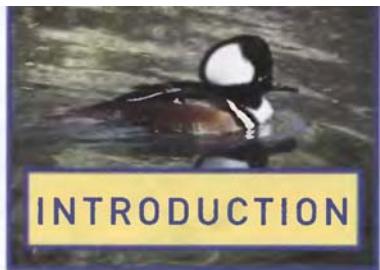




PETERSON FIELD GUIDE
TO
BIRDS
of North America





How to Identify Birds

Veteran birders will know how to use this book. Beginners, however, should spend some time becoming familiar in a general way with the illustrations. The plates, for the most part, have been grouped in taxonomic sequence. However, in cases where there is a great similarity of shape and action, similar-appearing birds may be grouped outside their strict taxonomic order. This should aid in field identification and not frustrate the true taxonomist to any great degree.

Birds that could be confused are grouped together when possible and are arranged in identical profile for direct comparison. The arrows point to outstanding field marks, which are explained opposite. The text also gives aids such as voice, actions, and habitat, not visually portrayable, and under a separate heading discusses species that might be confused. The general range is not described for most species in the text. The annotated three-color range maps in the back of the book (pp. 410–496) provide detailed range information. Thumbnail versions of the maps also appear next to the species accounts for quick reference.

In addition to the plates of birds normally found in North America north of Mexico, there are also plates depicting accidentals from Eurasia, the sea, and the Tropics, as well as some of the exotic escapes that are sometimes seen.

What Is the Bird's Size?

Acquire the habit of comparing a new bird with some familiar "yardstick"—a House Sparrow, robin, pigeon, etc.—so that you can say to yourself, "Smaller than a robin, a little larger than a House Sparrow." The measurements in this book represent lengths in inches (with centimeters in parentheses) from bill tip to tail tip of specimens on their backs as in museum trays. For species that show considerable size variation, a range

of measurements is given. For less variable species, only one measurement is given.

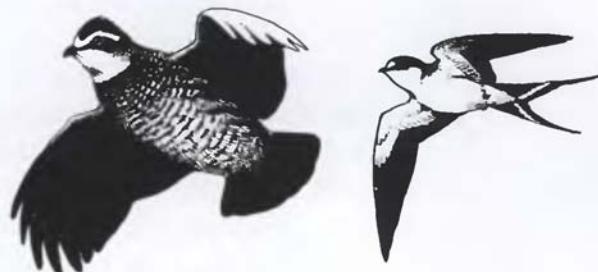
What Is Its Shape?

Is it plump like a starling (left) or slender like a cuckoo (right)?



What Shape Are Its Wings?

Are they rounded like a bobwhite's (left) or sharply pointed like a Barn Swallow's (right)?



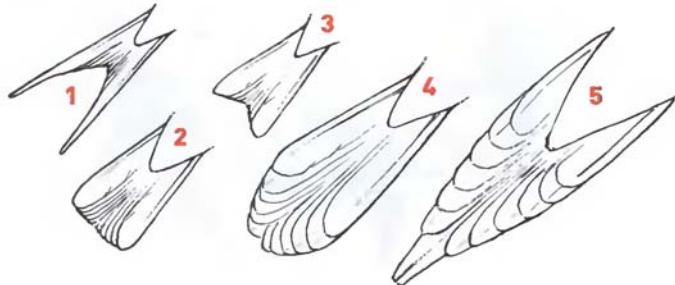
What Shape Is Its Bill?

Is it small and fine like a warbler's (1), stout and short like a seed-cracking sparrow's (2), dagger-shaped like a tern's (3), or hook-tipped like a bird of prey's (4)?



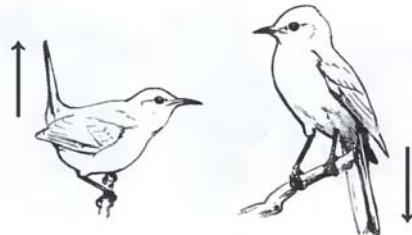
What Shape Is Its Tail?

Is it deeply forked like a Barn Swallow's (1), square-tipped like a Cliff Swallow's (2), notched like a Tree Swallow's (3), rounded like a Blue Jay's (4), or pointed like a Mourning Dove's (5)?



How Does It Behave?

Does it cock its tail like a wren or hold it down like a flycatcher? Does it wag its tail? Does it sit erect on an open perch, dart after an insect, and return as a flycatcher does?



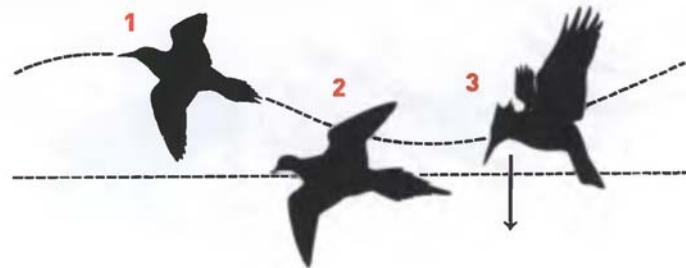
Does It Climb Trees?

If so, does it climb upward in spirals like a creeper (left), in jerks like a woodpecker (center) using its tail as a brace, or go down headfirst like a nuthatch (right)?



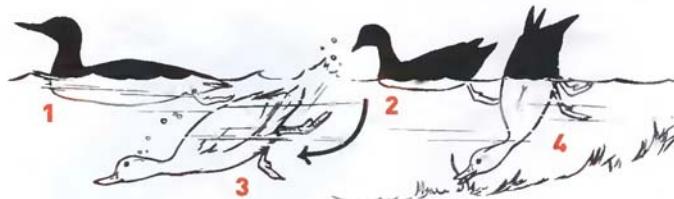
How Does It Fly?

Does it undulate (dip up and down) like a flicker (1)? Does it fly straight and fast like a dove (2)? Does it hover like a kingfisher (3)? Does it glide or soar?



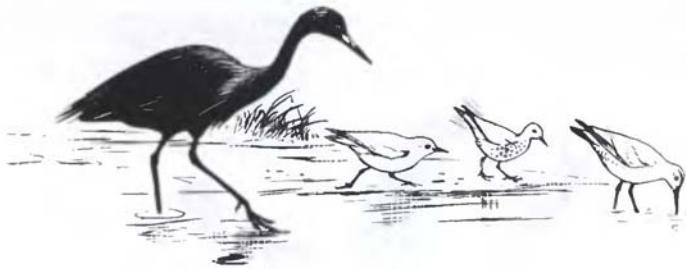
Does It Swim?

Does it sit low in the water like a loon (1) or high like a gallinule (2)? If a duck, does it dive like a scaup or a scoter (3) or dabble and upend like a Mallard (4)?



Does It Wade?

Is it large and long-legged like a heron or small like a sandpiper? If one of the latter, does it probe the mud or pick at things? Does it teeter or bob?



What Are Its Field Marks?

Some birds can be identified by color alone, but most birds are not that easy. The most important aids are what we call field marks, which are, in effect, the “trademarks of nature.” Note whether the breast is spotted as in a thrush (1), streaked as in a thrasher (2), or plain as in a cuckoo (3).



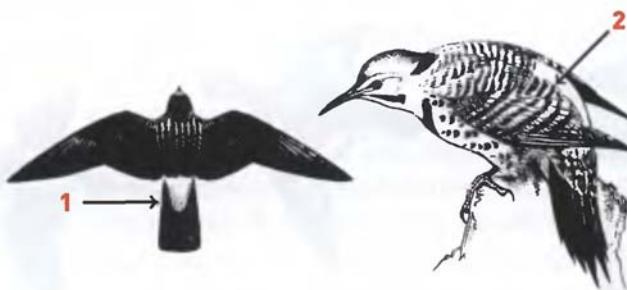
Tail Pattern

Does the tail have a “flash pattern”—a white tip as in the Eastern Kingbird (1), white patches in the outer corners as in the Eastern and Spotted towhees (2), or white sides as in the juncos (3)?



Rump Patch

Does it have a light rump like a Cliff Swallow (1) or flicker (2)? Northern Harrier, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and several shorebirds also have distinctive rump patches.



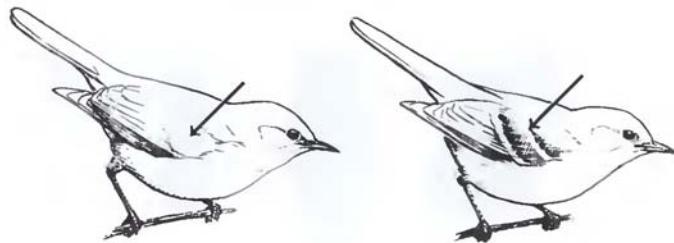
Eye Stripes and Eye-ring

Does the bird have a stripe above, through, or below the eye, or a combination of these stripes? Does it have a striped crown? A ring around the eye, or "spectacles"? A "mustache" stripe? These details are important in many small songbirds.



Wing Bars

Do the wings have light wing bars or not? Their presence or absence is important in recognizing many warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. Wing bars may be single or double, bold or obscure.



Wing Pattern

The basic wing pattern of ducks (shown below), shorebirds, and other water birds is very important. Notice whether the wings have patches (1) or stripes (2), are solidly colored (3), or have contrasting black tips.



Bird Songs and Calls

Using sounds to identify birds can be just as useful as using visual clues. In fact, in many situations, birds are much more readily identified by sound than by sight. The species accounts here include a brief entry on voice, with interpretations of these songs and calls, in an attempt to give birders some handle on the vocalizations they hear. Authors of bird books have attempted, with varying success, to fit songs and calls into syllables, words, and phrases. Musical notations, comparative descriptions, and even ingenious systems of symbols have also been employed. To supplement this verbal interpretation, there are recording collections available for nearly every region of the world and for individual groups of birds. The *Peterson Birding by Ear* CDs provide a step-by-step method for learning how to develop your listening and identification skills. Preparation in advance for particular species or groups greatly enhances your ability to identify them. Some birders do a majority of their birding by ear, and there is no substitute for actual sounds—for getting out into the field and tracking down the songster and committing the song to memory. However, an audio library is a wonderful resource to return home to when attempting to identify a bird heard in the field. Many such collections can now be taken into the field on digital audio devices. *Caution:* When using recordings to attract hard-to-see species, limit the number of playbacks, and do not use them on threatened species or in heavily birded areas.

Bird Nests

The more time you spend in the field becoming familiar with bird behavior, the more skilled you'll become at finding bird nests. It is as exciting to keep a bird nest list as it is to keep a life list. Remember, if you happen to find a nest during the breeding season, leave the site as undisturbed as possible. Back away, and do not touch the nest, eggs, or young birds. Often squirrels, raccoons, and several other mammals, grackles, and cowbirds are more than happy to have you "point out" a nest and will raid it if you disrupt the site or call attention to it. Many people find young birds that have just left the nest and may appear to be alone. Usually they are not lost but are under the watchful eye of a parent bird and are best left in place rather than scooped up and taken to a foreign environment. In the winter, nest hunting can be great fun and has little impact, as most nests will never be used again. They are easy to see once the foliage is gone, and it can be a challenge to attempt to identify the maker. Books such as *A Field Guide to*

Birds' Nests and *A Field Guide to Western Birds' Nests*, both in the Peterson Field Guide series, will expand your ornithological expertise.

Conservation

Birds undeniably contribute to our pleasure and quality of life. But they also are sensitive indicators of the environment, a sort of "ecological litmus paper," and hence more meaningful than just chickadees and cardinals that brighten the suburban garden, grouse and ducks that fill the sportsman's bag, or rare warblers and shorebirds that excite the field birder. The observation and recording of bird populations over time lead inevitably to environmental awareness and can signal impending changes.

To this end, please help the cause of wildlife conservation and education by contributing to or taking part in the work of the following organizations: **The Nature Conservancy** (4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203; www.nature.org), **National Audubon Society** (700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003; www.audubon.org), **Defenders of Wildlife** (1130 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036; www.defenders.org), **Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History** (311 Curtis Street, Jamestown, NY 14701; www.rtpi.org), **National Wildlife Federation** (11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston, VA 20190; www.nwf.org), **World Wildlife Fund** (1250 24th Street NW, PO Box 97180, Washington, DC 20090; www.wwf.org), **Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology** (159 Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, NY 14850; www.birds.cornell.edu), **Ducks Unlimited** (One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, TN 38120; www.ducks.org), **BirdLife International** (Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, U.K.; www.birdlife.org), **Partners in Flight** (www.partnersinflight.org), **American Bird Conservancy** (PO Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198; abcbirds.org), as well as your local land trust and natural heritage program and your local Audubon and ornithological societies and bird clubs. These and so many other groups that have come into the forefront of bird conservation in the last 20 years merit your support.

The Maps and Ranges of Birds

The ranges of many species have changed markedly over the past 50 or more years. Some species are expanding because of protection given them, changing habitats, bird feeding, or other factors. Some "increases" may simply be the result of more field-guide-educated birders being in the

field, helping to more thoroughly document bird populations and distributions. Other avian species have diminished alarmingly and may have been extirpated from major parts of their range. The primary culprit here has been habitat loss, although other factors such as increased competition or predation from other species may sometimes be involved. Species that are in serious decline in North America run the gamut, from Ivory Gull to Lesser Prairie-Chicken and Loggerhead Shrike to Bewick's Wren, Rusty Blackbird, and Red Knot.

Successful introductions of some species, such as Trumpeter Swan and Eurasian Collared-Dove, have resulted in self-sustaining, growing populations (the latter was introduced to the Bahamas, then arrived in the U.S. on its own). And a good number of additional vagrant species—out-of-range visitors from faraway lands—continue to be found (such as a Red-footed Falcon in Massachusetts). Some species that were formerly thought to occur only exceptionally have, over the past several decades, become much more regular visitors (such as Lesser Black-backed Gull) and sometimes even local breeders (such as Clay-colored Robin). It is not always certain if such changes in status are the result of actual population increases or if they merely reflect better observer coverage and advances in field identification skills.

Range maps need to be of sufficient size to denote adequate detail and to include written information on such topics as population trends and extralimital occurrences. Thus, the range maps in this guide have been purposely placed near the back of the book where they can be reproduced in a large size not possible in the main body of the text. The maps are organized taxonomically, following the order published by the American Ornithologists' Union. In addition, thumbnail versions of the same maps are placed in the main text next to the species accounts to provide a quick overview of a species' range without needing to turn the page. The key to the range maps is located on page 411 and also on the inside of the front cover, for quick reference.

Range maps don't depict how abundant a particular species is within its range. The following list defines terms of abundance used throughout the book. The definitions presume you're in the habitat and season in which a species would occur.

Common: Always or almost always encountered daily, usually in moderate to large numbers.

Fairly common: Usually encountered daily, generally not in large numbers.

Uncommon: Occurs in small numbers and may be missed on a substantial number of days.

Scarce: Present only in small numbers or difficult to find within its normal range.

Rare or very rare: Annual or probably annual in small numbers but still largely within its normal range.

Casual: Beyond its normal range; occurs at somewhat regular intervals but usually less frequently than annually.

Accidental: Beyond its normal range; one record or a very few records.

Vagrant: Beyond its normal range.

Local: Limited geographic range within the U.S. and Canada.

Introduced: Not native; deliberately released.

Exotic: Not native; either released or escaped. A term used especially for species that are present in limited numbers and may or may not be breeding. Other species, such as House Sparrow and European Starling, were also introduced but are so well established that, in the sense used here, they are no longer considered exotic.

Unestablished exotic: Nonnative releasee or escapee that does not have a naturalized breeding population, though some may be breeding in very localized areas.

Habitats

Gaining a familiarity with a wide range of habitats will greatly enhance your overall knowledge of the birds in a specific region, increase your skills, and add to your enjoyment of birding. It is unlikely you will ever see a meadowlark in an oak woodland or a Wood Thrush in a meadow. Birders know this, and if they want to go out to run up a large day list, they do not remain in one habitat but shift from site to site based on time and species diversity for a given type of habitat.

A few birds do invade habitats other than their own at times, especially on migration. A warbler that spends the summer in Maine might be seen, on its journey through Florida, in a palm. In cities, migrating birds often have to make the best of it, like the American Woodcock found one morning on the window ledge of a New York City office. Strong weather patterns can also alter where a bird happens to appear. Hurricanes, for example, can be a disaster for many species. As these violent storms sweep over the ocean, the eye can often “vacuum” up oceanic species that seek shelter

in its calmness. Upon reaching land, these normally offshore species are faced with an entirely strange habitat and account for sightings such as a Yellow-nosed Albatross heading up the Hudson River, a White-tailed Tropicbird in downtown Boston, and numbers of storm-petrels on an inland reservoir in the desert Southwest.

Most species, however, are quite predictable for the major portion of their lives, and for the birder who has learned where to look, the rewards are great.

To start, familiarize yourself with individual habitat types. Become familiar with the dominant plant types that are indicators—for example, oak-beech woods, grass-shrub meadows, salt- or freshwater wetlands—and keep accurate records of what species you find in each. In a short time you will have a working knowledge of the predominant species in each habitat, and this will help you with identification by allowing you to anticipate what might be found there.

The seasonal movements of birds at your sites will provide an overview of migrant species that come through at a given time and will be a reference point for future visits during these migration periods. A forest dotted with migrant warblers in spring may revert to relative quiet accented by the repetitive calls of a Red-eyed Vireo or the drawn-out call of a Western Wood-Pewee in midsummer.

Be sure not to overlook cities and towns, where well-adapted species can be found. Peregrine Falcons have shown remarkable adaptability, nesting on strategic ledges in the walled canyons of many cities. The fertile grounds for hunting Rock Pigeons and European Starlings seem to suit this raptor quite well.

Ecotones are edges where two habitat types interface—a forest and a shrub meadow, for example. As this is not a gradual change, ecotones offer habitat for species from both of the adjoining areas and are therefore rich in bird life.

The changes in habitat over the years will also affect your favorite birding areas. Fields turn to shrubby lots and then woodlands. Bobwhite and meadowlarks may move on, but Indigo or Lazuli buntings and Field or Lincoln's sparrows establish themselves. This dynamic is normal in the natural world. However, humankind's alterations to this process have had a great impact. Forest fragmentation is an example. As land development continues, it is affecting numerous species. A sudden disruption has a more drastic effect than a slow change, which allows for adaptation. As we divide up habitat with roadways, we have created a greater edge effect, and this allows Brown-headed Cowbirds to penetrate into forest areas where

they would not have ventured in the past. They now parasitize many more species than before, and such parasitization is leading to marked declines in total numbers of many species. This forest fragmentation is also affecting the success rate of nestling fledging by increasing the numbers of some predators and by altering prime habitat requirements for obtaining food to raise the young.

Some species are obligates to a specific habitat type, and searching these areas greatly improves your chances of finding such birds. These include Golden-crowned Kinglet nesting in coniferous woodlands and Kirtland's Warbler in Michigan, which breeds only in jack pine woodlands of a specific height. Even in migration, many species remain faithful to selected habitats, such as waterthrushes along watercourses. Running or dripping water has proven to be an important attractant for migrating land birds, and in areas where fresh water is scarce, a water drip can be a gold mine for migrant warblers and other passerines.

Subspecies and Geographic Variation

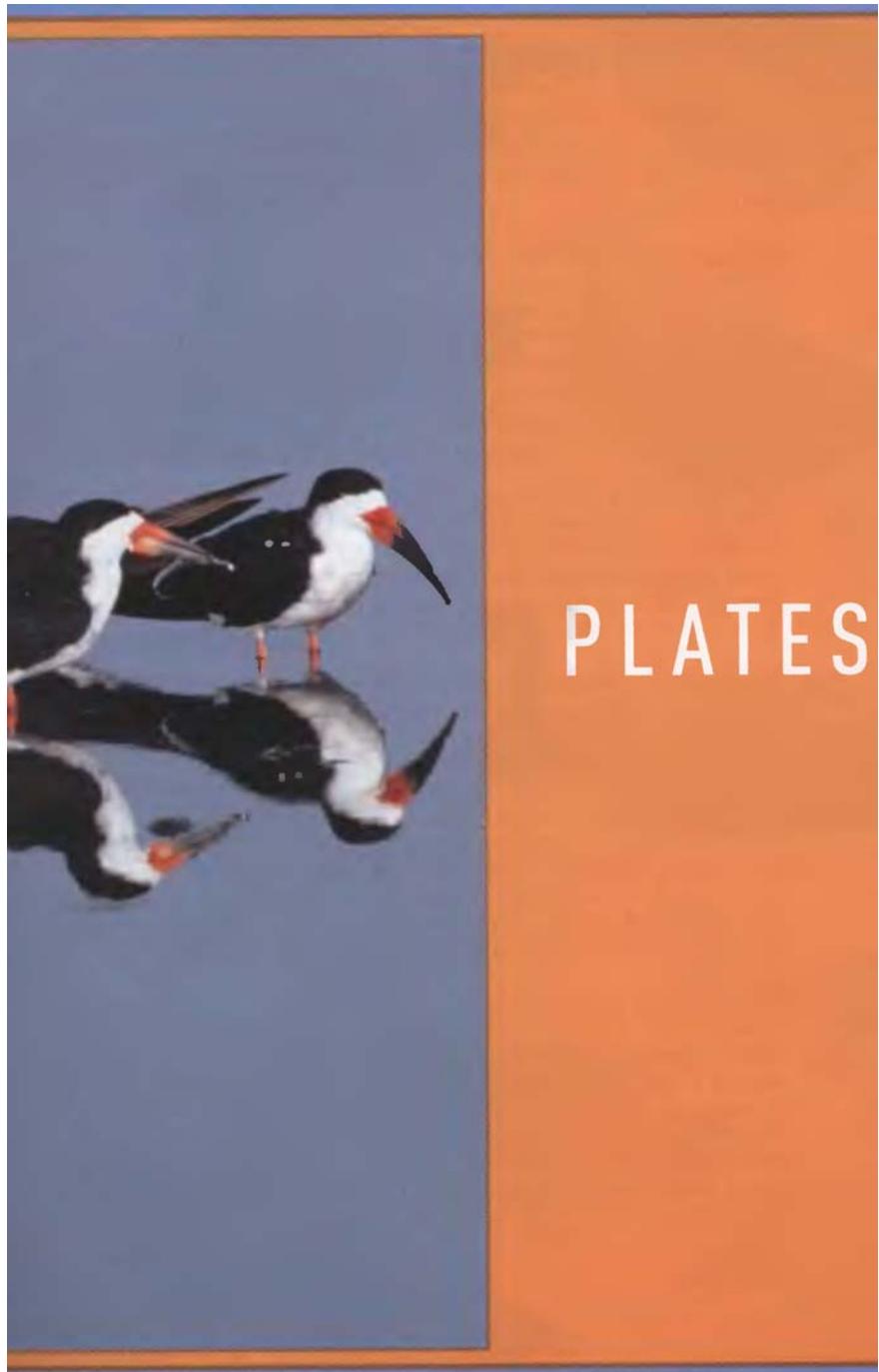
Many species of birds inhabit wide geographic areas. The Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), for example, breeds throughout North America, from Mexico north into Alaska. In such a wide-ranging species, there are geographic subsets within the population that show distinct local plumage patterns and song variants. When the distinct geographic forms of a species reach a point when the population is dominated by individuals that are recognizably different from typical individuals of the "parent" species, the local group is formally designated a subspecies of the parent species. The subspecies is named by attaching a third, subspecific name to the scientific name of the species. Thus, the pale Song Sparrow of the southwestern deserts of North America is called *Melospiza melodia saltonis*, to distinguish that form from another subspecies. With at least 31 recognizable subspecies, the Song Sparrow ranks among the highest of North American birds in the number of its geographic varieties.

Often a subspecific group is so distinct from the parent species that several members can be easily recognized in the field by bird watchers. A good example of this is the Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). With 12 subspecies, at least 5 are easily discerned: the "Oregon," "Pink-sided," "White-winged," "Slate-colored," and "Gray-headed." For the birder, identification of subspecies can add greater challenges to birding and, when documented, valuable information, especially when subspecies are reclassified to full species status. Such has been the case, for example, with the

splitting of Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) into Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*) and Cordilleran Flycatcher (*E. occidentalis*). Field studies of Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) leading to the separation of Greater Sage-Grouse (*C. urophasianus*) and Gunnison Sage-Grouse (*C. minimus*) prove how valuable these studies of subspecific populations can be. The differences between Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) and Gray-cheeked Thrush (*C. minimus*) illustrate how subtle the field marks can be between species and why they had been relegated to subspecific status. The shifting of this line between subspecies and species is ongoing. Recording data on location and numbers can prove helpful in completing a picture of a species' distribution or even a new species that has been overlooked.

In this edition, species that have distinct subspecies that are easily recognized, such as Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) and Dark-eyed Junco (*J. hyemalis*), have been represented. When in the field, challenge yourself to discern the subspecies. It will increase your visual and listening skills and add a new level of understanding and enjoyment of birds.





PLATES

GEES, SWANS, AND DUCKS Family Anatidae

Web-footed waterfowl. RANGE: Worldwide.

GEES

Large, gregarious waterfowl; heavier bodied, longer necked than ducks; bills thick at base. Noisy in flight; some fly in lines or V formations. Sexes alike. Geese are more terrestrial than ducks, often grazing. FOOD: Grasses, seeds, waste grain, aquatic plants; eelgrass (Brant); shellfish (Emperor Goose).



GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Anser albifrons (see also p. 24)

Fairly common M3

28 in. (71 cm). Gray-brown with pink bill; adult with white patch on front of face and variable black bars on belly. The only other N. American goose with yellow or orange feet is Emperor Goose. Immature: Dusky with pinkish bill, yellow or orange feet. May be confused with some domestic barnyard geese. VOICE: High-pitched tooting, *kah-lah-a-luk*, in chorus. HABITAT: Marshes, prairies, agricultural fields, lakes, bays; in summer, tundra.



EMPEROR GOOSE

Chen canagica (see also p. 24)

Scarce, local M4

26 in. (66 cm). Alaskan. Adult: A small blue-gray goose, scaled with black and white; identified by its white head and hindneck. Throat black (not white as in dark-morph Snow and Ross's geese). Golden or orange legs. Juvenile: Has dark head and bill. HABITAT: In summer, tundra; in winter, rocky shores, mudflats, seaweed.



SNOW GOOSE

Chen caerulescens (see also p. 24)

Locally common M5

White morph: 25–33 in. (64–84 cm). White with black primaries. Head often rust-stained from feeding in muddy or iron-rich waters. Bill pink with black "lips." Feet pink. Base of bill curves back slightly toward eye. Immature: Pale gray; dark bill and legs. Dark morph ("Blue" Goose): 25–30 in. (64–76 cm): Suggests Emperor Goose, but has white throat, dark "lips," and lacks scaly pattern. Intermediates with white morph of Snow are frequent. Immature: Similar to young Greater White-fronted Goose, but feet and bill dark. VOICE: Loud, nasal, double-noted *houck-houck*, in chorus. SIMILAR SPECIES: White morph: Ross's Goose. HABITAT: Marshes, grain fields, ponds, bays; in summer, tundra.



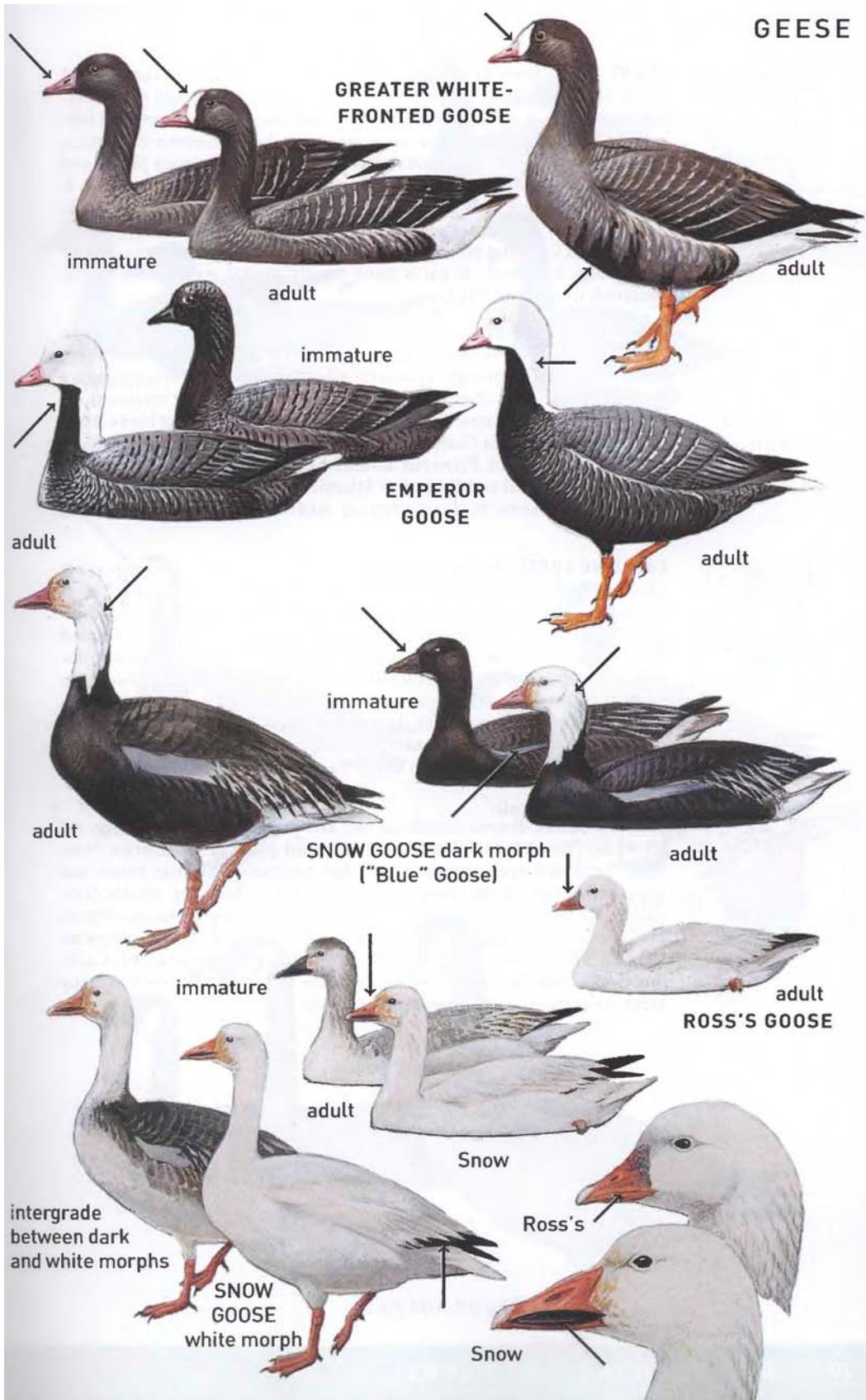
ROSS'S GOOSE

Chen rossii (see also p. 24)

Uncommon M6

23 in. (58 cm). Like a small Snow Goose, but neck shorter, head rounder (steeper forehead). Bill with gray-blue or purple-blue base, stubbier (with vertical border between base and facial feathering), lacking distinctive "grinning black lips"; warts at bill base difficult to see. Immature: Whiter than young Snow Goose. Rare "Blue" morph shows more extensively dark neck, whiter wing patches than "Blue" Snow Goose; hybrids with Snow Goose occur. VOICE: Higher than Snow, suggesting Cackling Goose. SIMILAR SPECIES: Snow Goose. HABITAT: Same as Snow Goose.

GEESE



**BRANT** *Branta bernicla* (see also p. 24)

Locally common M7
24–26 in. (59–66 cm). A small black-necked goose. Has white stern, conspicuous when it upends, whitish flanks, and band of white on neck (absent in immature). Travels in large irregular flocks. Eastern subspecies, “Pale-bellied” Brant (*B. b. hrota*), has *light belly, less contrasty flanks, and two separated neck patches*. Pacific Coast subspecies, “Black” Brant (*B. b. nigricans*), has dark belly and complete white band across foreneck. **VOICE:** Throaty *cr-r-r-ruk* or *krr-onk, krrr-onk*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Foreparts of Canada and Cackling geese not black to waterline, and those species have large white face patch. Brant is more strictly coastal. **HABITAT:** Salt bays, estuaries; in summer, tundra.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

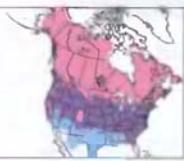
Vagrant

26–27 in. (66–69 cm). Similar in size to Brant. Has white sides and black chest to waterline, strongly contrasting with white belly. Note white face encircling eye. Back distinctly barred. Some reports likely represent escapees. **VOICE:** Like Snow Goose, but higher-pitched, doglike barks. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Canada Goose larger and brown-bodied (not gray), lacks barring, has dark face. Brant has all-dark head. **RANGE:** Casual winter visitor from Greenland and Europe to Atlantic Coast; accidental farther west. Provenance of some birds in question. **HABITAT:** Ponds, lakes; grazes in fields.

**CACKLING GOOSE** *Branta hutchinsii*

Uncommon M8

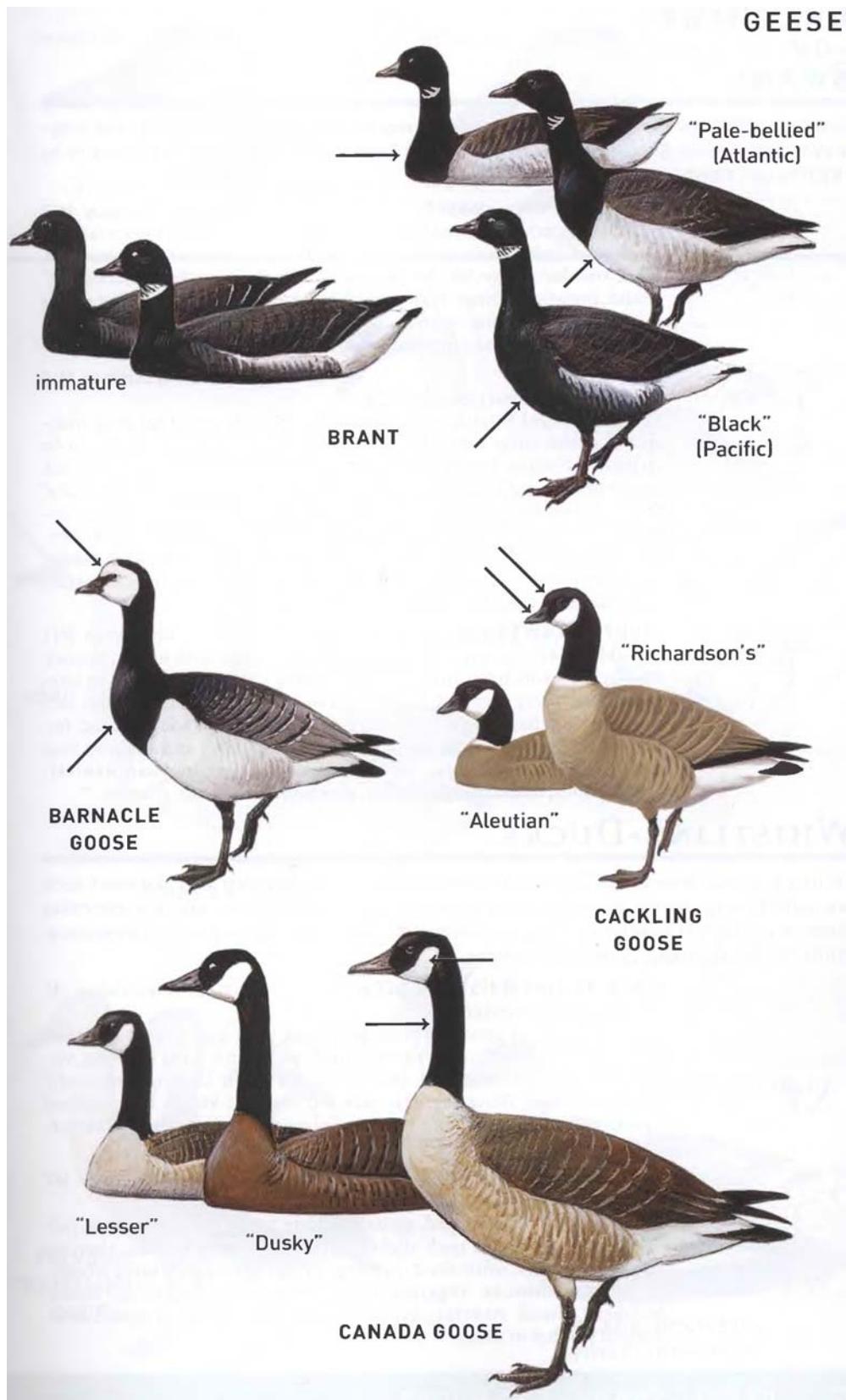
23–32 in. (58–81 cm). Recently elevated to full-species rank separate from Canada Goose, this species includes the variably sized subspecies *hutchinsii* (“Richardson’s”), *taverneri* (“Taverner’s”), *minima* (“Ridgway’s”), and *leucopareia* (“Aleutian”). Like Canada Goose, shows variable breast color and neck collar. **VOICE:** High, cackling *yel-lik*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Told from Canada by smaller size, shorter neck, smaller, rounder head, stubbier bill, and higher-pitched voice. But distinctions between larger Cacklings and smaller Canadas subtle. **HABITAT:** Lakes, marshes, fields; in summer, tundra. Individuals will flock with larger Canadas and are usually noticeably smaller.

**CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis* (see also p. 24)

Common M9

30–43 in. (76–109 cm). The most widespread goose in N. America. Note black head and neck, or “stocking,” that contrasts with pale breast and *white chin strap*. Flocks travel in strings or in Vs, “honking” loudly. Substantial variation in size and neck length exists among populations. **VOICE:** Deep, musical honking or barking, *ka-ronk* or *ka-lunk*. Small subspecies (and Cackling Goose) have higher-pitched calls. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cackling Goose. **HABITAT:** Lakes, ponds, bays, marshes, fields. Resident in many areas, frequenting parks, lawns, golf courses.

GEESE



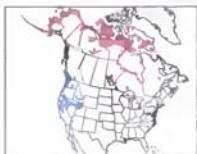
SWANS

Huge, all-white swimmers; larger and longer necked than geese. Young are pale gray-brown. Sexes alike. Swans migrate in lines or Vs. Feed by immersing head and neck or by "tipping up." **FOOD:** Aquatic plants, seeds.



MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

Fairly common, local M10
60 in. (152 cm). Introduced from Europe. This graceful ornamental park swan often swims with an S curve in neck; wings often arched over back. *Black-knobbed orange bill* tilts downward. Wingbeats make a "whooshing" sound. *Immature:* Dingy, with pinkish bill. **VOICE:** It is not mute but makes hissing and wheezing sounds, weak bugling. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other swans. **HABITAT:** Ponds, fresh and salt; coastal lagoons, salt bays.



TUNDRA SWAN

Uncommon to locally common M12
Cygnus columbianus (see also p. 24)
52–53 in. (132–135 cm); wingspan 6–7 ft. (183–213 cm). Our most widespread native swan. Often heard long before a high-flying flock can be spotted. All-white wings and very long neck mark them as swans. Bill black, usually with small yellow basal spot. Eurasian form ("Bewick's" Swan), casual from AK to CA, has much yellow on bill above nostrils. *Immature:* Dingy, with pinkish bill variably dark at base and tip. **VOICE:** Mellow, high-pitched cooing: *woo-ho, woo-woo, woo-ho*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Trumpeter and Mute swans. **HABITAT:** Lakes, large rivers, bays, estuaries, grain fields; in summer, tundra.



TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator*

Uncommon M11
58–60 in. (147–152 cm). Larger than Tundra Swan, with longer, heavier, all-black bill, which has straight ridge recalling Canvasback. Black on lores wider, embracing eyes and lacking yellow spot (some Tundras also lack this spot). Bill base forms V shape (rather than U shape) on forehead. *Immature:* Keeps dusky body color later into first spring and summer than does Tundra. **VOICE:** Deeper, more nasal calls than Tundra Swan. **HABITAT:** Lakes, ponds, large rivers; in winter, also bays, grain fields, marshes.

WHISTLING-DUCKS

Formerly called "tree ducks," these rather gooselike ducks with long legs and erect neck are indeed more closely related to geese than they are to other ducks, which taxonomists place in a different subfamily. They are named for their high-pitched calls. Gregarious. **FOOD:** Seeds of aquatic plants and grasses.



BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK

Locally common M1

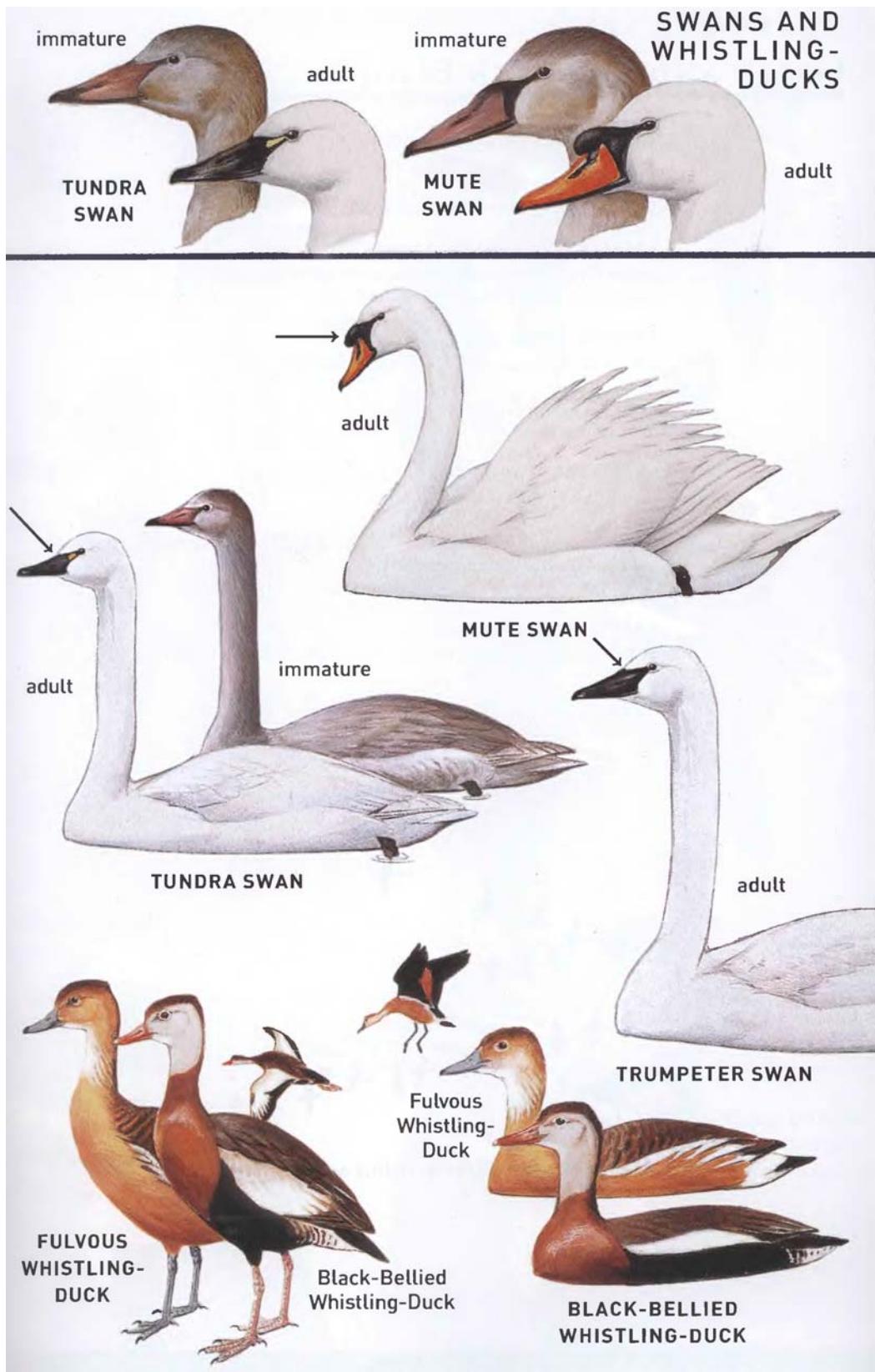
Dendrocygna autumnalis
21 in. (53 cm). A gooselike duck with long pink legs. Rusty with black belly, gray face, bright coral red bill. Broad white patch along forewing, visible in flight. Thrusts head and feet down when landing. Frequently perches in trees. *Immature:* Has gray bill and legs. **VOICE:** High-pitched squealing whistle. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Fulvous Whistling-Duck. **HABITAT:** Ponds, freshwater marshes.



FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK

Uncommon M2

Dendrocygna bicolor (see also p. 46)
20 in. (51 cm). Long-legged, gooselike. Note tawny body, dark back, pale side stripes. Flies with neck slightly drooped and feet trailing, showing black underwings, white band on rump. **VOICE:** Squealing slurred whistle, *ka-whee-oo*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, female Northern Pintail. **HABITAT:** Freshwater marshes, ponds, irrigated land. Seldom perches in trees.



GESE AND SWANS IN FLIGHT

CANADA GOOSE <i>Branta canadensis</i>	p. 20
BRANT <i>Branta bernicla</i> Small; black head and neck, white stern.	p. 20
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE <i>Anser albifrons</i> <i>Adult:</i> Gray-brown neck, black bars or splotches on belly. <i>Immature:</i> Dusky, with light bill and feet.	p. 18
EMPEROR GOOSE <i>Chen canagica</i> Gray with white head, black throat, white tail.	p. 18
TUNDRA SWAN <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> Very long neck. <i>Adult:</i> Plumage entirely white.	p. 22
SNOW GOOSE (WHITE MORPH) <i>Chen caerulescens</i> <i>Adult:</i> White with black primaries.	p. 18
SNOW GOOSE (DARK MORPH, "BLUE" GOOSE) <i>Chen caerulescens</i> <i>Adult:</i> Dark body, white head. <i>Immature:</i> Dusky, with dark bill and feet.	p. 18
ROSS'S GOOSE <i>Chen rossii</i> Smaller, slightly shorter necked and shorter billed than Snow Goose.	p. 18



Many geese and swans fly in line or V formation.

GEES AND SWANS



DABBING DUCKS

Feed by dabbling and upending; sometimes feed on land. Take flight directly into air. Most species have an iridescent speculum on secondaries above. Sexes not alike; in midsummer, males molt into drab "eclipse" plumage, usually resembling females. **FOOD:** Aquatic plants, seeds, grass, waste grain, small aquatic life, insects.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

Scarse, local
Male 32 in. (81 cm); female 28 in. (66 cm). Black, gooselike duck with large white wing patch and underwing coverts. **Male:** Bare, knobby, red face. **Female:** Duller, may lack facial knobs. Flight slow, heavy. **VOICE:** Usually silent. Occasionally utters a soft quack or a hiss when threatened. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Domestic Muscovies show more white on head and belly. Widespread domestic Muscovy Ducks vary in pattern. **RANGE:** Native of tropical America (Mex. to n. Argentina). Recent colonizer of lower Rio Grande Valley, TX. Feral populations established in FL and near Brownsville, TX. **HABITAT:** Freshwater ponds and backwaters; wooded river corridors of Rio Grande in TX.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* (see also p. 44)

Fairly common M13
18–19 in. (45–49 cm). Highly colored; often perches in trees. In flight, white belly contrasts with dark breast and wings. Note also the long, almost square, dark tail; short neck; and angle at which bill points downward in flight. **Male:** Bizarre face pattern, sweptback crest, and rainbow iridescence unique. In eclipse, more like female but with brighter bill and suggestion of breeding head pattern. **Female:** Dull-colored; note dark crested head and *white eye patch*. **VOICE:** Male, hissing *jeeeeeeb*, with rising inflection. Female, a loud, rising squeal, *oo-eek*, and sharp *crek, crek*. **HABITAT:** Wooded swamps, rivers, ponds, marshes.



EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Rare M15
19–20 in. (48–51 cm). **Male:** Note *red-brown* head, *buff* crown. A *gray-sided* wigeon with rufous-pinkish breast. May show weak suggestion of green patch behind eye. **Female:** Very similar to female American Wigeon, but in many Eurasians head is tinged with *rust* or *orange-buff*; in others it is not. Surest point is dusky (not white) axillars, or "wingpits." **VOICE:** Male, a long whistle, *wheeee-oo*. Female, a purr or quack. **HABITAT:** Same as American Wigeon, with which it is usually found.



AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana* (see also p. 44)

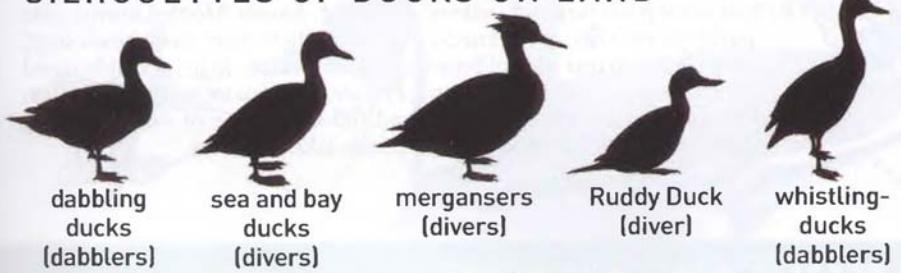
Fairly common M16
19–20 in. (48–51 cm). In flight, recognized by *large white patch on forewing*. (Similarly placed blue patch of Northern Shoveler and Blue-winged Teal often appears whitish.) When swimming, rides high, picking at water like a coot. Often grazes on land. **Male:** Warm brownish; head pale gray with green eye patch. Note *white crown* (nicknamed "Baldpate"). **Female:** Brown; gray head and neck; whitish belly and forewing. **VOICE:** Male, a two-part whistled *whee whew*. Female, *qua-ack*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Told from female Gadwall and Northern Pintail by whitish patch on forewing, small bluish bill. See Eurasian Wigeon. **HABITAT:** Marshes, lakes, bays, fields, grass.



DABBING DUCKS AND MUSCOVY DUCK



SILHOUETTES OF DUCKS ON LAND





GADWALL *Anas strepera* (see also p. 44) Fairly common M14
19–20 in. (48–51 cm). **Male:** Gray body with brown head and *black rump*, *white speculum* on rear edge of wing, and dull ruddy patch on forewing (may be difficult to see). When swimming, wing patches may be concealed. Belly white, feet yellow, bill dark. **Female:** Brown, mottled, with *white speculum*, yellow feet, orange sides on gray bill. **VOICE:** Male, a low, reedy *bek*; a whistling call. Female, a nasal quack. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female told from female Mallard by steeper forehead, wing pattern, more nasal call. **HABITAT:** Lakes, ponds, marshes.



AMERICAN BLACK DUCK *Anas rubripes* (see also p. 46) Fairly common M17
22–23 in. (55–58 cm). A dusky duck, darker than female Mallard. In flight, shows flashing *white wing linings*. Sooty brown, with paler head and violet wing patch with only thin white trailing edge; feet red or brown. Sexes similar, except for bill (yellow in male, dull green in female). Hybridizes with Mallard. **VOICE:** Male, a low croak. Female quacks like female Mallard. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Mallard, Mottled Duck. **HABITAT:** Marshes, bays, estuaries, ponds, rivers, lakes.



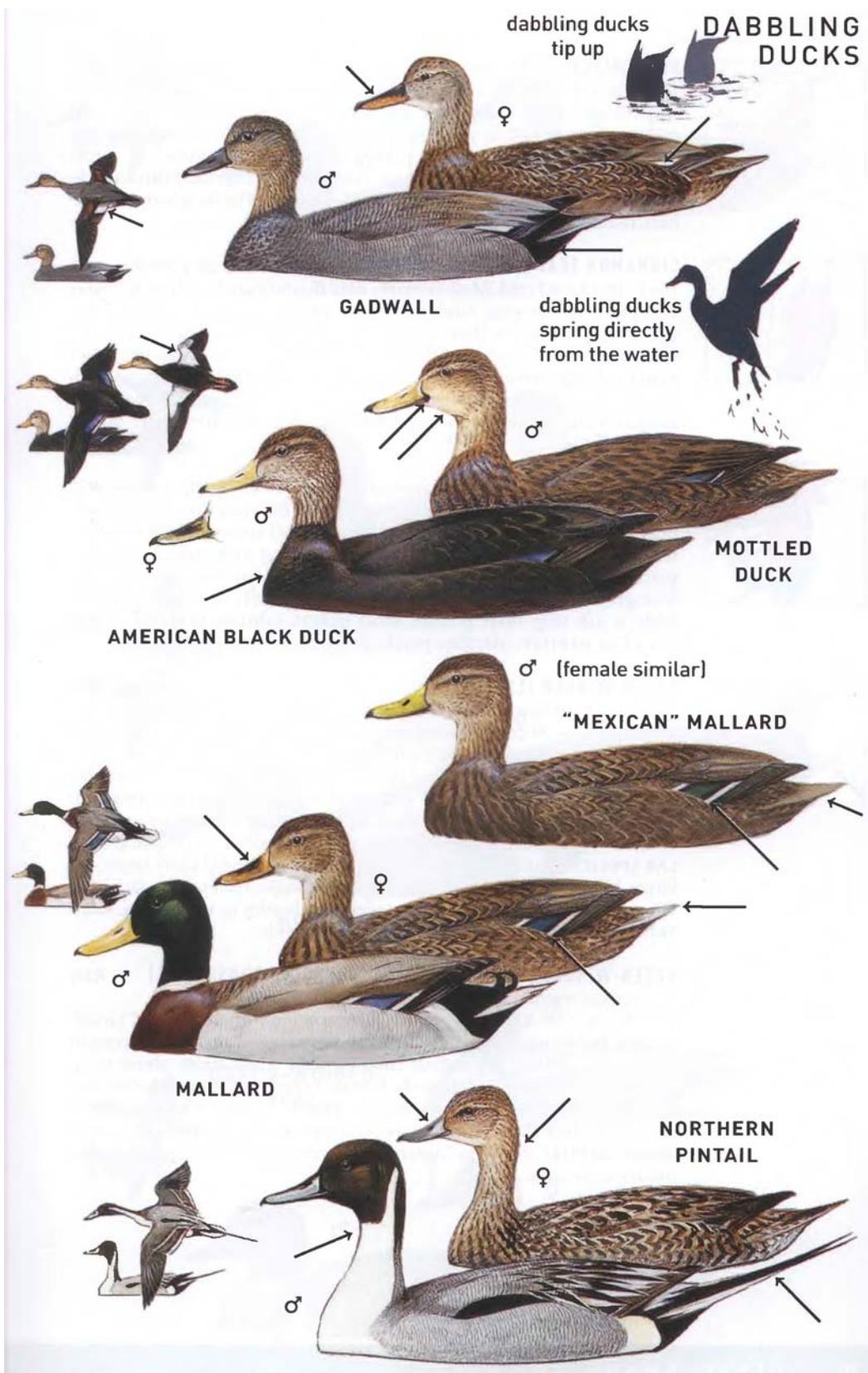
MOTTLED DUCK *Anas fulvigula* Fairly common M19
22–23 in. (55–58 cm). Like a pale brownish version of American Black Duck. Note tan head, unstreaked buffy throat, and unmarked yellow bill with *dark spot at base of "lips."* Sexes alike. Darker than female Mallard and lacking black on bill and broad white border to speculum. **VOICE:** Very similar to Mallard's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American Black Duck, Mallard. **HABITAT:** Marshes, ponds.



"MEXICAN" MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos diazi* Uncommon, local
20–21 in. (51–54 cm). This subspecies of Mallard was formerly regarded as a distinct species called Mexican Duck. Intergrades with Mallard are frequent. Both sexes very similar to female Mallard but with *grayish brown* instead of whitish tail. Bill of male like bill of male Mallard (unmarked yellowish green). Yellow-orange bill of female has a dark ridge. Not as dark overall as American Black Duck; has white border *on both sides* of wing patch, thinner than in female Mallard. **VOICE:** Same as Mallard's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Mallard, American Black Duck, Mottled Duck. **RANGE:** Resident from se. AZ to sw. TX. **HABITAT:** Ponds.



MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* (see also p. 46) Common M18
22–23 in. (55–59 cm). **Male:** Note uncrested *glossy green head* and *white neck ring*, grayish body, chestnut chest, white tail, yellowish bill, orange feet, blue speculum. **Female:** Mottled brown with *whitish tail*. Dark bill patched with orange, feet orange. In flight, shows white bar *on both sides* of blue speculum. **VOICE:** Male, *yeeb*; a low *kwek*. Female, boisterous quacking. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Gadwall, American Black Duck. **HABITAT:** Marshes, wooded swamps, grain fields, ponds, rivers, lakes, bays, city parks.

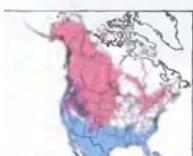




BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors* (see also p. 44) Fairly common M20
15–16 in. (38–41 cm). A half-sized dabbling duck. **Male:** Note white facial crescent and large chalky blue patch on forewing. Molting males hold eclipse plumage late in year, resemble females. **Female:** Brown, mottled; dark eye line; partial eye-ring; pale loral spot; blue on forewing. **VOICE:** Male, quiet whistled peeping notes. Female, a high quack. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cinnamon and Green-winged teal. **HABITAT:** Ponds, marshes, mudflats, flooded fields.



CINNAMON TEAL *Anas cyanoptera* Fairly common M21
16–17 in. (41–43 cm). **Male:** A small, dark chestnut duck with large chalky blue patch on forewing. Adult has red eye, which it retains in eclipse plumage. In flight suggests Blue-winged Teal. **Female:** Very similar to female Blue-winged but tawnier; bill slightly larger (more shoveler-like), face pattern duller. **Juvenile:** Even more similar to female Blue-winged, with slightly smaller bill, somewhat bolder face pattern than adult female Cinnamon. **VOICE:** Like Blue-winged. **HABITAT:** Marshes, freshwater ponds, flooded fields.



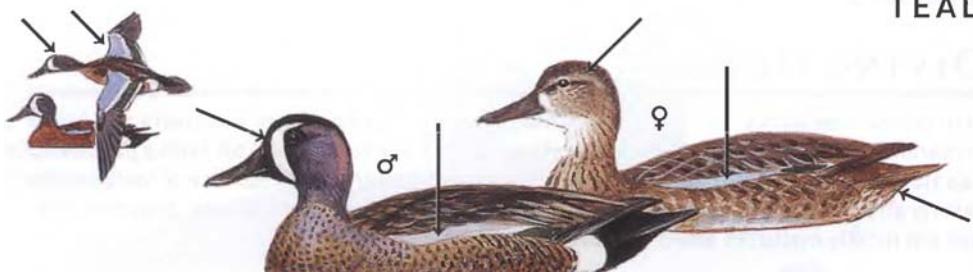
NORTHERN SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* (see also p. 44) Fairly common M22
18–19 in. (46–49 cm). The long spoon-shaped bill gives this duck a front-heavy look. When swimming, it sits low, with bill angled toward or in water, straining water. **Male:** Rufous belly and sides; white breast; pale blue patch on forewing; orange feet. **Female:** Brown. Note large spatulate bill, blue-gray forewing patch, white tail, orange feet. Bill color variable. **VOICE:** Male, a soft thup-thup. Female, short quacks. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cinnamon Teal. **HABITAT:** Marshes, ponds, sloughs; in winter, also salt bays.



GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas crecca carolinensis* (see also p. 44) Common M24
14–15 in. (36–39 cm). Teal are small, fly in tight flocks. Green-wingeds lack light wing patches (speculum deep green). **Male:** Small, compact, gray with brown head (a green head patch shows in sunlight). On swimming birds, note vertical white mark near shoulder, butter-colored streak near tail. **Female:** A small speckled duck with green speculum, pale undertail coverts. **VOICE:** Male, a high, froglike deep. Female, a sharp quack. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Blue-winged and Cinnamon teal slightly larger and larger-billed, have light blue wing patches; in flight, males show dark belly. Green-winged has white belly, broader dark border to underwing. **HABITAT:** Marshes, rivers, bays, mudflats, flooded fields.

GREEN-WINGED ("COMMON") TEAL (EURASIAN SUBSPECIES) Rare
Anas crecca crecca
15–15½ in. (38–40 cm). Considered conspecific with "American" Green-winged Teal by most N. American taxonomists but as a separate species by Europeans. **Male:** Longitudinal (not vertical) white stripe above wing, bolder buffy borders to eye patch. **Female:** Largely indistinguishable from N. American race. Intergrades known. **RANGE:** Regular visitor to w. AK; rare but regular along Pacific Coast; very rare along Atlantic Coast; casual inland. **HABITAT:** Same as "American" Green-winged Teal, with which it usually associates.

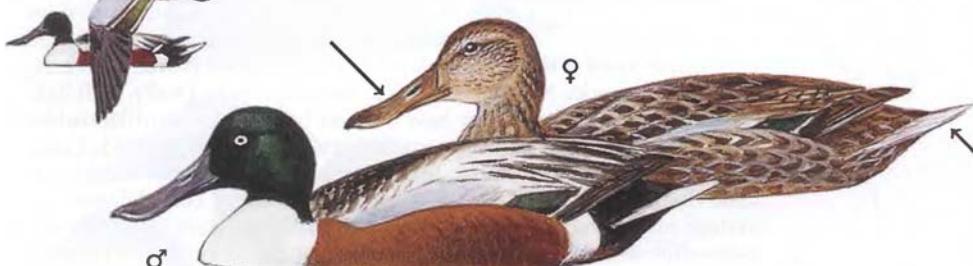
TEAL



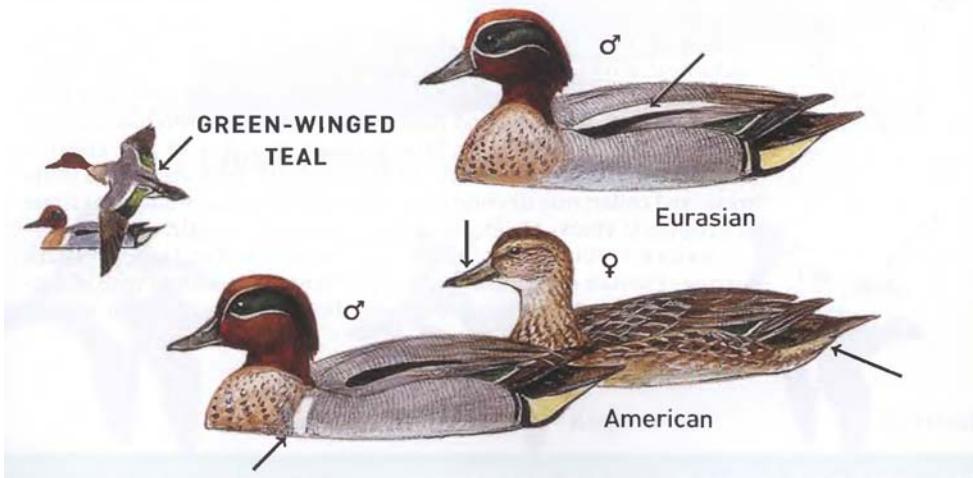
BLUE-WINGED TEAL



CINNAMON TEAL



NORTHERN SHOVELER



GREEN-WINGED TEAL

Eurasian

American

DIVING DUCKS

Also called "sea ducks" or "bay ducks," but many are found on lakes and rivers and breed in marshes. All dive; dabbling ducks rarely do. Legs close to tail; hind toe with a paddlelike flap (lacking in dabblers). In taking wing, they must patter across surface of water while getting airborne. Sexes not alike. **FOOD:** Small aquatic animals and plants. Seagoing species eat mostly mollusks and crustaceans.

EIDERS

Eiders are seldom seen ashore except in summer when breeding. They usually mass in flocks off shoals and rocky coasts and often fly in line formations. In flight, males show white shoulders. **FOOD:** Mostly mollusks, crustaceans.



SPECTACLED EIDER *Somateria fischeri*

Rare, local M31
21–22 in. (53–56 cm). **Male:** Boldly patterned head; black below, white above, suggesting male Common Eider, but head largely pale green, with large white "goggles" narrowly trimmed with black. **Female:** Brown and barred like other female eiders, but with pale ghost image of goggles. Feathering at base of bill extends far down upper mandible. **VOICE:** Mostly silent. Both sexes give calls similar to Common Eider, but softer. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Common Eider larger and often shows broad pale eyebrow, not goggles. See King Eider. **HABITAT:** In summer, Arctic coasts, tundra ponds; in winter, leads in pack ice.



KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* (see also p. 48) Rare to uncommon M32
22 in. (56 cm). **Male:** A stocky sea duck; on water, foreparts appear white, rear parts black. Note protruding orange bill-shield. In flight, wings show large white patches. **Female:** Stocky; warm brown, weak pale eye-ring and thin stripe curving behind and down from eye, flanks barred with crescent-shaped marks. Note facial profile. **Immature male:** Dusky, with light breast, dark brown head; may have orangey bill. **VOICE:** Courting male, a low crooning phrase. Female, grunting croaks. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Eider larger, with flatter head profile, longer bill-lobe before eye; male Common Eider has white back, female has evenly barred flanks. Immature male King Eider has darker head than immature Common and lacks white shoulder stripe of immature Common. Compare eclipse male in flight with White-winged Scoter. **HABITAT:** Rocky coasts, ocean. Nests on tundra.

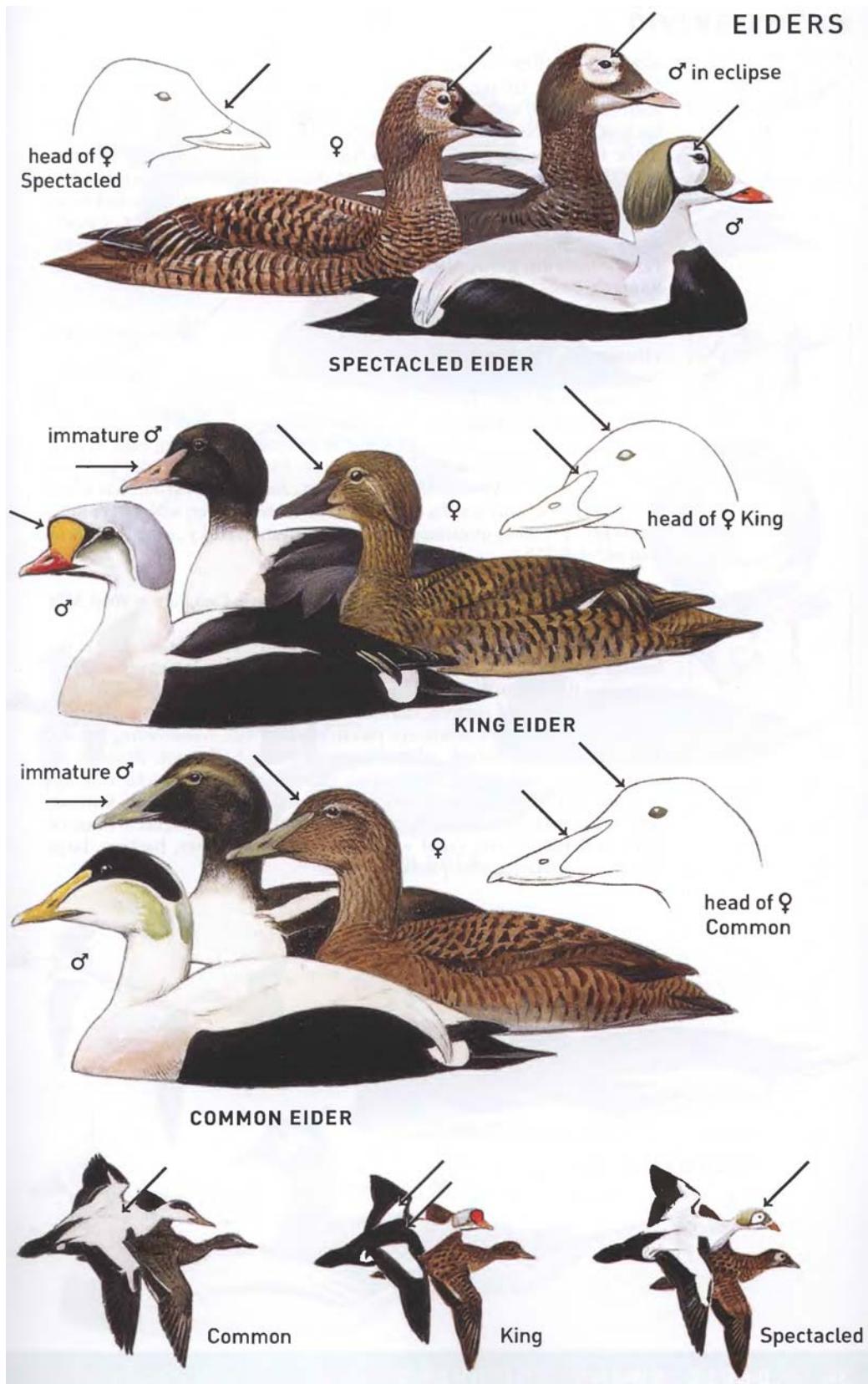


COMMON EIDER

Fairly common M33

Somateria mollissima (see also p. 48)

24–25 in. (61–64 cm). This bulky, thick-necked duck is oceanic, living in flocks near shoals. Flight sluggish and low; flocks usually in a line. **Male:** This and Spectacled Eider are only ducks in N. America with *black belly and white back*. Forewing and back white; head white with black crown, greenish nape. **Female:** Large, brown, *closely barred*, with pale eyebrow; long, flat profile. **Immature male:** At first brownish; later dusky with white breast and collar; may develop chocolate head or breast; white areas come in irregularly. **VOICE:** Male, a moaning *ow-ooo-urr*. Female, a grating *korr-r-r*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** King Eider. Female scoters smaller, lack heavy dark barring of female eiders. Compare eclipse male eider in flight with White-winged Scoter. **HABITAT:** Rocky coasts, shoals; in summer, also islands, tundra.



**STELLER'S EIDER** *Polysticta stelleri*

Scarce, local M30

17 in. (43 cm). Unlike other eiders in shape, bill. *Male*: Black and white, with *yellow-buff underparts, white head, black throat, and green bump on back of head*. Note *round black spot* on side of breast. As in other eiders, white forewing is conspicuous in flight. *Female*: Dark brown, mottled, with pale eye-ring; distinguished from other eiders by much smaller size and *shape of its small head and blue-gray bill*. Purple speculum bordered in white, visible at short range, suggests a female Mallard. **VOICE**: Usually silent. Male's crooning note resembles Common Eider's but is quieter. Female has a low growl. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Other eiders, Long-tailed Duck.

HABITAT: Coasts, ocean.**HARLEQUIN DUCK**

Uncommon M34

Histrionicus histrionicus (see also p. 48) 16–17 in. (41–44 cm). Dark and spectacularly patterned. *Male*: A smallish, slaty duck with chestnut sides and odd white patches and spots. In flight, has stubby shape of a goldeneye but appears uniformly dark. *Female*: A small dusky duck with three round white spots on each side of head; no wing patch. **VOICE**: Usually silent. Male, a squeak; also *gwa gwa gwa*. Female, *ek-ek-ek-ek*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Female Bufflehead has white wing patch and only one face spot. Female scoters larger, with larger bills. **HABITAT**: Turbulent mountain streams in summer; rocky coastal waters in winter.

**LONG-TAILED DUCK (OLDSQUAW)** Fairly common in East, rare in West M38
Clangula hyemalis (see also p. 48)

Male 21–22 in. (53–56 cm); female 16 in. (41 cm). The only sea duck combining much *white on body and unpatterned dark wings*. It flies in bunched, irregular flocks, rocking side to side as it flies. *Nonbreeding male*: Note needlelike tail, pied pattern, dark cheek. *Breeding male*: Dark with white flanks and belly. Note white eye patch, pink on bill. *Nonbreeding female*: Dark unpatterned wings, white face with dark cheek spot. *Breeding female*: Similar but darker. Lacks pink on bill. *Immature*: Lacks long tail feathers. **VOICE**: Talkative; a musical *ow-owdle-ow* or *owl-omelet*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Bufflehead. In flight, sometimes confused with alcids because of dark underwings and rapid wingbeats. **HABITAT**: Ocean, harbors, large lakes; in summer, tundra pools and lakes.

DIVING DUCKS



SCOTERS

Scoters are heavy, blackish ducks seen in large flocks along ocean coasts. They often fly in thin line formation. They are usually in flocks, either single species or mixed, so look them over carefully. Scoters are usually silent but during courtship and mating may utter low whistles, croaks, or grunting noises; wings whistle in flight. **FOOD:** Mainly mollusks, crustaceans.



WHITE-WINGED SCOTER

Melanitta fusca (see also p. 48)

Uncommon to fairly common M36

21 in. (53 cm). White-winged, largest of the three scoters, has a bill feathered to nostril. On water, white wing patch is often barely visible or fully concealed (wait for bird to flap or fly). **Male:** Black, with a “teardrop” of white near eye; bill orange with black basal knob. **Female:** Sooty brown, with white wing patch and two light oval patches on face (sometimes obscure; patches more pronounced on young birds). Asian subspecies *stejnegeri*, very rare in w. AK, has hornlike knob at base of bill. **VOICE:** Usually silent. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other scoters. **HABITAT:** Salt bays, ocean; in summer, lakes.



SURF SCOTER

Melanitta perspicillata (see also p. 48) Fairly common M35

19–20 in. (48–51 cm). The “skunkhead-duck.” **Male:** Black, with one or two white patches on crown and nape. Heavy, sloping bill patterned with orange, black, and white. **Female:** Dusky brown; dark crown; two light spots on each side of head (sometimes obscure; more evident on young birds), one mostly vertical, the other more horizontal. **VOICE:** Usually silent. A low croak; grunting sounds. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female White-winged Scoter slightly larger overall, has more extensive feathering on bill, more horizontal, oval face patches, and white wing patch (may not show until bird flaps). Black Scoter has rounder head profile (more like Redhead, whereas Surf Scoter more like Canvasback), lacks feathering on bill, and has silvery underside to flight feathers; female and immature have entirely pale cheeks. **HABITAT:** Ocean, salt bays; in summer, lakes.

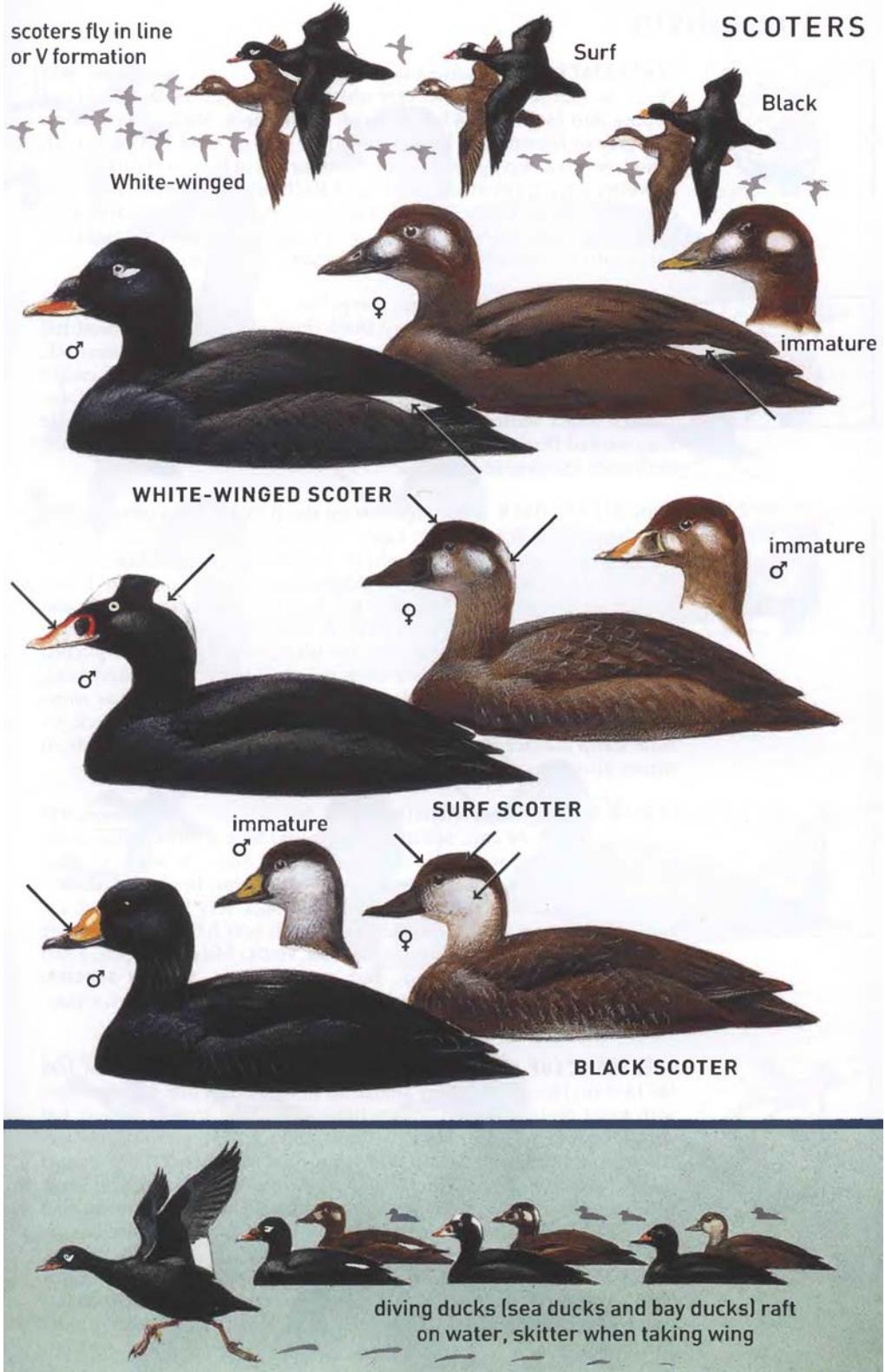


BLACK SCOTER

Melanitta nigra (see also p. 48)

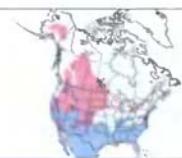
Rare to fairly common M37

18½–19 in. (47–48 cm). **Male:** An all-black sea duck. Bright orange-yellow knob on bill (“butter nose”) is diagnostic. In flight, underwing shows two-toned effect (silvery gray and black), more pronounced than in other two scoters. **Female:** Sooty; entirely light cheeks contrast with dark cap. **VOICE:** Usually silent. Male, melodious cooing notes. Female, growls. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Some young male Surf Scoters may lack head patches and appear all black, but they have round black spot at base of higher-sloping bill. Female and immature scoters of other two species have smaller light spots on side of head, not entirely pale cheeks. Female Black Scoter may suggest nonbreeding adult male Ruddy Duck. **HABITAT:** Seacoasts, bays; in summer, tundra and taiga ponds.





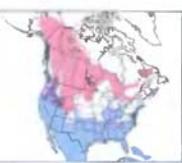
CANVASBACK *Aythya valisineria* (see also p. 50) **Uncommon M25**
21–22 in. (53–56 cm). **Male:** Very white looking, with *chestnut red head* sloping into *long blackish bill*. Red eye, rufous neck, black chest. **Female:** Pale grayish brown, with brown chest; pale rust on head and neck. Both sexes have *long, sloping head profile*. Flocks travel in lines or V formations. In winter often form mixed flocks with Redheads, scaup. **VOICE:** Male, in courtship, cooing notes. Female, raspy *krrrr*, etc. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Redhead not as white on body, lacks long sloping forehead and bill. **HABITAT:** Lakes, salt bays, estuaries; in summer, freshwater marshes and lakes.



REDHEAD *Aythya americana* (see also p. 50) **Uncommon M26**
19–20 in. (48–51 cm). **Male:** Gray; black chest and *round rufous head*; bill bluish with black tip. **Female:** Brown overall; *diffuse light patch* near bill. Both sexes have *gray wing stripe*. **VOICE:** Male, in courtship, a harsh catlike *meow*; a deep purr. Female, soft *krrr* notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Male Canvasback much whiter, with sloping forehead and black bill. See female Ring-necked Duck, scaup. **HABITAT:** Lakes, salt bays, estuaries; in summer, freshwater marshes and ponds.



RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* (see also p. 50) **Fairly common M27**
17–17½ in. (43–46 cm). **Male:** Like a scaup with *black back*. Note *vertical white mark* before wing; bill crossed by a white ring. In flight, a broad gray (not white) wing stripe. **Female:** Shaped somewhat like female Lesser Scaup, but with *indistinct light face patch*, darker eye, *white eye-ring*, and *pale ring on bill*. Wing stripe *gray*. **VOICE:** Female a quacking growl: *arrp-arrp-arrp*. Male silent except during courtship, when it gives a low-pitched whistle. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Told from female Redhead by peaked head, darker crown, grayer face. Male Tufted Duck, rare in e. U.S., has wispy crest, white sides, white wing stripe. Male scaup have pale gray back, female scaup distinct white facial patch. **HABITAT:** Wooded lakes, ponds; in winter, also rivers, bays.

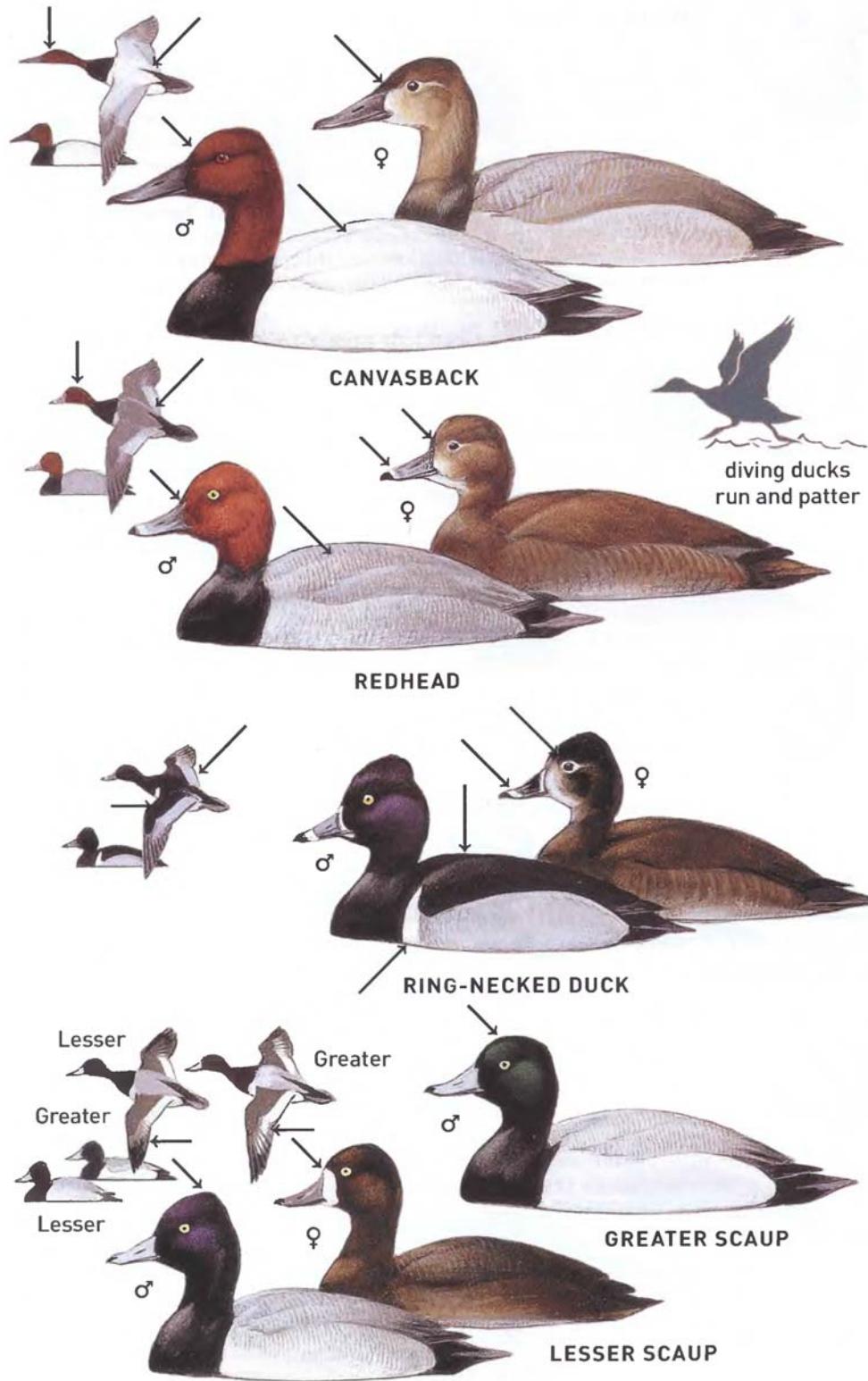


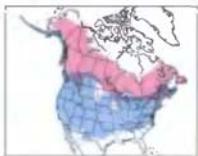
LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis* (see also p. 50) **Common M29**
16½–17 in. (42–44 cm). Scaup (both species) have a broad white stripe on trailing edge of wing; it is shorter in Lesser. **Male:** On water, black at both ends, whitish or pale gray in middle. Bill *blue*; head has “peaked” shape, glossed with dull purple. Flanks and back very finely barred. **Female:** Dark brown, with clean-cut white patch near bill. May have a pale crescent on ear coverts in breeding season. **VOICE:** Male, in display, a soft whistle. Female, a loud *scaup*; also purring notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Greater Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Redhead. **HABITAT:** Lakes, bays, estuaries, nearshore ocean waters; in summer, marsh and taiga ponds.



GREATER SCAUP *Aythya marila* (see also p. 50) **Common M28**
18–18½ in. (46–48 cm). Very similar to Lesser Scaup, but slightly larger, with more gently rounded—sometimes almost flat-topped—head, bill slightly wider with larger black tip (nail), and *white wing stripe longer*, extending onto primaries. **Male:** Whiter on sides than Lesser; head glossed mainly with dull green rather than dull purple, but use this field mark with caution. **Female** (not shown): Averages slightly paler brown than Lesser, averages a larger white patch at base of bill, and may show pale ear patch in fall and winter, which Lesser typically lacks in these seasons. **VOICE:** Male, in display, soft, wheezy whistles. Female, raspy *scaup-scaup*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Redhead. **HABITAT:** Lakes, rivers, bays, estuaries, nearshore ocean waters; in summer, tundra and taiga ponds.

