

References:

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Name: Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

Size and Shape: The Brewer's Blackbird is approximately 23 cm in length with a 38 cm wingspan. It is a small, long-legged songbird with a round head and thick beak. When perched, the male's tail appears widened and round at the tip.

Colour: Adult females (right) are usually a drab grey-brown colour with a dark eye and males (left) are glossy black in colour with a bright yellow eye. Immature birds are lighter-brown versions of the female.

Behaviour: These birds feed on open ground and possess a halting walk with a head jerk, similar to a chicken. When flying, the Brewer's Blackbird rises and falls, then slows down in a circular fluttering flight just before they land. Their song is a harsh, gurgling, trilled "kon-ka-reeee".

Habitat: A very common and widespread bird, the Brewer's Blackbird is often found in open areas such as coastal scrub, riversides and meadows.



Name: Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

Size and Shape: The Red-winged Blackbird is approximately 22 cm in length with a 33 cm wingspan. This bird is broad-shouldered with a narrow, conical bill and a medium-length tail that slightly flares when perched.

Colour: Adult males (left) are a glossy black with red and yellow bands on the wings. Adult females (right) are streaked with dark brown and have a paler breast and a white eyebrow.

Behaviour: Males sit on high perches while females stay closer to the ground looking for food and making nests. In winter, the birds gather in large flocks to eat grains with other blackbird species and starlings.

Habitat: This bird is most commonly found along watercourses, but can also be found in dry meadows and old fields.



Name: Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*)

Size and Shape: The Rusty Blackbird is approximately 23 cm in length with a 38 cm wingspan. This bird has a slender, decurved bill and a medium-length tail.

Colour: The adult male (left) has rusty feather edges with a pale yellow eye and a brownish eyebrow. The adult female (right) is greyish-brown with rusty feather edges, pale eyes. They also have a bold eyebrow that contrasts with darker feathers surrounding the eye.

Behaviour: This bird can be seen in small flocks with other blackbird species during the winter. Their tails point upwards when flipping over leaves and debris while feeding on the ground. They perch on tree tops, with a "kurlulr-teEE" song that ends in a high-pitched rising note.

Habitat: These birds are found foraging in wetlands during the winter and during migration. During breeding season (January – August), this bird can be found in the bogs, beaver ponds and wet woods in boreal forests.



Name: Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*)

Size and Shape: This bird is 34 cm in length and has a wingspan of 53 cm. The Bufflehead is a small diving duck with a small beak and a relatively large, round head.

Colour: The breeding male (left) has a glossy dark purple-green head with a white patch covering the back of the head. It has a black back with white underparts and wings with a large white patch. Non-breeding males have a non-glossy head and the white patch does not reach the back of the head. Adult females (right) are dark brown with dusky grey underparts and a small white patch around the ear.

Behaviour: Nests in tree cavities near ponds and rivers, can be found in small flocks and feeds on molluscs, crustaceans and insect larvae. When in flight, the duck has its head raised and their body angle upward.

Habitat: Commonly found on lakes, harbours and bays.



Name: Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*)

Size Shape: This bird is 53 cm in length and has a wingspan of 74 cm. It is a large diving duck with a long tapered black bill and a sloped forehead.

Colour: Adult males (left) have a reddish-brown head, white body and a black chest and rear end. Adult females (right) have a lighter rusty coloured head with a greyish-brown body and a dark grey rear end.

Behaviour: Nests on small marshy ponds, feeds mostly on submerged vegetation but will feed on insects and molluscs when plant sources are low. Females have a rough grating call, similar to the “quack” of a mallard and the male makes a distinct “hoo-aah” hooting.

Habitat: Commonly found on lakes and bays.



Name: Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

Size and Shape: This bird is 35-43 cm in length and has a wingspan of 56-62 cm. This duck is relatively small in size with a long tail that is often held up.

Colour: The male (left) has large white cheek patches, a cinnamon red body and a blue bill. The female (right) is a light brown with a dark bill.

Behaviour: This bird is a surface diver and is a ground nester. When male is in display he will give an accelerating series of short, dry, toneless notes, ending with a rattling croak. The female call is a nasal “aanh”.

Habitat: This duck can be found in marshy areas.



Name: American Coot (*Fulica americana*)

Size and Shape: This bird is 39 cm in length and has a wingspan of 61 cm. The bill is triangular (unlike the flat bill of a duck) and they have lobe toes. Has a round head and body, and occasionally has a swollen forehead.

