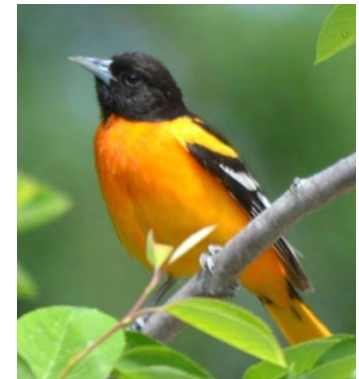
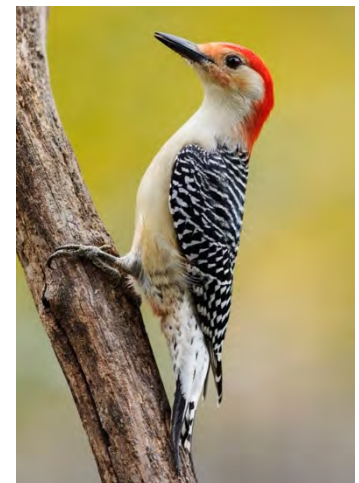
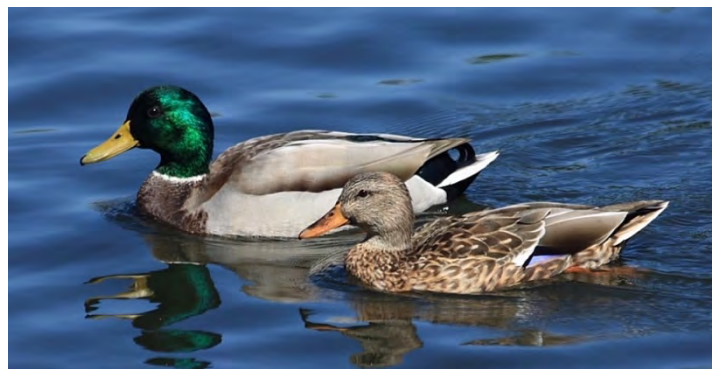




Some  
Birds  
of  
Hamden,  
Connecticut



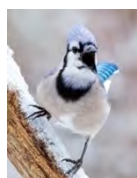
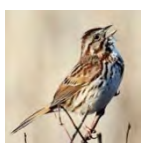
Florence S. McBride



This is a picture book that also includes some brief notes about the birds shown in the pictures. Most of the eighty species shown are common or fairly common in Hamden. Many of them live here all year, while others are here for part of the year. We should be able to find them if we look and listen in appropriate habitats at appropriate times. And of course, there are other species that can be seen and heard here as well.

We can learn more about the birds of our area by **observing them outdoors** and by using **resources** that give us information about birds' appearances, behavior (including sounds they make), habitats, and geographic ranges. These include field guides and other books, web pages, apps, audio recordings, and films. We can consult the New Haven Bird Club's checklist, which shows how common each species is in each season here; see <https://www.newhavenbirdclub.org/wp-content/uploads/NHBC-2017-checklist-scanned.pdf>. Two excellent digital resources available free from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology are:

- "All About Birds" web pages. These include a Bird Guide. From its welcome page, <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/>, you can search for any North American species. At the top of each species page there's a "Search" window that you can use to find other species, as well as links to other kinds of pages.
- The "Merlin" app. Downloaded to your cell phone, this can be very useful, especially when you're observing birds outdoors. It can help you identify a bird by leading you through a series of questions and then showing you pictures of birds it might be. For each of these, there are links to more photos of that species, information about identifying it, sounds to listen to, and maps. Merlin can also help you identify birds you photograph with your cell phone and bird sounds you record using the app. Another feature lets you look up species that you want information about. To download Merlin free, go to <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download/>.



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## More Information About This Book

- Many of the birds shown in this book live here **all year**.  
There are **no symbols** next to their names.



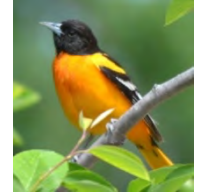
Black-capped Chickadee

Other species are here for **part of the year**.

In this book, these symbols show you when they're here:

☀ = Migrants that are here in **spring, summer, and fall**  
(Smaller numbers of some of these are typically here in winter.)

❄ = Migrants that are here in **fall, winter, and spring**.



Baltimore Oriole ☀

- **Males and females** of many of the species in the book look similar.

European Starling



Eastern Phoebe

For the others, you'll see  
**"Male"** or **"Female"**  
next to their pictures.

Northern Cardinal



Female

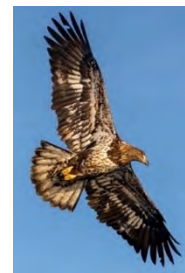


Male

On some pages there are pictures of birds  
that don't yet have their adult feathers.

They are identified as **"juvenile," "immature,"**  
**"chick,"** or **"ducklings."**

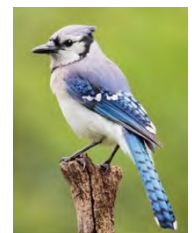
Immature Bald Eagle



Killdeer Chick

- Except for the birds of prey, which are on pages 40-45,  
the **Land Birds** are arranged by **color**
  - **the main colors** of their bodies, or
  - **colors of parts** of their bodies.

Blue Jay



- About the birds' **lengths**: A bird can look longer or shorter depending on the position it's in. In this book, the **length** noted for each bird is from the **tip of its bill** to the **end of its tail** when its bill and tail are stretched straight out.

	<u>Page</u>		<u>Page</u>
<b>Introduction</b>	2		
<b>More information</b>			
<b>About This Book</b>	3		
<b>Land Birds</b>			
• <b>Red</b>		• <b>Gray, grayish-brown, olive-gray</b>	
American Robin	5	Rock Pigeon	24
Northern Cardinal	6	Chickadee, Titmouse	25
House Finch	7	White-breasted Nuthatch	26
Scarlet Tanager 🌸	8	Dark-eyed Junco ❄️	26
• <b>Blue</b>		Catbird 🌸, Mockingbird	27
Blue Jay	9	Phoebe 🌸, Chimney Swift 🌸	28
Eastern Bluebird	10	Kinglets ❄️, Red-eyed Vireo 🌸	29
Indigo Bunting 🌸	10	• <b>Brown</b>	
Barn Swallow 🌸	11	Mourning Dove	30
Tree Swallow 🌸	11	Northern Flicker	31
• <b>Yellow, Orange, and Green</b>		Song Sparrow, House Sparrow	32
American Goldfinch	12	White-throated Sparrow ❄️	33
Yellow Warbler 🌸	13	Chipping Sparrow 🌸	33
Common Yellowthroat 🌸	13	Carolina Wren, House Wren 🌸	34
Pine Warbler 🌸	14	Wood Thrush 🌸, Ovenbird 🌸	35
Yellow-rumped Warbler ❄️	14	Cedar Waxwing	36
Baltimore Oriole 🌸	15	Great Crested Flycatcher 🌸	36
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 🌸	15	Killdeer 🌸, Wild Turkey	37-38
• <b>Black; Black and White;</b>		Some brown females and young birds	39
<b>Black, White, and Red or Rust</b>		• <b>Birds of Prey</b>	
American Crow	16	Red-tailed Hawk	40
European Starling	17	Red-shouldered & Cooper's Hawks	41
Red-winged Blackbird 🌸	18	Bald Eagle	42
Common Grackle 🌸	19	Osprey 🌸	43
Brown-headed Cowbird 🌸	19	Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture	44
Downy Woodpecker	20	Three Owls	45
Hairy Woodpecker	20	<b>Water Birds</b>	
Pileated Woodpecker	21	Canada Goose, Mute Swan	46
Red-bellied Woodpecker	21	Five Species of Ducks	47-48
Black-and-white Warbler 🌸	22	Great Blue Heron, Great Egret 🌸	49
American Redstart 🌸	22	Green Heron 🌸, Spotted Sandpiper 🌸	50
Towhee 🌸, Grosbeak 🌸	23	Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull	51
		Double-crested Cormorant 🌸	52
		Belted Kingfisher	53
		<b>Thanks, Permissions; Credits</b>	54-59
		<b>Index, About the Author</b>	60-61

# American Robin 5

*The Connecticut  
State Bird*

Length: 10 inches



Male

In general, males are more brightly colored than females.