DIVING DUCKS





COMMON GOLDENEYE

Bucephala clangula (see also p. 50)

Fairly common M40

18½–19 in. (47–49 cm). *Male*: Note large, round white spot before eye. White looking, with black back and puffy, green-glossed head that appears black at a distance. In flight, short-necked; wings whistle or “sing,” show large white patches. *Female*: Gray, with white collar and dark brown head; wings with large square white patches that may show on closed wing. **VOICE**: Wings “whistle” in flight. Courting male has harsh nasal double note, suggesting *pee-ik* of Common Nighthawk. Female, a harsh *gaak*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Barrow’s Goldeneye. Male scaup have black chest. Male Common Merganser long, low, with different bill. **HABITAT**: Forested lakes, rivers; in winter, also lakes, salt bays, seacoasts.



BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

Bucephala islandica

Scarce M41

18 in. (46 cm). *Male*: Note white facial crescent. Similar to Common Goldeneye, but blacker above; head glossed with purple (not green); nape puffier; shows dark “spur” on shoulder toward waterline. *Female*: Similar to female Common; head slightly darker, with steeper forehead and suggestion of puffy nape, bill shorter and more triangular, less white in wing. Bill may become all orangey yellow, often a good field mark but subject to seasonal change. Female Common Goldeneye often has band of yellow on bill. **VOICE**: Usually silent. Courting male, a grunting *kuk, kuk*. Female near nest, a soft *coo-coo-coo*. Wings of both species whistle in flight. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead. **HABITAT**: Wooded lakes, ponds; in winter, lakes and rivers, protected coastal waters.



BUFFLEHEAD

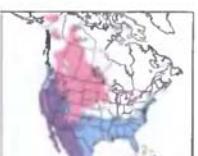
Bucephala albeola (see also p. 50)

Common M39

13½–14 in. (34–36 cm). Small. *Male*: Mostly white with black back; puffy head with large, bonnetlike white patch. In flight, shows large white wing patch. *Female*: Dark and compact, with white cheek spot, small bill, smaller wing patch. **VOICE**: Male, in display, a hoarse rolling note. Female, a harsh *ec-ec-ec*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Male Hooded Merganser has spikelike bill, dark sides. See female Black Scoter and nonbreeding adult male Ruddy Duck. See also Long-tailed Duck. **HABITAT**: Lakes, ponds, rivers; in winter, also salt bays.

STIFF-TAILED DUCKS

Small, chunky divers, nearly helpless on land. Spiky tail. Sexes not alike. **FOOD**: Aquatic life, insects, water plants.



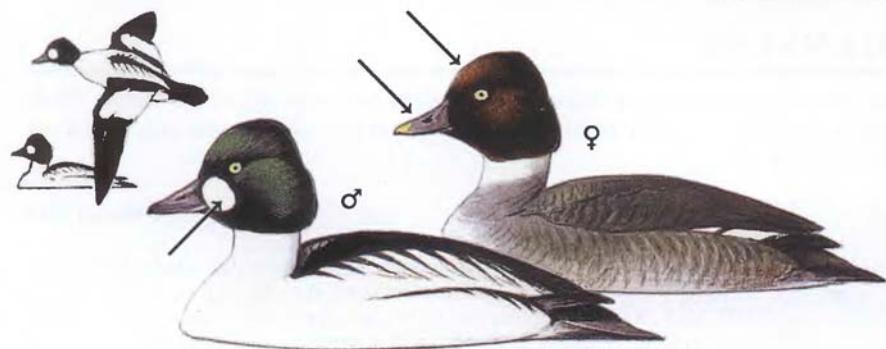
RUDDY DUCK

Oxyura jamaicensis (see also p. 50)

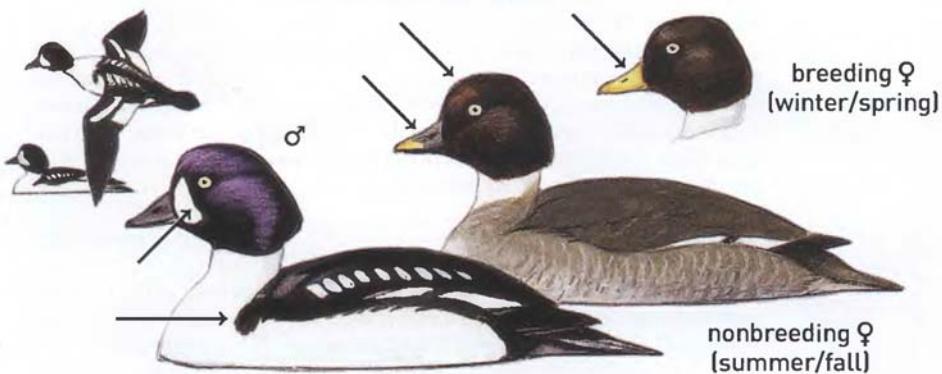
Fairly common M45

15 in. (38 cm). Small, chubby; note white cheek and dark cap. Often cocks tail upward. Flight “buzzy.” Can barely walk on land. *Breeding male*: Rusty red with white cheek, black cap, large, strikingly blue bill. *Nonbreeding male*: Gray with white cheek, dull blue or gray bill. *Female*: Similar to nonbreeding male, but duskier cheek crossed by dark line. **VOICE**: Courting male, a sputtering *chick-ik-ik-ik-k-k-k-kurrrr*, accompanied by head bobbing. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Female Bufflehead, Black Scoter, Masked Duck (rare). **HABITAT**: Freshwater marshes, ponds, lakes; in winter, also salt bays, harbors.

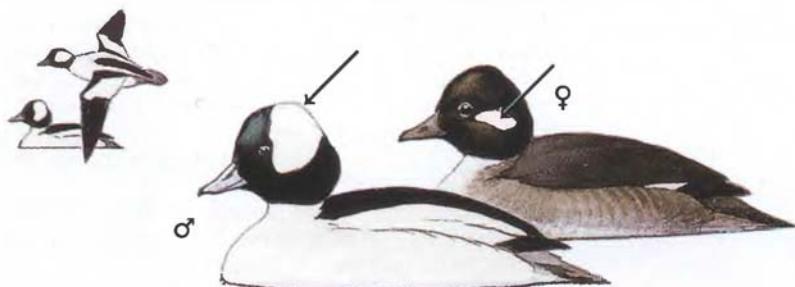
DIVING DUCKS



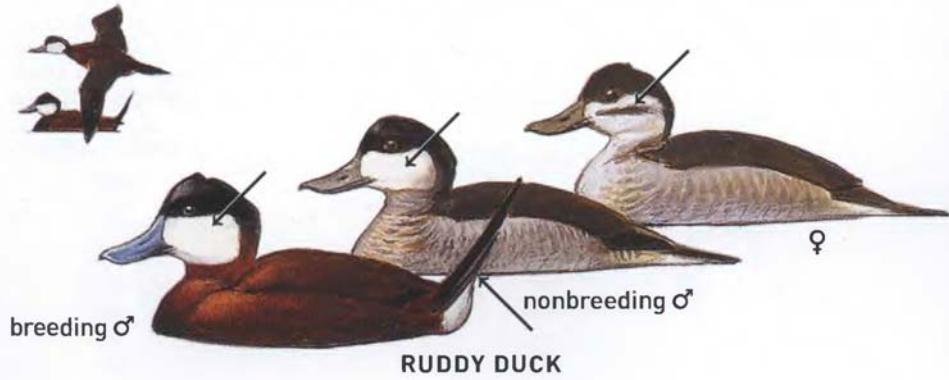
COMMON GOLDENEYE



BARROW'S GOLDENEYE



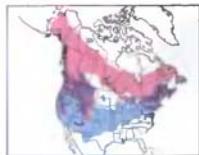
BUFFLEHEAD



RUDDY DUCK

MERGANSERS

Long-lined, slender-bodied diving ducks with spikelike bill, saw-edged mandibles. Most species have a crest. In flight, bill, head, neck, and body are on a horizontal axis. Sexes not alike. **FOOD:** Chiefly fish.



COMMON MERGANSER

Mergus merganser (see also p. 46)

24–25 in. (62–64 cm). In flight, lines of these slender ducks follow the winding courses of rivers. Whiteness of adult males and merganser shape (bill, neck, head, and body held horizontally) identify this species. **Male:** Note long whitish body, black back, green-black head. Bill and feet red; breast tinged rosy peach. **Female and immature:** Gray with crested rufous head contrasting with white chin and clean white chest; large square white wing patch. **VOICE:** Male, in display, low staccato croaks. Female, a guttural *karrr*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Red-breasted Merganser very similar to female Common. Note distinct cut-off of rusty head and neck from breast in Common; this is diffuse in Red-breasted. Female mergansers, which are rusty-headed, suggest male Canvasback or Redhead, but those have black chest, no crest. **HABITAT:** Wooded lakes, ponds, rivers; in winter, open lakes, rivers, rarely coastal bays.

Fairly common M43

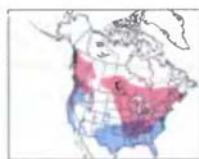


RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

Mergus serrator (see also p. 46)

22½–23 in. (56–58 cm). **Male:** Rakish; black head glossed with green and crested; breast at waterline dark rusty, separated from head by wide white collar; bill and feet red. **Female and immature:** Gray, with crested, dull rusty head that blends into color of neck; large white wing patch; red bill and feet. **VOICE:** Usually silent. Male, a hoarse croak. Female, *karrr*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Male Common Merganser whiter, without collar and breast-band effect; lacks crest. In female Common, white chin and chest sharply delineated from brighter rufous head and pale gray body. Common's bill slightly thicker at base. **HABITAT:** Woodland and coastal lakes, open water; in winter, also bays, tidal channels, nearshore ocean waters.

Common M44



HOODED MERGANSER

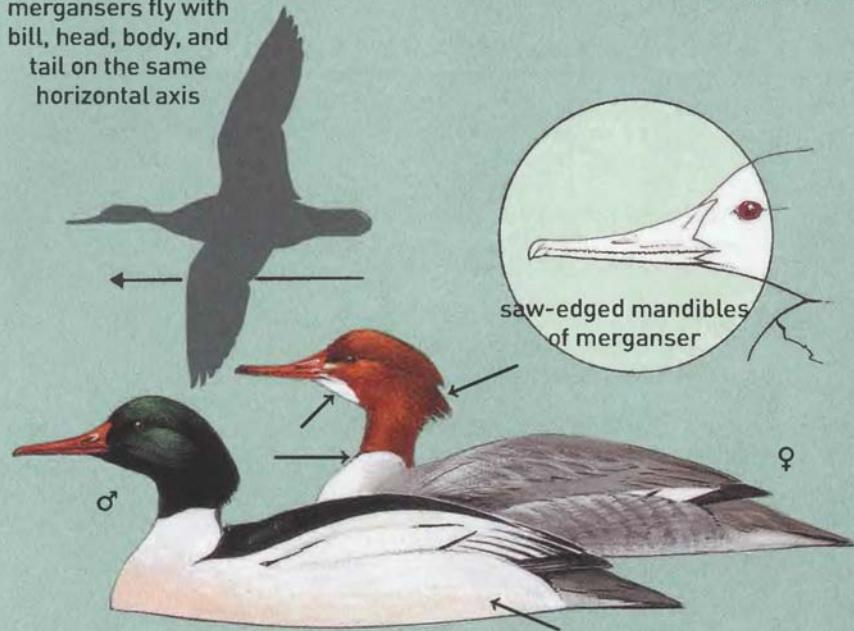
Lophodytes cucullatus (see also p. 46)

17–18 in. (43–46 cm). **Male:** Note vertical fan-shaped white crest, which may be raised or lowered. Breast white, with two black bars on each side. Wing with white patch; flanks rusty brown. **Female:** Recognized as a merganser by silhouette and spikelike bill; known as this species by its small size, dusky look, and dark head, bill, and chest. Note loose tawny crest. **VOICE:** In display, low grunting or croaking notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Male Bufflehead chubbier, with white sides. Other female mergansers larger and grayer, with rufous head, reddish bill. In flight, wing patch and silhouette separate female Hooded Merganser from female Wood Duck. **HABITAT:** Wooded lakes, ponds, rivers; in winter, also tidal channels, protected bays.

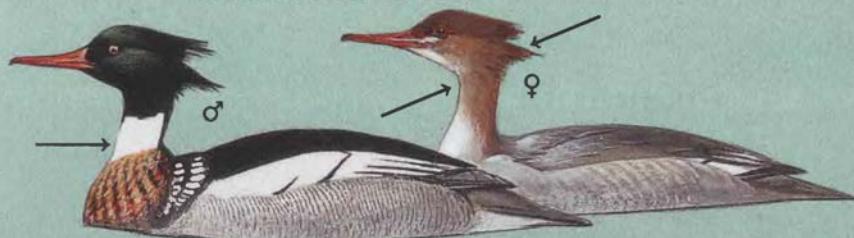
Uncommon to fairly common M42

MERGANSERS

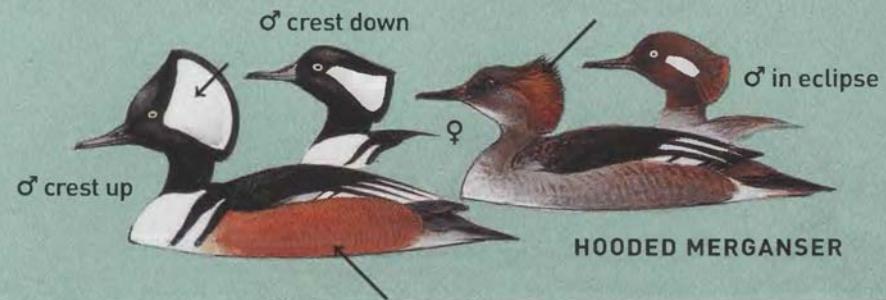
mergansers fly with bill, head, body, and tail on the same horizontal axis



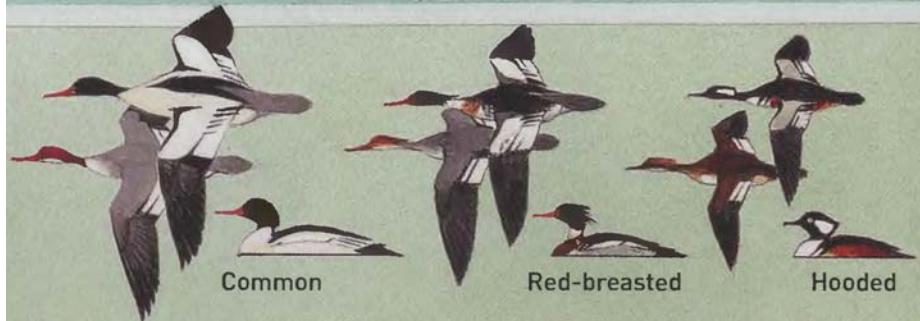
COMMON MERGANSER



RED-BREASTED MERGANSER



HOODED MERGANSER



FLIGHT PATTERNS OF DABBING DUCKS

Note: Only males are diagnosed below. Although females are unlike the males, their wing patterns are quite similar. The names in parentheses are common nicknames used by hunters.

NORTHERN PINTAIL (SPRIG) *Anas acuta* p. 28

Overhead: Needle tail, white breast, thin neck.

Above: Needle tail, neck stripe, single thin white border on speculum.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* p. 26

Overhead: White belly, dusky wings, long square tail.

Above: Stocky; long dark tail, white border on dark wing.

AMERICAN WIGEON ("BALDPATE") *Anas americana* p. 26

Overhead: White belly, pointed dark tail.

Above: Large white shoulder patch.

NORTHERN SHOVELER (SPOONBILL) *Anas clypeata* p. 30

Overhead: Dark belly, white breast, white tail, spoon bill.

Above: Large pale bluish shoulder patch, spoon bill.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* p. 28

Overhead: White belly, white underwing, square white patch on rear edge of wing.

Above: White patch on rear edge of wing.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas crecca* p. 30

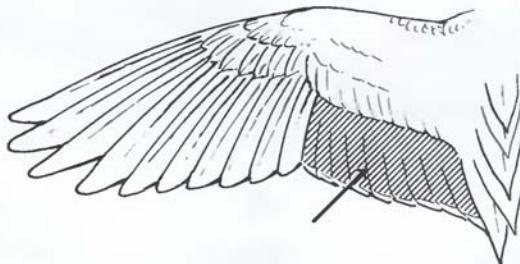
Overhead: Small; light belly, dark head, broad dark borders to underwing.

Above: Small, dark-winged; green speculum.

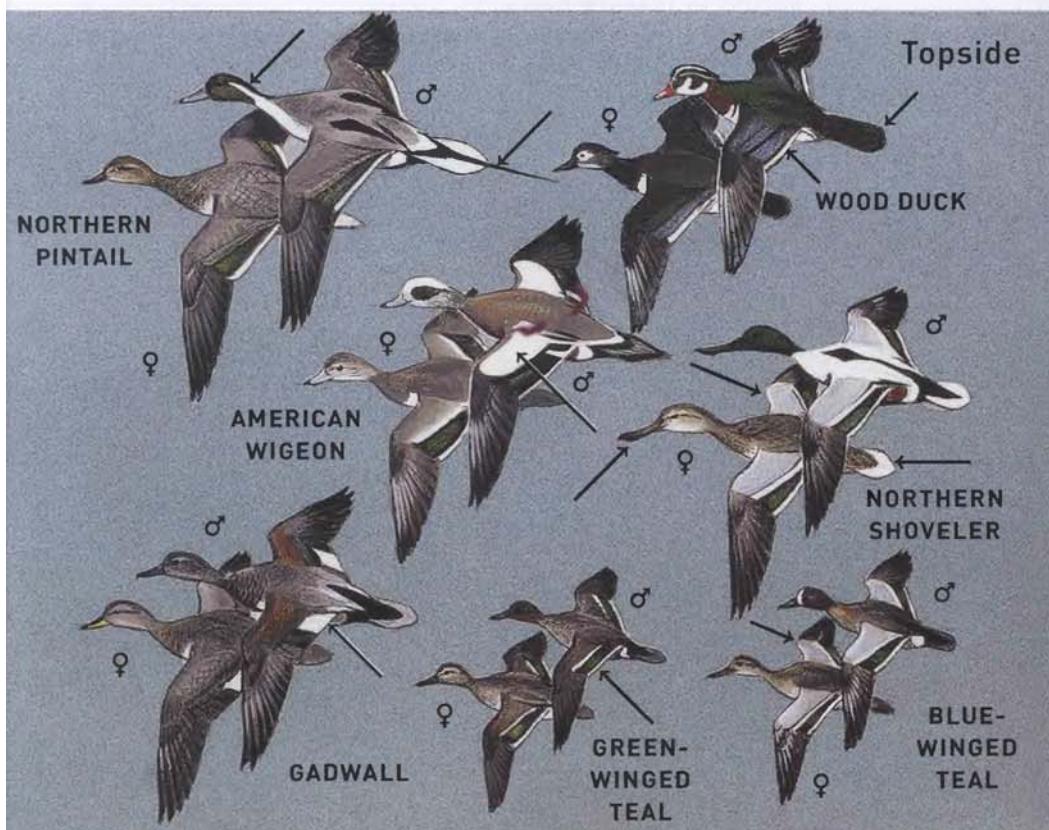
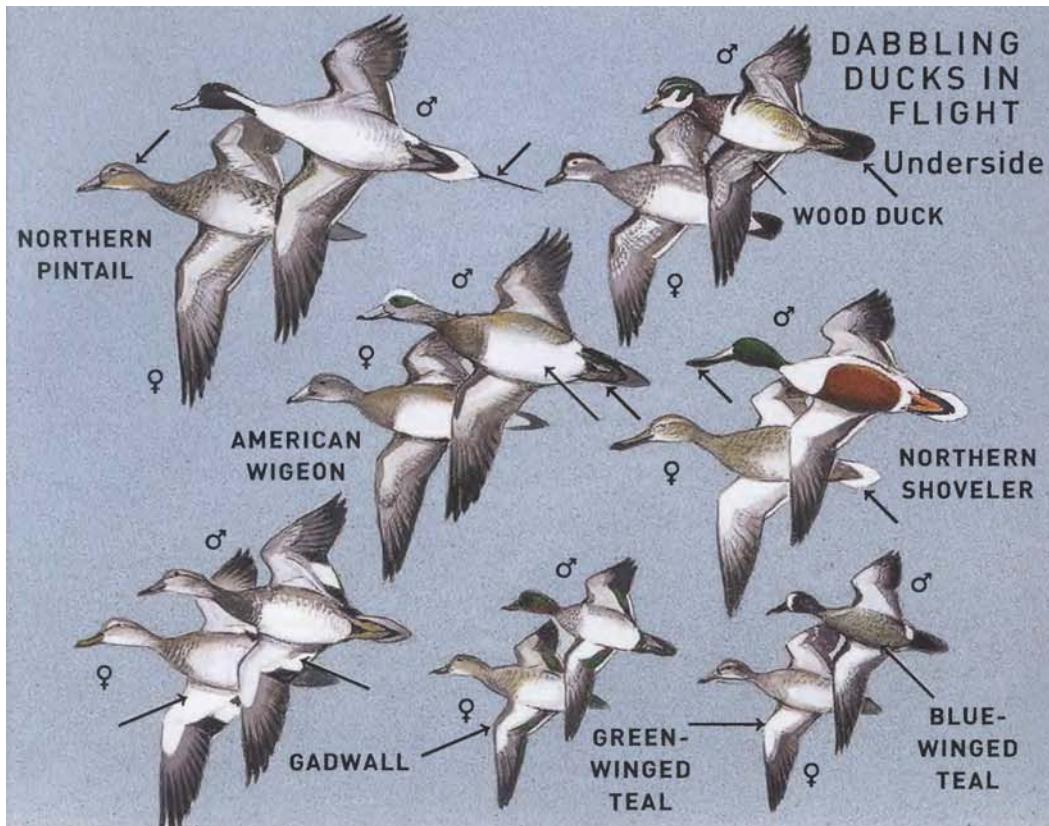
BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors* p. 30

Overhead: Small; dark belly, narrow dark borders to underwing.

Above: Small; large chalky blue shoulder patch.



upper wing of a dabbling duck showing the iridescent speculum (secondaries)



FLIGHT PATTERNS OF DABBING DUCKS AND MERGANSERS

Note: Only males are diagnosed below. Although most females are unlike the males, their wing patterns are quite similar. Mergansers have a distinctive flight silhouette. Duck hunters often call mergansers "sheldrakes" or "sawbills."

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* p. 28

Overhead: Dark chest, light belly, white neck ring, white tail.

Above: Dark head, neck ring, two white borders on bluish speculum.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK *Anas rubripes* p. 28

Overhead: Dark body, white wing linings.

Above: Dark body, paler head, purplish speculum lacks forward border.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor* p. 22

Overhead: Tawny, with blackish wing linings.

Above: Dark, unpatterned wings; white band on rump.

COMMON MERGANSER *Mergus merganser* p. 42

Overhead: Merganser shape; dark head, white body, white wing linings.

Above: Merganser shape; white chest, large white wing patches.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* p. 42

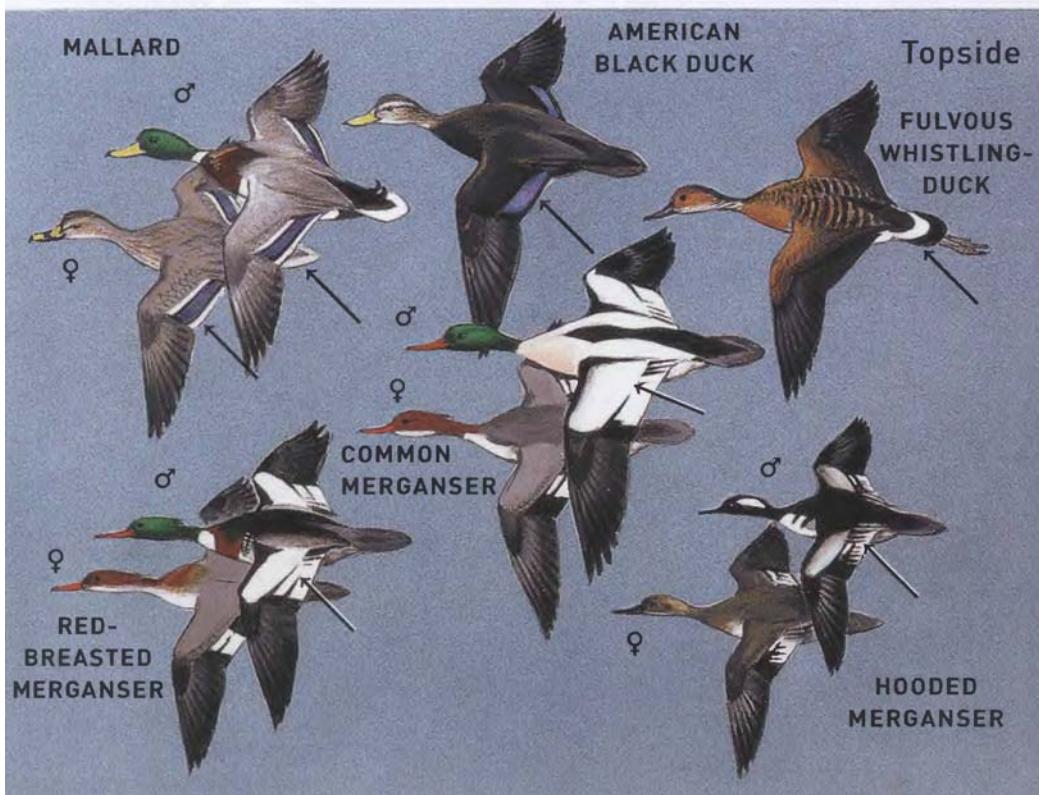
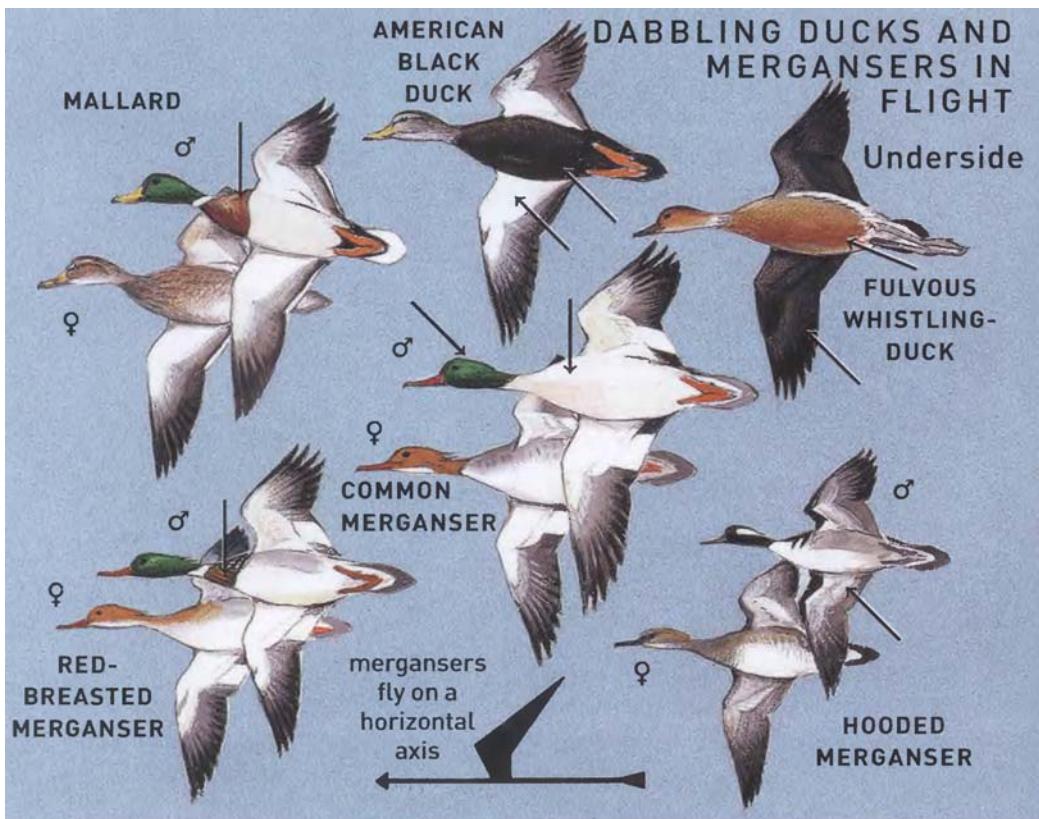
Overhead: Merganser shape; dark chest band, white collar.

Above: Merganser shape; dark chest, large white wing patches.

HOODED MERGANSER *Lophodytes cucullatus* p. 42

Overhead: Merganser shape; dusky wing linings.

Above: Merganser shape; small white wing patches.



FLIGHT PATTERNS OF DIVING DUCKS

Note: Only males are diagnosed below.

LONG-TAILED DUCK [OLDSQUAW] *Clangula hyemalis*

Overhead: Dark unpattered wings, white belly.

Above: Dark unpattered wings, much white on body.

p. 34

HARLEQUIN DUCK *Histrionicus histrionicus*

Overhead: Solid dark below, white head spots, small bill.

Above: Dark with white marks, small bill, long tail.

p. 34

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*

Overhead: Black body, white head patches (not readily visible from below), sloping forehead.

Above: Black body, white head patches, sloping forehead.

p. 36

BLACK SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Overhead: Black plumage, paler flight feathers, rounded forehead.

Above: All-dark plumage. Body slightly smaller and pudgier than Surf Scoter's, rounded forehead.

p. 36

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Overhead: Black body, white wing patches.

Above: Black body, white wing patches.

p. 36

COMMON EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

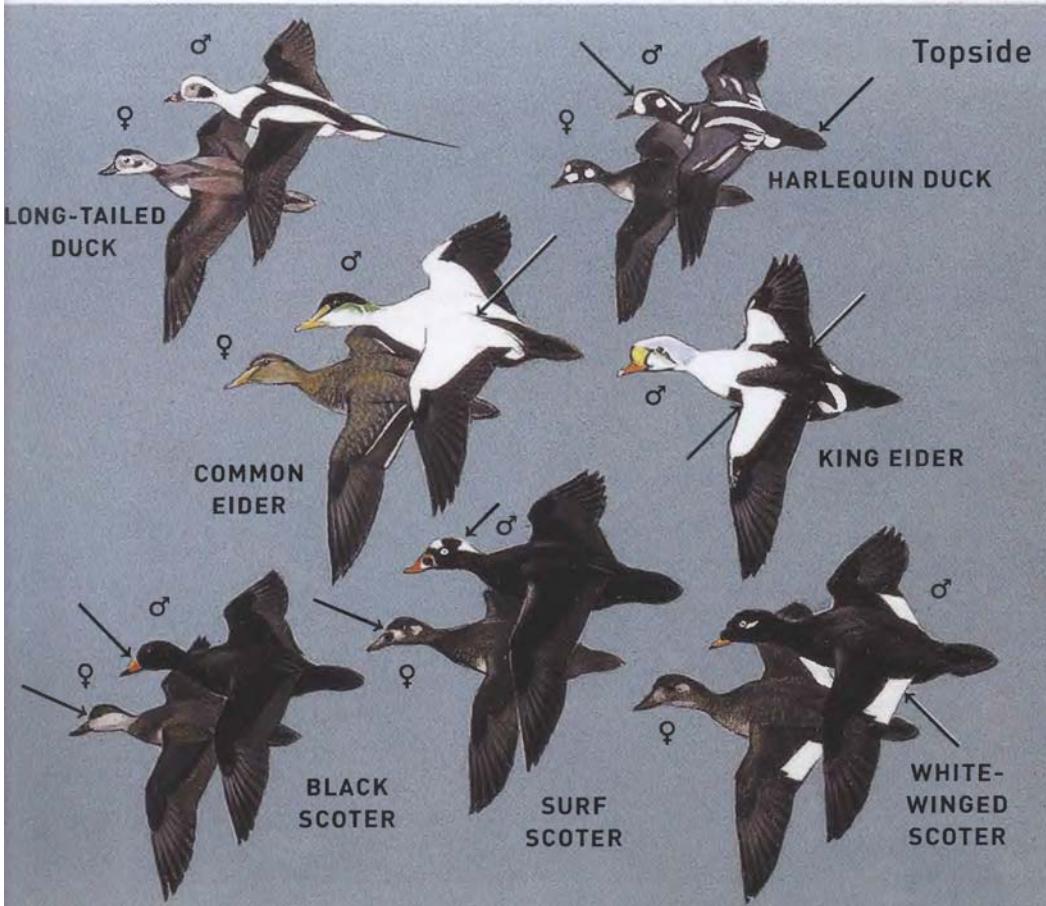
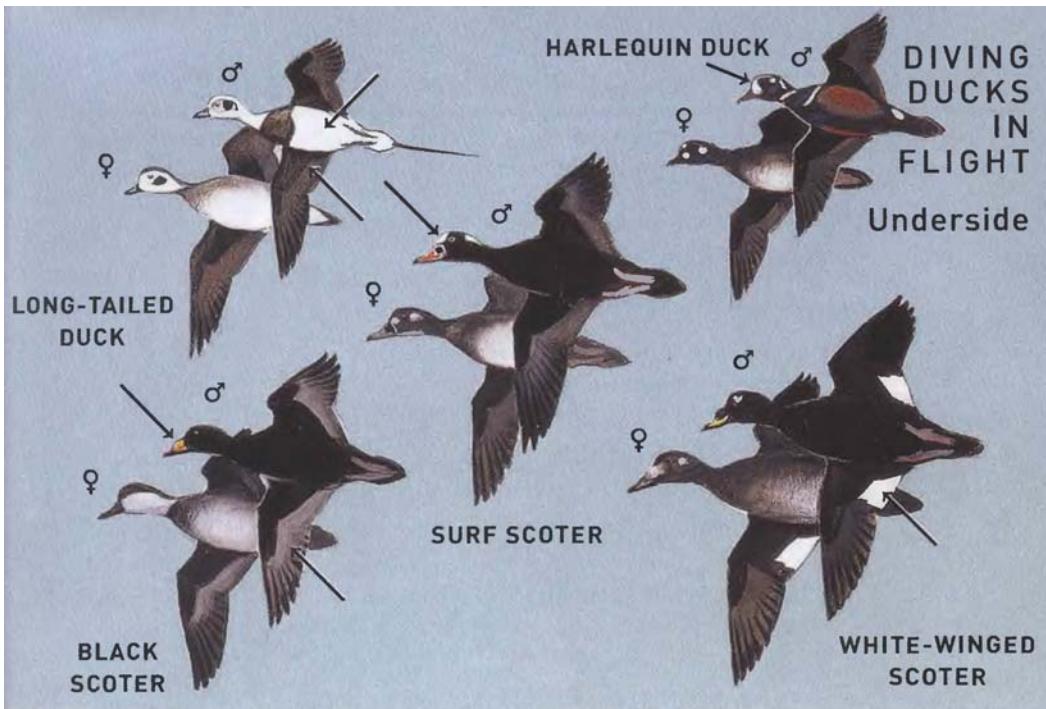
Above: White back, white forewing, black belly.

p. 32

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis*

Above: Whitish foreparts, black rear parts.

p. 32



FLIGHT PATTERNS OF DIVING DUCKS, ETC.

Note: Only males are diagnosed below. The first five all have a black chest. The names in parentheses are common nicknames used by hunters.

CANVASBACK *Aythya valisineria* p. 38

Overhead: Black chest, long profile.

Above: White back, long profile. Lacks contrasty wing stripe of next four species.

REDHEAD *Aythya americana* p. 38

Overhead: Black chest, roundish rufous head.

Above: Gray back, broad gray wing stripe.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* p. 38

Overhead: Not safe to tell from scaup overhead; gray wing stripe sometimes evident.

Above: Black back, broad gray wing stripe.

GREATER SCAUP (BLUEBILL) *Aythya marila* p. 38

Overhead: Black chest, white stripe showing through wing.

Above: Broad white wing stripe (extending onto primaries).

LESSER SCAUP (BLUEBILL) *Aythya affinis* p. 38

Above: Wing stripe shorter than in Greater Scaup.

COMMON GOLDENEYE (WHISTLER) *Bucephala clangula* p. 40

Overhead: Dark wing linings, white wing patches, rounded dark head.

Above: Large white square wing patch, short neck, dark head.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* p. 40

Overhead: Stubby; white face, dark chest, long tail.

Above: Small; dark with white cheeks, long tail.

BUFFLEHEAD (BUTTERBALL) *Bucephala albeola* p. 40

Overhead: Like a small goldeneye; note head patch.

Above: Small; large wing patches, white head patch.

Silhouettes of Ducks on Land



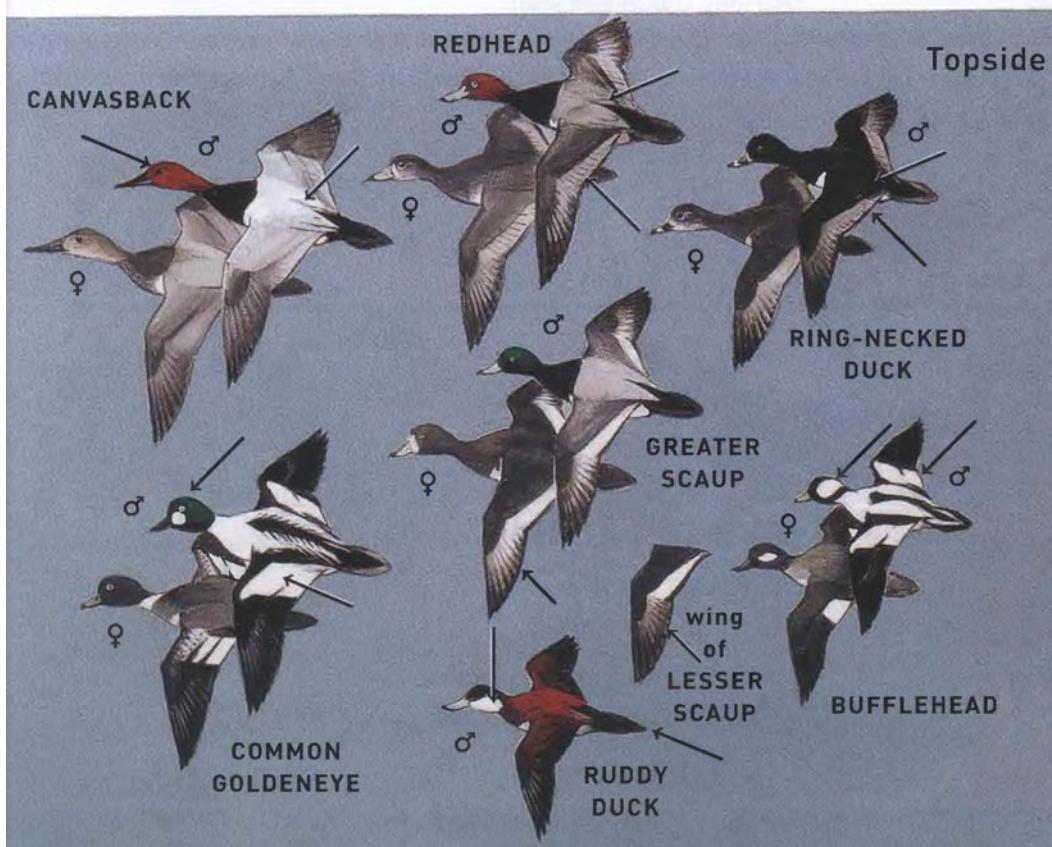
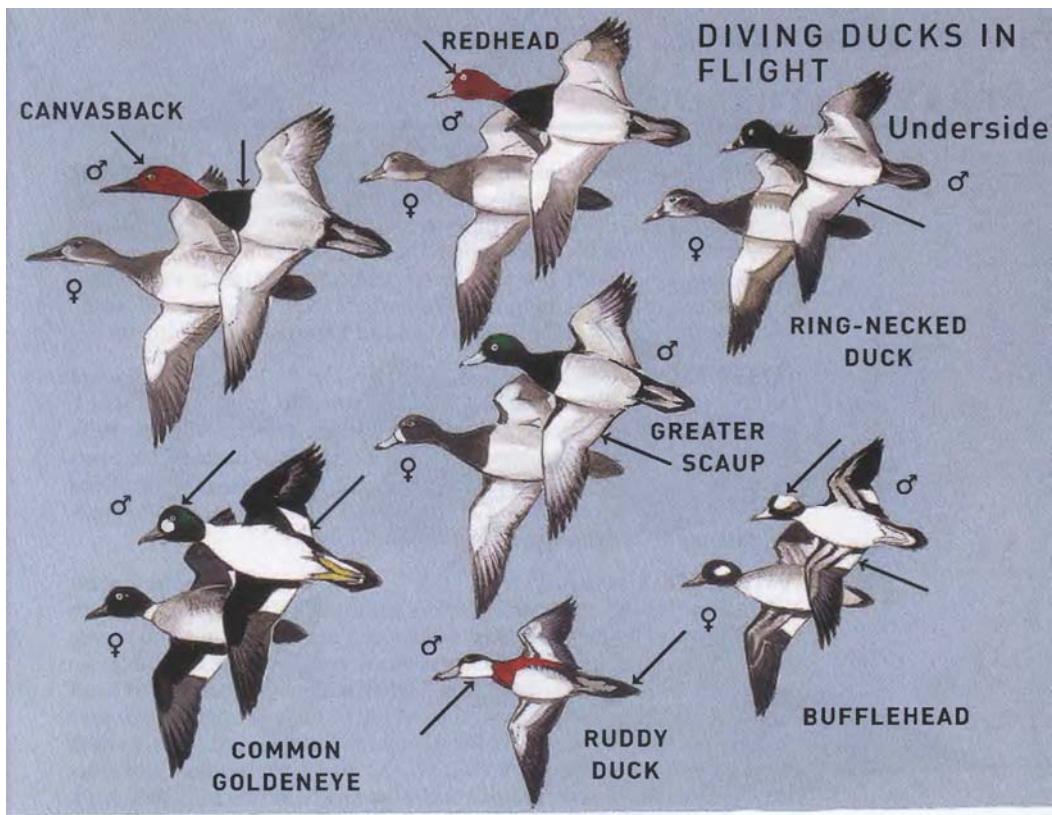
dabbling ducks
(dabblers)

sea and bay
ducks
(divers)

mergansers
(divers)

Ruddy Duck
(diver)

whistling-
ducks
(dabblers)



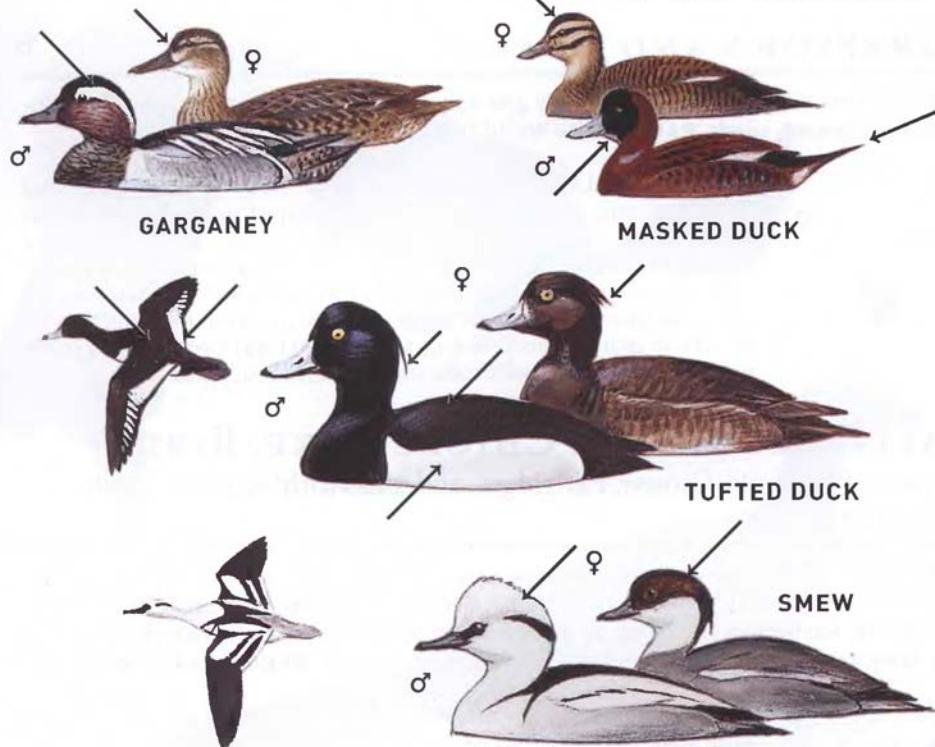
STRAY WATERFOWL

GARGANEY <i>Anas querquedula</i>	Vagrant
15½ in. (38 cm). <i>Male</i> : Broad white eyebrow stripe, silvery shoulder patch (in flight). <i>Female</i> : Told from Blue-winged and Cinnamon teal by bolder face pattern (shared by Green-winged Teal), dark legs, paler primaries (in flight), and bold white borders on speculum. RANGE : Very rare visitor from Eurasia to w. Aleutians; casual elsewhere in N. America, with widespread records. Many records from West and East coasts, fewer inland.	
MASKED DUCK <i>Nomonyx dominicus</i>	Vagrant
13–13½ in. (33–34 cm). <i>Male</i> : Rusty, dark-striped body with all-black face and blue bill. Stiff tail feathers held upright at times. <i>Female</i> : Buffy with black crown and two distinct face stripes. Heavily barred back. SIMILAR SPECIES : Ruddy Duck. RANGE : Very rare and irregular visitor from Mex. and Caribbean to TX and FL; accidental elsewhere. HABITAT : Ponds and marshes with dense vegetation. Often hidden.	
TUFTED DUCK <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Regular vagrant
16½–17 in. (41–43 cm). <i>Male</i> : Differs from male Ring-necked Duck in having thin wispy crest, entirely white sides, and white (not gray) wing stripe; from scaup, by black back and wispy crest. <i>Female</i> : Resembles female scaup or Ring-necked but may have faint trace of a tuft, broad band at bill tip, and lacks eye-ring and ring on bill of Ring-necked. May or may not have white at base of bill. VOICE : Similar to Ring-necked Duck. RANGE : Regular visitor from Eurasia to NL, w. AK; very rare elsewhere along Atlantic and Pacific coasts; casual inland. HABITAT : Sheltered ponds, bays, reservoirs. Usually with scaup.	
SMEW <i>Mergus albellus</i>	Vagrant
16 in. (41 cm). Smaller and shorter-billed than other mergansers. <i>Male</i> : Very white, with black eye patch and slight drooping black-and-white crest behind eye. In flight, shows conspicuous black-and-white wings. <i>Female</i> : Small and gray, with white cheeks, chestnut cap. RANGE : Rare but regular spring visitor from Asia to w. AK; accidental elsewhere. Some birds might be escapees.	

UNESTABLISHED EXOTIC

CHINESE GOOSE <i>Anser cygnoides</i>	Exotic
Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	Exotic
WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL <i>Anas bahamensis</i>	Provenance in question
(West Indies) 17 in. (43 cm). Numerous reports from FL; scattered records elsewhere. Most birds are likely escapees.	
GRAYLAG GOOSE <i>Anser anser</i>	Provenance in question
BAR-HEADED GOOSE <i>Anser indicus</i>	Exotic
MANDARIN <i>Aix galericulata</i>	Exotic
COMMON SHELDUCK <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Exotic
RUDDY SHELDUCK <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Provenance in question

STRAY WATERFOWL



CHINESE
GOOSE



UNESTABLISHED
EXOTICS



EGYPTIAN
GOOSE



GRAYLAG
GOOSE



MANDARIN

COMMON SHELDUCK



RUDDY SHELDUCK

CURASSOWS AND GUANS Family Cracidae

Tropical forest birds with long tails. Only one species reaches extreme s. U.S. FOOD: Insects, fruit, leaves, seeds. RANGE: New World Tropics.



PLAIN CHACHALACA *Ortalis vetula*

Fairly common, local M46
22 in. (56 cm). A large olive-brown bird shaped somewhat like a half-grown turkey with a small head. Long, rounded, pale-tipped tail, bare red throat. Difficult to observe; best found in morning when calling raucously from treetops. **VOICE:** Alarm a harsh chickenlike cackle. Characteristic call a raucous three-syllabled *cha-ca-lac*, repeated in chorus from treetops, especially in morning and evening. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Greater Roadrunner. **HABITAT:** Woodlands, tall brush, well-vegetated residential areas.

GALLINACEOUS, OR CHICKENLIKE, BIRDS

(Turkeys, Pheasants, Grouse, Partridges, and Old World Quail) Family Phasianidae

Often called "upland game birds." Turkeys are very large, with wattles and fanlike tail. Pheasants [introduced] have long pointed tail. Grouse are plump, chickenlike birds, without long tail. Partridges [of Old World origin] are intermediate in size between grouse and quail. Quail are the smallest. FOOD: Insects, seeds, buds, berries. RANGE: Nearly worldwide.



WILD TURKEY *Meleagris gallopavo*

Fairly common M62
Male 46–47 in. (117–120 cm); female 36–37 in. (91–94 cm). A streamlined version of barnyard turkey, with rusty instead of white tail tips (southwestern birds have buff-white tail tips). **Male:** Head naked; bluish with red wattles, intensified in display. Tail erected like a fan in display. Bronzy iridescent body; barred wings (primaries and secondaries); prominent "beard" on breast. **Female and immature:** Smaller, with smaller and duller head; less iridescent; less likely to have a beard. **VOICE:** "Gobbling" of male like domestic turkey's. Alarm *pit!* or *put-put!* Flock call *keow-keow*. Hen clucks to her chicks. **HABITAT:** Woods, mountain forests, wooded swamps, field edges, clearings. Reintroduced in many areas, and such birds are adapting well to being near people.

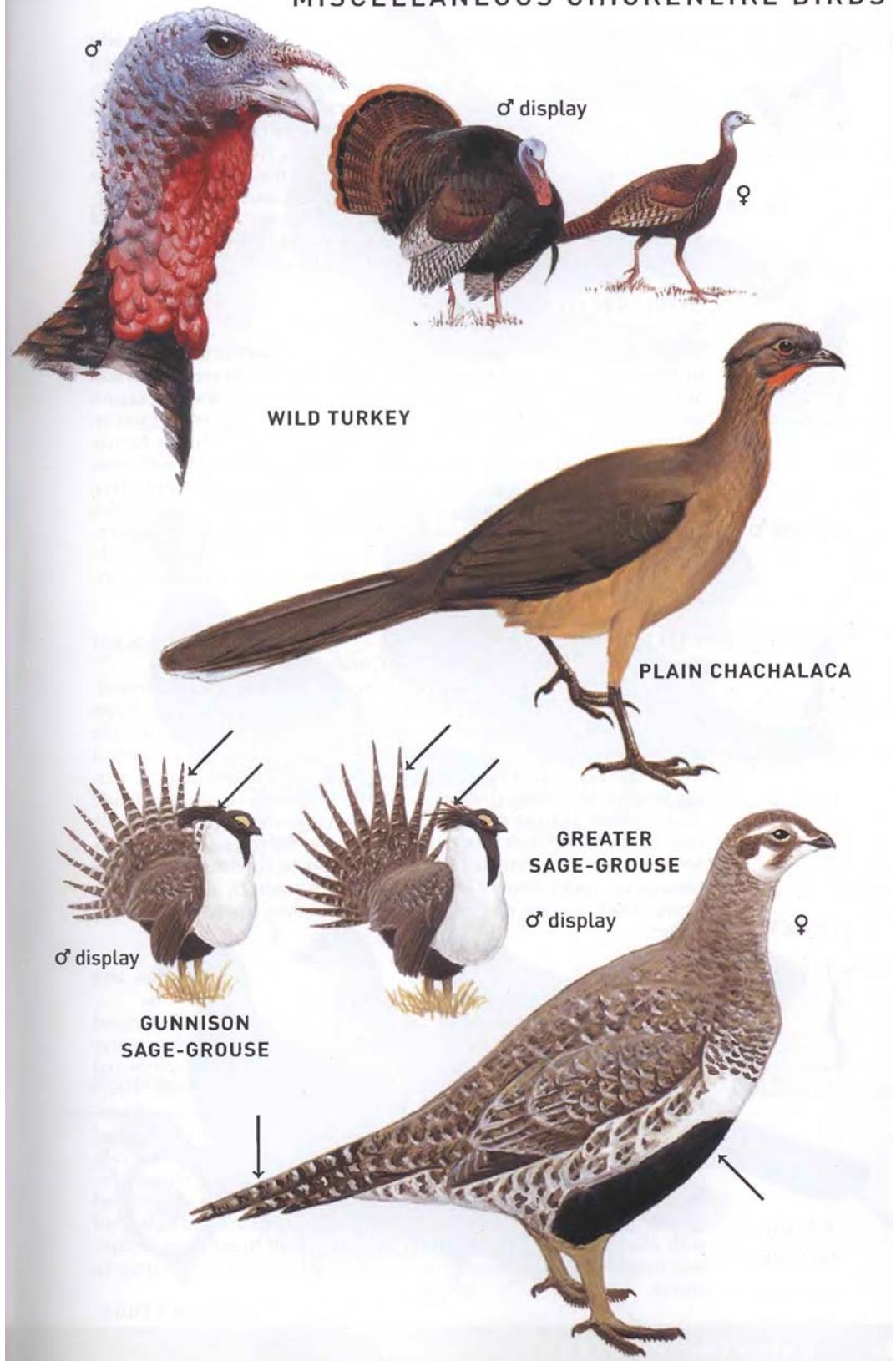


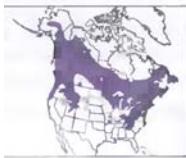
GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE *Centrocercus minimus* Scarce, very local M52
Male 21–22 in. (53–56 cm); female 18–19 in. (46–49 cm). Recently split taxonomically from Greater Sage-Grouse, this species is found only in a very geographically restricted region of sw. CO and se. UT. Differs from Greater Sage-Grouse by its slightly smaller size, longer "crest," and greater amount of white barring on tail. Identification by range is most reliable.



GREATER SAGE-GROUSE *Centrocercus urophasianus* Uncommon M51
Male 27–28 in. (69–71 cm); female 22–23 in. (56–58 cm). A large grayish grouse of open sage country, as large as a small turkey; identified by its contrasting *black belly patch* and spikelike tail feathers. Male is considerably larger than female, has black throat, and, in communal dancing display, puffs out its white chest, exposing two yellow air sacs on neck, at same time erecting and spreading its pointed tail feathers in a spiky fan. **VOICE:** Flushing call *kuk kuk kuk*. In courtship display, male makes a popping sound. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gunnison Sage-Grouse, but these two resident species do not overlap. See female Ring-necked Pheasant. **HABITAT:** Sagebrush plains; also foothills and mountain slopes where sagebrush grows.

MISCELLANEOUS CHICKENLIKE BIRDS





RUFFED GROUSE *Bonasa umbellus*

Uncommon M50

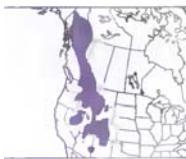
17 in. (43 cm). Note short crest, bold flank bars, and fan-shaped tail with broad black band near tip. A large chickenlike bird of brushy woodlands, usually not seen until it flushes with a startling whir. Two color morphs occur: "rusty" with rufous tail and "gray" with gray tail. Rusty birds more common in southern parts of range (and in Pacific Northwest), gray birds more common northward. **VOICE:** Sound of drumming male suggests a distant motor starting up. Low muffled thumping starts slowly, accelerating into a whir: *Bup . . . bup . . . bup . . . bup . . . bup bup up r-rrrrr*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Sharp-tailed, Sooty, Dusky, and Spruce grouse. **HABITAT:** Ground and understory of deciduous and mixed woodlands.



SPRUCE GROUSE *Falcipennis canadensis*

Scarce M53

16–17 in. (41–43 cm). Look for this tame, dark grouse in deep coniferous forests of North. **Male:** Sharply defined *black breast*, with some white spots or bars on sides and *chestnut band* on tip of tail. Comb of erectile red skin above eye is visible at close range. Birds of n. Rockies and Cascades, known as "Franklin's" Grouse, lack chestnut tail tip and have large white spots on uppertail coverts. **Female:** Dark rusty or grayish brown, thickly barred, and with black-and-white spotting below; tail short and dark, with rusty tip (except in "Franklin's" race). **VOICE:** Female, call an accelerating, then slowing, series of *wock* notes; also cluck notes. Wing flutter from male's courtship display may sound like distant rumble of thunder. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Sooty and Dusky grouse slightly larger and grayer, lack bold black-and-white spotting below. **HABITAT:** Coniferous forests, jack pines, muskeg, blueberry patches.



DUSKY GROUSE

Uncommon M57

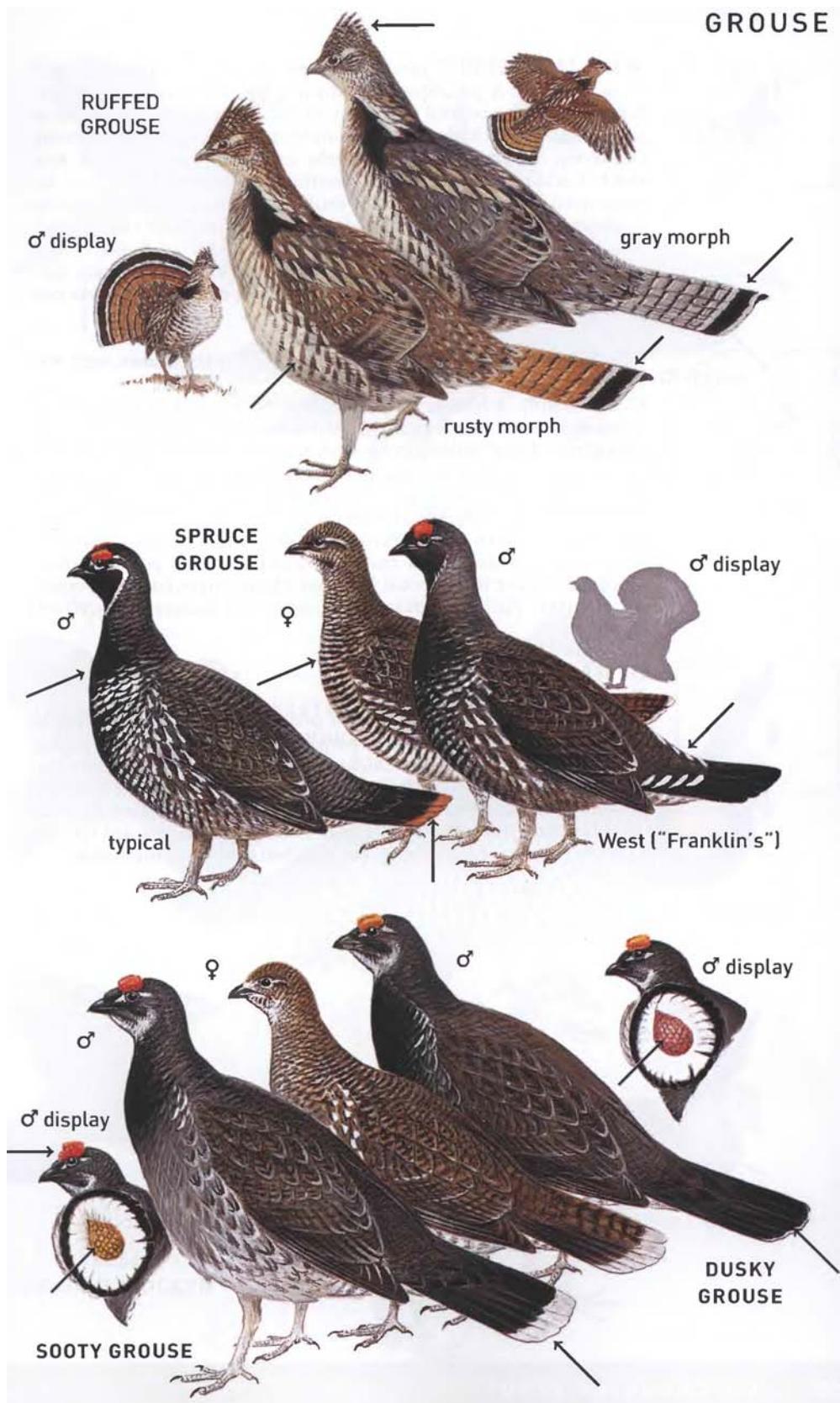
Dendragapus obscurus [formerly Blue Grouse] 20 in. (51 cm). This is the more interior of the two species formerly lumped as Blue Grouse. **Male:** In courtship display, eye combs may change from yellow to red. Neck sacs *purplish red* with broad border of white feathers. **Female:** See Sooty Grouse. **VOICE:** Courting male gives a series of five to seven low, muffled booming or hooting notes, ventriloquial, usually from ground; lower pitched and substantially softer than calls of male Sooty Grouse. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Sooty Grouse tends to be darker overall; male has yellowish neck sacs, more obvious gray tail tip; no range overlap. See Spruce Grouse. Female Dusky Grouse may be confused with Ruffed Grouse; see under Sooty Grouse. **HABITAT:** In summer, all forest types, alpine meadow edges; may move to higher-elevation coniferous forests in winter.



SOOTY GROUSE

Uncommon M58

Dendragapus fuliginosus [formerly Blue Grouse] 20 in. (51 cm). This is the more coastal of the two species formerly lumped as Blue Grouse. A large dark grouse with long neck and tail. Distinct gray band on tail tip. **Male:** In courtship display shows yellow eye combs and inflates bright yellow neck sacs with narrow white border. **Female:** Gray-brown, mottled with blackish, belly paler than male's. **VOICE:** Courting male gives a series of five to seven low, muffled booming or hooting notes, ventriloquial, usually from perch in a tree; much louder than calls of Dusky Grouse. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** See Dusky and Spruce Grouse. Females of both Sooty and Dusky grouse may be confused with Ruffed Grouse, but Ruffed has slight crested look, bold flank bars, and lighter tail with *black band* near tip. **HABITAT:** In summer, all forest types, mountain meadow edges; may move to higher-elevation coniferous forests in winter.



**SHARP-TAILED GROUSE** *Tympanuchus phasianellus* Uncommon M59

17 in. (43 cm). A pale, speckled-brown grouse of prairies and brushy draws. Note *short pointed tail*, which in display or flight shows *white* at sides. Slight crested look. Marked below by dark bars, spots, and chevrons. Displaying male has yellow eye combs and inflates *purplish* neck sacs. **VOICE:** Cackling *cac-cac-cac*, etc. Courting note a single low *coo-oo*, accompanied by quill-rattling, foot-shuffling. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Prairie-chickens have *rounded, dark* tail and are more barred, rather than spotted, below. Female Ring-necked Pheasant has *long pointed* tail. Ruffed Grouse has banded, *fan-shaped* tail and black neck ruff. **HABITAT:** Prairies, agricultural fields, forest edges, clearings, coulees, open burns and clear-cuts in coniferous and mixed forests.

**GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN**

Uncommon, local M60

Tympanuchus cupido
17 in. (43 cm). A henlike bird of prairies. Brown, heavily barred. Note *rounded dark tail* (black in male, barred in female). Courting males in communal "dance" inflate orange neck sacs, show off orangey yellow eye combs, and erect black hornlike neck feathers. **VOICE:** "Booming" male in dance makes a hollow *oo-loo-woo*, suggesting sound made by blowing across a bottle mouth. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Lesser Prairie-Chicken. Sharp-tailed Grouse, often called "Prairie-Chicken," slightly paler overall, has more spots or chevrons on underparts, and has more pointed, white-edged tail. Female Ring-necked Pheasant slightly larger, has long pointed tail. **HABITAT:** Native tallgrass prairie, now very localized; agricultural land.

**LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN**

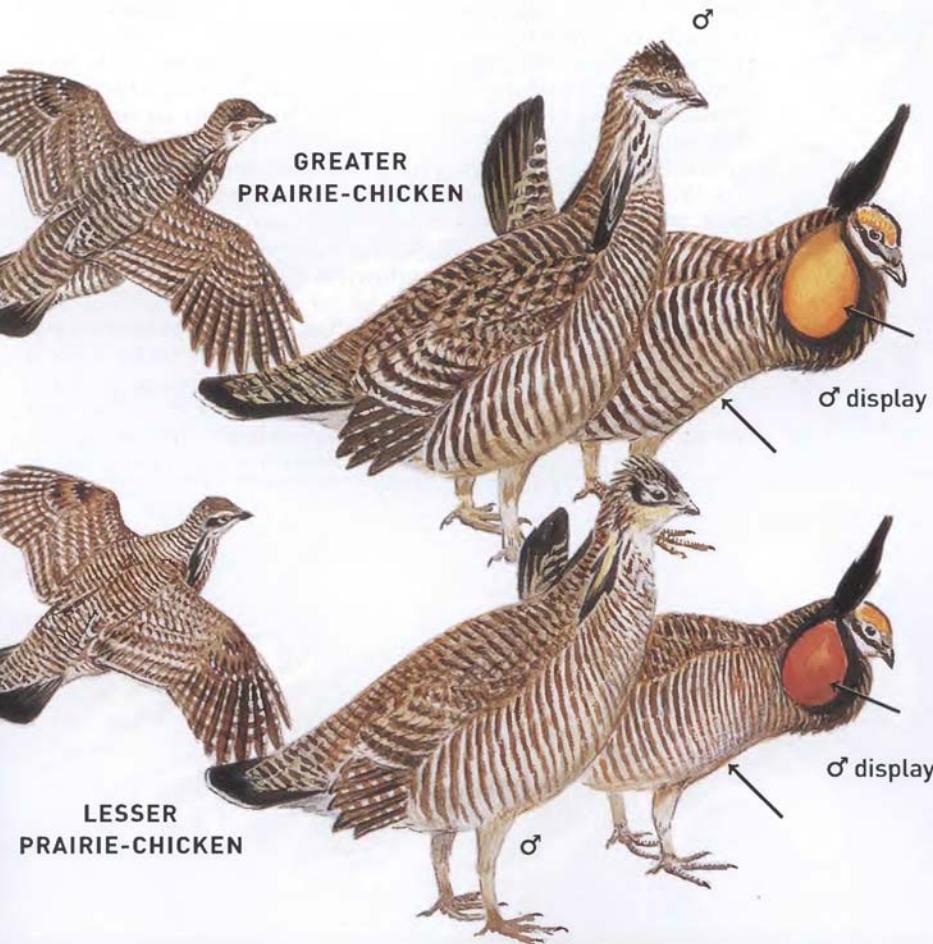
Scarce, local M61

Tympanuchus pallidicinctus
16 in. (41 cm). A small, pale brown prairie-chicken; best identified by range. Male's neck sacs are dull *purplish* or *plum colored* (not yellow-orange as in Greater Prairie-Chicken). Breast barring usually paler and thinner than Greater's. **VOICE:** Male's courtship "booming" not as rolling or loud as Greater Prairie-Chicken's. Both sexes give clucking, cackling notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sharp-tailed Grouse. **HABITAT:** Sandhill country (sage and bluestem grass, oak shrublands).

GROUSE



GREATER
PRAIRIE-CHICKEN



PTARMIGANS

Hardy Arctic and alpine grouse with feathered feet. They molt three times a year; camouflaging themselves to match the seasons, they change from dark plumage in summer to white in winter. During spring and fall molts they have a patchy look. A red comb above eye may be erected or concealed. **FOOD:** Buds, leaves, seeds.



WILLOW PTARMIGAN *Lagopus lagopus*

Fairly common M54
15 in. (39 cm). Willow and Rock ptarmigans are fairly similar. In breeding season, Willows are variable, but most males are chestnut brown, redder than any Rock; females are warm buffy brown that can overlap brown of Rock. White of wings retained all year and, in flight, contrast with summer body plumage. In winter, white overall with black tail, the latter retained year-round. There is much variation between various molts. **VOICE:** Deep raucous calls. Male, a staccato crow, *kwow, kwow, tobacco, tobacco*, etc., or *go-back, go-back*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Rock Ptarmigan always has smaller and more slender bill that lacks strong curve on ridge shown by Willow. In winter, male Rock has *black mark* between eye and bill, lacking in both sexes of Willow. Habitats overlap, but Rock tends to prefer higher, more barren hills. See White-tailed Ptarmigan. **HABITAT:** Tundra, willow scrub, muskeg; in winter, sheltered valleys at slightly lower altitudes.



ROCK PTARMIGAN *Lagopus muta*

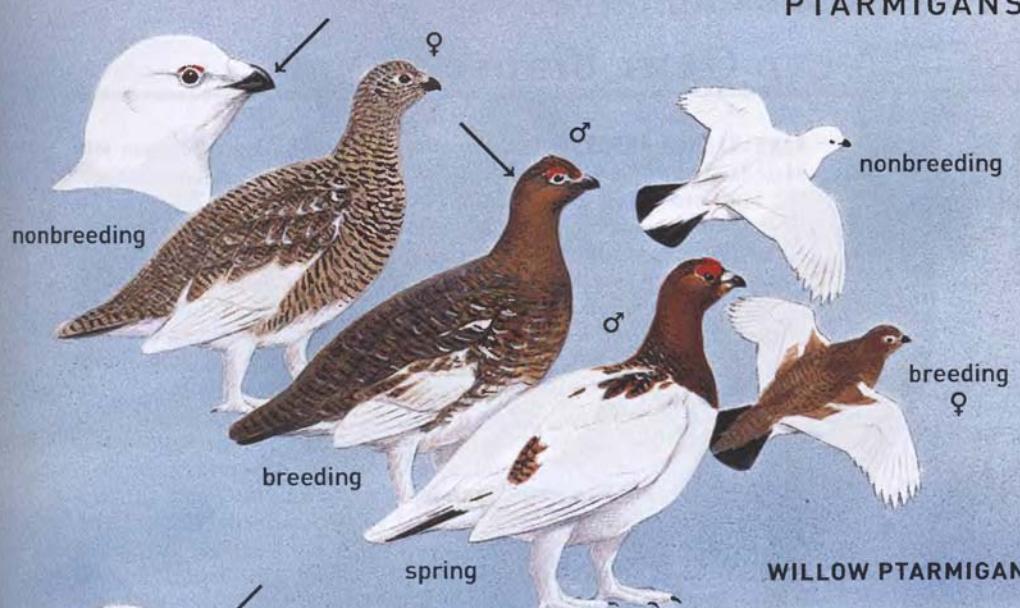
Uncommon M55
14 in. (36 cm). Breeding male is usually browner or grayer than breeding Willow Ptarmigan, lacking rich chestnut around head and neck. Some Rocks may be even paler than shown here, or are like dark birds from w. Aleutians (shown in center). Females of the two species are similar, but Rock has smaller bill. In winter, white male Rock has *black mark* between eye and bill. This is absent in most females, which may be told from female Willow by Rock's smaller bill. **VOICE:** Croaks, growls, cackles; usually silent. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Willow and White-tailed ptarmigans. **HABITAT:** Tundra, above timberline in mountains (to lower levels in winter); also near sea level in bleak tundra of northern coasts.



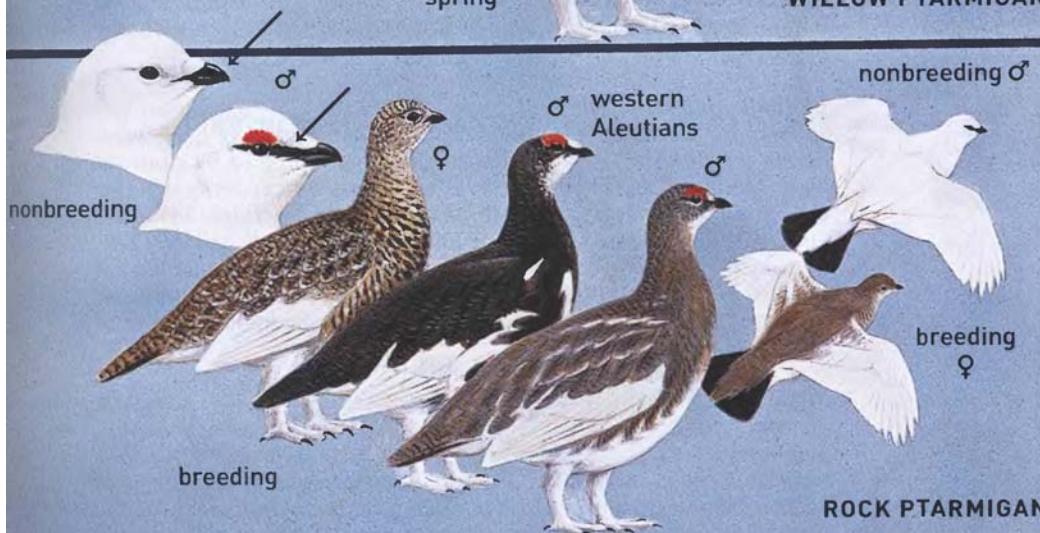
WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN *Lagopus leucura*

Uncommon M56
12½–13 in. (31–33 cm). The only ptarmigan normally found south of Canada. Note *white tail*, particularly in flight. In breeding season, brown with white belly, wings, and tail. In winter, pure white except for black eyes and bill. **VOICE:** Cackling notes, clucks, soft hoots. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** The other two ptarmigans have *black tail*. **HABITAT:** Alpine tundra, including rocky outcrops and stunted willow thickets.

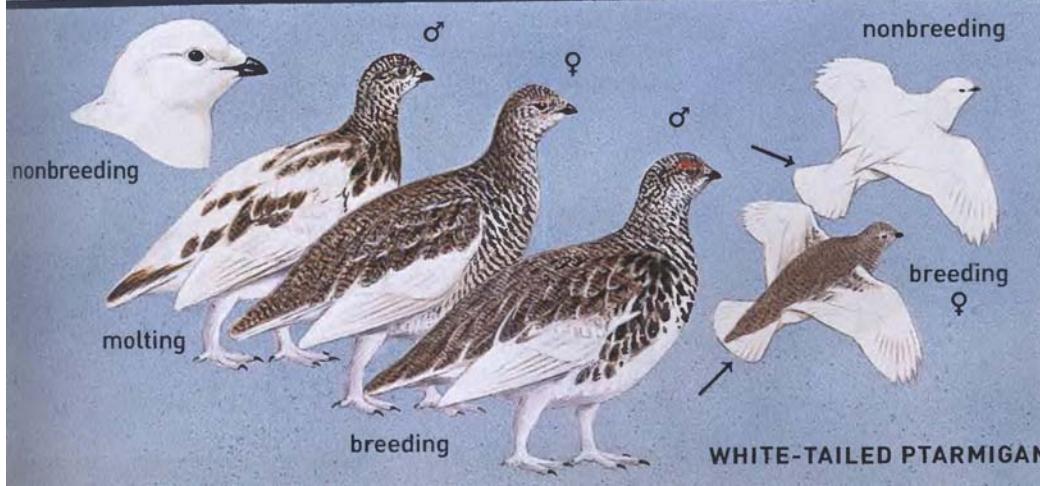
PTARMIGANS



WILLOW PTARMIGAN

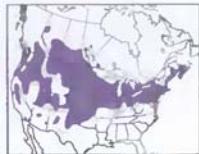


ROCK PTARMIGAN



WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN

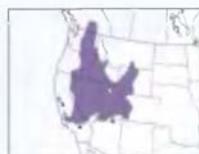
INTRODUCED GAME BIRDS



RING-NECKED PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* Fairly common M49
Male 31–33 in. (79–84 cm); female 21–23 in. (53–59 cm). A large chicken-like bird introduced from Eurasia. Note long pointed tail. Runs swiftly; flight strong, takeoff noisy. **Male:** Highly colored and *iridescent*, with *scarlet wattles* on face and *white neck ring* (not always present). **Female:** Mottled brown, with *long pointed tail*. **VOICE:** Crowing male gives loud double squawk, *kork-kok*, followed by brief whir of wings. When flushed, harsh croaks. Roosting call a two-syllable *kutuck-kutuck*, etc. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female sage-grouse have black belly patch. **HABITAT:** Farms, fields, marsh edges, brush, grassy roadsides. Periodic local releases for hunting.



GRAY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* Uncommon M48
12½–13 in. (32–34 cm). Introduced from Europe. A rotund gray-brown partridge, larger than a quail; note short *rufous* tail, *rusty* face, chestnut bars on sides. Male has dark U-shaped splotch on belly. **VOICE:** Loud, hoarse *kar-wit, kar-wit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Chukar (another introduced species of West, which also has rufous tail) prefers rockier habitat, has red bill and legs, black “necklace.” **HABITAT:** Cultivated land, hedgerows, bushy pastures, meadows.



CHUKAR *Alectoris chukar* Uncommon M47
13½–14 in. (34–36 cm). Introduced from Asia. Like a large quail; gray-brown with *bright red legs and bill*; light throat bordered by clean-cut black “necklace.” Sides *boldly barred*. Tail *rufous*. **VOICE:** Series of raspy *chucks*; a sharp *wheet-u*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gray Partridge. Mountain Quail smaller and darker, with long head plume, dark bill, dull legs. Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*), an occasional escapee, is similar but has streaked breast. **HABITAT:** Rocky, grassy, or brushy slopes; arid mountains, canyons. Birds recently released for hunting may be found well out of range and habitat.

HIMALAYAN SNOWCOCK *Tetraogallus himalayensis* Very local
28 in. (71 cm). An Asian species, introduced to Ruby Mts. of n. NV. Large, gray-brown body; paler face and neck with rusty brown stripes. Shows white in wing in flight. Flies downslope in the morning to forage and walks upslope during the day. **VOICE:** Calls include cackles and clucks; display call a loud whistle. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Chukar. **HABITAT:** Rugged alpine slopes.

INTRODUCED GAME BIRDS



NEW WORLD QUAIL Family Odontophoridae

Quail are smaller than grouse. Sexes alike or unlike. **FOOD:** Insects, seeds, buds, berries. **RANGE:** Nearly worldwide.



CALIFORNIA QUAIL *Callipepla californica* Common M65
10 in. (25 cm). A small, plump, grayish, chickenlike bird, with a *short black plume* curving forward from crown. Male has *black-and-white face* and *throat, scaled belly pattern*. Female duller. **VOICE:** Three-syllable *qua-quergo*, or *Chi-cago*. Also light clucking and sharp *pit* notes. Male on territory, a loud *kurr*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gambel's Quail has rufous brown crown, different belly pattern; ranges barely overlap. **HABITAT:** Broken chaparral, woodland edges, coastal scrub, parks, estates, farms.



GAMBEL'S QUAIL *Callipepla gambelii* Common M66
10½–11 in. (26–28 cm). Replaces California Quail in most desert habitats. Similar to that species, but male Gambel's has *black patch* on light, *unscaled belly*; flanks and crown more russet (a local name is "Redhead"). Female also *unscaled* on belly. **VOICE:** Loud *kaaaa*; also *ka-KAA-ka-ka* and sharp *ut, ut* notes. **HABITAT:** Variety of shrubby desert environments, including parks, suburbs.



MOUNTAIN QUAIL *Oreortyx pictus* Uncommon M63
11 in. (28 cm). A gray-and-brown quail of mountains. Distinguished from California Quail by long *straight head plume* and *chestnut* (not black) *throat*. Note *chestnut-and-white side pattern*. Female similar to male but duller, with shorter plume. **VOICE:** Mellow *wook?* or *to-wook?* repeated at intervals by male; loquacious *wew-wew-wew-wew* series. **HABITAT:** Open pine and mixed forests, brushy ravines, montane chaparral.



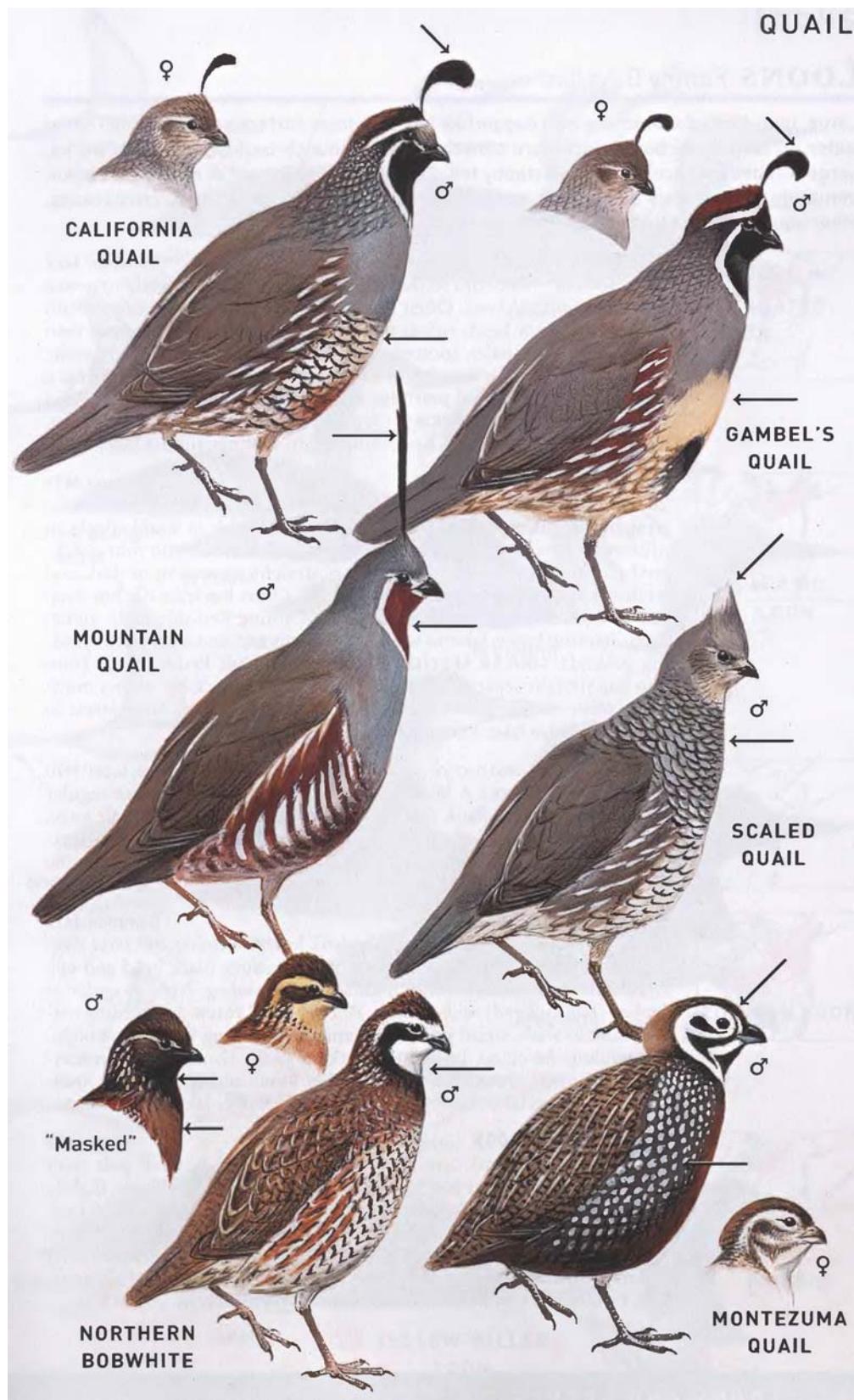
SCALED QUAIL *Callipepla squamata* Fairly common M64
10 in. (25 cm). A pale grayish quail (sometimes called "Blue Quail") of arid country, with scaly markings on breast and back. Note *short bushy white crest*, or "cotton top," a common nickname for this species. Runs; often reluctant to fly. **VOICE:** Guinea hen-like *che-kar* (also interpreted as *pay-cos*). **HABITAT:** Shrub-grasslands, brush, arid country.



NORTHERN BOBWHITE *Colinus virginianus* Uncommon to fairly common, declining M67
9½–10 in. (24–26 cm). A small, rotund fowl, near size of a meadowlark. Ruddy, barred and striped, with short dark tail. Male has conspicuous white throat and white eyebrow stripe; in female these are buff. A dark Mexican subspecies, "Masked" Bobwhite, with *black throat* and *rusty underparts*, was once found in s. AZ, where it has been locally reintroduced. **VOICE:** Clearly whistled *Bob-white!* or *poor, Bob-whoit!* Covey call *ko-loi-kee?* answered by *whoil-kee!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Ruffed Grouse larger with fanlike tail. **HABITAT:** Farms, brushy open country, fencerows, roadsides, open woodlands. Recent hunting releases fairly widespread.



MONTEZUMA QUAIL *Cyrtonyx montezumae* Scarce, local M68
8½–9 in. (21–23 cm). A rotund quail of Mexican mountains and canyons. Note male's oddly striped *clown's face*, bushy crest on nape, and *spotted sides*. Female brown, with less obvious facial striping. Tame (sometimes called "Fool's Quail"). **VOICE:** Male gives a descending whistle; a soft whining or quavering cry; ventriloquial. **HABITAT:** Grassy oak canyons, wooded mountain slopes with bunch grass.



LOONS Family Gaviidae

Large, long-bodied swimmers with daggerlike bill; dive from surface or sink. Thrash along water on takeoff. Airborne, loons are slower and more hunch-backed than most ducks. Large webbed feet project beyond stubby tail. Seldom on land except at nest. Sexes alike. Immatures more scaly above than nonbreeding adults. **FOOD:** Small fish, crustaceans, other aquatic life. **RANGE:** Northern parts of N. Hemisphere.