Colour: The American Coot is all black in colouration with a white bill and a black mark near the tip. They have small white marks on the rear end.

Behaviour: Dives for aquatic vegetation and brings it back up to eat, bobbing like a cork. It can form large, tight flocks on water and land. The bird makes a noise between a cluck and a honk, it most commonly sounds like a “krrp” or “prik”.

Habitat: Commonly found on ponds and in marshes.



Name: Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

Size and Shape: This bird is 104-116 cm in length and has a wingspan of 185-196 cm. It has a large body, long neck and legs, and a narrow beak.

Colour: The Sandhill Crane has a grey body with reddish areas, a white cheek and a red crown.

Behaviour: It has a loud territorial trumpet rattle sound, often made during flight. It walks slowly with a strolling gait as it picks food from the ground.

Habitat: Can be found in marshes or spending the night in groups in shallow water.



Name: Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*)

Size and Shape: This bird is 43 cm in length and has a wingspan of 63 cm. It is a medium-sized duck and has a tall head with a sharp peak on rear crown.

Colour: The breeding male (left) has a distinctive white ring on its beak and a less obvious purple ring on its neck. It has a black back, white on the shoulder and a grey flank. The female (right) has a pale brown colour on the shoulder, with a dark grey back and a white eye ring.

Behaviour: This duck nests in marshes along wooded edges and dives in shallow water for plants and seeds. The female's call sounds like a rattling "gr-r-r-r-r", while the male has a low hissing whistle.

Habitat: Usually found in small flocks on freshwater ponds.



Name: Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

Size and Shape: This duck is 46-57 cm in length and has an 84 cm wingspan.

Colour: It has a grey body and a pale grey head, with a black hind end. It also has a white patch on the wing.

Behaviour: This duck is a ground nester and is considered a dabbling when foraging for food. The call of the female is similar to the quack of a Mallard but is more nasal. A male will give a very nasal "bep" interspersed with a high-pitched whistle when courting a female.

Habitat: Commonly found in marshes.



Name: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Size and Shape: This bird is a large raptor that is 71-96 cm in length and has a wingspan of 204 cm.

Colour: The Bald Eagle has a brown body with a white head and tail. Their bills are large and hooked, and typically yellow in colour.

Behaviour: This bird is an opportunistic feeder, but prefers eating fish. Their nests can be found in large trees, at the very top. They can often be seen soaring through the sky and can be heard by hollow, whiny chirps.

Habitat: The Bald Eagle can be seen in forested areas near large bodies of water, and winters in coastal areas near large rivers.



Name: Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Size and Shape: This large bird of prey is 54-58 cm in length and has a wingspan of 150-180 cm.

Colour: This bird has a white breast and belly, black back and wings, a dark eye stripe and a white crown and forehead.

Behaviour: When hunting prey, the Osprey will hover over the water, and dive feet-first into water to grab fish near the surface. Its call is a loud, musical series of short piping notes that vary in intensity.

Habitat: Breeding habitats include boreal forest ponds, temperate lakes and tropical coasts. In the winter, it can be found along large bodies of water with fish.



Name: Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Size and Shape: The male is 45-56 cm in length with a wingspan of 114-133 cm and the female is 50-65 cm in length with a wingspan on 114-133 cm. This bird has very broad, rounded wings and a short wide tail.

Colour: Most are a rich brown colour on top and pale below with a streaked belly. Under the wing, there is a dark bar between the shoulder and wrist.

Behaviour: Often seen soaring in wide circles overhead. In high winds, they may face into the wind and hover, looking for prey. They attack slowly, with a controlled dive and outstretched legs. Their call sounds like a drawn out, rasping "kee-urrrrrr".

Habitat: Often seen in open country or perched on tall stands such as telephone poles, fenceposts or trees.



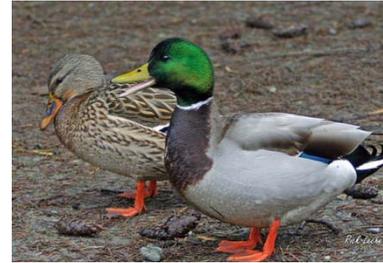
Name: Sora (*Porzana carolina*)

Size and Shape: This small marsh bird is 20-25 cm in length. It has a triangular shape with a deep rear end, a short bill and strong legs.

Colour: This bird has a grey body, yellow bill, black face and bib and white underparts.

