habitat generalist
- Common throughout the year



Female (Left):

- Olive upperparts
- Gray-brown underparts
- Reddish crest and tail feathers



Male (Above):

- Red overall
- Black patch around beak to eye

Hairy Woodpecker

Picoides villosus

- Small-medium, slender body
- Long, black pointed beak
 - Beak as long as head is wide
- Black-and-white face
- White underparts
- Black upperparts and tail
- White patch on back
- White barring on black wings
- Prefers forests
- Male and female similar
 - Male (Right) has red spot on back of head, females lack red spot
- Common throughout the year



Common Loon

Gavia immer

- Extra-Large, thick body
- Long, thick, pointed, black beak
- Black head with red eye
- White lines on neck
- White underparts
- Checkered upperparts
- Prefers waterbodies and wetlands
- Male and female similar
- Summer-fall



Dark-eyed Junco

Junco hyemalis

- Small, plump body
- Thick, pink beaks
- White underparts
- Habitat generalist
- Winter-spring



Male (Above)

- Black upperparts
- Distinct separation between breast and underparts

Female (Left)

- Gray upperparts
- Distinction between breast and underparts faded



Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias

- Large, plump body
- Long, pointed, bicolored beak
- Dark blue cap on white face
- Long neck with shaggy plumes
- Gray neck and blue-gray body
- Dark blue patch with rusty mark on shoulder
- Long, dark legs
- Prefers wetlands and shorelines
- Male and female similar
- Spring-Fall, Uncommon in Winter



Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

- Large, thick body
- Siphoning type Beak
- Prefers wetlands, waterbodies and wet fields
- Common throughout the year

Male (Above Right):

- Red eye
- Green head with white markings
- Red/white beak with black tip
- Maroon breast with white flecks
- Tan/brown sides
- White underparts
- Distinct white and black separating lines
- Dark tail and back



Female (Left):

- Black eye with tear-shaped eye ring
- Smaller crest
- Brown/gray overall
- Black/olive beak



Wild Turkey

Meleagris gallopavo

- Extra-large, plump body
- Downward curved beak
- Dark body with bronze iridescence
- Featherless head
- Prefers forests and fields
- Common throughout the year



Male (Right):

- Red, white and blue head
- Hair-like "beard"
- Red wattles

Female (Left):

- Blue head
- No wattle
- No beard



Trumpeter Swan

Cygnus buccinator

- Extra-Large, thick body
- Straight, black siphoning type beak that extends to eye
- Red marking on beak
- Primarily white
- Dark legs and feet
- Prefer wetlands and waterbodies
- Male and female similar
- Common throughout the year



European Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

- Small bodied
- Long, pointed yellow beak
- Glossy black body with hints of purple and blue
- Glossy black/green back
- Non-breeding birds have buffy/white tips on feathers
- Habitat generalist
- Male and female similar
- Common throughout year



Pileated Woodpecker

Dryocopus pileatus

- Large bodied
- Long, black beak
- Black overall
- Red crest
- White chin and nape
- Prefers forested areas
- Common throughout the year

Male (Left):

- Red "Mustache"
- Red forehead

Female (Right):

- Black "Mustache"
- Black forehead



Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

- Large bodied
- Long, yellow beak with black band around tip
- Pale eye with red eyering
- White overall
- Gray back and wings
- Yellow/olive legs
- White markings on black outer wing feathers
- Prefers wet and anthropogenic areas
- Male and female similar
- Spring-Fall, All year near Great Lakes



Mourning Dove

Zenaida macroura

- Medium, plump body
- Thin, dark beak
- Black dot near eye
- Gray-brown overall
- Long, pointed tail
- Habitat generalist
- Male and female similar
- Common throughout the year



Cedar Waxwing

Bombycilla cedrorum

- Medium, slim body
- Black pointed beak
- Brown upperparts, neck and breast
- Yellow belly
- Black mask
- Wispy crest
- Red “waxy” tips on wings
- Yellow/Red tips on tail feathers
- Prefers shrublands and forests
- Male and female similar
- Common throughout the year



American Crow

Corvus brachyrhynchos

- Large body
- Thick, black bill
- Black overall
- Habitat generalist
- Male and female similar
- Common throughout the year



Chipping Sparrow

Spizella passerina

- Small, plump body
- Black, thick beak
- Bright, rufous crown
- Black eye line
- White eyebrow
- Gray underparts
- Brown and black upperparts
- Prefers treed areas
- Male and female similar
- Spring-fall