RED-THROATED LOON *Gavia stellata*

Common M69

25 in. (64 cm). Note slim snakelike head and neck, thin, slightly *upturned bill*, often *uptilted head*. Often flies with neck drooped. **Breeding:** Plain brown back, gray head, *rufous throat patch*. **Nonbreeding:** Slimmer than other loons with paler, spotted upperparts; adult has extensively white neck and face; first winter has smudgy gray neck. **VOICE:** When flying, a repeated *kwuk*. Guttural ptarmigan-like calls on breeding grounds; also falsetto wails. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other loons, Western and Clark's grebes. **HABITAT:** Nearshore ocean, bays, estuaries; in summer, tundra lakes.



PACIFIC LOON *Gavia pacifica*

Common M71

25–26 in. (64–66 cm). Smaller than Common Loon, with slightly thinner straight bill, often puffier look to head. Often travels in sizable flocks in offshore waters. **Breeding:** *Pale gray nape*. Back divided into four checkered patches. **Nonbreeding:** Note sharp, straight separation of dark and white on neck. Dark feathering around eye. Often has trace of chin strap (do not confuse with dusky neck band of young Red-throated). **VOICE:** Deep, barking *kwow*; falsetto wails, rising in pitch. Silent away from breeding grounds. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nonbreeding adult Red-throated Loon also has straight separation of dark and white on neck but shows much more white. Other loons, grebes. **HABITAT:** Ocean, bays, large lakes; in summer, tundra lakes and sloughs.



ARCTIC LOON *Gavia arctica*

Rare, local M70

27–28 in. (69–73 cm). A bit larger than Pacific Loon, with more angular head and white rear-flank patches. In breeding plumage lacks pale nape, has bolder black-and-white streaking on neck. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red-throated Loon also may show white flanks. **HABITAT:** Same as Pacific Loon.



COMMON LOON *Gavia immer*

Common M72

31–32 in. (78–81 cm). Large, long-bodied, low-swimming; bill *stout*, daggerlike. In flight shows large, trailing feet. **Breeding:** Black head and bill. **Checkered back**, broken white necklace. **Nonbreeding:** Note *irregular or broken (half-collared) neck-pattern*. Pale "eyelids." **VOICE:** In breeding season, falsetto wails, weird yodeling, maniacal quavering laughter; at night, a tremulous *ha-oo-oo*. In flight, a barking *kwuk*. Usually silent in nonbreeding season. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other loons and cormorants. **HABITAT:** In summer, lakes, tundra ponds; in winter, larger lakes, bays, ocean.

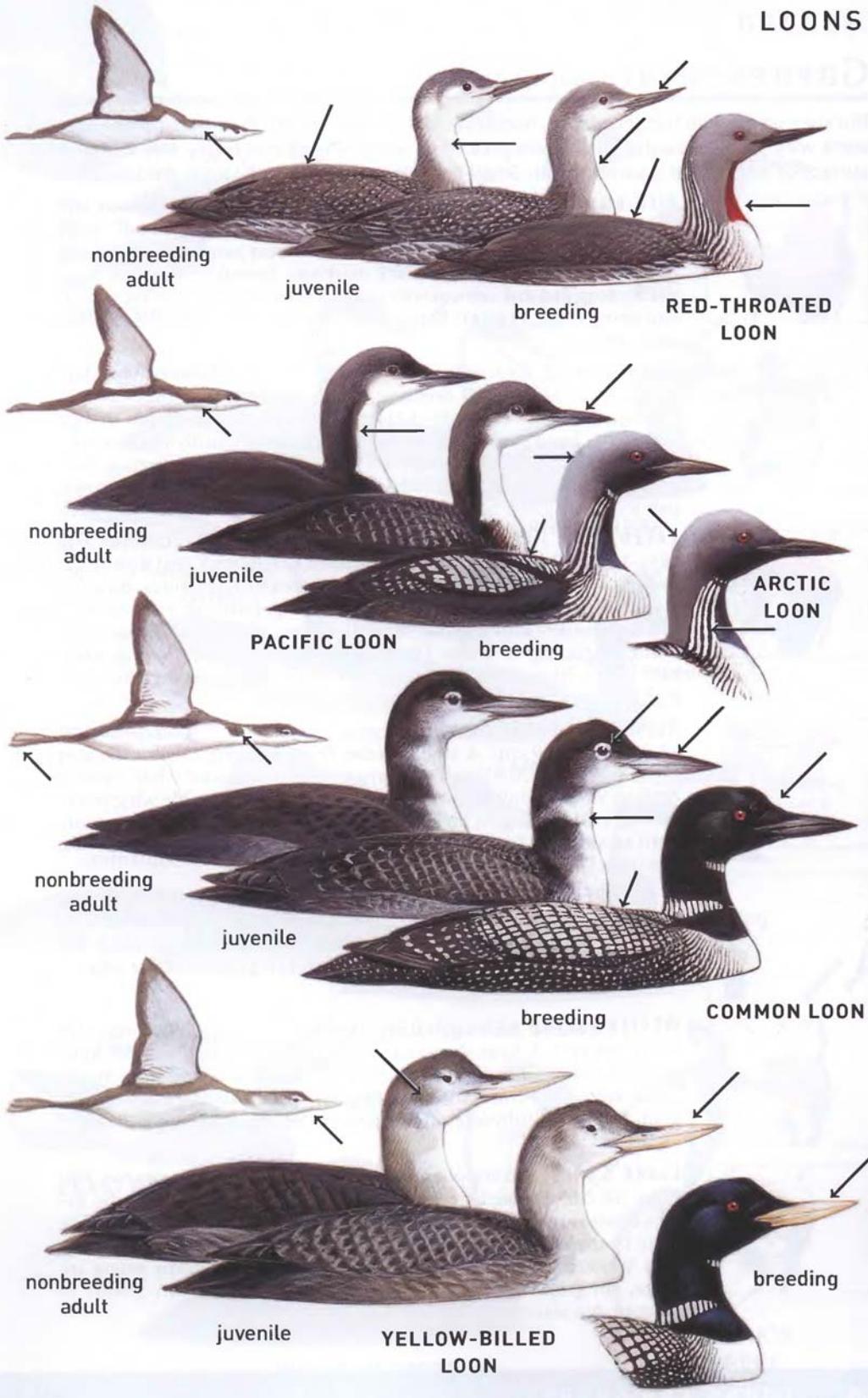


YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*

Rare M73

34–35 in. (86–89 cm). Similar to Common Loon, but bill *pale ivory* (sometimes with darker base) and slightly *uptilted*: straight above, slightly angled below. In nonbreeding plumage, slightly *paler* head and neck than Common, usually with small *dark ear patch*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bill of nonbreeding Common Loon is somewhat pale, but culmen (upper ridge) is *dark to tip* (outer half of bill is pale in Yellow-billed). **HABITAT:** In summer, tundra lakes; in winter, coastal waters. May appear on inland lakes.

LOONS

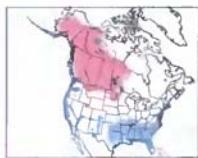


GREBES Family Podicipedidae

Ducklike divers with flat, lobed toes; thin neck; tailless look. All but Pied-billed Grebe have white wing patches, pointed bills. Sexes alike. Most young have striped heads. May dive from surface or sink. Flight labored. **FOOD:** Small fish, other aquatic life. **RANGE:** Worldwide.



PIED-BILLED GREBE *Podilymbus podiceps* Fairly common M75
13–13½ in. (33–34 cm). A small brown diver. Note “chicken bill,” puffy white stern. No wing patch. **Breeding:** Black throat patch and ring around pale bill. **Nonbreeding:** Lacks black markings. **Juvenile:** Striped on head. **VOICE:** Song *kuk-kuk-cow-cow-cowp-cowp-cowp*; also a sizzling whinny and sharp *kwah*. **HABITAT:** Ponds, lakes, marshes; in winter, also salt bays and estuaries.



HORNED GREBE *Podiceps auritus* Fairly common M76
13½–14 in. (34–36 cm). **Breeding:** Golden ear patch and chestnut neck. **Nonbreeding:** Black cap clean-cut to eye level; white foreneck, thin straight bill. **VOICE:** Loud *gamp*, trills on breeding grounds. Usually silent in nonbreeding season. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Birds in transition plumage have dusky neck and may be confused with Eared Grebe, but note flatter crown, pale lores, straighter, pale-tipped bill. **HABITAT:** Lakes, ponds, coastal waters.



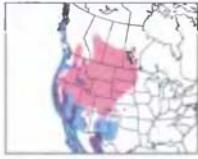
EARED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* Common M78
12½–13 in. (32–33 cm). Note peaked crown, skinny neck, and slightly upturned, all-dark bill. Often floats high in the water. Gregarious. **Breeding:** Wispy golden ear tufts, black neck. **Nonbreeding:** Dark cap extends below eye, neck usually dusky. **VOICE:** Musical *poo-ee-chk*. On breeding grounds a froglike *poo-eep* or *krreep*. Usually silent in nonbreeding season. **HABITAT:** Prairie lakes, ponds; in winter, also open lakes, including those with high salt concentration, coastal bays and estuaries.



RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* Uncommon M77
18–19 in. (46–49 cm). A largish grebe. **Breeding:** Long rufous neck, light cheek, black cap. **Nonbreeding:** Grayish (including neck); white crescent on face; variable dull yellowish base of bill. In flight, double wing patch. **VOICE:** Loud braying on breeding grounds. Silent in nonbreeding season. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Loons, Red-breasted Merganser. **HABITAT:** Lakes, ponds; in winter, large lakes, salt water.



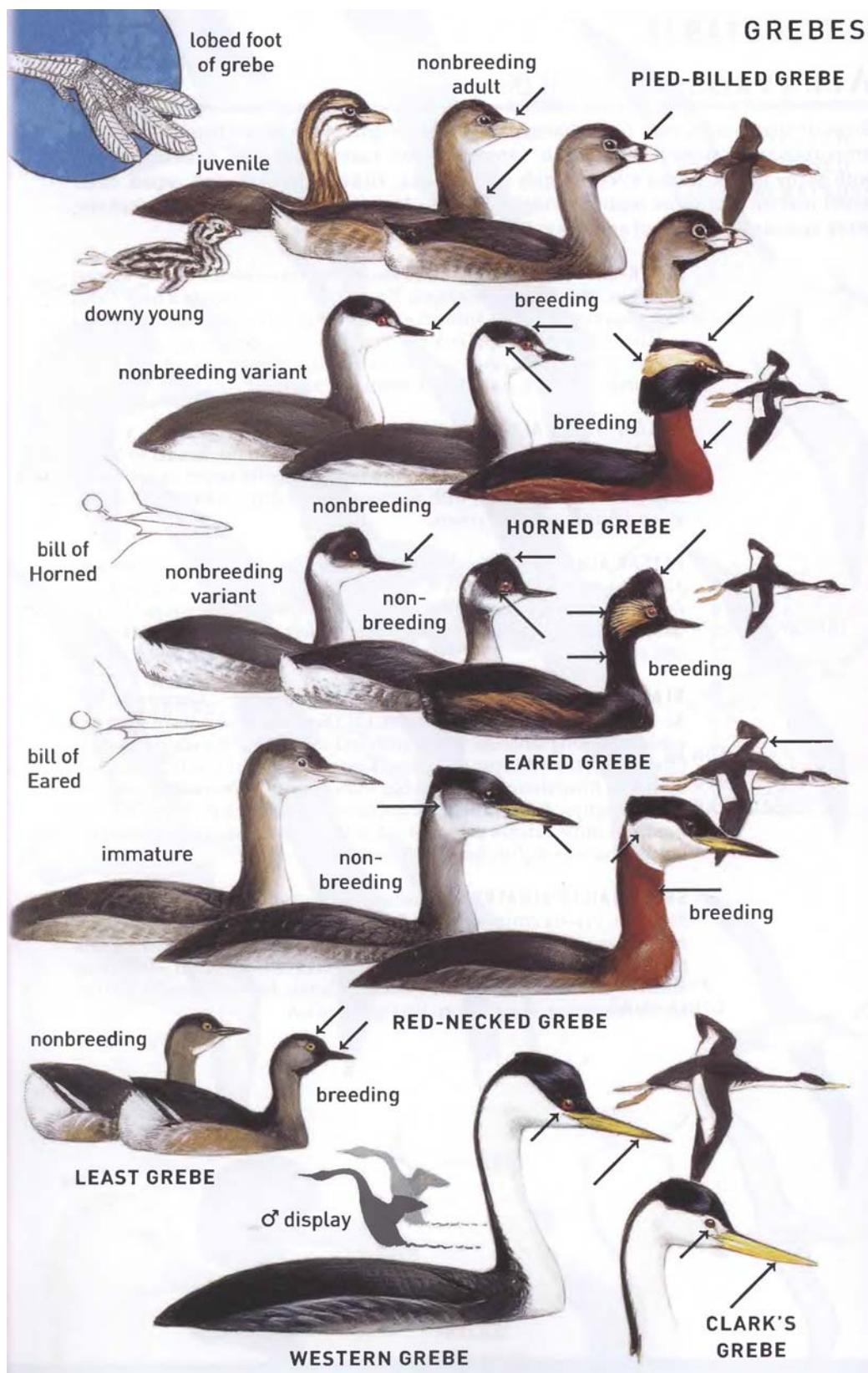
LEAST GREBE *Tachybaptus dominicus* Uncommon, local M74
9½ in. (24 cm). Smaller, darker than Pied-billed Grebe, with white wing patches (usually concealed), puffy undertail coverts, slender black bill, golden eyes. **VOICE:** A chattering whinny. **HABITAT:** Ponds and lake edges.



WESTERN GREBE *Aechmophorus occidentalis* Common M79
25 in. (64 cm). A large slate-and-white grebe with long neck. Bill long, greenish yellow with dark ridge. Black cap extends below eye. **VOICE:** Loud, reedy *crik-crick*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Clark’s Grebe, Red-throated Loon. **HABITAT:** Rushy lakes, sloughs; in winter, large lakes, bays, coasts.



CLARK’S GREBE *Aechmophorus clarkii* Uncommon M80
25 in. (64 cm). Formerly regarded as a pale morph of Western Grebe. Intermediates are known. Bill orange-yellow. Dark eye surrounded by white (may be dusky in nonbreeding plumage). Back and flanks slightly paler than Western’s, and gray on nape slightly narrower. Downy young are white, not gray. **VOICE:** Single-noted *creet* or *criik*. **HABITAT:** Similar to Western, but scarce in ocean waters.



ALBATROSSES Family Diomedeidae

Birds of open ocean, with rigid gliding and banking flight. Much larger than gulls; wings proportionately longer. "Tube-nosed" (nostrils in two tubes); bill large, hooked, covered with horny plates. Sexes alike. Largely silent at sea. **FOOD:** Cuttlefish, fish, squid, other small marine life; some feeding at night. **RANGE:** Mainly cold oceans of S. Hemisphere; three species nest north of equator in Pacific.

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS *Thalassarche melanophris* Vagrant

34–35 in. (86–88 cm); wingspan 7½ ft. (229 cm). Suggests a huge Great Black-backed Gull, but with short blackish tail and very large yellow bill (adult) with hooked tip. Dark eye streak gives it a frowning look. In stiff-winged gliding flight, shows white underwing broadly outlined with black. **Immature:** Bill dark. **RANGE:** Accidental off Atlantic Coast.

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* Vagrant

31–32 in. (79–81 cm); wingspan 7–7½ ft. (213–229 cm). Similar to Black-browed Albatross, but bill *black with yellow ridge* on upper mandible. In flight, underwing whiter, with *narrower* black edging. **RANGE:** Accidental along Atlantic and Gulf coasts.



LAYSAN ALBATROSS *Phoebastria immutabilis* Scarce M81

32 in. (81 cm); wingspan 6½ ft. (198 cm). White body with *dark back and wings*, suggesting a huge, dark-backed gull with extra-long wings. Whitish underwing has some *dark smudges*. Bill and feet pale pinkish gray. **Immature** similar.

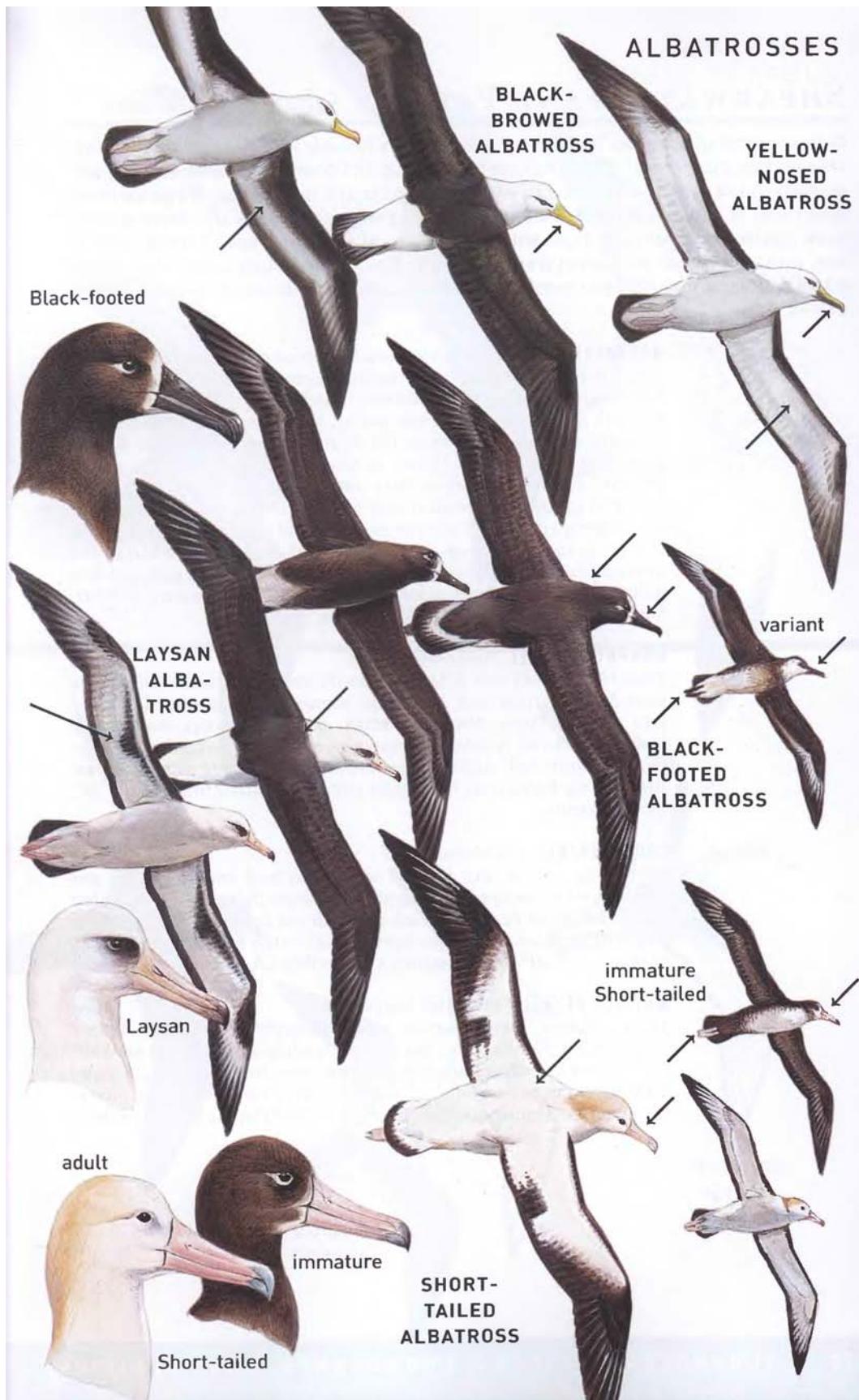


BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria nigripes* Uncommon M82

32–33 in. (81–84 cm); wingspan 7 ft. (213 cm). Great size, *sooty color*, tremendously long saberlike wings, and rigid shearwater-like gliding identify this species, the albatross found most regularly off our Pacific Coast. Seldom seen from shore. At close range shows whitish face and pale areas toward wingtips. Bill and feet *dark*. Older adults develop more white on head and white patches at base of tail. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Immature Short-tailed Albatross slightly larger, has *pinkish bill and feet*.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus* Casual

36–37 in. (91–94 cm); wingspan 7½ ft. (229 cm). **Adult:** White back, *pink bill*, yellowish nape. Underwing white with dark edge. **Immature:** Dark brown, bill and feet *pinkish*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black-footed and Laysan albatrosses. **RANGE:** Breeds on islands off Japan. *Formerly near extinction, slowly recovering.* Ranges from Bering Sea to CA.



SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS Family Procellariidae

Gull-like birds of open sea that glide low over waves (usually with wings more stiffly extended than shown here). They often bank, or arc, up and down like a roller coaster, particularly in strong winds. Typically fly with several flaps and then a glide. Wings narrower than those of gulls. Shearwaters and petrels, along with albatrosses and storm-petrels, have tubelike external nostrils on bill, so are often called "tubenoses." Largely silent at sea; most apt to call at feeding frenzies. **FOOD:** Fish, squid, crustaceans, ship refuse. **RANGE:** Oceans of world. Most species only occasionally or rarely seen from our mainland shores.



NORTHERN FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* Uncommon to fairly common M83 18½–19 in. (47–49 cm). A stiff-winged oceanic seabird; shearwater-like, but stockier with larger head, shorter, rounder wings; flies like shearwater but with quicker wingbeats, less gliding. Note rounded forehead; *ubby, yellowish, tubenose bill*; longish tail. Primaries may show a *pale flash or patch*. Leg color variable. Comes in several color morphs. *Light morph*: Gull-like in plumage. *Intermediate morph*: Variable. *Dark morph* (less common in Atlantic, breeds mostly from Aleutians southward): Smoky gray, wingtips darker. All morphs may be found together in winter. **VOICE:** Hoarse, grunting *ag-ag-ag-arr* or *ek-ek-ek-ek-ek*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** At a distance, shape and flight style distinguish light morph from gulls and dark morph from Sooty, Short-tailed, and Flesh-footed shearwaters. **HABITAT:** Open ocean; breeds colonially on sea cliffs.

MURPHY'S PETREL *Pterodroma ultima* Rare 15½–16 in. (40–41 cm). A dark petrel with wholly *dark underwing linings*, faint dark M across back and wings, somewhat wedge-shaped tail, and *pale face and throat*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Sooty Shearwater, dark-morph Northern Fulmar. Accidental Great-winged Petrel (*Pterodroma macroura*; not illustrated) slightly larger, browner, more white on face. **RANGE:** Breeds in sw. Pacific; rare but regular visitor far offshore from CA to s. BC, mostly in spring.

COOK'S PETREL *Pterodroma cookii* Rare 10½–11 in. (27–28 cm). *Dark M* across gray back and upperwing and *gleaming white* underwings suggest much larger Buller's Shearwater, but note Cook's paler head with black ear patch and light sides of tail. **RANGE:** Nests off New Zealand; ranges across Pacific, rarely but perhaps regularly to waters well off West Coast from s. AK to Baja CA.

MOTTLED PETREL *Pterodroma inexpectata* Rare 14 in. (36 cm). *Dark M* across back and upperwing suggests Buller's Shearwater or Cook's Petrel, but note contrasting *dark belly* and *heavy diagonal black bar* across underwing. **RANGE:** Nests in New Zealand; regular summer visitor to deep offshore Alaskan waters, very rare though probably somewhat regular south to well off CA, mostly in late fall and winter.

FULMAR AND
PACIFIC PETRELS

tubed bill of Fulmar,
also typical of
petrels

dark
morph

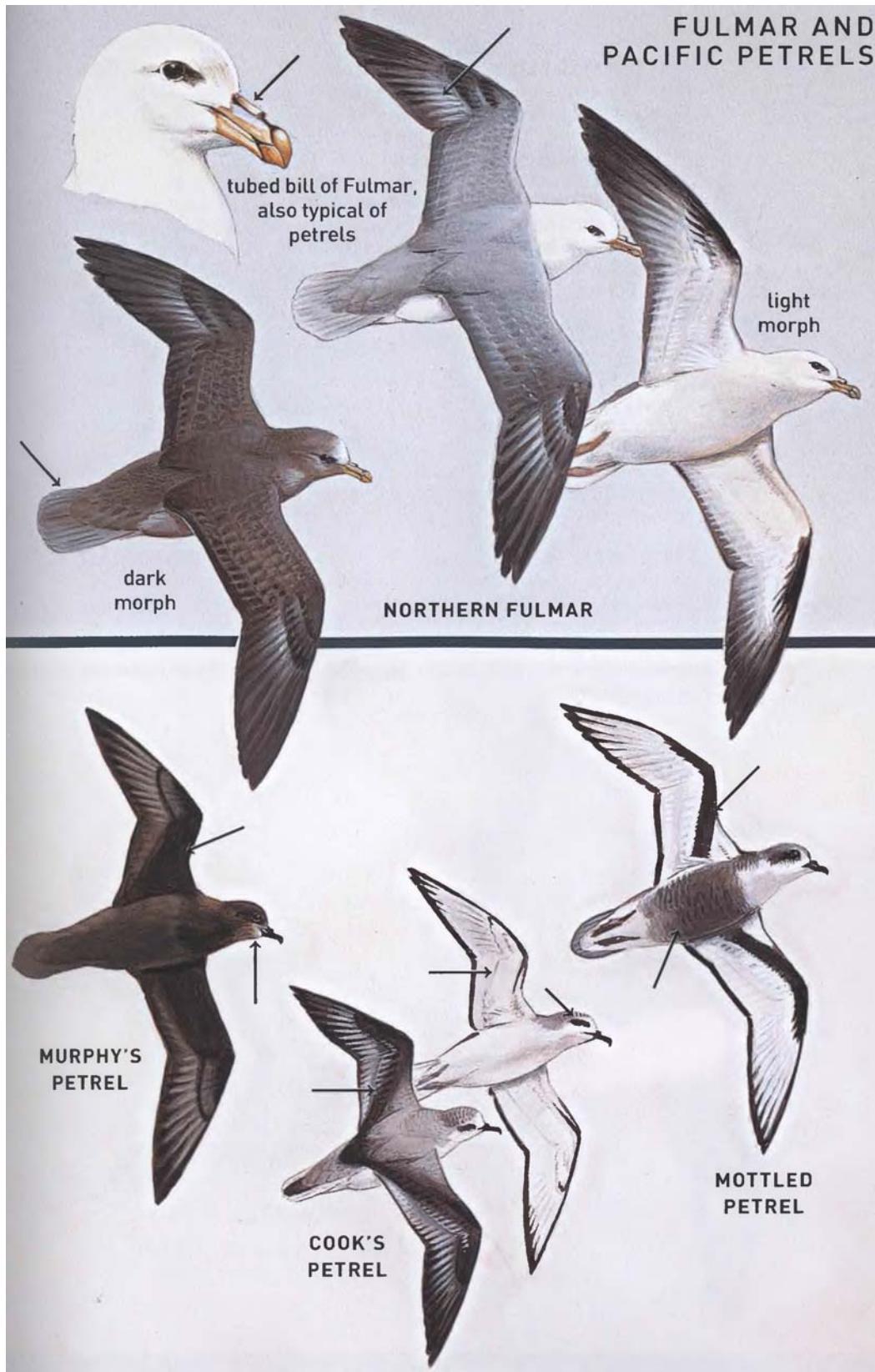
NORTHERN FULMAR

light
morph

MURPHY'S
PETREL

COOK'S
PETREL

MOTTLED
PETREL





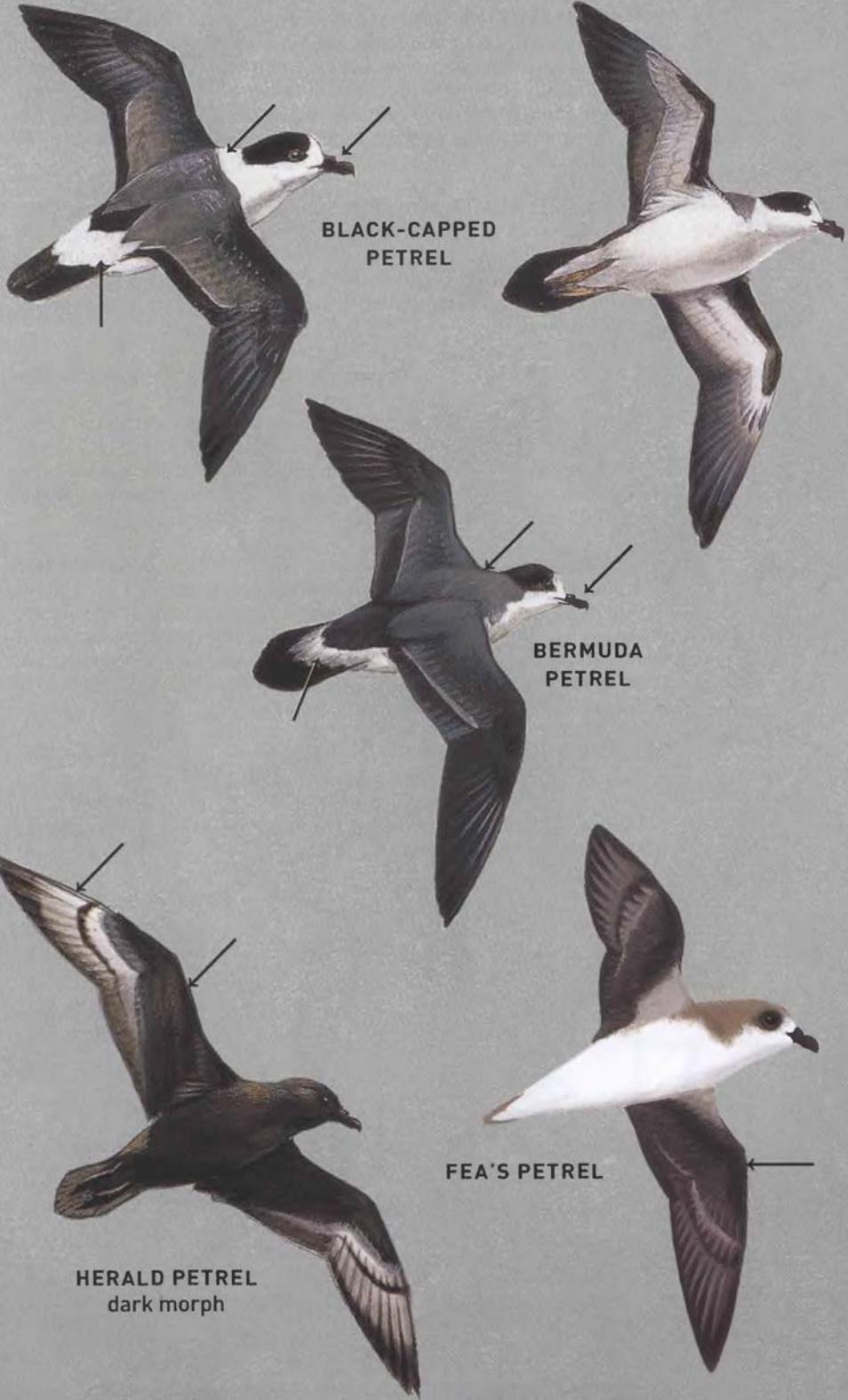
BLACK-CAPPED PETREL *Pterodroma hasitata* Scarce, local M84
16 in. (41 cm). Larger than Audubon's or Manx shearwater and looks quite similar to Greater Shearwater. Note white forehead, variable white collar, *white rump* patch extending to tail, thick bill. Rarely seen outside Gulf Stream. Nests on Hispaniola and Cuba.

BERMUDA PETREL (CAHOW) *Pterodroma cahow* Casual, endangered
15 in. (38 cm). Breeds only on Bermuda. One of the world's rarest seabirds. Differs from Black-capped Petrel by *smudgy gray rump*, absence of white collar, small bill. **RANGE:** Known only from certain small islets off ne. end of Bermuda, where it comes and goes at night. Sightings becoming more regular in Gulf Stream off NC coast as protection efforts in Bermuda enhance breeding success.

HERALD PETREL *Pterodroma arminjoniana* Rare, local
15½–16 in. (40–41 cm). Dark, intermediate, and pale morphs. Most N. American records are dark, differing from Sooty Shearwater by *dark wing linings*, longer tail, and slower wingbeat. Light area at primary base suggests a jaeger. Feet and legs black. **RANGE:** Reported annually in Gulf Stream off NC coast from May to September. Nests in tropical Southern Hemisphere.

FEA'S PETREL *Pterodroma feae* Very rare, local
14–15 in. (36–38 cm). Brownish gray above, with M pattern across wings. Distinguish from Black-capped Petrel by less contrasty pale *gray rump and tail*, pale gray cowl on head, and *dark underwing*. **RANGE:** Breeds on islands off W. Africa. A rare but regular spring and summer visitor to Gulf Stream waters off Cape Hatteras, NC; casual elsewhere. Nests on islands off West Africa.

ATLANTIC PETRELS



**CORY'S SHEARWATER** *Calonectris diomedea*

Fairly common M85

18–20 in. (46–51 cm). Large, pale seabird; gray brown head blends into white of throat; bill dull yellow. Belly all white; rump usually dark with indistinct or no white. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Greater Shearwater has dark cap, black bill, white rump, dark smudges on belly and underwing. Cory's has more pronounced bend to wing than Greater, and wingbeat tends to be slightly slower.

**GREATER SHEARWATER** *Puffinus gravis*

Fairly common M88

19 in. (48 cm). A shearwater dark above and white below, rising above waves on stiff wings, is likely to be this or Cory's Shearwater. Greater has dark cap separated by a light band across nape. Note also white rump patch and dark smudges on belly and underwing. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cory's Shearwater.

**SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Puffinus griseus*

Common in Pacific, uncommon in Atlantic M90

17–18 in. (43–46 cm). Often seen in massive flocks in summer in Pacific, uncommon in Atlantic. Looks all dark at a distance; rises over and arcs above waves on narrow, rigid wings. In good light, note whitish linings on underwings. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Dark jaegers (white in primaries), Short-tailed and Flesh-footed shearwaters, dark-morph Northern Fulmar.

**MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus*

Uncommon M92

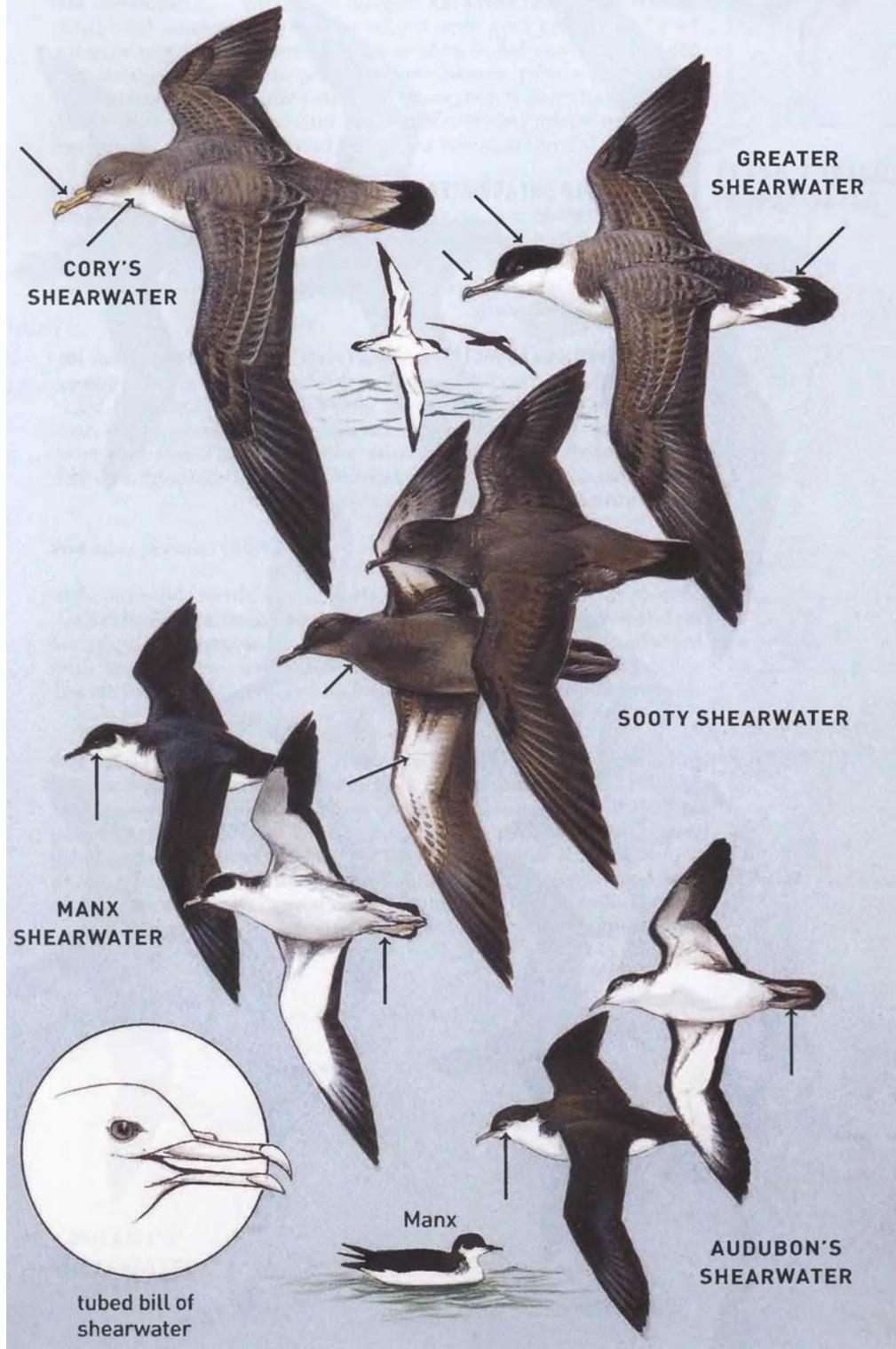
13½ in. (34 cm). A small black-and-white shearwater; half the bulk of Greater Shearwater; no white rump patch. Note dark cap extends below eye; white undertail. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** See Audubon's Shearwater. Wingbeat quicker than in Greater or Cory's shearwater. In Pacific, rare but increasing Manx is similar to Black-vented Shearwater but is slightly blacker above, with whitish undertail coverts and paler face.

**AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** *Puffinus lherminieri*

Fairly common M94

12 in. (30 cm). A very small shearwater, similar to Manx Shearwater but with slightly browner upperparts, dark undertail. Wings slightly shorter, tail longer. Often has white markings around eye. **HABITAT:** Prefers warmer water than Manx Shearwater.

ATLANTIC SHEARWATERS





SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER *Puffinus tenuirostris* Uncommon M91
16–17 in. (40–43 cm). Very similar to Sooty Shearwater; best distinguished by *shorter bill, rounder head, and variably smoky gray wing linings*, slightly smaller size and narrower wing, more rapid wingbeats. May have contrasty pale throat. Sooty has whiter wing linings. **RANGE:** South of Alaskan waters (where common in summer and early fall), usually found only in small numbers and mostly between late fall and late winter.



FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER *Puffinus carneipes* Rare M87
17–17½ in. (43–45 cm). This dark-bodied shearwater is a rare but regular visitor. Larger than Sooty Shearwater; flight more sluggish. Distinguished by *pale pink bill* (with dark tip), *pinkish feet*, dark wing linings (and slightly paler flight feathers). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Dark-morph Northern Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater.



PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER *Puffinus creatopus* Fairly common M86
19½ in. (50 cm). Two fairly common shearwaters with *mostly white underparts* are regularly found along West Coast: Pink-footed and Black-vented. Pink-footed is larger than common Sooty Shearwater, has dark-tipped pinkish bill, and has slower wingbeats. Black-vented is much *smaller* than Pink-footed, has all-dark bill, and wingbeats faster with little arcing. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** See Buller's Shearwater.

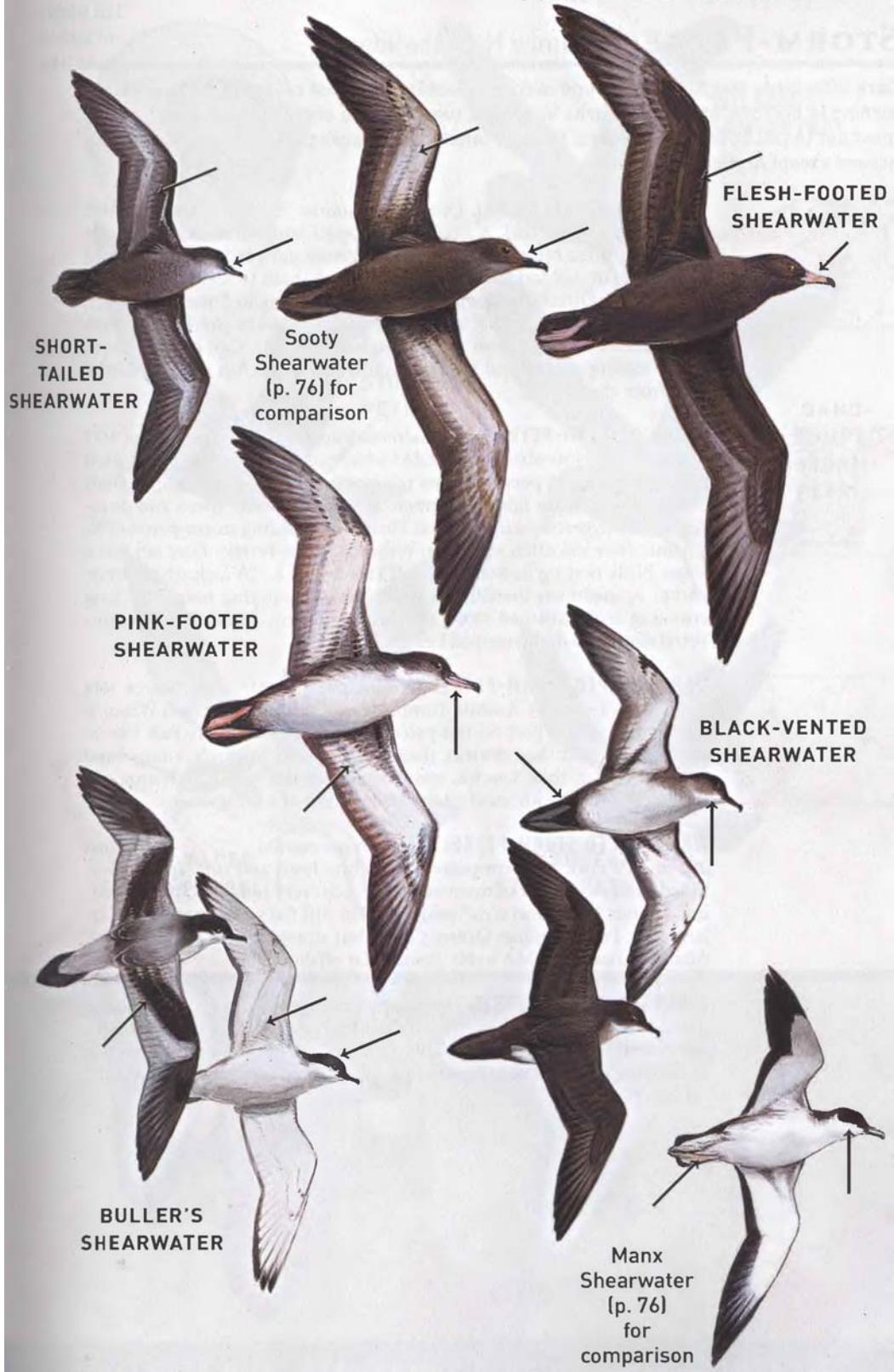


BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER *Puffinus opisthomelas* Fairly common, local M93
13½–14 in. (34–36 cm). A small shearwater, dark brown above and whitish below with dusky breast sides, dark undertail coverts, dark cap extending below eye. Smaller size, contrasting *dark-and-white* pattern, and rapid wingbeats with short glides are distinctive. Often seen in flocks from shore, mostly in fall and winter. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Manx, Pink-footed, Buller's, and Sooty shearwaters.



BULLER'S SHEARWATER *Puffinus bulleri* Uncommon, irregular M89
16 in. (41 cm). A white-bellied shearwater. Separated from the two other white-bellied species—Pink-footed and Black-vented shearwaters—by broad *dark M* pattern on back and wings. Underparts more *gleaming white*. Cap dark. Tail wedge-shaped. Feet pale, but variable. Occurs in fall (late Aug. through Oct.) in variable numbers from year to year. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Pink-footed Shearwater is larger with *dingier* underwings, more *uniform* upperparts, more *blended* face pattern.

PACIFIC SHEARWATERS



STORM-PETRELS Family Hydrobatidae

Dark little birds that flutter or bound over open ocean; they nest colonially on islands, returning to burrows at night. Nostrils in a fused tube over top of bill. Usually silent at sea; most apt to call at feeding frenzies. **FOOD:** Plankton, crustaceans, small fish. **RANGE:** All oceans except Arctic.



WILSON'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanites oceanicus* Common M95

7½–7½ in. (18–19 cm). A small storm-petrel with somewhat triangular wings and white rump patch that wraps around sides; tail slightly rounded or square-cut, not forked. Feet yellow-webbed (hard to see), show beyond tail in flight. Direct flight, with short glides, pausing to flutter over water. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Leach's and Band-rumped storm-petrels. **HABITAT:** Open ocean. Often follows ships (Leach's does not). Can be "chummed in" by tossing out ground fish, suet, puffed wheat in fish oil, etc. May be seen from shore.



LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Uncommon M97

8 in. (20 cm). Note obscurely divided white rump patch and slightly forked tail. Pale bar on upperwing often reaches leading edge. In flight, bounds about erratically on fairly long angled wings, changing speed and direction—all suggesting a nighthawk. This is the breeding storm-petrel of N. Atlantic (but less often seen than Wilson's Storm-Petrel). *Does not follow ships.* Birds nesting in Mex. and fall visitors off s. CA lack white rump. **VOICE:** At night on breeding grounds, nasal chattering notes and long crooning trills. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Wilson's Storm-Petrel; Black Storm-Petrel similar to dark-rumped Leach's.



BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma castro* Scarce M99

8½–9 in. (21–23 cm). A white-rumped storm-petrel, larger than Wilson's, similar to Leach's. Feet do not project beyond squarish tail. Pale bar on upperwing much less distinct than in Leach's or Wilson's; rump band more clean-cut than Leach's, less extensive under tail than Wilson's. A stiff-winged flier, with short glides, reminiscent of a shearwater.

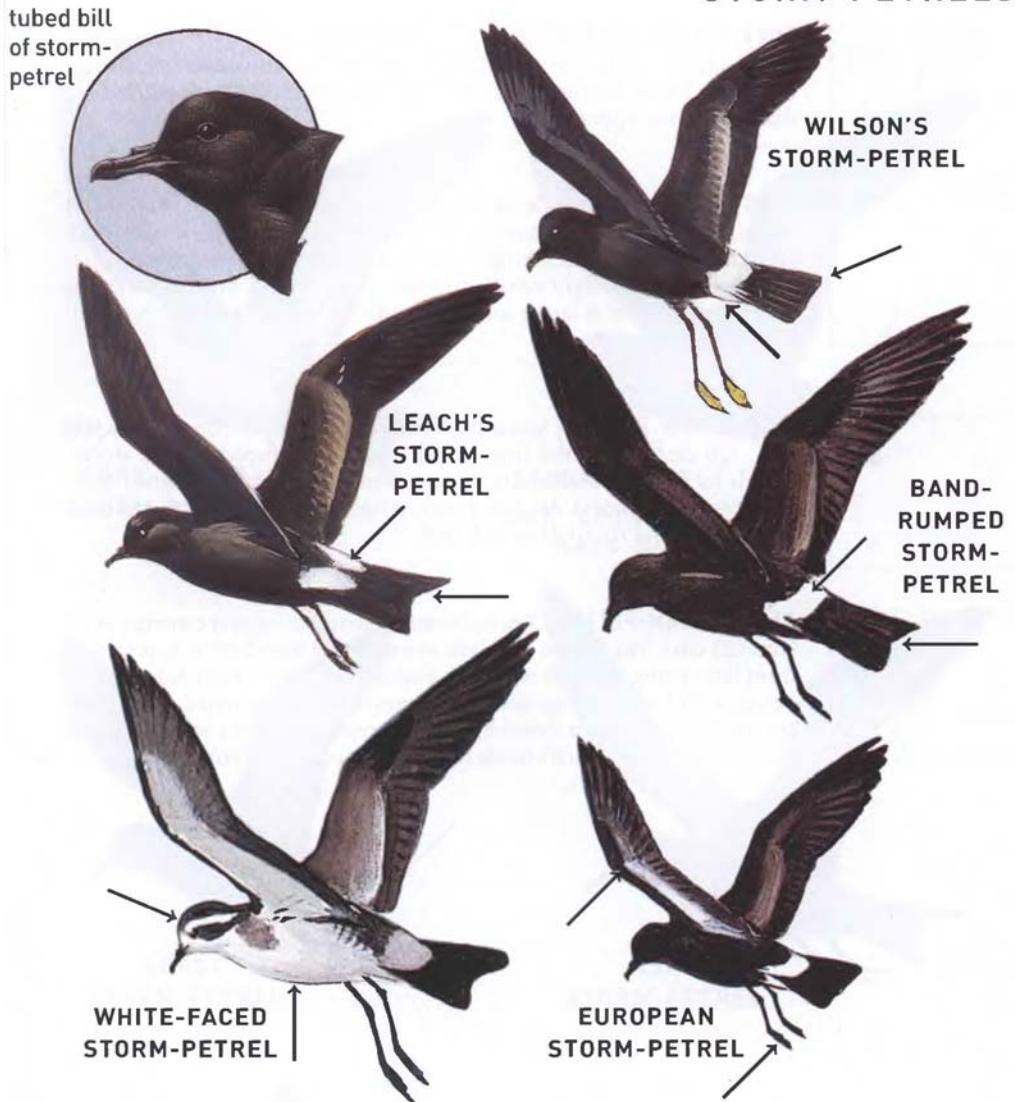
WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL *Pelagodroma marina* Casual

7½ in. (19 cm). A storm-petrel with white head and underparts, two-toned underwing, dark crown and eye patch. Very long legs. When feeding, bounds "kangaroo style" over water on stiff flat wings. **RANGE:** Se. Atlantic, sw. Pacific, Indian Ocean. Casual but almost annual Aug.–Sept. off Atlantic Coast from MA to NC, usually far offshore.

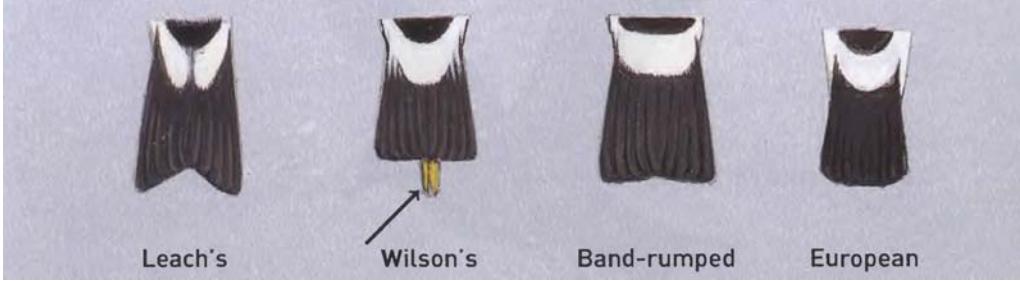
EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* Vagrant

6 in. (15 cm). Smaller than Wilson's Storm-Petrel; shorter legs, which do not extend beyond square tail. Yellow on feet, not on webs. Shows whitish underwing patch. **RANGE:** Nests in ne. Atlantic and Mediterranean. Casual off NC, NS.

STORM-PETRELS



WHITE-RUMPED STORM-PETRELS





FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma furcata* Scarce M96
8½ in. (22 cm). Pale gray overall, with contrasting slaty underwing linings; our other Pacific storm-petrels are blackish overall. Dark eye patch; faint dark bar across upperwing.



LEAST STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma microsoma* Rare M101
5¾ in. (15 cm). A late-summer and fall visitor in variable numbers. Small. Our only regularly occurring storm-petrel with *very short rounded or wedge-shaped tail*. Flight similar to Black Storm-Petrel. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Ashy Storm-Petrel is larger and paler with forked tail and quicker, shallower wingbeats.

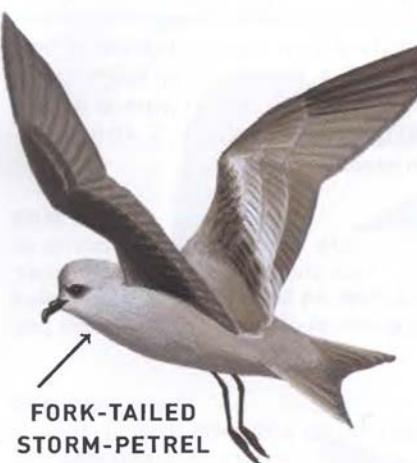


ASHY STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma homochroa* Uncommon M98
8 in. (20 cm). Separated from Black and dark-rumped Leach's storm-petrels by slightly smaller size, shorter wings, more fluttery, direct flight (shallower wingbeats). At close range, plumage looks more ashy colored; underwings and rump show *pale cast*.



BLACK STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma Melania* Fairly common M100
9 in. (23 cm). The largest all-black storm-petrel found off CA, primarily from late spring through early fall. Forked tail. Larger than Ashy Storm-Petrel, with longer wings and *more languid flight*. Separated from dark-rumped Leach's Storm-Petrel by larger overall size, slower wingbeats, and more direct flight; Leach's tends to be farther offshore than Black.

STORM-PETRELS



FORK-TAILED
STORM-PETREL



LEACH'S
STORM-PETREL
dark-rumped form
(see p. 80)



LEAST
STORM-PETREL



ASHY
STORM-PETREL



BLACK STORM-PETREL

GANNETS AND BOOBIES Family Sulidae

Seabirds with large, pointed bill and pointed tail, making them appear tapered at both ends. Larger and longer necked than most gulls. Sexes alike. Boobies sit on buoys, rocks; fish by plunging from air like Brown Pelicans. Mostly silent at sea, except when at feeding frenzies. FOOD: Fish, squid. RANGE: Gannets live in cold seas (N. Atlantic, S. Africa, Australia), boobies in tropical seas. All nest colonially on islands.



BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula nebouxii*

Casual M105

32–33 in. (81–83 cm). Adult: White body, whitish head, light patches on upper back and rump, dark mottled back and wings, blue feet. Immature: Has slightly darker head and neck. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Immature Masked and Brown boobies. Adult male Brown Booby in w. Mex. also has pale head, grayish bill.



BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster*

Scarce, local M106

29–30 in. (74–76 cm). Adult: Sooty brown with white belly in clean-cut contrast to dark breast. White wing linings contrast with dark flight feathers. Bill and feet yellowish. Males of w. Mex. race pale around head, have grayer bill. Immature: Underparts mostly dark, with little contrast between breast and belly; bill grayish. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Immature Northern Gannet lacks clean-cut breast contrast; shows some white patches or mottling above; feet dark (not yellowish). Immature Red-footed Booby (which has dark tail) more buffy overall with dark underwing; has lilac color at base of bill; feet orangey pink. Immature Masked Booby resembles adult Brown Booby, but brown of head not as sharply demarcated from paler underparts. Blue-footed Booby has weaker contrast below, shows whitish patches on upper back and rump.

RED-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula sula*

Vagrant

27–28 in. (69–71 cm). The smallest booby. Adult: Feet bright red, tail white. Two color morphs. **White morph:** Gannetlike; white, with black tip and trailing edge of wing (as in Masked Booby), tail white. **Dark morph:** Brown back and wings, paler head; white tail and belly; in flight, underwing dark, thin dark trailing edge on upperwing. Immature: Tan overall with dark underwing, pink and lilac base of bill, dull pink or orangey pink feet. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Brown Booby. **RANGE:** Nests in tropics. Very rare, mostly young birds, at Dry Tortugas, FL; casual elsewhere in FL and along West Coast.

BOOBIES



**NORTHERN GANNET** *Morus bassanus*

Common M107

37–38 in. (94–97 cm). A goose-sized seabird that scales over ocean and plunges headlong for fish. Migrates in long lines. Much larger than Herring Gull, with pointed tail, longer neck, larger bill (often pointed toward water). **Adult:** White with extensive black primaries. **Immature:** Dusky, but note “pointed-at-both-ends” shape. Young birds in transition may have a piebald look. **VOICE:** Commonly heard at sea in winter. In colony, a low barking *arrah*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Boobies. In windy conditions, gannets in flight may arc up and down, suggesting a large tubenose such as an albatross. **HABITAT:** Ocean, but seen regularly from shore. Breeds colonially on sea cliffs.

**MASKED BOOBY** *Sula dactylatra*

Scarce, local M104

31–32 in. (79–81 cm). **Adult:** White; smaller than Northern Gannet, with *black tail*, black along entire *rear edge* of wing, and black in *face*. Greenish yellow bill. Mostly white underwing. **Immature:** Variably mottled with dark on upperwing and head, but shows white collar. **VOICE:** Usually silent. In nesting colony, a variety of whistles, grunts, bill-rattling. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other boobies, immature Northern Gannet.

TROPICBIRDS Family Phaethontidae

These seabirds resemble (but are unrelated to) large terns with two greatly elongated central tail feathers (adults) and stouter, very slightly decurved bill. White-tailed and Red-billed tropicbirds fly with rapid, shallow wingbeats; all three species dive headfirst and swim with tail held clear of water. Sexes alike. Largely silent at sea. **FOOD:** Squid, fish, crustaceans. **RANGE:** Tropical oceans.

**WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD** *Phaethon lepturus*

Rare M102

15 in. (38 cm), adults to 30 in. (76 cm) with tail-streamers. **Adult:** Distinguished from other tropicbirds by its *diagonal black bar* across each wing. Note two extremely long central tail feathers. Bill yellow to orange-red. **Immature:** Lacks tail-streamers; has *white*, not black, primary coverts, *coarsely barred* with black above; bill yellow. **VOICE:** Harsh ternlike scream. Also *tik-et*, *tik-et*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red-billed Tropicbird.

**RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD** *Phaethon aethereus*

Rare M103

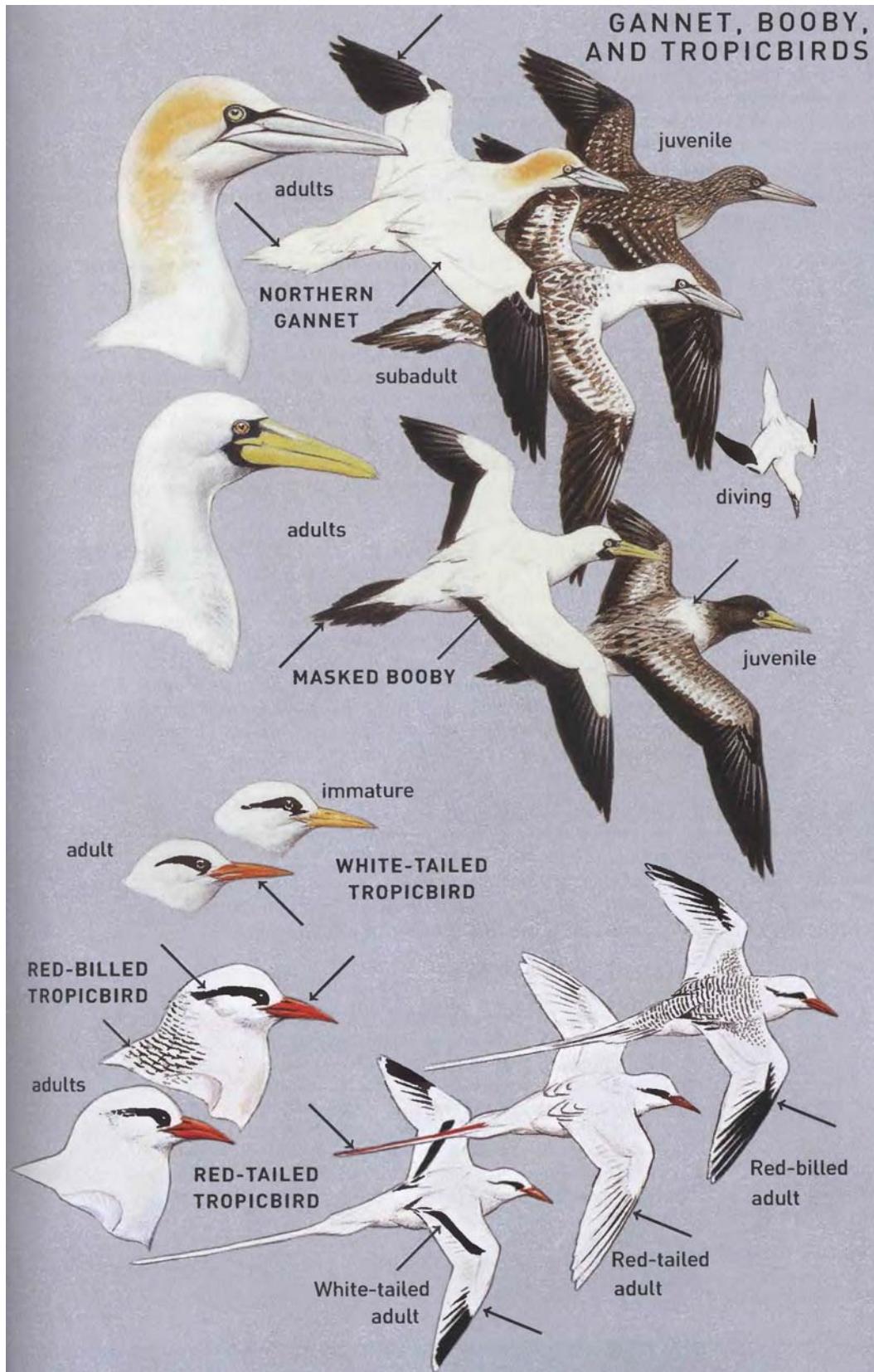
18 in. (45 cm), adults to 37 in. (94 cm) with tail-streamers. **Adult:** A slender white seabird with *two extremely long central tail feathers*, *heavy red bill*, black patch through cheek, black primaries, and *finely barred back*. **Immature:** Lacks long tail, has orange-yellow bill. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** White-tailed Tropicbird. Red-billed slightly larger and larger-billed; has more *finely barred* back than immature White-tailed, bright red to slight orange (not yellow) bill, more black on wing, including on *primary coverts*, black ear patch *extending to nape*.

RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD *Phaethon rubricauda*

Casual

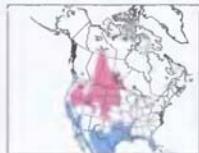
18 in. (46 cm), adults to 37 in. (94 cm) with tail-streamers. Slower wingbeats than other tropicbirds. **Adult:** Whiter above than other two tropicbirds; tail-streamers *red*. **Immature:** Lacks tail-streamers, thinly barred on back, bill dusky. **RANGE:** Nests in tropical and subtropical Pacific. Casual far off CA coast, perhaps rare but regular.

GANNET, BOOBY, AND TROPICBIRDS



PELICANS Family Pelecanidae

Huge waterbirds with long flat bill and great throat pouch (flat when deflated). Neck long, body robust. Sexes alike. Flocks fly in lines or Vs or kettles, alternating several flaps with a glide. In flight, head is hunched back on shoulders, the long bill resting on breast. Pelicans swim buoyantly. **FOOD:** Mainly fish, crustaceans. **RANGE:** N. and S. America, Africa, s. Eurasia, E. Indies, Australia.



AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Common M108
62 in. (157 cm). Huge; wingspan 8–9½ ft. (244–290 cm). White, with black primaries and a great orange-yellow bill. Adults in breeding condition have “centerboard” on ridge of bill; reduced or lacking at other seasons. **Immature:** Dusky wash on head, neck, and wings. This pelican does not plunge from air like Brown Pelican but scoops up fish while swimming, often working in groups. Flocks may fly in lines and broken Vs and circle high in air on thermals. **VOICE:** In colony, a low groan. Young utter whining grunts. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Swans have no black in wings. Wood Stork and Whooping Crane fly with neck extended, long legs behind. Snow Goose much smaller, with small bill; noisy. **HABITAT:** Lakes, marshes, salt bays, beaches.



BROWN PELICAN *Pelecanus occidentalis* Common M109
48–50 in. (122–127 cm); wingspan 6½ ft. (198 cm). A ponderous dark waterbird. **Adult:** Much white and buff on head and front of neck. Dark chestnut brown on back of neck when breeding. **Immature:** Duskier brown overall, with dark head, paler underparts. Size, shape, and flight (a few flaps and a glide) indicate a pelican; dark color and habit of *plunging bill-first* proclaim it as this species. Lines of pelicans glide low over water, almost touching it with wingtips. **VOICE:** Adults silent (rarely a low croak). Nestlings squeal. **HABITAT:** Salt bays, beaches, ocean; more rarely inland lakes. Perches on posts, piers, rocks, buoys, beaches.

FRIGATEBIRDS Family Fregatidae

Dark tropical seabirds with extremely long wings (greater span in relation to body weight than that of any other bird). Bill long, hooked; tail deeply forked. Frigatebirds normally do not swim. **FOOD:** Fish, jellyfish, squid, young seabirds. Food snatched from water in flight, scavenged, or pirated from other seabirds. **RANGE:** Pantropical oceans.



MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata magnificens* Fairly common, local M117
39–40 in. (100–102 cm); wingspan 7½ ft. (230–235 cm). A large, mostly black seabird with extremely long angled wings and *scissorlike* tail (often folded in a *point*). Soars with extreme ease. Bill long, hooked. **Male:** All black, with *red throat pouch* (inflated like a balloon in display). **Female:** White breast, dark head. **Immature:** Head and breast white. Most birds seen in w. U.S. are juveniles. **VOICE:** Voiceless at sea. A gargling whinny during display. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) of HI (not illustrated) is accidental off CA and elsewhere. Adult male retains light brown wing coverts, but very difficult to separate from Magnificent; female has whitish or grayish throat, red eye-ring; juvenile has rust-tinged head. Lesser Frigatebird recorded in WY, CA, MI, and ME. Adult male has white spur on axillars. Juvenile has russet head. **HABITAT:** Tropical oceans. May follow ships.

PELICANS AND
FRIGATEBIRD



CORMORANTS Family Phalacrocoracidae

Large blackish waterbirds that often stand erect on rocks, posts, or dead limbs with neck in an S; may rest with wings spread out to dry. Adults may have colorful facial skin, throat pouch, and eyes. Bill slender, hook-tipped. Sexes alike. Cormorants swim low like loons, but with bill tilted up at an angle. They often fly in lines or Vs, somewhat in manner of geese. Silent except for occasional low grunts at nesting colonies. **FOOD:** Fish, crustaceans. **RANGE:** Nearly worldwide.



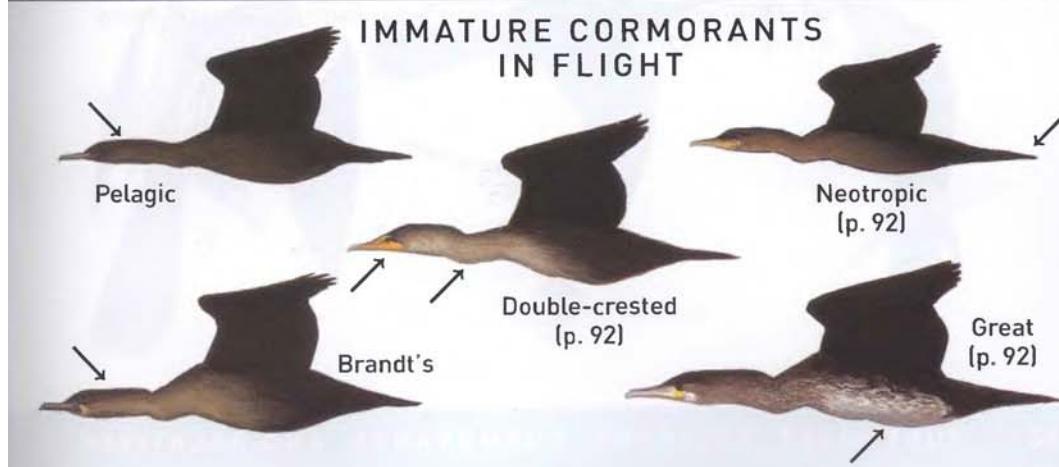
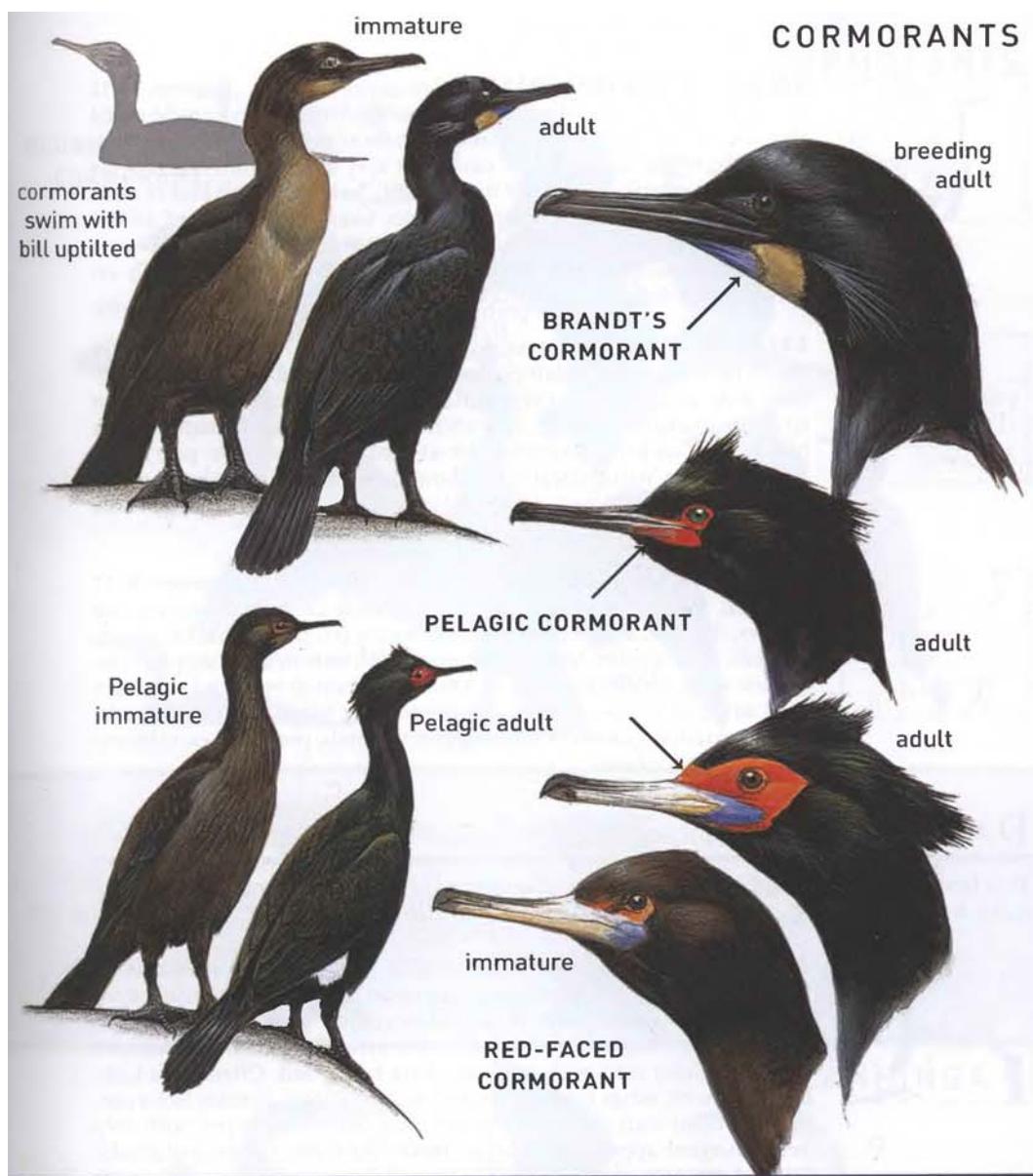
BRANDT'S CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax penicillatus* Common M110
34 in. (86–89 cm). **Adult:** Almost size of Double-crested Cormorant, but has dark chin (blue when breeding) and flies without marked kink in neck. **Buffy throat patch** behind pouch. **Immature:** If a young cormorant along Pacific Coast has whitish breast, it is Double-crested; if it appears more uniformly dark, it is most likely Brandt's (buffy or pale brown breast) or Pelagic (deep brown breast). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other cormorants, loons. **HABITAT:** Ocean, coasts, littoral; nests colonially on sea cliffs.

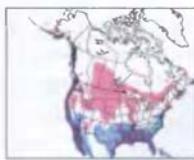


PELAGIC CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax pelagicus* Fairly common M115
26–29 in. (66–73 cm). **Adult:** Noticeably smaller and more iridescent than other Pacific cormorants, with more *slender neck* (with no kinks in flight), longish tail, small head, and *thinner bill*. In breeding condition (late winter through midsummer), has double crest and *white patch* on flanks. Throat pouch and part of face dull red (obvious only at close range). **Immature:** Deep brown all over, darkest on back. Note thin bill. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other cormorants, loons. **HABITAT:** Ocean, coasts, bays, sounds. Despite name, seldom seen far from shore.



RED-FACED CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax urile* Uncommon, local M114
30–31 in. (76–79 cm). **Adult:** Note *bright red* face (extending to forehead and behind eye). Throat pouch *bluish*; bill *mostly pale*. Has white flank patches when breeding. Otherwise similar to Pelagic Cormorant, which is slightly smaller, has dull red pouch, restricted dull red on face, and thinner, all-dark bill. **Immature:** Differs from Pelagic in having thicker, mostly pale bill. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other cormorants, loons. **HABITAT:** Ocean, coasts; nests on sea cliffs.

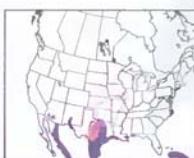




DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax auritus* Common M112
32–33 in. (81–84 cm). Almost any cormorant found inland can be called this species except for a few Great Cormorants and, in s.cen. and sw. states, Neotropic Cormorant. Coastally, it may be told from others by its *orangey throat pouch* and *loral stripe* (adult). In flight, shows *kink* in neck. **Adult:** All black, perches with erect posture. Crest seldom evident. **Immature:** Brownish belly, pale throat and chest. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other cormorants, loons. **HABITAT:** Coasts, bays, lakes, rivers; nests colonially on rocky islands, sea cliffs, or in trees at lakes.



GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* Uncommon M113
36–37 in. (91–94 cm). **Adult:** Slightly larger than Double-crested Cormorant; note heavier bill and *yellow* throat pouch, bordered by *white* throat strap. In breeding plumage, has *white patch* on flanks. **Immature:** Dark breast and *pale belly*. Young Double-crested has the reverse: pale breast and dark belly. Young Great often shows suggestion of pale throat patch. **HABITAT:** Coasts and bays, locally inland on rivers, lakes. Nests on rocky islands and headlands.



NEOTROPIC CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax brasiliensis* Uncommon M111
25–26 in. (64–66 cm). **Adult:** Similar to Double-crested Cormorant, but smaller, slimmer, and *longer tailed*. In breeding plumage, white filoplumes on neck. Note smaller and duller throat pouch and, in breeding plumage, *narrow white border* outlining it, forming a point at rear. Lacks orangey loral stripe of Double-crested. **Immature:** Paler below. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other cormorants. **HABITAT:** Freshwater wetlands, ponds, lakes; tidal waters, lakes near coasts.

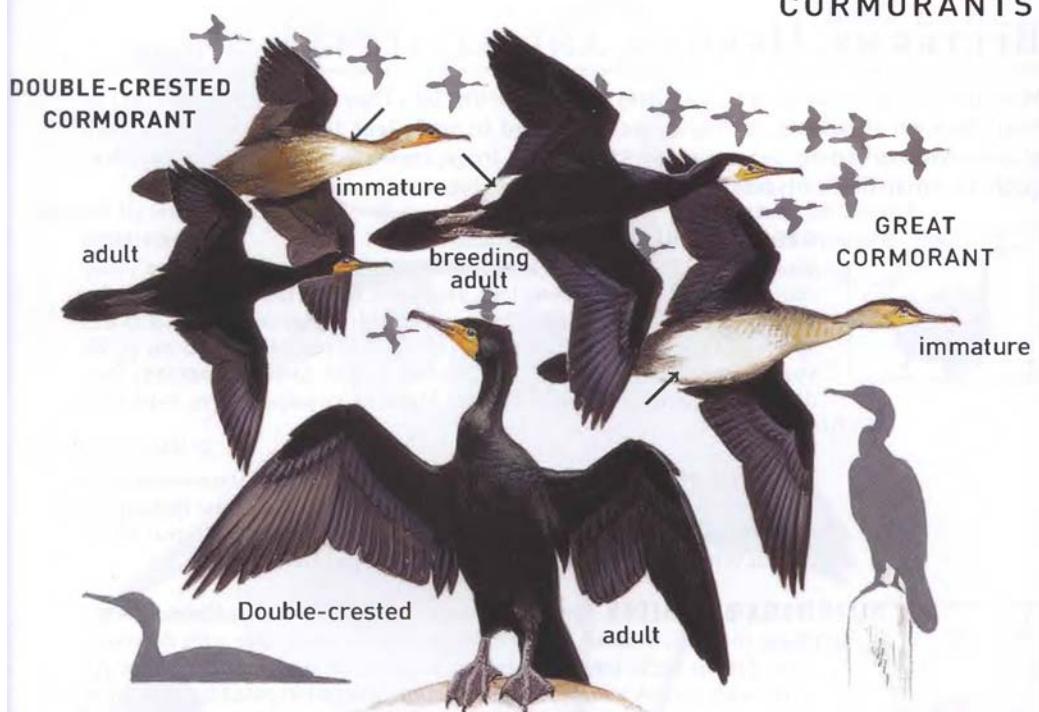
DARTERS Family Anhingidae

This family is represented in N. America by one species. **FOOD:** Fish, small aquatic animals. **RANGE:** N. and S. America, Africa, India, se. Asia, Australia.

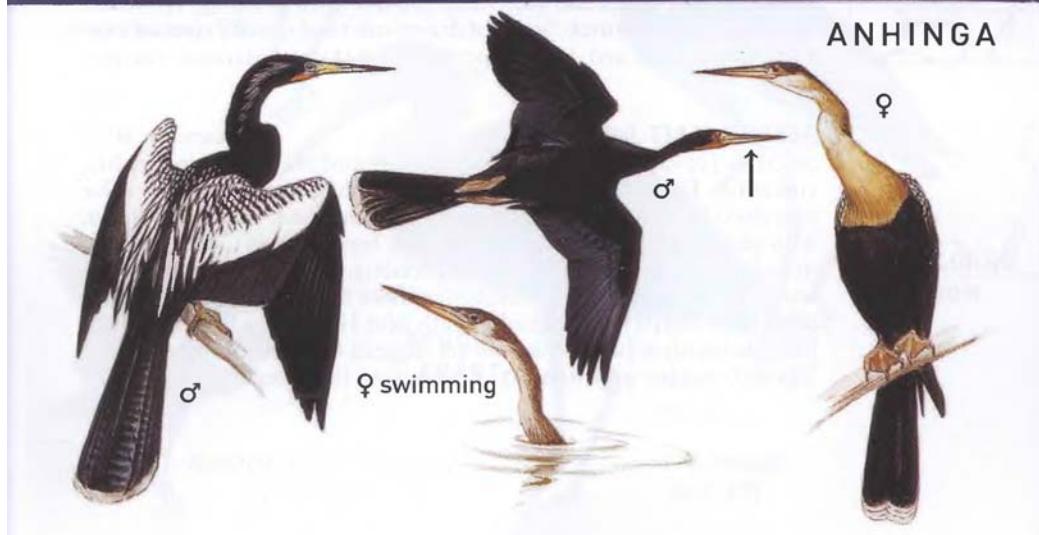


ANHINGA *Anhinga anhinga* Fairly common M116
34–35 in. (86–89 cm). Similar to a cormorant, but neck snakier, bill more pointed, tail much longer. Note large silvery upperwing patch. Male black-bodied; female has buffy neck and breast; immature brownish. In flight, flaps and glides with neck extended, long tail spread. Often soars high, hawklike, with wings held flat (arched in cormorants). Perches like a cormorant, often with wings half-spread. May swim submerged, with only head emergent, appearing snakelike. **VOICE:** Occasional grunts and croaks. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Soaring Double-crested Cormorant, sometimes with tail slightly splayed, regularly misidentified as Anhinga. **HABITAT:** Cypress swamps, rivers, wooded ponds.

CORMORANTS

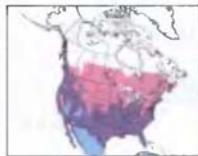


ANHINGA



BITTERNS, HERONS, AND ALLIES Family Ardeidae

Medium to large wading birds with long neck, spearlike bill. They stand with neck erect or head back on shoulders. In flight, neck is folded in an S; legs trail. Many herons have plumes when breeding. Sexes similar. FOOD: Fish, frogs, crawfish, other aquatic life; mice, gophers, small birds, insects. RANGE: Worldwide except colder regions.



GREAT BLUE HERON *Ardea herodias*

Common M120
45–47 in. (115–120 cm). A lean gray bird, often miscalled a “crane”; may stand 4 ft. (122 cm) tall. Long legs, long neck, daggerlike bill, and, in flight, folded neck indicate a heron. Great size and blue-gray color mark it as this species. White subspecies, known as “Great White” Heron, is on p. 96. **VOICE:** Deep harsh croaks: *frahnk, frahnk, frahnk*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Sandhill Crane, Reddish Egret. **HABITAT:** Marshes, swamps, shores, tidal flats, moist fields.

“WÜRDEMANN’S” HERON *Ardea herodius* (in part) **Uncommon, local**
45–47 in. (115–120 cm). Resident in FL Keys. Like Great Blue Heron, but white head lacks black plumes. Presumably an intergrade of Great Blue–“Great White” heron complex. See “Great White” Heron, p. 96.



LITTLE BLUE HERON *Egretta caerulea*

Fairly common M123
24 in. (61 cm). A small, slender heron. **Adult:** Bluish slate with deep maroon-brown neck; legs dark, bill pale blue with dark tip. **Immature:** All white with grayish wingtips. Legs *dull olive*; base of bill pale *blue-gray*; lores dull grayish or gray-green. Birds in transition are boldly pied white and dark. See p. 96. **VOICE:** Loud, nasal *scaaah*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Reddish Egret slightly larger overall and longer billed, with paler eye, medium gray color overall, and pinkish-based bill in breeding condition. Immature Little Blue like Snowy Egret except bill slightly thicker and grayer based, lores duller, and wingtips (usually) dusky. **HABITAT:** Marshes, ponds, mudflats, swamps, rice fields.



TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor*

Uncommon M124
26 in. (66 cm). A very slender, dark heron with contrasting *white belly* and white rump. **Long slender bill.** **Adult:** Mostly bluish above and on neck. White crown plumes and pale rump plumes when breeding. **Immature:** Neck rusty brown. **VOICE:** Series of drawn-out nasal quacks. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Great Blue and Little Blue herons. **HABITAT:** Marshes, swamps, shores.



REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens*

Uncommon M125
30–31 in. (76–79 cm). Note pinkish, black-tipped bill of adult in breeding condition. Loose-feathered; neck shaggy (adult). Pale eye. Two color morphs: (1) neutral gray, with rusty head and neck (immature duller, with all-dark bill); (2) white with blue-gray legs (see p. 96). Adults of both morphs have two-toned bill. When feeding, races about with spread wings. **VOICE:** Infrequently vocal; sometimes a harsh *kraaak!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gray morph resembles adult Little Blue Heron, which is darker with bill pale bluish at base. White morph suggests Great or Snowy egret, but legs and feet blue-gray. **HABITAT:** Salt marshes, tidal flats, beaches.

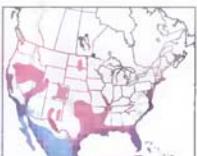
DARK HERONS AND EGRET



**GREAT EGRET** *Ardea alba*

Common M121

38–39 in. (97–100 cm). A tall, stately, slender white heron with largely *yellow* bill. Legs and feet *black*. When breeding, *straight plumes* on back extend beyond tail; bill may have dark ridge; lores greenish. When feeding, assumes an eager, forward-leaning pose, with neck extended. **VOICE:** Low, hoarse croak. Also *cuk, cuk, cuk*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Snowy Egret has all-black bill, yellow feet. Cattle Egret much smaller. **HABITAT:** Marshes, ponds, shores, mudflats, moist fields.

**SNOWY EGRET** *Egretta thula*

Common M122

24 in. (61 cm). Note the “golden slippers.” A medium-sized heron, with *slender black bill*, black legs, and *yellow feet*. *Recurved plumes* on back during breeding season. Lores yellow (briefly red in high breeding condition). When feeding, rushes about, shuffling its feet to stir up food. Nonbreeding and young birds may show yellowish or greenish on much of rear side of legs, lores duller. **VOICE:** Low croak; in colony, a bubbling *wulla-wulla-wulla*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Great Egret larger, has largely yellow bill. Cattle Egret has yellow bill. White immature Little Blue Heron has blue-gray base to thicker bill, grayer lores, less active feeding style. **HABITAT:** Marshes, swamps, ponds, shores, tidal flats.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* (not shown)

Vagrant

25 in. (64 cm). A vagrant from Eurasia to East Coast, very similar to Snowy Egret, but slightly larger, larger billed, and with duller lores and feet. In breeding plumage, has two long head plumes. Young birds of both species very difficult to distinguish. **VOICE AND HABITAT:** Similar to Snowy Egret.