Behaviour: Often found foraging on the ground. Males will give a shrill, descending whinny call during mating. During migration and initial arrival in the nesting area, this bird will emit a high-pitched "per-wheep".

Habitat: Commonly found breeding in shallow wetlands with lots of emergent vegetation.



Name: Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Size and Shape: This large duck is approximately 50-65 cm in length with an 82-95 cm wingspan.

Colour: The male (right) has an iridescent green head, grey body and rusty coloured chest. There is a narrow white ring on his neck and he has red feet. The female (left) is a mottled brown with streaks of buff, white and dark brown. She has a pale face compared to her body and a dark line through her eye. She also has a dark streak on her crown.

Behaviour: This duck dabbles, filter-feeds at surface of water, tips-up in shallow water and sometimes makes deep dives. Its call is a repeated nasal "quack" or a series of quacks rapidly decelerating.

Habitat: Common in all wetland habitats.



Name: Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

Size and Shape: This medium sized bird is 40-51 cm in length with a 77-83 cm wingspan. Along with its chunky body it also has a large head and a short, triangular bill.

Colour: The male (left) has a greenish-black head with a bright oval white patch on the side of its face at the base of the bill. It has white sides, breast, belly and black wings, tail and back. The most distinguishing feature is its golden yellow eye. A female (right) has a dark brown head with a grey back, wings and tail. It has white flanks, belly and breast.

Behaviour: These ducks dive underwater to forage on aquatic invertebrates and occasionally small fish and vegetation. The males make a single, buzzing "peent" or "beent" during head-throw display in courtship. Females utter a croaking "guck" while in flight.

Habitat: This duck is found in lakes and ponds, and often breeds along lakes and rivers bordered by forest.





Name: Redhead (*Aythya americana*)

Size and Shape: This medium-sized duck is 42-54 cm in length with a wingspan of 75-79 cm and has a rounded head.

Colour: The male (left) has a red head, grey back and black chest. His bill is blue with a black tip. Females (right) are a drab brown colour.

Behaviour: Females will lay their eggs in the nests of other ducks. These ducks will surface dive to forage on plants. The male call during display is a cat-like rising and falling “wow”. Females will give a deep “quack”.

Habitat: Can be found on lakes or ponds.



Name: Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)

Size and Shape: This large, slender duck is 54-71 cm in length and has a wingspan of 86 cm. It has a narrow bill.

Colour: The male (right) has an iridescent greenish black head, while its neck, underparts and sides are white in colour. It has a grey tail and back, with black lines along the sides. Its outer wings are black and the bill is a bright orange. The female (left) has a grayish body and a tawny brown head.

Behaviour: This duck dives underwater to catch its prey. Their call sounds like a deep, guttural “gruut, gruut”, which is used as a contact call between the female and her young.

Habitat: Breeding grounds are along lakes and rivers that are bordered by forests. During winter, it can be found on large lakes, rivers, coastal bays and estuaries.



Name: Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*)

Size and Shape: This small gull is 28-38 cm in length with a 76-80 cm wingspan.

Colour: This gull has a dark grey head with a lighter grey back and wings. Its breast and belly is white and its tail is black.

Behaviour: This bird forages for small fish and large invertebrates by skimming the surface or plunging into the water. Its call sounds similar to a tern like “eeerrr”.

Habitat: Commonly found around lakes and marshes, and winters along lakes, rivers, marshes, bays and beaches along coasts.



Name: California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

Size and Shape: This medium-sized bird is 47-54 cm in length and has a wingspan of 130 cm.

Colour: This gull has a yellow bill with a black ring near the tip and a red spot on its lower mandible. The bird has a white head and body and grey wings. It has black wing tips with white spots and yellow legs.

Behaviour: This bird will forage while walking the ground and dips for food on the water's surface. Its call sounds like a low-pitched “kah-keeeaaaah-keeah-kah-kah-kah-kah”.

Habitat: It is found breeding on islands in lakes or rivers.



Name: Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

Size and Shape: This small gull is 32-36 cm in length with an 85-95 cm wingspan.

Colour: The back of the gull is dark grey and the breast and belly are white. The wing tips are black with a bit of white at the end and with a white band. During breeding season, their entire head is black.

Behaviour: This bird forages while walking or swimming, usually in dense flocks. Their song is a hollow nasal laughing "kowi" or "queel".

Habitat: Commonly nests in marshes and along inland lakes. During winter, they can be found along the coast in bays, estuaries and sandy beaches.