In winter robins eat berries and other fruits.

Robins nest in many different kinds of places -- most often on branches of trees or shrubs, sometimes even on buildings or other structures built by people.





Length: 8 ½ inches

In many North American songbird species, only males sing. But both male and female cardinals have several rich, beautiful songs. One of these sounds like "Cheer! Cheer! Cheer!" another like "Weet-weet-weet-weet-weet!"

We may even hear cardinals singing in winter, when most other songbirds are calling, but not singing.

Male



Female

# House Finch

7

Length: 5 - 5 ½ inches



Male



Female



"Courtship Feeding" -- Male feeding female

Male House Finches feed females when they're getting together in pairs and during the nesting season.



Scarlet Tanager  Length: 7 inches

Male above, female below

Males of this woodland species look different at different times of year. Their wings and tails are always black, but the brilliant red feathers that we see in spring and summer are replaced with dull-colored ones for fall and winter, when the males look more like the females. Tanagers spend the winter in South America, so we don't see them here in that season.

This picture was painted by Louis Agassiz Fuertes.  
Many people consider him to be our country's greatest painter of birds.

# Blue Jay

Length: 11 inches

9



Blue Jays make many kinds of calls in addition to their familiar "Jay!" One sounds like a squeaky clothesline pulley or a rusty gate. Their loud alarm calls can alert other birds to danger, and their imitations of hawks can be so good that people who hear them are sometimes fooled, at least at first. We're probably less likely to notice the quiet sounds they make.



# Eastern Bluebird

Length: 7 inches

10

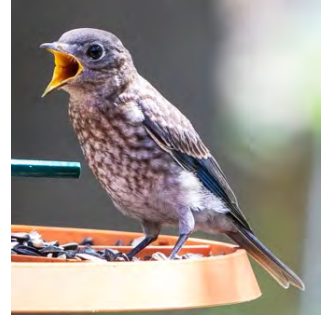


Male



Female

Photo © Jim Zipp



Juvenile

Like the American Robin, our bluebird is a thrush. Young bluebirds (like young robins) are spotted.

Bluebirds nest in natural cavities they find, like old woodpecker holes, and in nest boxes made especially for bluebirds that people put up for them.



## Indigo Bunting

Length:  
5 inches

Male  
in June

Female

Buntings are not closely related to bluebirds. They are in the scientific family *Cardinalidae*, which includes cardinals.





**Barn Swallow** 🌸 Length: 6 - 7 ½ inches

Barn Swallows build nest cups of mud that they often mix with grass stems. Then they line the cups with grass and feathers.

Swallows catch flying insects.



Drawings  
© 1989 and 1996  
Barry Van Dusen



**Tree Swallow** 🌸

Length: 5 - 6 inches

Tree Swallows are cavity nesters.

These are at a nest box.

# American Goldfinch

Length: 5 inches

Male - summer



Male molting in early spring



In winter, the males have dull-colored body feathers, and look more like the females. When they're molting into their bright summer plumage, they look patchy.



Female

Like other finches, goldfinches have cone-shaped bills that are good for cracking seeds.

Notice how different their bills are from the bills of the warblers that you can see on the next two pages. Warblers catch insects with their thin, sharply pointed bills.

## Yellow Warbler

Length: 5 inches

Male

Listen for his song in spring:  
"Sweet-sweet-sweetysweet-sweet!"



Female

Female Yellow Warblers are not streaked underneath.



Male

He sings "Wichity wichity wichity!"

Females don't have the black mask.

## Common Yellowthroat (a warbler)

Length: 5 inches



Female



## Pine Warbler 🌸

Length: 5 - 5 ½ inches

This warbler's name tells us where to look and listen for it. Its short trill, often coming from high in a pine tree in the woods, is likely to be one of the first warbler songs that we hear in spring.

Male in spring -- Females are less brightly colored.



## Yellow-rumped Warbler ❄️

Length: 5 ½ inches

"Yellow-rumps" can be the easiest warblers to find in spring and fall migration.

Male in spring

Females, and adult and young birds in fall and winter, look similar to spring males, but their colors are duller.

Fall



# Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Length: 3 ½ inches

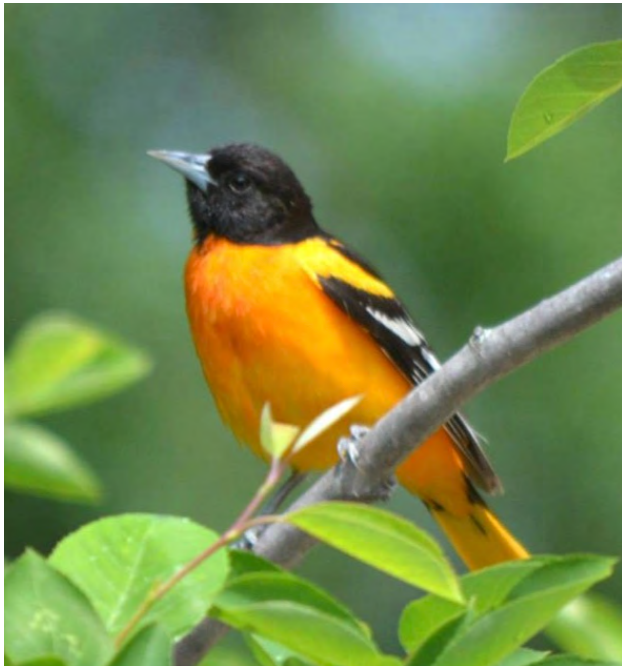
In their migration, these tiny creatures fly 500 miles across the Gulf of Mexico without stopping.



Female



Male



Male

# Baltimore Oriole

Length: 7 - 8 inches

The female oriole builds a bag-shaped nest, weaving together plant fibers, and then lining it with softer material. She incubates the eggs, and both parents tend the young.



Male at the nest



Female looking for nesting material



These very intelligent birds are entirely black -- even their eyes, bills, and legs are black. Their loud calls are familiar, but many people don't know that they're quiet when they're nesting, and that a pair may have one or more of their young from previous years helping them. Crows eat many kinds of foods, even carrion.

There's another species of crow here too, the **Fish Crow**. Fish Crows look a lot like American Crows, but are just a little smaller. In general, the easiest way to tell the two crows apart is to listen to their calls. The American Crow's most common ones sound like "Caw" or "Aw."

The Fish Crow's calls sound more nasal, and often have two connected notes.

In fall and winter, it's fascinating to watch crows flying to their nighttime roosts. The roosts sometimes hold thousands of birds and can include members of both species.