LITTLE BLUE HERON *Egretta caerulea* (adult on p. 94)

Immature: White with dusky wingtips. Also pied pattern with blue-gray plumage. Base of bill blue-gray, lores greenish gray, legs dull olive. May be confused with immature Snowy Egret. Less active feeding style.

**CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus ibis*

Common M126

19–20 in. (48–51 cm). Slightly smaller, stockier, and thicker necked than Snowy Egret. In breeding plumage shows *buff-orange* on crown, breast, and back (but may appear whitish at a distance); little or no buff at other times. Bill relatively short and yellow (orange-pink when nesting). Legs coral pink (nesting); immature may have yellow, greenish, or dusky legs. **VOICE:** Usually silent. Near breeding colony, a series of nasal grunts. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Snowy Egret has black bill. Immature Little Blue Heron has blue-gray bill. Great Egret much larger. **HABITAT:** Farms, marshes, highway edges. Often associates with cattle.

REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens* (dark morph on p. 94)

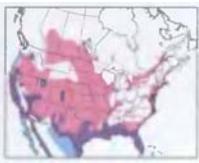
White morph: Note size, structure, feeding behavior, entirely blue-gray legs and feet. Adult has pink bill with black tip.

“GREAT WHITE” HERON *Ardea herodius* (in part)

Uncommon, local

47 in. (120 cm). Our largest white heron, found regularly only in s. FL. All white with yellow bill and dull horn-colored legs, the latter separating it from slightly smaller Great Egret, which has blackish legs. Formerly believed to be (and may be) a distinct species (*A. occidentalis*); currently regarded as a white subspecies of Great Blue Heron, p. 94. **HABITAT:** Mangrove keys, salt bays, marsh banks, open mudflats.



**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON***Nycticorax nycticorax*

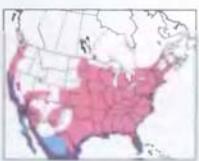
Uncommon M128

25 in. (64 cm). This stocky, thick-billed, short-legged heron is usually hunched and inactive; flies to feed at dusk. **Adult:** Black back and cap contrast with pale gray or whitish underparts. Eyes red; legs yellowish or greenish (pinkish in high breeding condition). Breeding birds have two long white head plumes. **Immature:** Brown, streaked and spotted with buff and white. Bill with greenish base; eyes small, reddish. **VOICE:** Flat *quok!* or *quark!* Most often heard at dusk. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Immature may be confused with American Bittern and immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. **HABITAT:** Marshes, shores; roosts in trees.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON***Nyctanassa violacea*

Uncommon M129

24 in. (61 cm). A chunky heron with longer neck and legs than Black-crowned. **Adult:** Gray overall; head black with buffy-white cheek patch and yellowish crown. **Immature:** Similar to young Black-crowned Night-Heron, but grayer, more finely streaked and spotted; wing coverts have pale edges. Bill thicker and lacks greenish yellow base. In flight, entire foot and some of lower leg extend beyond tail. **VOICE:** *Quark*, higher pitched than call of Black-crowned. **HABITAT:** Swamps, mangroves, bayous, marshes, streams.

**GREEN HERON** *Butorides virescens*

Fairly common M127

17–18 in. (43–46 cm). A small dark heron that looks crowlike in flight (but flies with bowed wingbeats). When alarmed, stretches neck, elevates shaggy crest, and jerks tail. **Adult:** Comparatively short legs are greenish yellow or orange (when breeding). Back with blue-green gloss; neck deep chestnut. **Immature:** Streaked neck and breast, browner above. **VOICE:** Loud *skyow* or *skewk*; series of *kuck* notes. **HABITAT:** Lakes, ponds, marshes, streams.

**LEAST BITTERN** *Ixobrychus exilis*

Uncommon, secretive M119

12–13 in. (31–33 cm). Very small, thin, furtive; straddles reeds. Note large *buff wing patch* (lacking in rails). Back black in adult male, rusty brown in female and immature. The dark "Cory's" form has not been recorded since the 1930s. **VOICE:** Song a low, muted *coo-coo-coo*; also gives a raspy, rail-like *khak-khak-khak* series. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Green Heron. **HABITAT:** Freshwater marshes, reedy ponds.

**AMERICAN BITTERN** *Botaurus lentiginosus*

Uncommon M118

28 in. (71 cm). A stocky brown heron; size of a young night-heron but warmer brown with longer yellowish bill. In flight, *entire trailing edge of wing is black* and bill held horizontal. Wingbeats much more rapid than night-herons'. At rest or when approached, often stands rigid, bill pointing up. **Black stripe shows on neck.** **VOICE:** "Pumping" sound, a low, deep, resonant *oong-ka' choonk*, etc. Flushing call *kok-kok-kok*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Immature night-herons, Green Heron, and (much smaller) Least Bittern. **HABITAT:** Marshes, reedy lakes. Unlike night-herons, seldom sits in trees.

HERONS AND BITTERNS



LIMPKINS Family Aramidae

A monotypic family, represented by one species. **FOOD:** Mostly large freshwater snails (mainly apple snails); a few insects, frogs. **RANGE:** Se. U.S., W. Indies, s. Mex. to Argentina.



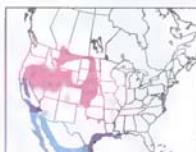
LIMPKIN *Aramus guarauna*

Uncommon, local M177

26 in. (66 cm). A large, spotted swamp wader, a bit larger than an ibis. Long legs and drooping bill give it an ibislike aspect, but no ibis is brown with white spots and streaks. Flight cranelike, with smart upward flaps. **VOICE:** Piercing, repeated wail, *kree-ow*, *kra-ow*, etc., especially at night and on cloudy days. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Immature ibises, night-herons, American Bittern. **HABITAT:** Fresh swamps, marshes with large snails.

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS Family Threskiornithidae

Ibis are long-legged, heronlike waders with slender, decurved bill. Spoonbills have spatulate bill. Both fly in Vs or lines and, unlike herons, fly with neck outstretched. **FOOD:** Small crustaceans, small fish, insects, etc. **RANGE:** Tropical and temperate regions.



WHITE-FACED IBIS *Plegadis chihi*

Fairly common M132

23–24 in. (58–62 cm). A long-legged wader with *long decurved bill*. Flies in lines with neck outstretched, alternately flapping and gliding. *Breeding adult:* Dark, with chestnut and bronzy sheen; suggests a blackish curlew. *White border* around face meets behind eye; variably red legs; pinkish to red lores; *red eye*. *Immature and nonbreeding adult:* Lack most of white on face; body and legs duller; pale streaks on head and neck. **VOICE:** Deep gooselike quacking. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Glossy Ibis has thin cobalt blue borders on face, which do not meet behind dark eye; dark lores; less or no red on legs. Some immatures may be impossible to identify at least until the iris of young white-faced turns red (as early as midwinter). Hybrids with White-faced are known. **HABITAT:** Freshwater marshes, irrigated land.



GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

Fairly common M131

23–24 in. (58–62 cm). A medium-sized marsh wader with long decurved bill, thin pale blue lines edging dark face. At a distance, appears quite black, like a large dark curlew. Flies in lines with neck extended, flapping and gliding with quick wingbeats. *Adult:* Body a deep glossy bronzy chestnut. In nonbreeding season, duller with pale streaks on head and neck. *Immature:* Browner with no gloss. **VOICE:** Guttural *ka-onk*, repeated; low *kruk, kruk*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** White-faced Ibis. **HABITAT:** Marshes, rice fields, swamps.

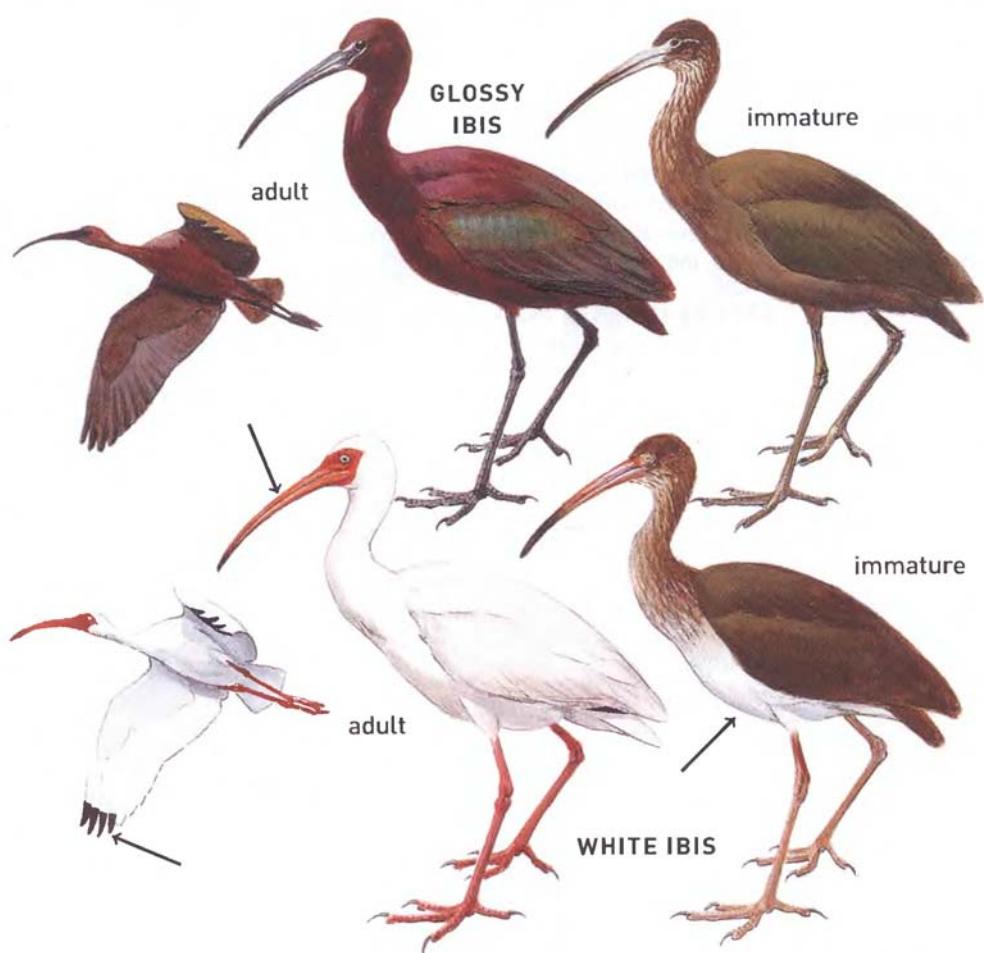
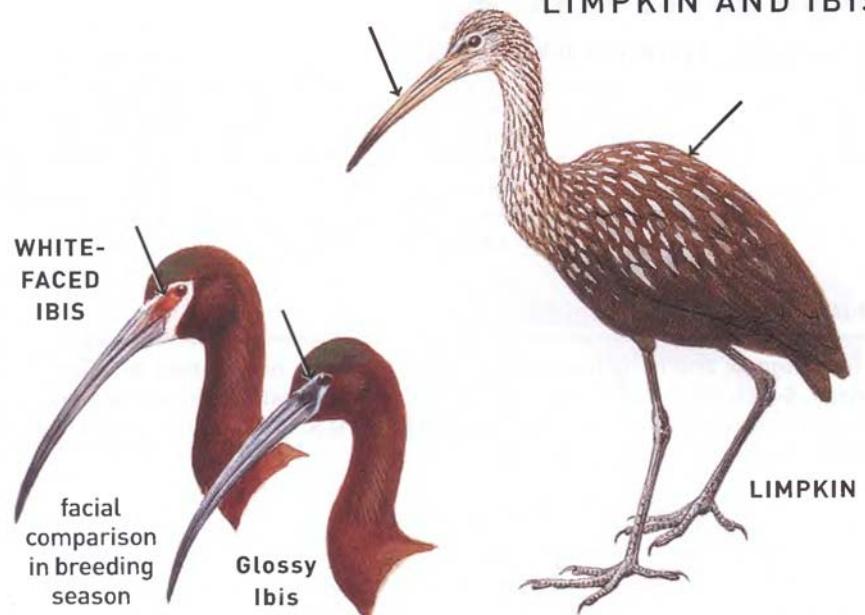


WHITE IBIS *Eudocimus albus*

Common M130

24–25 in. (62–64 cm). *Adult:* White. Note *red face*, *long decurved red bill*, and *restricted black in wingtips*. Flies with neck outstretched; flocks fly in “roller-coasting” strings, flapping and gliding; may soar in circles. *Immature:* Dark brownish, with *white belly*, *white rump*, decurved *orangey pink bill*. **VOICE:** Low and nasal *uuuhrrrr!* or *quaahh!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Wood Stork larger, with much more black in wing. Immature Glossy Ibis differs from immature White Ibis by its uniformly dark appearance. **HABITAT:** Salt, brackish, and fresh marshes, rice fields, mangroves.

LIMPKIN AND IBISES



**ROSEATE SPOONBILL** *Platalea ajaja*

Uncommon M133

32 in. (81 cm). A bright pink wading bird with long, flat, spoonlike bill. When feeding, sweeps its bill from side to side. In flight, extends neck and often glides between series of wing strokes. **Adult:** Shell pink, with blood red "drip" on shoulders; tail orange. Head naked, greenish gray. **Immature:** Spatulate bill; whitish plumage tinged pale pink, brightest on underwing. **VOICE:** At nesting colony, a low grunting croak. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Greater Flamingo. **HABITAT:** Coastal marshes, lagoons, mudflats, mangroves.

STORKS Family Ciconiidae

Large, long-legged, and heronlike, with straight, recurved, or decurved bill. Some have naked head. Sexes alike. Walk is sedate; flight deliberate, with neck and legs extended. **FOOD:** Frogs, crustaceans, lizards, rodents. **RANGE:** S. U.S. to S. America; Africa, Eurasia, E. Indies, Australia.

**WOOD STORK** *Mycteria americana*

Uncommon M134

39–41 in. (100–105 cm). Very large; wingspan 5½ ft. (168 cm). White, with dark naked head and much black in wing; black tail. Bill long, thick, slightly decurved. **Immature:** Bill yellowish. When feeding, keeps head down and walks. In flight, alternately flaps and glides. Often soars very high on thermals. **VOICE:** Hoarse croak; usually silent. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** In flight, American White Pelican, Whooping Crane. **HABITAT:** Marshes, ponds, lagoons.

FLAMINGOS Family Phoenicopteridae

Pinkish white to vermillion wading birds with extremely long neck and legs. Thick bill is bent sharply down and lined with numerous lamellae for straining food. **FOOD:** Small mollusks, crustaceans, blue-green algae, diatoms. **RANGE:** W. Indies, Yucatán, Galápagos, S. America, Africa, s. Eurasia, India.

GREATER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus ruber*

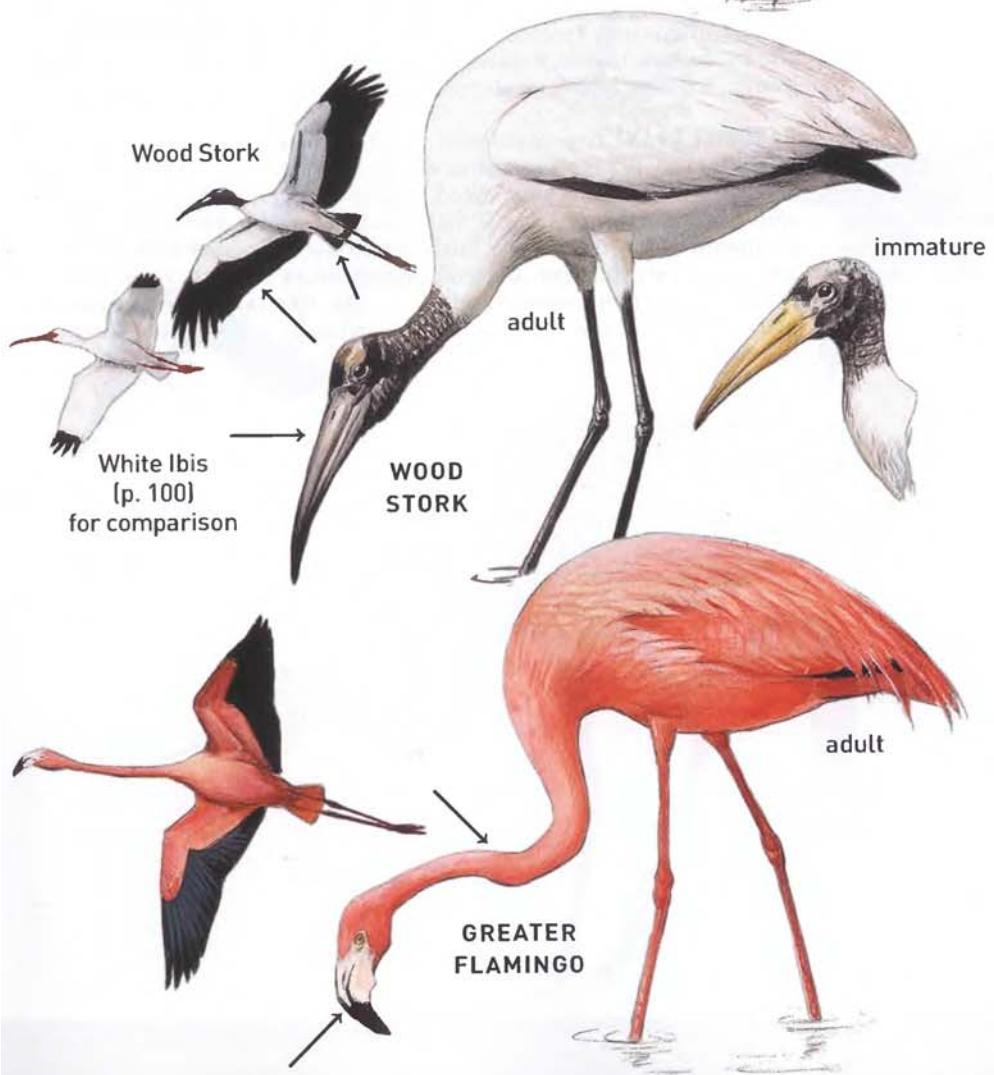
Rare, local

46–47 in. (115–118 cm). W. Indian subspecies of this widespread flamingo is an extremely slim, rose pink wading bird as tall as a Great Blue Heron but much more slender. Note thick, sharply bent bill. Feeds with bill or head immersed. In flight, shows much black in wings; extremely long neck is extended droopily in front, and long legs trail behind, giving impression the bird might as easily fly backward as forward. Pale, washed-out birds may be escapes from zoos, as color often fades under captive conditions. Immatures also much paler than normal adults. **VOICE:** Gooselike calls, gabbling: *ar-honk*, etc. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Roseate Spoonbill. Escapees of all five other flamingo species have been recorded in N. America. **RANGE:** Closest colonies in Bahamas, Cuba, and Yucatán. Rare visitor to Florida Bay; accidental elsewhere. **HABITAT:** Salt flats, saline lagoons.

VERY LARGE WADERS



ROSEATE SPOONBILL



WOOD STORK

GREATER FLAMINGO

CRANES Family Gruidae

Stately birds, more robust than herons, often with red facial skin. Note tufted appearance over rump. In flight, neck extended. Migrate in Vs or lines like geese. Large herons are sometimes wrongly referred to as cranes. **FOOD:** Omnivorous. **RANGE:** Nearly worldwide except Cen. and S. America and Oceania.



WHOOPING CRANE *Grus americana*

Rare, very local M179
51–52 in. (130–132 cm); wingspan 7½ ft. (229 cm). The tallest N. American bird and one of the rarest. Large white crane with *red face*. Primaries black. Young birds washed with rust, especially on head. **VOICE:** Shrill, buglelike trumpeting, *ker-loo! ker-lee-oo!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Wood Stork has dark head, more black in wing. Egrets and swans lack black in wings. See also American White Pelican and Snow Goose. **HABITAT:** Prairies, fields and pastures, coastal marshes; in summer, muskeg. *Endangered* but slowly increasing.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

Vagrant
44–50 in. (112–127 cm). Eurasian. Note black neck, white cheek stripe. Feathers arching over rump are blacker than those of Sandhill Crane. Inasmuch as this stray (probably from Asia) has been recorded in AK, AB, NE, IN, and QC to date, it should be looked for among flocks of Sandhill Cranes. Some escapees have also occurred (e.g., in NY, NJ).

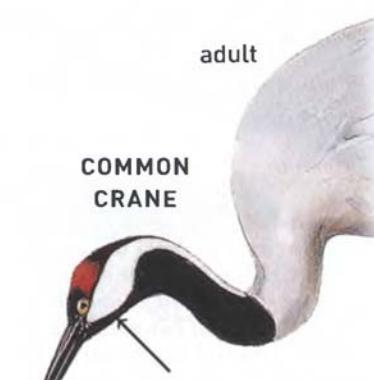
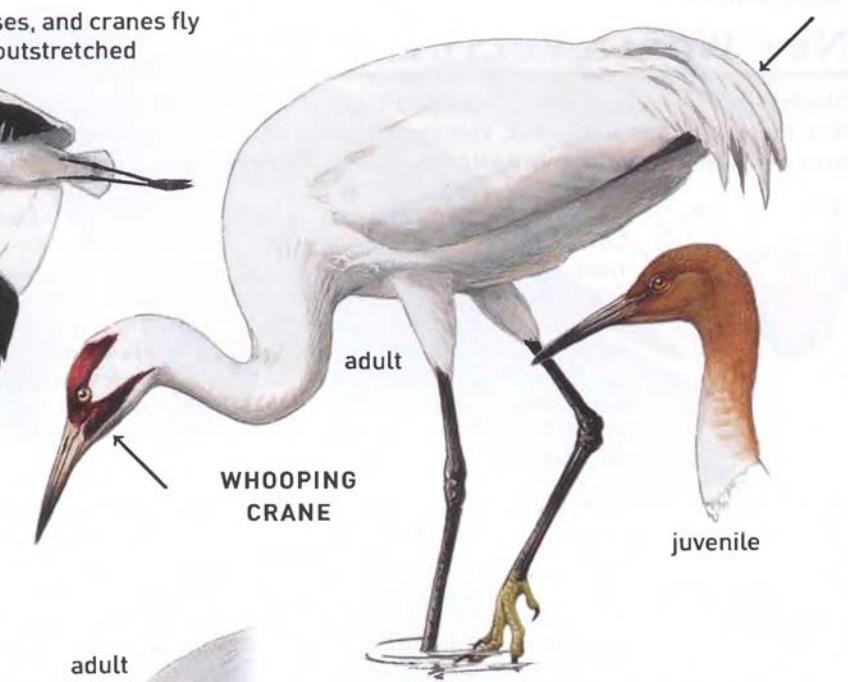


SANDHILL CRANE *Grus canadensis*

Uncommon; scarce in East M178
36–48 in. (90–122 cm); wingspan 6–7 ft. (183–213 cm). Note *bald red crown*, bustlelike rear. A long-legged, long-necked, gray bird, often stained with rust. Immature browner. In flight, neck extended and wings flap with an upward flick. **VOICE:** Rolling, bugled *garoo-a-a-a*, repeated. Young birds also give a very different, cricketlike call. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Great Blue Heron is sometimes wrongly called a crane. **HABITAT:** Prairies, fields, marshes, tundra. Lesser (subspecies) nests in tundra; Greater (subspecies) in grasslands and bogs.

storks, ibises, and cranes fly
with neck outstretched

CRANES



NEW WORLD VULTURES Family Cathartidae

Blackish; often seen soaring high in wide circles. Their naked heads are relatively smaller than those of hawks and eagles. Vultures are often locally called "buzzards." Silent away from nest site. **FOOD:** Carrion. **RANGE:** S. Canada to Cape Horn.



TURKEY VULTURE *Cathartes aura* (see also p. 134) Common M136
26–27 in. (66–69 cm); wingspan 6 ft. (183 cm). Nearly eagle-sized. Overhead, note dark color with *two-toned wings* (flight feathers paler). Soars with wings in dihedral (shallow V); rocks and tilts unsteadily. At close range, small, naked *red head* of adult is evident; immatures have dark head. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black Vulture; Zone-tailed Hawk, which "mimics" Turkey Vulture; and eagles, which have larger, feathered head, shorter tail, and soar in a steady flat plane. **HABITAT:** Usually seen soaring in sky or perched on dead trees, posts, or on ground feeding, or sunning with wings outstretched.



BLACK VULTURE *Coragyps atratus* (see also p. 134) Common M135
25 in. (64 cm); wingspan less than 5 ft. (152 cm). This dark scavenger is readily identified by short, square tail that barely projects beyond rear edge of wings and by *whitish patch* toward wingtip. Legs longer and whiter than Turkey Vulture's. Note *quick flapping*, alternating with short glides. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Turkey Vulture has longer, rounded tail; flapping is slower, less frequent; soars with noticeable dihedral. **Caution:** Young Turkey Vulture has dark head. **HABITAT:** Similar to Turkey Vulture's but avoids higher mountains, prefers swampy areas.



CALIFORNIA CONDOR *Gymnogyps californianus* Rare, local M137
46–47 in. (117–120 cm); wingspan 8½–9½ ft. (259–290 cm). Was heading toward extinction; last wild birds captured in 1987. Captive breeding program successful, and some of these birds released to wild in CA, AZ, and Baja CA. Much larger than Turkey Vulture. **Adult:** Extensive *white underwing linings* toward fore edge of wing. Head yellow-orange. **Immature:** Dusky-headed and lacks white wing linings, but almost twice the size of Turkey Vulture and has much broader proportions and shorter tail. Condor has *flatter wing-plane* when soaring; does not rock or tilt. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Many Golden Eagles show some white under wing, but this color is placed differently; overall shape also different. **HABITAT:** Mountains, grassy foothills, chaparral. Nests on mountain ledges.

VULTURES



BIRDS OF PREY

We tend to call all diurnal (day-flying) raptors with a hooked bill and hooked claws "birds of prey." Actually, they fall into two quite separate families:

1. The hawk group (Accipitridae)—kites, harriers, accipiters, buteos, and eagles
2. The falcon group (Falconidae)—falcons and caracaras

The illustrations on the following pages present the most obvious field marks. For a more in-depth treatment of variable plumages, see the various specialty guides that deal with raptors.

The many raptors can be sorted out by their basic shapes and flight styles. When not flapping, they may alternate between soaring, with wings fully extended and tail fanned, and gliding, with wings slightly pulled back and tail folded. These two pages show some basic silhouettes.



BUTEOS are stocky, with broad wings and a wide, rounded tail. They soar and wheel high in the open sky.

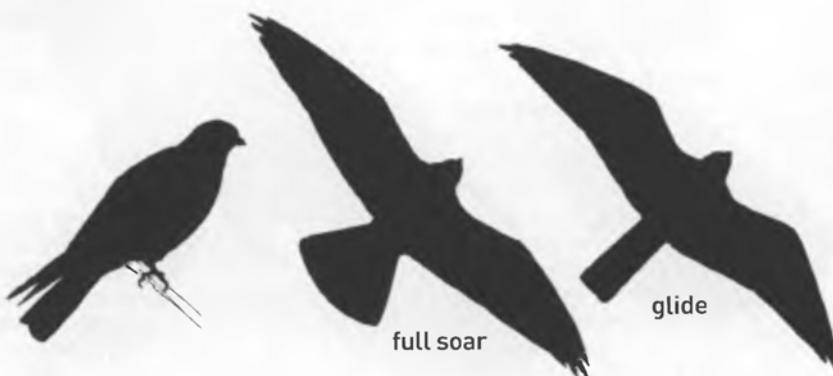


ACCIPITERS have a small head, short rounded wings, and a longish tail. They typically fly with several rapid beats and a short glide.

BIRDS OF PREY



HARRIERS are slim, with long, slim, round-tipped wings and a long tail. They fly in open country and glide low, with a vulturelike dihedral.



KITES (except for Snail Kite and Hook-billed Kite) are falcon-shaped, but unlike falcons, they are buoyant gliders, not power fliers.



FALCONS have long pointed wings and a long tail. Their wing strokes are strong and rapid.

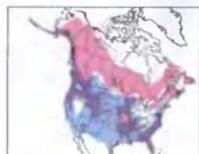
HAWKS, KITES, EAGLES, AND ALLIES

Family Accipitridae

Diurnal birds of prey, with hooked bill, hooked talons. Though persecuted and misunderstood by many, they are very important in the ecosystem. **RANGE:** Almost worldwide.

EAGLES

Distinguished from buteos, to which they are related, by their greater size and proportionately longer wings. Powerful bill is nearly as long as head. **FOOD:** Golden Eagle eats chiefly rabbits, large rodents, snakes, game birds; Bald Eagle, fish, injured waterfowl, carrion.

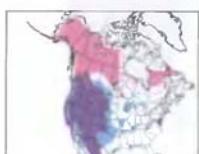


BALD EAGLE

Haliaeetus leucocephalus (see also p. 134)

31–37 in. (79–94 cm); wingspan 7–8 ft. (213–244 cm). National bird of U.S. **Adult:** With its white head and white tail, this bird is “all field mark.” Bill yellow, massive. Wings held flat when soaring. **Immature:** Variable, depending on age; first year mostly dark overall with whitish in wing linings. Two- and three-year-old birds very mottled with white on belly, flight feathers, tail, and back; some may show pale head with darkish patch through eye, reminiscent of Osprey. **VOICE:** Harsh, high-pitched cackle, *kleek-kik-ik-ik-ik*, or lower *kak-kak-kak*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Golden Eagle, Turkey Vulture. **HABITAT:** Coasts, rivers, large lakes; in migration and winter, also mountains, open country.

Uncommon, locally common M144



GOLDEN EAGLE

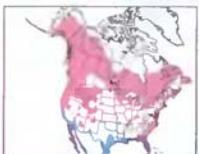
Aquila chrysaetos (see also p. 134)

30–40 in. (76–102 cm); wingspan 7 ft. (213 cm). This majestic eagle glides and soars flat-winged with occasional shallow wingbeats. **Adult:** Uniformly dark below, or with slight lightening at base of obscurely banded tail. On hindneck, a wash of buffy gold. **Immature:** In flight, shows white flash in wings at base of primaries, and white tail with broad dark terminal band. **VOICE:** Seldom heard, a yelping bark, *kya*; also whistled notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Immature Bald Eagle has larger head, usually has extensive blotchy white in wing linings and often on body. Tail may be mottled with white at base but is not cleanly banded. Dark morphs of Rough-legged and Ferruginous hawks are smaller, have whitish flight feathers. **HABITAT:** Open mountains, foothills, plains, deserts, open country.

Uncommon to scarce M161

OSPREYS

Formerly considered a monotypic family comprising a single large bird of prey that hovers above water and plunges feet-first for fish. Sexes alike. **FOOD:** Fish. **RANGE:** All continents except Antarctica.



OSPREY

Pandion haliaetus (see also p. 134)

Locally common M138

23–24½ in. (58–62 cm); wingspan to 6 ft. (183 cm). Large. Our only raptor that hovers over water and plunges into it feet-first for fish. (Bald Eagle may pick up fish from surface.) **Adult:** Blackish above, white below; head largely white, suggesting Bald Eagle, but with broad black mask through eyes. Flies with gull-like kink or crook in wings, showing black “wrist” patch below. **Juvenile:** Has scaly pattern on back. **VOICE:** Series of sharp, annoyed whistles: *cheep, cheep* or *yewk, yewk*, etc. Near nest, a frenzied *cheereek!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Large gulls. Immature Bald Eagle may show dusky “mask.” Rough-legged Hawk also has dark wrist mark and hovers over marshes, but it lacks wing crook and bold mask, and usually shows dark belly patch. **HABITAT:** Rivers, lakes, marshes, coasts.



KITES

Graceful birds of prey of southern distribution. U.S. species (except Snail Kite and Hook-billed Kite) are falcon-shaped with pointed wings. **FOOD:** Large insects, reptiles, rodents. Snail Kite and Hook-billed Kite specialize in snails.



SWALLOW-TAILED KITE *Elanoides forficatus* Uncommon M140
22–23 in. (55–58 cm). A sleek, elegant, black-and-white hawk that flies with incomparable grace. Note blue-black upperparts, clean white head and underparts, and long, mobile, deeply forked tail. **VOICE:** Shrill, keen *ee-ee-ee* or *pee-pee-pee*. **HABITAT:** Wooded river swamps and pine lands, where it feeds mainly on snakes.



MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (see also p. 128) Fairly common M143
14–14½ in. (36–37 cm). Falcon-shaped, graceful, and gray. Gregarious; spends much time soaring. **Adult:** Dark above, lighter below; head pale gray; tail and underwing blackish. No other falconlike bird has *black unbarred tail*. Broad *white patch* shows on rear edge of upperwing (not visible from below on birds soaring overhead). **Immature:** Lacks pale patch on wing, has weak white bands on tail. **Juvenile:** Heavily streaked on rusty underparts. **VOICE:** Usually silent; near nest, a two-syllable *phee-phew*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Male Northern Harrier. **HABITAT:** Nests in riparian woodlands, residential areas, groves, shelterbelts.



WHITE-TAILED KITE *Elanus leucurus* (see also p. 128) Uncommon M141
15½–16 in. (39–41 cm). This whitish kite is falcon-shaped, with long pointed wings and *long white tail* that is slightly notched, not forked. Soars and glides like a small gull; often hovers. **Adult:** Pale gray above, with white head, underparts, and tail. Large black patch on fore edge of upperwing is obvious on perched birds. Overhead, shows oval black patch at carpal joint ("wrist") of underwing. **Juvenile:** Like adult, but has *rusty breast*, brown back, and narrow dark band near tip of pale grayish tail. **VOICE:** Whistled *kew kew kew*, abrupt or drawn out. **HABITAT:** Open groves, river valleys, marshes, grasslands, roadsides. May form communal roosts at night in nonbreeding season.



SNAIL KITE *Rostrhamus sociabilis* Scarce, local M142
17 in. (43 cm). Suggests Northern Harrier at a distance, but with broader wings and without gliding, tilting flight; flies more floppily on cupped wings, head down, searching for snails. **Male:** All black except for broad white band across base of tail; legs, bill, and face red. **Female:** Heavily streaked on buffy body; white stripe over eye; white band across black tail. **VOICE:** Cackling *kor-ee-ee-a*, *kor-ee-ee-a*. **HABITAT:** Freshwater marshes and canals with apple snails (*Pomacea* spp.).



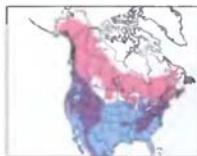
HOOK-BILLED KITE *Chondrohierax uncinatus* Rare, local M139
16½–17½ in. (42–45 cm). A scarce resident in s. TX. Bill has long, hooked tip. Legs yellow. Plumage varies from blackish or grayish in males to rufous brown in females to much paler below in juveniles. Adults have horizontally barred underparts. Note *paddle-shaped wings*. **HABITAT:** Subtropical woodlands. Spends most of its time in the woods, soaring only briefly as it travels to and from feeding areas.

KITES



ACCIPITERS (BIRD HAWKS)

Long-tailed woodland raptors with short, rounded wings, adapted for hunting among trees. Typical flight mixes quick beats and a glide. Sexes similar; females larger. Size helps distinguish species but not always reliable in the field. **FOOD:** Chiefly birds, some small mammals. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's often seen hunting birds at backyard feeders.

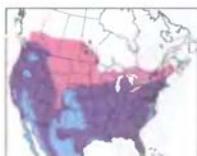


SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

Accipiter striatus (see also p. 126)

Fairly common M146

10–14 in. (25–36 cm). A small, slim woodland hawk, with slim *square-tipped tail* and *short, rounded wings*. **Adult:** Dark back, *rusty-barred* breast. Orange eye. **Immature:** Dark brown above, *thickly streaked* with rusty brown on underparts. Yellow eye. **VOICE:** Like Cooper's Hawk, but shriller; a high *kik, kik, kik* given near nest. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Cooper's obviously larger, with *larger head, rounded tail*, with thicker white tip, thicker legs; male Cooper's and female Sharp-shinned closer in size. Adult Cooper's has more defined cap. Immature Cooper's *tawnier* on head and has whiter, more *finely streaked* breast. **HABITAT:** Breeds in extensive forests; in migration and winter, open woodlands, wood edges, residential areas.



COOPER'S HAWK

Accipiter cooperii (see also p. 126)

Fairly common M147

14–20 in. (36–51 cm). Very similar to Sharp-shinned Hawk but larger, particularly female. See Sharp-shinned Hawk. **VOICE:** About nest, a rapid *kek, kek, kek*; suggests a flicker. Also a sapsucker-like mewing. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk. **HABITAT:** Like Sharp-shinned but prefers more open areas.



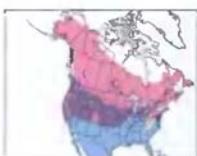
NORTHERN GOSHAWSK

Accipiter gentilis (see also p. 126) Scarce M148

21–26 in. (53–66 cm). Larger, broader-winged, broader-tailed, more *buteo-like* than Cooper's Hawk. **Adult:** Crown and cheek blackish; *broad white stripe over eye*. Underparts *pale gray, finely barred*; back paler than in Cooper's or Sharp-shinned hawk. **Immature:** Buffier overall than immature Cooper's with bolder eyebrow, more extensive streaking below, and wavy, irregular tail banding. **VOICE:** *Kak, kak, kak* or *kuk, kuk, kuk*, heavier than Cooper's, given near nest. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cooper's Hawk. A soaring goshawk may be initially misidentified as a buteo. **HABITAT:** Coniferous and mixed forests, especially in mountains; forest edges; winters also in wooded lowlands. Periodic irruptions in fall and winter farther to south.

HARRIERS

Slim raptors with slim wings, long tail. Flight low, languid, gliding, with wings held in shallow V (dihedral). Sexes not alike. They hunt in open country.



NORTHERN HARRIER

Circus cyaneus (see also p. 128)

Fairly common M145

18–21 in. (46–54 cm). A slim, long-winged, long-tailed raptor of open country. Glides and flies buoyantly and unsteadily low over ground, with wings held slightly above horizontal, suggesting Turkey Vulture's dihedral. In all plumages shows *white rump patch*. **Adult male:** Pale gray, whitish beneath. Overhead, wingtips have "dipped-in-ink" look. **Adult female:** Brown, with heavy streaks below. **Immature:** Russet below without streaks. **VOICE:** Weak, nasal whistle, *pee, pee, pee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Short-eared Owl. **HABITAT:** Marshes, fields, prairies.

ACCIPIITERS AND HARRIER



BUTEOES AND BUTEO-LIKE HAWKS

Large, thickset hawks, with broad wings and wide, rounded tail. Many buteos habitually soar high in wide circles. Much variation; sexes similar, females slightly larger. Young birds usually streaked below. Dark morphs often occur. **FOOD:** Small mammals, sometimes small birds, reptiles, grasshoppers. **RANGE:** Widespread in New and Old Worlds.



GRAY HAWK *Buteo nitidus* (see also p. 128) Scarce, local M153
17 in. (43 cm); wingspan 3 ft. (91 cm). A small buteo. **Adult:** Distinguished by its buteo-like proportions, gray back, *thickly barred* gray breast, white rump band, and *banded* tail (similar to Broad-winged Hawk's). **Immature:** Narrowly barred tail, striped buffy breast, bold face pattern, *white U-shaped bar* across rump. **VOICE:** Drawn-out whistles, *ka-lee-oh* or *kleeeeoo*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Young Broad-winged Hawk has weaker face pattern, lacks white U on rump, has shorter tail, more pointed wings. **HABITAT:** Streamside and subtropical woodlands.



WHITE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albicaudatus* (see also p. 128) Fairly common, local M156
21–23 in. (53–58 cm); wingspan 4 ft. (122 cm). Large, with long pointed wings. Flies with marked dihedral. **Adult:** White underparts contrasting with dark flight feathers; white tail with black band, shoulders rusty red. **Immature:** Narrower wings and longer tail than adult. Blackish below with white breast patch. Pale U across upper tail. May show Red-tailed Hawk-like dark belly patch. Tail pale gray with weak barring. **VOICE:** Nasal note followed by high-pitched series of doubled notes: *aaraahh kee-REAK, kee-REAK kee-REAK*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Adult Swainson's Hawk smaller, has dark chest. Juvenile White-tailed may be confused with other large buteos, particularly Red-tailed Hawk. **HABITAT:** Coastal prairies, brushlands.



HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* (see also p. 132) Fairly common M150
20–21 in. (50–53 cm); wingspan 3½ ft. (107 cm). A blackish brown hawk of Buteo type, with flashing *white rump* and *white band* at tip of tail. Often hunts cooperatively in small groups. **Adult:** Chestnut areas on thighs and shoulders. **Immature:** Light, streaked underparts, *rusty shoulders*; conspicuous *white* at base of tail. **VOICE:** Low-pitched, harsh *raaaaah!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Dark forms of Ferruginous and Red-tailed hawks lack bold rusty shoulders and white tail base. **HABITAT:** Mesquite, cactus deserts.

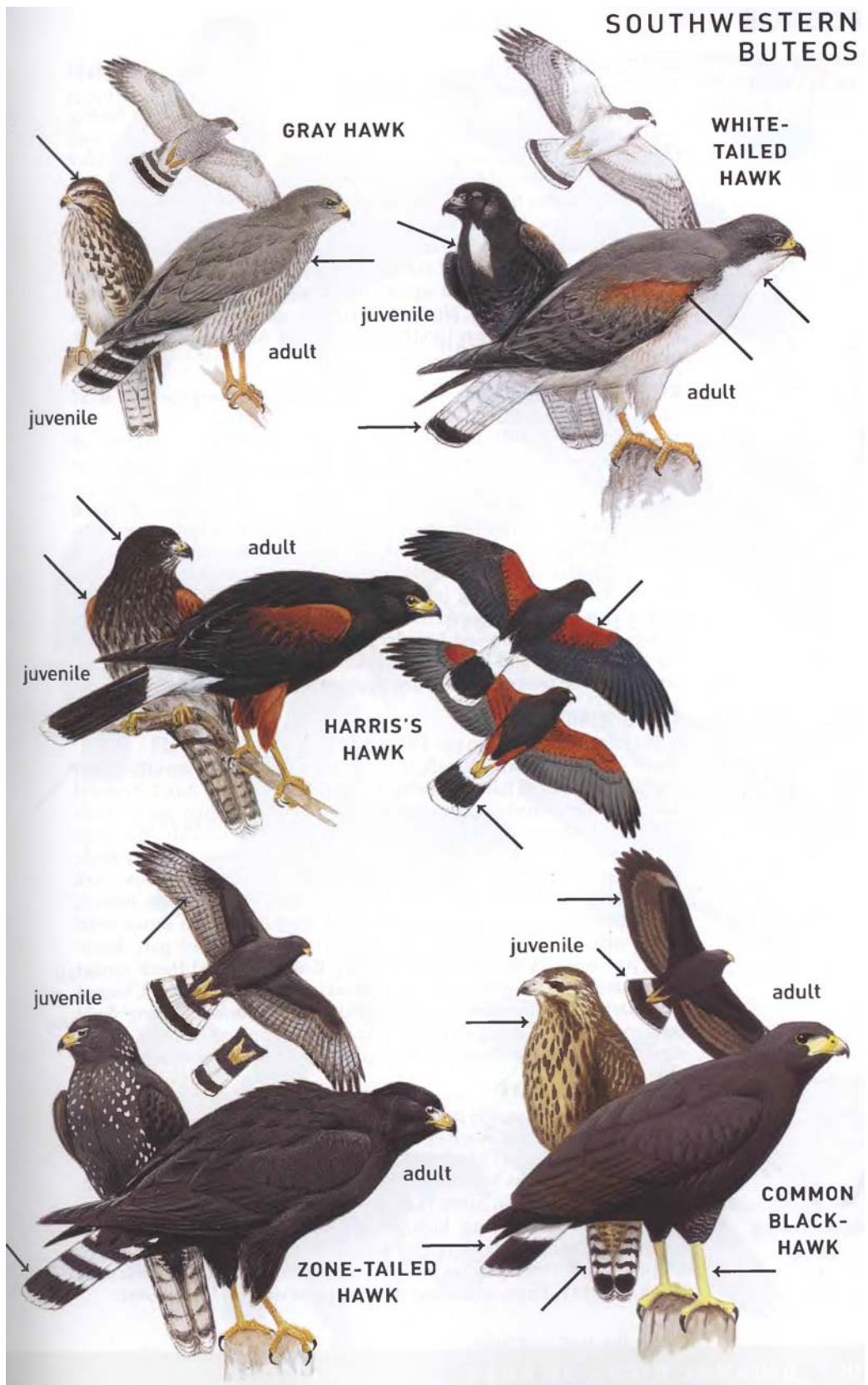


ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus* (see also p. 132) Uncommon M157
20 in. (51 cm); wingspan 4 ft. (122 cm). Dull *black*, with more *slender* wings than most other buteos. Often mistaken for Turkey Vulture because of proportions, two-toned underwing, and up-tilted wings—but hawk has larger feathered head, square-tipped tail, barred underwing, yellow cere and legs. **Adult:** *White tail bands* (pale gray on topside). **Immature:** Narrower tail bands, *small white spots* on breast. **VOICE:** Nasal, drawn-out *keeeeeah*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Turkey Vulture, Common Black-Hawk, other dark-morph buteos. **HABITAT:** Riparian woodlands, mountains, canyons.



COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus* (see also p. 132) Scarce, local M149
21 in. (53 cm); wingspan 4 ft. (122 cm). A buteo-type hawk with chunky shape, exceptionally wide wings, and *long* yellow legs. **Adult:** All black with broad white *band* crossing middle of short tail. In flight, whitish spot shows at base of primaries. **Immature:** Dark-backed with heavily striped *buffy* head and underparts; tail white with five or six wavy dark bands. **VOICE:** Series of loud whistles. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Zone-tailed Hawk. **HABITAT:** Wooded river and stream bottoms.

SOUTHWESTERN BUTEOS





ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

Buteo lagopus (see also pp. 130 and 132)

21–22 in. (53–55 cm). This hawk of open country often hovers on beating wings, more so than other buteos. Somewhat longer, narrower wings and tail than other Buteos except Ferruginous Hawk. Many birds show solid or blotched dark belly and black patch at “wrist” (carpal joint) of underwing. Some adult males have dark bib but lack blackish belly band. Tail white, with broad black band or bands toward tip. White flash on upperwing. Legs feathered, feet small. Dark morph may lack extensive white on tail, but broad terminal band and extensive white on underwing are good field marks. **VOICE:** High-pitched squeal, mostly near nest site. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, dark-morph Ferruginous Hawk. **HABITAT:** Nests on tundra escarpments, Arctic coasts; in winter, open fields, plains, marshes.

Uncommon M160



RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

Buteo lineatus (see also p. 130)

16–20 in. (40–50 cm). In flight, note translucent patch, or “window,” at base of primaries, longish tail. **Adult:** Heavy black-and-white bands on wings and tail, dark rufous shoulders (not always easy to see) and wing linings, rufous red underparts. **Immature:** Variably streaked and/or barred below; recognized by proportions, tail bands, and, in flight, wing “windows.” Western Red-shouldereds darker with quicker wingbeats; do not commonly soar like eastern birds. Florida birds paler. **VOICE:** Two-syllable scream, *kee-yer* (dropping inflection), repeated in series. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other reddish-breasted hawks: Broad-winged Hawk has paler wing linings, more pointed wing, broader bands on tail, lacks wing “windows.” See also Cooper’s and Red-tailed hawks. **HABITAT:** Woodlands in valleys, canyons, along rivers. Also wooded swamps and residential areas.

Uncommon to fairly common M151



BROAD-WINGED HAWK

Buteo platypterus (see also pp. 130 and 132)

15–16 in. (38–41 cm). A small, chunky buteo, size of a crow. Often seen migrating in East in fall in spiraling flocks called “kettles.” **Adult:** Note tail banding: high overhead shows one obvious thick white band (Red-shouldered shows multiple bands). Wing linings whitish, the edge trimmed with black. **Immature:** Heavily streaked along sides of neck, breast, and belly; chest often unmarked. Tail has several narrow dark bands; terminal dark band twice as wide as the rest. Rare dark morph, which breeds in Prairie Provinces, has dark wing linings but shows usual Broad-winged tail pattern. **VOICE:** High-pitched, shrill, two-part downward *pwe-eeeee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Young Red-shouldered Hawk similar to immature Broad-winged but has streaking heaviest on breast, barred secondaries, blunter wingtips with bold pale “window.” Missing flight feathers on worn Broad-wingeds in spring may appear like Red-shouldered’s pale wing crescents. See also accipiters. **HABITAT:** Woods, groves.

Common M152



SHORT-TAILED HAWK

Buteo brachyurus (see also p. 132)

15–16 in. (38–41 cm). A small black or black-and-white buteo, size of a crow. Two morphs: (1) blackish brown body and black wing linings; (2) blackish above, white below, dark cheeks, two-toned underwing pattern, white wing linings. No other FL buteo would be blackish or clear white below. **VOICE:** Descending, high-pitched scream: *kleear!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Broad-winged Hawk in flight shows slimmer wings, whiter flight feathers below. Often perches in open, unlike Short-tailed. See Swainson’s Hawk. **HABITAT:** Pines, woodland edges, cypress swamps, mangroves.

Uncommon, local M154

BUTEOS

additional overhead flight patterns on pp. 131 and 133





RED-TAILED HAWK

Common M158

Buteo jamaicensis (see also pp. 130 and 132)

19–22 in. (48–56 cm). The common conspicuous hawk of roadsides and woodland edges. When soaring, adults show *rufous* on topside of tail, pale pinkish below. Also note mottled *white patches* on scapulars. Overhead, a dependable mark on all but blackish birds is *dark patagial bar* on fore edge of wing. Immatures have brownish tail with narrow, dark banding. Underparts of typical eastern Red-tails are “zoned” (light breast, dark *belly band*). Some birds of sw. TX (“Fuertes’s” Red-tailed) lack belly band. On Great Plains, pale “Krider’s” morph is found. There is much variation farther west, where Red-tails tend to be darker. One might encounter the blackish “Harlan’s” as well as rufous and dark brown birds. The latter usually have telltale rust on tail. **VOICE:** Asthmatic squeal, *keer-r-r* (slurring downward). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Rough-legged, Ferruginous, Swainson’s, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged hawks. **HABITAT:** Open country, woodlands, prairie groves, mountains, plains, roadsides.

“HARLAN’S” RED-TAILED HAWK

Uncommon

Buteo jamaicensis harlari (see also p. 132)

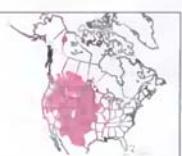
A variable, usually blackish race of Red-tailed. Similar to other dark-morph Red-tails, but tail usually dirty white, with *longitudinal* mottling and freckling of gray, black, sometimes red, merging into dark subterminal band. Rare light morph has similar tail pattern, but body very pale and mottled, more like “Krider’s” Red-tailed Hawk. **RANGE:** Breeds from cen. AK to nw. Canada. Winters primarily from Pacific Northwest diagonally to TX and lower Mississippi Valley.

“KRIDER’S” RED-TAILED HAWK

Uncommon

Buteo jamaicensis

A pale prairie morph of Red-tailed, with whitish tail that may be tinged with pale rufous. **RANGE:** Prairies and plains of Canada and n.cen. U.S. Winters south through plains to TX, LA.



SWAINSON'S HAWK

Common M155

Buteo swainsoni (see also pp. 130 and 132)

19–21 in. (48–53 cm). A buteo of the plains. Slimmer than Red-tailed Hawk, with narrower, more pointed wings. When gliding, holds wings slightly above horizontal. When perched, *wingtips extend to tail tip*. In light and intermediate morphs, overhead, *pale wing linings contrast with dark flight feathers*. **Adult:** Typical adults have dark breastband; tail gray-brown above, often pale toward base; dark and rufous morph birds best identified by shape and shaded flight feathers. **Immature:** Variably streaked below, white band across rump; best identified by shape and wing pattern. Many subadults are distinctly pale-headed. **VOICE:** Shrill, plaintive whistle, *kreeeeeeer*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Swainson’s wing shape distinctive for a buteo. Lacks white scapular patches of bulkier Red-tailed. In TX, see White-tailed Hawk. **HABITAT:** Plains, grasslands, agricultural land, open hills, sparse trees.



FERRUGINOUS HAWK

Uncommon M159

Buteo regalis (see also pp. 128 and 132)

23–24 in. (58–61 cm). A large buteo of plains. Note large bill, long gape line, *long tapered wings* with *pale panel* on upper surface of primaries, *mostly white tail*. **Adult:** Rufous above, mostly whitish head and breast, rufous wash on tail, rufous thighs form *dark V* on birds overhead. Dark morphs are rufous brown with whitish flight feathers and whitish tail. **Immature:** Lack rufous tones; best identified by shape as well as wing and tail patterns. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red-tailed Hawk and dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk. **HABITAT:** Plains, grasslands, agricultural fields.

BUTEOS



CARACARAS AND FALCONS Family Falconidae

Caracaras are large, long-legged birds of prey, some with naked face. Sexes alike. **FOOD:** Our one U.S. species feeds mostly on carrion. **RANGE:** S. U.S. to Tierra del Fuego, Falklands. Falcons are streamlined birds of prey with pointed wings, longish tail. **FOOD:** Birds, rodents, reptiles, insects. **RANGE:** Almost worldwide.



CRESTED CARACARA

Caracara cheriway (see also p. 132)

23 in. (58 cm). A large, long-legged, big-headed, long-necked bird of prey, often seen feeding with vultures. **Adult:** Black crest and red face distinctive. In flight, underbody presents alternating areas of light and dark: white chest, black belly, and whitish, dark-tipped tail. Note combination of pale wing patches, pale chest, and pale tail panel, giving impression of "white at all four corners." **Immature:** Browner, streaked on breast. **VOICE:** Weird, guttural series of croaks and rattles. **HABITAT:** Prairies, rangeland, deserts.

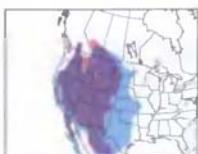
Uncommon, local M162



GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus*

Scarce M165

20–25 in. (51–64 cm). A very large Arctic falcon, larger and more robust and buteo-like than Peregrine Falcon; slightly broader tailed. On perched birds, wingtips do not reach near tail tip. Wingbeats deceptively slower. Thinner mustache. There are brown, gray, and white color morphs. Darker immature birds are more prone to wander south. **VOICE:** Harsh kak-kak-kak series. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Peregrine Falcon smaller, slimmer, with dark hood and broad black mustache, more uniform underwing, and more tapered tail. Prairie Falcon slimmer, pale brown. See also Northern Goshawk. **HABITAT:** Arctic barrens, seacoasts, open mountains; in winter, open country, coastlines.



PRairie FALCON *Falco mexicanus*

Uncommon M167

16–19 in. (41–50 cm). Like a sandy-colored Peregrine Falcon, with white eyebrow stripe and narrower mustache. In flight overhead, shows blackish patches in axillars ("wingpits") and inner coverts. **VOICE:** Generally silent. Harsh kak-kak-kak around nest. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Peregrine has slaty or dark brown back, more black on face, different underwing pattern. Female Prairie Merlin (*richardsoni*) same color above but much smaller, lacks dark underwing patch. **HABITAT:** Open country, from alpine tundra to grasslands, prairies, agricultural land, deserts, marshes.



PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

Uncommon M166

16–20 in. (41–51 cm). Formerly endangered; reintroduced in many regions. Size of a crow, but longer looking. Note wide black mustache. Known as a falcon by pointed wings, narrow tail, and quick, powerful wingbeats. Size and strong face pattern indicate this species. **Adult:** Slaty-backed, light-chested, barred and spotted below. Northwestern population, "Peale's" (*pealei*), breeding off s. AK and BC darker and more heavily marked on breast. Tundra-race (*tundrius*) adults have pale forehead and upper breast. **Immature:** Brown, heavily streaked below. **VOICE:** At eyrie, a repeated we'chew; a rapid kek kek kek kek. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Merlin, Gyrfalcon. **HABITAT:** Nests on cliffs and ledges; open country, from mountains to coasts. Established as a reintroduced breeder (on building ledges and bridges) in many major cities in East and Midwest.

CARACARA AND LARGE FALCONS



**AMERICAN KESTREL***Falco sparverius* (see also p. 126)

Fairly common M163

9½–10½ in. (24–27 cm). A falcon the size of a large jay. No other small hawk has rufous back or tail. Male has blue-gray wings. Both sexes have black-and-white face with double mustache. Hovers for prey on rapidly beating wings, kingfisher-like. Sits fairly erect, occasionally lifting tail. **VOICE:** Rapid, high *klee klee klee* or *killy killy killy*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Merlin (which only rarely perches on wires). Sharp-shinned Hawk has rounded wings, gray or brown back and tail. Neither species hovers. **HABITAT:** Open country, farmland, wood edges, residential areas, dead trees, wires, roadsides.

**MERLIN** *Falco columbarius* (see also p. 126)

Uncommon M164

11–12 in. (28–31 cm). A small (slightly larger than jay-sized) falcon; suggests a miniature Peregrine Falcon, but with less distinct mustache. **Male:** Blue-gray above, with broad black bands on gray tail. **Female and immature:** Dusky brown, with banded tail; boldly streaked below. Prairie subspecies (*richardsoni*) paler gray or brown (color of a Prairie Falcon), lacks mustache. Coastal Northwest subspecies, "Black" (*suckleyi*), very dark, lacks light eyebrow stripe. **VOICE:** High, rapid *kee-kee-kee-kee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Compared with American Kestrel, Merlin has broader-based wings, more boldly barred tail, and more heavily marked underparts (and underwing), lacks rusty color above and bold facial marks, and is faster flying. Sharp-shinned Hawk has rounded (not pointed) wings. See Peregrine and Prairie falcons. **HABITAT:** Open woods, cliffs, grasslands, tundra; in migration and winter, also open country, marshes, beaches, locally in neighborhoods.

EURASIAN KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Vagrant

13½–14 in. (34–36 cm). Similar to American Kestrel, but slightly larger. **Adult male:** Dusky mustache on grayish head, fully spotted pale chestnut upperparts and wing coverts, dusky outer wing; gray rump and tail, tail ending in black, white-tipped band; and spotted buff underbody. **Female:** Rusty brown upperparts and inner wings, duskier outer wings, rusty tail and buff white underparts, strongly barred above and boldly spotted in lines below except on vent. **Immature:** Brighter than female, with paler background color; both show dark subterminal tail band. **RANGE:** Eurasian species. Casual vagrant to e. N. America (Atlantic Canada south to FL) and along West Coast from w. AK to CA.

EURASIAN HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Vagrant

12½–13 in. (31–33 cm). Most aerial of the falcons; sickle-shaped wings and short tail produce a swiftlike outline. Flight dashing, with rapid, clipped wingbeats; when patrolling, action slower, more rowing, recalling Peregrine Falcon; never hovers. **Adult:** Distinctly patterned, with dark slate mustache, cap, and upperparts contrasting with cream throat, heavily streaked underparts, chestnut thighs and vent, and darkly barred underwing. **Juvenile:** Lacks chestnut areas. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Peregrine Falcon. **RANGE:** Eurasian species. Casual vagrant to w. AK; accidental in WA.

APLOMADO FALCON *Falco femoralis* (see also p. 126)

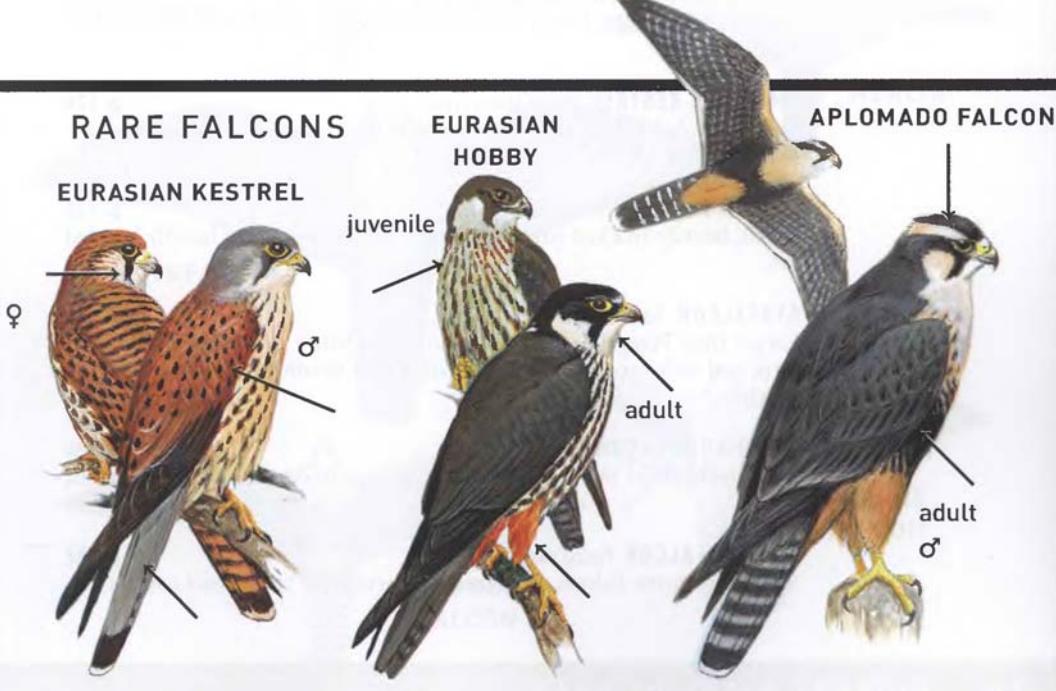
Rare, local

15–16½ in. (38–42 cm). A medium-sized falcon, a little smaller than Peregrine Falcon. **Long wings and tail.** Note dark underwing and black belly, contrasting with white or pale cinnamon breast. Thighs and undertail coverts orange-brown. **VOICE:** High-pitched whistled scream: *klee-klee-klee-klee!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Peregrine Falcon. **RANGE:** Formerly a very rare visitor from Mex., but population in U.S. growing because of reintroduction program in s. TX and s. NM. **HABITAT:** Arid brushy deserts and grasslands, yucca flats.

SMALL FALCONS



RARE FALCONS



ACCIPITERS AND FALCONS OVERHEAD



Accipiters (bird hawks) have short rounded wings and a long tail. They fly with several rapid beats and a short glide. They are better adapted to hunting in the woodlands than most other hawks. Females are larger than males. Immatures (not shown) have a streaked breast.

COOPER'S HAWK *Accipiter cooperii* p. 114

Underparts rusty (adult). Tail rounded and tipped with broad white terminal band. Note head and neck projecting noticeably beyond leading edge of wing.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* p. 114

Adult with bold facial pattern, underbody heavily barred with pale gray. Tail and wings broad.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK *Accipiter striatus* p. 114

Small. When folded, tail square or notched, with narrow pale tip. Fanned tail slightly rounded. Note small head and short neck barely projecting beyond wing.



Falcons have long, pointed wings and a relatively long tail. Wing strokes are typically rapid and continuous.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* p. 122

Falcon shape; large; bold face pattern; longer wings than Merlin or Kestrel.

AMERICAN KESTREL *Falco sparverius* p. 124

Small; banded rufous tail. Paler underwing and less heavily marked underparts than Merlin.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* p. 124

Small; heavily marked underparts and dark underwing; heavily banded tail.

GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus* p. 122

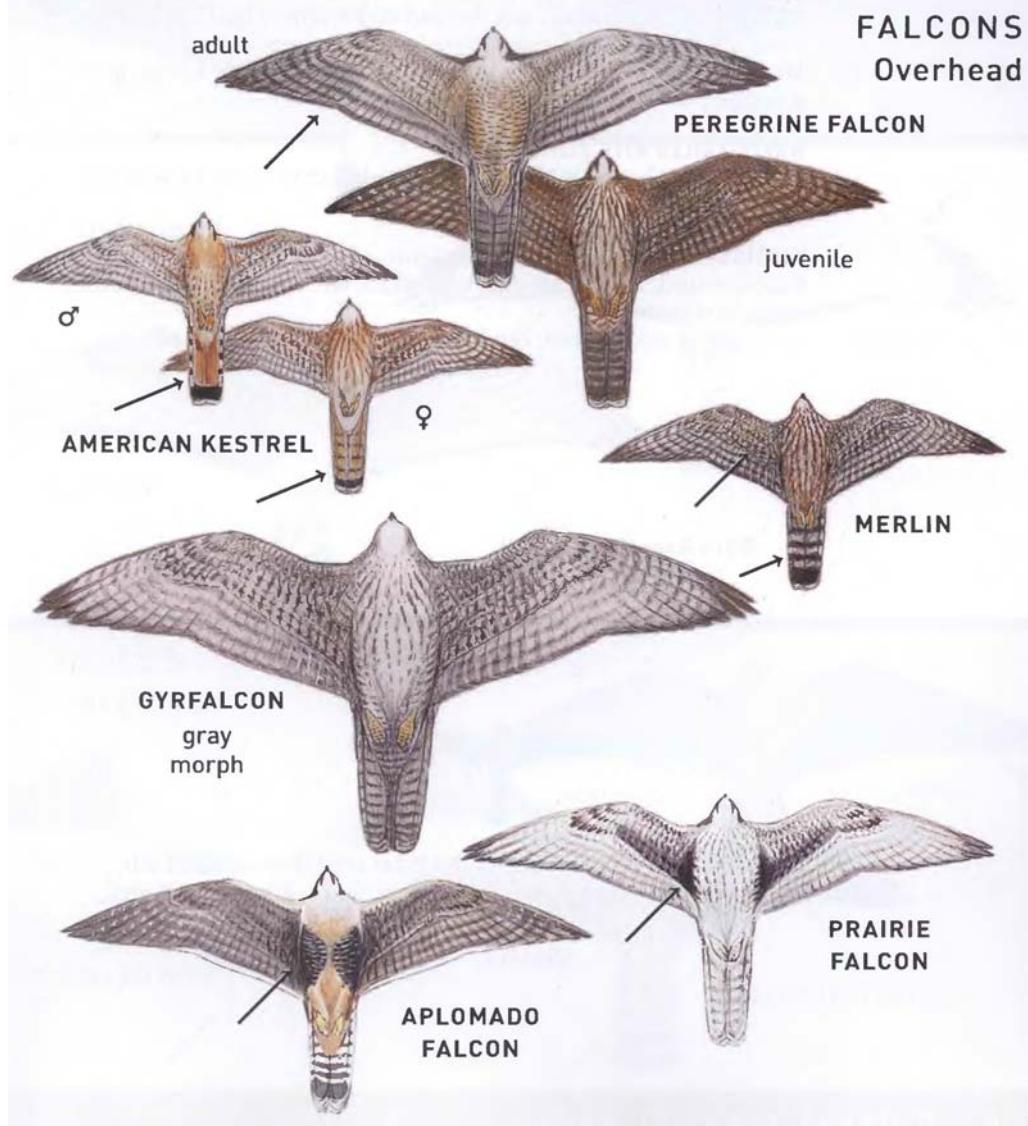
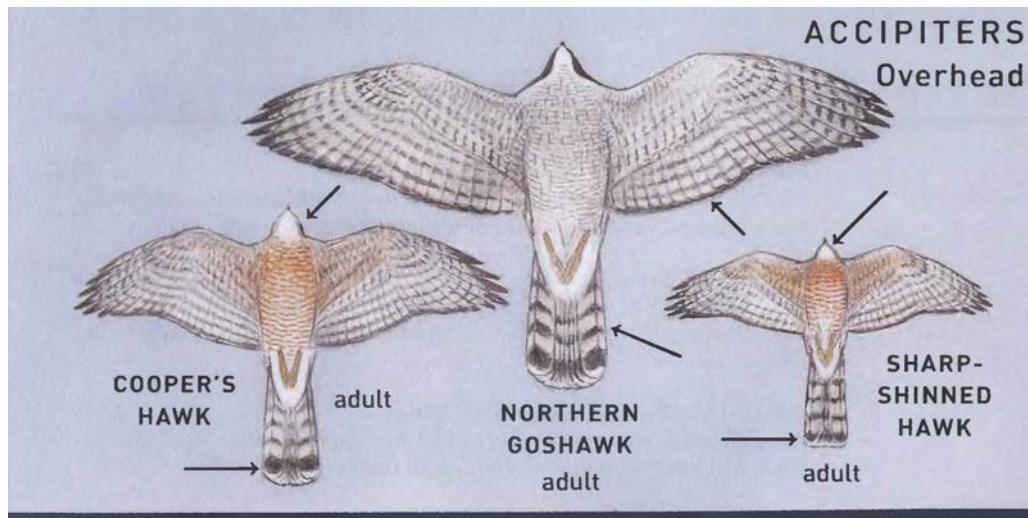
Larger than Peregrine Falcon; without that bird's contrasting facial pattern, and with broader wings and tail. Varies in color from brown to gray to white.

APLOMADO FALCON *Falco femoralis* p. 124

Black belly band or vest, light chest, orange undertail. Tail barred with black.

RAIRIE FALCON *Falco mexicanus* p. 122

Size of Peregrine Falcon. Dark axillars ("wingpits") and inner coverts.



BUTEOS, HARRIER, AND KITES OVERHEAD

FERRUGINOUS HAWK *Buteo regalis*

p. 120

Whitish underparts, with dark V formed by reddish thighs in adult. Wings and tail long for a buteo. A bird of western plains and open range.

GRAY HAWK *Buteo nitidus*

p. 116

Stocky. Broadly banded tail (suggestive of Broad-winged Hawk); adults have gray-barred underparts. Uncommon resident of Rio Grande Valley and se. AZ.

WHITE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albicaudatus*

p. 116

Adult: Whitish underparts, gray head. White tail with black band near tip. Soars with marked dihedral. Resident of coastal prairie of TX.

NORTHERN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

p. 114

Male: Whitish wings with black tips and dark trailing edge. Gray hood.

Female: Brown, heavily streaked; note long, slim wings and tail.

Immature (not shown): Warm brown, unstreaked body, dark head. From above, all plumages have white rump.

WHITE-TAILED KITE *Elanus leucurus*

p. 112

Adult: Falcon-shaped. White body; whitish tail; dark underside to primaries.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis*

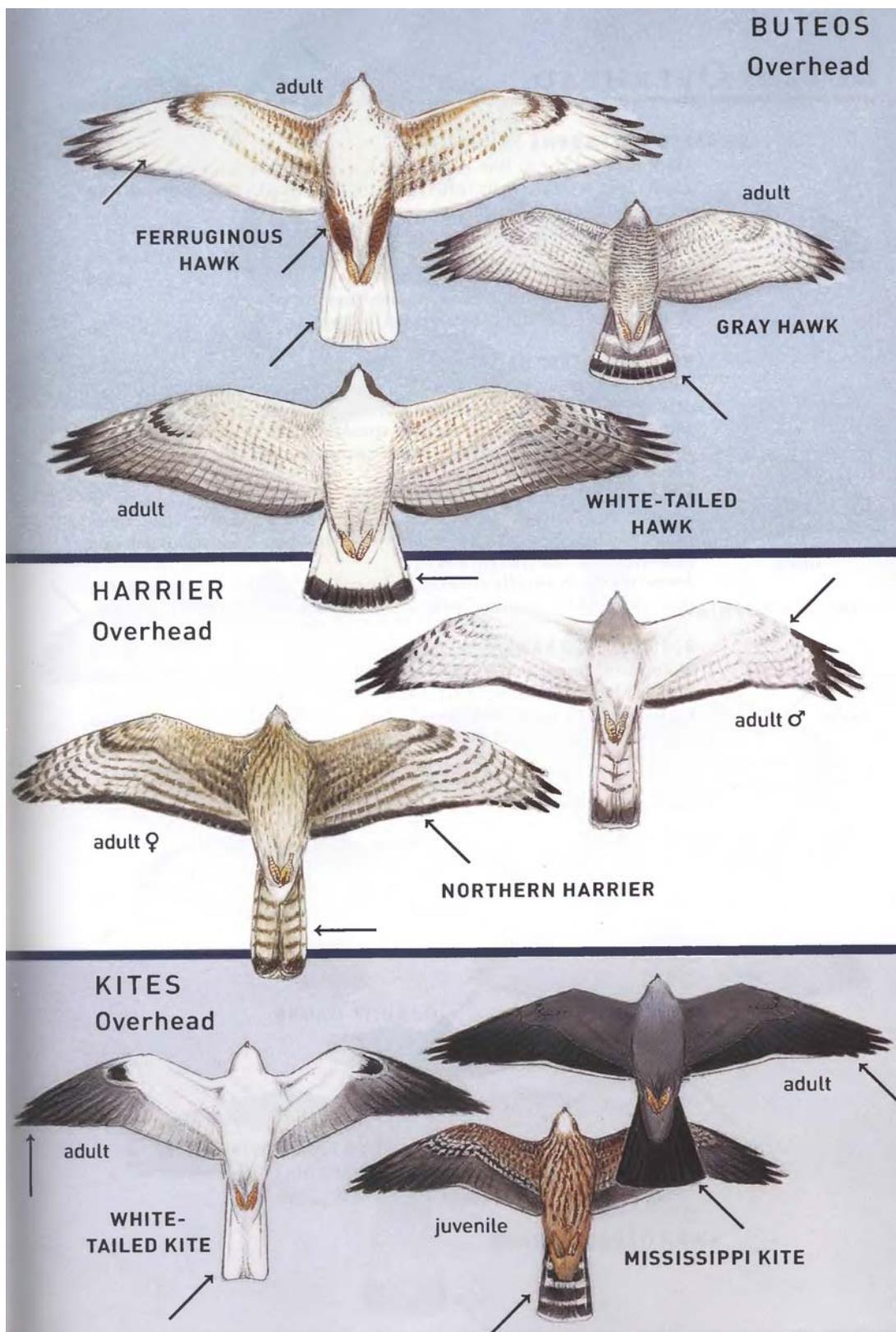
p. 112

Falcon-shaped. *Adult:* Pale gray head, black tail, dark gray and blackish wings, gray body.

Immature: Streaked breast; banded square-tipped or notched tail.



Kites (except Snail Kite and Hook-billed Kite) are falcon-shaped but, unlike falcons, are buoyant gliders, not power fliers. All are southern.



BUTEOs OVERHEAD

RED-TAILED HAWK *Buteo jamaicensis*

p. 120

Dark patagial bar at fore edge of wing is best mark from below. *Adult*: Light chest, streaked belly (often forming belly band); tail plain, with hint of red and little or no banding.

Immature: Streaked below, has light tail banding.

SWAINSON'S HAWK *Buteo swainsoni*

p. 120

Adult: Dark breast-band. Long, pointed, two-toned wings.

Immature: Similar, but has streaks on underbody.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK *Buteo lineatus*

p. 118

Adult: Tail strongly banded (white bands narrower than dark ones). Strongly barred with rusty coloring on body and underwing coverts.

Immature: Chest and belly heavily streaked. Both immature and adult show light crescent "window" on outer wings, longish tail.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK *Buteo platypterus*

p. 118

Smaller and chunkier than Red-shouldered with shorter tail, more pointed wings. *Adult*: Widely banded tail (white bands wider); underwing pale with dark rear margin and tip.

Immature: Body usually streaked, tail narrowly banded. Pale underwings may show lighter "window" near wingtips when molting in first spring.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK *Buteo lagopus*

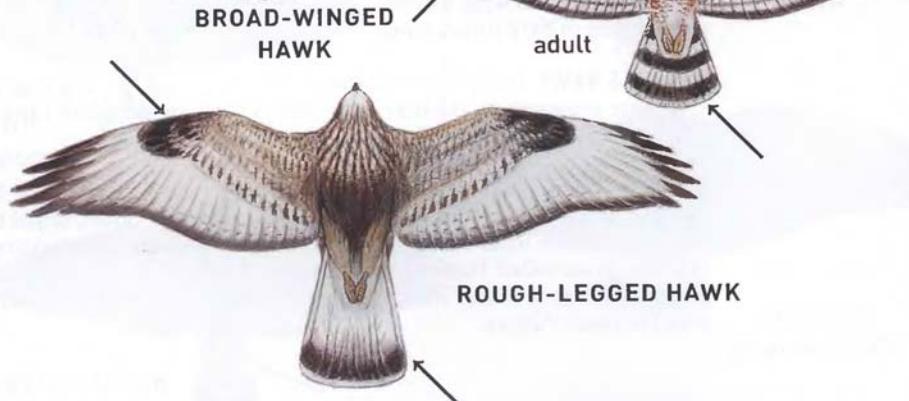
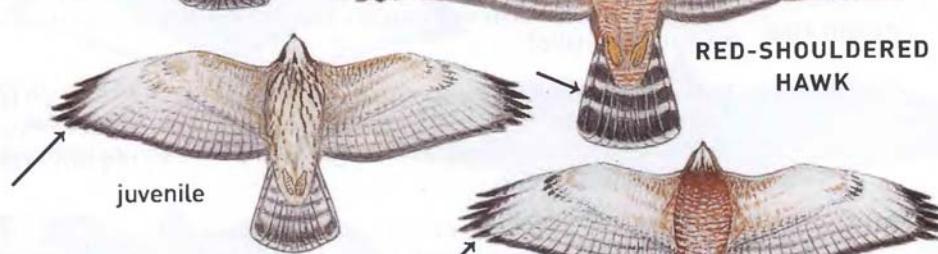
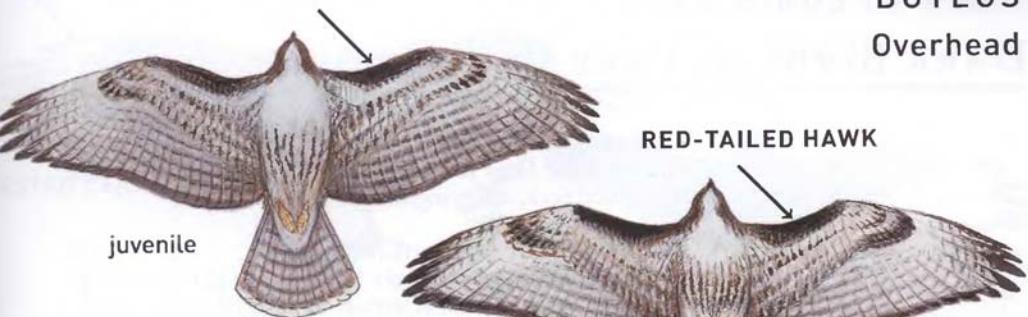
p. 118

Note black carpal patch contrasting with white flight feathers. Broad, blackish band ("cummerbund") across belly is distinctive in female and immature. Tail light, with broad, dark subterminal band. Adult male darker chested, has multiple bands on tail, less bold belly patch.



Buteos are chunky, with broad wings and a broad, rounded tail.
They soar and wheel high in the air.

BUTEOS
Overhead



DARK BIRDS OF PREY OVERHEAD

CRESTED CARACARA *Caracara cheriway* p. 122

Whitish chest, black belly, large pale patches in primaries, white tail with black band. Elongated neck, stiff-winged flight.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK *Buteo lagopus* (dark morph) p. 118

Dark body and wing linings; whitish flight feathers; tail light from below, with one broad, black terminal band in female; additional bands in male.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK *Buteo regalis* (dark morph) p. 120

Similar to dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk, but tail whitish, without dark banding. Note also white wrist marks, or "commas."

SWAINSON'S HAWK *Buteo swainsoni* (dark morph) p. 120

In dark morph, fairly pointed wings are usually dark throughout, including flight feathers; tail narrowly banded, whitish undertail coverts. Rufous morph may be rustier, with lighter rufous wing linings.

RED-TAILED HAWK *Buteo jamaicensis* (dark morph) p. 120

Typical chunky shape of Red-tailed; tail reddish above, pale tinged with rusty below; variable. Dark patagial bar on leading edge of wing obscured.

"HARLAN'S" RED-TAILED HAWK p. 120

Buteo jamaicensis harlani (dark morph)

Similar to dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk. Breast mottled white; tail tends to be mottled with gray and whitish and with dusky subterminal band, lacks obvious red; primary tips barred dark and light.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK *Buteo platypterus* (dark morph) p. 118

Typical size and shape of Broad-winged. Tail pattern and flight feathers as in light morph, but body and wing linings dark. Note whiter flight feathers than Short-tailed.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus* (immature) p. 116

Slim and longish, two-toned wings (suggesting Turkey Vulture) with barred flight feathers. Several white bands on slim tail (only one visible on folded tail). Yellow legs.

SHORT-TAILED HAWK *Buteo brachyurus* (dark morph) p. 118

Jet-black body and wing linings. Lightly banded tail; flight feathers more shaded than in dark Broad-wing.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* p. 116

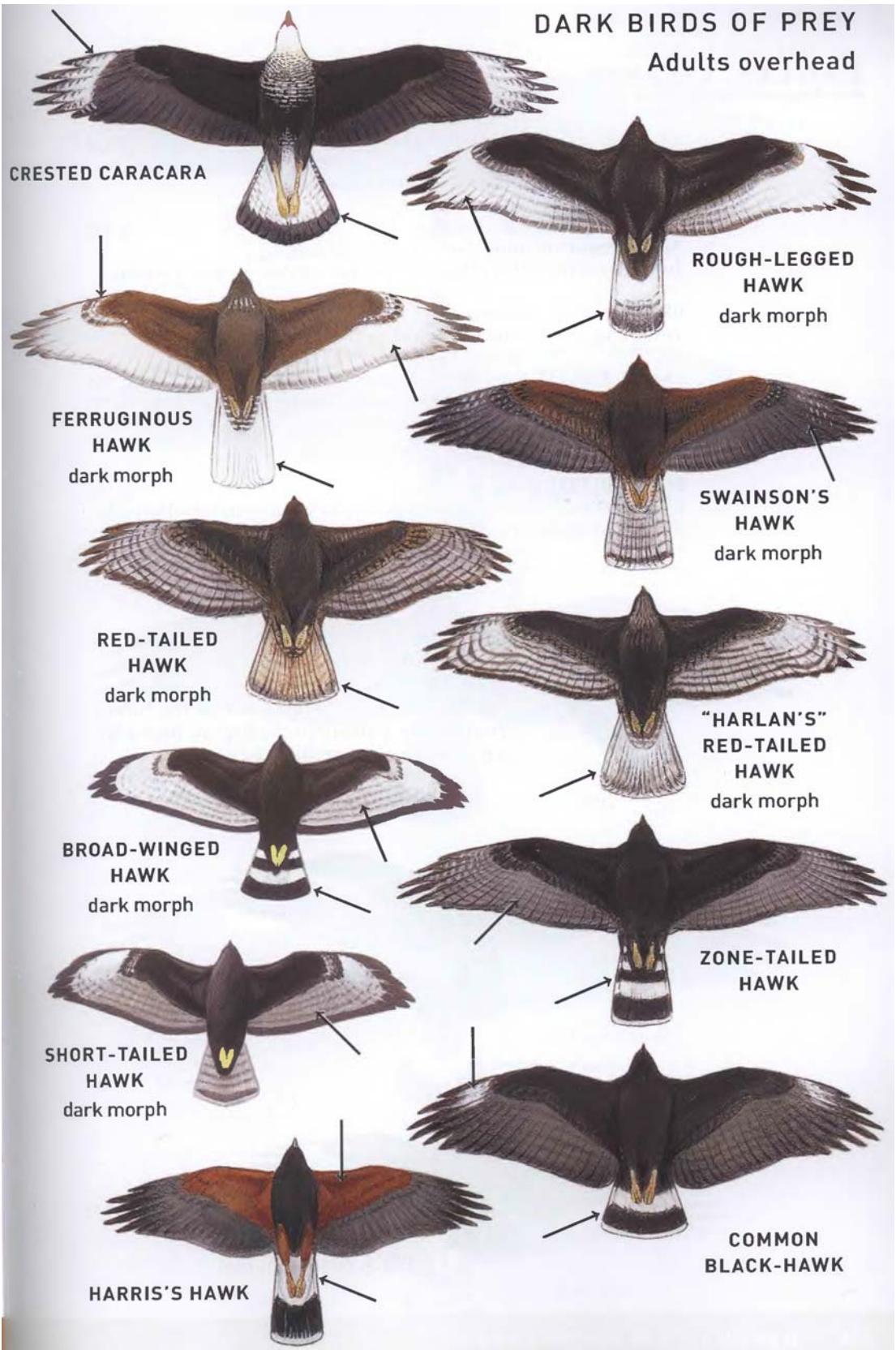
Chocolate brown body; chestnut wing linings. Very broad white band at base of black tail, narrow white terminal band.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus* p. 116

Thickset black wings; faint light patches near wingtips. Short, broad tail with broad white band at midtail and very broad black subterminal band. Whereas Zone-tailed Hawk seems to mimic Turkey Vulture, a deceptive ploy when it is hunting, chunkier Common Black-Hawk may be compared to Black Vulture.

DARK BIRDS OF PREY

Adults overhead



EAGLES, OSPREY, AND VULTURES OVERHEAD

BALD EAGLE *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Adult: White head and tail.

Immature: Some white in wing linings, often on body.

p. 110

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*

Adult: Almost uniformly dark; wing linings dark.

Immature: White patch at base of primaries and tail; no white on body.

p. 110

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

White body and coverts; black wrist patch; crooked wing.

p. 110

TURKEY VULTURE *Cathartes aura*

Mostly brownish black. Two-toned wings held in distinct dihedral. Small head, red in adult, gray in immature. Longish tail. Tips and teeters in flight.

p. 106

BLACK VULTURE *Coragyps atratus*

Blackish overall. Silver wing patch. Wings held flat or in very slight dihedral. Rapid, shallow wingbeats. Stubby tail. Gray head.

p. 106



Where the Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, and Osprey all are found, they can be separated at a great distance by their manner of soaring: the Bald Eagle with flat wings; the Turkey Vulture with a dihedral; the Osprey often with a gull-like kink or crook in its wings.