Name: Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*)

Size and Shape: This medium-sized gull is 43-54 cm in length with a 105-117 cm wingspan.

Colour: The Ring-billed Gull has a black ring around the tip of its yellow beak. They also have yellow legs, a light grey back, white head and underparts and black wingtips with white spots.

Behaviour: Forages while walking and dips for food on the water's surface. Their call sounds like a "Kah-keeeaaaah-keeah-kah-kah-kah-kah".

Habitat: These birds nest on islands and are commonly found around freshwater, landfills, golf courses, farm fields, shopping areas and coastal beaches.



Name: Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)

Size and Shape: This small duck is 40-49 cm in length and has a wingspan of 60-66 cm. It also has a long, narrow bill.

Colour: A male (left) has a circular, white crest outlined in black. It has bright gold eyes set into a black face. His body is rusty on the sides and black on top, with a white chest surrounded by black and white stripes. The female (right) has a brown body with a small white patch on her chin, and a greyish breast and neck. The upper bill is blackish green with an orange edge and the lower bill is orange-yellow.

Behaviour: Forages for food by diving underwater to catch prey. These ducks are mostly silent, but during courtship display, the male gives a frog-like "craa-oo" and females give a similar croak on nesting territory.

Habitat: Breeds in forested wetlands and can be found in open waters, along coasts and in shallower waters than other mergansers when migrating.



Name: Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

Size and Shape: This medium-sized duck is 44-51 cm in length and it has a very long spoon-shaped bill.

Colour: Males (front) have a glossy green head, black back and bill, yellow eyes and a brown belly. Females (back) are a greyish brown with some feathers with light coloured edges. Her bill is an olive green with a yellow base and edges and she has brown eyes.

Behaviour: The male has showy courtship behaviour involving calls, turns, dips and wing flaps. Its call is a soft, wheezy "took" or "took-took". Females "quack" with the same "took" quality as the male. When foraging, it swims with its bill lowered into the water.

Habitat: Winters in freshwater and saline marshes and breeds in open, shallow wetlands.



Name: Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*)

Size and Shape: This small dabbling duck is 36-41 cm in length and has a wingspan of 56-62 cm. It has a rounded head and a slightly large bill.

Colour: Breeding males have dark speckles on their chest, a brown body, a bluish-grey head with a white crescent behind the bill and a white patch on their flank. Females are a brown pattern.

Behaviour: Found in pairs or small groups, dabbling for submerged vegetation. They have a high-pitched squeak or soft, nasal honking call.

Habitat: Usually found on clam bodies of water.



Name: Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)

Size and Shape: This small, dabbling duck is 36-43 cm in length.

Colour: Breeding males (left) have a bright red cinnamon head and body, with a dark rump, tail and undertail. His upper wing has a light-blue patch bordered in white. The back of the wing is iridescent green and it has red eyes. Females (right) are a grey-brown, with some white at the base of the bill. Wings have light-blue on the upper half with a narrow white border.

Behaviour: Only dabbles with the tip of its bill in the water or its upper head in the water. Females "quack" similar to the Blue-winged Teal and the males give a dry chattering rattle.

Habitat: Found in freshwater areas such as seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands of various sizes, including large marshes, reservoirs, sluggish streams, ditches and stock ponds.



Name: Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)

Size and Shape: This large bird is approximately 97-137 cm in length and has a wingspan of 167-201 cm. It has a long, "S"-shaped neck, a long thick bill and long legs.

Colour: This bird is grey in colour with a white crown strip and black plume extending from behind the eye. The feathers are shaggy on its neck (reddish or grey) and back (bluish grey).

Behaviour: While foraging, this bird walks slowly and quickly punctures prey with its bill. It rarely makes a sound, except during courtship and when startled. It can sounds like an irregular rattle at a distance.

Habitat: Usually can be found in calm freshwater and seacoasts.



Name: Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*)

Size and Shape: This medium-sized bird is approximately 28-35 cm in length and has a 48-58 cm wingspan. It has a large head and shaggy crest and a large, thick bill.

Colour: It has a bluish head and back, a white throat and collar and is white underneath with a blue breasted band.

Behaviour: This bird watches water from a perch or while hovering and aerial dives into the water to catch prey in its bill. While in flight, their call sounds like a dry rattle.

Habitat: Breeding grounds include the banks of streams, rivers, lakes and estuaries. Over winter, they can be found along the coast, streams and lakes.