A larger relative of the crows, the **Common Raven**, is also completely black. Its loud, croaking calls and wedge-shaped tail are distinctive.

# European Starling

Length: 8 ½ inches

17



Adult: Spring and summer plumage

Starlings were brought to the U.S. from Europe by people who wanted all the birds mentioned in the plays of William Shakespeare to live here. This species has been very successful, and there are now many millions of starlings in North America.



Notice the way these starlings are spacing themselves on the wires before flying to the places where they'll roost for the night.



Adult: Fall and winter plumage



Juvenile

# Red-winged Blackbird

Length: 7 – 9 inches

18



Male displaying



Female



Immature Male or Adult Female

These blackbirds (as well as grackles and cowbirds, which are shown on the next page) are common here in migration and summer. In general, we're less likely to see them in winter, when there are fewer of them around.

Of all our common songbirds, this is the species in which the males and females look the most different. They are different in color, pattern, and even size.

Especially near bird feeders, the females are sometimes mistaken for sparrows. But they're larger than sparrows, have a different bill shape, and unlike most sparrows, typically walk instead of hopping.



Male left, Female right. This blackbird has a long tail, yellow eyes, and iridescent feathers, which are especially bright on the male's head, neck, and breast.



Brown-headed Cowbird 

Length: 7 ½ - 8 ½ inches

Above: Male Below: Female

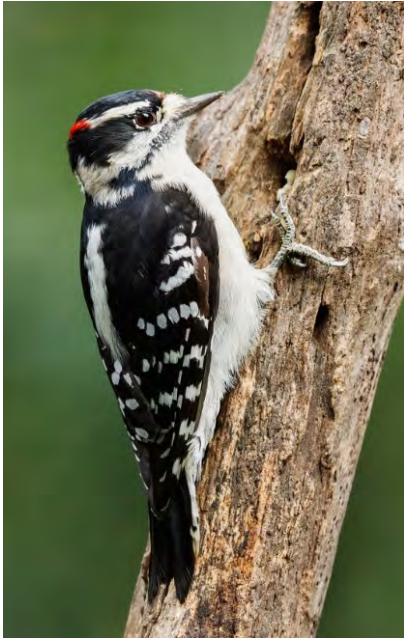


Cowbirds lay their eggs in other birds' nests. This cowbird chick is exercising its wings just before leaving the phoebe nest where it hatched and was fed by the phoebe "parents."

# Downy Woodpecker

Length: 6 ½ inches

20



← Male



Female →

The Hairy Woodpecker is larger than the Downy, but it's not always easy to tell the size of a bird when it's far away, or not near other birds whose sizes we know. If we're trying to figure out which of these two woodpeckers we're looking at, the bill can be an especially helpful clue. As you can see in these pictures, the Hairy's bill looks stronger than the Downy's and is much longer -- almost as long as its head.



← Male

Female →

The outer tail feathers of Hairy Woodpeckers are plain white, with no spots.



# Hairy Woodpecker

Length: 7 - 10 inches

# Pileated Woodpecker

Length: 16 - 19 inches

21

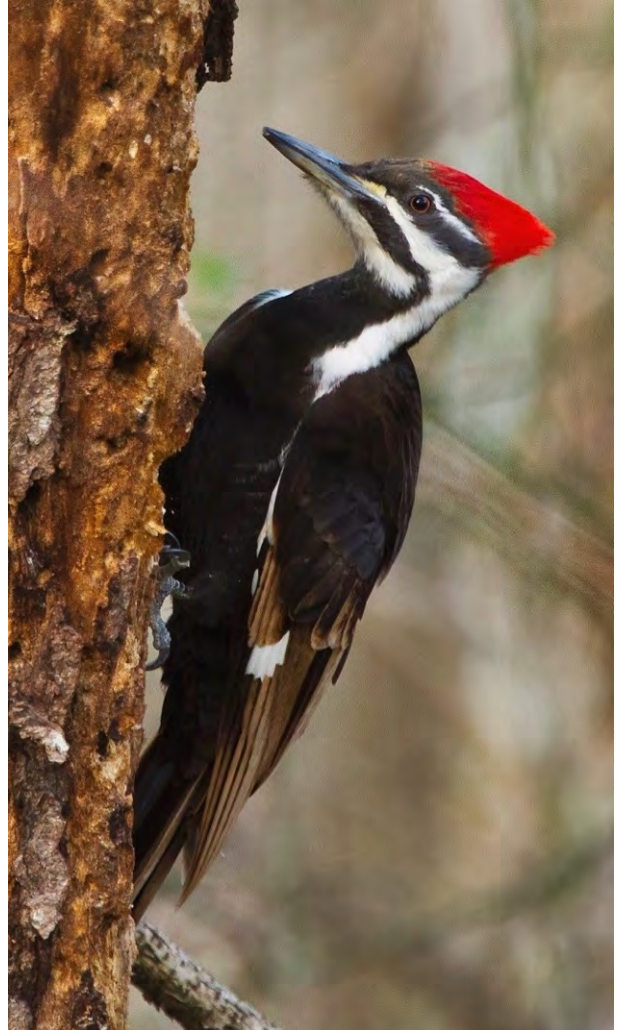
This woodpecker is as large as a crow.

Male



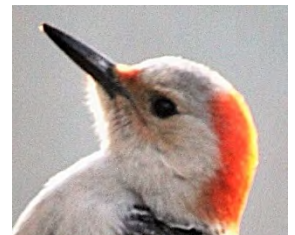
Photo © 2020 John M. McBride

Female



# Red-bellied Woodpecker

Length: 9 - 9 ½ inches



Male



Female

The female looks almost the same as the male. But the feathers on the top of her head are not red.

## Black-and-white Warbler

Length: 4 ½ - 5 inches

22



Male left

Female right

We commonly see Black-and-white Warblers moving head-first down tree trunks and branches.

Painting by Louis Agassiz Fuertes

## American Redstart (a warbler)

Length: 4 ½ - 5 ¼ inches



Male



Female

Redstarts are especially active warblers. They flutter about searching for insects, often displaying their colorful tail and wing patches. It's believed that this behavior can startle their prey, making it easier to find and catch.

## Eastern Towhee

Length: 7 - 8 ½ inches

23



Male



Female

The towhee is named for its "Tow-ee" call. Some people think its song sounds as though the bird is saying "Drink your tea!" We can watch the way towhees find food in leaf litter on the ground. They jump back and forth scratching, to uncover insects and other small invertebrates.

## Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Length: 7 - 8 ½ inches



Male



Female

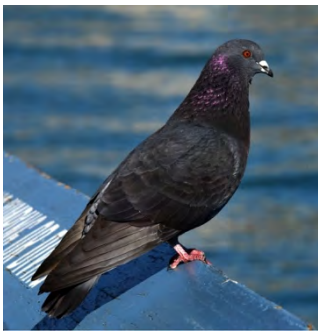
Photo © 2020 John M. McBride

This relative of cardinals has a beautiful song that's a little like a robin's, but sweeter and more connected. Named for their large bills,\* grosbeaks can crack hard seed shells easily. In addition to many kinds of seeds, they also eat insects and fruit.

\* The French word, *grosbec*, from which "grosbeak" is derived, means "large bill."



Rock Pigeons come in many colors. European settlers brought them to North America in the early 1600s, and they're common in cities here and all over the world. We often see them in flocks, foraging, flying, or roosting.