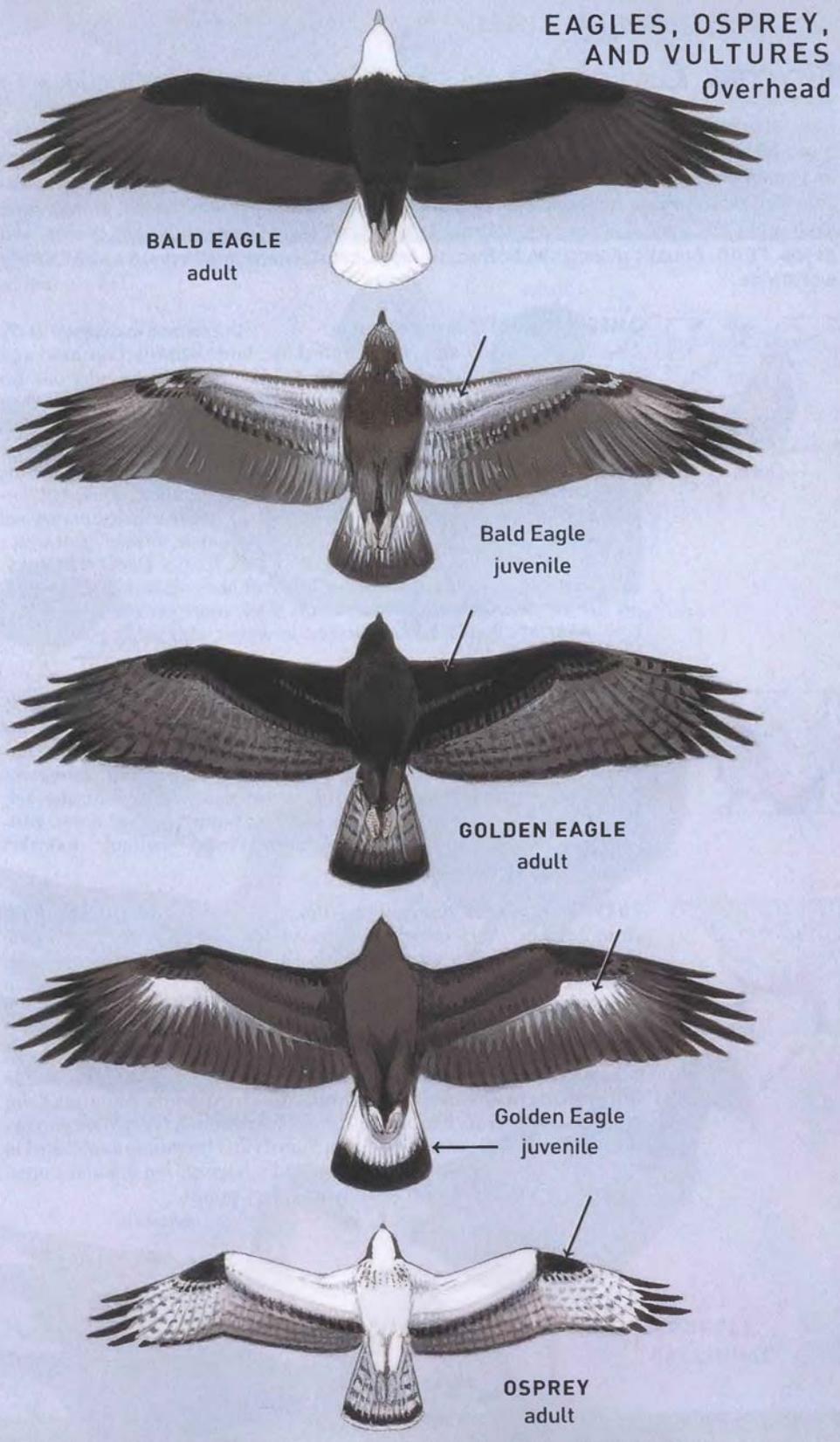


Turkey Vulture (p. 106)



Black Vulture (p. 106)

EAGLES, OSPREY,
AND VULTURES
Overhead



COOTS, GALLINULES, AND RAILS Family Rallidae

Rails are rather hen-shaped marsh birds, many of secretive habits and mysterious voices, more often heard than seen. Flight is brief and reluctant, with legs dangling. Gallinules and coots are much easier to see; they swim and might be confused with small ducks except for smaller head, forehead shield, and chickenlike bill. They spend most of their time swimming but may also feed on shores. Often vocal, giving loud squawks, grunts, and peeps. **FOOD:** Aquatic plants, seeds, insects, frogs, crustaceans, mollusks. **RANGE:** Nearly worldwide.



AMERICAN COOT *Fulica americana*

Uncommon to common M176
15–15½ in. (38–39 cm). A slaty, ducklike bird with blackish head and neck, slate gray body, white bill, and divided white patch under tail. No side striping. Its big feet are lobed ("scallops" on toes). Gregarious. When swimming, pumps head back and forth; dabbles but also dives from surface. Taking off, it skitters, flight labored, big feet trailing beyond short tail, narrow white border showing along rear of wings. Aberrant birds may show some additional white or yellowish on forehead above bill. **Immature:** Slightly paler, with duller bill. Downy young has hairy, orange-red head and shoulders. **VOICE:** Grating *kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk*; *kakakakakaka*; etc.; also a measured *ka-ha, ha-ha*; various cackles, croaks. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Moorhen slightly smaller, browner above, has thin white band on flanks, different-colored bill. Coots flock more on open water and land. **HABITAT:** Ponds, lakes, marshes; in winter, also fields, park ponds, lawns, salt bays.



COMMON MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

Uncommon M175
14 in. (36 cm). Note adult's rather chickenlike red bill with yellow tip, red forehead shield, and white band on flanks. When walking, flicks white undertail coverts; while swimming, pumps head like a coot. **Immature:** Duller bill. **VOICE:** Croaking *kr-r-ruk*, repeated; a froglike *kup*; also *kek, kek, kek* (higher than coot's call); loud, complaining, henlike notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American Coot, immature Purple Gallinule. **HABITAT:** Freshwater marshes, reedy ponds.



PURPLE GALLINULE *Porphyrio martinica*

Uncommon M174
13 in. (33 cm). Very colorful; swims, wades, and climbs bushes. **Adult:** Head and underparts deep violet-purple, back bronzy green. Shield on forehead pale blue; bill red with yellow tip. Legs yellow, conspicuous in flight. **Immature:** Buffy brown below, dark above tinged greenish; bill dark; sides unstriped. **VOICE:** Henlike cackling, *kek, kek, kek*; also guttural notes, sharp reedy cries. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Moorhen has red frontal shield, lacks greenish plumage, has duller legs and white side stripe; young moorhen also has whitish side stripe. Young American Coot much darker overall, has pale bill. Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*, not illustrated), introduced from Eurasia and becoming established in s. FL, is much larger and has red legs and a huge all-red bill and frontal shield. **HABITAT:** Freshwater swamps, marshes, ponds.



**VIRGINIA RAIL** *Rallus limicola*

Fairly common M172
9½ in. (24 cm). A small rusty rail with gray cheeks, black bars on flanks, and long, slightly decurved, reddish bill with dark tip. Near size of meadowlark; only small rail with *long slender* bill. Juvenile in late summer shows much black. **VOICE:** Descending grunt, *wuk-wuk-wuk-wuk*, etc.; also *kidick, kidick*, etc.; various “kicking” and grunting sounds. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Sora has small stubby bill, unbarred undertail coverts. Clapper and King rails much larger. **HABITAT:** Fresh and brackish marshes; in winter, also salt marshes.

**KING RAIL** *Rallus elegans*

Uncommon, secretive M171
15 in. (38 cm). A large rusty rail with long slender bill; twice the size of Virginia Rail, or about that of a small chicken. Similar to Clapper Rail, but note rusty/chestnut cheeks and black-and-white flanks, more rusty overall with *bolder back pattern* (blacker feathers with buffier edges); prefers fresh marshes. **VOICE:** Low, slow, grunting *bup-bup, bup-bup-bup*, etc., or evenly spaced *chuck-chuck-chuck* (deeper than Virginia Rail). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Clapper Rail. Virginia Rail half the size, has slaty gray cheeks. Note: Hybrids between Clapper and King occur. **HABITAT:** Fresh and brackish marshes, rice fields, ditches, swamps. In winter, also salt marshes.

**CLAPPER RAIL** *Rallus longirostris*

Fairly common M170
14½ in. (37 cm). The large “marsh hen” of coastal marshes. Sometimes swims. Note henlike appearance; strong legs; long, slightly decurved bill; barred flanks; and white patch under short cocked tail, which it flicks nervously. Cheeks gray. Western birds have rusty orange underparts. **VOICE:** Clattering *kek-kek-kek-kek*, etc., or *cha-cha-cha*, etc. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** King Rail prefers fresh (sometimes brackish) marshes, has bolder pattern on back and flanks, rusty brown on wings. Its breast is cinnamon, but Clappers along Gulf Coast and in CA and Southwest show similar warm tawny tones. Clapper has grayer cheeks. Where these two rails occur in adjacent brackish marshes, they occasionally hybridize. **HABITAT:** Coastal populations in salt marshes; in interior Southwest, freshwater marshes.

LONG-BILLED RAILS



**SORA** *Porzana carolina*

8½ in. (22 cm). Note *short yellow bill*. **Adult:** A small, plump, gray-brown rail with *black patch* on face and throat. Short, cocked tail reveals white or buff undertail coverts. **Immature:** Lacks dark throat patch and is browner. **VOICE:** Descending whinny, *whee-ee-ee-ee-ee-e-e-e-e*. Also a plaintive whistled *keu-wee?* Clapping one's hands causes startled birds to utter a sharp *keek*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Immature may be confused with smaller and rarer Yellow Rail, which has large white wing patches and blacker-centered feathers above. Virginia Rail has slender bill. **HABITAT:** Freshwater marshes; in migration, also wet meadows; in winter, also salt marshes.

**YELLOW RAIL** *Coturnicops noveboracensis*

7¼ in. (18 cm). Note *white wing patch* (in flight). A small buffy-and-black rail, suggesting a week-old chick. Bill very short, greenish or yellowish. Back dark, striped, barred, and checkered with buff, white, and black. *Mouselike; very difficult to see.* **VOICE:** Nocturnal ticking notes, often in long series: *tic-tic, tic-tic-tic, tic-tic, tic-tic-tic*, etc., in alternating groups of two and three. Compared to hitting two small stones together. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Young Sora somewhat larger, buffier overall, lacks dark barring and checkering above, has thin pale trailing edge to wing. **HABITAT:** Grassy marshes, wet meadows; winters mostly in salt marshes and grain fields.

**BLACK RAIL** *Laterallus jamaicensis*

6 in. (15 cm). A tiny blackish rail with small *black bill*; about the size of a young sparrow. Nape deep chestnut. *Very difficult to glimpse.* **Caution:** All young rails in downy plumage are black. **VOICE:** Male (mostly at night), *kiki-doo* or *kiki-krrr* (or *kitty go*). Also a growl. **HABITAT:** Salt marshes, freshwater marshes, grassy meadows.

JACANAS Family Jacanidae

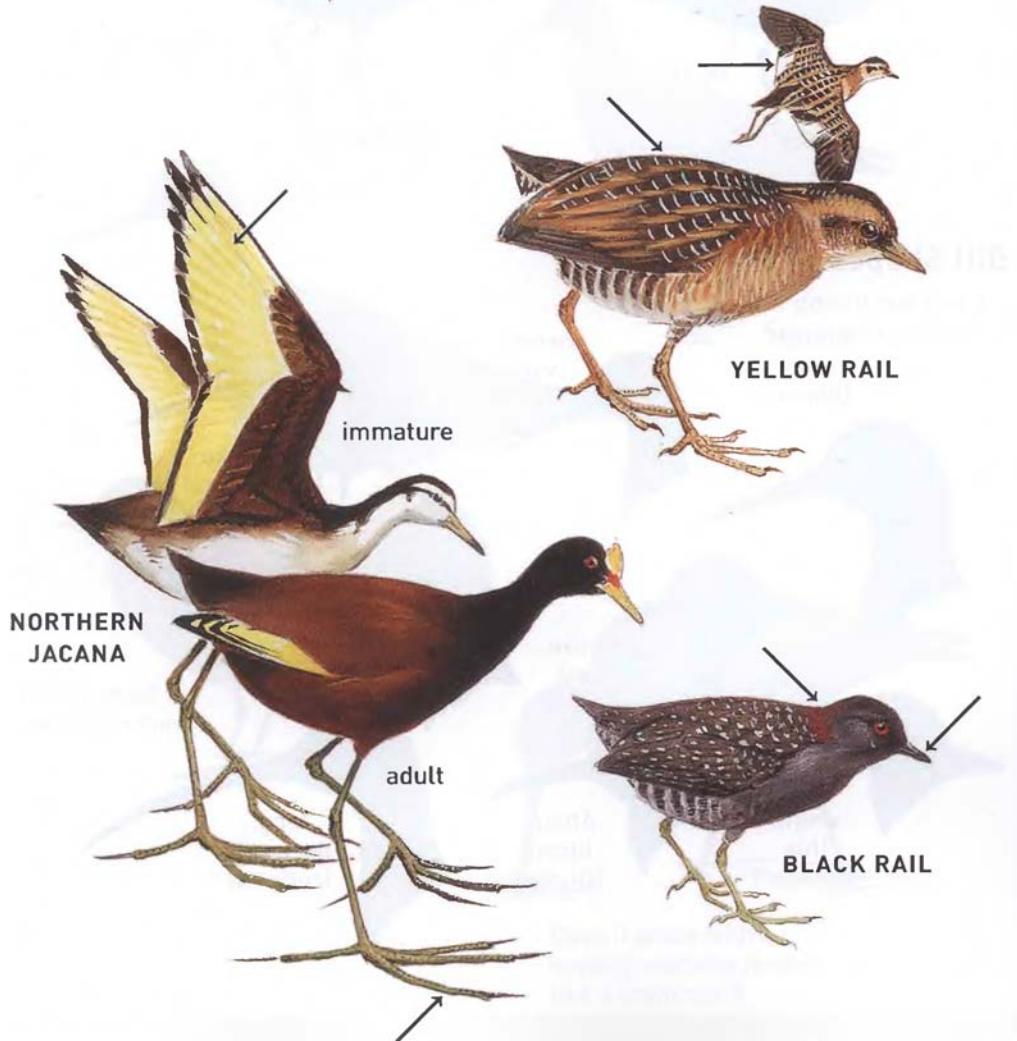
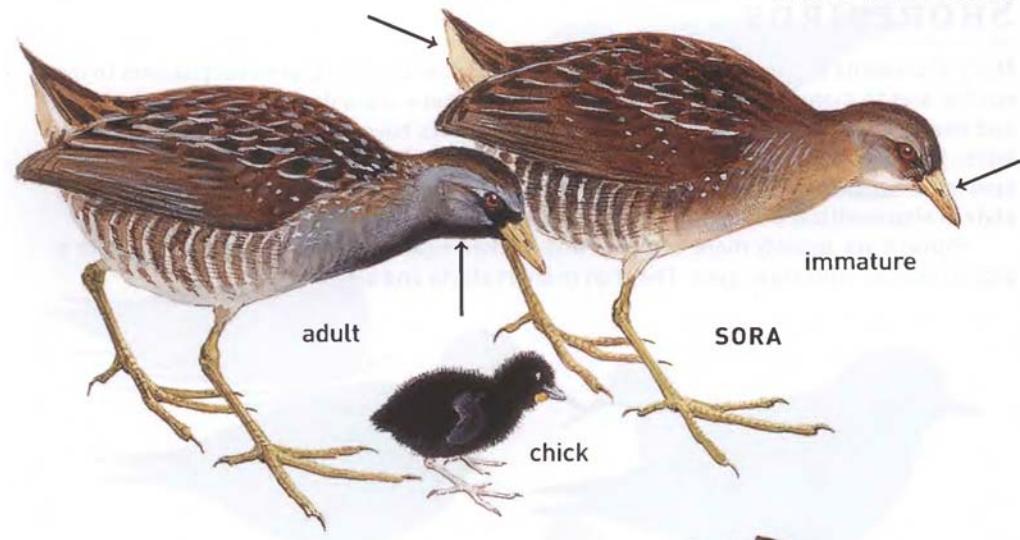
Shorebird relatives that look like gallinules but walk like rails. Dark birds with very long toes perfect for walking over floating aquatic vegetation. Sexes alike. **FOOD:** Aquatic insects, seeds, and vegetation. **RANGE:** Pantropical.

NORTHERN JACANA *Jacana spinosa*

Vagrant

9½ in. (24 cm). This vagrant has spectacularly long toes for walking on lily pads. **Adult:** Chestnut body with dark head. Yellow bill and forehead frontal shield. Striking yellow primaries and secondaries in flight. Holds wings over head when it lands. **Immature:** Has white underparts, distinct line behind eye. **VOICE:** Rapid series of high, nasal notes: *jeek-jeek-jeek-jeek*. **RANGE:** Casual visitor from Mex. to TX; accidental in AZ. **HABITAT:** Frequents ponds with emergent vegetation, especially lily pads.

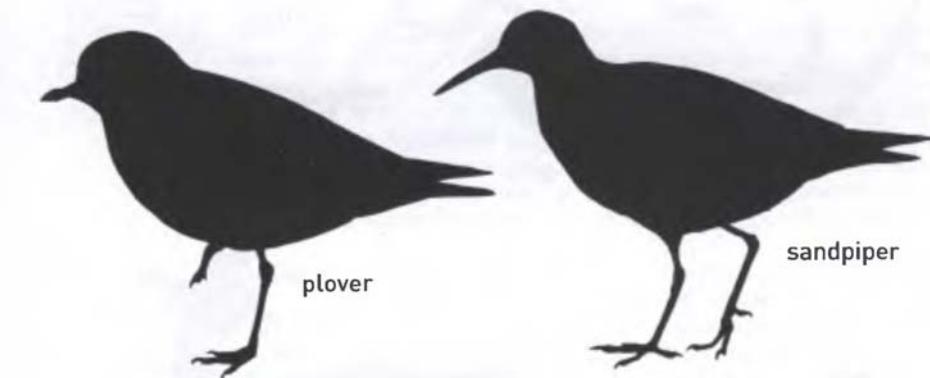
SHORT-BILLED RAILS
AND JACANA



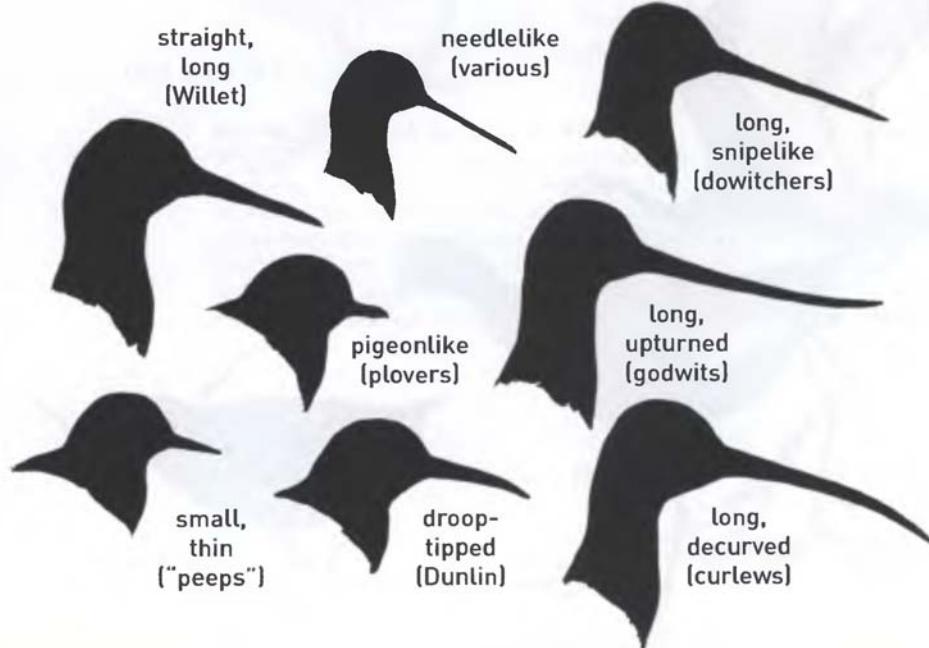
SHOREBIRDS

Many shorebirds (or "waders," as they are called in the Old World) are real puzzlers to the novice, and to many experienced birders as well! There are a dozen plovers in our area, and nearly 60 sandpipers and their allies. Most species have two or three different plumages: breeding adult, nonbreeding adult, and juvenal. Being able to properly age many species is an important part of correctly identifying them. Noting size, shape, and feeding style is also a critical part of the identification process.

Plovers are usually more compact and thicker necked than most sandpipers, with a pigeonlike bill and larger eyes. They run in short starts and stops.



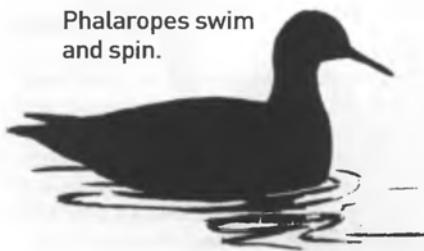
Bill Shapes of Shorebirds



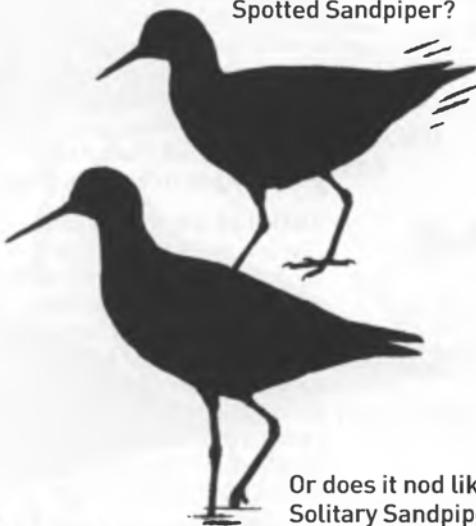
Sanderlings run.



Phalaropes swim
and spin.



Does it teeter like a
Spotted Sandpiper?



Is it slim like a
yellowlegs?



Or does it nod like a
Solitary Sandpiper?



Or is it squat
like a turnstone?



Does it probe with a
sewing-machine motion
like a dowitcher?

PLOVERS Family Charadriidae

Wading birds, more compactly built and thicker necked than most sandpipers, with shorter, pigeonlike bill and larger eyes. Call notes assist identification. Unlike most sandpipers, plovers run in short starts and stops. Sexes alike or differ slightly. FOOD: Small marine life, insects, some vegetable matter. RANGE: Nearly worldwide.



BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

Pluvialis squatarola (see also p. 168)

11½ in. (29 cm). A large plover. *Breeding adult*: Have black face and breast (slightly duller in female) and pale speckled back. *Nonbreeding adult and immature*: Look tan-gray but can be recognized as plovers by stocky shape, hunched posture, and short, pigeonlike bill. In flight, in any plumage, note black wingpits and white rump and tail. **VOICE**: Plaintive slurred whistle, *tlee-oo-eee* or *whee-er-ee* (middle note lower). **SIMILAR SPECIES**: American and Pacific golden-plovers slightly smaller and slimmer, smaller billed, buffier or more golden on at least some feathering, have more distinct supercilium, and lack pattern of white in wings and tail. Their wingpits are gray, not black. **HABITAT**: Mudflats, marshes, beaches, rocks, short-grass habitats; in summer, tundra.

Common M180



AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER

Pluvialis dominica (see also p. 168)

10¼–10½ in. (26–27 cm). Size of Killdeer. Shows distinct wingtip extension of three to five primary tips, well beyond tail tip. *Breeding adult*: Dark, spangled above with whitish and pale yellow spots; underparts black (slightly mottled in female). Broad white stripe runs over eye and down sides of neck and breast. *Nonbreeding adult and juvenile*: Gray-brown, darker above than below, with distinct pale supercilium, dark crown. **VOICE**: Whistled *queedle* or *que-e-a* (dropping at end). **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Black-bellied Plover, Pacific Golden-Plover. **HABITAT**: Prairies, mudflats, short-grass pastures, sod farms; in summer, tundra.

Uncommon M181

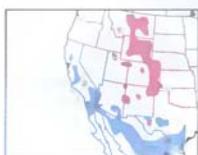


PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER

Pluvialis fulva (see also p. 168)

10–10¼ in. (25–26 cm). Very similar to American Golden-Plover. *Breeding adult*: White neck stripe extends down to flanks and there is more white on undertail coverts (but molting American Golden-Plovers may have this look). Golden spangles on back brighter. Bill slightly larger, legs slightly longer. Wingtip extension shows only one or two visible primary tips, and they barely extend beyond tail tip. *Nonbreeding adult and juvenile*: Also more golden above than other plovers, and juveniles may also be brightly washed with golden buff on face and breast. **VOICE**: Whistled *chu-wee* or *chu-wee-dle*. **HABITAT**: Same as American, though typically breeds in lower, wetter tundra.

Uncommon, local M182



MOUNTAIN PLOVER

Charadrius montanus

Scarce, local M188

9 in. (23 cm). White forehead and line over eye, contrasting with dark crown. In nonbreeding plumage, may be told from nonbreeding golden-plovers by tan-brown back devoid of mottling and by tan, unmarked breast. Has pale blue-gray legs, light wing stripe, and dark tail band. **VOICE**: Low whistle, variable. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, golden-plovers, Buff-breasted Sandpiper. **HABITAT**: Plowed fields, short-grass plains, dry sod farms.

PLOVERS



COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

Rare, local

7½ in. (19 cm). A Eurasian species, very similar to Semipalmated Plover; best distinguished by voice. Slightly longer bill, darker cheeks. Lacks obvious orbital ring. Breeding adults have slightly bolder supercilium, wider breast-band. In all birds there is basal webbing between only two toes, but this is very difficult to see. **VOICE:** Softer, more minor *poo-eep* or *too-li*.

RANGE: Breeds in e. Canadian Arctic and on St. Lawrence Is., AK; winters on Old World. Casual or accidental migrant elsewhere in N. America.

HABITAT: Same as Semipalmated Plover.

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER***Charadrius semipalmatus* (see also p. 168)

Common M185

7¼ in. (18 cm). A small, plump, brown-backed plover, half the size of Killdeer, with single dark breast-band. **Adult:** Bill orangey with black tip or (nonbreeding) nearly all dark. Orangey orbital ring. Legs bright orange or yellow. **Juvenile:** Slightly browner above, and breast-band may be incomplete. **VOICE:** Plaintive, upward-slurred *chi-we* or *too-li*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Whereas Piping and Snowy plovers are pale—color of dry sand—Semipalmated is darker above, like wet sand or mud. Snowy Plover also has thinner bill, darker legs. **HABITAT:** Shores, tidal flats, wet fields; in summer, tundra.

**PIPING PLOVER** *Charadrius melanotos* (see also p. 168)

Uncommon M186

7¼ in. (18 cm). As pallid as a beach flea or sand crab—color of dry sand. Complete or incomplete dark ring around neck. Legs yellow or orange. **Breeding adult:** Bill has yellow-orange base, black tip. **Nonbreeding adult and juvenile:** Black on collar indistinct or lacking, bill all dark. Note tail pattern. Adults perform stiff-winged “bat-flight” on breeding territory.

VOICE: Plaintive whistle: *peep-lo* (first note higher). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Snowy and Semipalmated plovers. **HABITAT:** Sandy beaches, dry mudflats; in summer, also lakeshores and river islands.

**SNOWY PLOVER***Charadrius alexandrinus* (see also p. 168)

Uncommon M183

6¼–6½ in. (16–17 cm). A pale plover of beaches and alkaline flats. **Male:** Has slim black bill, dark (sometimes pale) legs, and dark ear patch. **Female and juvenile:** May lack black in plumage. **VOICE:** Musical whistle, *pee-wee-ah* or *o-pee-ah*; also a low *prit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Juvenile and nonbreeding Piping Plovers may also have dark (though stubbier) bill, but they have white on rump, visible in flight, and brighter legs. **HABITAT:** Beaches, sandy flats, alkaline lakeshores.

**WILSON'S PLOVER***Charadrius wilsonia* (see also p. 168)

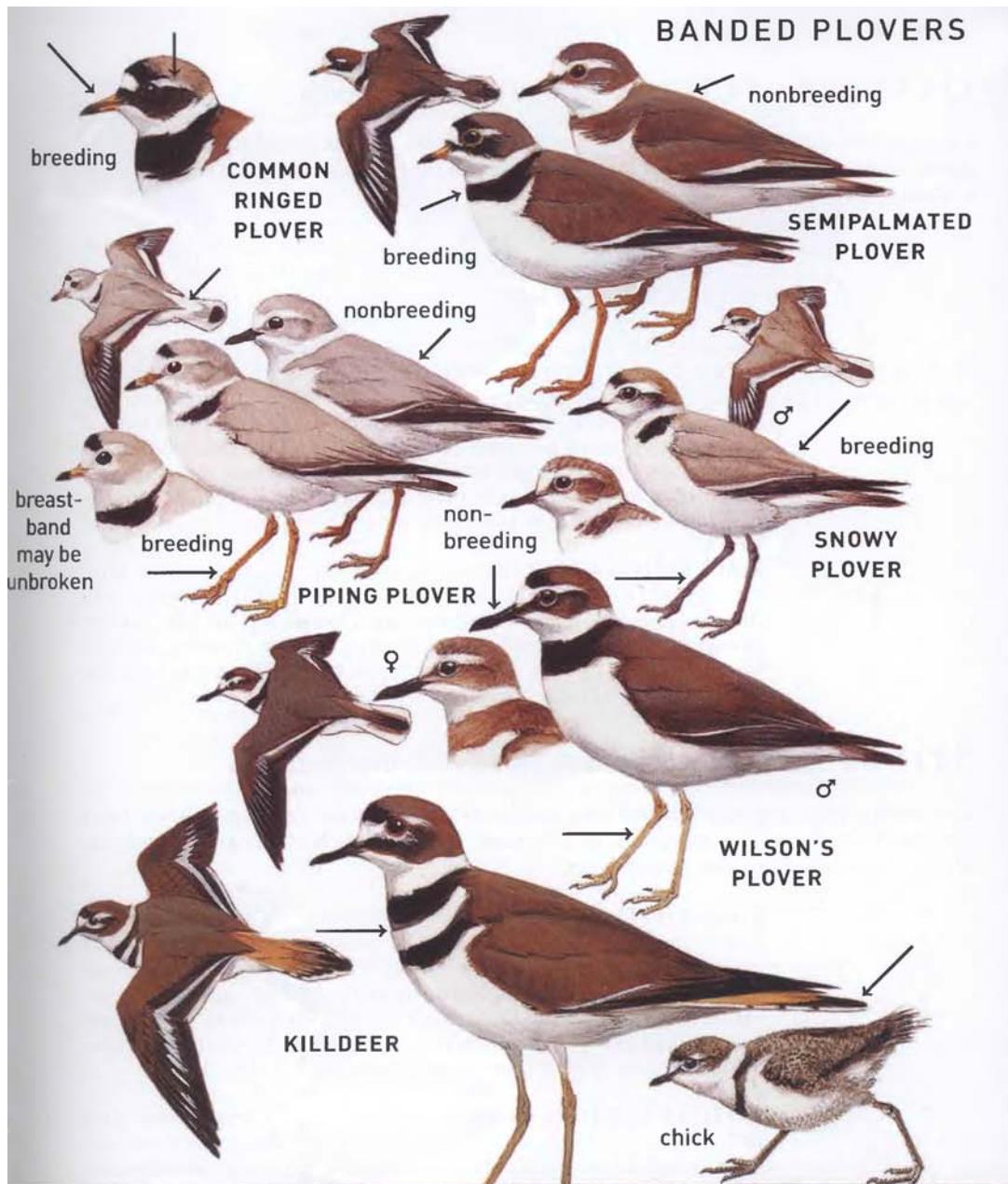
Uncommon M184

7¾–8 in. (19–20 cm). A “ringed” plover, larger than Semipalmated Plover, with wider breast-band and longer, heavier black bill. Legs pinkish gray. **VOICE:** Emphatic whistled *whit!* or *wheet!* **HABITAT:** Open beaches, tidal flats, sandy islands.

**KILLDEER** *Charadrius vociferus* (see also p. 168)

Common M187

10½ in. (27 cm). The common, noisy plover of farm country and playing fields. Note two black breast-bands (chick has only one band and might be confused with Wilson’s Plover). In flight or distraction display near nest, shows rusty orange rump, longish tail, white wing stripe. **VOICE:** Noisy, and often heard at night. Loud, insistent *kill-deeah*, repeated; plaintive *dee-ee* (rising), *dee-dee-dee*, etc. Also a low trill. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other banded plovers smaller, have single breast-band. **HABITAT:** Fields, airports, lawns, riverbanks, mudflats, shores.

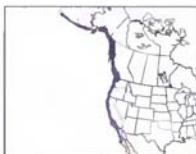


OYSTERCATCHERS Family Haematopodidae

Large waders with long, laterally flattened, chisel-tipped, red bill. Sexes alike. **FOOD:** Mollusks, crabs, marine worms. **RANGE:** Widespread on coasts of world; inland in some areas of Europe and Asia.



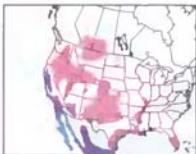
AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus palliatus* Fairly common M189 17½–18½ in. (44–47 cm). A very noisy, thickset, black-headed shorebird with dark back, white belly, and large white wing and tail patches. Outstanding feature is large straight red bill, flattened laterally. Legs pale pink. **Immature:** Bill dark-tipped. **VOICE:** Piercing *wheep!* or *kleep!*; a loud *pic, pic, pic.* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Differs from Black Oystercatcher in having white belly, browner upperparts, white wing stripe and rump patch. Subspecies found in nw. Mex. (*frazari*) somewhat less clean-cut than birds in e. N. America; may have some dark spotting on upper breast. Also, hybrids between the two oystercatcher species occur, which show more extensive dark mottling on underparts and rump. See also Black Skimmer. **HABITAT:** Coastal beaches, tidal flats.



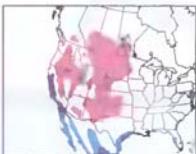
BLACK OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus bachmani* Uncommon M190 17–17½ in. (43–44 cm). A large, heavily built, blackish shorebird with straight orange-red bill, flattened laterally. Thickish legs are pale pinkish. **Immature:** Bill dark-tipped. **VOICE:** Piercing, sharply repeated, whistled *wheep!* or *kleep!*, often in descending series. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American Oystercatcher. **HABITAT:** Rocky coasts, sea islets.

STILTS AND AVOCETS Family Recurvirostridae

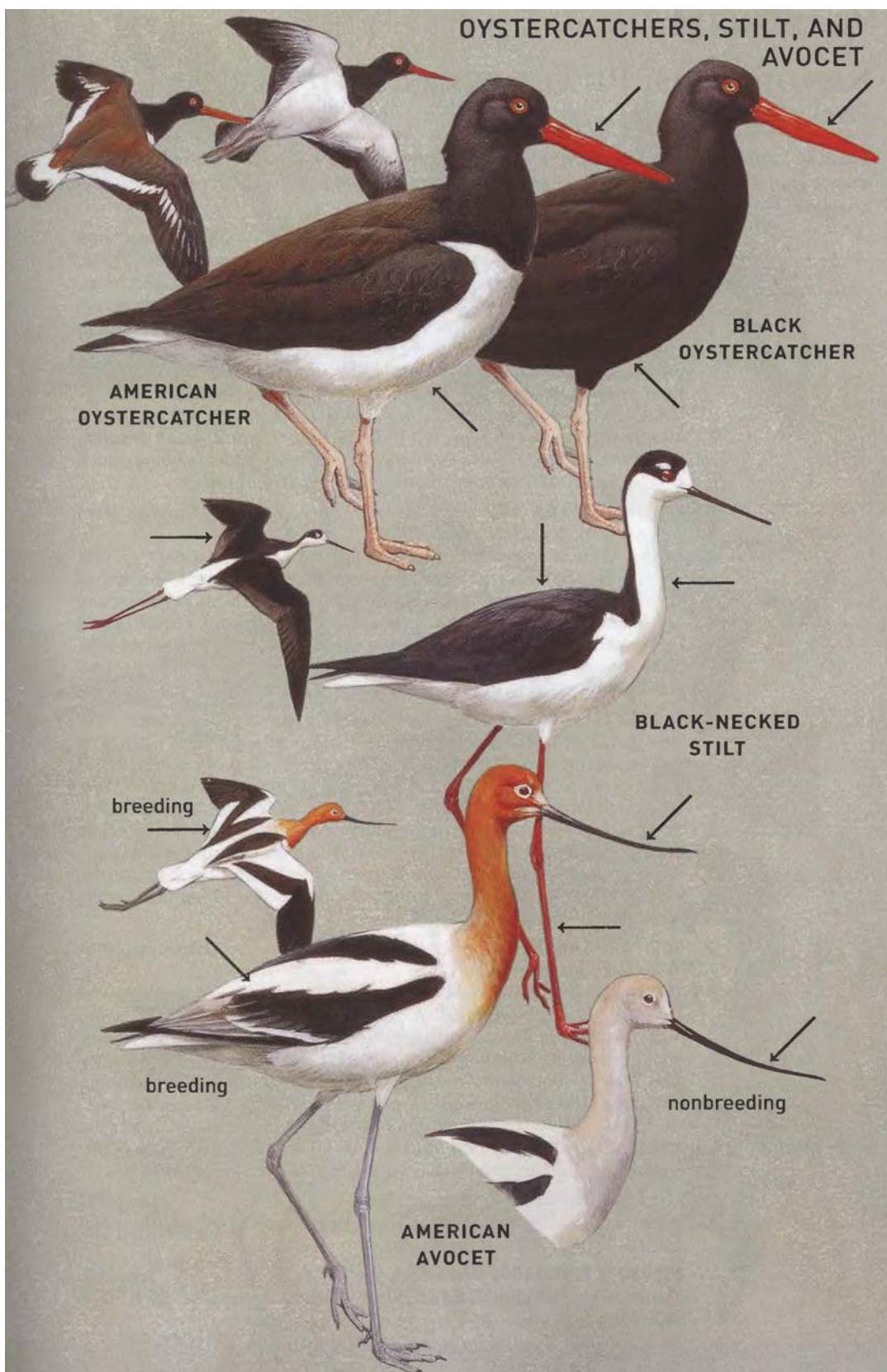
Slim waders with very long legs and very slender bill (bent upward in avocets). Sexes fairly similar. **FOOD:** Insects, crustaceans, other aquatic life. **RANGE:** N., Cen., and S. America, Africa, s. Eurasia, Australia, Pacific region.



BLACK-NECKED STILT *Himantopus mexicanus* Fairly common M191 14 in. (36 cm). A large, extremely slim wader; black above (female and immature tinged brown), white below. Note extremely long pinkish red legs, needlelike bill. In flight, black unpatterned wings contrast strikingly with white rump, tail, and underparts. **VOICE:** Sharp yipping: *kyip, kyip, kyip.* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nonbreeding American Avocet. **HABITAT:** Marshes, mudflats, pools, shallow lakes (fresh and alkaline), flooded fields.



AMERICAN AVOCET *Recurvirostra americana* Fairly common M192 18 in. (46 cm). A large, slim shorebird with very slender, upturned bill, more upturned in female. This and striking white-and-black pattern make this bird unique. In breeding plumage, head and neck pinkish tan or orangey buff; in nonbreeding plumage, this color replaced by pale gray. Avocets feed with scytheslike sweep of head and bill. **VOICE:** Sharp *wheek* or *kleet*, excitedly repeated. **HABITAT:** Mudflats, shallow lakes, marshes, prairie ponds.



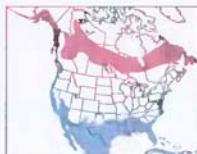
SANDPIPERs, PHALAROPES, AND ALLIES

Family Scolopacidae

Small to large shorebirds. Bills more slender than those of plovers. Sexes mostly similar, except in phalaropes (swimmers formerly regarded as a separate family). **FOOD:** Insects, crustaceans, mollusks, worms, etc. **RANGE:** Cosmopolitan.



WILLET *Tringa semipalmata* (see also p. 170) Fairly common M197
15–16 in. (38–41 cm). Stockier than Greater Yellowlegs; has grayer look, heavier bill, blue-gray legs. In flight, note *striking black-and-white wing pattern*. At rest, this large wader is rather nondescript: gray above, somewhat mottled or barred below when breeding, unmarked in nonbreeding plumage. **Juvenile:** Browner above with some light buff spots. **Note:** Western breeding population larger, has longer, thinner bill and is paler overall than eastern breeding population. **VOICE:** Musical, repetitious *pill-will-willet* (in breeding season); a loud *kay-ee* (second note lower). Also a rapidly repeated *kip-kip-kip*, etc. In flight, *kree-ree-ree*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Greater Yellowlegs; see also dowitchers, Wandering Tattler (which is much smaller). **HABITAT:** Marshes, wet meadows, mudflats, beaches.



GREATER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa melanoleuca* (see also p. 172) Common M196
14 in. (36 cm). Note *bright yellow legs* (shared with next species). A slim gray sandpiper; back checkered with gray, black, and white. Often teeters body. In flight, appears *dark-winged* (no stripe), with *whitish rump and tail*. Bill long, *slightly upturned, paler at base*. Breeding adult heavily barred below. **VOICE:** Three-note strident whistle, *dear! dear! dear!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet. **HABITAT:** Marshes, mudflats, streams, ponds, flooded fields; in summer, wooded muskeg, spruce bogs.



LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes* (see also p. 172) Common M198
10½ in. (27 cm). Like Greater Yellowlegs, but smaller (obvious when both species are together). Lesser's shorter, slimmer, all-dark bill is *straight* and about *equal to length of head*; Greater's appears slightly upturned, paler based, and longer than bird's head. Readily separated by voice. **VOICE:** Yew or *yu-yu* (usually one or two notes); less forceful than usual three-syllable call of Greater. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Solitary and Stilt sandpipers, Wilson's Phalarope. Both yellowlegs species may swim briefly, like a phalarope. **HABITAT:** Marshes, mudflats, ponds, flooded fields; in summer, open, moist boreal woods and taiga.

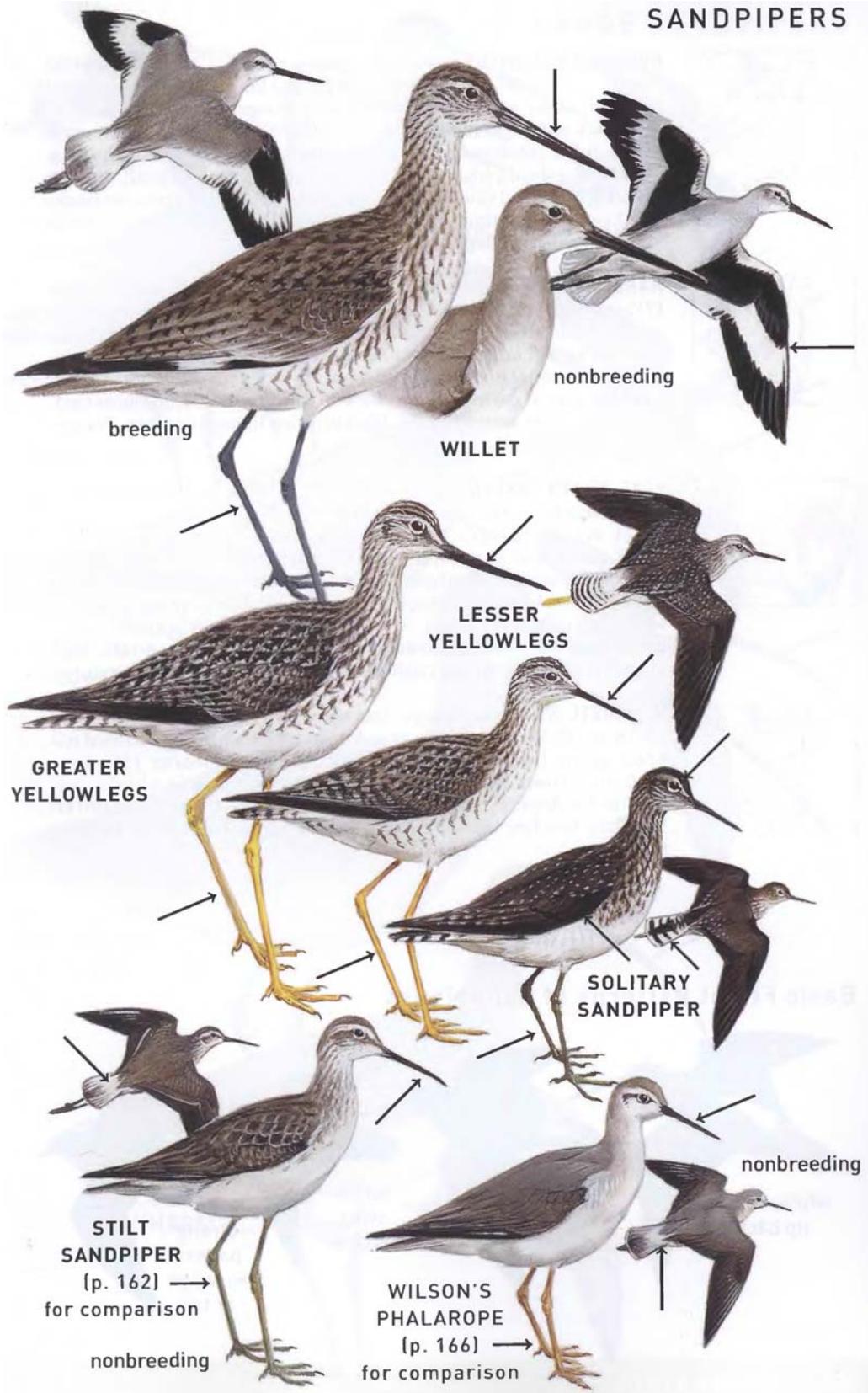


SOLITARY SANDPIPER *Tringa solitaria* (see also p. 172) Uncommon M194
8½ in. (22 cm). Note *dark wings* and *conspicuous white sides of tail* (crossed by bold black bars). A dark-backed sandpiper, whitish below, with *light eye-ring* and greenish legs. Nods like a yellowlegs. Usually alone, seldom in groups. **VOICE:** *Peet!* or *peet-weet-weet!* (higher and more strident than Spotted Sandpiper's call). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Lesser Yellowlegs has bright yellow (not greenish) legs, white (not dark) rump, is paler overall, lacks bold eye-ring. Spotted Sandpiper teeters, tail (not head) has white wedge at breast-side, different wing and tail patterns. **HABITAT:** Streamside, wooded swamps and ponds, ditches, freshwater marshes.

STILT SANDPIPER *Calidris himantopus* See p. 162
Nonbreeding: Long yellow-green legs, slight droop to bill, white rump; distinct light eyebrow (supercilium).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE *Phalaropus tricolor* See p. 166
Nonbreeding: Straight needle bill, clear white underparts, pale gray back, dull yellow legs.

SANDPIPERs





HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica* (see also p. 170) **Scarce M202** 15–15½ in. (38–39 cm). Rather large size and long, *slightly upturned* bill mark this wader as a godwit; *blackish wing linings* proclaim it as this species. Black tail *ringed broadly with white*. **Breeding:** Male ruddy-breasted, female duller. **Nonbreeding:** Both sexes gray-backed, pale-breasted. **VOICE:** *Tawit!* (or *godwit!*); higher pitched than Marbled Godwit's call. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bar-tailed Godwit has different wing and tail patterns; see Black-tailed Godwit, a vagrant from Eurasia. **HABITAT:** Mudflats, prairie pools; in summer, marshy taiga and tundra.



MARBLED GODWIT *Limosa fedoa* (see also p. 170) **Fairly common M204** 17½–18½ in. (44–46 cm). Rich, mottled *buff brown* color identifies this species. Underwing linings *cinnamon*. **VOICE:** Accented *kerwhit!* (*godwit!*); also *raddica, raddica*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** When head tucked in, may be difficult to tell from Long-billed Curlew except by leg color (blackish in godwit, blue-gray in curlew); in AK, see Bar-tailed Godwit. Hudsonian Godwit has white on wings and tail, blackish wing linings. **HABITAT:** Prairies, pools, shores, mudflats, beaches.

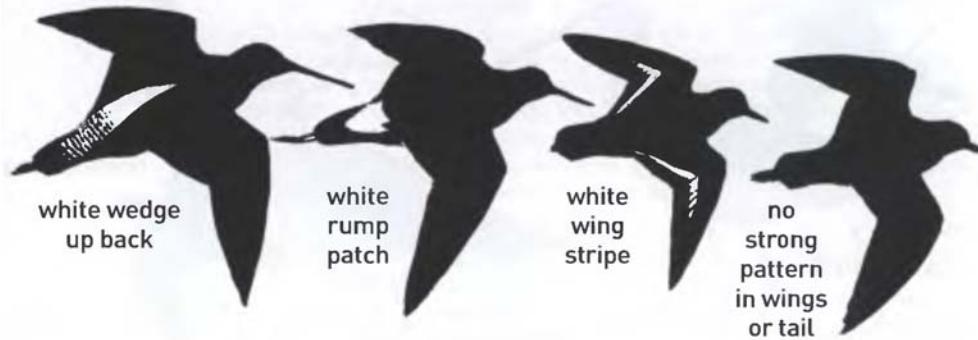


LONG-BILLED CURLEW *Numenius americanus* (see also p. 170) **Uncommon M201** 22–24 in. (55–60 cm). Note *very long, sickle-shaped bill* (4–8½ in.; 10–21 cm). Larger than Whimbrel and more buffy overall; lacks distinct dark crown stripes. Overhead shows *cinnamon wing linings*. In young birds, bill may be scarcely longer than that of Whimbrel. **VOICE:** Loud *cur-lee* (rising inflection); rapid, whistled *kli-li-li-li*. “Song” a trilled, liquid *curleeeeeeeeuuuu*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Marbled Godwit. **HABITAT:** High plains, rangeland; in winter, cultivated land, mudflats, beaches, salt marshes.



WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* (see also p. 170) **Fairly common M200** 17–18 in. (43–46 cm). A large gray-brown wader with long *decurved bill*. Much grayer brown than Long-billed Curlew; bill shorter (2¾–4 in.; 7–10 cm); crown *striped*. **VOICE:** Five to seven short, rapid whistles: *hee-hee-hee-hee-hee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Long-billed Curlew. **HABITAT:** Mudflats, beaches, marshes, pastures, short-grass habitats; in summer, tundra.

Basic Flight Patterns of Sandpipers





**WANDERING TATTLER** *Tringa incana*

Uncommon M195

11 in. (28 cm). Recognized from other shorebirds that also inhabit rocks by *lack of pattern in flight*. Solid grayish above; light line over eye, dark line through it. Legs yellowish. Bobs and teeters like Spotted Sandpiper. **Breeding:** Underparts barred. **Nonbreeding:** Gray-chested, with no barring. **VOICE:** Clear *whee-he-he-he-he*, less sharp than Greater Yellowlegs, and all on same pitch; or *tweet-tweet-tweet*, similar to Spotted Sandpiper's call. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Willet much larger, with very different wing pattern. In w. AK, see Gray-tailed Tattler. **HABITAT:** Rocky coasts, pebbly beaches, more rarely mudflats and sandy beaches. Nests near mountain streams above timberline.

**SURFBIRD** *Aphriza virgata*

Uncommon M207

10 in. (25 cm). A stocky, dark sandpiper of wave-washed rocks. Note conspicuous *white rump and tail tipped with broad black band*; legs *yellowish*. **Breeding:** Heavily streaked and spotted with blackish above and below; orangey scapulars. **Nonbreeding:** Solid gray above and across breast. Bill short, yellow at base. **VOICE:** Sharp *pee-weet* or *key-a-weet*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Rock Sandpiper smaller and slimmer, with longer, slimmer bill, different tail pattern. Black Turnstone smaller, darker, has slimmer bill, white stripe up back, and reddish brown legs. **HABITAT:** Rocky coasts; nests on mountain tundra.

**ROCK SANDPIPER** *Calidris ptilocnemis*

Uncommon M217

8¾–9¼ in. (22–24 cm). **Breeding:** Suggests a Dunlin, with rusty back, black splotch on breast (but Dunlin redder, with black splotch lower down, black legs). **Nonbreeding:** Similar to Purple Sandpiper of Atlantic Coast, but duller (more greenish yellow) legs and bill base. Slaty, with white belly, white wing stripe. Legs dull yellow or greenish. Pribilof Islands subspecies slightly larger and paler than other subspecies. **VOICE:** Flickerlike *du-du-du*. When breeding, a trill. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Its rock-feeding associates, Black Turnstone and Surfbird, are plumper, have shorter bill, and show broad *white band* across base of tail. **HABITAT:** Rocky shores; nests on mossy tundra.

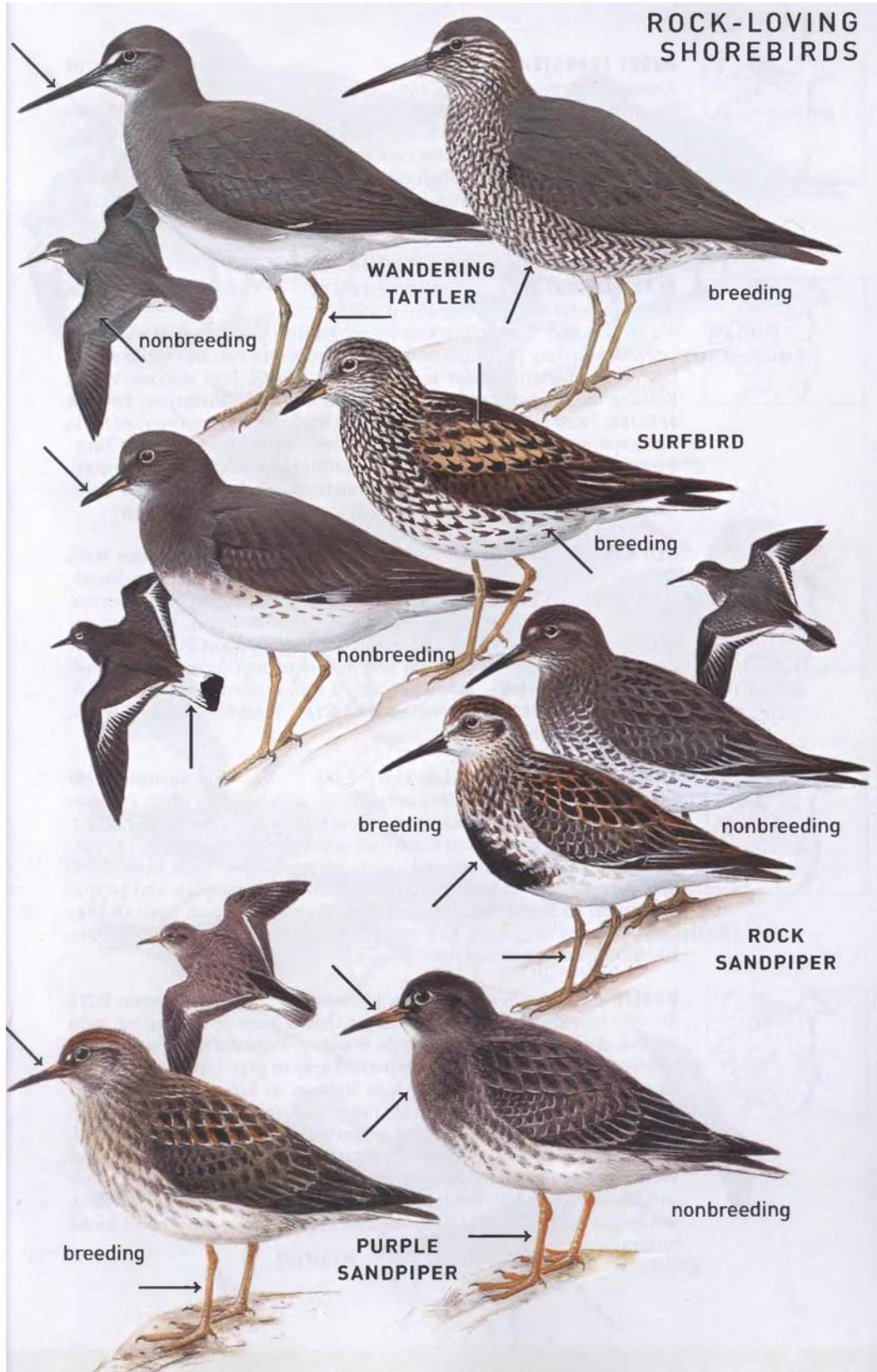
**PURPLE SANDPIPER**

Uncommon M216

Calidris maritima (see also p. 174)

9 in. (23 cm). Stocky, dark sandpipers on rocks, jetties, or breakwaters along our n. Atlantic Coast in winter are likely to be this hardy species. **Nonbreeding:** Slate gray with white belly. At close range, note short yellow-orange legs, dull orangish base of bill, and white eye-ring. **Breeding:** Much browner, more heavily streaked above and below with purplish sheen to some back feathers. **VOICE:** Low, scratchy *weet-wit* or *twit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nonbreeding Dunlin, also found roosting on jetties, has plain brown back and breast, black bill and legs. Nonbreeding Rock Sandpiper nearly identical but no range overlap. **HABITAT:** Wave-washed rocks, jetties, rarely sandy shoreline. Often quite tame. In summer, coastal tundra.

ROCK-LOVING SHOREBIRDS



**RUDDY TURNSTONE***Arenaria interpres* (see also p. 168)

Fairly common M205

9½ in. (24 cm). A squat, robust, orange-legged shorebird, with *harlequin pattern*. **Breeding:** With russet back and curious face and breast pattern, bird is unique, but in flight it is even more striking. **Nonbreeding and juvenile:** Duller, but retain enough of basic pattern to be recognized. **VOICE:** Staccato *tuk-a-tuk* or *kut-a-kut*; also a single *kewk*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black Turnstone. **HABITAT:** Beaches, mudflats, rocky shores, jetties; in summer, tundra.

**BLACK TURNSTONE***Arenaria melanocephala* (see also p. 168)

Fairly common M206

9¼ in. (23 cm). A squat, blackish shorebird with blackish chest and white belly. In breeding plumage, oval white spot before eye, and white speckling. Flight pattern similar to Ruddy Turnstone's. Legs darkish. **VOICE:** Rattling call, higher and longer than that of Ruddy Turnstone. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nonbreeding Ruddy Turnstone has brighter legs, browner back, more rounded and less solid breast patches. Some juvenile Ruddy Turnstones are unusually dark. See also Surfbird. **HABITAT:** Strictly coastal. Rocky shores, surf-pounded islets, sometimes sandy beaches and mudflats. Nests on coastal tundra.

**RED KNOT** *Calidris canutus* (see also p. 174)

Uncommon M208

10½ in. (27 cm). Larger than Sanderling. Stocky, with medium-length, straight bill and short legs. **Breeding:** Face and underparts *pale robin red*; back mottled with black, gray, and russet. **Nonbreeding:** A dumpy wader with washed-out gray look and mottled flanks; medium bill, pale rump, greenish legs. **Juvenile:** May show *pale feather edgings* above and pale buff wash on breast. **VOICE:** Low *knot*; also a low, mellow *tooit-wit* or *wah-quoit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Dowitchers. **HABITAT:** Tidal flats, sandy beaches, shores; tundra when breeding.

**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba* (see also p. 174)

Common M209

8 in. (20 cm). A plump, active sandpiper of outer beaches, where it chases retreating waves like a wind-up toy. Note bold *white wing stripe* in flight. **Breeding:** Bright rusty about head, back, and breast. **Nonbreeding:** The palest sandpiper; snowy white underparts, plain pale gray back, *black shoulders*. **Juvenile:** Differs from nonbreeding adults in having salt-and-pepper pattern on back and breast sides. **VOICE:** Short *kip* or *quit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Western Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint. **HABITAT:** Beaches, mudflats, lakeshores; when nesting, stony tundra.

**DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina* (see also p. 174)

Common M218

8½–8¾ in. (22–23 cm). Slightly larger than a peep or Sanderling, with *longish, droop-tipped bill*. Black legs. **Breeding:** *Rusty red above*, with *black patch on belly*. **Nonbreeding:** Unpatterned gray or gray-brown above, with *grayish wash across breast* (not clean white as in Sanderling or Western Sandpiper). **Juvenile** (this plumage rarely seen away from nesting areas): Rusty above, with buffy breast and suggestion of belly patch. **VOICE:** Nasal, rasping *cheezp* or *treezp*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nonbreeding Sanderling and Western Sandpiper have clean white breast; Sanderling also paler above and has straighter bill; Western Sandpiper slightly smaller. See also Rock Sandpiper. **HABITAT:** Tidal flats, beaches, muddy pools; in summer, moist tundra.

SANDPIERS



PEEPS

Collectively, the three common small sandpipers resident in N. America are nicknamed "peeps." Sometimes somewhat larger *Calidris* are also called peeps. In Old World, small peeps are called "stints."



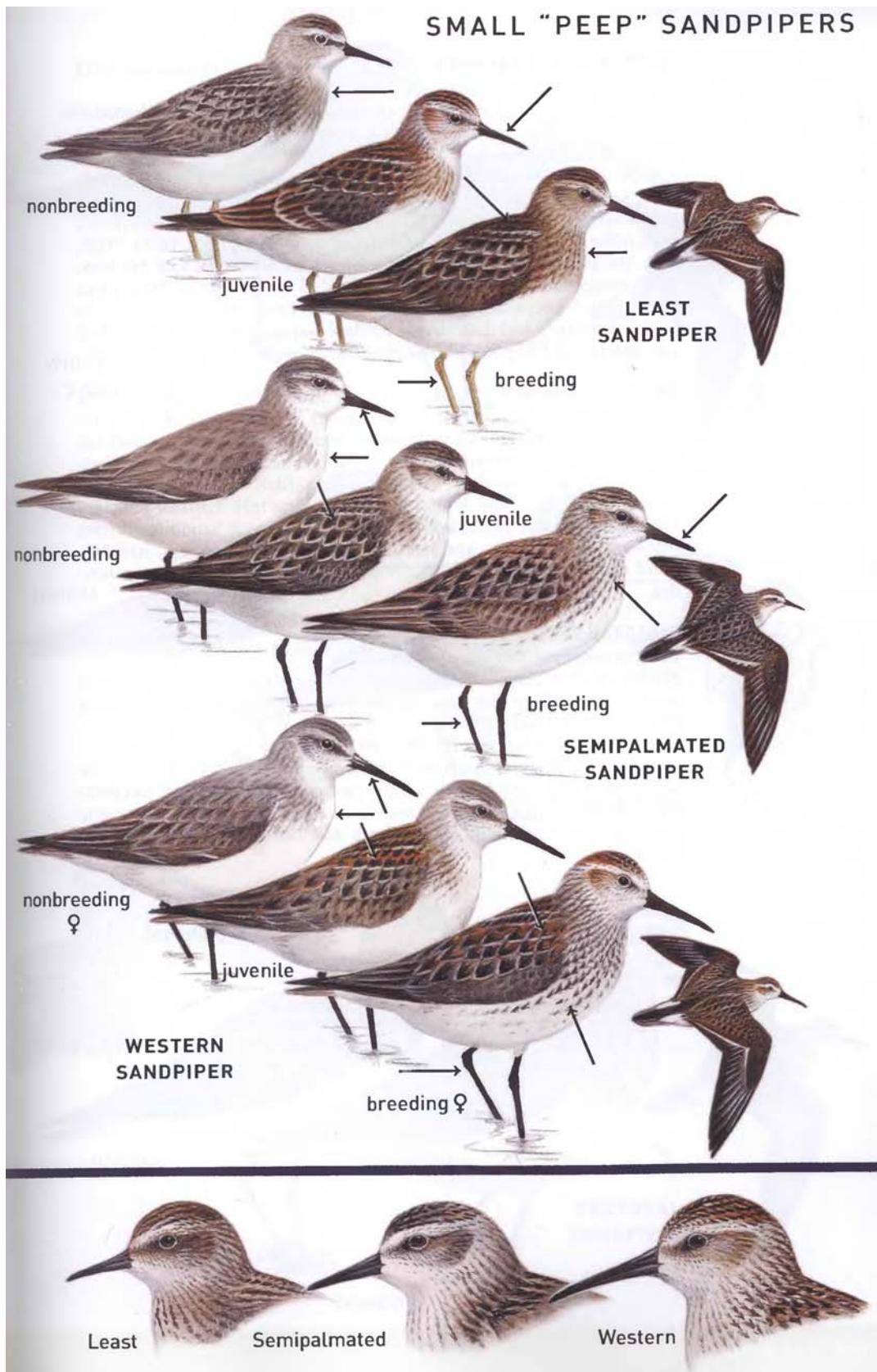
LEAST SANDPIPER *Calidris minutilla* (see also p. 174) Common M212
6 in. (15 cm). Distinguished from the other two common peeps by its slightly smaller size, browner look, and yellowish or greenish—not blackish—legs (but which might appear dark if caked in mud). *Bill slighter, finer, and slightly drooped at tip.* **Adult:** Mostly brownish (breeding) or brownish gray (nonbreeding). **Juvenile:** Much brighter, with extensive rufous on upperparts and buff wash across breast. **VOICE:** Thin *krreet, kreeet.* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Western and Semipalmated sandpipers have blackish legs, thicker-based bill, paler upperparts, and different voice; whitish breast in nonbreeding plumage. **HABITAT:** Mudflats, marshes, rain pools, shores, flooded fields; in summer, taiga wetlands.



SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER *Calidris pusilla* (see also p. 174) Common M210
6½ in. (16 cm). The "Semi" is a small black-legged peep with a *straight*, somewhat *tubular bill* of variable length. **Breeding:** Gray-brown above, many birds with a tinge of russet to cheeks and back; dark streaks on breast. **Nonbreeding:** Rarely seen in our area. Uniformly plain gray across upperparts. **Juvenile:** Breast washed with buff and with fine streaks on sides; scaly upperpart pattern with pale edges, tinged buff when fresh. **VOICE:** Call *chit* or *chirt* (lacks *ee* sound of Least and Western sandpipers). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Typical Western Sandpiper (especially female) has *longer bill, slightly drooped at tip.* Breeding Western more rufous above, more heavily streaked below, particularly on flanks. Juvenile has rusty scapulars and slightly paler face. Least Sandpiper smaller, browner, and thinner billed; has *yellowish or greenish* legs; in nonbreeding plumage, has darker breast. **HABITAT:** Mudflats, marshes, shores, beaches; in summer, tundra.



WESTERN SANDPIPER *Calidris mauri* Common M211
6½ in. (17 cm). Very similar to Semipalmated Sandpiper. Legs black. In typical adult female, bill distinctly thicker at base and *longer* than Semipalmated's and *droops near tip.* **Breeding:** Heavily spotted on breast and flanks; *rusty scapulars, crown, and ear patch.* **Nonbreeding:** Gray or gray-brown above, perhaps the palest peep, unmarked whitish below. **Juvenile:** Buffy wash on breast; scaly upperparts, like juvenile Semipalmated but with distinct rusty scapulars. **VOICE:** Distinct high-pitched *jeet* or *cheet*, unlike lower, soft *chirt* of Semipalmated. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Semipalmated and Least sandpipers, Dunlin. Because of their shorter bill, many male Westerns may be particularly difficult to separate from Semipalmated; see also voice. Semipalmated does not winter in our area, but Western does. **HABITAT:** Shores, beaches, mudflats, marshes; in summer, tundra.





WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER

Calidris fuscicollis (see also p. 174)

Uncommon M213

7½ in. (19 cm). Larger than Semipalmated Sandpiper, smaller than Pectoral Sandpiper. The only peep with completely *white rump*. At rest, this long-winged bird has *tapered look*, with *wingtips extending well beyond tail*. Distinct pale supercilium. **Breeding:** Some rusty on back. *Dark streaks and chevrons on sides extend to flanks.* Bill reddish at base of lower mandible. **Nonbreeding:** Gray upperparts and *breast*, gray smudging down flanks, bold *white eyebrow*. **Juvenile:** Rusty edges on crown and back. **VOICE:** High, thin, mouselike *jeet*, like two flint pebbles scraping. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Long wings and very attenuated look shared only by Baird's Sandpiper among other peeps, but Baird's browner, has dark center to rump, lacks bold supercilium and dark streaks on flanks, and has much lower pitched call. **HABITAT:** Prairie pools, shores, mudflats, marshes; in summer, tundra.



BAIRD'S SANDPIPER

Calidris bairdii (see also p. 174) Uncommon M214

7½ in. (19 cm). Larger than Semipalmated or Western sandpiper, with more *long-winged, tapered look* (wings extend ½ in., 1 cm, beyond tail tip). **Breeding and juvenile:** Brown or *buff* across breast. Suggests large, long-winged Least Sandpiper with black legs. Back of juvenile has *scaled look*. **VOICE:** Call a low *kreep* or *kree*; a rolling trill. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** White-rumped and Pectoral sandpipers. Buff-breasted Sandpiper buffier below, without streaks, and has *yellowish* (not *blackish*) legs. **HABITAT:** Pond margins, grassy mudflats, shores, upper beaches; in summer, tundra.



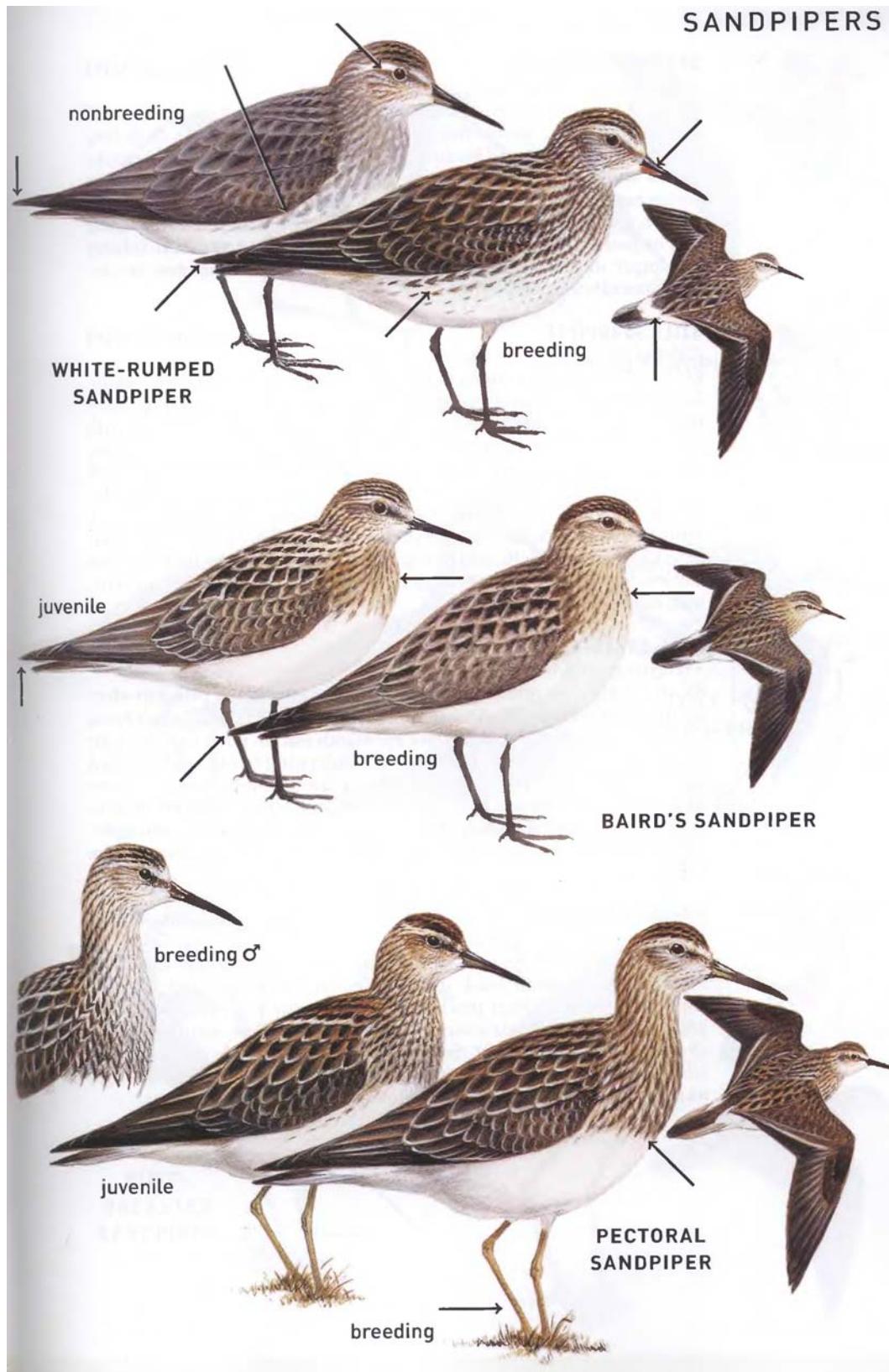
PECTORAL SANDPIPER

Calidris melanotos (see also p. 172)

Fairly common M215

8¼–8¾ in. (21–23 cm). Medium sized (but variable); neck longer than in smaller peeps. Note that heavy breast streaks end rather *abruptly*, like a bib. Dark back lined with white. Wing stripe faint or lacking; crown variably rusty. Legs usually dull yellowish. Bill may be pale yellow-brown at base. **Juvenile:** Brighter upperparts and crown, buffy wash on breast under streaking. **VOICE:** Low, reedy *churr* or *trrip, trrip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Sharp-tailed, Baird's, and Least sandpipers. **HABITAT:** In migration, prairie pools, sod farms, muddy shores, fresh and tidal marshes; in summer, tundra.

SANDPIPERs





SPOTTED SANDPIPER

Actitis macularius (see also p. 174)

7½ in. (19 cm). The most widespread sandpiper along shores of small lakes and streams. Teeters rear body up and down nervously. Note *long tail*. **Breeding:** Note *round breast spots*. **Nonbreeding and juvenile:** No spots; brown above, with white line over eye. Dusky smudge enclosing white wedge near shoulder is a good aid. Flight distinctive: wings beat in a *shallow arc*, giving a stiff, bowed appearance. Underwing striped. **VOICE:** Clear *peet* or *peet-weet!* or *peet-weet-weet-weet-weet*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Solitary Sandpiper. **HABITAT:** Pebby shores, ponds, streamsides, marshes; in winter, also seashores, rock jetties.

Common M193



STILT SANDPIPER

Calidris himantopus (see also pp. 150 and 172)

8½ in. (22 cm). Slight *droop* to tip of bill. Legs long and greenish yellow. Feeds like a dowitcher (sewing-machine motion) but *tilts tail up* more than a dowitcher while feeding. **Breeding:** Heavily marked below with *transverse bars*. Note *rusty cheek patch*. **Nonbreeding:** Yellowlegs-like; gray above, white below; dark-winged and *white-rumped*; note more *greenish legs* and *white eyebrow*. **Juvenile:** Slight buffy wash to breast and pale edgings above. **VOICE:** Single *whu* (like Lesser Yellowlegs but lower, hoarser). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Yellowlegs. Dowitchers pudgier, have longer, yellowish-based, less drooped bills, and in flight show white wedge up back. See also Curlew Sandpiper. **HABITAT:** Shallow pools, mudflats, marshes; in summer, tundra.

Uncommon M219



BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

Tryngites subruficollis (see also p. 172)

8¼ in. (21 cm). No other small shorebird is as *buffy* below (paling to whitish on undertail coverts). A tame, buffy bird, with erect stance, small head, short bill, and yellowish legs. Dark eye stands out on plain face. In flight or in "display," buff body contrasts with underwing (*white* with marbled tip). **Juvenile:** Scaly above, paler on belly (most fall birds along coasts are in this plumage). **VOICE:** Low, trilled *pr-r-r-reet*. Sharp *tik*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Juvenile Ruff. **HABITAT:** Dry dirt, sand, and short-grass habitats, including drying lakeshores, pastures, sod farms; in summer, drier tundra ridges.

Scarce M220



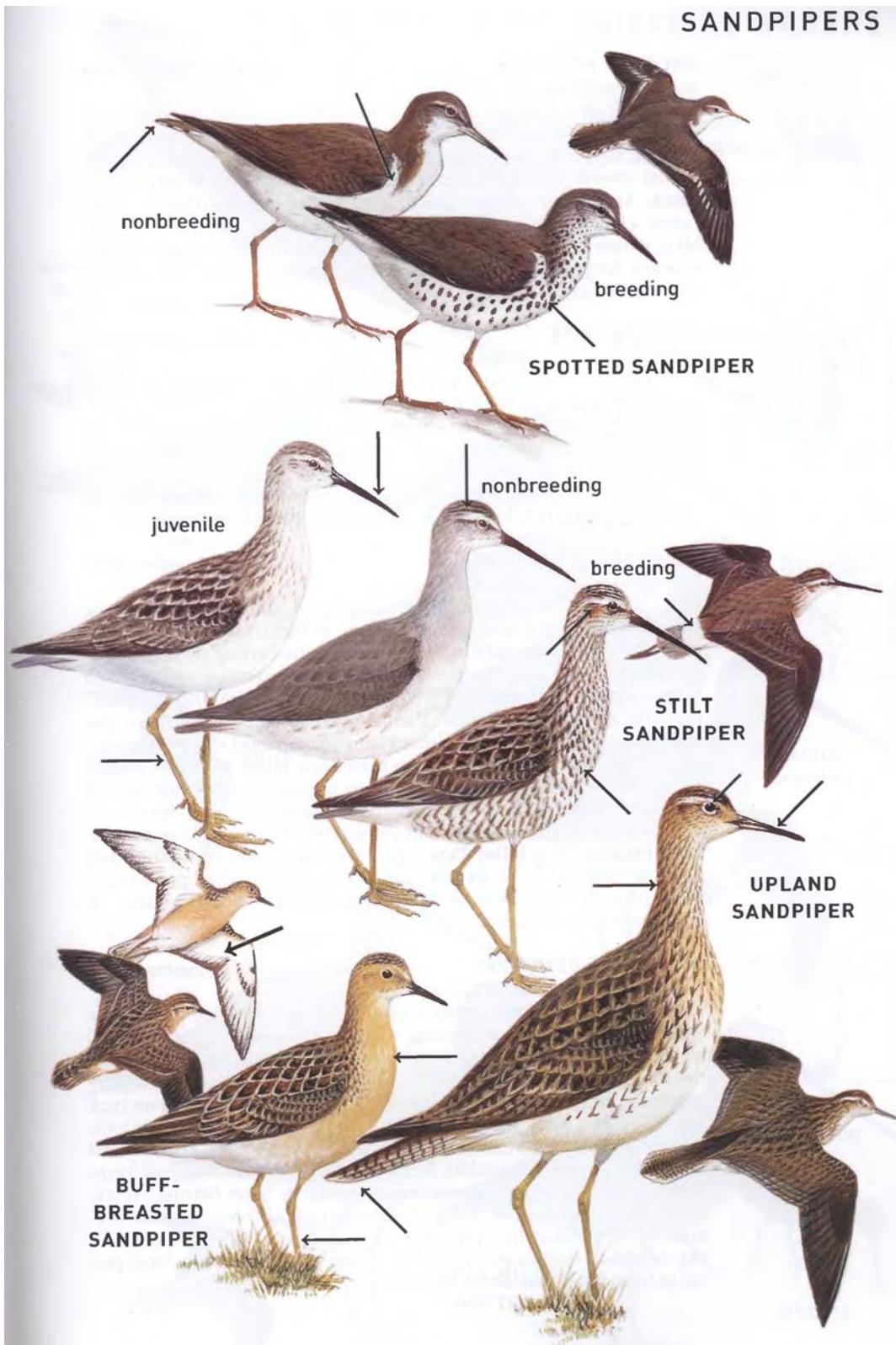
UPLAND SANDPIPER

Bartramia longicauda (see also p. 172)

12 in. (30–31 cm). A "pigeon-headed" brown sandpiper; larger than Killdeer. Short bill, *small head*, shoe-button eye, thin neck, and *long tail* are helpful points. Often perches with erect posture on fenceposts and poles; on alighting, holds wings elevated. **VOICE:** Mellow, whistled *kip-ip-ip-ip*, often heard at night. Song a weird windy whistle: *whooleeeeeee, wheeeeeeeeeeeeeeee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Buff-breasted Sandpiper, yellowlegs. **HABITAT:** Grassy prairies, open meadows, fields, airports, sod farms.

Uncommon M199

SANDPIERS





AMERICAN WOODCOCK

Scolopax minor (see also p. 172)

11 in. (28 cm). A woodland-loving shorebird. Near size of Northern Bobwhite, with extremely long bill and large bulging eyes placed high on head. Rotund, almost neckless, with leaflike brown camouflage pattern, broadly barred crown. When flushed, produces whistling sound with wings. **VOICE:** At dusk in spring, a nasal *beep* (suggesting nighthawk). Aerial "song" a chipping trill made by wings as bird ascends, changing to a bubbling twittering on descent. **HABITAT:** Wet thickets, moist woods, brushy swamps. Spring courtship by male is a crepuscular display ("sky dance") high over semiopen fields, pastures.



WILSON'S SNIPE

Gallinago delicata (see also p. 172)



SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER

Limnodromus griseus (see also p. 174)

11–11½ in. (27–28 cm). A snipelike bird of open mudflats. Note very long bill, sewing-machine feeding motion, and, in flight, *long white wedge up back*. **Breeding:** Underparts rich rusty with some barring on flanks. Underbelly in Atlantic subspecies (*griseus*) shows extensive white, which helps separate from lookalike Long-billed Dowitcher. Bill length not a dependable mark for separation. Pacific Coast subspecies (*caurinus*) also has extensive white on belly. Great Plains (*hendersoni*) more extensively rusty below but color paler orange than Long-billed and fades toward belly. **Nonbreeding:** Gray. **Juvenile:** Brighter upperparts, buff wash to neck and breast; *patterned tertial feathers* an important distinction from juvenile Long-billed. **VOICE:** Staccato *tu-tu-tu*; pitch of Lesser Yellowlegs. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Long-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper. In nonbreeding plumage, see Red Knot. **HABITAT:** Mudflats, tidal marshes, pond edges. More frequent on large tidal mudflats than Long-billed Dowitcher. In summer, taiga and tundra.

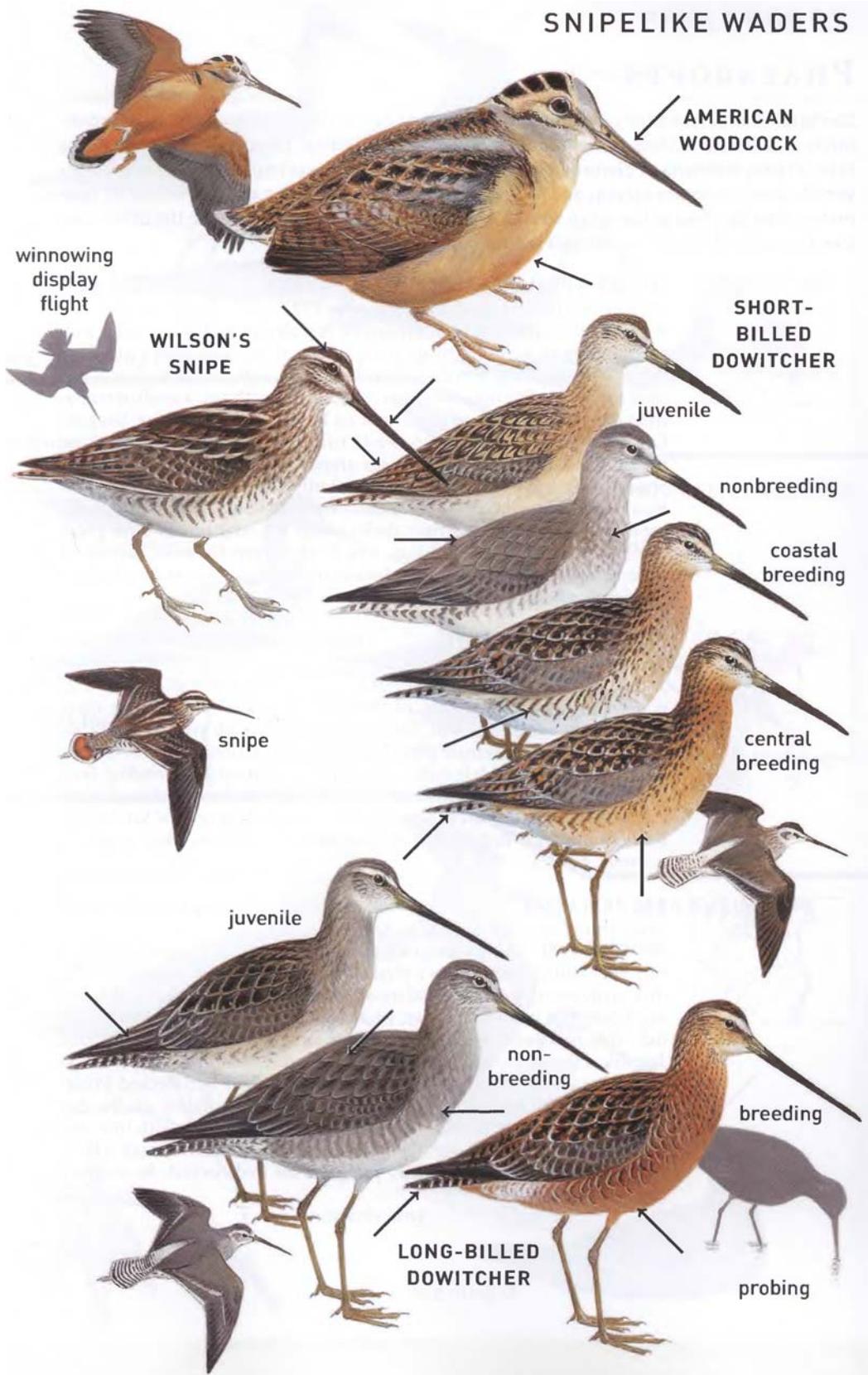


LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER

Limnodromus scolopaceus (see also p. 174)

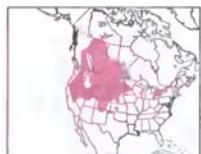
11½ in. (29 cm). When feeding, shows more round-bodied profile than Short-billed; dark tail bars average wider; bill averages longer—but bill lengths of the two dowitchers overlap, so only extreme birds are distinctive. **Breeding:** Underparts *evenly bright rusty to lower belly* (white or very pale lower belly in Short-billed Dowitcher), with dark spotting on neck and barring on sides. Dark bars on tail broader, giving tail a darker look. **Nonbreeding:** Averages darker than Short-billed with smoother gray breast and darker centers to scapulars. **Juvenile:** *Solid gray tertials with pale fringe;* Short-billed has *internal rusty markings similar to "tiger barring."* **VOICE:** Single sharp, high *keek*, occasionally given in twos or threes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** The two dowitcher species are most easily separated by voice. **HABITAT:** Mudflats, shallow pools, marshes; when breeding, tundra. More partial to fresh water than Short-billed, but extensive overlap.