Name: Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)

Size and Shape: This medium-sized shorebird is 19-23 cm in length. It has moderately long legs and neck, and a medium-sized bill.

Colour: This bird is a dark olive on its back with scattered small white spots and a white eye ring. It has a barred tail and dark tail feathers.

Behaviour: Frequently bobs its head while probing for food. Its call is a thin, high-pitched "pu-weet", "pu-weet-weet", or "weet-weet" or a very short, high "pip".

Habitat: During migration and winter, these birds are found along freshwater ponds, stream edges, temporary pools and flooded ditched and fields.



Name: Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)

Size and Shape: This bird is slightly smaller than the Solitary Sandpiper, ranging from 18-20 cm in length, and has the same overall shape.

Colour: It has a brown back, distinct round spots on its white underparts.

Behaviour: It bobs its tail and rear end up and down as it walks and wades, then thrusts its head forward and grabs prey. Its call is a thin, high-pitched 2-4 note whistled "peep-peep".

Habitat: Can be found breeding in areas such as shoreline, sagebush, grassland, forest, lawns or parks. Their territories must include water.



Name: Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Size and Shape: This small duck is 31-39 cm in length with a wingspan of 52-59 cm long.

Colour: Males (left) have a white stripe on its shoulder, and a dark-red and iridescent green head. Wings also have an iridescent green patch in wings. Its tail has a yellowish stripe. Females (right) are a drab brown colour with streaky spots of white.

Behaviour: Its call is a slightly ascending "creek" or "creck".

Habitat: Commonly found in wetlands like shallow ponds, marshes, tidal creeks, mudflats and open water.



Name: American Wigeon (*Anas americana*)

Size and Shape: This medium-sized duck is 42-59 cm in length and has an 84 cm wingspan.

Colour: Breeding males (left) have a white forehead and crown, and a broad dark-green patch extending from behind the eye to the nape. Females (right) are brown in colour, with a bluish bill.

Behaviour: During courtship, the American Wigeon will complete a series of tail-wagging, head-turning, wing-flapping and sudden jumps out of the water. This dabbling duck submerges its head and tips its tail up to reach the vegetation. When in flight, its call sounds similar to a squeak of a rubber duck.

Habitat: Commonly found in shallow freshwater wetlands such as ponds, marshes and rivers.





Name: Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*)

Size and Shape: This small, slender songbird is 12-14 cm in length with a wingspan of 25-29 cm. It has long wings and a small bill.

Colour: White underneath with a brown back, it has a dark band across its chest that extends downward.

Behaviour: Fly with shallow, fluttering wing beats and glide for less than 2 seconds at a time. This bird is very social, and can often be seen burrowing in the banks with other swallows. Their song is a harsh atonal "trrrt", which sounds like constant twittering when they're in a group.

Habitat: Commonly found in low areas along streams, rivers or reservoirs. They burrow in streamside banks and human-made sites like sand and gravel quarries.



Name: Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza Georgiana*)

Size and Shape: This small song bird is 12-14 cm in length and has a wingspan of 18-19 cm.

Colour: It has a solid grey chest, a reddish cap when breeding and streaked with a grey central stripe when not breeding. Its wings are slightly red, it has a white throat and belly and a grey face and sides of the neck.

Behaviour: This bird is often seen foraging at the water's edge. Its song is a musical trill, sometimes it is slow enough to count the notes (8-10 per second).

Habitat: Can be found in various wetlands, such as freshwater and tidal marshes, bogs, meadows and swamps.



Name: Common Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*)

Size and Shape: This medium-sized shoreline bird is 27-32 cm in length with a 41-44 cm wingspan. It has a long probing bill and short legs.

Colour: Brown in colour with a boldly striped back and head.

Behaviour: Probes for food in soil and water and swallows food without resurfacing. Its call is a rising and falling winnowing “*hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo*” or an excited “*kik-kik-kik-kik*”.

Habitat: Can be found in marshy areas.



Name: Black tern (*Chlidonia niger*)

Size and Shape: This small bird is 23-26 cm in length with a 57-60 cm wingspan.

Colour: When breeding, the head, chest and wings are a dark grey. When not breeding, its head and underside are white and there is a dark spot behind the eye. The crown and nape are a dusky colour while the wings remain grey.

Behaviour: This bird is very social. While foraging for insects or fish, the Black Tern will aerial dive for its prey. Its call sounds like a rapidly uttered “*peek*” or “*pik*”.

Habitat: Commonly found in freshwater marshes.