## Black-capped Chickadee

Length:  
5 1/4 inches

Chickadees are named for their "Chickadee-dee-dee" calls. This species sings a two-note, whistled song, "Fee-bee Fee-bee."



## Tufted Titmouse

Length: 6 - 6 1/2 inches

A familiar song of the titmouse is its clear, repeated "peter-peter-peter."



Nuthatches are our only year-round birds that move head-first down tree trunks.

## White-breasted Nuthatch

Length: 5 - 6 inches

## Dark-eyed Junco ❄️

Length: 6 inches

Sometimes called "snowbirds," these gray-and-white sparrows are winter visitors that can often be seen at bird feeding stations, usually on the ground or on platform feeders.



Gray Catbird  Length: 8 ½ - 9 inches



Picture © 2011 Florence McBride



The catbird was named for its mewing call.



Northern Mockingbird

Length: 9 - 10 inches

Mockingbirds imitate the sounds of other birds really well.

Painting by Louis Agassiz Fuertes



Photo © 2014 Neal Lewis



## Eastern Phoebe

Length: 6 ½ - 7 inches

The phoebe is a flycatcher. It is named for its song:

"Fee-bee! Fee-bee!"

The way phoebes wag their tails down and up when they're perching can help us identify them.

Phoebes hunt from perches, flying out to snatch insects from the air and then perching again, watching for more insects to catch. Swifts fly around swiftly hunting their insect prey. In fact, we only see them flying.



Painting by Bob Hines, from the USFWS book  
*Fifty Birds of Town and City*



## Chimney Swift

Length: 5 - 5 ½ inches

Chimney Swifts nest and roost in chimneys.

**Golden-crowned** - Length: 3 ½ inches

Female -- The male has orange as well as yellow on his crown.



**Ruby-crowned** - Length: 4 inches

Male -- We can't always see his red crown, which the female lacks.



Notice that the Golden-crowned Kinglet has stripes on its head, while the Ruby-crowned Kinglet has a pale broken eye ring. These little birds flick their wings almost constantly, a behavior that helps us recognize them.

**Red-eyed Vireo** 🌸 Length: 5 ½ inches



The Red-eyed Vireo's song is a common sound in our spring and summer woodlands.

Given many times a minute, the song's short, rising and falling phrases sound to some listeners as though the bird is asking and answering questions.

Unlike most of our songbirds, these vireos sing throughout the day, even in hot weather.



The Mourning Dove was named for its cooing calls, which sound sad to some people. These calls are sometimes mistaken for an owl's hooting.

Listen, too, for the whistling sounds these doves' wings make when they take off.

Both Mourning Dove parents incubate the eggs and care for the young.

This painting of two pairs of Mourning Doves is by John James Audubon.

One of the doves is preening its mate.





Length: 12 ½ inches

### Female

Flickers forage on the ground, probing for ants and other insects. In late fall and winter we can see them eating berries and seeds.

Like other woodpeckers, flickers drum loudly to attract mates and to defend their territories. Both the males and the females drum.

Left: Photo by Jeff Lemons, USFWS, CC BY 2.0



Male



## Song Sparrow

Length: 5 – 6 ½ inches



The Song Sparrow is our most common native sparrow, found in many habitats. We can often hear its beautiful song when we can't see the bird that's singing.

House Sparrows, which are not closely related to our native sparrows, were brought to North America from Europe in the 19th century. They have long been a familiar sight in cities and towns. A tip: If you hear a lot of birds chirping inside a bush or a shrub, they're likely to be House Sparrows.



Female

Male



## House Sparrow

Length: 6 inches



## White-throated Sparrow ❄️

Length: 6  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches

Some people use the phrase "Old . . Sam . . . Peabody, Peabody, Peabody" to help them remember this bird's beautiful, whistled song.



## Chipping Sparrow 🌸

Length: 5  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches

Photo © 2020 John M. McBride

This sparrow's song is a long, even, dry trill, a common sound of spring and summer.

## Carolina Wren

Length: 5 ½ inches



The songs of these two wrens are easy to hear when they're around. The Carolina Wren sings a loud, resonant "Teakettle-teakettle-teakettle!" The bubbly, insistent songs of House Wrens are hard to miss as these little birds return from their winter homes, set up territories for nesting, get together in pairs, nest, and feed their young.

## House Wren

Length:  
4 ½ - 5 inches





## Wood Thrush 🌸

Length:  
7 ½ - 8  
inches

This thrush has a beautiful flute-like song.

## Ovenbird



(a warbler)

Length:  
5 ½ inches

It's named for the shape of its nest, which it builds on the ground.

Its song sounds like "Teacher-Teacher-Teacher," or "Teach-Teach-Teach."



## Cedar Waxwing

Length:  
7 inches

This is our only bird that has a yellow band at the end of its tail.

Cedar Waxwings are named for the waxy red tips that some of them have on their secondary wing feathers, and for the cedar berries that they eat.



## Great Crested Flycatcher



Length:  
7 - 8 ½  
inches

This flycatcher lives in the woods. One of its loud calls sounds like "Wreep!"



Left: Adult

Below: Chick

You can see that the chick looks like a small, fuzzy version of the adult, but with very long legs and just one breast band.



Named for one of their loud calls, Killdeers are found in flat places, sometimes near water, but often on fields with short grass, or in vacant lots.

Sometimes they even nest on flat roofs!

Both the birds and their eggs are camouflaged.

Parent birds do distraction displays, acting as though they have broken wings, showing their rusty rumps, and calling loudly, to lead predators and other intruders away from their nests or young.



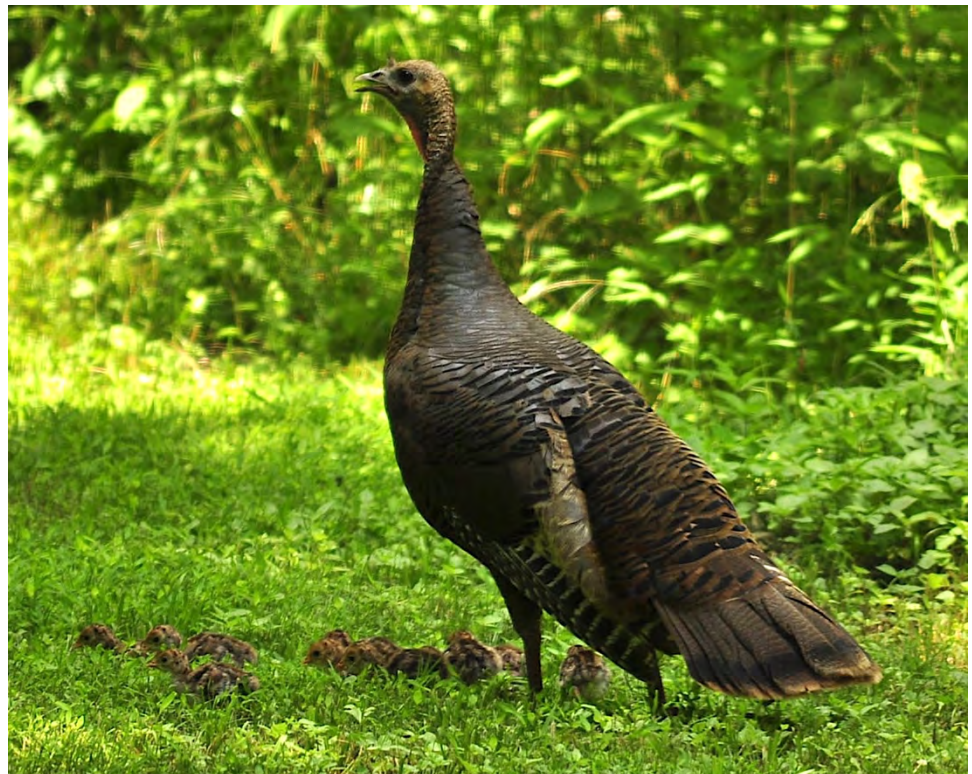


According to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Wild Turkeys were abundant here when European settlers first arrived. But by the early 1800s, the clearing of forests and cold winters meant that no Wild Turkeys could be found in our state.