SNIPELIKE WADERS



PHALAROPES

Sandpipers with lobed toes; equally at home wading or swimming. Placed by some taxonomists in a family of their own, Phalaropodidae. When feeding, phalaropes often spin like tops, rapidly dabbling at disturbed water for plankton, brine shrimp, and other marine invertebrates; mosquito larvae; and insects. Females slightly larger and more colorful than males. **RANGE:** Two of the three species are circum polar, wintering at sea; the other species breeds in N. American interior, winters in S. America.



WILSON'S PHALAROPE

Fairly common M225

Phalaropus tricolor (see also p. 150 and p. 172)
9½ in. (23½ cm). This trim phalarope is plain-winged (no stripe), with white rump. In addition to spinning in water, may also feed by dashing about on shorelines. **Breeding:** Female unique, with *broad black face and neck stripe blending into cinnamon*. Male duller, with just a wash of cinnamon on sides of neck and white spot on hindneck. **Nonbreeding:** Suggests Lesser Yellowlegs (plain wings, white rump), but whiter below, with no breast streaking; bill *needlelike*; legs greenish or straw colored. **Juvenile:** Shows buffy and brown pattern above, buffy wash on breast. **VOICE:** Low nasal *wurk*; also *check, check, check*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other two phalaropes show white wing stripe, dark central tail, and bolder dark patch through eye. See also yellowlegs, which may swim for brief periods of time. **HABITAT:** Shallow lakes, freshwater marshes, pools, shores, mudflats; in migration, also salt marshes.



RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

Common offshore, scarce inland M226

Phalaropus lobatus (see also p. 174)
7¾ in. (20 cm). A shorebird far out to sea is most likely a phalarope. This is usually the more common of the two "sea snipes" and the one more likely to occur inland as well. Note dark patch through eye and needlelike black bill. **Breeding:** Female gray above, with *rufous chestnut on neck*, white throat and eyebrow. Male duller, but similar in pattern. **Nonbreeding:** Both sexes gray above with whitish streaks, white below. **Juvenile:** Has distinct buff stripes on back. **VOICE:** Sharp *kit* or *whit*, similar to call of Sanderling. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red Phalarope. **HABITAT:** Ocean, bays, lakes, ponds; in summer, tundra.

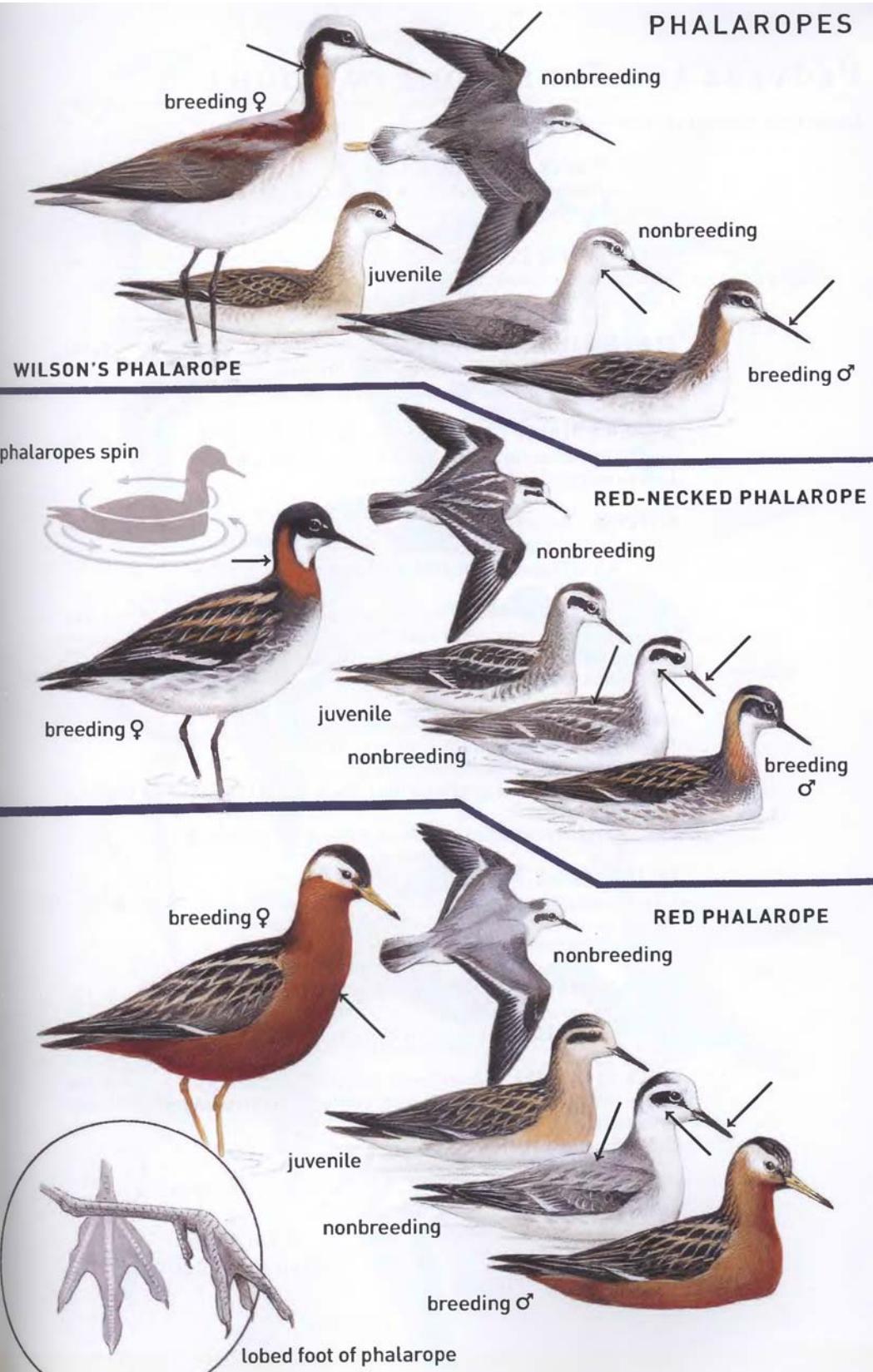


RED PHALAROPE

Uncommon offshore, very rare onshore M227

Phalaropus fulicarius (see also p. 174)
8¼–8½ in. (21–22 cm). Seagoing habits and buoyant swimming (like a tiny gull) distinguish this as a phalarope. **Breeding:** Female has deep *reddish underparts, white face*, and mostly yellow bill. Male duller. **Nonbreeding:** Both sexes plain gray above, white below; in flight suggest Sanderling, but with *dark patch through eye*. Bill mostly dark with small pale base. **Juvenile:** Has peach-buff wash on neck; acquires adult's pale gray back-feathering quickly. **VOICE:** *Whit* or *kit*, higher than Red-necked Phalarope's call. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red-necked Phalarope slightly smaller, has more needlelike bill; nonbreeding birds darker gray above with thin pale back stripes. Slightly thicker bill of Red Phalarope may have small yellowish base. **HABITAT:** More strictly pelagic than Red-necked. In summer, tundra.

PHALAROPES

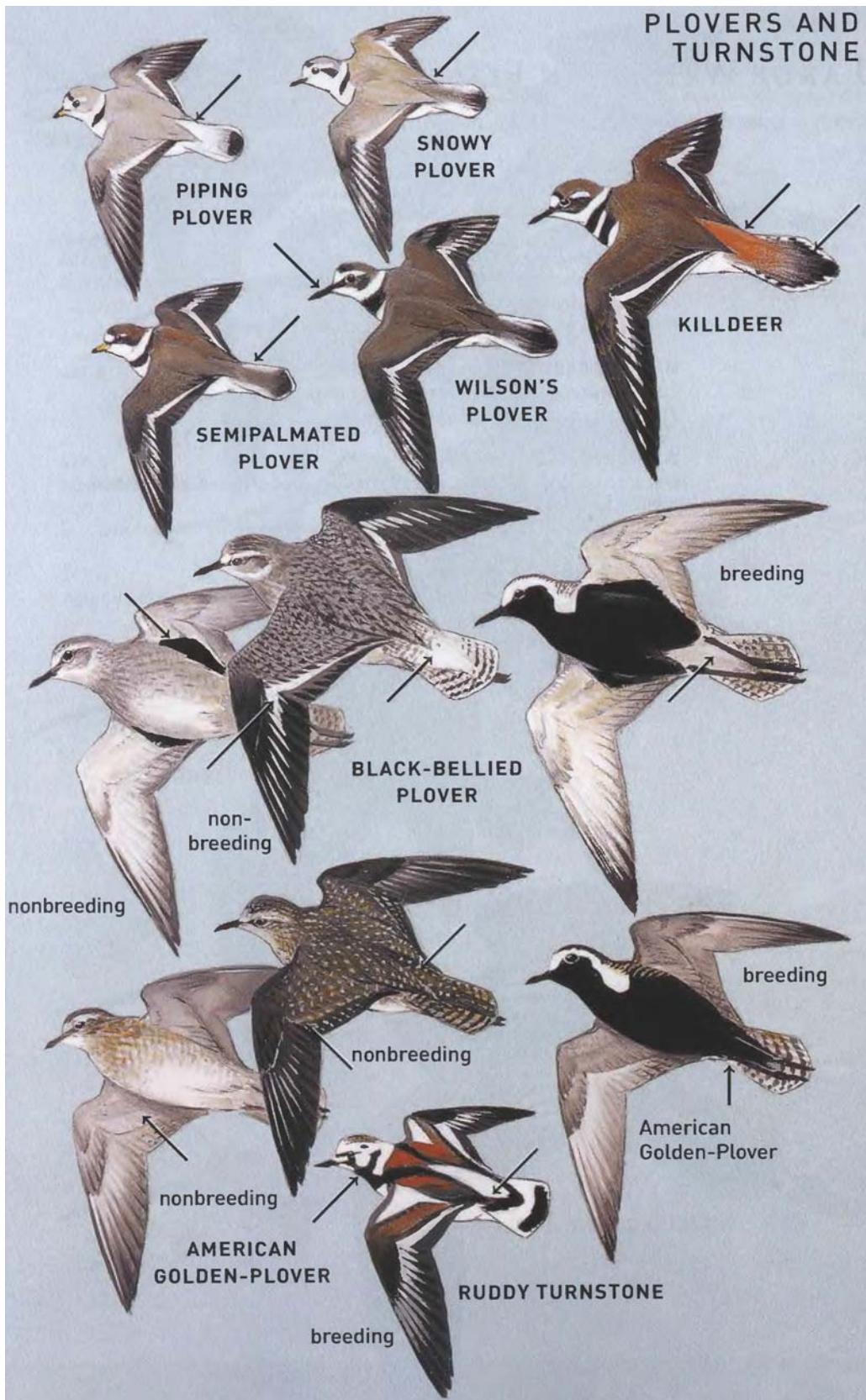


PLOVERS AND TURNSTONE IN FLIGHT

Learn their distinctive flight calls.

- PIPING PLOVER** *Charadrius melanotos* p. 146
Pale sand color above, wide black tail spot, whitish rump.
Call a plaintive whistle, *peep-lo* (first note higher).
- SNOWY PLOVER** *Charadrius alexandrinus* p. 146
Pale sand color above; tail with dark center, white sides; rump not white.
Call a musical whistle, *pe-wee-ah* or *o-wee-ah*.
- SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** *Charadrius semipalmatus* p. 146
Mud brown above; dark tail with white borders.
Call a plaintive upward-slurred *chi-we* or *too-li*.
- WILSON'S PLOVER** *Charadrius wilsonia* p. 146
Similar in pattern to Semipalmated; larger with big bill.
Call an emphatic whistled *whit!* or *wheet!*
- KILLDEER** *Charadrius vociferus* p. 146
Tawny orange rump, longish tail.
Noisy; a loud *kill-deeah* or *killdeer*; also *dee-dee-dee*, etc.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola* p. 144
Breeding: Black below, white undertail coverts.
Year-round: Black wingpits, white in wing and tail.
Call a plaintive slurred whistle, *tlee-oo-eee* or *whee-er-ee*.
- AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** *Pluvialis dominica* p. 144
Breeding: Black below, black undertail coverts.
Nonbreeding: Speckled brown above, grayish below.
Year-round: Underwing grayer than Black-bellied Plover's; no black in wingpits.
Call a querulous whistled *queedle* or *que-e-a*.
- PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER** *Pluvialis fulva* (not shown) p. 144
Like American, but breeding birds show some white along flanks and undertail; nonbreeding birds more gold-washed on face.
Call a loud, whistled *chu-whee* or *chu-wee-dle*.
- RUDDY TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres* p. 156
Harlequin pattern distinctive.
Call a low chuckling *tuk-a-tuk* or *kut-a-kut*.
- BLACK TURNSTONE** *Arenaria melanocephala* (not shown) p. 156
Boldly patterned in black and white. Fairly similar to nonbreeding Ruddy Turnstone, but brown replaced by black.
Call a short series of rattling notes.

PLOVERS AND TURNSTONE



LARGE WADERS IN FLIGHT

Learn to know their flight calls, which are distinctive.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica* p. 152

Upturned bill, white wing stripe, ringed tail. Blackish wing linings.
Flight call *tawit!*, higher pitched than Marbled Godwit's.

WILLET *Tringa semipalmata* p. 150

Contrasty black, gray, and white wing pattern. Overhead, wing pattern is
even more striking.
Flight call a whistled one- to three-note *kree-ree-ree*.

MARBLED GODWIT *Limosa fedoa* p. 152

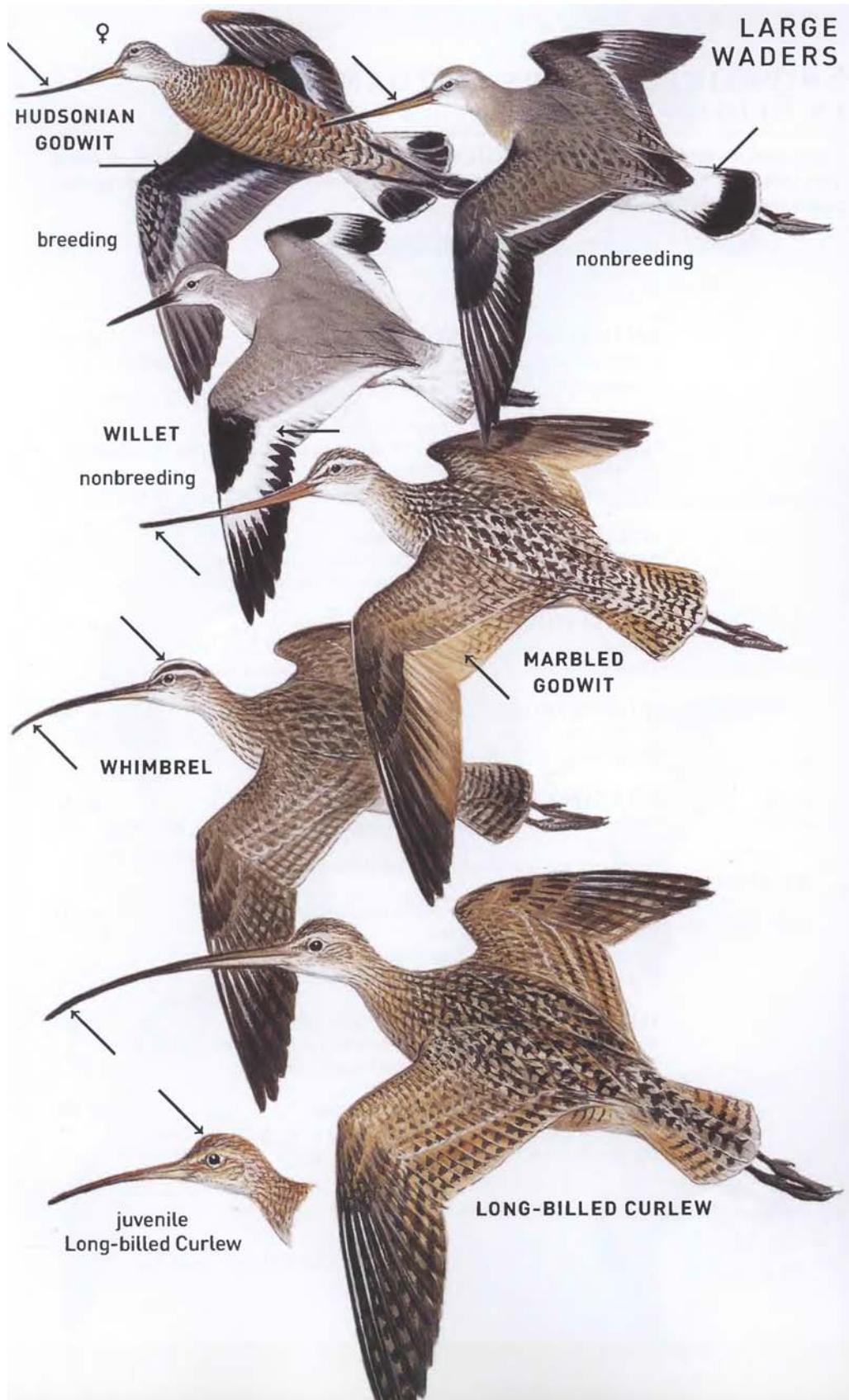
Long upturned bill, tawny brown color. Cinnamon wing linings.
Flight call an accented *kerwhit!* (or *godwit!*).

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* p. 152

Decurved bill, gray-brown overall color, striped crown. Grayer than next
species, lacks cinnamon wing linings.
Flight call five to seven short, rapid whistles: *hee-hee-hee-hee-hee*.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW *Numenius americanus* p. 152

Very long, sicklelike bill; no head striping. Bright cinnamon wing linings.
Juvenile's bill shorter but note head patterns.
Flight call a rapid, whistled *kli-li-li-li*.



SNIPELIKE WADERS AND SANDPIPERs IN FLIGHT

These species and those on the next plate show their basic flight patterns. Most of these have unpatterned wings, lacking a pale stripe. All are shown in full color on other plates. Learn their distinctive flight calls.

WILSON'S SNIPE *Gallinago delicata* p. 164
Long bill, pointed wings, rusty orange tail, zigzag flight.
Flight call, when flushed, a rasping *scaip*.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK *Scolopax minor* p. 164
Long bill, rounded wings, chunky shape. Wings whistle in flight.
At dusk, aerial flight "song."

SOLITARY SANDPIPER *Tringa solitaria* p. 150
Very dark unpatterned wings (underwing dark also—pale in yellowlegs),
conspicuous bars on white sides of tail.
Flight call *peet!* or *peet-weet-weet!* (higher than Spotted Sandpiper's).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes* p. 150
Similar to Greater Yellowlegs, but smaller, with smaller bill.
Flight call *yew* or *yu-yu* (rarely three), softer than Greater's call.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa melanoleuca* p. 150
Plain unpatterned wings, whitish rump and tail, long bill.
Flight call a forceful three-note whistle, *dear! dear! dear!*

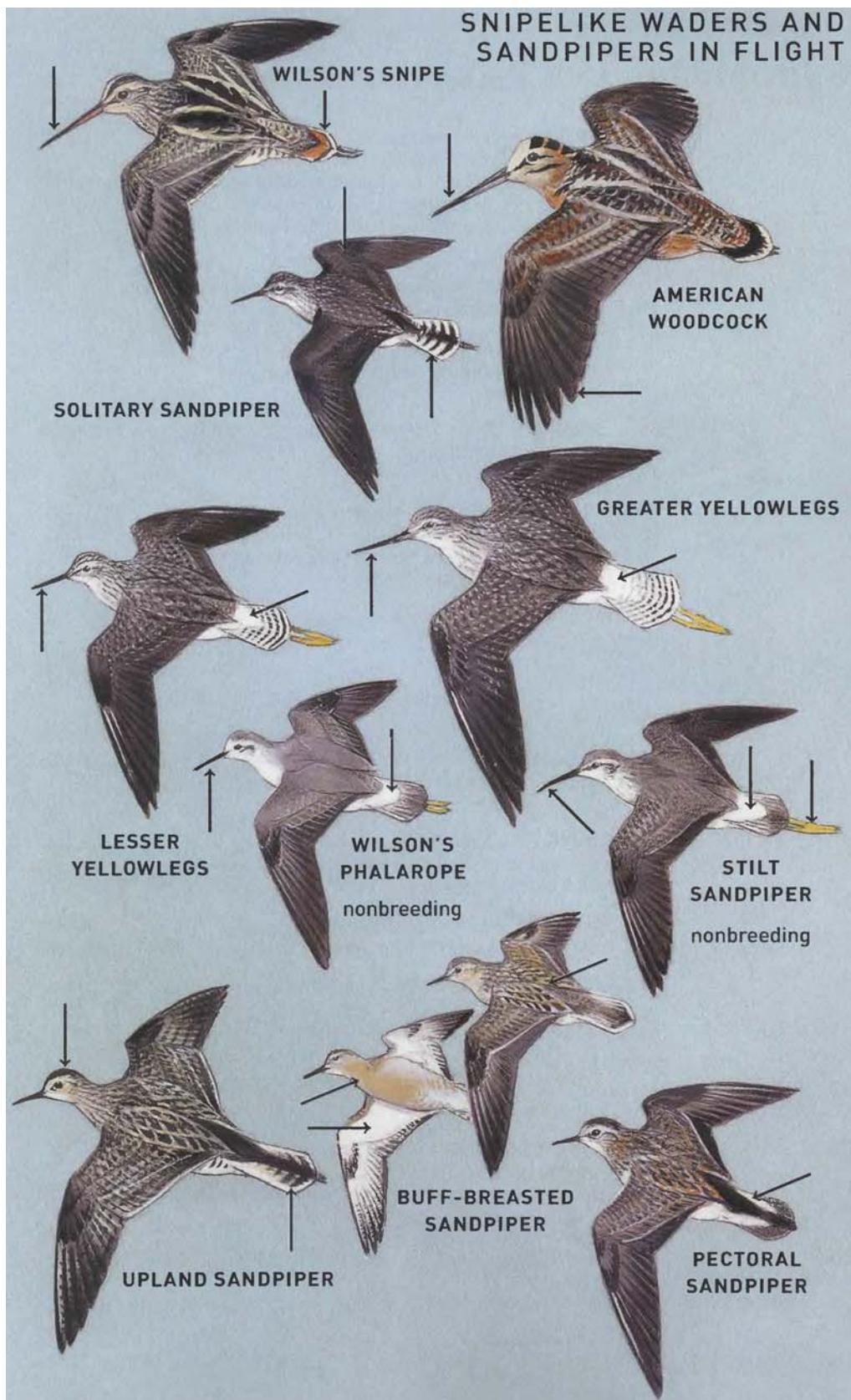
WILSON'S PHALAROPE *Phalaropus tricolor* p. 166
Nonbreeding: Suggests Lesser Yellowlegs; smaller, whiter, bill needlelike.
Flight call a low nasal *wurk*.

STILT SANDPIPER *Calidris himantopus* p. 162
Suggests Lesser Yellowlegs, but legs greenish yellow, bill longer and drooped.
Flight call a single *whu*, lower than Lesser Yellowlegs'.

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda* p. 162
Brown; small head, long tail.
Often flies "on tips of wings," like Spotted Sandpiper.
Flight call a mellow whistled *kip-ip-ip-ip*.

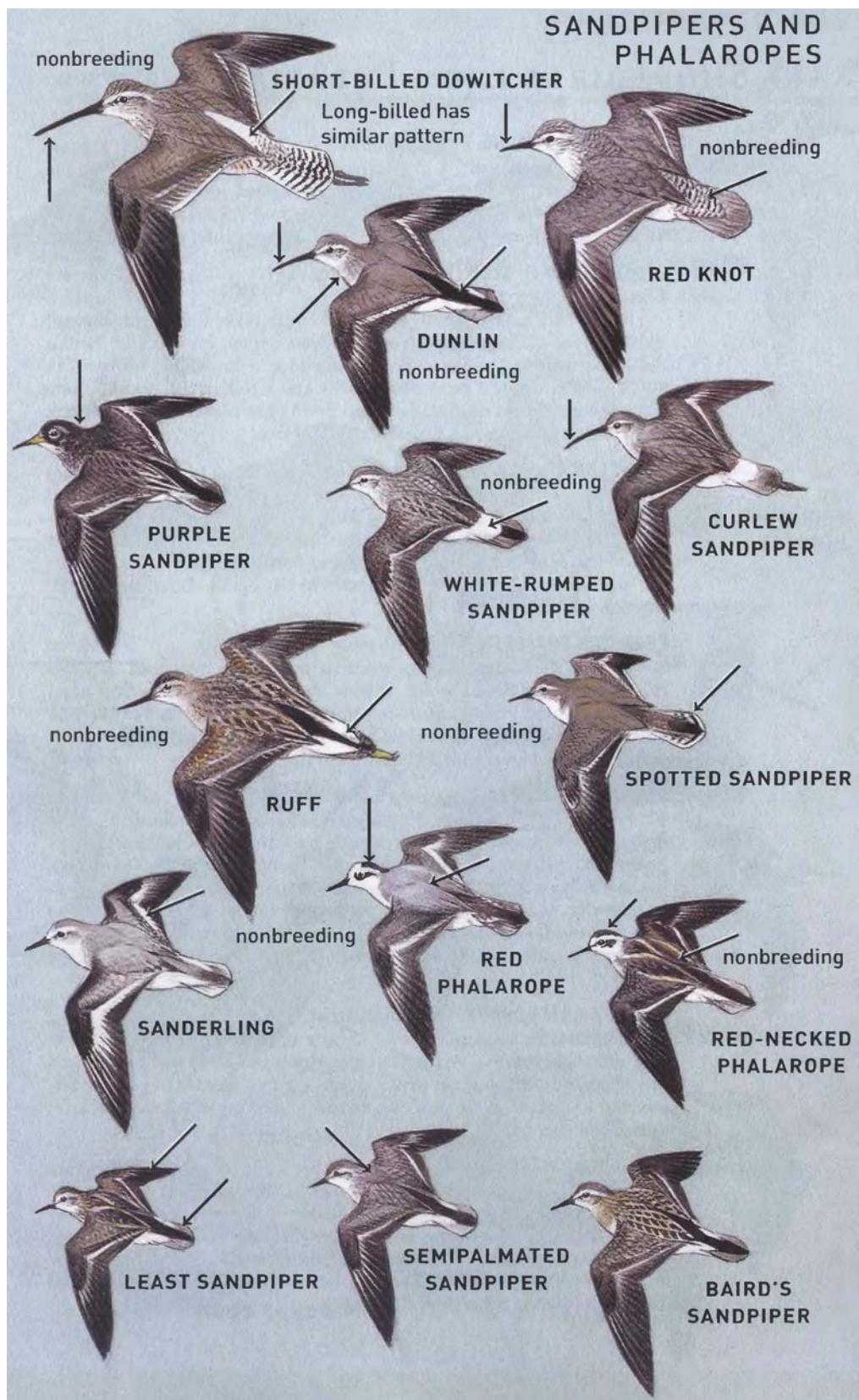
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* p. 162
Buff below, contrasting with white wing linings; plain upperparts.
Flight call a low, trilled *pr-r-r-reet*; usually silent.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* p. 160
Like an oversized Least Sandpiper. Wing stripe faint or lacking.
Flight call a low, reedy *churrt* or *trrip, trrip*.



SANDPIPERs AND PHALAROPES IN FLIGHT

DOWITCHERS <i>Limnodromus</i> spp.	p. 164
Long bill, long wedge of white up back. Flight call of Short-billed Dowitcher a staccato mellow <i>tu-tu-tu</i> ; that of Long-billed Dowitcher a single sharp <i>keek</i> , occasionally given in twos or threes and uttered repeatedly by feeding birds (unlike Short-billed).	
DUNLIN <i>Calidris alpina</i>	p. 156
<i>Nonbreeding</i> : Slightly larger than peeps, darker than Sanderling. Flight call a nasal rasping <i>cheezp</i> or <i>treezp</i> .	
RED KNOT <i>Calidris canutus</i>	p. 156
<i>Nonbreeding</i> : Washed-out gray look, pale rump. Flight call a low <i>knot</i> .	
PURPLE SANDPIPER <i>Calidris maritima</i>	p. 154
Slaty color. Flight call a low <i>weet-wit</i> or <i>twit</i> .	
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	p. 160
White rump; only peep so marked, but beware partial or poor views of other peep, all of which have mostly white rumps with narrow dark bar. Flight call a mouselike squeak, <i>jeet</i> .	
CURLEW SANDPIPER <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	p. 182
<i>Nonbreeding</i> : Suggests Dunlin, but rump white.	
RUFF <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	p. 182
If seen well, oval white patch on each side of dark tail distinctive. Usually silent.	
SPOTTED SANDPIPER <i>Actitis macularius</i>	p. 162
Shallow wing stroke gives stiff, bowed effect; longish tail. Flight call a clear <i>peet</i> or <i>peet-weet</i> .	
SANDERLING <i>Calidris alba</i>	p. 156
The most contrasting wing stripe of any small shorebird. Flight call a sharp metallic <i>kip</i> or <i>quit</i> .	
RED PHALAROPE <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	p. 166
<i>Nonbreeding</i> : Paler above than Red-necked Phalarope; bill slightly thicker.	
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	p. 166
<i>Nonbreeding</i> : Sanderling-like, but with dark eye patch. Flight call (both pelagic phalaropes) a sharp <i>kit</i> or <i>whit</i> .	
LEAST SANDPIPER <i>Calidris minutilla</i>	p. 158
Very small, brown with short wings and tail; faint wing stripe. Flight call a thin <i>krreet</i> , <i>krreet</i> .	
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER <i>Calidris pusilla</i>	p. 158
Grayer than Least Sandpiper. Flight call a soft <i>chit</i> or <i>chirt</i> (lacks <i>ee</i> sound of Least).	
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER <i>Calidris bairdii</i>	p. 160
Larger and longer winged than above two. Size of White-rumped Sandpiper, but rump dark. Flight call a low, raspy <i>kreep</i> or <i>kree</i> .	



RARE SHOREBIRDS FROM EURASIA

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* Vagrant

12–12½ in. (30–32 cm). A distinctive round-winged plover with unique long wispy crest. **RANGE:** Casual European vagrant, mostly in late fall and early winter, from Atlantic Canada south to mid-Atlantic states; accidental farther south and west. **HABITAT:** Farmland, marshes, mudflats.

LESSER SAND-PLOVER (MONGOLIAN PLOVER) *Charadrius mongolus* Vagrant

7½ in. (19 cm). Asian. Slightly larger and larger-billed than Semipalmented Plover. **Breeding:** Very distinctive, with broad rufous breast-band. Female duller. **Nonbreeding and juvenile:** Breastband gray-brown; no white collar. **VOICE:** Calls include a ploverlike whistle and a rolling trill. **RANGE:** Rare but regular migrant on Aleutians and Bering Sea islands. Casual vagrant from mainland AK to CA, accidental farther east.

EUROPEAN GOLDEN-PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* Vagrant

11 in. (28 cm). Very similar to American and Pacific golden-plovers but shows white underwings. Breeding adult has white along flanks and undertail like Pacific but is larger-bodied, smaller-billed. **VOICE:** Melodic drawn-out whistle. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American and Pacific golden-plovers. **RANGE:** Very rare spring vagrant to NL, casual elsewhere in Maritimes.

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* Vagrant

8¼–8½ in. (21–22 cm). Narrow white stripe crossing midbreast identifies this dark plover. Broad white eyebrow stripes join in broad V on nape. **VOICE:** Repeated piping, *titi-ri-titi-ri*, running into a trill. **RANGE:** Very rare Asian visitor to w. AK, casual farther south along Pacific Coast. A few pairs may breed locally on high tundra of nw. AK.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* Vagrant

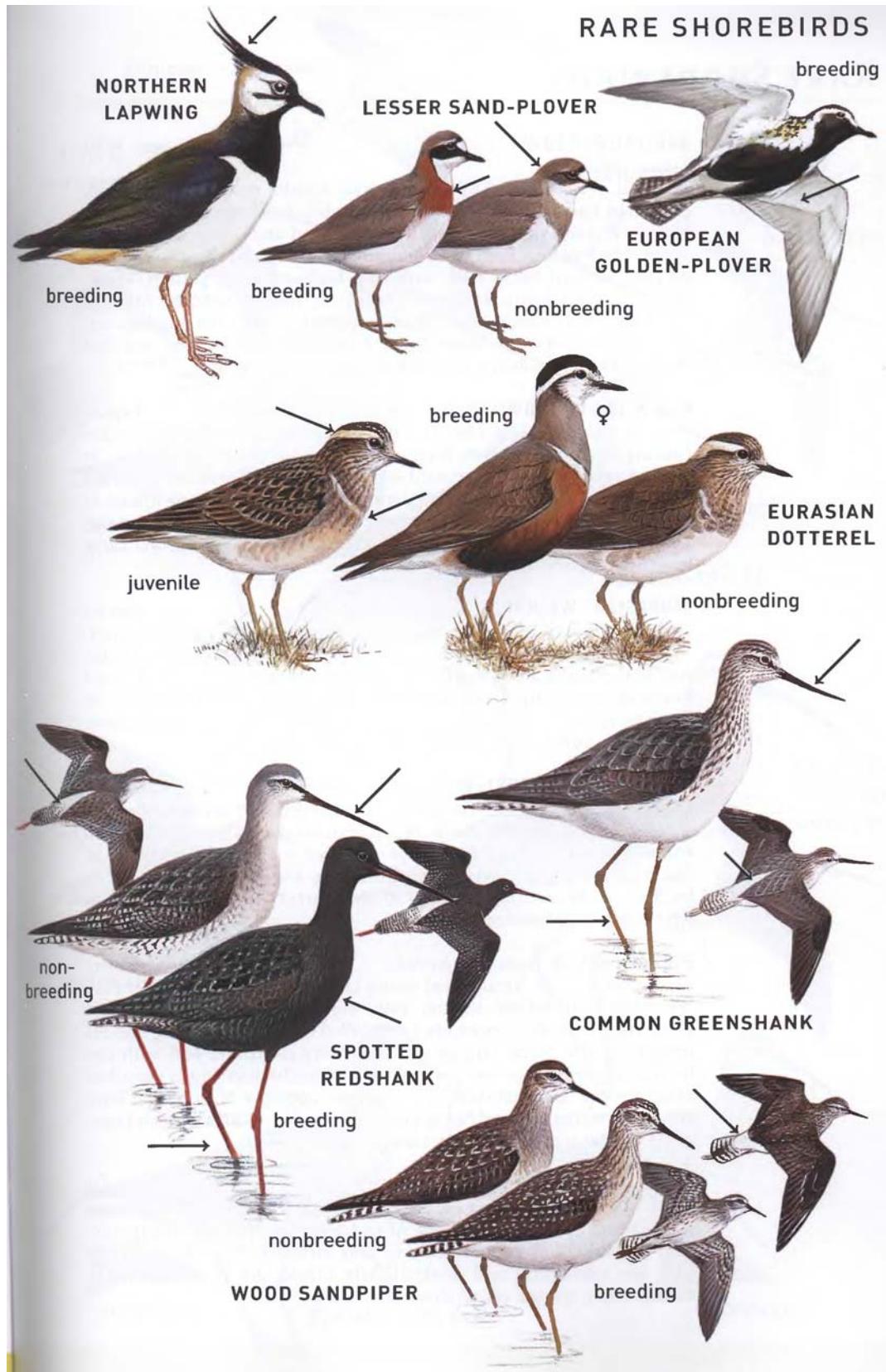
12½ in. (32 cm). A slender, long-legged, long-billed shorebird. **Breeding:** Sooty black, with small white speckles on back and wings, making bird appear a trifle paler above. Long legs dark red; long black bill reddish basally, has slight droop at tip. **Nonbreeding and juvenile:** Gray and somewhat yellowlegs-like, but legs orange-red, bill orange-red basally. In flight, shows long white wedge on back, white underwing. **VOICE:** Sharp, whistled *tcheet*, with rising inflection. **RANGE:** Casual Eurasian visitor; records widely scattered.

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* Vagrant

13½ in. (34 cm). Size and shape of Greater Yellowlegs, but legs dull greenish (not bright yellow). Wedgelike white rump patch runs up back, as in a dowitcher. **VOICE:** Ringing, whistled *tew tew tew*, similar to Greater Yellowlegs. **RANGE:** Eurasian species; annual visitor on w. AK islands, accidental elsewhere.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* Very rare

8 in. (20 cm). Shape of Solitary Sandpiper, but has pale (not dark) underwings. Pale supercilium. Upperparts slightly paler and browner, heavily spotted with pale buff. Rump patch white (Solitary has dark rump). Legs dull yellow. Overall, looks very short in rear. **VOICE:** Sharp, high *chew-chew-chew* or *chiff-chiff-chiff*. **RANGE:** Regular migrant on Aleutians and Bering Sea islands, accidental elsewhere.



RARE SHOREBIRDS



BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Rare, local M203

16–17 in. (41–44 cm). Alaskan birds have *mottled rump* and *whitish tail* crossed by narrow dark bars. European birds have whiter rump. **Breeding:** Male rich *reddish orange*, particularly on head and underparts. Female duller. **Nonbreeding:** Both sexes grayish above, white below. **Juvenile:** Underparts washed buffy, back with neat buff-and-black pattern. **VOICE:** Flight call a harsh *kirrick*; alarm a shrill *krick*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Marbled and Hudsonian godwits. Bar-tailed has slightly shorter bill and legs, underwing dusky. **RANGE:** Nests in w. AK; vagrant on both West and East coasts. **HABITAT:** Mudflats, shores, tundra.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Vagrant

16½ in. (42 cm). This elegant Eurasian godwit resembles Hudsonian Godwit (white rump, white wing stripe, black tail), but bill straighter. In breeding plumage, has chestnut head and neck, black-and-white barred belly. Best field distinction in all plumages is *white* underwing linings in Black-tailed, *black* in Hudsonian. **VOICE:** Flight call a clear *reeka-reeka-reeka*. **RANGE:** Casual visitor to both AK and East Coast. **HABITAT:** Large lakes with muddy shores.

"EURASIAN" WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Vagrant

Two subspecies of Whimbrel from Eurasia occur as very rare visitors in N. America. Asian race *variegatus* is a rare but regular migrant in w. AK; casual farther south along Pacific Coast. European race *phaeopus* is a casual visitor along Atlantic Coast. Both differ from N. American Whimbrel by showing mostly *white rump* (slightly mottled in *variegatus*) and whiter underwing. **VOICE:** Calls similar to N. American Whimbrel.

BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW *Numenius tahitiensis*

Rare, local

17½–18 in. (44–46 cm). Very similar to Whimbrel, but *tawnier*, especially about *tail and unbarred rump*. Breast less streaked. Call very different. **VOICE:** Slurred *chi-u-it* (Inuit name) or *whee-oo-wheep*; suggests call of Black-bellied Plover. Also a wolf whistle-like *whee-wheeo*. **RANGE:** Nests locally in w. AK; accidental farther south. **HABITAT:** In summer, tundra; in winter, reefs and beaches.

ESKIMO CURLEW *Numenius borealis*

Probably extinct

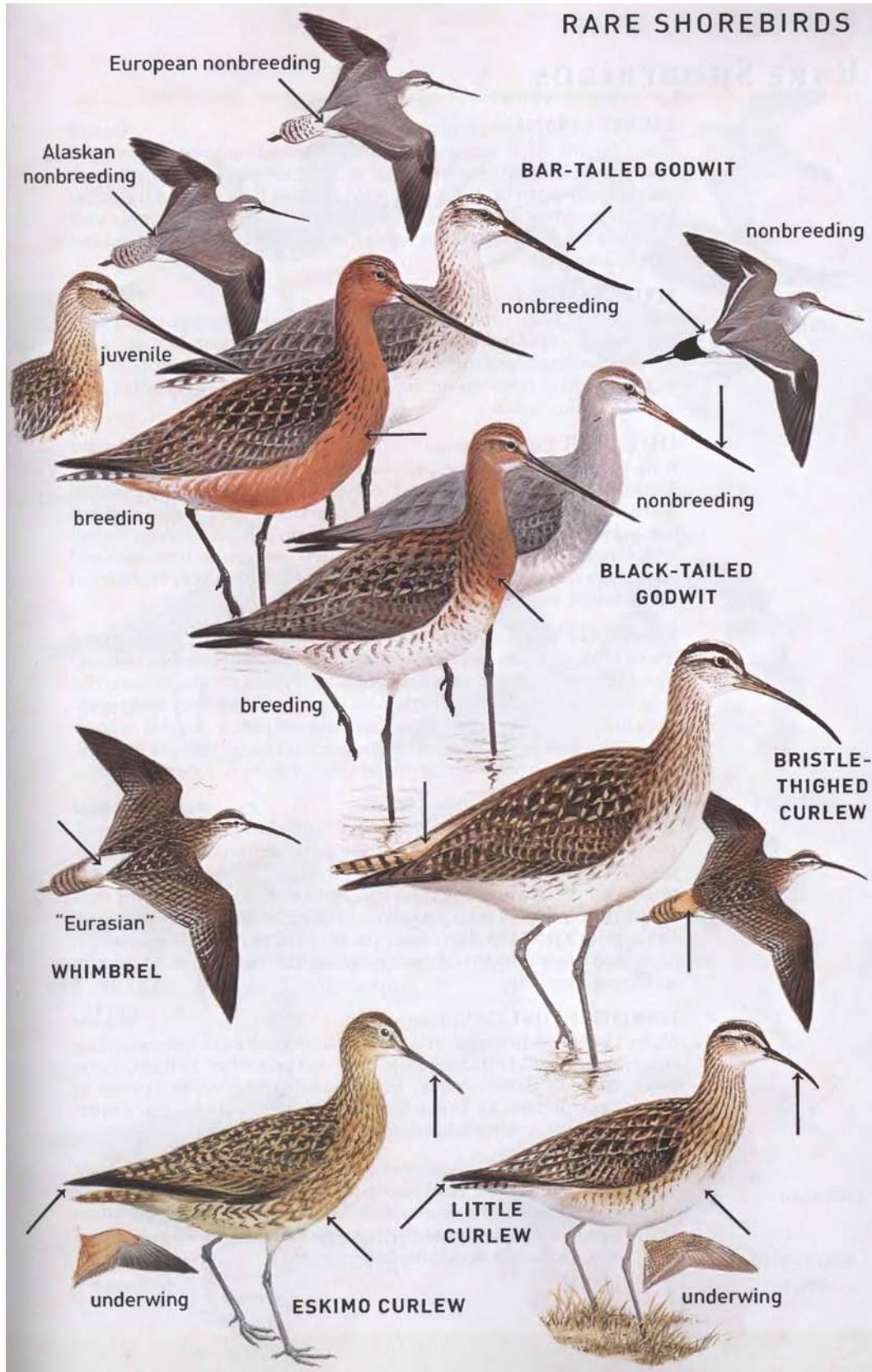
14 in. (36 cm). Last documented record in early 1960s. Much smaller than Whimbrel. Bill shorter, thinner, only slightly curved. More patterned above than Whimbrel; more like Long-billed Curlew, with strong buff interspersed with black. Linings of raised wing cinnamon-buff with unbarred primaries. Legs slate gray. **VOICE:** Call has been variously described as *tee-dee-dee* or repeated *tee-dee* or a note suggestive of Common Tern. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Upland Sandpiper, Little Curlew. **HABITAT:** Open grasslands, coastal areas; in summer, tundra.

LITTLE CURLEW *Numenius minutus*

Vagrant

12 in. (30 cm). The tiniest curlew. Bill *short and gently decurved*. Breast washed with buff, finely streaked. At rest, wingtips even with tail tip (extend beyond tail in Eskimo Curlew); note difference in *underwing* (pale buff, not cinnamon) and *flanks* (lightly barred, not heavy chevrons). **RANGE:** Asian species; casual along West Coast.

RARE SHOREBIRDS



RARE SHOREBIRDS

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Vagrant

8 in. (20 cm). At all seasons resembles nonbreeding Spotted Sandpiper (no spots). Best feature is *longer tail*. At rest, wingtips of Common reach only halfway to tail tip, those of Spotted closer to tip. Common has grayer legs, longer white wing stripe. **VOICE:** In flight, *twee-see-see*, thinner than Spotted's call. **RANGE:** Rare but regular, mostly in spring, on Aleutians and Bering Sea islands.

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus*

Vagrant

9 in. (23 cm). Note *upturned bill* and short *orange-yellow legs, jagged black stripe* along scapulars. Often bobs like Spotted Sandpiper. In flight, wing has dark leading edge and broad *white band* at rear. **VOICE:** Fluty *dudududu* or sharp piping, *twita-wit-wit-wit*. **RANGE:** Very rare in w. AK islands, accidental farther south.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Vagrant

6 in. (15 cm). Size of Semipalmated Sandpiper, but bill slightly finer. **Breeding:** Rusty orange above and on breast. Similar to some Red-necked Stints, but body less elongated, legs longer, and *dark breast markings washed with orange*. **Juvenile:** Like juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper, but with longer wingtip projection, bold white V on mantle, black-centered wing coverts and tertials. **VOICE:** Sanderling-like *tit*. **RANGE:** Widespread casual visitor, mostly to coasts.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*

Rare visitor and breeder, local

6½ in. (17 cm). A rare but regular visitor, recognized in breeding plumage by *bright rusty head and neck, bordered below by dark streaks*. **Juvenile:** Has long wingtip projection like Little Stint but contrasting rusty upper scapulars like juvenile Western. **VOICE:** Short, clipped *chit*, or *chit chit*, suggesting Semipalmated Sandpiper. **RANGE:** Rare but regular migrant in w. AK, where very rare breeder; casual migrant elsewhere in N. America.

GRAY-TAILED TATTLER *Tringa brevipes*

Rare visitor, local

10 in. (25 cm). Very similar to Wandering Tattler; best told by voice. **Breeding:** Compared with Wandering, barring on underparts finer and less extensive; supercilium somewhat bolder. **Juvenile:** Gray-tailed has more extensive whitish spots and notches to scapulars, coverts, and tertials than Wandering, is slightly paler gray above (sometimes tinged brownish), and flanks paler. **VOICE:** Up-slurred whistle, *too-weet?* or *tu-whip?*, with accent on second syllable. **RANGE:** Asian species, regular visitor to w. AK islands, accidental elsewhere.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Vagrant

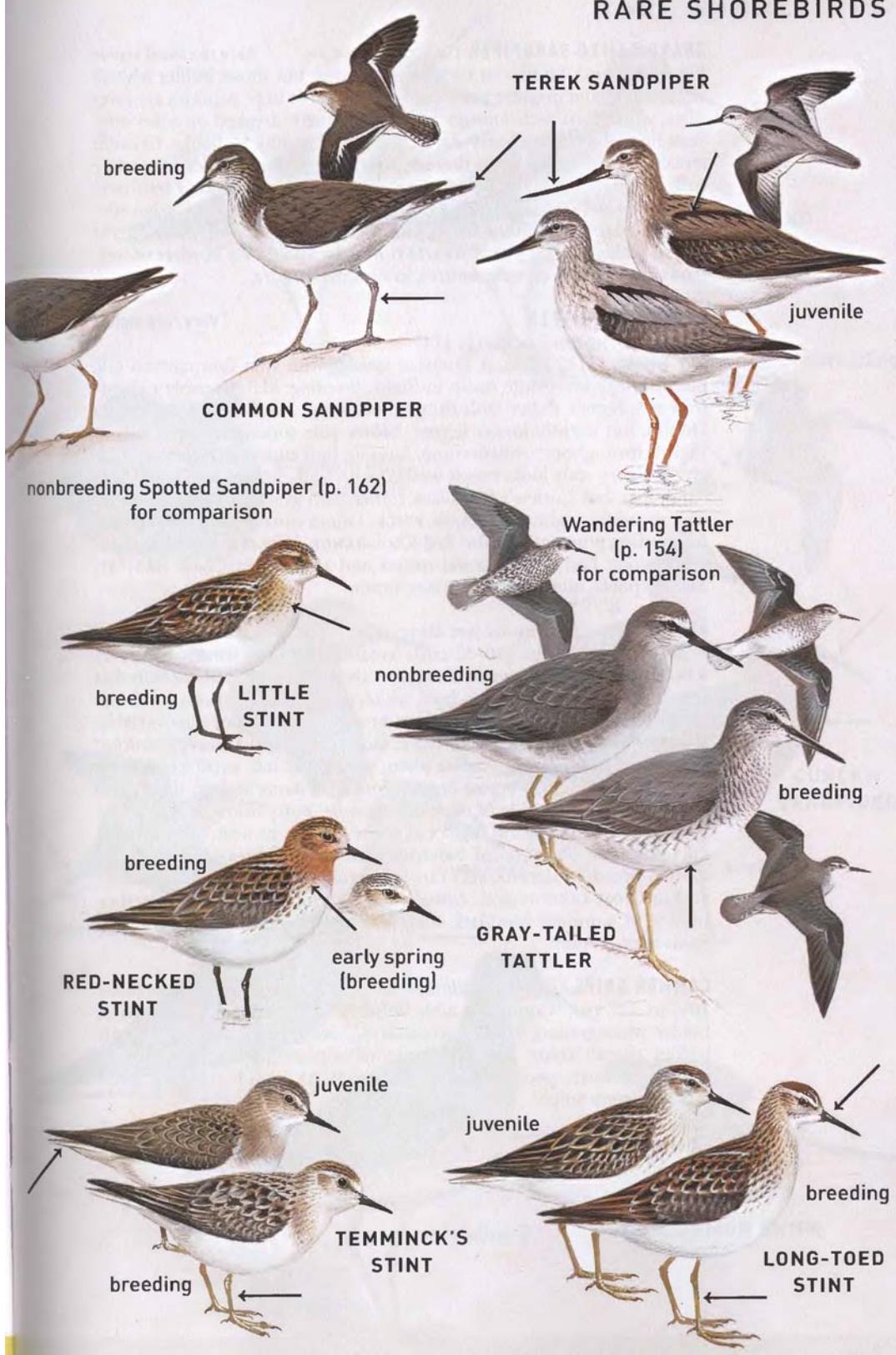
6½ in. (16 cm). A brownish gray stint with *irregular black spots* on scapulars. Has *elongated*, crouching look; *short dull yellow legs*. In flight, shows *white outer tail feathers*. **VOICE:** In flight, a dry *tree*, often repeated in cricketlike trill. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Least and Baird's sandpipers. **RANGE:** Very rare visitor to w. AK islands, accidental farther south.

LONG-TOED STINT *Calidris subminuta*

Vagrant

6 in. (15 cm). Much like Least Sandpiper, but *brighter* above, with more erect stance, *longer legs and toes*, dark forehead. May suggest miniature Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. **VOICE:** Purring *prrp*. **RANGE:** Rare but regular migrant on w. AK islands, accidental farther south.

RARE SHOREBIRDS



SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata* Rare to casual visitor

8½ in. (22 cm). Similar to Pectoral Sandpiper, but shows bolder whitish supercilium and brighter rusty crown. Most birds in N. America are juveniles, which have rich *orangey buff breast*, finely streaked on sides only. Breeding adults have heavy *dark chevrons* extending to flanks. Crissum streaked. In no plumage is there as sharp a demarcation between white belly and streaked breast as in Pectoral. **VOICE:** Trilled *prreeet* or *trit-trit*, sometimes twittered. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Juvenile Ruff. **RANGE:** Asian species. Regular fall migrant in w. AK, casual in spring and along Pacific Coast, accidental elsewhere. **HABITAT:** Marshy and grassy borders of wetlands, muddy shores, wet pastures; in summer, tundra.

CURLEW SANDPIPER

Very rare visitor

Calidris ferruginea (see also p. 174)

8½–8¾ in. (21–22 cm). A Eurasian species with slim downcurved bill, blackish legs, and white rump in flight. **Breeding:** Male variably rich rufous red; female duller with thin pale barring. **Nonbreeding:** Resembles Dunlin, but slightly longer legged, bolder pale supercilium; bill curved slightly throughout; whitish rump. **Juvenile:** Buff edges on feathers of back give it a very scaly look; breast washed with buff. Similar to juvenile Stilt Sandpiper, but Curlew's legs black rather than greenish, and bill curves downward throughout its length. **VOICE:** Liquid *chirrip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** In breeding plumage, see also Red Knot. **RANGE:** Very rare but annual migrant along East Coast, casual inland and along West Coast. **HABITAT:** Marshy pools, mudflats; in summer, tundra.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* (see also p. 174)

Very rare visitor

Male (Ruff) 12–13 in. (30–32 cm); female (known informally as Reeve) 9 in. (23 cm). **Breeding male:** Unique, with erectile *ruffs* and *ear tufts* that may be black, brown, rufous, buff, white, or barred, in various combinations. Legs may be greenish, yellow, or orange. Bill color also variable. **Breeding female:** Smaller than male; lacks ruffs, breast *heavily blotched* with dark. **Nonbreeding:** Rather plain, with short bill, small head, thick neck, mottling of gray across breast. Note *erect stance* and (in flight) *oval white patch* on each side of dark tail. **Juvenile:** Buffy below, very scaly on back. **VOICE:** Often silent; flight call a low *too-i* or *tu-whit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Adult Buff-breasted Sandpiper. **RANGE:** Breeds in Eurasia. Very rare but regular migrant along both coasts and in Great Lakes region; casual elsewhere inland. **HABITAT:** Marshes, tundra in summer. Mudflats, marshes, coastal pools, wet agricultural fields in migration.

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

Rare, local visitor

10½ in. (27 cm). Compared with Wilson's Snipe, has paler underwing, bolder white trailing edge to secondaries, weaker flank barring, slightly buffier overall color, and lower-pitched winnowing in flight display. **RANGE:** Eurasian species. Regular visitor to w. AK islands. **HABITAT:** Similar to Wilson's Snipe.

RARE SHOREBIRDS



GULLS Family Laridae

Long-winged swimming birds with superb flight. Most are more robust, wider winged, and longer legged than terns, and most have slightly hooked bills. Tails square or rounded (terns usually have forked tail). Gulls seldom dive (most terns hover, then plunge head-first). **FOOD:** Omnivorous; marine life, plant and animal food, refuse, carrion. **RANGE:** Nearly worldwide.

AGING GULLS

It is often important to determine the age of a gull before identifying it. Knowing what a gull looks like in both its adult and first-year (also often referred to as "first-winter") plumages is helpful in identifying the bird to species in its intermediate stages.

SEQUENCE OF PLUMAGES IN A TWO-YEAR GULL

On the top of the opposite page, the Bonaparte's Gull illustrates the transition of plumages from first year to adult. Species in this category are mostly smaller gulls, including Bonaparte's, Black-headed, Little, Ross's, Sabine's, and Ivory gulls, and Red-legged Kittiwake.

SEQUENCE OF PLUMAGES IN A THREE-YEAR GULL

In the middle of the opposite page, the Ring-billed Gull, widespread and abundant both coastally and inland, illustrates the transition of plumages from first year to adult. Species in this category are mostly medium-sized gulls, including Ring-billed, Laughing, Franklin's, and Mew gulls and Black-legged Kittiwake. The larger Yellow-footed Gull is also a three-year species.

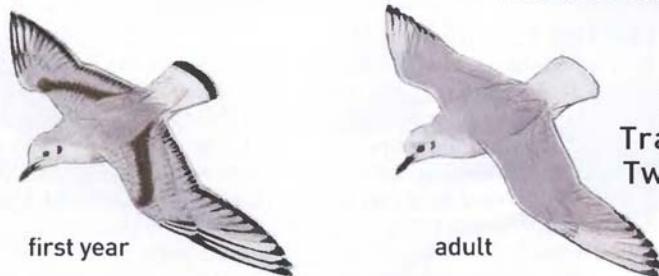
SEQUENCE OF PLUMAGES IN A FOUR-YEAR GULL

On the bottom of the opposite page, the Herring Gull, a widespread species, illustrates the transition of plumages from first year to adult. Species in this category are most of the larger gulls, including California, Herring, Lesser Black-backed, Great Black-backed, Slaty-backed, Western, Glaucous-winged, Glaucous, Iceland, and Thayer's gulls. These species attain full maturity in $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ years. Surprisingly, the medium-sized Heermann's Gull is also a four-year species.

In this field guide, intended for identification on the species level, no other four-year gull receives similarly full treatment. That is the province of a larger handbook or text specifically on gulls. For in-depth analysis of other species, consult the *Peterson Reference Guide to Gulls of the Americas*, which focuses on the details and intricacies of gull identification.

Caution: There is extensive variation within species (particularly the immatures), resulting from several factors including dimorphism (males are larger than females), molt, variation in wear and bleaching, albinism, and other factors. In addition, hybridization is a regular phenomenon among most four-year species. Even expert birders leave some gulls unidentified.

BONAPARTE'S GULL



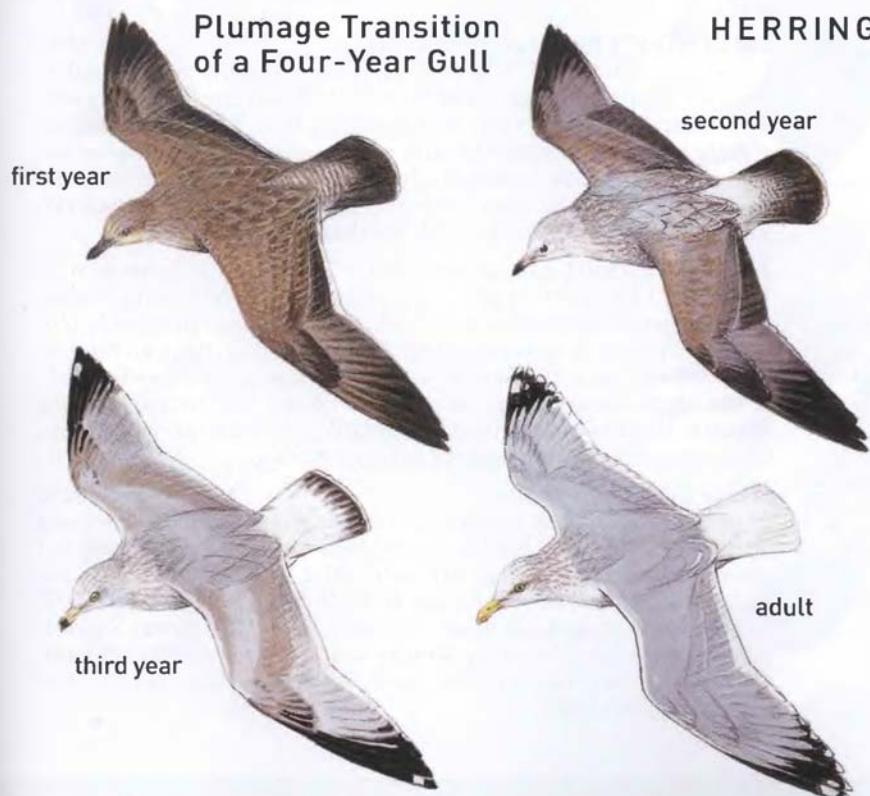
Plumage
Transition of a
Two-Year Gull

RING-BILLED GULL



Plumage
Transition
of a Three-
Year Gull

HERRING GULL



Plumage Transition
of a Four-Year Gull

**LAUGHING GULL** *Larus atricilla*

Common M228

16–16½ in. (41–42 cm). A small coastal gull named for its call. *Dark mantle blends into black wingtips.* Bold white trailing edge to dark wing. Head *black* in breeding plumage; pale in nonbreeding plumage, with dark gray smudge across eye and nape. Bill longish, often with slight droop to tip; reddish when breeding, mostly dark when not breeding. *Immature:* See p. 194. **VOICE:** Nasal *ha-a* and strident laugh, *ha-ha-ha-ha-haah-haah-haah*, etc. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Franklin's Gull slightly smaller, shorter billed, rounder headed, shorter winged, has broader white eye-arcs, paler underwing, and *different wingtip pattern*. Bonaparte's Gull smaller still, with very different wing pattern. **HABITAT:** Salt marshes, coastlines, parks, farm fields.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** *Larus pipixcan*

Fairly common M229

14½–15 in. (37–38 cm). Note *white band* near wingtip, separating black from gray. In breeding plumage, head black; breast has rosy bloom; bill red. In nonbreeding plumage, head paler but with dark cheeks and nape forming partial hood; bill mostly dark. *Immature:* See p. 194. **VOICE:** Shriek *kuk-kuk-kuk*; also mewing, laughing cries. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Laughing and Bonaparte's gulls. **HABITAT:** Prairies, inland marshes, lakes; in winter, coasts, ocean.

**SABINE'S GULL** *Xema sabini*

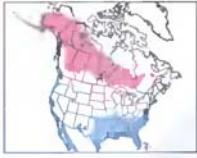
Scarce M247

13½–14 in. (34–36 cm). A small, *ternlike* gull with slightly *forked tail*. Note *bold upperwing pattern* of black outer primaries and *triangular white wing patch*. Bill black with *yellow tip*; legs dark. Full slaty hood of breeding plumage may be held well into fall; in nonbreeding plumage, a dusky wash. *Immature:* See p. 194. **VOICE:** Various grating or buzzy ternlike calls, given mostly on breeding grounds. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bonaparte's and Laughing gulls, Black-legged Kittiwake. **HABITAT:** Ocean; nests on tundra pools.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ridibundus*

Rare M231

15¾–16 in. (40–41 cm). This Eurasian species regularly visits coastal N. America. Similar in pattern to Bonaparte's Gull and often associates with it or with Ring-billed Gull. Slightly larger than Bonaparte's; mantle slightly paler; shows much *blackish gray on underside of primaries*; bill *dark red*, not black. In nonbreeding plumage, loses dark brown hood and has black ear spot. *Immature:* See p. 194. **VOICE:** Harsh *kerrr*. **HABITAT:** Same as Little and Bonaparte's gulls; also beaches, lawns.

**BONAPARTE'S GULL** *Larus philadelphicus*

Common M232

13–13½ in. (33–34 cm). A petite, almost ternlike gull. Note *wedge of white* on *fore edge of wing*. Legs red to pinkish; bill small, black. In breeding plumage, head blackish. In nonbreeding plumage, head whitish with *black ear spot*. *Immature:* See p. 194. Also see Sequence of Plumages in a Two-Year Gull, p. 184. **VOICE:** Nasal, grating *cheer* or *cherr*. Some calls ternlike. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Franklin's, Black-headed, and Little gulls. **HABITAT:** Ocean, bays, lakes, sewage-treatment ponds; in summer, muskeg.

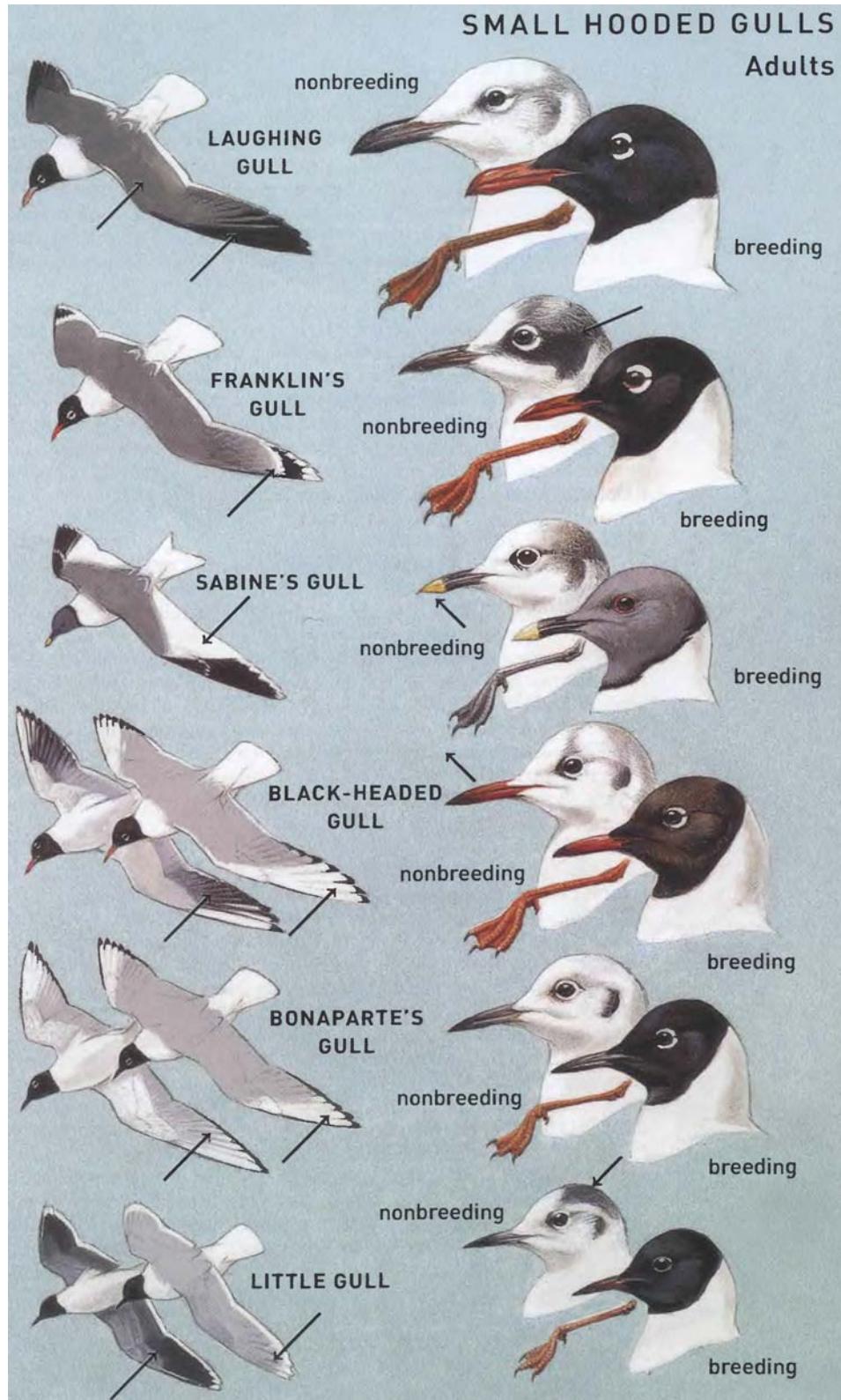
**LITTLE GULL** *Larus minutus*

Rare M230

11 in. (28 cm). This rare visitor is the smallest gull; usually associates with Bonaparte's Gull. Note *blackish undersurface of rather rounded wing* and absence of black above. Legs red. In breeding plumage, head black, bill dark red, breast may be washed rosy. In nonbreeding plumage, head *dark-capped*, *black ear spot*, bill black. *Immature:* See p. 194. **VOICE:** Series of one- or two-syllable *key notes*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bonaparte's Gull. **HABITAT:** Lakes, rivers, bays, coastal waters, sewage-treatment ponds; often with Bonaparte's Gulls.

SMALL HOODED GULLS

Adults



**HEERMANN'S GULL** *Larus heermanni*

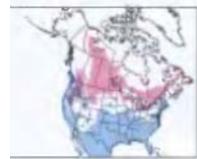
Common M233

19 in. (48 cm). The easiest gull in West to identify. In all plumages, has black legs and feet. Adult has dark gray body, black tail with thin white tip, whitish head, red bill with black tip. In fall and early winter, white head becomes gray. A few birds have white patches on upperwing. **Immature:** See p. 194. **VOICE:** Whining *whee-ee*; also a repeated *cow-auk*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** May be confused with jaegers because of Heermann's habit of chasing other birds for food, overall dark coloration, and occasional adult with white wing patch. **HABITAT:** Ocean and immediate coastlines, including parks.

**CALIFORNIA GULL** *Larus californicus*

Common M236

21–21½ in. (53–55 cm). Resembles smaller Ring-billed Gull (both may have yellow or yellowish green legs) or larger Herring Gull, but note darker mantle and darker eye. Shows more white in wingtips than Ring-billed does. In nonbreeding plumage, head streaked or mottled brownish, dark spot on bill may extend to upper mandible, legs slightly duller. **Immature:** See p. 196. **VOICE:** Like Herring Gull's but higher, more hoarse. **HABITAT:** Ocean and coasts, lakes, farms, dumps, urban centers.

**RING-BILLED GULL** *Larus delawarensis*

Common M235

17–17½ in. (43–45 cm). Similar to Herring Gull, but smaller, more buoyant, and dovelike. A small gull, with pale eye and light gray mantle (similar to Herring's); legs yellow or greenish yellow (may be duller in nonbreeding plumage). Note complete black ring encircling bill. In nonbreeding plumage, shows some fine dark streaking on head. **Immature:** See p. 194. Also see Sequence of Plumages in a Three-Year Gull, p. 184. **VOICE:** Higher pitched than Herring Gull's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Mew Gull lacks bold blackish bill ring, has darker mantle, dark eye, and, in nonbreeding plumage, more extensive dark mottling on head and neck. Also see immature Mew Gull. **HABITAT:** Lakes, bays, coasts, piers, dumps, plowed fields, sewage outlets, shopping malls, fast-food restaurants.

**MEW GULL** *Larus canus*

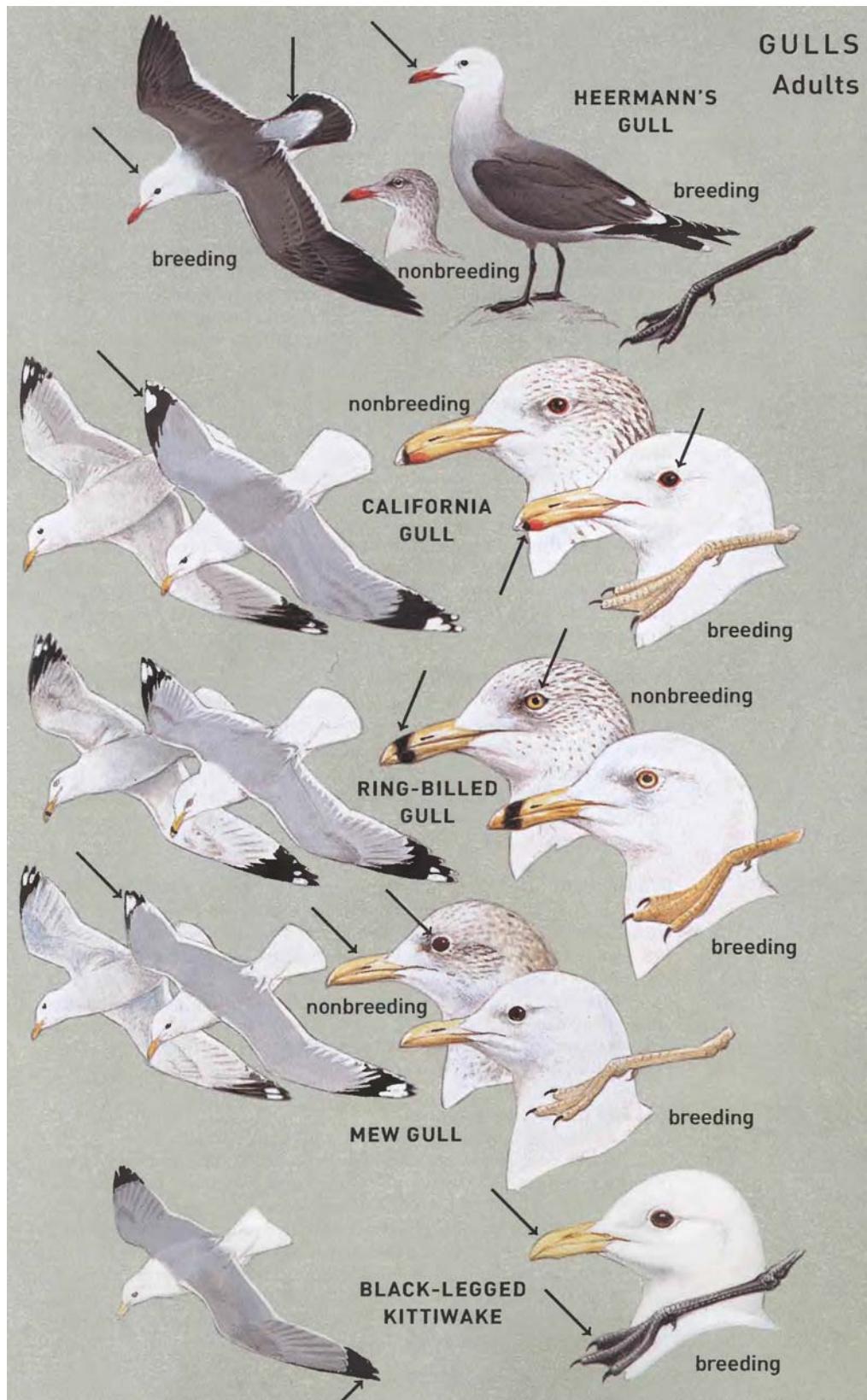
Common M234

16–17 in. (41–44 cm). Slightly smaller than Ring-billed Gull, with more greenish yellow legs and small, short, unmarked greenish yellow bill. (Birds in full breeding condition have yellow bill and legs.) Darkish eye. Mantle medium gray, noticeably darker than Ring-billed's. Mew shows larger white "mirrors" in its black wingtips than either California or Ring-billed gull. **Immature:** See p. 194. **VOICE:** Low, mewing *queeu* or *meeu*. Also *hiyah-hiyah-hiyah*, etc., higher than voice of other gulls. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Immature Ring-billed Gull; adult Black-legged Kittiwake. **HABITAT:** In winter, ocean, coastlines, parks, dumps, wet fields, tidal rivers; in summer, lakes, taiga, tundra.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*

Uncommon M248

16–17 in. (41–43 cm). A small, buoyant oceanic gull. Wingtips lack white spots and are solid black, almost straight across, as if dipped in ink. Bill small, pale yellow, and unmarked. Legs and feet black. Eyes dark. In nonbreeding plumage, rear head and nape dusky. **Immature:** See p. 194. **VOICE:** At nesting colony, a raucous *kaka-week* or *kitti-waak*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Mew, Ring-billed, and Sabine's gulls; in w. AK, Red-legged Kittiwake. **HABITAT:** Chiefly oceanic; rarely on beaches, casual inland. Nests on sea cliffs.



**HERRING GULL***Larus argentatus*

Common in East, uncommon in West M237

24–25 in. (61–64 cm). A widespread (though less numerous in West than in East), fairly large gull. Regularly hybridizes with Glaucous-winged Gull in AK. *Pale gray mantle, pinkish legs, pale eye.* Outer primaries *black* with white spots or “mirrors.” Bill yellow with red spot on lower mandible. In nonbreeding plumage, head and neck streaked or mottled with brownish. *Immature:* See p. 196. Also see Sequence of Plumages in a Four-Year Gull, p. 184. **VOICE:** A loud *hiyak . . . hiyak . . . hyah-hyak* or *yuk-yuk-yuk-yuk-yucke-yucke*. Mewing squeals. Anxiety call *gah-gah-gah*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Thayer’s and California gulls. Latter darker mantled, has dark eye, greenish yellow legs. **HABITAT:** Ocean, coasts, bays, beaches, lakes, dams, piers, farmland, dumps.

**THAYER'S GULL***Larus thayeri*

Scarce M238

23–24 in. (58–61 cm). Formerly thought to be a race of Herring Gull. Now designated as a full species, but regarded by some as a subspecies of Iceland Gull. Very similar to Herring Gull. Typical adult has *pale to dark brown eyes, only a thin trailing edge of black on grayish underside of primaries*, slightly darker mantle, slightly deeper pink legs, and somewhat slighter bill, often with greenish-tinged base. In nonbreeding plumage, head and neck streaked or mottled with brownish. *Immature:* See p. 198. **VOICE:** Similar to Herring Gull. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Iceland Gull; Glaucous-winged × Western gull hybrid larger, has larger, thicker bill. **HABITAT:** Similar to Herring Gull.

**GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL***Larus glaucescens*

Locally common M244

25–26 in. (63–66 cm). A *very large pinkish-legged gull*, with large bill, pale gray mantle, and *medium gray* primaries. *Immature:* See p. 198. Hybridizes with Western Gull where their ranges overlap in Pacific Northwest, and with Herring Gull in AK. **VOICE:** Low *kak-kak-kak*; a low *wow*; a high *keer, keer*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Adult Glaucous Gull has whitish primaries, thinner bill, paler eye. See also Western, Thayer’s, and Herring gulls. **HABITAT:** Ocean, coastlines, parks, dumps, lakeshores.

**GLAUCOUS GULL***Larus hyperboreus*

Uncommon M245

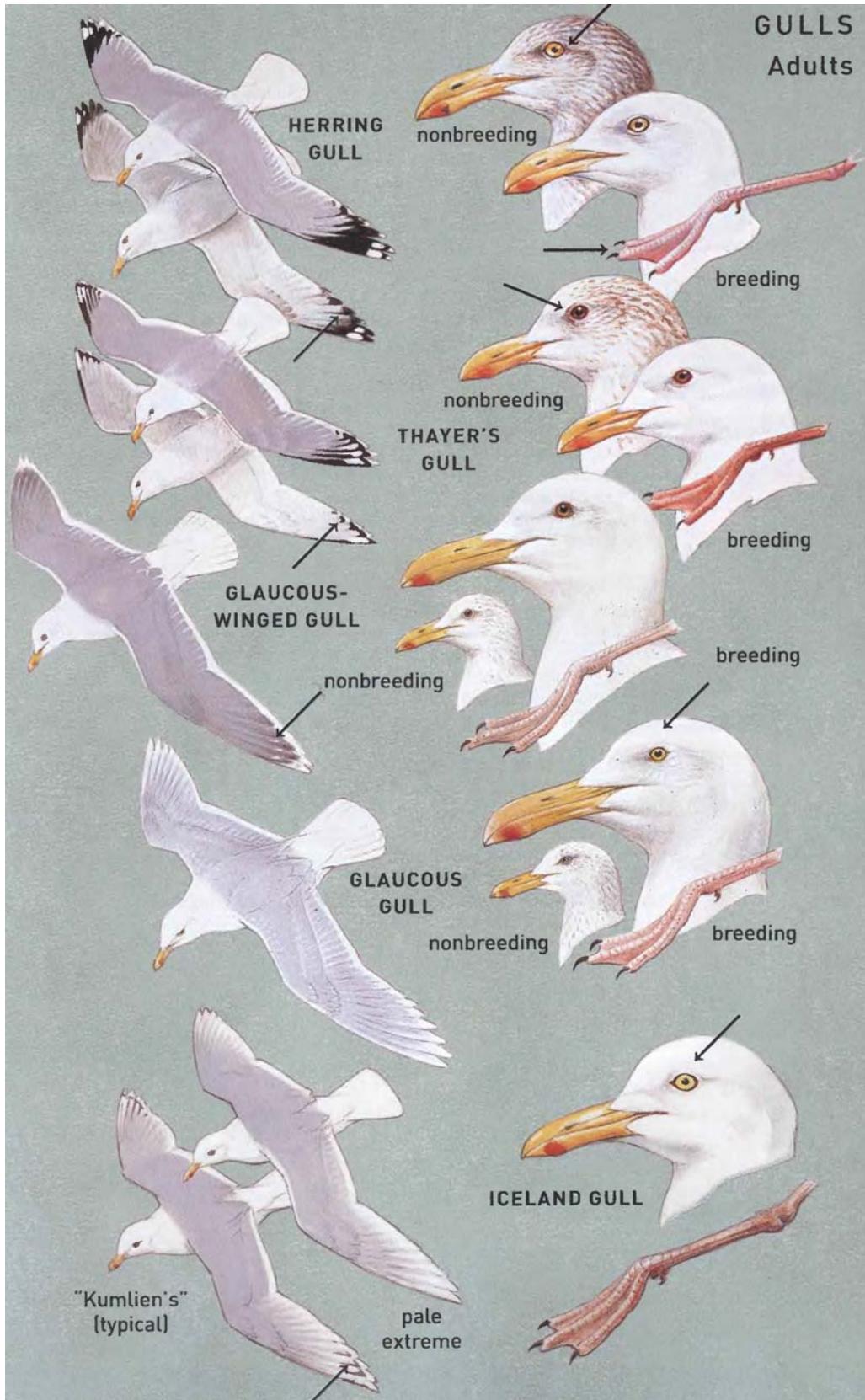
27–28 in. (68–72 cm). A large, chalky white gull with pinkish legs. Note “frosty” wingtips. Has pale gray mantle and *unmarked white outer primaries*. *Light eye.* *Immature:* See p. 198. **VOICE:** Much like Herring Gull’s. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Iceland Gull, but that species is smaller than Herring Gull; also, Iceland’s bill is smaller, head rounder, and wings proportionately longer and narrower. Breeding adult Iceland has narrow red eye-ring (Glaucous, yellow), but this is hard to see. See also Glaucous-winged Gull. **HABITAT:** Mainly coastal; a few inland at large lakes and dumps.

**ICELAND GULL***Larus glaucopterus*

Uncommon M239

22–23 in. (56–60 cm). A pale ghostly gull, slightly smaller than Herring Gull. Mantle pale gray; primaries whitish and extending *well beyond tail*. *Immature:* See p. 198. “Kumlien’s” Gull (*Larus glaucopterus kumlieni*), the subspecies that breeds in e. Arctic Canada, is the one seen in U.S.; has gray or dark markings, variable in extent, toward tips of whitish primaries (not black with white “mirrors” as in Herring Gull). **VOICE:** Similar to Herring Gull but higher pitched; rarely heard away from breeding grounds. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Glaucous Gull larger, has larger bill, shorter primary extension. Adult Thayer’s Gull has slightly darker mantle, blacker primaries, dark eye. **HABITAT:** Ocean, coastlines, dumps.

GULLS
Adults



**WESTERN GULL** *Larus occidentalis*

Locally common M243

25–26 in. (64–66 cm). A large, large-billed gull. Note *very dark* back and wings (called “mantle”) contrasting with snowy underparts. Legs and feet dull pinkish. Northern race (cen. CA to WA) has paler mantle, but it is still noticeably darker than that of California Gull. Southern race is blacker backed and paler eyed, appears cleaner headed in winter. **Immature:** See p. 196. **Note:** There is much hybridization with Glaucous-winged Gull where their breeding ranges overlap. Hybrids have intermediate mantle and wingtip coloration. They are found in winter south to cen. CA, with a few inland as well. **VOICE:** Guttural *kuk kuk kuk*; also *whee whee whee* and *ki-aa*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Glaucous-winged and Herring gulls. **HABITAT:** Offshore and coastal waters, beaches, piers, city waterfronts, parks, lower reaches of tidal rivers.

**YELLOW-FOOTED GULL** *Larus livens*

Uncommon, very local M242

27 in. (69 cm). In U.S., this species found regularly only at Salton Sea. This large gull closely resembles Western Gull, but adult has *yellow* (not pinkish) legs and feet and slightly thicker bill. It matures in its third year, not fourth as Western Gull does. **Immature:** Brown juvenile has whitish belly and by first winter already has some black on back. Yellow legs and feet are attained by second winter. **VOICE:** Deeper than Western’s. **HABITAT:** Same as Western Gull.

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus*

Common M246

29–30 in. (73–76 cm). Largest gull in the world, with broad wings and heavy body and bill. Black back and wings, snow-white underparts, no head streaking in winter. Legs and feet *pale* pinkish. **Immature:** See p. 196. **VOICE:** Harsh deep seal-like *kyow* or *owk*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Lesser Black-backed and Slaty-backed gulls. **HABITAT:** Mainly coastal waters, estuaries, dumps; a few well inland on large lakes and rivers.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus*

Scarce M240

21–22½ in. (53–57 cm). Similar to Great Black-backed Gull but smaller (smaller than Herring Gull) and slimmer, with longer wings and smaller bill. Distinguished by yellowish (not pink) legs and slate gray (not black) mantle. Extensive head and neck streaking or mottling in nonbreeding plumage. Pale eye. Oblong red spot on bill. **Immature:** See p. 196. **VOICE:** Harsh *kyah*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Great Black-backed Gull. **HABITAT:** Same as Herring Gull.



IMMATURE GULLS

Immatures of many gull species are more difficult to identify than adults. They are usually darkest the first year and lighter the second, when some species start to show their adult eye and back color. Larger species do not develop their full adult plumage until the third or fourth year. (See pp. 184–85.) Identify mainly by pattern, size, and structure. The most typical plumages are shown here; intermediate and successive stages can be expected, but because of variables such as stage of molt, wear, age, individual variation, hybridization, and occasional albinism, some birds may remain a mystery even to the expert.