Then between 1975 and 1992, Wild Turkeys from other states were released here, and now we see this species in all Connecticut towns.

Male displaying

Female  
with  
chicks



*Remember:* Some of the **brown birds** we see are

- **females** of species in which the males are more colorful, and
- **young birds** that will look different when they have their adult feathers.

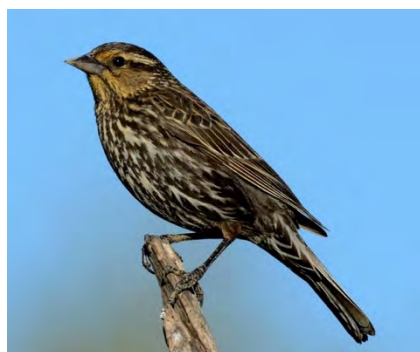
(The page numbers next to the birds' names here tell you where to find more pictures and information about these species in this book.)



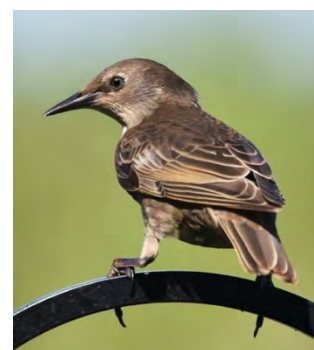
Female Northern Cardinal (p. 6)



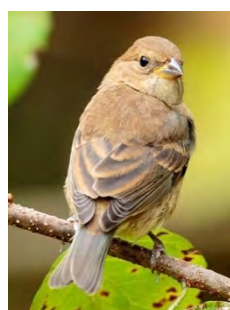
Female House Finch (p. 7)



Female Red-winged Blackbird (p. 18)



Juvenile  
European Starling (p. 17)



Female  
Indigo Bunting (p. 10)



Female Brown-headed Cowbird (p. 19)

# Red-tailed Hawk

Length: 18 - 25 inches    Wingspan: 48 inches

Left: Immatures

Right: Adults



Photo © Jim Zipp



Photo © Jim Zipp



Photos  
© Jim Zipp



Red-tailed Hawks are common in Connecticut. Look for them soaring overhead, and perched on trees, utility poles, and fence posts in or next to open areas.

# Red-shouldered Hawk

Length: 17 - 24 inches

41

Wingspan: 40 inches

Adults

Immature



Red-shouldered Hawks have crescent-shaped translucent patches near the tips of their wings.

# Cooper's Hawk

Length: 14 - 18 inches

Wingspan: 24 ½ - 35 inches

These woodland hawks have short wings and long tails. They catch birds.



Left:  
Adult

Right:  
Immature



\* Sharp-shinned Hawks look much like Cooper's Hawks, but are smaller. We mostly see them migrating.

# Bald Eagle

Length: 28 - 38 inches

Wingspan: 80 inches



Photo © 2020 John M. McBride

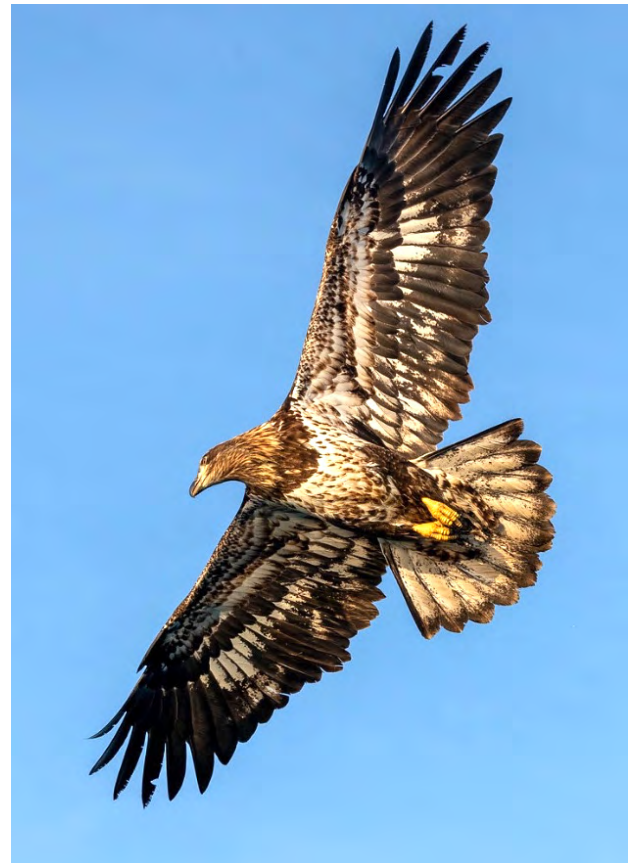
Adult

Immature

## A Conservation Success Story

For many years, the pesticide DDT was widely used, and it was absorbed into the bodies of the prey animals that eagles and other raptors like Ospreys and Peregrine Falcons were eating. DDT caused the shells of birds' eggs to be too thin and breakable. This problem and others, including habitat loss and shooting, caused a serious decline in populations of Bald Eagles.

In 1978 the Endangered Species Act gave our national bird protection in all the lower 48 states. With the help of this protection and the banning of DDT in the United States in 1972, the Bald Eagle has made a spectacular comeback, and it was taken off the endangered and threatened species list in 2007.



## Osprey 🌸

Length: 22 - 23 inches

Wingspan: 59 - 70 inches

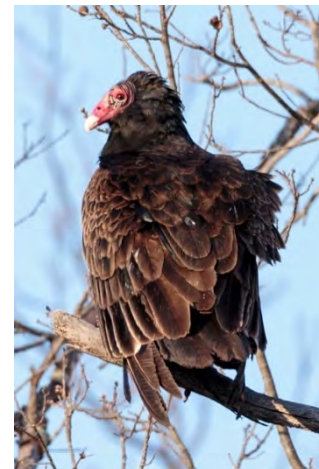


Photo © 2020 William Canosa

Ospreys catch fish with their strong toes, which have rough scales and talons. They always carry fish head-first, facing forward.

They often nest on platforms that people put up for them.





Turkey Vultures hold their wings in a shallow V (called a "dihedral") when they soar.

## Turkey Vulture

Length: 26 - 31 inches

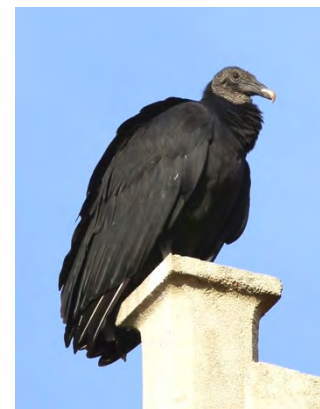
Wingspan: 67 - 70 inches



## Black Vulture

Length: 23 - 26 inches

Wingspan: 54 - 59 inches



Black Vultures are a little smaller than Turkey Vultures, with shorter tails and wings. Their wingbeats are choppy than Turkey Vultures', and they hold their wings straight out when soaring. The whitish patches at the ends of their wings can also help us identify them.

Vultures are scavengers. They don't usually catch live prey.



**Great Horned Owl**

Length: 18 - 25 inches



**Eastern Screech Owl**

Length: 7 - 9 inches



Screech owls can be either gray or reddish-brown.

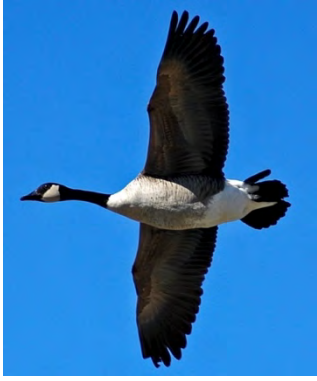
These three species of owls are mainly nocturnal, hunting mostly at night.

The tufts that many owls have on the tops of their heads are not ears, but feathers. Owls' ear openings are at the sides of their heads, under the feathers of their facial disks, which help direct sounds to the ears.



**Barred Owl**

Length: 17 - 20 inches



## Canada Goose

46

Length: 43 inches

Wingspan: 50 - 65 inches



Canada Geese migrate both in the daytime and at night. Even in the dark, we may hear them honking as they fly overhead.



## Mute Swan

Length:  
60 inches

Wingspan:  
75 inches

These non-native swans are beautiful, but they eat and uproot aquatic plants that native species need, and are aggressive toward our native waterfowl. They sometimes even threaten humans who get near their nests or young.

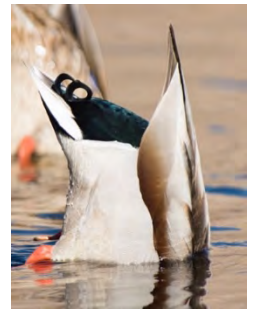
Mallard -- our most common duck

Length: 20 - 25 inches

47

Left: Male

Right: Female



Mallards and other "dabbling ducks" tip forward to feed.

Many female ducks are brown.

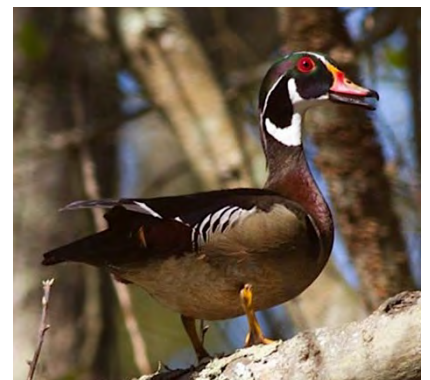


Female with ducklings

Wood Ducks are shy.  
We can watch them from a distance.  
They nest in holes that they find in trees  
and will sometimes use nest boxes.

Wood Duck

Length:  
18 ½ - 21 inches



Male

**Gadwall** ❄️ a dabbling duck Length: 20 inches



Left: Male Above: Female

There are many beautiful patterns in the male Gadwall's plumage.

**Ring-necked Duck** ❄️ a diving duck Length: 15-18 inches



Left: Female

Right: Male

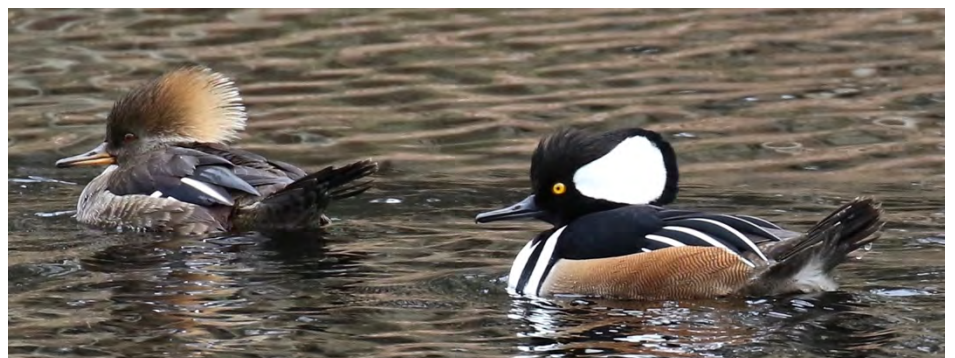
We sometimes see groups of these ducks swimming and diving on lakes and ponds. The white rings on their bills are much easier to see than the subtle rings on the males' necks.

**Hooded Merganser** ❄️ a diving duck Length: 16-19 inches

Left: Female

Right: Male

Mergansers have serrated bills, with which they catch and grip fish. Look for this species on ponds, lakes, and rivers.



**Great Blue Heron** Length: 39 - 53 inches Wingspan: 66 - 79 inches 49

Our largest and most common heron



This egret is preening its feathers.



**Great Egret** 🌸

Length: 37 - 40 inches

Wingspan: 52 - 57 inches

Egrets and other American birds used to be hunted for their beautiful feathers. Then in 1918 the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was passed, making it illegal to kill, capture, or possess our native migratory birds, or to possess their eggs, nests, or feathers, "except as permitted by regulations." To protect our birds, the United States needs to preserve the rules this law set up.



Adult

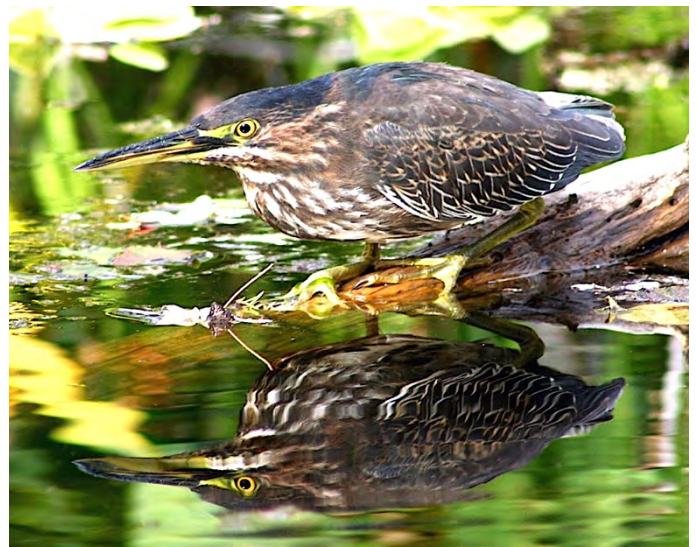
These small herons can be hard to see as they crouch near the edges of wetlands. But their sharp, harsh calls can tell us where they are.

They sometimes catch fish by dropping small objects in the water as bait and then snatching up the fish that come to those lures.

## Green Heron

Length: 17 inches

Immature



## Spotted Sandpiper

Length: 7 ½ inches



Spotted Sandpipers are found both inland and at the coast. The bird in this photo is in breeding plumage. After the nesting season, it will look much plainer, with no spots and a duller-colored bill.

In any season, the way these sandpipers bob up and down when they move can help us identify them.

# Ring-billed Gull

Length: 19 inches

Wingspan: 44 inches

This is the most common gull in Connecticut, especially in non-coastal areas. It and the Herring Gull can be found both at the coast and inland.



Adult



Immature (First Winter)

Ring-billed Gulls reach adult plumage in their third year.  
Herring Gulls don't reach adult plumage until their fourth year.