LAUGHING GULL *Larus atricilla*

Adult, p. 186

A three-year gull. *Juvenile*: Dark brown with black tail, white rump, and broad white trailing edge of wing. *First year*: Neck and back become extensively smudged with gray. *Second year*: Similar to nonbreeding adult, but with trace of black in tail. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Franklin's Gull.

FRANKLIN'S GULL *Larus pipixcan*

Adult, p. 186

A three-year gull. *First year*: Similar to first-year Laughing Gull, but more petite with smaller and straighter bill, blackish extensive half-hood, white neck, incomplete tail band (outermost tail feather white), whitish breast, paler underside to primaries. *Second year*: Close to second winter Laughing but with blackish half hood, pale underside to primaries.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

Adult, p. 186

A two-year gull. *First year*: Similar to first-year Bonaparte's Gull but slightly larger; bill longer, orange to red at base, black at tip; sooty underwing; broad dusky trailing edge to upperwing.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Larus philadelphicus*

Adult, p. 186

A two-year gull. Petite, ternlike. *First year*: Note dark ear spot, narrow black tail band, neat dark trailing edge to wings, and pattern of black and white in outer primaries. Pale underwing. See Sequence of Plumages in a Two-Year Gull, p. 184.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

Adult, p. 186

A two-year gull. *First year*: Slightly smaller than Bonaparte's Gull, with blacker M pattern across back and wings, white trailing edge to wings, dusky cap.

SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini*

Adult, p. 186

A two-year gull. *Juvenile*: Dark grayish brown on back, but with adult's bold triangular wing pattern. Note also forked tail.

HEERMANN'S GULL *Larus heermanni*

Adult, p. 188

A four-year gull. Readily told by black legs and feet and overall dark brown or sooty gray color. Note two-toned bill.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Adult, p. 188

A three-year gull. *First year*: Note dark bar on nape (held into early winter), black M across back and wings; tail may seem notched. White trailing edge to wings.

MEW GULL *Larus canus*

Adult, p. 188

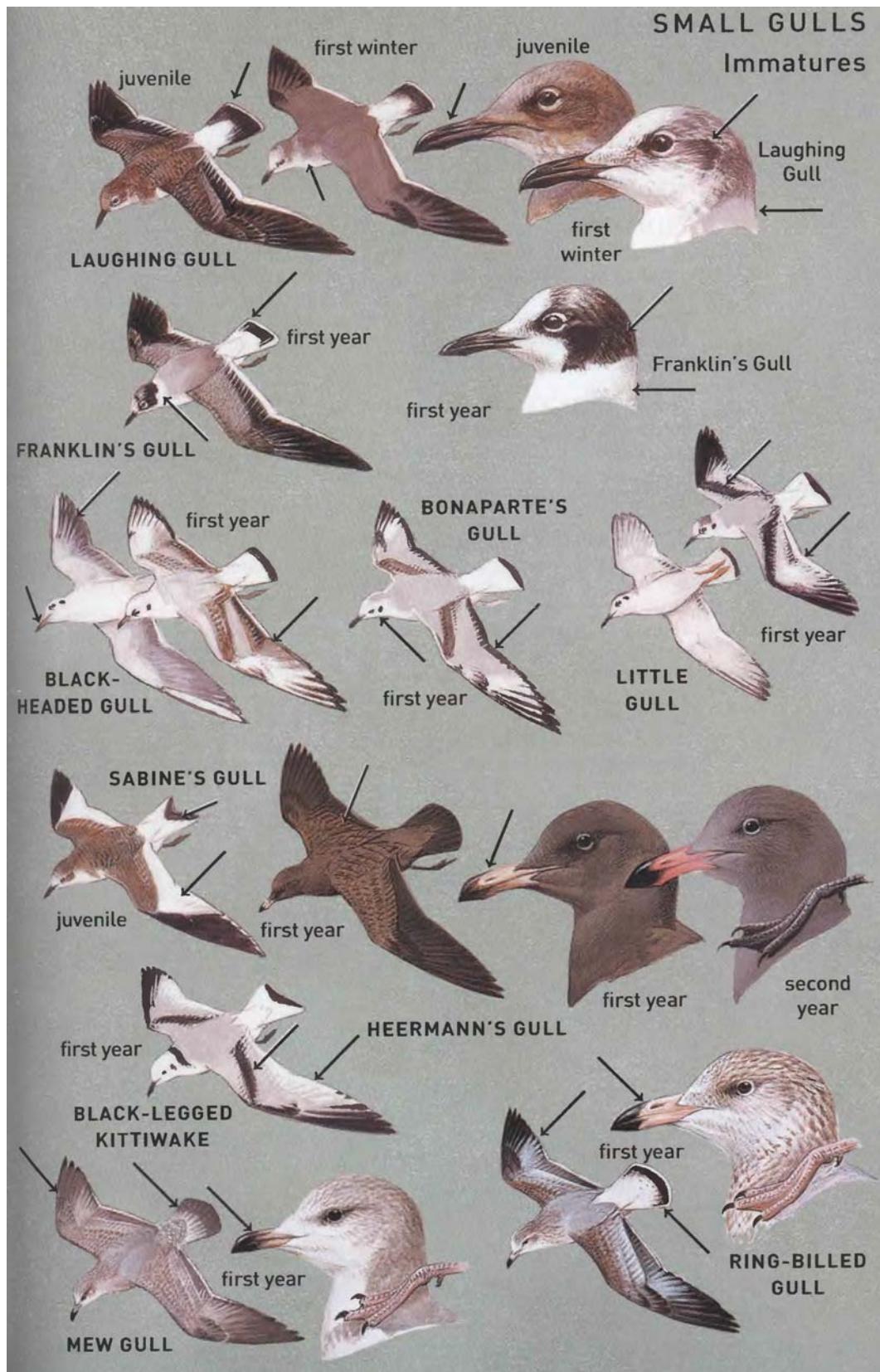
A three-year gull. *First year*: Smaller than Ring-billed with shorter, slimmer bill, rounder head, browner primaries, broader tail band and heavily mottled tail coverts, darker gray back, dark belly smudge.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

Adult, p. 188

A three-year gull. *First year*: Usually bicolored (pinkish-based) bill, mostly whitish underneath and on rump and upper tail, pale gray back. Subterminal tail band narrow and usually well defined; contrasty wing pattern.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Mew and California gulls.



IMMATURE LARGE DARK GULLS

WESTERN GULL *Larus occidentalis*

Adult, p. 192

A four-year gull. Compared with first-year Herring Gull, first-year Western is larger, larger-billed, sootier brown, lacks pale inner primaries.

CALIFORNIA GULL *Larus californicus*

Adult, p. 188

A four-year gull. *First year:* Like Herring Gull, but slightly smaller, with smaller bicolored bill. In flight, shows double dark bar on wing and lacks pale area on inner primaries. *Second year:* Legs and bill base often dull gray-green-blue. Much like first-winter Ring-billed Gull, but somewhat larger, retains dark eye, darker gray on back, and tail mostly dark rather than with only a dark subterminal band.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Adult, p. 192

A four-year gull. Smaller, slimmer than Herring Gull. *First year:* Like miniature first-year Great Black-backed but with broader tail band, darker wings, more heavily streaked breast; colder brown than Herring with white tail base, paler head and underparts, darker wings.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Adult, p. 190

A four-year gull. *First year:* Brownish overall, with brownish black wing-tips and dark brown tail; only all-brown gull commonly seen in the East. Often shows much mottling or checkering on upperwing coverts and rump. *Pale area on inner primaries visible in flight.* Bill all dark at first, becoming paler at base later. *Second and third years:* Head and underparts whiter; eye pale; back pale gray; rump white; bill pale, dark-tipped. See Sequence of Plumages in a Four-Year Gull, p. 184.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Adult, p. 192

A four-year gull. *First year:* Larger and more salt-and-pepper patterned than first-year Herring Gulls. They show more contrast, being paler on head, rump, and underparts. Pale belly contrasts with dark underwing. More checkered looking than Herring. *Second year:* The “saddle-back” pattern is suggested; they may resemble later immature stages of Herring Gull, but back darker, head and bill larger.



IMMATURE LARGE PALE GULLS

THAYER'S GULL *Larus thayeri*

Adult, p. 190

A four-year gull. *First year:* Tan-brown and checkered; similar to juvenile Herring Gull but lighter; primaries paler, usually *light tan-brown* (not brownish black) *with pale edges to tips; bill entirely or almost entirely blackish, more petite; underside of primaries pale.* Often shows dark smudge through eye. *Second year:* Paler and grayer; primaries gray-brown with darker outer webs.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucopterus*

Adult, p. 190

Sequence of plumages similar to Glaucous Gull's, but Iceland is smaller (smaller than Herring Gull) with smaller bill and proportionately longer wings (projecting beyond tail at rest). Bill of most first-year Iceland Gulls mostly dark, only very rarely as sharply demarcated as in Glaucous. Most birds show a hint of a tail band as well as some dark in outer primaries, both lacking in Glaucous; darkest birds approach Thayer's in appearance.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Adult, p. 190

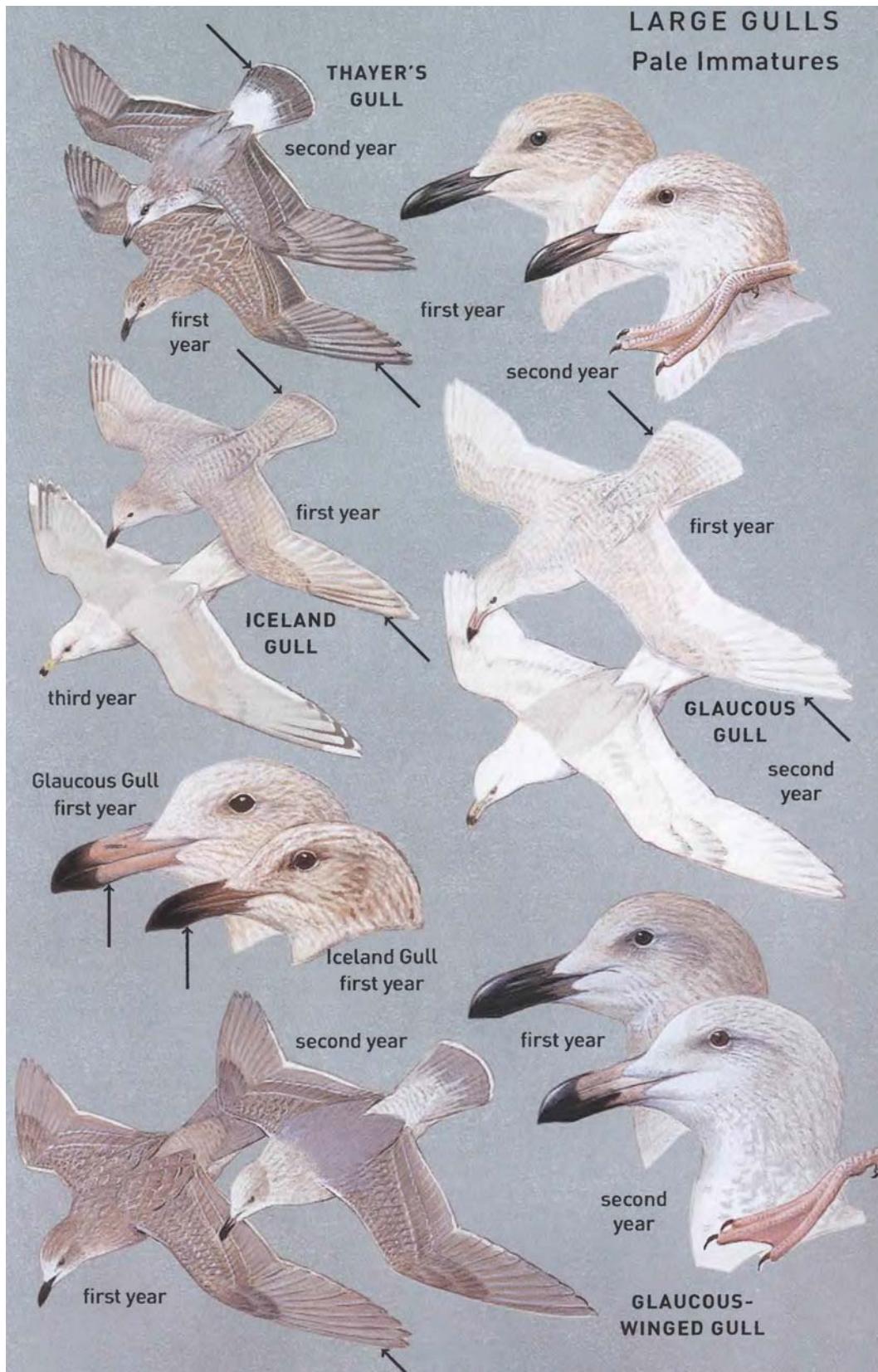
A four-year gull. *First year:* Recognized by its large size, pale tan or off-whitish (particularly by late winter) coloration, and unmarked *frosty primaries*, a shade lighter than rest of wing. Brownish barring on undertail coverts and mottling in wing coverts and tail. Bill *pale pinkish* with dark tip—*sharply demarcated.* *Second year:* Pale gray back and pale eye acquired.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL *Larus glaucescens*

Adult, p. 190

A four-year gull. Variable. Size of Herring Gull, and with similar sequence of plumages (see p. 196), but primaries are close to same tone as rest of wing, not markedly darker as in Western and Herring gulls, or paler or translucent as in Glaucous Gull. Hybrids with Western or Herring gulls have intermediate-colored primaries. Worn Glacous-wingeds in spring and summer may appear very white, but lack clean-cut two-toned bill and tan mottling to wing- and undertail coverts of Glaucous.

LARGE GULLS
Pale Immatures



BLACK-TAILED GULL *Larus carassirostris* Vagrant

18–18½ in. (46–47 cm). Slightly larger than Ring-billed Gull, and with slightly longer wings and bill. Adult has red tip to black-banded bill, slate gray mantle, and wide black subterminal band on tail. **RANGE:** Casual visitor from e. Asia, with widely scattered records across much of N. America.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans* Vagrant

24–24½ in. (61–63 cm). This native of s. Europe was recently split from Herring Gull. Very similar to Herring Gull, but bill slightly stouter, adult's mantle slightly *darker gray*, and head flatter and only *finely streaked on crown* in nonbreeding plumage. Orbital ring red, and red spot on bill slightly larger. *Yellow legs* of adult usually distinctive, but beware some Herring Gulls that show yellowish tones to legs in late winter and early spring. **RANGE:** Casual visitor to Atlantic Seaboard, with most records to date from NL. **HABITAT:** Similar to Herring Gull.



SLATY-BACKED GULL *Larus schistisagus* Scarce, local M241

25–26 in. (64–67 cm). Any large, very dark backed gull in Bering Sea is likely to be this Asian species. Adult similar to Western Gull, but with slightly slimmer bill, paler eye, deeper pinkish feet, *extensive head streaking, and dusky mark through eye in nonbreeding plumage*. Note how broad white trailing edge of wing invades outer wing, forming *thin white bar* crossing dark primaries (best seen across underwing). Primaries *gray beneath*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Siberian subspecies of Herring Gull (*vegae*), found in same areas of w. AK, is darker mantled than typical N. American Herring Gull. **RANGE:** Regular visitor to w. AK, casual across much of the rest of N. America. **HABITAT:** Seacoasts, beaches, dumps.



RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE *Rissa brevirostris* Uncommon, very local M249

15 in. (38 cm). **Adult:** Similar to Black-legged Kittiwake but smaller, with *darker gray mantle* (very noticeable when both species seen together); *shorter bill and rounder head* give it a more dove-headed look; legs *bright red*. Has similar wing pattern above (although white trailing edge broader); *darkish gray underwing*. **Immature:** Wing pattern more similar to Sabine's Gull; tail lacks black terminal band. Legs duller than in adult. **VOICE:** High-pitched *tuu-WE* near nesting colony. **HABITAT:** Open ocean, where it often forages at night. Nests in colonies on steep, rocky ocean cliffs.



ROSS'S GULL *Rhodostethia rosea* Very rare M250

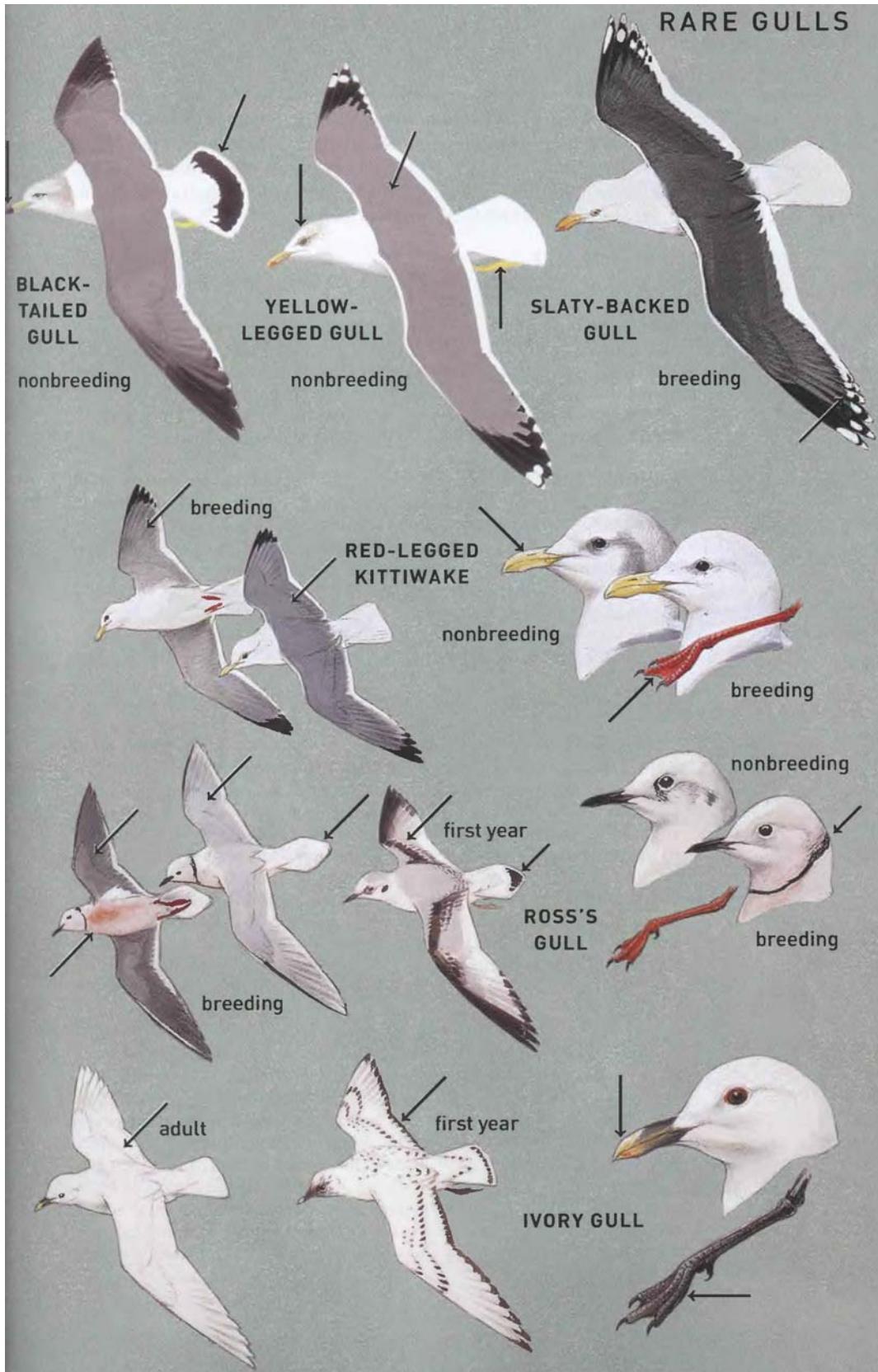
13–13½ in. (33–35 cm). A rare Arctic gull of drift ice. Note *wedge-shaped tail, medium gray wing linings, and small black bill*. A two-year gull. **Breeding:** Rosy blush on underparts, *fine black collar*. **Nonbreeding:** Rosy blush duller or lacking, lacks black collar, may be washed with gray. **First winter:** Similar in pattern to immature Black-legged Kittiwake or Little Gull, but intermediate in size and note *wedge-shaped tail* (not square or notched) and *gray linings* of underwing; lacks dark nape of young kittiwake. **HABITAT:** Arctic waters, tundra in summer.



IVORY GULL *Pagophila eburnea* Very rare, threatened M251

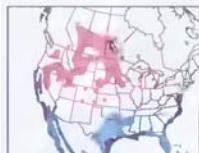
17 in. (43 cm). A declining species of Arctic pack ice. Most individuals that wander south of normal range are immatures. A two-year gull. **Adult:** The only all-white gull with black legs. Pigeon sized with dovelike head; wings long, flight ternlike. Bill greenish with yellow tip. **Immature:** White, with *dark smudge on face, a sprinkling of black spots above, black spots on primary tips, and narrow black tip to tail*. Legs and feet black, a distinction from all other white gulls. **HABITAT:** Open Arctic waters near pack ice.

RARE GULLS



TERNS Subfamily Sterninae

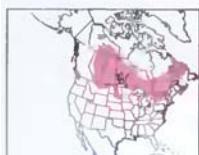
Graceful waterbirds, more streamlined than gulls; wings more pointed, tail usually forked. Bill sharp-pointed, often tilted toward water when bird is flying. Most terns are whitish with black cap; in nonbreeding plumage, black of forehead replaced by white. Sexes alike. Terns often hover and plunge headfirst for fish. Normally do not swim (gulls do). **FOOD:** Small fish, marine life, large insects. **RANGE:** Almost worldwide.



FORSTER'S TERN *Sterna forsteri*

Common M263

14½ in. (37 cm). Very similar to Common Tern, but adult Forster's paler; all adults have frosty wingtips (lighter than rest of wing; darkening in Common). Whitish below in all plumages, lacking gray wash of breeding Common. Tail grayer; bill slightly thicker and more orange than red. Nonbreeding adult and immature have isolated *black mask* and lack dark carpal ("shoulder") bar of Common in similar plumages. See also Arctic Tern. **VOICE:** Harsh, nasal *za-a-ap* and nasal *kyarr*. **HABITAT:** Fresh and salt marshes, lakes, bays, beaches, nearshore ocean; nests in marshes.



COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon to common M261

14 in. (36 cm). A graceful, small, black-capped, slim bird with deeply forked tail. **Breeding adult:** Pearl gray mantle and black cap; bill red with black tip; feet orange-red. Similar to Forster's Tern, but several outer primaries form *dark wedge on upperwing*, grayer below, *bill slightly smaller and redder*, legs shorter. **Nonbreeding adult and immature:** Cap, nape, and bill blackish. **Show dark shoulder (carpal) bar.** Asian subspecies (*longipennis*), a very rare visitor in w. AK, darker, with *black bill* in breeding plumage and *blackish legs and feet*. **VOICE:** Drawling *kee-arr* (downward inflection); also *kik-kik-kik*; a quick *kirri-kirri*. **HABITAT:** Lakes, ocean, bays, marshes, beaches; nests colonially on sandy beaches and small islands.



ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Uncommon M262

15 in. (38 cm). A pelagic (seagoing) tern. Similar to Forster's and particularly Common terns. Bill and neck shorter, head rounder. **Legs shorter.** Overhead, note *translucent effect* of primaries and *narrow black trailing edge*; from above, secondaries pale. **Breeding adult:** Bill usually *blood red* to tip, uniform pale gray upperwing, extensive wash of *gray below*, setting off white cheeks. (Caution: Breeding Common Terns are fairly similar below.) **Nonbreeding and juvenile:** Like Common, but black on head slightly more extensive, shoulder bar somewhat *weaker*, *secondaries whitish*, and same structural differences as in breeding. **VOICE:** *Kee-yak*, similar to Common Tern's cry, but less slurred, higher. A high *keer-keer* is characteristic. **HABITAT:** Open ocean, coasts, islands; in summer, also taiga lakes, tundra.

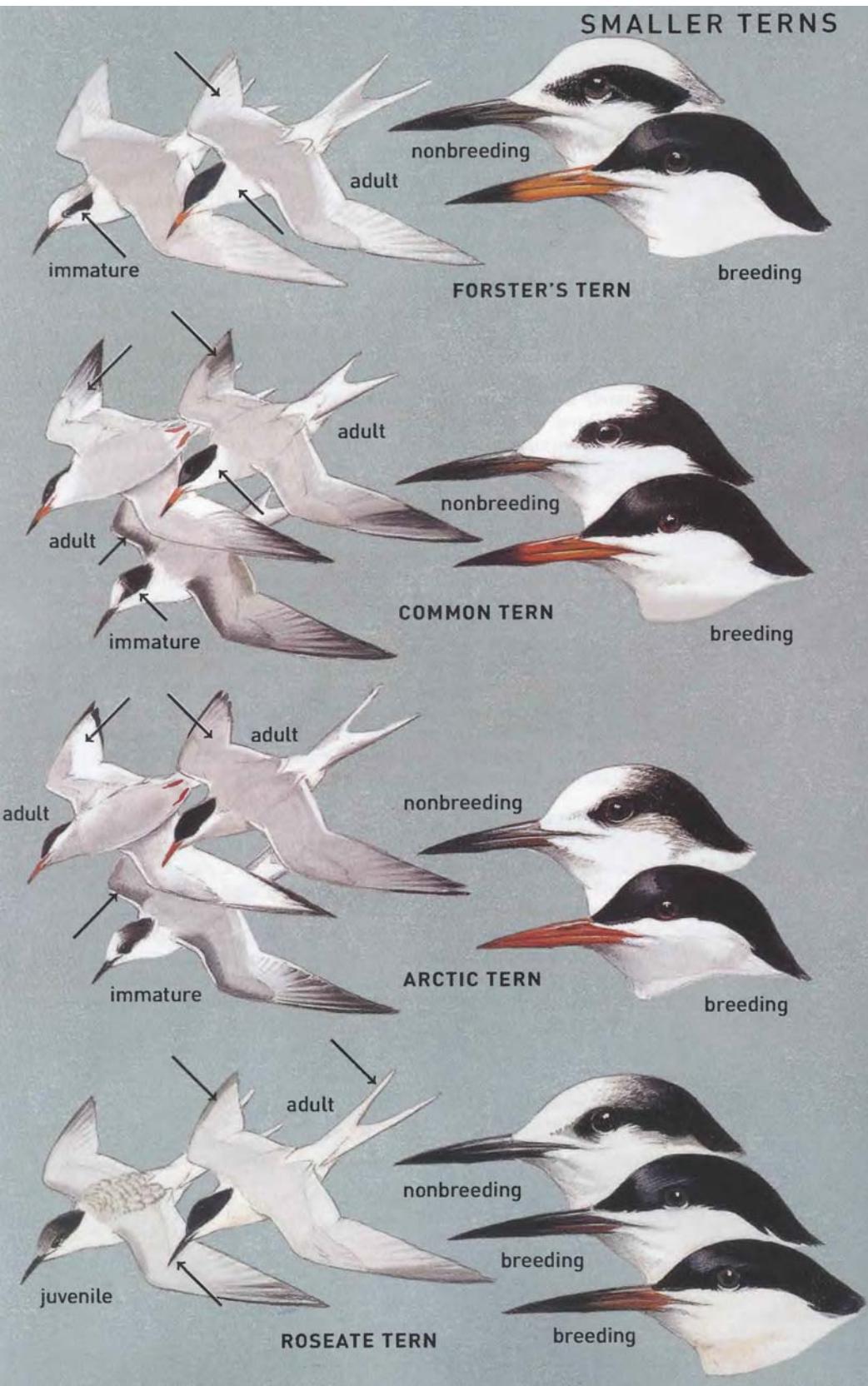


ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*

Scarce, local M260

15½ in. (39 cm). Similar to Common Tern, but much paler overall, with longer tail points. **At rest, tail extends well beyond wingtips.** In spring and summer, **thin, long black bill sets it apart from similar terns**, all of which have reddish bill at that time of year. When breeding, Roseate may acquire rosy blush to breast and varying amounts of red at base of bill; then rely on other points such as *more shallow wingbeats* and *different call* to separate from Common. **Immature:** Back of juvenile shows pattern of coarse crescents. Secondaries pale (darker in Common). **VOICE:** Rasping *ka-a-ak*; a soft two-syllable *chu-ick* or *chiv-ick*. **HABITAT:** Salt bays, estuaries, ocean.

SMALLER TERNS



**SANDWICH TERN** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Fairly common M265

15–15½ in. (38–40 cm). Larger than Common Tern. Note *long black bill with yellow tip* “as though dipped in mustard.” Bill of young can be mostly black or mostly yellow. Dark outer primaries. **Adult:** All-black cap in breeding plumage, white forehead in nonbreeding plumage; feathers on back of crown elongated, forming crest. Legs black. **VOICE:** Grating *kirr-ick* (higher than Gull-billed Tern’s *kay-weck*). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gull-billed Tern has stout black bill. **HABITAT:** Coastal waters, jetties, beaches. Often seen with Royal Tern.

**ELEGANT TERN** *Thalasseus elegans*

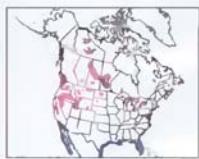
Locally common M266

17 in. (43 cm). This Mexican species has recently expanded its breeding range to include San Diego and Orange counties in CA. North of there it should be looked for primarily between midsummer and late fall. In size, slightly smaller than Royal Tern. Bill orange or orange-yellow, proportionately *longer, more slender*, and slightly droopier than deeper orange bill of Royal. Elegant’s black crown extends farther down nape. In nonbreeding plumage, dark of head *includes eye*. **VOICE:** Nasal *karrik* or *kerr-rik*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Royal and Caspian terns. **HABITAT:** Ocean, coasts, beaches, salt bays.

**ROYAL TERN** *Thalasseus maximus*

Common M264

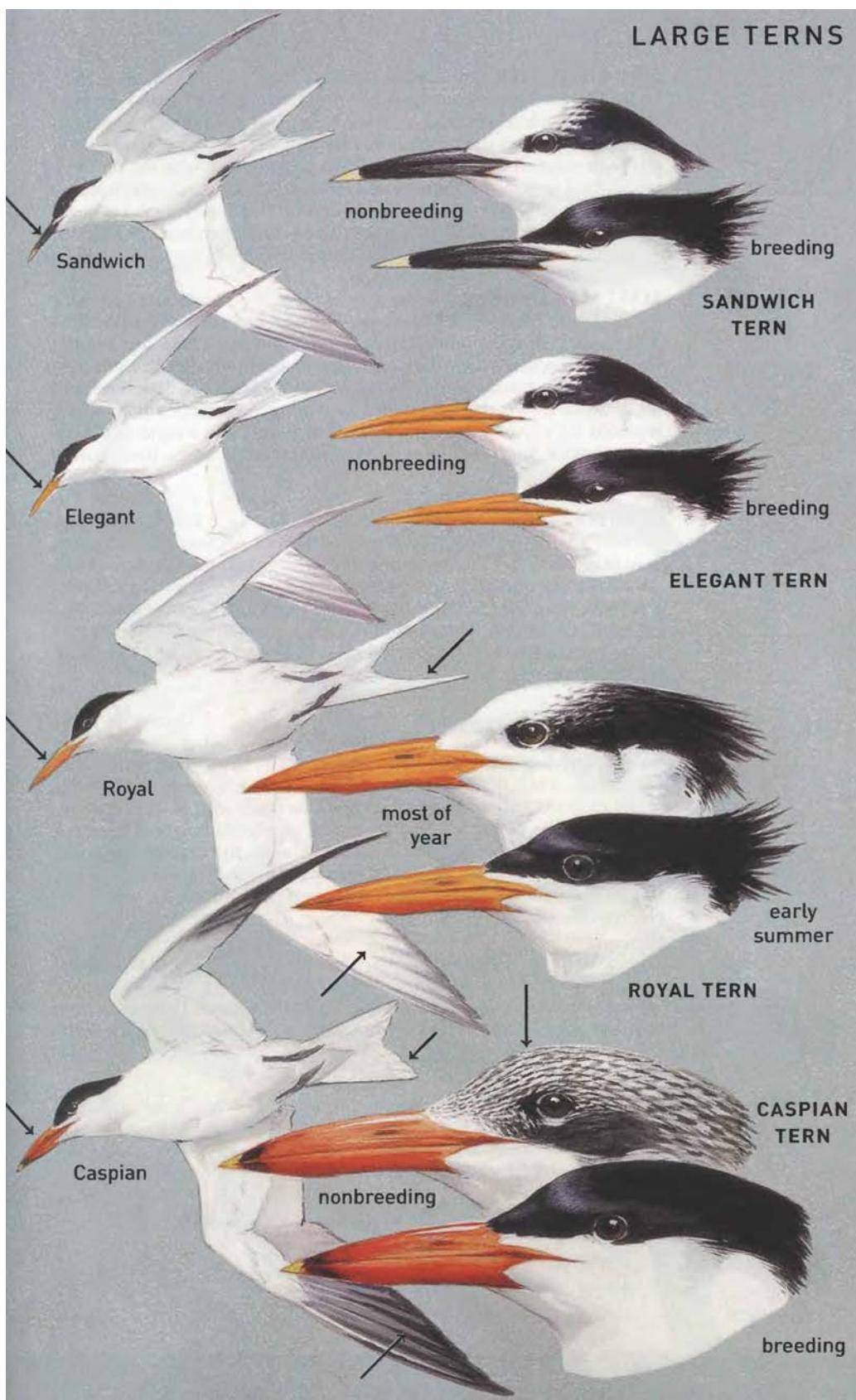
20 in. (51 cm). A large tern, slimmer than Caspian, with large *orange* bill (Caspian’s bill heavier, redder, and has dark mark near tip). Tail forked. Although some Royal Terns in spring show solid black crown, for most of year they have *much white on forehead*, black crown feathers forming a crest. In nonbreeding plumage, black feathers behind eye usually *do not encompass eye* as they do in nonbreeding Elegant Tern. Dusky upperside and *pale underside to primaries*, opposite of Caspian. **VOICE:** Sonorous *karr-rik*, mellower (slower and lower-pitched) than Elegant or Sandwich; also *kaak* or *kak*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Caspian and Elegant terns. **HABITAT:** Ocean, coasts, beaches, salt bays. More closely tied to coastal waters than Caspian, which is common inland.

**CASPION TERN** *Hydroprogne caspia*

Uncommon M258

21 in. (53 cm). Large size and *stout reddish bill with small dark mark near tip* set Caspian apart from all other terns. Tail of Caspian *shorter*; head and bill larger, crest shorter. Royal’s forehead is usually *clear white* (in adult nonbreeding plumage, Caspian has *streaked* forehead). Caspian shows obvious *grayish black on undersurface of primaries, but pale upper surface*. Caspian ranges inland, Royal does not. **VOICE:** Raspy, low *kraa-uh* or *karr*, also repeated *kak*; juveniles give whistled *wheee-oo*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Royal and Elegant terns. **HABITAT:** Large lakes, rivers, coastal waters, beaches, bays.

LARGE TERNS





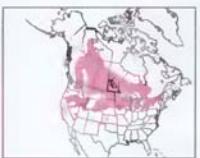
GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica* Uncommon M257
14 in. (36 cm). Note stout black bill. Stockier and paler than Common Tern; tail much less forked; feet black. In nonbreeding plumage, head white with smudgy dark ear patch, pale dusky on nape; suggests a small gull with notched tail. *Immature:* Similar to nonbreeding adult. This tern plucks food from water's surface and often hawks for insects over marshes and fields, swooping (rarely diving) after prey. **VOICE:** *Kay-weck, kay-weck;* also a throaty, rasping *za-za-za*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Sandwich Tern, mid-sized gulls. **HABITAT:** Marshes, fields, coastal bays.



LEAST TERN *Sternula antillarum* Locally common M256
9 in. (23 cm). A very small, pale tern, with rapid wingbeats (quicker than other terns). *Breeding adult:* Dark-tipped yellow bill, yellow legs and feet (in fall, all birds may have dark bill, but feet show yellow), and white forehead. Long black wedge on outer wing. *Immature:* Dark bill, dark cheek and nape, dusky crown, dark shoulder (carpal) bar, duller legs. **VOICE:** Sharp, repeated *kit*; a harsh, squealing *zree-eek* or *k-zeek*; also a rapid *kitti-kitti-kitti*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Forster's Tern. **HABITAT:** Beaches, bays, ponds, large rivers, sandbars.



ALEUTIAN TERN *Onychoprion aleuticus* Scarce, local M255
13½–14 in. (34–36 cm). A lead-colored tern of Alaskan coastal waters. Told from Arctic Tern by its *blackish bill and legs, clean-cut white forehead, dark bar along underside of secondaries*. Lead gray body and mantle contrast with white tail. *Juvenile:* Boldly edged with rusty orange above; legs orangey red. **VOICE:** Three-syllable whistle, suggesting a shorebird or House Sparrow. **HABITAT:** Open ocean; summers/nests along AK coast on islands, sandbars.

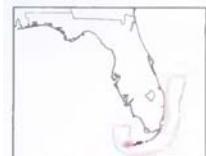


BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* Uncommon M259
9½–9¾ in. (24–25 cm). A black-bodied tern. Short tail only slightly forked. *Breeding adult:* Head and underparts (except undertail coverts) black; back, wings, and tail dark gray; wing linings whitish. *Nonbreeding adult:* By midsummer, molting birds are mottled, with black largely replaced by white. Note pied head, with dark smudge from crown to ear coverts and on sides of breast. *Immature:* Similar to nonbreeding adult. **VOICE:** Sharp *kik, keek*, or *klea*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** White-winged Tern. **HABITAT:** Freshwater marshes, lakes; in migration, also coastal waters, including open ocean.

WHITE-WINGED TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* Vagrant
9¼–9½ in. (23–24 cm). *Breeding:* Underwing lining black, upperwing mostly white, tail paler. *Nonbreeding:* Paler than Black Tern; lacks dark shoulder spot. **RANGE:** Vagrant from Eurasia. Widespread eastern sightings; a few in West.

TERNS



**BROWN NODDY** *Anous stolidus*

Uncommon, local M252
15–15½ in. (38–40 cm). A sooty brown tern with *whitish cap*. Wedge-shaped tail. Immature has duller cap. **VOICE:** Ripping *karrrrk* or *arrrrowk*; a harsh *eye-ak*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black Noddy occurs occasionally with Brown Noddies at Dry Tortugas, FL. **HABITAT:** Warm ocean waters.

BLACK NODDY *Anous minutus*

Very rare visitor
13½ in. (34 cm). A rare but almost annual spring visitor to Dry Tortugas, FL, and casual visitor to TX. Slightly smaller and slimmer than Brown Noddy, with thinner and proportionately *longer bill*, darker body, and more extensive and *sharply defined white cap*. Most birds seen in U.S. are one-year-olds, which show worn, brownish wing coverts. **VOICE:** Variety of chatters, croaks, and bill rattles. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Brown Noddy. **HABITAT:** Tropical islands.

**SOOTY TERN** *Onychoprion fuscatus*

Uncommon, local M253
16 in. (41 cm). **Adult:** A cleanly patterned tern, black above and white below. Cheeks and patch on forehead white; bill and feet black. **Immature:** Dark brown; back spotted with white; note forked tail. **VOICE:** Nasal *wide-a-wake* or *wacky-wack*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bridled Tern. **HABITAT:** Warm ocean waters.

**BRIDLED TERN** *Onychoprion anaethetus*

Uncommon, local M254
15 in. (38 cm). A tern of warm oceans and, after hurricanes, farther north. **VOICE:** Mostly silent; sometimes gives a soft, nasal *wheep*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Resembles Sooty Tern, but back brownish, not blackish; *note whitish collar separating black cap from back*; white forehead patch extends behind eye (in Sooty, to above eye). Sooty also has more limited white in tail and *darker underside of primaries*. **HABITAT:** Warm ocean waters, usually well offshore.

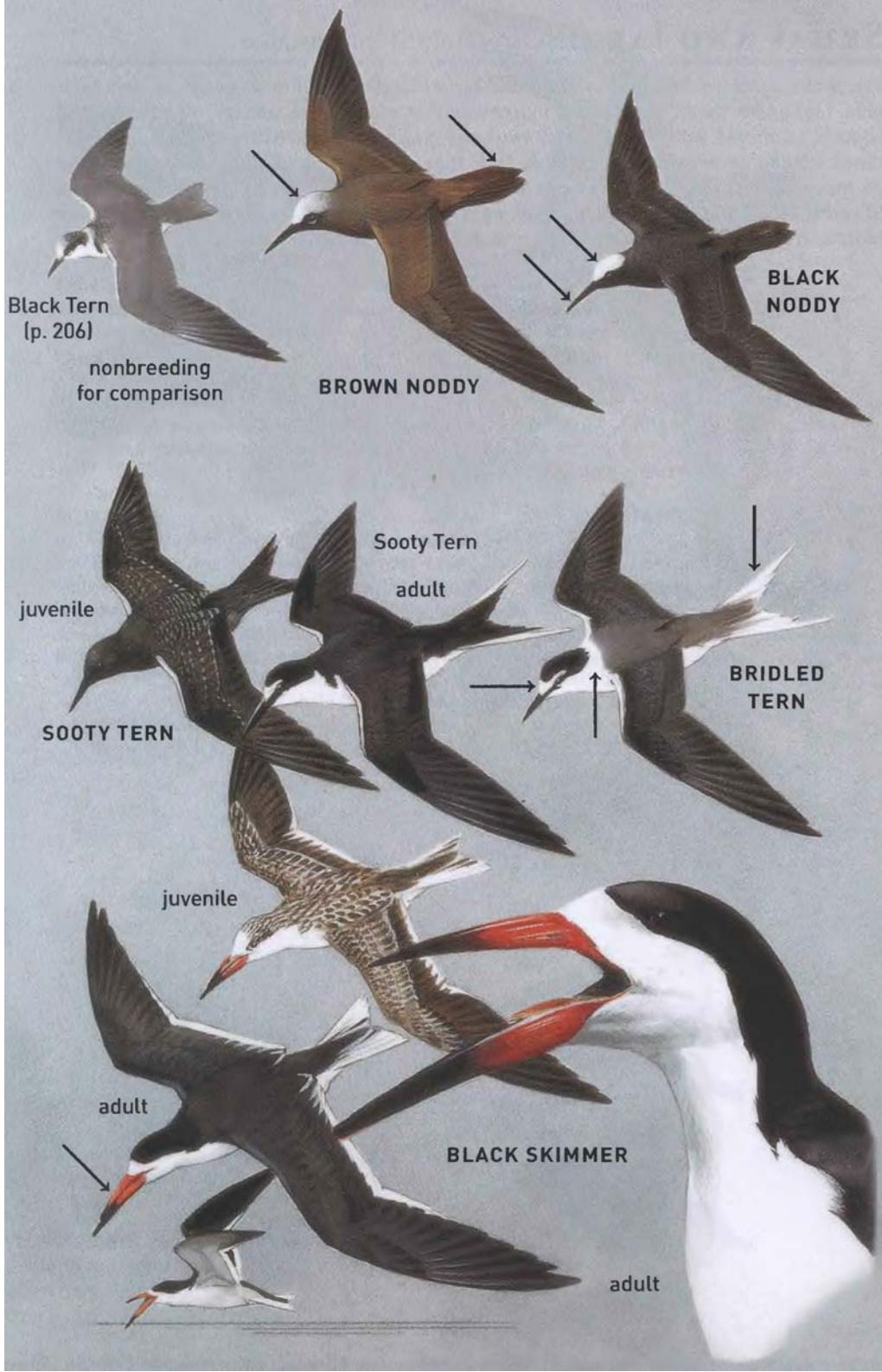
SKIMMERS Subfamily Rynchopinae

Slim, short-legged relatives of gulls and terns. *Scissorlike red bill; lower mandible longer than upper.* **FOOD:** Small fish, crustaceans. **RANGE:** Coasts, ponds, marshes, beaches, rivers of warmer parts of world.

**BLACK SKIMMER** *Rynchops niger*

Locally common M267
18–18½ in. (46–47 cm). More slender than a gull, with very long wings. Skims low, dipping lower mandible in water, snapping shut when it comes in contact with a food item. (Forages mostly at night.) **Adult:** Black above; white face and underparts. Bright red bill (tipped with black) is long and flat vertically; *lower mandible juts a third beyond upper*. Reddish legs. **Immature:** Brownish and speckled above, bill smaller, bill and legs duller. **VOICE:** Soft, short, barking notes. Also *kaup, kaup*. **HABITAT:** Bays, marshes, beaches, protected ocean waters.

DARK TERNS AND SKIMMER



SKUAS AND JAEGERS Family Stercorariidae

Falconlike seabirds that harass gulls and terns, forcing them to disgorge or drop their food. Light, intermediate, and dark morphs exist in at least two species; all have flash of white in primaries. Adult jaegers have two projecting central tail feathers, which are sometimes broken or missing. Young birds lack these feathers. Separating jaegers in most plumages can be very difficult. Skuas are larger, lack tail points, and are broader winged. Sexes alike. **FOOD:** In Arctic, lemmings, eggs, young birds. At sea, food taken from other birds or from water. **RANGE:** Seas of world, breeding in subpolar regions.



SOUTH POLAR SKUA *Stercorarius maccormicki*

Scarce M269

21 in. (53 cm). Near size of Herring Gull, but stockier, with deep-chested, hunch-backed look. Dark, with short, slightly wedge-shaped tail and *conspicuous white wing patch at base of primaries visible on both upper- and underwing*. "Blond" morph has pale head and underparts contrasting with darker wings; dark morph uniform gray-brown with *paler nape*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Great Skua; dark jaegers (particularly Pomarine Jaeger) may lack tail points, but skuas larger, their wings wider, and they have more striking white wing patches.

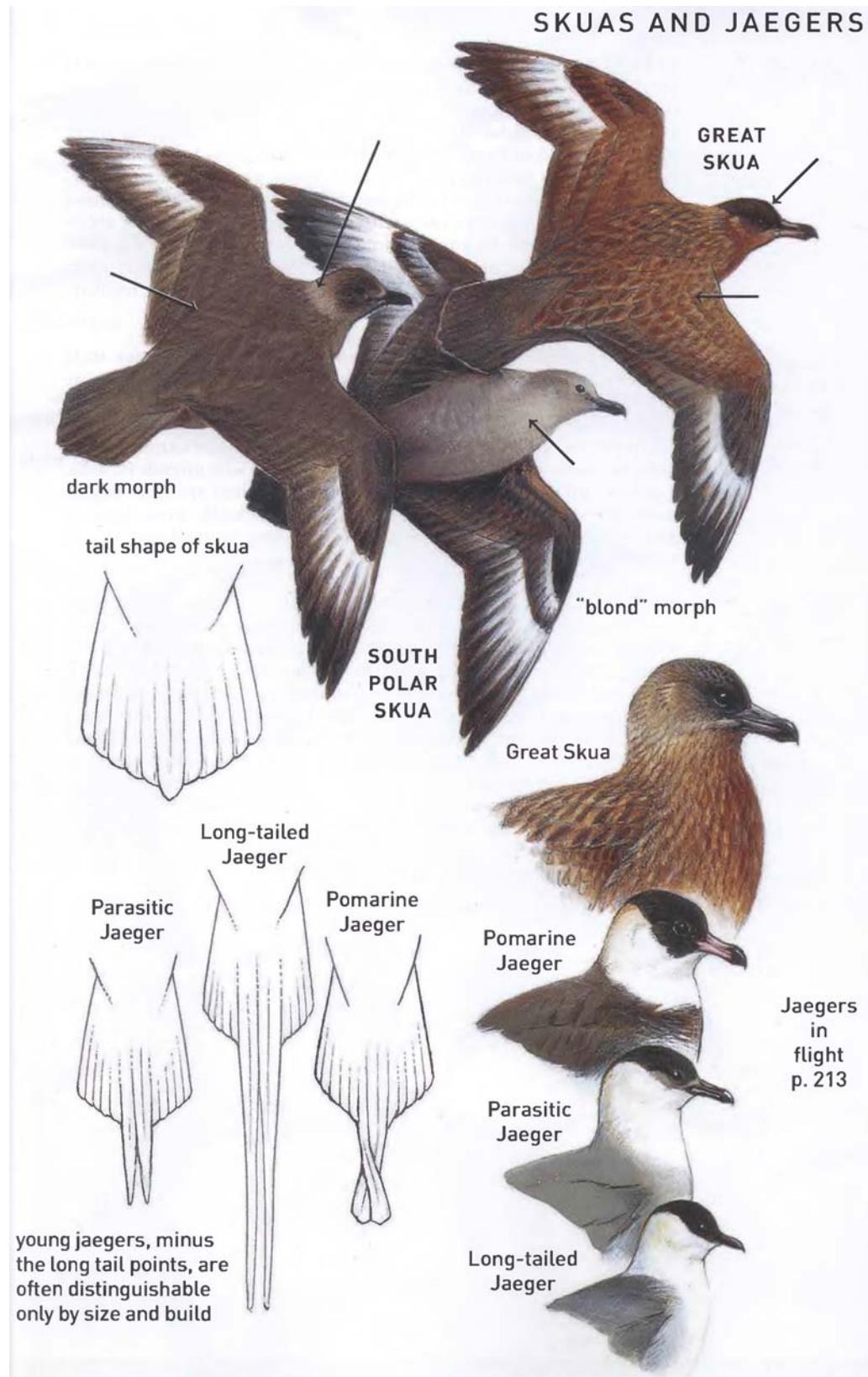


GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

Scarce M268

22–23 in. (56–58 cm). Note conspicuous white wing patch visible on both upper- and underwing. Near size of Herring Gull, but stockier. Dark brown, with rusty and streaked upperparts and short, slightly wedge-shaped tail. Flight strong and swift; harasses other seabirds. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Dark jaegers may lack distinctive tail-feather extensions. However, skuas' wings wider, less falconlike, white wing patches more striking both above and below, and flight more powerful. Very much like South Polar Skua but averages larger and heavier-billed. Note *warmer brown color, dark cap, less distinct pale nape, and more streaked appearance to upperparts*.

SKUAS AND JAEGERS



**PARASITIC JAEGER** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Uncommon M271

17–19 in. (44–49 cm). This is the jaeger most frequently seen from shore. Flies with strong, falconlike wing strokes. Like other jaegers, it shows white wing-flash. *Adult*: Dark crown, pale underparts. Sharp tail points project up to 3½ in. (9 cm). Shows small *pale spot* above base of bill. Varies from light to dark morphs. *Juvenile*: Juvenile jaegers show heavy barring, especially on underwing. Juvenile Parasitic is usually *warmer brown* than other juvenile jaegers, often with *more distinct white patch on upperwing*. Up close, look for *streaked head* and *pale-edged primary tips*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Pomarine and Long-tailed jaegers, Heermann's Gull (which also often harasses terns, small gulls). **HABITAT**: Primarily ocean, regularly seen from shore; in summer, tundra.

**POMARINE JAEGER** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

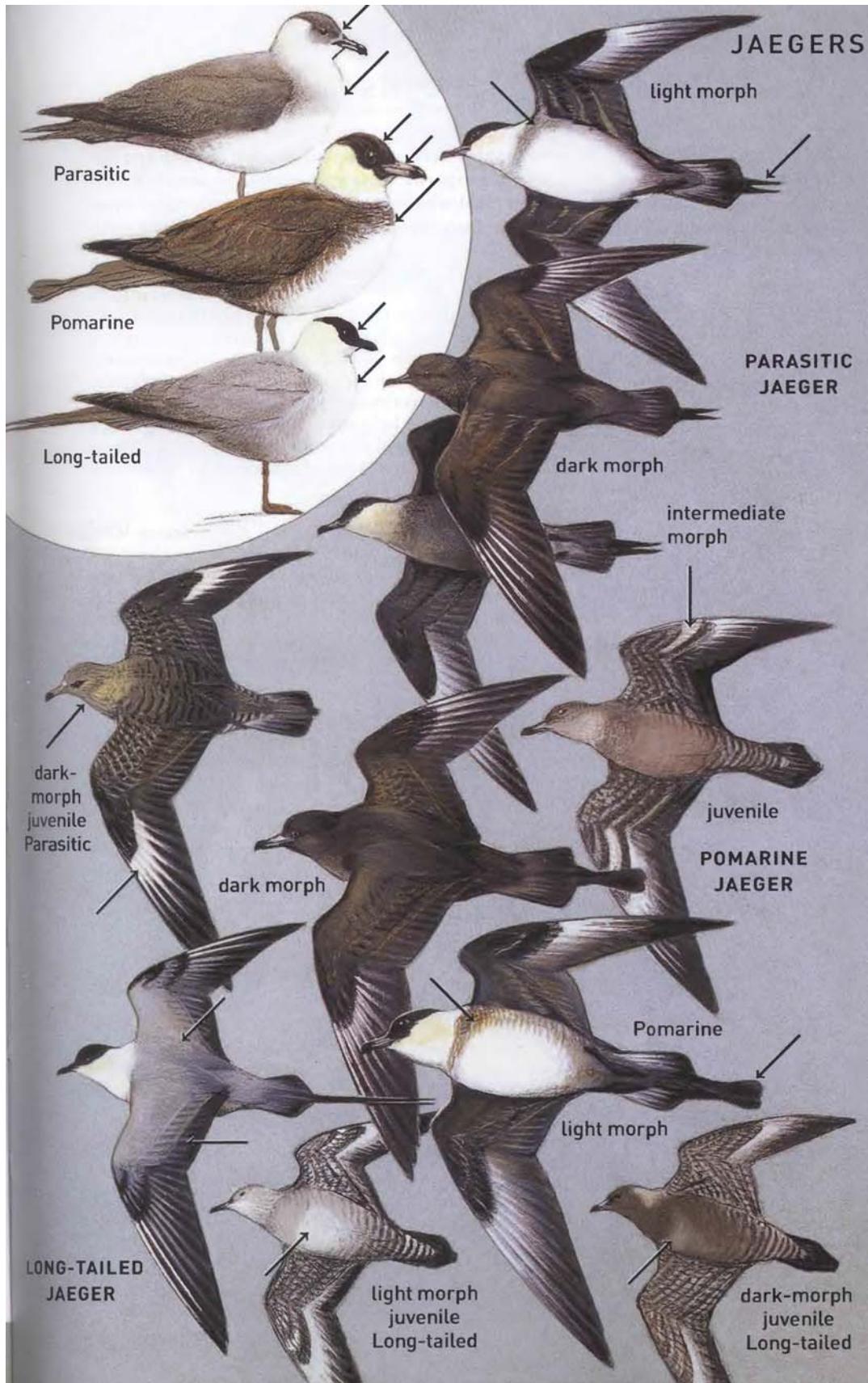
Uncommon M270

19–21 in. (48–53 cm). Like Parasitic Jaeger, but slightly heavier with more gull-like flight style. *Adult*: *Broad and twisted* central tail feathers project 2–7 in. (5–18 cm). Dark cap extends *further down* through face to "jowls." Bill heavy and *pink-based*; breast band *darker* and more barred than in Parasitic. *Juvenile*: Plumage variable, but compared with juvenile Parasitic it lacks warm tones, and very short central tail feathers are blunt-tipped. Look for white-based primary coverts creating *double white flash* on underwing. **HABITAT**: Open ocean, seen from shore in small numbers; in summer, tundra.

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Scarce M272

17–22 in. (44–56 cm). The smallest, slimmest jaeger with buoyant, tern-like flight style. *Adults*: Paler and grayer above than other jaegers with distinctly *two-toned upperwing* in flight; *long tail streamers* project 3–6 in. (8–15 cm); black cap neat and *sharply defined*; no *breast band*; almost *no white in wings*. *Juvenile*: Varies from light to dark morph. All show very *limited white on upperwing* (two or three primary shafts), *Stubby bill*, and longer, blunter-tipped central tail feathers than other juvenile jaegers. Light morph has distinctly *pale grayish head and breast* and extensively *white belly*. Dark morph cold gray-brown and often with pale nape and *pale lower breast patch*. **HABITAT**: Open ocean; tundra in summer. Most pelagic of the jaegers.



AUKS, MURRES, AND PUFFINS Family Alcidae

The northern counterparts of penguins, but alcids can fly, beating their small narrow wings in a whir, often veering. They have short neck and pointed, stubby, or deep and laterally compressed bill. Alcids swim and dive expertly. Most species nest on sea cliffs or in burrows, often in crowded colonies, and most winter on open ocean. Mostly silent away from breeding grounds. Sexes alike. **FOOD:** Fish, squid, zooplankton. **RANGE:** N. Atlantic, N. Pacific, and Arctic oceans.



RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

Uncommon M276
17 in. (43 cm). Size of a small duck. Black above and white below; characterized by rather heavy head, thick neck, and flat bill crossed midway by a white mark. On water, cocked-up pointed tail is often characteristic. **VOICE:** Weak whirring whistle; a deep growling *hey Al.* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nonbreeding face pattern suggests Common Murre. Bill of immature Razorbill is smaller than adult's and lacks white mark (hence resembling a murre's), but it is stubby and rounded enough to suggest bird's identity as an auk. See also Long-tailed Duck. **HABITAT:** Nests on rocky offshore islands. Forages in coastal waters.



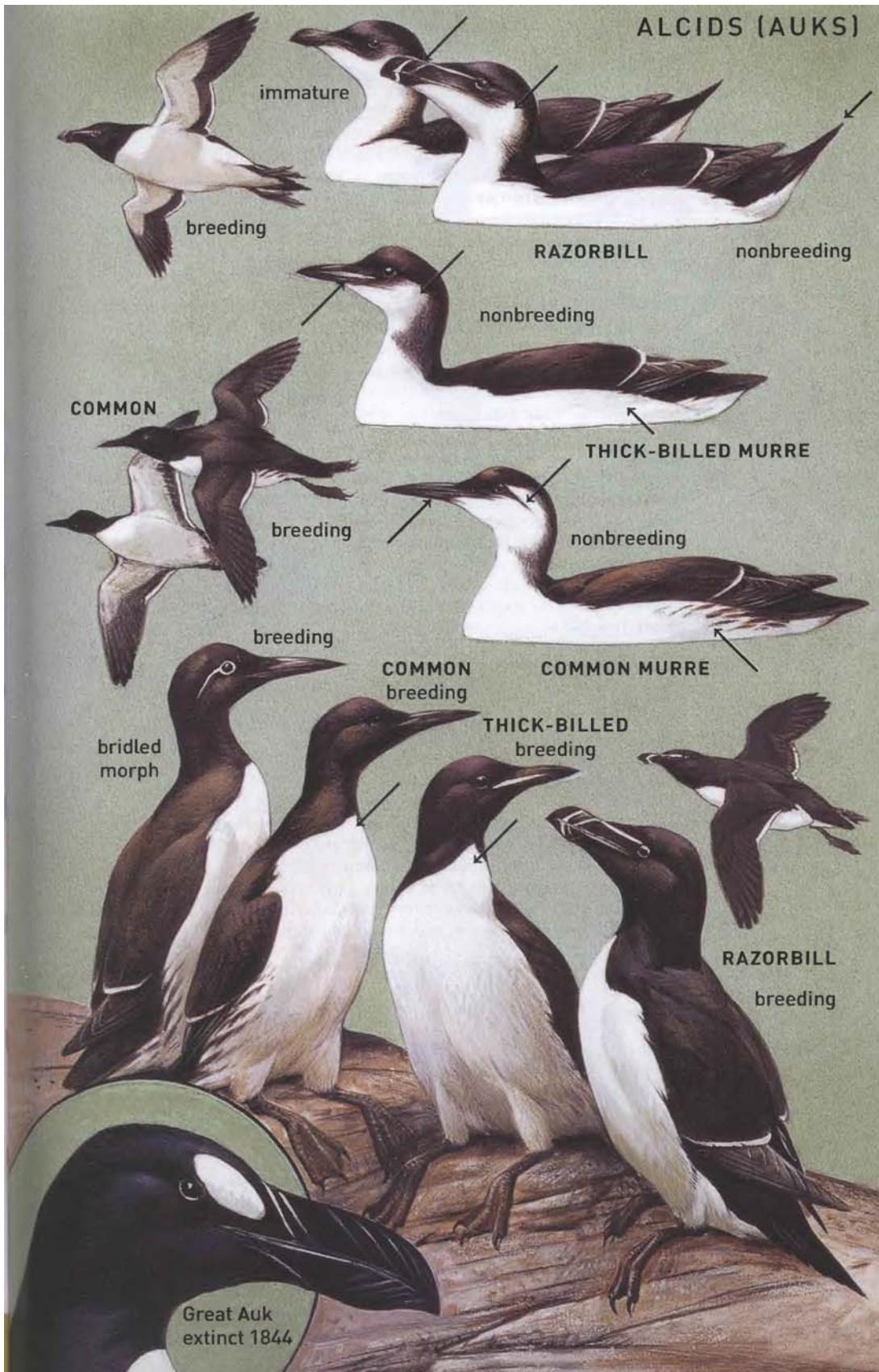
THICK-BILLED MURRE *Uria lomvia*

Scarce M275
18 in. (46 cm). Similar to Common Murre, but a bit *blacker above*. Bill slightly shorter, thicker, with *whitish line along gape*. Overall a bit stockier. White of foreneck forms inverted V. In nonbreeding plumage, dark on head extends *well below eye*; no dark line through white ear coverts. White bill mark less evident. **VOICE:** Guttural calls and moans, hence the name "murre." **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Murre. **HABITAT:** Nests on coastal cliff ledges. Spends nonbreeding season on offshore ocean waters.



COMMON MURRE *Uria aalge* Fairly common West, uncommon East M274
17–17½ in. (43–45 cm). Size of a small duck, with slender pointed bill. **Breeding:** Head, neck, back, and wings dark, *tinged brownish*; underparts, wing linings, and line on rear edge of wing white. **Dusky markings on flanks** on some birds. **Nonbreeding:** Similar, but throat and cheeks white. **Black mark extends from eye to cheek** (see also Razorbill). Murres often raft on water, fly in lines, stand erect on sea cliffs. Chicks in Pacific may be mistaken for Xantus's Murrelet. Bridled morph occurs within regular plumage in N. Atlantic and AK. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Thick-billed Murre, Razorbill, Long-tailed Duck. **HABITAT:** Same as Thick-billed Murre, but regularly seen from shore throughout year along Pacific Coast.

ALCIDS (AUKS)



**DOVEKIE** *Alle alle*

Scarce M273

8–8½ in. (20–21 cm). A very small alcid (by far the smallest in East), about the size of European Starling. Chubby and seemingly neckless, with very stubby bill. In flight, flocks bunch tightly, starlinglike. Contrasting alcid pattern—black above, white below. Black-hooded in breeding plumage, white-chested in nonbreeding plumage. **VOICE:** Shrill chatter. Noisy on nesting grounds. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** In AK, Parakeet Auklet slightly larger and with larger bill, less clean-cut, and lacks white line on rear edge of wing. See nonbreeding Least Auklet. **HABITAT:** Nests in high Arctic on coastal cliffs. Winters at sea in N. Atlantic.

**BLACK GUILLEMOT** *Cephus grylle*

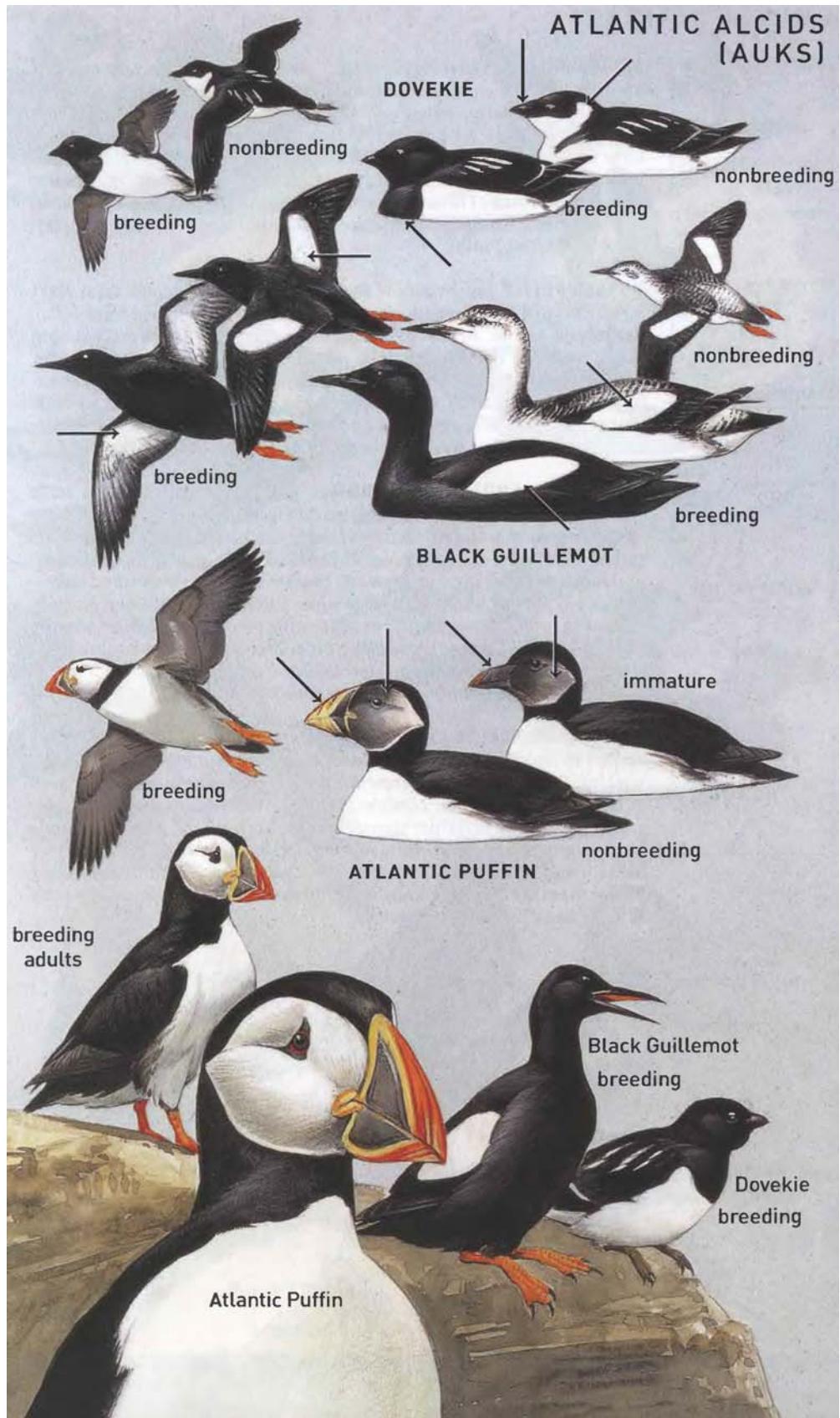
Fairly common M277

13 in. (33 cm). *Breeding:* Midsized black bird with large white wing patch, bright red feet, and pointed bill. Inside of mouth red. *Nonbreeding:* Pale with whitish underparts and barred back. Wings black with white patch as in summer. *Immature:* Darker above than nonbreeding adult, with dingier, mottled wing patch. **VOICE:** Wheezy or hissing *peeee*; very high pitched. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** No other Atlantic alcid has white wing patch (although others show a narrow line of white on trailing edge of wing). In winter, much larger White-winged Scoter (with white wing patch) is black, whereas Black Guillemot is usually whitish. Wing patch of White-winged Scoter is positioned at rear of wing. In nw. AK, compare with Pigeon Guillemot. Black Guillemot's white wing patch lacks dark bar; underwing linings white with thin dark border (at least half dusky in Pigeon). Nonbreeding and juvenile Black Guillemots paler than most, but not all, Pigeon Guillemots. **HABITAT:** Inshore ocean waters; breeds in small groups or singly in holes in ground or under rocks on rocky shores, islands. Less pelagic than most other alcids.

**ATLANTIC PUFFIN** *Fratercula arctica*

Uncommon M290

12½ in. (32 cm). Colorful triangular bill is most striking feature of chunky little “Sea Parrot.” On the wing, it is a stubby, short-necked, thick-headed bird with buzzy flight. No white border on wing. *Breeding:* Upperparts black, underbody white, cheeks pale gray; triangular bill broadly tipped with red. Feet bright orange. *Nonbreeding:* Cheeks grayer; bill smaller, duller, but obviously a puffin. *Immature:* Bill much smaller, mostly dark, but both mandibles well curved. Chunky shape and gray cheeks are unmistakably those of a puffin. **VOICE:** Usually silent. When nesting, a low, growling *ow* or *arr*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Immature may be mistaken for young Razorbill, but note gray cheeks, all-dark underwing. **HABITAT:** Very rarely seen from shore except near breeding colonies.



**TUFTED PUFFIN** *Fratercula cirrhata*

Uncommon M292

15–16 in. (38–40 cm). A stocky, dark seabird with massive bill. *Breeding*: Blackish, with *large, triangular, orange-red bill*; white face; and *long, curved, ivory yellow ear tufts*. Feet orange. *Nonbreeding*: White face and ear tufts much reduced (a trace of dull buffy-yellowish); duller orange-red bill not as triangular as in summer. *Immature*: Body grayer, bill smaller, with no red. **VOICE**: Throaty growling in nesting colony; silent at sea. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Compare immature with Rhinoceros Auklet. **HABITAT**: Same as Horned Puffin.

**HORNED PUFFIN** *Fratercula corniculata*

Fairly common, local M291

15 in. (38 cm). A puffin with *clear white underparts* and broad black collar. Feet bright orange. *Breeding*: Cheeks white, with small, dark erectile horn above each eye. Bill massive, *triangular*, laterally flat; *yellow with red tip*. *Nonbreeding*: Cheeks dusky; bill blackish with red tip. *Immature*: Resembles nonbreeding adult with dusky cheeks, but bill smaller and all dark. **VOICE**: Low, growling *arr*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Atlantic Puffin; separated by range. **HABITAT**: Nests on rocky ocean cliffs. Forages in offshore waters.

**PIGEON GUILLEMOT** *Cephus columba*

Fairly common M278

13½ in. (34 cm). *Breeding*: A small, black, pigeonlike waterbird, with large *white wing patches* (subdivided by variable black bar or wedge, sometimes rather indistinct), *red feet*, pointed black bill, orange-red mouth lining, and mostly dark or dirty underwing. *Nonbreeding*: Pale with white underparts and blackish wings with large white patches as in summer. *Juvenile*: Similar to nonbreeding adult, but white wing patches mottled; underwing may have center third or more pale. **VOICE**: Feeble wheezy or hissing whistle, *peeeeeee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Marbled Murrelet, Black Guillemot. **HABITAT**: Inshore ocean waters; less pelagic than most other alcids.

**RHINOCEROS AUKLET** *Cerorhinca monocerata*

Uncommon M289

15 in. (38 cm). A dark stubby seabird. *Breeding* (plumage acquired in late winter): *White mustache*, narrow *white plume* behind eye, *short erect horn* at base of yellowish bill. *Nonbreeding*: Note size and *uniform dark color with paler lower vent*. White plumes shorter, horn absent. *Immature*: Similar to nonbreeding adult, with smaller, darker bill. **VOICE**: Wide array of barks, growls, groans. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Cassin's Auklet, immature Tufted Puffin. **HABITAT**: Nests colonially in burrows on islands. Found in both inshore and offshore ocean waters.

PACIFIC ALCIDS



LONG-BILLED MURRELET *Brachyramphus perdix* Vagrant
 10–11 in. (25–28 cm). Breeding: Paler brown than Marbled Murrelet; white throat. Nonbreeding: Like Marbled, but lacks white collar and shows two small pale oval patches on nape. **RANGE AND HABITAT:** Casual visitor (mostly between late summer and early winter) from Asia to West Coast and at lakes, reservoirs, and rivers far inland all the way to Atlantic Coast.



MARBLED MURRELET *Brachyramphus marmoratus* Uncommon, threatened M279

9¾–10 in. (24–25 cm). Breeding: Dark brown; heavily mottled on underparts. The only alcid south of AK so colored (in AK, see Kittlitz's Murrelet). Nonbreeding: A small neckless-looking seabird, dark above and white below, with strip of white on scapulars, white collar. **VOICE:** Sharp keer, keer or lower kee. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nonbreeding Pigeon Guillemot slightly larger, and white patch is on wing, not scapulars. See Long-billed Murrelet. **HABITAT:** Coastal ocean waters, bays. Breeds short distance inland, mainly high on limbs of mossy old-growth conifers if available.



KITTLITZ'S MURRELET *Brachyramphus brevirostris* Scarce, local M280
 9¼–9½ in. (23–24 cm). Breeding: Buffy or tan overall, mottled and freckled with white above, giving a pale look. Nonbreeding: Similar to Marbled Murrelet, but white on face surrounds eyes. White outer tail feathers in all plumages. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Marbled Murrelet, nonbreeding Pigeon Guillemot. **HABITAT:** Glacial waters; nests presumably on barren slopes above timberline in coastal mountains.



XANTUS'S MURRELET *Synthliboramphus hypoleucus* Uncommon, local M281

9½–9¾ in. (24–25 cm). A small brown-black and white alcid with solid dark back. Suggests a miniature murre. Very similar to Craveri's Murrelet, but with white wing linings. *Scrippsi* race is regular breeding subspecies in CA. *Hypoleucus* subspecies of Baja CA, a very rare late-summer and fall visitor north to BC, has white arc around eye.



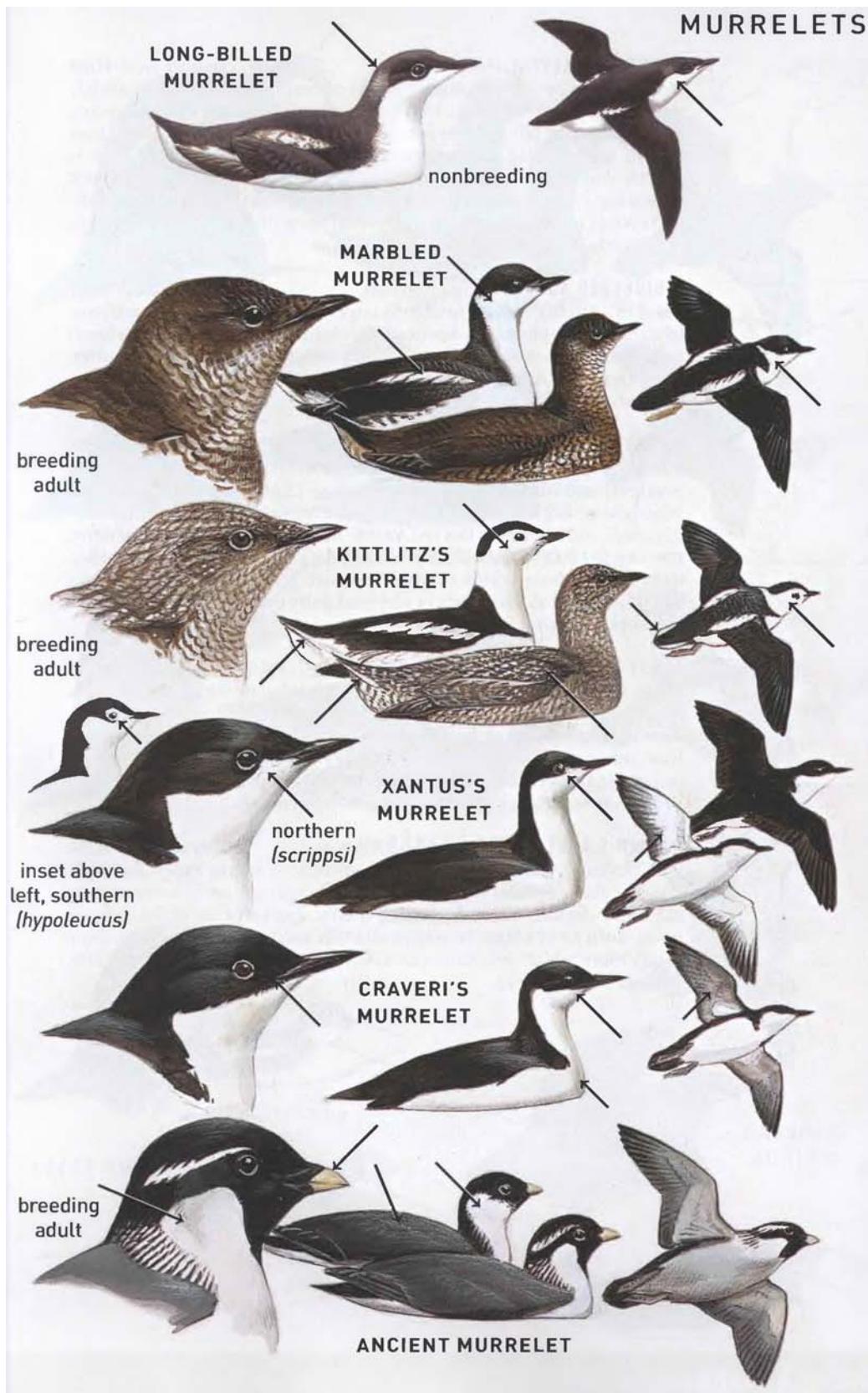
CRAVERI'S MURRELET *Synthliboramphus craveri* Rare, local M282

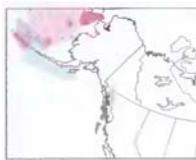
9¼–9½ in. (23–24 cm). Very similar to Xantus's Murrelet, but with black partial collar on breast, slight black chin (below bill), and dusky (not white) underwing linings. Bill very slightly longer. **HABITAT:** Breeds on offshore islands.



ANCIENT MURRELET *Synthliboramphus antiquus* Scarce M283

10 in. (25 cm). In all plumages, gray back contrasts with black cap. Breeding: Note sharply cut black throat patch and white stripe over eye. Bill yellow. Nonbreeding: Weaker head stripe. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other similarly sized alcids lack back/crown contrast. **HABITAT:** Breeds on rocky and debris-strewn slopes.



**CRESTED AUKLET** *Aethia cristatella*

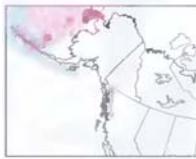
Fairly common, local M288
9½–10½ in. (24–27 cm). A droll auklet of Bering Sea. **Adult:** Completely slate gray, darker on back; thin white plume behind eye. In breeding plumage, stubby bill is *bright orange* and a curious crest *curls forward* over bill. In nonbreeding plumage, orange gape on bill is lost and crest is shorter. **Immature:** Paler gray overall, with dark bill. **VOICE:** Doglike bark in nesting colony. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Whiskered and Cassin's auklets. **HABITAT:** Nests on remote islands and coastal areas of Bering Sea. Forages in open ocean.

**WHISKERED AUKLET** *Aethia pygmaea*

Scarce, local M287
7¾–8 in. (20 cm). Similar to slightly larger Crested Auklet, but in addition to curled black plume on forehead, this bird has *three thin white plumes* (whiskers) on each side of face. In nonbreeding plumage, plumes shorter. At all times has *pale lower belly and undertail coverts*. **HABITAT:** Tidal rips, rocky coasts.

**PARAKEET AUKLET** *Aethia psittacula*

Uncommon, local M285
10 in. (25 cm). A small alcid with *stubby, red bill* (like colorful bill of a parakeet) and whitish underparts. **Breeding:** Entire head black, with thin white plume behind eye. **Nonbreeding and immature:** Mostly whitish underneath, and bill shows less red. **VOICE:** At nesting colony, a high whinny. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Crested Auklet entirely dark. Least Auklet much smaller. **HABITAT:** Offshore occurs singly or in small groups (not in large flocks like other small alcids); nests in scattered pairs or in colonies on sea cliffs and rubble slopes.

**LEAST AUKLET** *Aethia pusilla*

Fairly common, local M286
6–6¼ in. (15–16 cm). The tiniest alcid; chubby, neckless. Black above, white below. In flight, a whirring ping-pong ball. In breeding plumage, dark band across upper breast. Tiny size and small stubby bill separate it from other alcids except Dovekie. **VOICE:** High-pitched chattering in colony. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Dovekie. **HABITAT:** Nests on remote rocky islands in colonies with other auklets. Forages in open ocean.

**CASSIN'S AUKLET** *Ptychoramphus aleuticus*

Fairly common M284
9 in. (23 cm). A small stubby seabird; entirely dark gray except for white crescent above eye and white belly; note pale spot at base of lower mandible. **VOICE:** Usually silent. In nesting colony, a series of harsh *kueek-kueek* notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** In winter, all other small alcids in its range show much more white. See Rhinoceros Auklet. **HABITAT:** Nests on sea cliffs. Forages in open ocean.

AUKLETS



PIGEONS AND DOVES Family Columbidae

Plump, fast-flying birds with small head and low, cooing voice; nod their head as they walk. Two types: (1) birds with fanlike tails (e.g., Rock Pigeon) and (2) smaller birds with rounded or pointed tail (e.g., Mourning Dove). Sexes mostly similar. FOOD: Seeds, waste grain, fruit, insects. RANGE: Nearly worldwide in tropical and temperate regions.



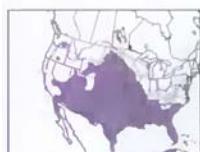
BAND-TAILED PIGEON *Patagioenas fasciata* Fairly common M296
14½–15 in. (37–38 cm). Heavily built; might be mistaken for Rock Pigeon except for its woodland habitat and tendency to alight in trees. Note *broad pale band* across end of tail; *white band* on nape. Feet *yellow*. Bill *yellow* with *dark tip*. VOICE: Hollow owl-like *oo-who* or *whoo-oo-who*, repeated. SIMILAR SPECIES: Rock Pigeon. HABITAT: Oak canyons, foothills, chaparral, mountain forests; also some residential areas, parks.



RED-BILLED PIGEON *Patagioenas flavirostris* Scarce, local M295
14–14½ in. (36–37 cm). A large all-dark pigeon (in good light deep maroon), including underbelly. Bill red with yellowish tip. Shy, mostly arboreal. Recent decline in numbers. VOICE: *Whoo, whoo, whoooooo*. SIMILAR SPECIES: Rock Pigeon. HABITAT: Riparian woodlands with tall trees and brush.



WHITE-CROWNED PIGEON *Patagioenas leucocephala* Uncommon, local M294
13½ in. (34 cm). A stocky, shy pigeon completely dark except for immaculate white crown. VOICE: Low owl-like *wof, wof, wo, co-woo*. SIMILAR SPECIES: Rock Pigeon. HABITAT: Mangrove keys, thickets, hardwood hammocks. Perches on power lines, treetops.



AFRICAN COLLARED-DOVE *Streptopelia roseogrisea* Exotic
12 in. (30 cm). Escaped cage bird. Formerly known as Ringed Turtle-Dove (*S. risoria*). A very pale dove with dark bill and eye and black partial collar. In flight, white tail tip obvious. VOICE: Soft series of two-syllable cooing notes. SIMILAR SPECIES: Eurasian Collared-Dove darker overall, with medium gray undertail coverts, darker primaries, and three-syllable notes. Hybrids with Eurasians occur mixed in with pure birds in the wild. HABITAT: Urban areas, suburban yards, power lines, feeders.



EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* Locally common, exotic M297
12½–13 in. (32–33 cm). Recent colonizer of N. America from Caribbean but native to Eurasia; rapidly increasing and spreading. Slightly chunkier than Mourning Dove, *paler beige*, and with *square-cut tail*. Note *narrow black ring* on hindneck. Grayish undertail coverts. Three-toned wing pattern in flight. VOICE: *Three-noted coo-COOO-cup*. SIMILAR SPECIES: African Collared-Dove. HABITAT: Towns, field edges, cultivated land.



SPOTTED DOVE *Streptopelia chinensis* Uncommon, local, exotic M298
12 in. (30–31 cm). Note *broad collar* of black and white spots on hindneck. A bit larger than Mourning Dove; tail rounded with much white in corners. Juvenile: Lacks collar, but can be told by shape of spread tail. VOICE: *Coo-who-coo*; resembles cooing of White-winged Dove. SIMILAR SPECIES: Mourning Dove. RANGE: Introduced from Asia, formerly widespread in s. CA, now much reduced. HABITAT: Residential areas, parks.



ROCK PIGEON (ROCK DOVE, DOMESTIC PIGEON) Common, exotic M293
Columba livia
12½ in. (32 cm). Typical birds are gray with *whitish rump*, *two black wing bars*, and broad, dark tail band. Domestic stock or feral birds may have many color variants. VOICE: Soft, gurgling *coo-roo-coo*. SIMILAR SPECIES: Band-tailed Pigeon. HABITAT: Cities, farms, cliffs, bridges.

PIGEONS AND
DOVES



**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** *Zenaida asiatica*

Common M299

11½–12 in. (29–30 cm). A dove of desert, readily known by *white wing patches, large when bird is in flight, narrow when at rest*. Otherwise similar to Mourning Dove, but tail *rounded* and tipped with broad white corners, bill slightly longer, eye orangey red. **VOICE:** Harsh cooing, *who cooks for you?*; also, *ooo-uh-CUCK oo*. Sounds vaguely like crowing of a young rooster. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Mourning and White-tipped doves. **HABITAT:** River woods, mesquite, saguaros, desert oases, groves, towns, feeders.

**MOURNING DOVE** *Zenaida macroura*

Common M300

12 in. (30–31 cm). The common widespread wild dove. Brown; smaller and slimmer than Rock Pigeon. Note *pointed tail* with large white spots. **VOICE:** Hollow, mournful *coah, cooo, coo, cooo*. At a distance, only the three *coos* are audible. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** White-winged Dove. **HABITAT:** Farms, towns, open woods, fields, scrub, roadsides, grasslands, feeders.

**WHITE-TIPPED DOVE** *Leptotila verreauxi*

Uncommon, local M304

11½ in. (29 cm). Large stocky dove with broad, dark wings. Short tail has *white corners*. Body pale, underwings cinnamon. Spends a good deal of time on ground. Flies fast through woods. **VOICE:** Long, drawn-out, hollow *who—whoooooooooo*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** White-winged and Mourning doves. **HABITAT:** Often seen walking in shadows of brushy tangles or dense woods.