# Herring Gull

Length: 22 - 26 inches

Wingspan: 58 inches



← Adults →



Juvenile



Herring Gulls sometimes crack shellfish open by carrying them up in the air and then dropping them on hard surfaces.

# Double-crested Cormorant

Length: 28 - 35 inches

52



Cormorants hold their wings out to dry.



You can see the feathery crests in this picture.



They swim and dive to catch fish.



We find kingfishers near fresh or salt water, often hearing their rattling calls before we see the birds.



Above: Male

Right: Two Females

Kingfishers perch by water, or hover over it, looking for fish -- and then plunge down to catch their prey with their strong bills.

This is our only common species in which the females are more colorful than the males. Females have rust-colored feathers as well as grayish-blue and white ones.



This book shares many pages with my first digital bird picture book, *Some Common Birds of Northern Virginia* (© 2020-21). It includes eleven species not in that book, two of which have been substituted for two in its predecessor.

I am deeply grateful to the photographers and painters whose works appear in the books, and for the access to copyright-free images that many websites provide. Special thanks to William Canosa, Neal Lewis, Frank Mantlik, John McBride, Barry Van Dusen, and Jim Zipp for permission to use their copyrighted images. In the books there are also many beautiful public domain photographs by Lewis that come from the Shenandoah National Park's Flickr web pages. Credits for all the pictures are on pp. 55-59, below.

Enthusiastic thanks to those who gave me helpful information, suggestions, and comments as I was developing the books: DeWitt Allen, Chris Elphick, Chris Loscalzo, and Jim Sirch in Connecticut; and in connection with the Northern Virginia book, Bill Burton, Greg Butcher, and Tony Bogar. Invaluable help with the Hamden book was also provided by the New Haven Bird Club's checklists and by the information about the distribution, abundance and seasonal occurrence of species in Frank Gallo's *Birding in Connecticut* and his "Connecticut Birds: Distribution and Status by Season," which is the January 2023 Special Issue of *The Connecticut Warbler*.

Florence McBride  
March 2025

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#### 2. Introduction: All noted on later pages except : Cardinal - Sheila Brown (PDPics, CC0).

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Courtship feeding - USFWS / Susan Rachlin.
8. **Scarlet Tanager:** USFWS, Louis Agassiz Fuertes painting.
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**Tree Swallow:** Perched - Ken Thomas (W, ©). Pair at nest box - Alan Schmierer - (F, CC0).  
**Both Species:** In flight - drawings © Barry Van Dusen, used by permission.
12. **American Goldfinch:** Male - USFWS / Dave Menke. Female - USFWS / Gary Kramer.  
Molting male - NPS / Neal Lewis.
13. **Two Warblers named for their yellow colors**  
Yellowthroat: Male - USFWS / George Gentry. Female - USFWS / Peter Pearsall.  
Yellow Warbler: Male - USFWS / Tom Tetzner.  
Female - USFWS / Donna Dewhurst.
14. **Two More Warblers, one named for its habitat, one for its color**  
Pine Warbler: male - NPS / Neal Lewis (F).  
Yellow-rumped Warbler: Spring Male - khteWisconsin (F, ©).  
Fall - Florence McBride (cropped video frame).
15. **Hummingbird:** Male - Jean Beaufort (PDPics, CC0). Female - Linda Jones (PDPics, CC0).  
**Baltimore Oriole:** Male - USFWS / Hanna McBrearty (F). Female - F. McBride (cropped video frame).  
Male at nest - from *The Children's Book of Birds*, page 10, 1899 and 1901  
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16. **American Crow:** Single crow - DDWESQ (W, ©).  
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17. **European Starling:** Bright Summer Plumage - Petr Kratochvil PDPics, CC0).  
Winter Plumage - George Hodan (PDPics, CC0) .  
On wires - Florence McBride (cropped video frame). Juvenile - USFWS / Courtney Celley (F).
18. **Red-winged Blackbird:** Male - USFWS / George Gentry.  
Female - USFWS / Jim Hudgins (Midwest Region) (F).  
Immature male or adult female - USFWS / Courtney Celley (Midwest Region) (F).
19. **Common Grackle:** Pair at feeder - ACES / Margaret Barse (F, CC0).  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** Male - Sheila Brown (PDPics, CC0).  
Female - William A. Link, USGS (Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, public domain).  
Chick - Florence McBride (cropped video frame).
20. **Downy Woodpecker:** Male - NPS / Neal Lewis (F).  
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**Hairy Woodpecker:** Male - Martin Arcand-Dusseault (F, ©).  
Female - USFWS / Laurie Sheppard (F).

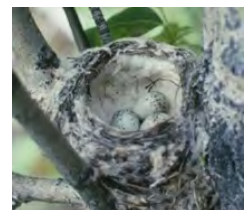
- 21. Pileated Woodpecker:** Male - © John M. McBride, used by permission.  
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**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Male, Female - Sheila Brown (PDPics, CC0).
- 22. Black-and-white Warbler:** Painting by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. This picture is a photograph of part of Plate 92 in *Birds of New York*, 1914, a book that's identified as in the public domain in the text of the Amazon offering of "Scholar Select" reprints: "Birds of New York Hardcover – August 31, 2015."  
**American Redstart:** Male - 72426950scott at English Wikipedia (W, ©).  
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- 23. Eastern Towhee:** Male - USFWS / Bill Thompson (PDFiles).  
Female - USFWS / Andrew MacLachlan.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Male - ACES Margaret Barse (F, CC0).  
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- 24. Rock Pigeon:** Top, classic plumage - George Hodan (PDPics, CC0).  
Black - Linnaea Mallette (PDPics, CC0). Brown - Linnaea Mallette (PDPics, CC0).  
Piebald - RAJESH misra (PDPics, CC0). Flying flock - George Hodan (PDPics, ©).  
Flock foraging on ground - Tokumeigakarinoaoshima (W, CC0).  
Flock on roof - Florence McBride (cropped video frame). Flock on wires - Mussi Katz (F, ©).
- 25. Black-capped Chickadee:** - David Ellis/USFWS (F, ©).  
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**Chimney Swifts:** Two flying - Jeff and Amy (F, ©).  
Scene with house - USFWS, Bob Hines, *Fifty Birds of Town and City* (W, ©).
- 29. Kinglets and Red-eyed Vireo:** Ruby-crowned Kinglet - USFWS / Donna Dewhurst.  
Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Red-eyed Vireo - NPS / Neal Lewis. (F).
- 30. Mourning Dove:** Photo - Ltshears - Trisha M Shears (W, ©).  
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- 31. Northern Flicker:** Male - Sheila Brown (PDPics, CC0).  
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- 32. Song Sparrow:** Singing - Jim Hudgins / USFWS (F).  
From front: Ken Sturm / USFWS (PDFiles).  
**House Sparrow:** Female - William Morris (PDPics, CC0).  
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**House Wren** - © 2020 John M. McBride, used by permission.
35. **Wood Thrush** and **Ovenbird:** Fuertes painting, from *The Burgess Bird Book for Children*, 1919 (W, ©).
36. **Cedar Waxwing:** USFWS / Bill Thompson.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** NPS / R. Cammauf (W) (background edited by Florence McBride).
37. **Killdeer:** Adult - Sheila Brown (PDPics,CC0).  
 Chick - USFWS / Grayson Smith.  
 Distraction Display (F) and Nest (PDFiles) - USFWS Midwest / Courtney Celley.
38. **Wild Turkey:** Male displaying - USFW / Robert H. Burton.  
 Female with chicks - USFWS / Alvin Freund.  
 Information from CT DEEP Wild Turkey Fact Sheet.  
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Fact-Sheets/Wild-Turkey>.
39. **Brown Females and Young Birds:** See species pages.
40. **Red-tailed Hawk:** Four photos © Jim Zipp. Used by permission.
41. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** Adults - USFWS (Clark's River NWR; no photographer noted).  
 Immature - NPS photo, G. Gardner (W).  
**Cooper's Hawk:** Adult - USFWS / Tom Koerner.  
 Immature - USFWS / Bill Bolton/Wikimedia Commons (PDFiles, ©).
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 Perched - Paul Brennan (PDPics, CC0) (background edited by Florence McBride).  
 Nest - Chris S. (PDPics, CC0).
44. **Turkey Vulture:** Flying - NPS / Brad Sutton (F). Perched - NPS / Neal Lewis (F).  
**Black Vulture:** Flying - Jim Conrad (W, ©). Perched - abbeyprivate (F, ©).
45. **Great Horned Owl:** USFWS / Bill Moses (F).  
**Barred Owl:** USFWS / Mark Musselman, National Audubon Society.  
**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Gray and red morphs - F. McBride (from video frames).
46. **Canada Goose:** Adult on water - Andrea Stöckel (PDPics, CC0); cropped.  
 One flying - mcanbolat (W, ©).  
 Two adults with young - Courtesy and Creator: US Dept of Energy (PDFiles, ©).  
**Mute Swan** - Adults and cygnets: USFWS / Lee Karney.
47. **Mallard:** Pair - Andrew Schmidt (PDPics, CC0). Male dabbling - NPS / Brad Sutton (F).  
**Wood Ducks:** Female with young - Jim Hudgins / USFWS (F).  
 Male in tree - Tiffany Kersten / USFWS (F, ©).

48. **Gadwall:** Male - Alan Schmierer (CC0, F).  
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**Ring-necked Ducks** (pair): Randy Streufert / USFWS.  
**Hooded Mergansers** (pair): © 2023 Frank Mantlik, used by permission.
49. **Great Blue Heron:** Flying - NPS / Jim Peaco (F). Standing - Jim Hudgins / USFWS (F).  
**Great Egret:** Flying - ksblack99 (F, ©).  
 Preening - USFWS - no photographer listed; just:  
 "Contact: mail to: Katherine\_Whittemore@fws.gov." (F)
50. **Green Heron:** Adult - Susan Young (F, ©).  
 Immature - Jean Beaufort (PDPics, CC0).  
**Spotted Sandpiper** (breeding plumage): NPS / Volunteer Rusty Wilson.
51. **Ring-billed Gull:** Winter adult, and Immature (First Winter) - Alan Schmierer (F, CC0).  
**Herring Gull:** Adult calling - "Anonymous User" (PDPics, CC0). Juvenile - ksblack99 (F, ©)  
 Adult flying - USGS / Mikey Lutmerding --  
 "Permission granted from Mikey Lutmerding for use of this photo."
52. **Double-crested Cormorant:** Standing - USFWS / Rodney Krey.  
 Drying wings - USGS / Randolph Femmer.  
 Head, showing crest - USFWS / Lee Karney [detail].  
 Swimming with fish - USFWS / Peter Pearsall.
53. **Belted Kingfisher:** Male - Michael Schramm / USFWS (F).  
 Female hovering - malibusboats (F, CC0).  
 Female perched - © 2017 John M. McBride, used by permission.
- 
60. **Index:** Yellow Warbler Nest - USFWS / Kristine Sowl.

## Index -- the species pages

Bird	Page	Bird	Page
Blackbird, Red-winged	18	Ovenbird	35
Bluebird, Eastern	10	Owls (three species)	45
Brown females and young birds	39	Phoebe, Eastern	28
Bunting, Indigo	10	Pigeon, Rock	24
Cardinal, Northern	6	Redstart, American	22
Catbird, Gray	27	Robin, American	5
Chickadee, Black-capped	25	Sandpiper, Spotted	50
Cormorant, Double-crested	52	Sparrow, Chipping	33
Cowbird, Brown-headed	19	Sparrow, House	32
Crow, American	16	Sparrow, Song	32
Dove, Mourning	30	Sparrow, White-throated	33
Duck, Ring-necked	48	Starling, European	17
Duck, Wood	47	Swallow, Barn	11
Eagle, Bald	42	Swallow, Tree	11
Egret, Great	49	Swan, Mute	46
Finch, House	7	Swift, Chimney	28
Flicker, Northern	31	Tanager, Scarlet	8
Flycatcher, Great Crested	36	Thrush, Wood	35
Gadwall	48	Titmouse, Tufted	25
Goldfinch, American	12	Towhee, Eastern	23
Goose, Canada	46	Turkey, Wild	38
Grackle, Common	19	Vireo, Red-eyed	29
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	23	Vulture, Black	44
Gulls, Ring-billed and Herring	51	Vulture, Turkey	44
Hawk, Cooper's	41	Warbler, Black-and-white	22
Hawk, Red-shouldered	41	Warbler, Pine	14
Hawk, Red-tailed	40	Warbler, Yellow	13
Heron, Great Blue	49	Warbler, Yellow-rumped	14
Heron, Green	50	Waxwing, Cedar	36
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated	15	Woodpecker, Downy	20
Jay, Blue	9	Woodpecker, Hairy	20
Junco, Dark-eyed	26	Woodpecker, Pileated	21
Killdeer	37	Woodpecker, Red-bellied	21
Kingfisher, Belted	53	Wren, Carolina	34
Kinglets	29	Wren, House	34
Mallard	47	Yellowthroat, Common	13
Merganser, Hooded	48		
Mockingbird, Northern	27		
Nuthatch, White-breasted	26	Nest of a	
Oriole, Baltimore	15	Yellow Warbler	
Osprey	43		



## About the Author

Florence McBride has been a member of the Connecticut birding community for over 40 years, and has actively supported bird conservation. She was a block leader for two Connecticut Bird Atlas projects, and for decades was an area captain for the New Haven Bird Club's annual bird counts and a field trip leader for the club. She continues to lead bird walks and present natural history films that she has made.



From 1990 through spring, 2023, Florence worked as a specialist with colleagues and students in the Hamden Public Schools to develop and implement an interdisciplinary outdoor-indoor science program called Partners in Science. The program was focused on birds, and she created a large collection of *Take Flight!* materials for it, many of which have been widely shared with educators in Connecticut and beyond. For this work she has received recognition from local, state, and national organizations.

When the Covid-19 pandemic forced much education to move online, she began developing digital bird picture books that include comments with the pictures. This book's predecessor has been made available in both English and Spanish editions by the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance through its web pages. Links to them can be found at:

<https://www.audubonva.org/community-outreach>.

Between 2019 and 2021, Florence worked to create two books of photographs documenting the Birds of Connecticut exhibition in Yale University's Peabody Museum of Natural History (an exhibition which was not reinstalled in the renovated museum). A 29-page selection from the first book can be found at

<https://newhavenbirdclub.org/2020/06/12/flo-mcbride-publishes-a-book-on-the-yale-peabody-collection-the-birds-of-connecticut/>



# Some Birds of Hamden, Connecticut



Florence S. McBride