**RUDDY GROUND-DOVE** *Columbina talpacoti*

Rare M303

6½–6¾ in. (16–17 cm). This rare but regular visitor (and very rare breeder) to border states from Mex. is similar to Common Ground-Dove but is slightly larger, longer tailed, and longer billed; has *dark, grayish base to bill; lacks all scaliness*. Has *blackish* spots and streaks on wing coverts and *scapulars*. **Male:** Washed rufous. **Female and immature:** Plain brown and gray. **Caution:** A bright male Common Ground-Dove may be misidentified as a Ruddy. **VOICE:** Cooing similar to Common Ground-Dove's, but faster and more repetitive: *pity-you pity-you pity you*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Inca Dove, Common Ground-Dove. **HABITAT:** Farms, livestock pens, fields, brushy areas. Often found with Inca Dove and Common Ground-Dove.

**COMMON GROUND-DOVE** *Columbina passerina*

Uncommon M302

6¼–6½ in. (15–16 cm). A very small dove. Note *stubby black tail, scaly breast, pinkish or orangey base of bill, and rounded wings that flash rufous in flight, bronzy spots and streaks on wing coverts*. Feet yellow or pink. Adult male's body washed pinkish. **VOICE:** Soft, monotonously repeated *woo-oo, woo-oo*, etc. May sound monosyllabic—*wooo*, with rising inflection. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Inca Dove, Ruddy Ground-Dove. **HABITAT:** Farms, orchards, brushy areas, roadsides.

**INCA DOVE** *Columbina inca*

Fairly common M301

8¼–8½ in. (21–22 cm). A very small, slim dove with *scaly* look. *Rufous* in primaries (as in ground-doves), but has *longer tail with white sides*. **VOICE:** Monotonous *coo-hoo* or *no-hope*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Ground-Dove has short tail without obvious white, lacks scaling on back. **HABITAT:** Towns, parks, farms.

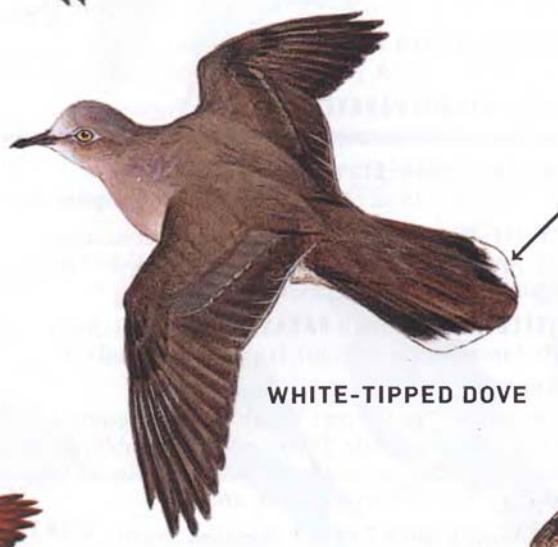
DOVES



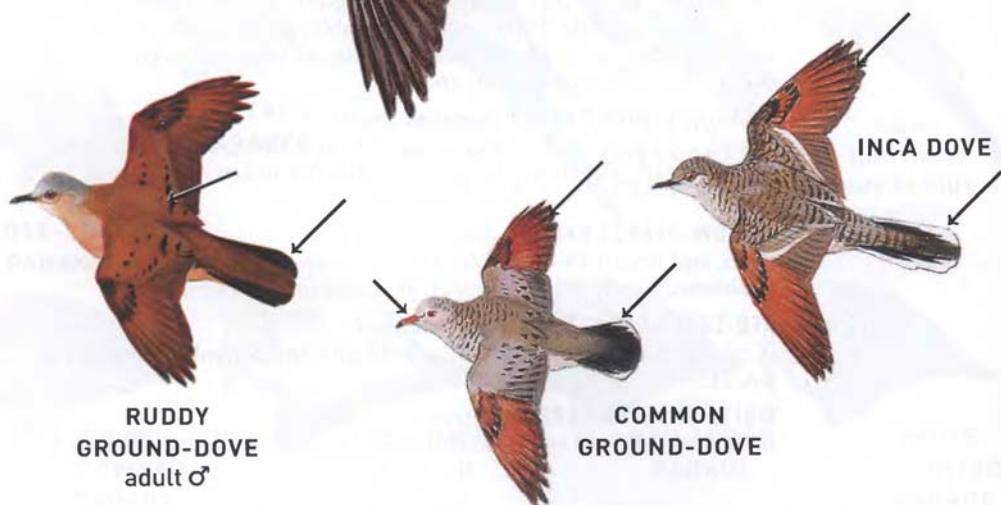
WHITE-WINGED DOVE

MOURNING DOVE

PASSENGER
PIGEON
extinct
1914



WHITE-TIPPED DOVE



RUDDY
GROUND-DOVE
adult ♂

COMMON
GROUND-DOVE

INCA DOVE

PARAKEETS AND PARROTS Family Psittacidae

Noisy and gaudily colored. Compact, short-necked birds with stout, hooked bill. Parakeets smaller, with long, pointed tail. Feet zygodactyl (two toes fore, two aft). **RANGE:** Worldwide in Tropics and subtropics. Several exotic species have been released or have escaped, especially around Miami.

MONK PARAKEET *Myiopsitta monachus* Locally fairly common (Argentina) 11 in. (28 cm). Pale gray face and chest, buff band across belly. Established in spots from CT to FL and west to IL and TX. Massive nest of sticks (only parrot to build a stick nest), with several compartments. Raucous calls. Comes to feeders.

GREEN PARAKEET *Aratinga holochlora* Locally established 10–12 in. (25–30 cm). *Aratinga* parakeets have long pointed tails, so are readily separable from chunkier square-tailed parrots. This, the largest (size of Mourning Dove), is green above, yellow-green below. **VOICE:** Sharp, squeaky notes, shrill noisy chatter. **RANGE AND HABITAT:** Tropical Mex. to s. Nicaragua. Resident populations established in some residential areas of s. Rio Grande Valley in TX.

RED-CROWNED PARROT *Amazona viridigenalis* Locally established 12 in. (30 cm). Large, with red crown (reduced in first year), blue nape, red wing panels. Established in several southern cities, including Los Angeles, from introductions. S. TX residents may be from Mexican population.

BLACK-HOODED PARAKEET *Nandayus nenday*
(S. America) 12 in. (30 cm). Locally established on west coast of FL.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*
(Africa, India) 16 in. (41 cm). A few in suburbs on coastal slopes of s. CA.

MITRED PARAKEET *Aratinga mitrata*
(S. America) 15 in. (38 cm). Found in Los Angeles area and s. FL.

WHITE-WINGED PARAKEET *Brotogeris versicolurus* Local
(S. America) 9 in. (23 cm). Locally established in Miami area. Now outnumbered by Yellow-chevroned Parakeet.

YELLOW-CHEVRONED PARAKEET *Brotogeris chiriri*
(S. America) 9 in. (23 cm). Found in s. FL and CA.

BUDGERIGAR *Melopsittacus undulatus* Local
(Australia) 7 in. (18 cm). Variable. Usually green; a small minority may be blue, yellow, or white. Thousands were established along west coast of FL; lesser numbers on southeast coast of FL. Recent years have seen dramatic decline. Escapees seen in many areas.

LILAC-CROWNED PARROT *Amazona finschi*
(Mex.) 12½–13½ in. (30–34 cm). Like first-year Red-crowned but darker. Red forehead, *lilac* crown, longer tail. A few live in Los Angeles area and s. TX.

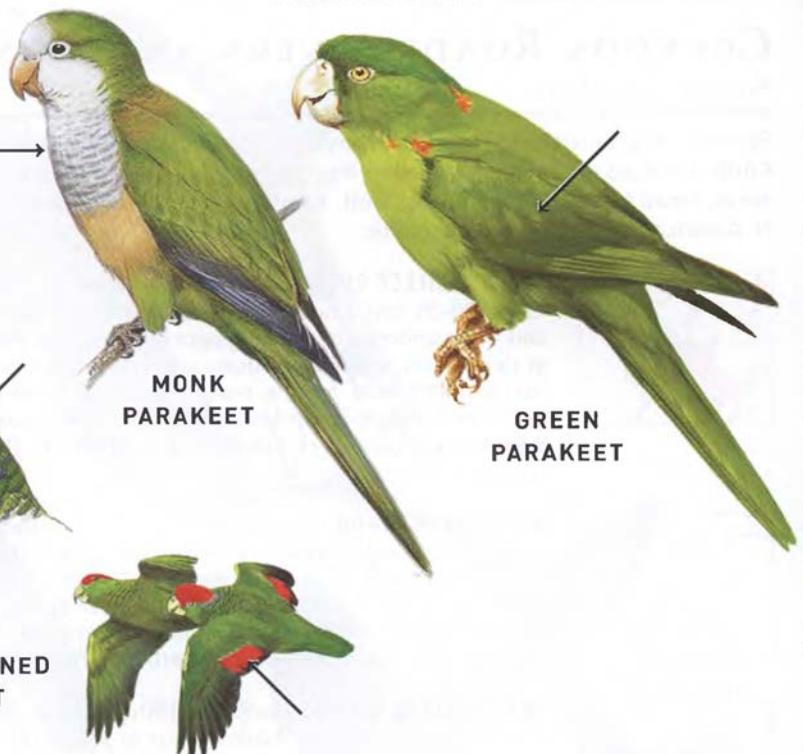
YELLOW-HEADED PARROT *Amazona oratrix*
(Mex. and Belize) 14–15 in. (36–38 cm). Escapees found in several areas; established locally in Los Angeles region, also in s. FL and s. TX.

RED-LORED PARROT *Amazona autumnalis*
(Cen. and S. America) 12–13 in. (30–33 cm). Small numbers seen in TX, CA, FL.

WHITE-FRONTED PARROT *Amazona albifrons*
(Cen. America) 9–10 in. (23–25 cm). Found in small numbers in FL and CA.

PARAKEETS AND PARROTS

CAROLINA
PARAKEET
extinct 1920s



UNESTABLISHED EXOTICS

BLACK-HOODED
PARAKEET



some individuals may be blue or yellow

ROSE-RINGED
PARAKEET



LILAC-
CROWNED
PARROT



YELLOW-
HEADED
PARROT



RED-LORED
PARROT



WHITE-
FRONTED
PARROT

CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS, AND ANIS

Family Cuculidae

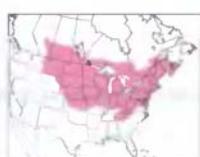
Slender, long-tailed birds; feet zygodactyl (two toes forward, two backward). Sexes alike. **FOOD:** Cuckoos eat caterpillars, other insects; roadrunners eat reptiles, rodents, large insects, small birds; anis eat seeds, fruit. **RANGE:** Warm and temperate regions of world. N. American cuckoos are not parasitic.



YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus americanus* Fairly common M305
12 in. (30–31 cm). Known as a cuckoo by slim sinuous look, brown back, and white underparts; as this species by *rufous* in wings, *large white* spots at tips of dark undertail feathers, and *yellow* lower mandible on slightly curved bill. **VOICE:** Song a rapid throaty *ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-kow-kow-kowlp-kowlp—kowlp—kowlp* (slowing toward end). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black-billed Cuckoo. **HABITAT:** Riparian woodlands (particularly cottonwoods).



MANGROVE CUCKOO *Coccyzus minor* Uncommon, local M306
12 in. (30–31 cm). Similar to Yellow-billed Cuckoo (both found in s. FL), but belly creamy buff; no rufous in wing. Note black ear patch. **VOICE:** Accelerating series of guttural notes, almost like grunts: *uhh unhh unhh unhh unhh aanngg aanngg*. Final two notes longer. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other cuckoos, especially Yellow-billed. **HABITAT:** Mangroves, hardwood forests.



BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* Uncommon M307
11½–12 in. (29–30 cm). Adult: Similar to Yellow-billed Cuckoo, but *bill dark gray to blackish*; *narrow red orbital ring*. No rufous in wing; undertail spots small. Immature: Has yellow orbital ring and may have small amount of rufous in wing; thus more like Yellow-billed Cuckoo, but has *all-dark bill*. **VOICE:** Fast, rhythmic *cucucu, cucucu, cucucu*, etc. The grouped rhythm (three or four) is typical, but often employs irregular cadences. May sing at night. **HABITAT:** Wood edges, groves, thickets.



GROOVE-BILLED ANI *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Uncommon, local M310
13–13½ in. (33–34 cm). Very similar to Smooth-billed but bill has fine grooves (lacking in juvenile) and less arched ridge. **VOICE:** Repeated *whee-o* or *tee-ho*, first note slurring up. **HABITAT:** Thickets, open woodlands.

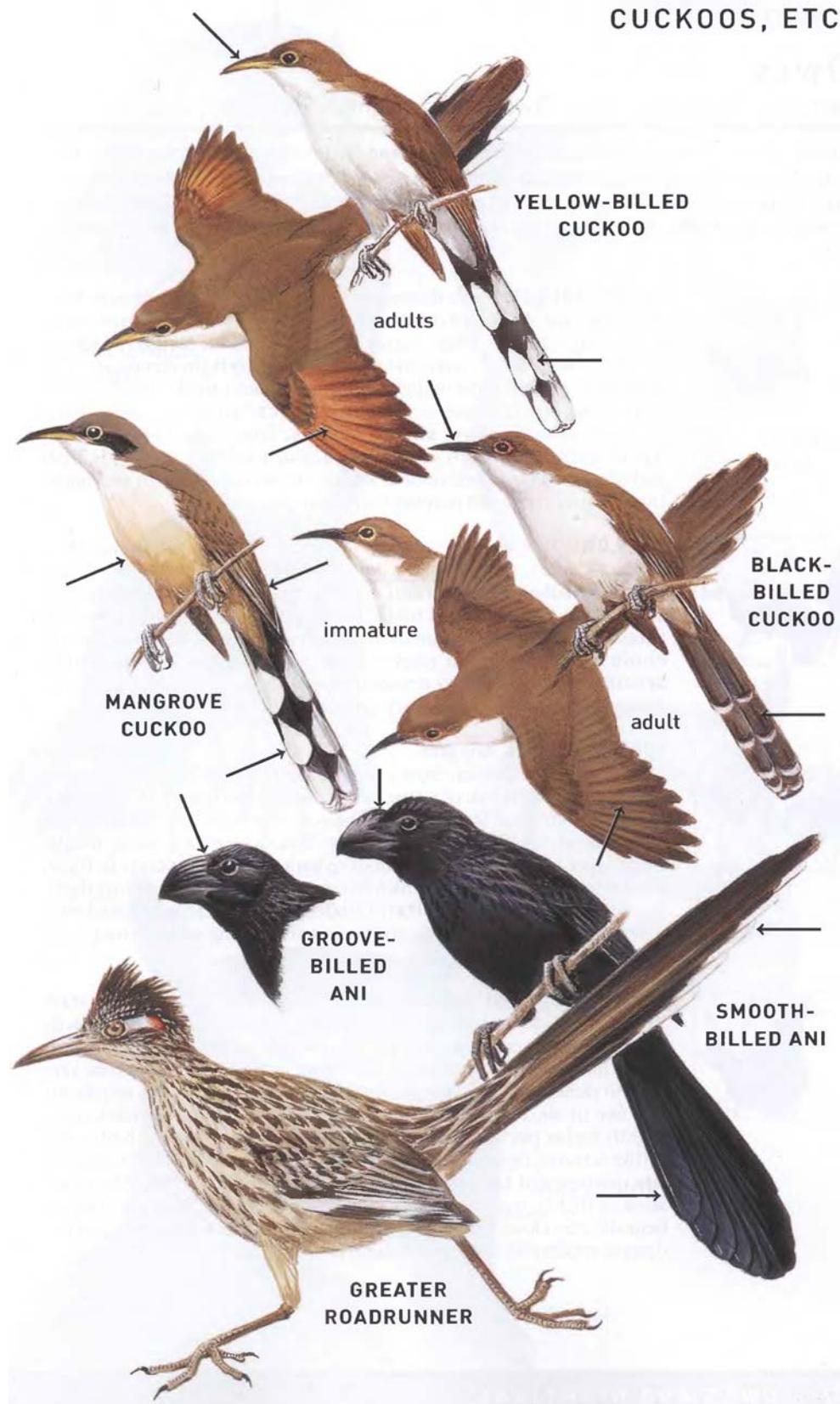


SMOOTH-BILLED ANI *Crotophaga ani* Scarce, local M309
14–14½ in. (35–37 cm). A coal black, grackle-sized bird with long loose-jointed tail, short wings, and *huge bill with high curved ridge* and noticeable angle to lower mandible (giving it puffinlike profile). Flight weak; alternately flaps and sails. Often moves in groups. **VOICE:** Whining whistle. Querulous *que-lick*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Groove-billed Ani grackles. **HABITAT:** Brushy edges, thickets. Recent major population declines in FL.



GREATER ROADRUNNER *Geococcyx californianus* Fairly common M308
22–23 in. (56–58 cm). The familiar cuckoo that runs on ground (tracks show two toes forward, two backward). A large, slender, streaked bird, with long, white-edged tail; shaggy crest; long legs. White crescent on wing (visible when spread). **VOICE:** Six to eight low, dovelike *coos*, descending in pitch. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Thrashers in same habitat are also streaky and brown but are much smaller. **HABITAT:** Deserts, open country with scattered cover, chaparral, brush.

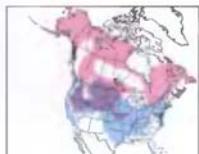
CUCKOOS, ETC



OWLS

Families Tytonidae (Barn Owls) and Strigidae (Typical Owls)

Chiefly nocturnal birds of prey, with large heads and flattened faces forming facial disk; large, forward-facing eyes; hooked bill and claws; usually feathered feet (outer toe reversible). Flight noiseless, mothlike. Some species have "horns," or ear tufts. Sexes similar; female larger. **FOOD:** Rodents, birds, reptiles, fish, large insects. **RANGE:** Nearly worldwide.



SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Uncommon M327

15 in. (38 cm). An owl of open country; often abroad by day, particularly at dawn and dusk or when cloudy. Often tussles with Northern Harrier. Streaked, tawny brown color and irregular flopping flight identify it. Large buffy wing patches show in flight, along with black carpal ("wrist") patch. *Dark facial disk* emphasizes yellow eyes. **VOICE:** Emphatic, sneezy bark: *kee-yow!, wow!,* or *waow!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Long-eared Owl somewhat similar in flight, but with jerkier wing action. **HABITAT:** Grasslands, fresh and salt marshes, dunes, tundra. Roosts on ground, rarely in and under trees. Winter range and numbers vary from year to year.



BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Uncommon M311

16 in. (41 cm). A long-legged, knock-kneed, pale, monkey-faced owl. *White heart-shaped face and dark eyes;* no ear tufts. Distinguished in flight as an owl by large head and mothlike flight; as this species by unstreaked whitish, buff, or pale cinnamon underparts (ghostly at night) and warm brown back. **VOICE:** Shrill, rasping hiss or snore: *kschh* or *shiiish.* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Short-eared Owl streaked, has darker face and underparts, *yellow eyes.* **HABITAT:** Open country, groves, farms, barns, towns, cliffs.



LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Uncommon M326

15 in. (38 cm). A slender, crow-sized owl with long ear tufts. Usually seen "frozen" close to trunk of a tree. Much smaller than Great Horned Owl; underparts streaked *lengthwise*, not barred crosswise. Ears *closer together, erectile* much black around eyes. **VOICE:** One or two long *hoots*; usually silent. Also a catlike whine and doglike bark. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** In flight, similar to Short-eared Owl, which has more mothlike, meandering flight. See Great Horned Owl. **HABITAT:** Coniferous and deciduous woodlands, desert groves. Often roosts in groups in nonbreeding season. Hunts over open country.



GREAT HORNED OWL *Bubo virginianus*

Common M316

21–22 in. (54–56 cm). A very large owl with ear tufts, or "horns." Heavily *barred* beneath; conspicuous *white throat bib.* In flight, as large as our larger hawks; looks neckless, large-headed. Varies regionally from very dark to rather pale. Often active just before dark. **VOICE:** Male usually utters five or six resonant hoots: *hu-hu-hu-hu, hoo! hoo!* Female's hoots slightly higher pitched than male's, in shorter sequence. Young birds make catlike screams, especially when begging or when separated from adults in late summer and fall. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Long-eared Owl smaller (crow-sized in flight), with lengthwise streaking rather than crosswise barring beneath; ears closer together; lacks white bib. **HABITAT:** Forests, woodlots, deserts, residential areas, open country.

OWLS



SHORT-EARED
OWL



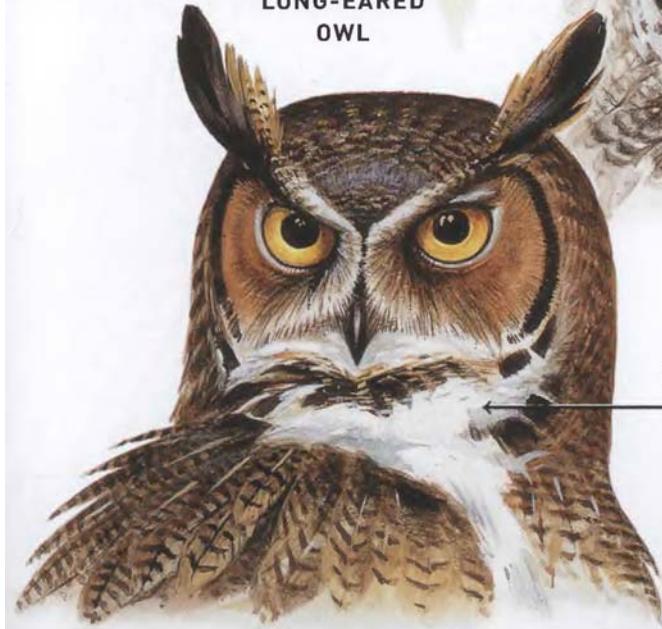
BARN
OWL



LONG-EARED
OWL



subarctic



GREAT HORNED OWL

typical

**SPOTTED OWL** *Strix occidentalis*

Scarce M323

17½–18 in. (45–46 cm). A large, dark brown forest owl with puffy round head. Large *dark* eyes (all other large N. American owls except Barn and Barred owls have yellow eyes) and *heavily spotted chest and barred belly* identify this endangered bird, which in many areas may eventually be displaced by Barred Owl. **VOICE:** High-pitched hoots, like barking of a small dog; usually in groups of three (*hoo, hoo-hoo*) or four (*hoo, who-who-whooo*). Also a longer series of rapid hoots in crescendo, and a rising whistle. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** See Barred Owl. **HABITAT:** In north, mature old-growth forests; in south, more varied habitats, including conifers, mixed woods, wooded canyons.

**BARRED OWL** *Strix varia*

Fairly common M324

20–21 in. (51–53 cm). A large, brown, puffy-headed woodland owl with large, moist *brown* eyes. Barred *across* chest and streaked *lengthwise* on belly; this combination separates it from Spotted Owl. **VOICE:** Usually eight accented hoots, in two groups of four: *hoohoo-hoohoo, hoohoo-hoohoo-hooaw*. The *aw* at end is characteristic. Sometimes rendered as *who cooks for you, who cooks for you-all*. Also simply a *hoo-aww*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other large owls, except Barn and Spotted, have yellow eyes. **HABITAT:** Woodlands, wooded river bottoms, wooded swamps.

**GREAT GRAY OWL** *Strix nebulosa*

Scarce M325

26–28 in. (67–73 cm). Our largest N. American owl; very tame. Dusky gray, heavily striped *lengthwise* on underparts. Round-headed, without ear tufts; large, *strongly lined* facial disk dwarfs yellow eyes. Note *black chin spot* bordered by two broad white patches like *white mustaches*. Tail long for an owl. An irruptive species. Invades to the south one year, then may be rare for several years. **VOICE:** Deep *whoo-hoo-hoo*. Also deep single *whoos*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Barred and Spotted owls much smaller. **HABITAT:** Coniferous forests, adjacent meadows, bogs. Often hunts by day, particularly in winter.

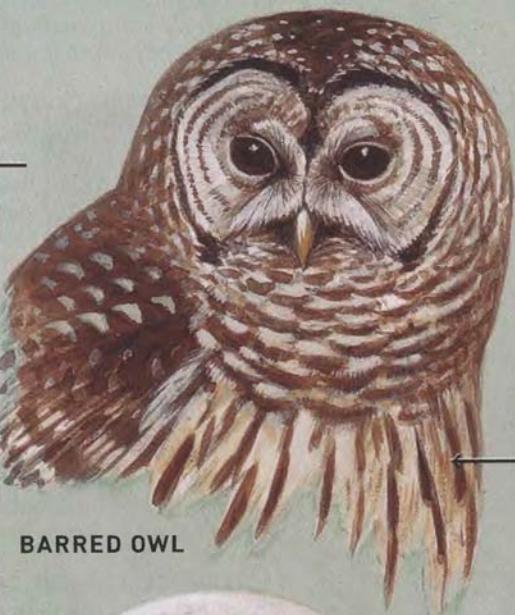
**SNOWY OWL** *Bubo scandiacus*

Scarce M317

22–24 in. (56–61 cm). An irruptive, large, mostly *white*, Arctic, day-flying owl; variably flecked or barred with dusky. Round head, *yellow eyes*. Adult males much whiter than females and young birds. **VOICE:** Usually silent. Flight call when breeding a loud, repeated *krow-ow*; also a repeated *rick*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Barn Owl whitish on underparts only; much smaller and has dark eyes. Many young owls are whitish when in down. See Gyrfalcon (white morph). **HABITAT:** Prairies, fields, marshes, beaches; in summer, Arctic tundra. Perches on dunes, posts, haystacks, ground in open country, sometimes buildings. Has cyclic winter irruptions southward into U.S.

LARGE OWLS
Without ear tufts

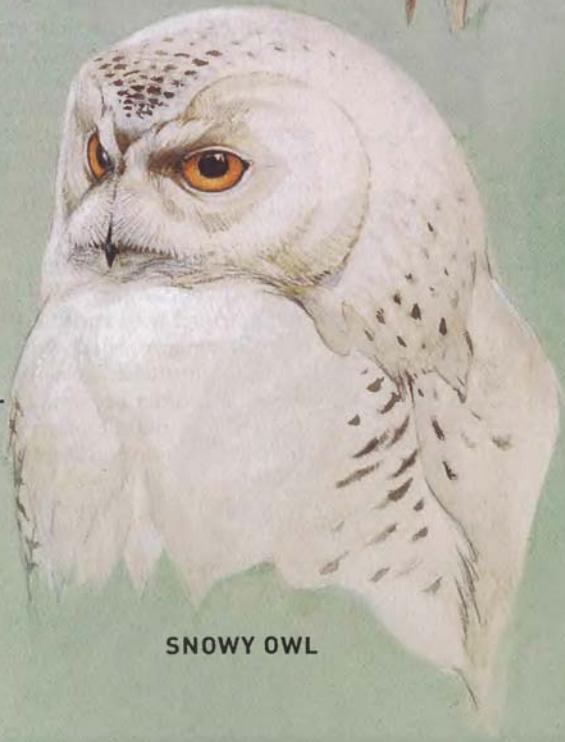
SPOTTED OWL



BARRED OWL



GREAT GRAY OWL



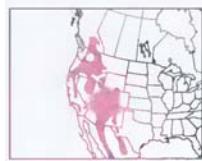
SNOWY OWL



WESTERN SCREECH-OWL *Megascops kennicottii* Fairly common M313
8½ in. (22 cm). A widespread small owl with conspicuous ear tufts. Yellow eyes. Usually gray overall, but n. Great Basin population has two color morphs, gray and brown. Birds in northwestern humid regions are usually darker brown; those in arid regions paler, grayer. Bill dark with pale tip.
VOICE: Series of hollow whistles on one pitch, running into a tremolo (rhythm of a small ball bouncing to a standstill). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Eastern Screech-Owl has paler bill; best told by voice. See Whiskered Screech-Owl. Flammulated Owl smaller, plumage tinged rusty, has dark eyes. **HABITAT:** Wooded canyons, farm groves, shade trees, well-vegetated residential areas, pinyon-juniper and cactus woodlands.



WHISKERED SCREECH-OWL *Megascops trichopsis* Uncommon, local M315
7¼–7½ in. (18–19 cm). Very similar to Western Screech-Owl. Has large white spots on scapulars, coarser black spots on underparts, longer facial bristles, yellow-green bill, smaller legs and feet. Readily identified by voice.
VOICE: Boo-boo, booboo-booboo, booboo-booboo, etc.; arrangement of this “code” may vary. At times a repeated, four-syllable chooyoo-coo-cooo, vaguely suggestive of White-winged Dove. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Western Screech-Owl. **HABITAT:** Canyons, pine-oak woods, sycamores; typically at higher elevation than Western Screech-Owl.



FLAMMULATED OWL *Otus flammelous* Uncommon M312
6–7 in. (15–18 cm). Smaller than a screech-owl. Our only small owl with dark eyes. Largely gray, with tawny scapulars and inconspicuous ear tufts. Southern birds rustier. **VOICE:** Mellow hoot (also hoo-hoot or hu-hu, hoot), low in pitch for so small an owl; repeated steadily at intervals of two or three seconds. Ventrioloquial. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Screech-owls. **HABITAT:** Open pine and fir forests in mountains and canyons.



EASTERN SCREECH-OWL *Megascops asio* Common M314
8½ in. (22 cm). The only small eastern owl with ear tufts. Two color morphs: red and gray. No other owl is bright foxy red. Young birds may lack conspicuous ear tufts. **VOICE:** Mournful whinny or wail; tremulous, descending in pitch. Sometimes a series of notes on one pitch. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Like Western Screech-Owl, but separated by voice and, usually, range. Bill paler (greenish, versus gray-black in Western). Also differs in having bright red-brown morph. **HABITAT:** Deciduous woodlands, shade trees.



ELF OWL *Micrathene whitneyi* Uncommon M321
5¾ in. (15 cm). A tiny, small-headed, short-tailed, earless owl. Underparts softly striped with rusty; eyebrows white. Hides by day in woodpecker holes in saguaros, telephone poles, or trees. Found at night by call. **VOICE:** Rapid, high-pitched whi-whi-whi-whi-whi or chewk-chewk-chewk-chewk, etc., often becoming higher and more yipping or puppylike, and chattering in middle of series. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Western Screech-Owl. **HABITAT:** Saguaro and mesquite woodlands and deserts, wooded canyons.

SMALL OWLS



**BURROWING OWL** *Athene cunicularia*

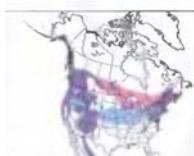
Uncommon M322

9½ in. (24 cm). A small owl of open country, often seen by day standing erect on ground or low perches. Note *long legs*. Barred and spotted, with white chin stripe, round head. Bobs and bows when agitated. **VOICE:** Rapid, chattering *quick-quick-quick*. At night, a mellow *co-hoo*, higher than Mourning Dove's *coo*. Young in burrow rattle like rattlesnake to deter predators. **HABITAT:** Open grasslands, unplowed prairies, farmland, airfields, golf courses. Nests in burrows in ground or in pipes.

**NORTHERN HAWK OWL** *Surnia ulula*

Scarce M318

16 in. (41 cm). A medium-sized day-flying owl, with *long, rounded tail* and *barred underparts*. Often *perches at tip of tree* and jerks tail like a kestrel. Shrike-like, it flies low, rising abruptly to perch. **VOICE:** Falconlike chattering *kikikiki*, and kestrel-like *illy-illy-illy-illy*. Also a harsh scream. **HABITAT:** Open coniferous forests, birch scrub, tamarack bogs, muskeg, field edges. Sporadically appears south of normal range.

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** *Aegolius acadicus*

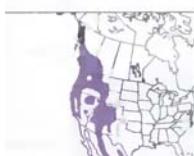
Uncommon M329

8 in. (20 cm). A very tame little owl; smaller than a screech-owl, without ear tufts. Underparts have blotchy, reddish brown streaks. Bill black. Forehead streaked white. **Juvenile:** Chocolate brown in summer, with conspicuous white eyebrows; belly *tawny ocher*. **VOICE:** Song a mellow, whistled note repeated in endless succession, often 100 to 130 times per minute: *too, too, too, too*, etc. Longer and faster than in Northern Pygmy-Owl, which is also more apt to vary tempo. Also raspy, squirrel-like yelps. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Boreal Owl. **HABITAT:** Coniferous and mixed woods, swamps.

**BOREAL OWL** *Aegolius funereus*

Scarce M328

10 in. (25 cm). A small, flat-headed, earless owl of northern and high-elevation coniferous forests. Tame. Similar to Northern Saw-whet Owl, but a bit larger; facial disk pale grayish white, *framed with black*; bill pale horn color or *yellowish*; forehead *thickly spotted with white*. **Juvenile:** Similar to young Northern Saw-whet, but duskier; eyebrows grayish; belly obscurely blotched. **VOICE:** "Song" an accelerating series of hoots, similar to a winnowing snipe; call includes a raspy *skew*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Northern Saw-whet Owl. **HABITAT:** Forests primarily of spruce, fir, and lodgepole pine; muskeg. Sporadically appears south of normal range, in east.

**NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL** *Glaucidium gnoma*

Uncommon M319

6¼–7 in. (17–18 cm). *Black patches* on each side of hindneck suggest "eyes on back of the head." A very small, earless owl; warm or gray brown, with *sharply streaked underparts* and *rather long tail barred with white*. Frequently heard calling or seen flying in daytime, particularly early and late. Often mobbed by birds. Spotted head is proportionately smaller than that of Northern Saw-whet Owl or screech-owls. Tail often held at perky angle. **VOICE:** Single mellow whistle, *hoo*, repeated in well-spaced series every two or three seconds. Also a rolling series, ending with two or three deliberate notes: *too-too too-too-too-too-took-took-took*. Birds in se. AZ mountain canyons double the *hoos*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl. **HABITAT:** Open coniferous and mixed woods, wooded canyons.

**FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL** *Glaucidium brasilianum*

Scarce M320

6½–6¾ in. (16–17 cm). Hunts by day, particularly early and late. Often mobbed by birds. Streaking on breast *brownish* rather than black; crown has fine pale streaks (not dots). Tail *rusty, barred with black*. **VOICE:** *Chook* or *took*; sometimes repeated monotonously two or three times per second. Calls both in day and at night. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Northern Pygmy-Owl (note habitat). **HABITAT:** In s. TX, mesquite and subtropical woods; in s. AZ, saguaro desert.



GOATSUCKERS (NIGHTJARS) Family Caprimulgidae

Nocturnal birds with ample tail, large eyes, tiny bill, large bristled gape, and very short legs. By day, they rest on limbs or on ground, camouflaged by their "dead-leaf" pattern. Best identified at night by voice. **FOOD:** Nocturnal insects. **RANGE:** Nearly worldwide in temperate and tropical land regions.



COMMON NIGHTHAWK *Chordeiles minor*

Uncommon to fairly common M331

9½ in. (24 cm). A slim-winged, gray-brown bird, often seen high in air; flies with easy strokes, changing gear to quicker erratic strokes. Prefers dusk, but may be abroad at midday. Note *broad white bar* across pointed wing. Barred white-and-gray undertail coverts. Male has white bar across notched tail and white throat. At rest, *tertial feathers extend well past white wing patch*; wingtips extend to or beyond tail tip. **VOICE:** Nasal *peer* or *pee-ik*. In aerial display, male dives, then zooms up sharply with sudden deep whir of wings. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Antillean Nighthawk regular in FL Keys; best distinguished by voice. Lesser Nighthawk's white on wing closer to tip, wings more bluntly tipped; most are browner and less barred than Common. **HABITAT:** Open country from mountains to lowlands; open pine woods; sagebrush; often seen in air over cities, towns. Also over ponds. Sits on ground, posts, rails, roofs, limbs.



LESSER NIGHTHAWK *Chordeiles acutipennis*

Fairly common M330

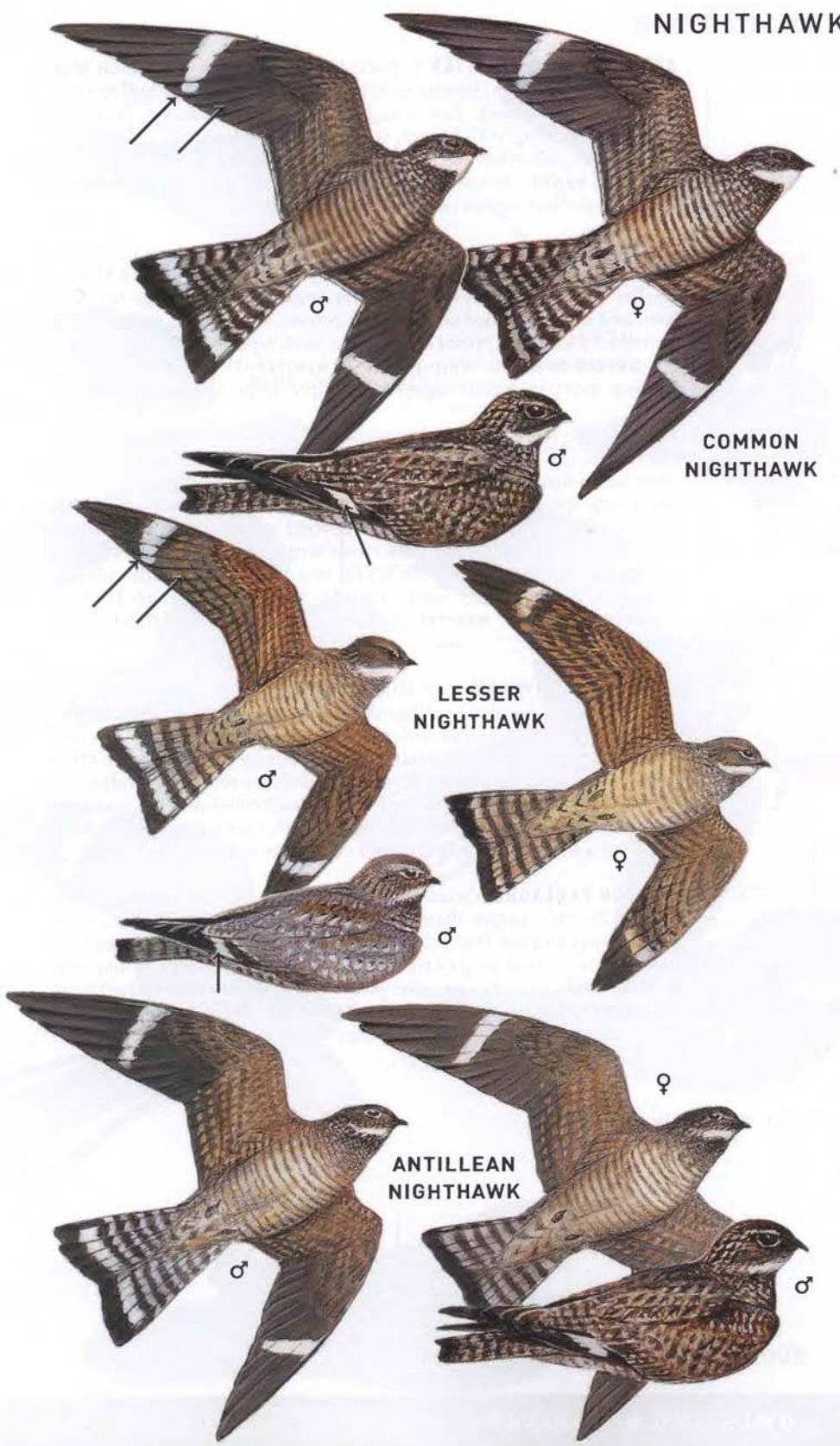
8½–9 in. (21–23 cm). Slightly smaller than Common Nighthawk; white bar (*buffy* in female) *closer to tip of wing* (at rest, this bar even with or slightly beyond tips of tertial feathers). More extensive brown spotting on inner primaries. Undertail coverts browner, less sharply barred. Readily identified by odd calls. Does not power-dive. **VOICE:** Low *chuck chuck* and soft purring or whinnying sound, much like trilling of a toad. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Nighthawk. **RANGE:** A few may wander east along Gulf Coast as far as FL. **HABITAT:** Lowlands; arid scrub, dry grasslands, farm fields, deserts, dirt roads. Also seen in air over ponds. Sits on branches and ground.

ANTILLEAN NIGHTHAWK *Chordeiles gundlachii*

Scarce, local

8–8½ in. (20–22 cm). This W. Indian species is a regular late-spring and summer visitor to FL Keys and Dry Tortugas. Somewhat tawnier and smaller than Common Nighthawk, but readily distinguished from it only by call. **VOICE:** Katydid-like *killy-kadick* or *pity-pit-pit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common and Lesser nighthawks. **HABITAT:** Open fields, suburban areas.

NIGHTHAWKS





BUFF-COLLARED NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus ridgwayi* Rare, local M335
8¾–9 in. (22–23 cm). Similar to Whip-poor-will, but with *buff* or *tawny collar* across hindneck. Best told by voice. **VOICE:** Staccato, cricketlike notes, terminating with longer, strongly accented phrase, *cuk-cuk-cuk-cuk-cuk-cuk-cukacheea*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Poorwill, Whip-poor-will. **RANGE:** Annual spring and summer visitor to se. AZ. **HABITAT:** Rocky slopes and washes near mesquite or junipers.



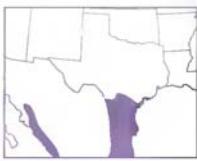
COMMON POORWILL *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* Uncommon M333
7½–7¾ in. (19–20 cm). Best known by its night cry in arid hills. Appears smaller than a nighthawk, has shorter, more rounded wings (*no white bar*), and short, rounded tail has *white corners*. Short wings and tail give it a *compact look* at rest. **VOICE:** At night, a loud, repeated *poor-will* or *poor-jill*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Whip-poor-will. **HABITAT:** Dry or rocky hills, including open pine forests, sagebrush, juniper, and chaparral; roadsides.



WHIP-POOR-WILL *Caprimulgus vociferous* Uncommon M336
9½–9¾ in. (24–25 cm). A voice in the night woods, this species is more often heard than seen. When flushed by day, flits away on rounded wings, like a large brown moth. Male shows large *white tail patches*; in female these are buffy. At rest, tail extends beyond wings, unlike nighthawk's. Note *black throat* and *broad black crown stripe*. **VOICE:** At night, a rolling, tiresomely repeated *WHIP poor-WEEL*, or *purple-rib*, etc. Birds in Southwest give much burrier song. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Poorwill, Chuck-will's-widow. **HABITAT:** Drier second-growth woodlands, especially oak and pine.

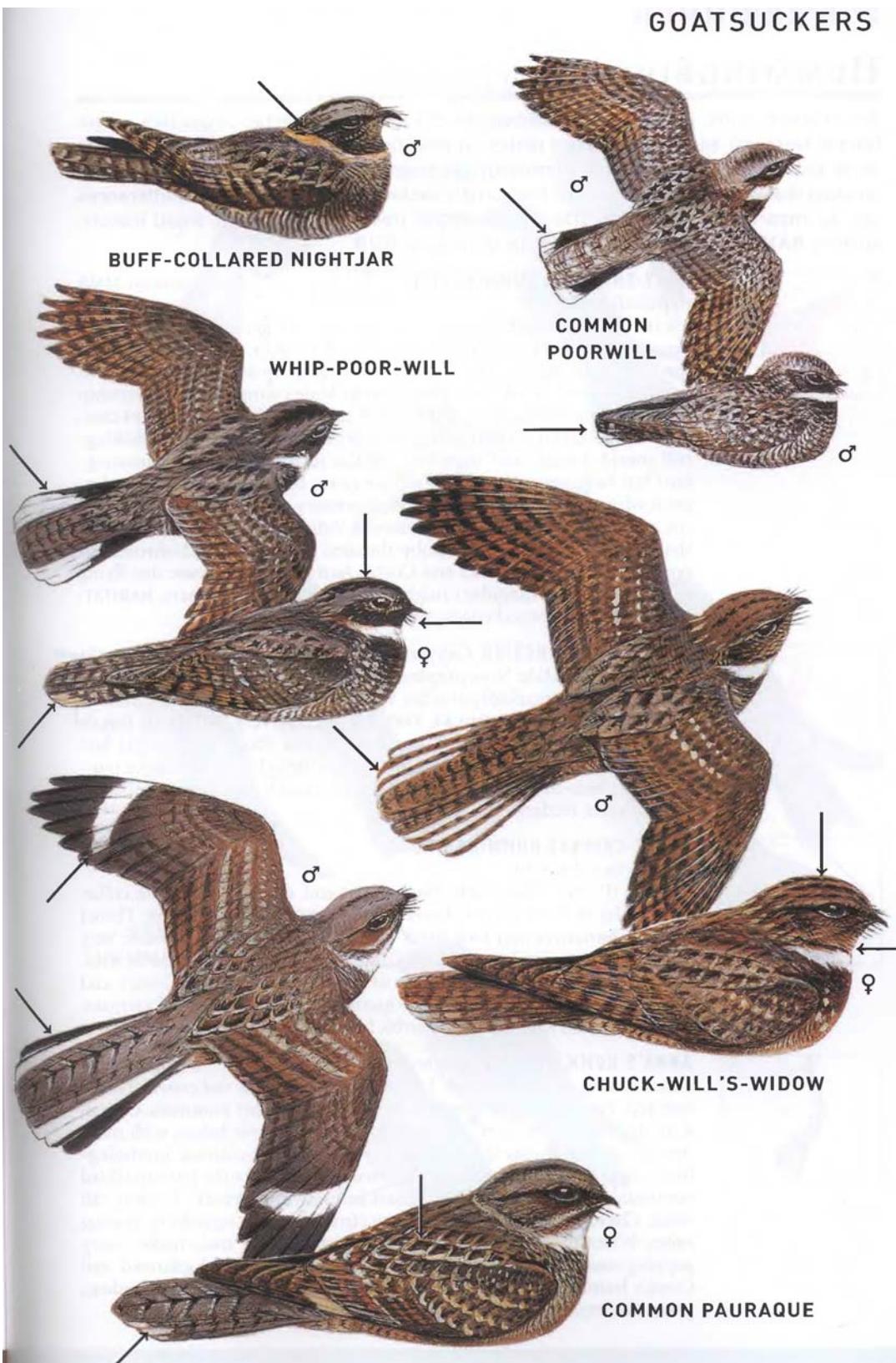


CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW *Caprimulgus carolinensis* Uncommon M334
12 in. (30 cm). Similar to Whippoorwill; larger, much browner, with *brown* (not blackish) throat and *streaked crown*. Identify by size (flat, bull-headed appearance), brownish look; more restricted white areas in tail of male; also by voice, range. **VOICE:** Call four-syllable *chuck-will-widow* (less vigorous than effort of Whippoorwill); *chuck* often very low and difficult to hear. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Whippoorwill, Common Poorwill. **HABITAT:** Pine and mixed forests, river woodlands, groves.



COMMON PAURAQUE *Nyctidromus albicollis* Uncommon, local M332
11 in. (28 cm). Larger than Whippoorwill. Dark brown, with long, round wings and tail. Flight floppy with deep wingbeats. Note *broad white band* across pointed wing of male (female's wing bars buffy). *White* in tail feathers is obvious. At rest, note *pale-edged scapulars*. Recognized by its call. **VOICE:** A hoarse slurred whistle: *purr-WEE-eeerrr*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other nightjars. **HABITAT:** Dense brushy woodlands.

GOATSUCKERS



HUMMINGBIRDS Family Trochilidae

The smallest birds. Iridescent, with needlelike bill for sipping nectar. Jewel-like gorget (throat feathers) adorns most adult males; in poor light, however, iridescence may not show and throat will appear dark. Hummingbirds hover when feeding; their wing motion is so rapid that wings appear as a blur. They can fly backward. Pugnacious. Vocal differences can be important identification aids. **FOOD:** Nectar (red flowers favored), small insects, spiders. **RANGE:** W. Hemisphere; majority in Tropics.



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris*

Fairly common M348

3½ in. (10 cm). **Male:** Fiery red throat, iridescent green back, forked tail. **Female:** Lacks red throat; tail blunt, with white spots. **The only widespread species in East;** several other hummers may turn up as strays, especially in Southeast states in fall and winter. **VOICE:** Male's wings hum in courtship display. Chase calls high, squeaky. Other call a soft *chew*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Male Broad-tailed Hummingbird lacks forked tail, typically makes wing-trill sound. Female and immature similar to Black-chinned Hummingbird but have *crown and back brighter green*, bill slightly shorter, underparts whiter, pump tail less. *Outermost primary narrower and straighter at tip, more club-shaped in Black-chinned.* Adult male Black-chinned has shallower tail fork than male Ruby-throated (both look black-throated in poor light). See also Anna's and Costa's hummingbirds. Some day-flying sphinx moths (Sphingidae) might be mistaken for hummers. **HABITAT:** Flowers, gardens, wood edges, over streams.



COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD *Calypte costae*

Uncommon M351

3½ in. (9 cm). **Male:** Note purple or *amethyst* throat and crown. Feathers of gorget project markedly at sides. **VOICE:** Series of ticking notes. Male in display, a rising *zing*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female very similar to female Black-chinned Hummingbird, but duller green above, shorter bill and tail, *voices differ*. Female Anna's Hummingbird slightly larger, more mottled, less clean-cut below. **HABITAT:** Deserts, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, arid hillsides, feeders.



BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus alexandri*

Fairly common M349

3¾ in. (10 cm). **Male:** Note *black throat* and conspicuous white collar. Blue-violet of lower throat shows only in certain lights. **Caution:** Throat of other hummers may look black until it catches the light. **Female:** Very difficult to separate from female Ruby-throated Hummingbird in field. **VOICE:** Like Ruby-throated. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Ruby-throated, Costa's, and Anna's hummingbirds. **HABITAT:** Riparian woodlands, wooded canyons, semiarid country, chaparral, suburbs, feeders.

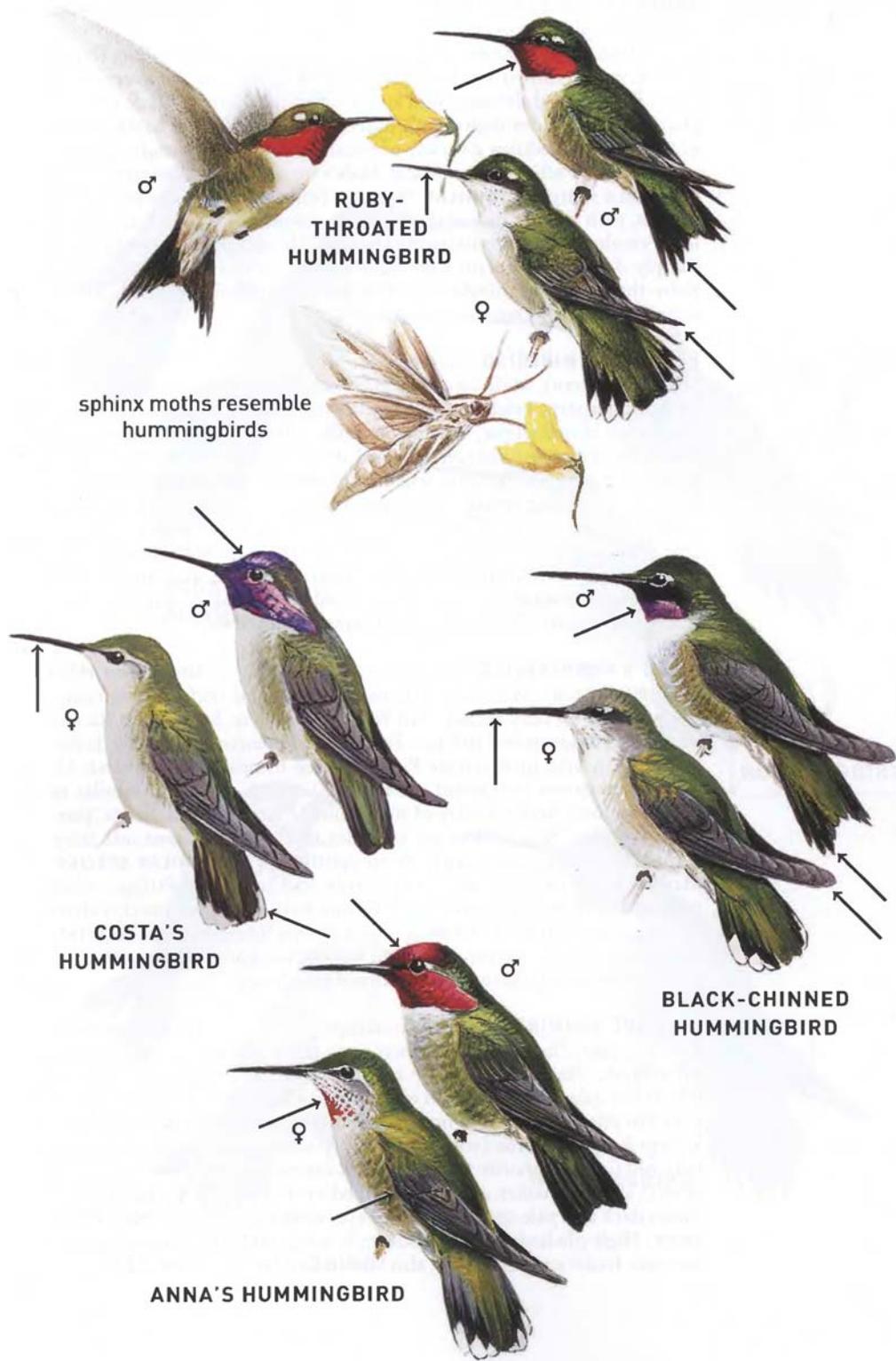


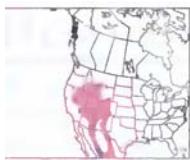
ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD *Calypte anna*

Common M350

4 in. (10 cm). **Male:** The only U.S. hummer with rose *red crown*. Throat rose red. **Female:** Slightly larger than other West Coast hummers. Overall a bit drabber or "messier" than similar species, grayer below, with more heavily spotted throat than female Costa's or Black-chinned hummingbird; often with small, red, central throat patch. The only hummingbird commonly found along Pacific Coast in midwinter. **VOICE:** Feeding call *chick*. Chase call a raspy chatter. Song (from a perch) squeaking, grating notes. When diving in its aerial "pendulum display," male makes *sharp popping sound* at bottom of arc. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black-chinned and Costa's hummingbirds. Vocal differences important. **HABITAT:** Gardens, parks, feeders, chaparral, open woods.

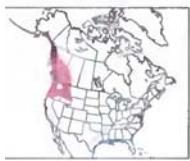
HUMMINGBIRDS



**BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD***Selasphorus platycercus*

Fairly common M353

4 in. (10 cm). **Male:** Known by sound of its wings, a *shrill trilling (except when in molt)*. Crown and back green; throat bright *rose red*, greenish on sides. **Female:** Slightly larger and larger-tailed than female Black-chinned Hummingbird; sides tinged with buffy; touch of rufous at basal corners of tail. **VOICE:** Produces a variety of vocal and nonvocal sounds. *Chi-che-wee chi-chewee* often given in flight. Male's wings produce distinctive high trill. Call a sharp *chit!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Calliope Hummingbird smaller, with smaller bill; at rest *wingtips extend beyond short, square-cut tail*. Female Rufous Hummingbird has slightly smaller tail, usually more sharply defined rufous on sides, and usually more rufous in tail. Male Ruby-throated Hummingbird smaller with forked tail. **HABITAT:** Mountains and canyons; common at feeders.

**RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD***Selasphorus rufus*

Common M354

3 3/4 in. (9–10 cm). **Male:** No other N. American hummingbird has *rufous back*. Upperparts bright red-brown; throat flaming orange-red. Aerial display is a closed ellipse, slowing on return climb. **Female and immature:** Green-backed; dull *rufous on sides and at base of outer tail feathers* (visible when tail fully spread). Adult females often have a few patchy orange-red feathers on throat. **VOICE:** Produces a variety of vocal and nonvocal sounds. Aggressive flight call a buzzy *zap* followed by sputtering notes, or *zee chippity chippity*. Displaying male utters low hum. Male's wings make high trill in flight. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Allen's, Calliope, and Broad-tailed hummingbirds. **HABITAT:** Wooded or brushy areas, parks, gardens, feeders; in southbound migration, also mountain meadows.

**ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD***Selasphorus sasin*

Uncommon M355

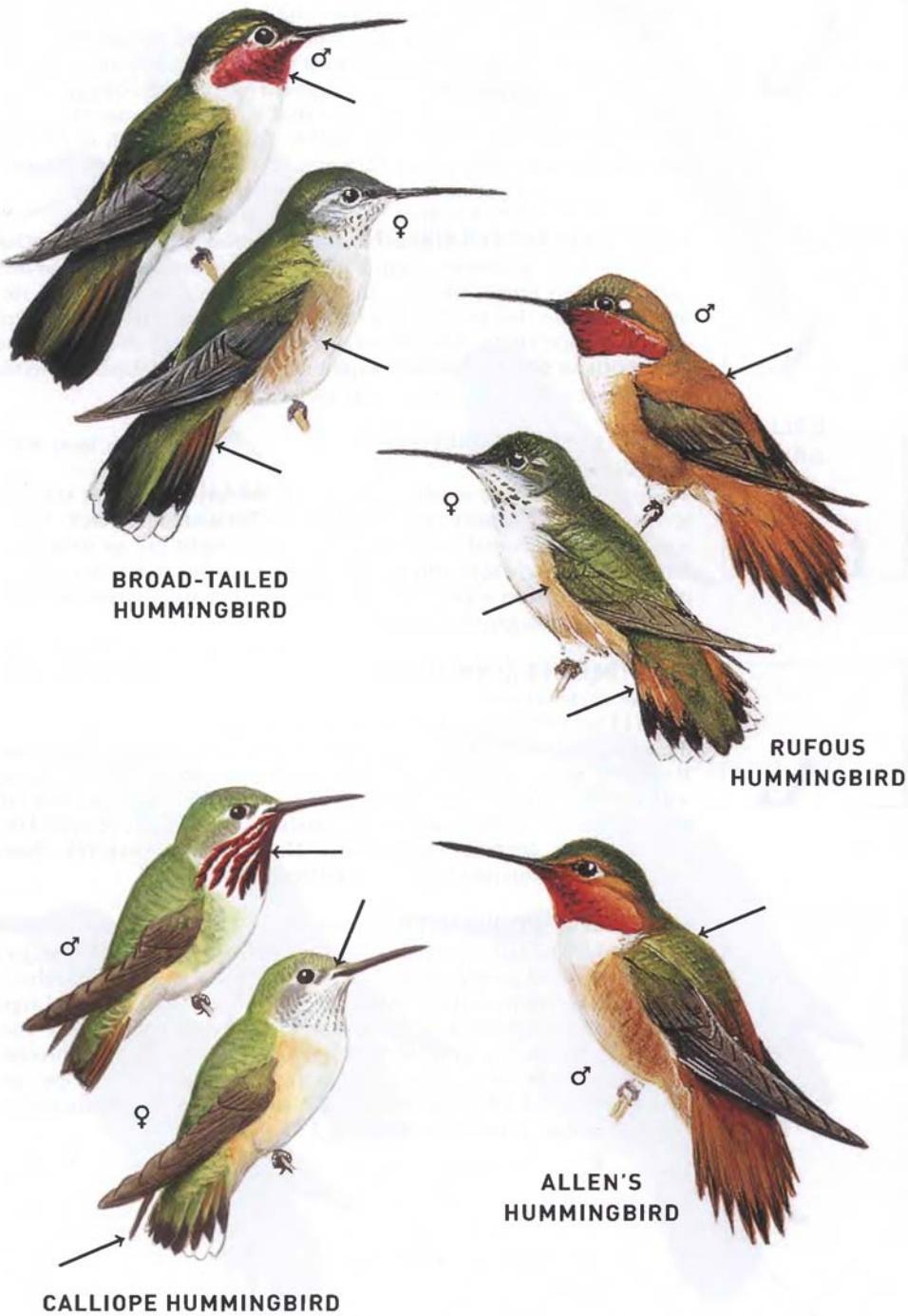
3 3/4 in. (9–10 cm). **Male:** Like Rufous Hummingbird (*rufous* sides, rump, tail, and cheeks; fiery throat), but back *green*. (Note: Some adult Rufous have a mix of green and rufous.) **Female and immature:** Not safely distinguishable in field from female Rufous (when measured in the hand, Allen's has narrower outermost tail feathers). **VOICE:** Flight call similar to that of Rufous. Aerial display of male unlike that of Rufous. Starts "pendulum display" in a shallow arc and after several swoops goes into steep climb and swoops back, with an air-splitting *vrrrip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** May be inseparable in field from female and immature Rufous. Adult male and some molting young male Rufous have largely or entirely rufous back. See also female Broad-tailed and Calliope hummingbirds. **HABITAT:** Wooded or brushy canyons, riparian woodlands, parks, gardens, feeders; in southbound migration, also mountain meadows.

**CALLOPE HUMMINGBIRD***Stellula calliope*

Uncommon M352

3 1/4 in. (8 cm). The smallest hummer normally found in U.S. and Canada. **Adult male:** Throat with purple-red rays on white background (may be folded like a dark inverted V on white throat); the only U.S. hummingbird with this effect. **Female and immature:** Similar to female Broad-tailed and Rufous hummingbirds (which have buffy sides, some rufous at base of tail), but Calliope *shorter tailed (wingtips extend beyond square-tipped tail at rest)*, slightly smaller, and shorter billed; rust on sides paler, face pattern shows dark and pale spots in front of eye, weak pale line over base of bill. **VOICE:** High-pitched chips and buzzes in series. **HABITAT:** Mountains and canyons, feeders; in migration, also lowlands.

HUMMINGBIRDS



**BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD***Cynanthus latirostris*

Uncommon, local M341

4 in. (10 cm). **Male:** Dark green above and below, with *blue throat* (bird may look all black at a distance or in poor light). Bill *reddish* with black tip. Tail notched and *bluish black*, often flicked when hovering. **Female:** Identified by combination of *dull orange-red base to bill* (often restricted to lower mandible), *dark tail*, and *unmarked, pearly gray throat*; thin white line behind eye. Voice important. **VOICE:** Distinctive rough chattering. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** White-eared Hummingbird. **HABITAT:** Desert canyons, mountain slopes, riparian woodlands, agaves, mesquite, feeders.

**VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD** *Amazilia violiceps* Scarce, local M344

4½ in. (11 cm). A medium-sized hummer with *immaculate white underparts, including throat; bill red* with dark tip. Sexes similar, but *crown violet-blue* in male, *dull greenish blue* in female and immature. No iridescent gorget on male. **VOICE:** Aggressive call a series of squeaky notes. Call note *chak*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Anna's Hummingbird. **HABITAT:** Riparian woodlands, lower canyons, sycamores, agaves, feeders.

**BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD***Amazilia yucatanensis*

Uncommon, local M343

4¼ in. (11 cm). Note combination of *buff underparts*, *rufous tail*, and *green throat*. Bill orange-red with dark tip. Sexes similar. **VOICE:** Call a surprisingly loud *smak smak smak*. Aggressive flight call an unusual buzz: *chr chr chr chr chr*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Extremely rare Berylline Hummingbird similar in appearance but does not overlap in range. **HABITAT:** Open woodlands, gardens, feeders.

**BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD***Lampornis clemenciae*

Uncommon M345

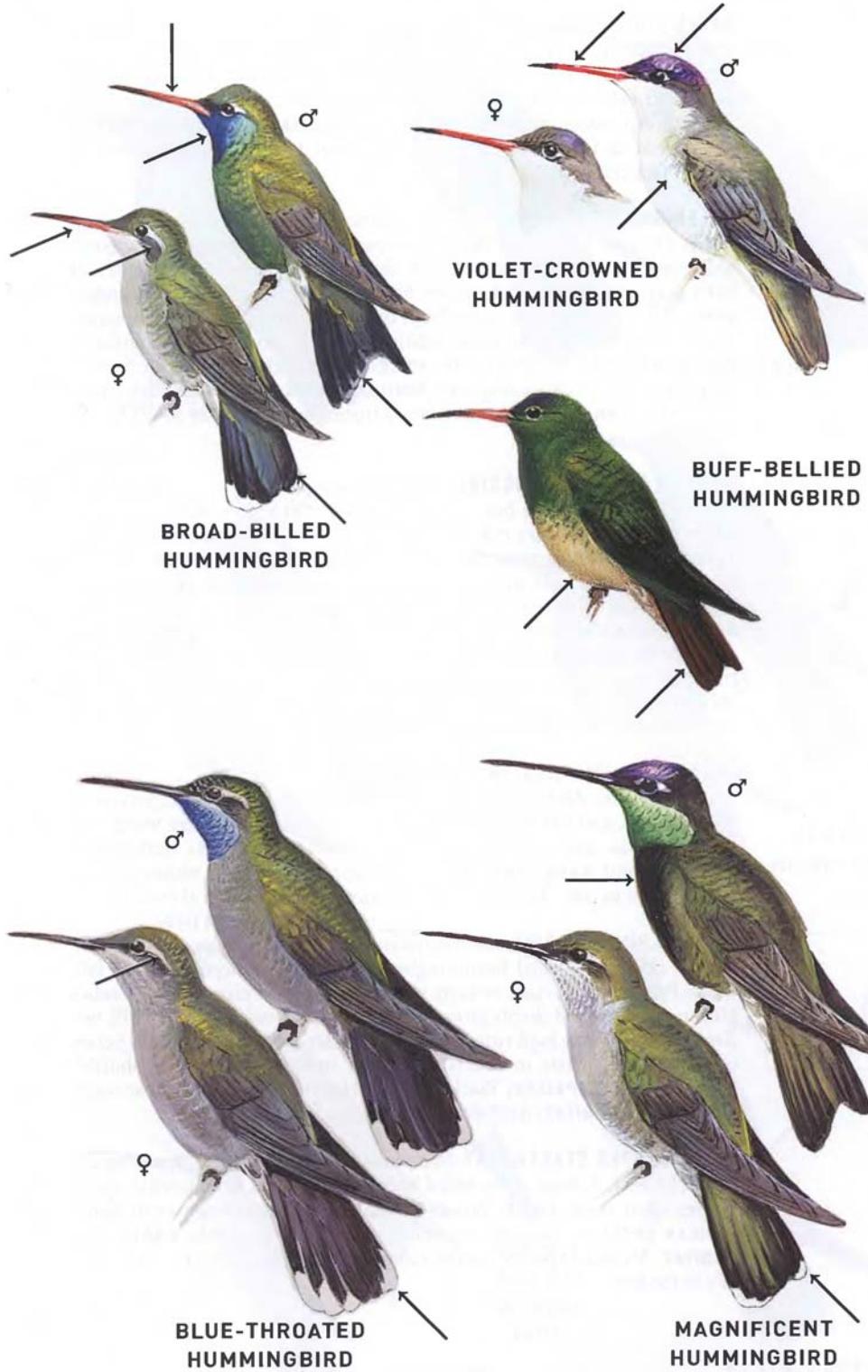
5 in. (13 cm). Note large tail with *large white patches*. **Male:** A very large hummingbird, with black and white stripes about eye and light *blue throat*; big black tail with large white patches at corners. **Female:** Large, with *evenly gray underparts*, white marks on face, and big, blue-black tail with *large white corners*, as in male. **VOICE:** Call a distinctive squeaking *seek*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Magnificent Hummingbird. **HABITAT:** Near wooded streams in mountain canyons; feeders.

**MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD** *Eugenes fulgens*

Uncommon M346

5¼ in. (13 cm). **Male:** A very large hummingbird with *blackish belly*, *bright green throat*, and *purple crown*. Looks all black at a distance. Wingbeats discernible; sometimes the bird briefly glides on set wings. **Female:** Large; greenish above, washed with greenish or dusky below. **VOICE:** Call a thin, sharp *chip*; distinctive. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Told from female Blue-throated Hummingbird by voice, more mottled underparts, short eye stripe, and dark greenish tail with obscure pale corners. **HABITAT:** Mountain glades, pine-oak woods, canyons, feeders.

HUMMINGBIRDS



GREEN VIOLET-EAR *Colibri thalassinus*

Vagrant

4½ in. (12 cm). A large, dark hummingbird. Sexes mostly similar. Green with violet ear patch, bluish tail. Bill long and slightly decurved. **VOICE:** Song and call a series of dry *chips*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Broad-billed and Magnificent hummingbirds. **RANGE AND HABITAT:** Widespread, mostly summer stray from Mex., most records from TX. In U.S. almost always seen at feeders.

GREEN-BREASTED MANGO *Anthracothorax prevostii*

Vagrant

4¾ in. (12 cm). Large, with long downcurved bill. **Adult male:** Dark emerald green above with velvety black throat edged in emerald. Center of belly deep blue-green. Tail purple. **Female:** Paler green back, light underparts with irregular dark stripe from throat to belly. Dusky tail. **Immature male** (which accounts for most sightings north of border): Very similar to female, but lacks stripe on chin. **VOICE:** Call a high-pitched *tzat*. Song a metallic series of two-part notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other all-dark hummingbirds. **RANGE AND HABITAT:** Stray from Mex., primarily to s. TX, and almost always at feeders.

**WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD** *Hylocharis leucotis*

Rare M342

3¾ in. (10 cm). A rare but regular summer visitor to s. AZ mountains. **Male:** Bill short, orangey red, with black tip; broad white stripe behind eye. Underparts dark greenish, throat blue and green, crown purple. **Female:** Orangey red bill, bold white stripe behind eye. Note small green spots on throat. **VOICE:** Makes a variety of thin chips, sometimes in rapid series. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Broad-billed Hummingbird often mistaken for rarer White-eared (reddish-based bill and pronounced white eye stripe), but note vocal differences and Broad-billed's slightly longer bill, slightly shorter white eyebrow, more forked tail, and evenly gray throat and underparts. **HABITAT:** Montane pine-oak woods near streams; feeders.

BERYLLINE HUMMINGBIRD *Amazilia beryllina*

Rare

4¼ in. (11 cm). **Male:** Glittering green on underparts; deep rich rufous in wings, rump, and tail. Bill partly red. **Female:** Duller; belly gray. **VOICE:** All vocal sounds very scratchy and buzzy. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Buff-bellied Hummingbird. **RANGE AND HABITAT:** Mexican species; rare visitor and casual breeder in oak-clad mountain canyons of se. AZ, often at feeders.

**LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD** *Calothorax lucifer*

Scarce, local M347

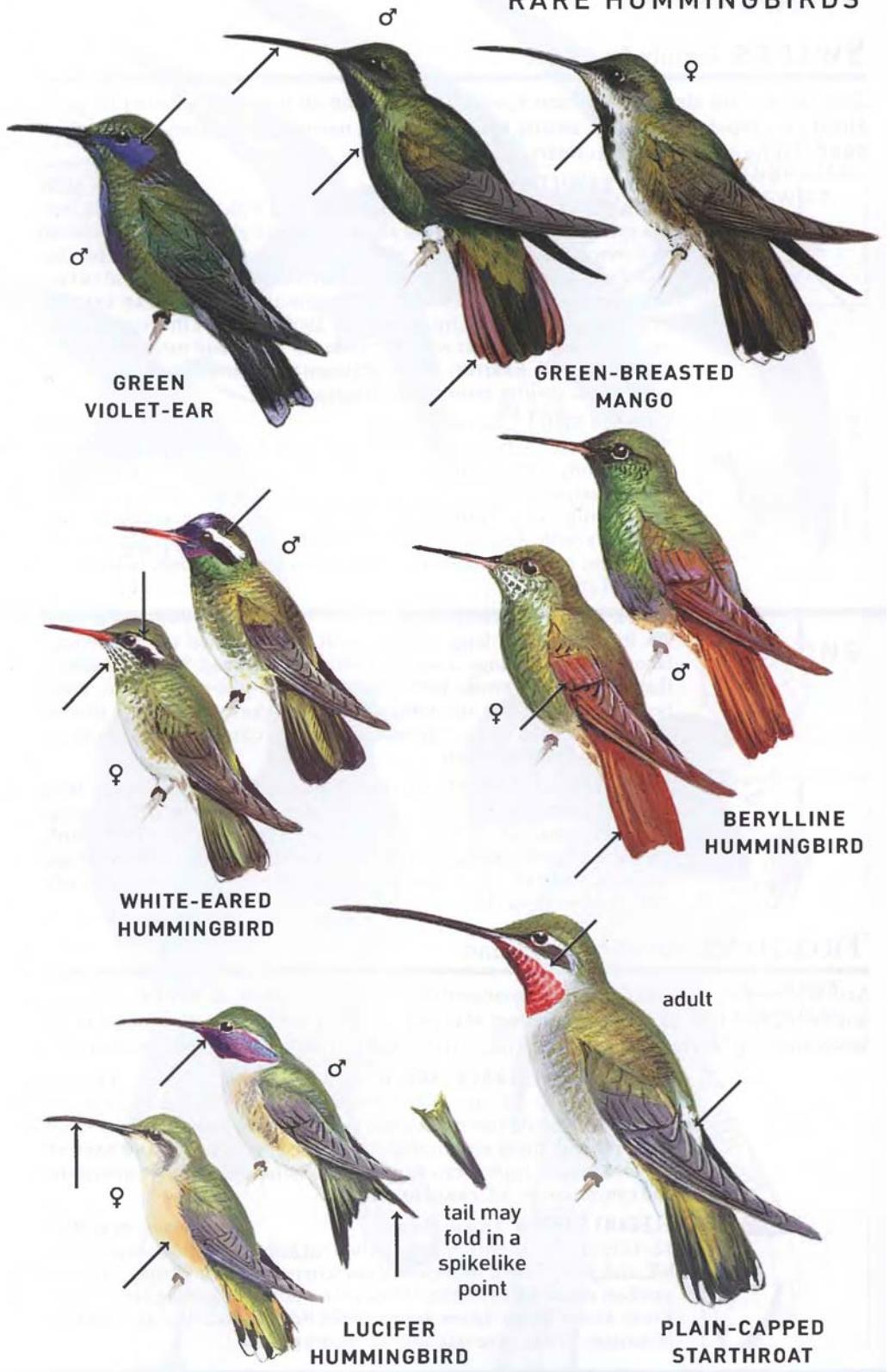
3½ in. (9 cm). A small hummingbird. Note pronounced *decurved bill*. **Male:** Purple throat, rusty or buffy sides. No purple on crown (as in Costa's Hummingbird); tail deeply forked, often folded. **Female:** Decurved bill, underparts extensively buff, rufous at base of outer tail feathers. **VOICE:** Series of dry twitters. Male in courtship display makes "playing-card shuffle" sound. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black-chinned Hummingbird may show slight curve to bill. **HABITAT:** Arid slopes, agaves, feeders.

PLAIN-CAPPED STARTHROAT *Heliomaster constantii*

Vagrant

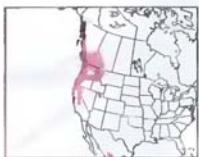
5 in. (13 cm). A large, *long-billed* hummer, with red throat, white facial stripes, white rump. **VOICE:** Variety of strong *chips* given singly or in series. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Magnificent and Anna's hummingbirds. **RANGE AND HABITAT:** Mexican species, casual visitor at lower elevations in s. AZ, usually at feeders.

RARE HUMMINGBIRDS



SWIFTS Family Apodidae

Swallowlike, but structurally distinct, with flat skull and all four toes pointing forward. Flight very rapid, "twinkling," sailing between spurts; narrow wings often stiffly bowed. **FOOD:** Flying insects. **RANGE:** Nearly worldwide.



VAUX'S SWIFT *Chaetura vauxi*

Uncommon M339

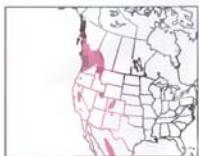
4½ in. (12 cm). A small, dark, swallowlike bird with no apparent tail (unless spread). Between spurts of rapid wingbeats, glides with wings *bowed* in a *crescent*. Twinkling flight style marks it as a swift; range, small size, and dingy underparts as this species. **VOICE:** High-pitched, rapid ticking or chipping notes, often run into an insectlike trill. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Very difficult to separate from Chimney Swift (very rare in West), which is slightly larger and longer winged, has darker throat and rump, and louder chipping call. **HABITAT:** Open sky over woodlands, lakes, and rivers; nests in tree cavities, more rarely chimneys.



CHIMNEY SWIFT *Chaetura pelasgica*

Common M338

5¼ in. (13 cm). Like a cigar with wings. A blackish swallowlike bird with long, slightly curved, stiff wings and stubby tail. Rapid, twinkling wingbeats interspersed with bowed-winged glides. **VOICE:** Loud, rapid ticking or twittering notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** This is only eastern swift. In West, see Vaux's Swift. Also see swallows. **HABITAT:** Open sky, especially over cities, towns; nests and roosts in chimneys (originally in large hollow trees and cliff crevices).



BLACK SWIFT *Cypseloides niger*

Uncommon, local M337

7¼ in. (18 cm). A large *blackish* swift with notched tail (sometimes fanned). At close range, a touch of white on forehead. Slower wingbeats than in other U.S. swifts. **VOICE:** Sharp *plik-plik-plik-plik-plik*, etc., rarely heard away from nest site. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Vaux's Swift much smaller. **HABITAT:** Open sky; favors mountain country, coastal cliffs; nests on sea cliffs and behind waterfalls.



WHITE-THROATED SWIFT *Aeronautes saxatalis*

Uncommon M340

6½ in. (17 cm). Known from other N. American swifts by its contrasting *black-and-white pattern*. In poor light look for long slim tail. **VOICE:** Shrill, excited *jejejejeje*, in descending scale. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other swifts and swallows. **HABITAT:** Open sky. Breeds mainly in dry mountains, canyons, cliffs; locally on sea cliffs.

TROGONS Family Trogonidae

Solitary, brightly colored forest and woodland birds with short neck, stubby bill, long tail, and very small feet. Erect when perched. May remain motionless for long periods. Flutter when plucking berries. **FOOD:** Small fruit, insects. **RANGE:** Mainly tropical parts of world.

EARED QUETZAL (EARED TROGON) *Euptilotis neoxenus*

Very rare

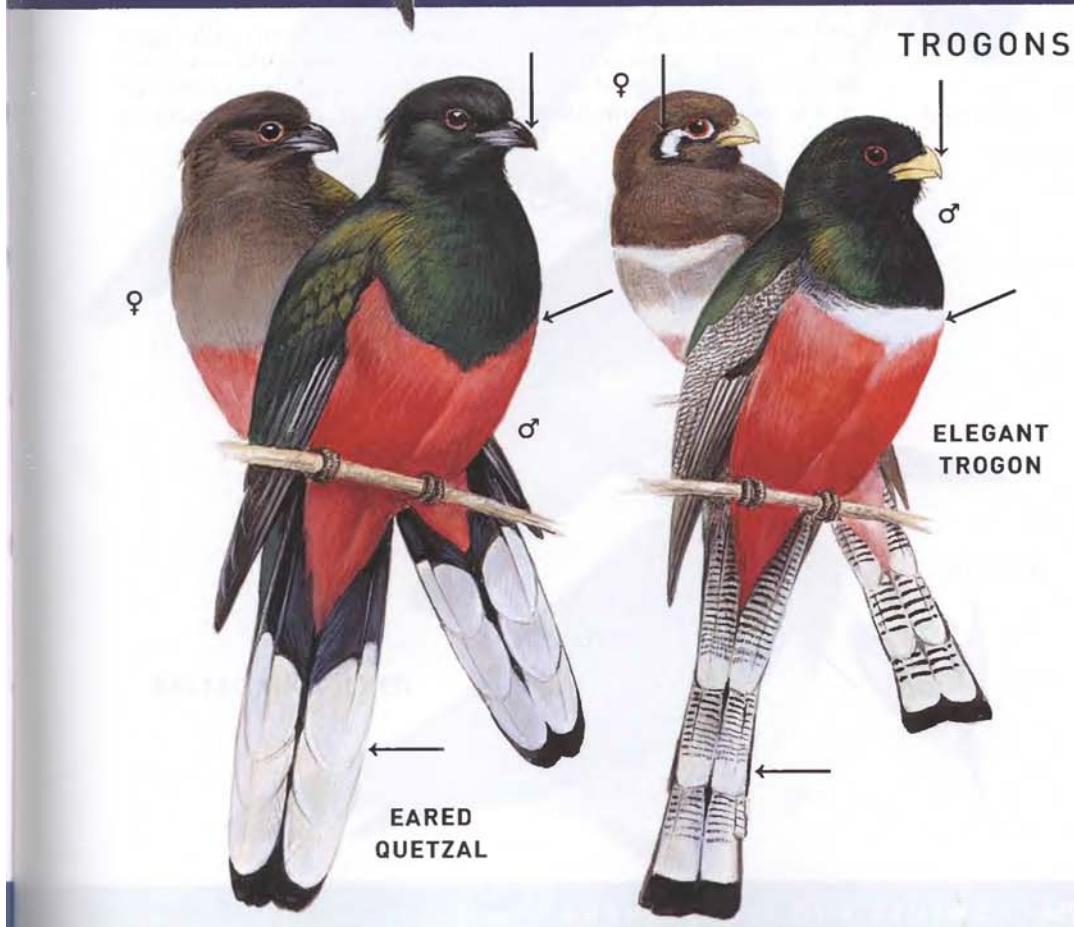
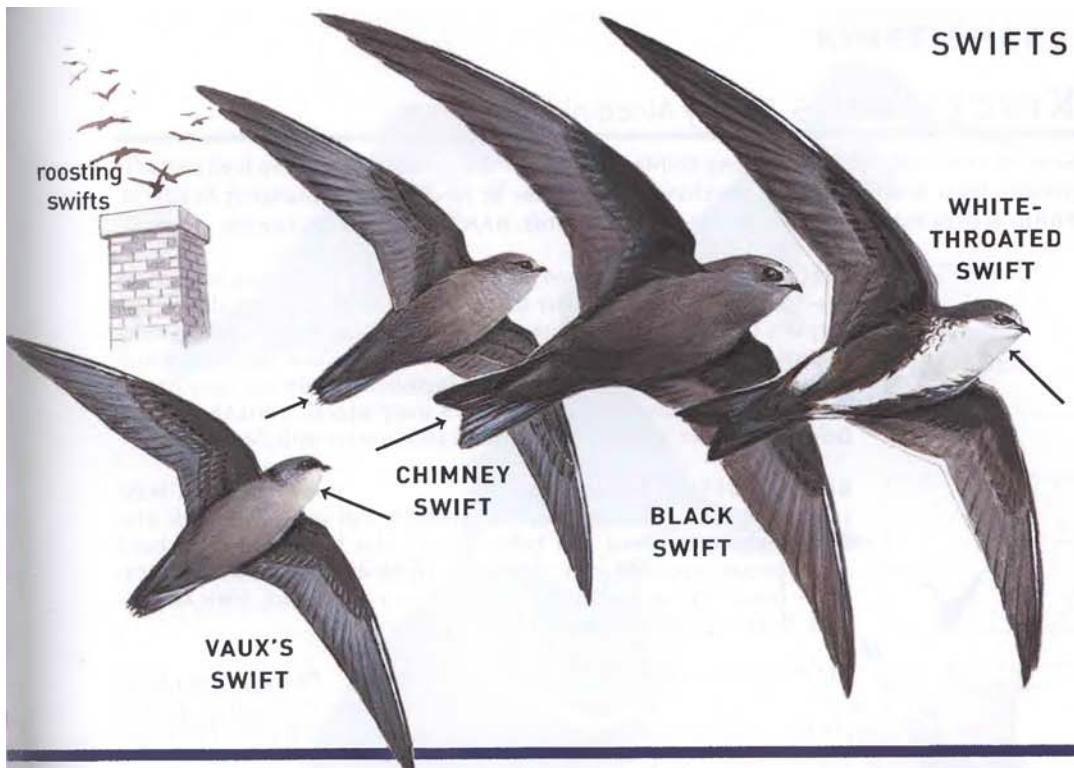
13½–14 in. (35–36 cm). Note *black bill, lack of white breast band*, and mostly *white* underside of blue tail. "Ears" of male inconspicuous. **VOICE:** High-pitched, rising squeal; series of whistled notes. **RANGE AND HABITAT:** Very rare visitor from Mex., mostly in late summer and fall, to mountains and canyons in se. AZ, casual to cen. AZ.



ELEGANT TROGON *Trogon elegans*

Uncommon, local M356

12–12½ in. (31–32 cm). Note *geranium red belly, white breast band*, yellow bill, and *finely barred underside of tail* (coppery above). Female has *white mark* on cheek. **VOICE:** Series of low, coarse notes, suggesting a hen turkey: *kowm kowm kowm kowm kowm kowm or koa, koa, koa, etc.* **HABITAT:** Mountain forests, pine-oak and sycamore canyons.



KINGFISHERS Family Alcedinidae

Solitary birds with large head, long pointed bill, and small syndactyl feet (two toes partially joined). Most are fish eaters, perching above water or hovering and plunging headfirst.

FOOD: Mainly fish; some species eat insects, lizards. **RANGE:** Almost worldwide.



GREEN KINGFISHER *Chloroceryle americana* Uncommon, local M359
8½–8¾ in. (22 cm). Kingfisher shape, small size; flight buzzy, direct. Upperparts deep green with white spots; collar and underparts white, sides spotted. *Male*: Has rusty breast-band. *Female*: Has one or two greenish bands. (The reverse is true in Belted Kingfisher: female has rusty band.) **VOICE**: Sharp clicking, tick tick tick; also a sharp squeak. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Belted Kingfisher. **HABITAT**: Small rivers and streams with clear water.

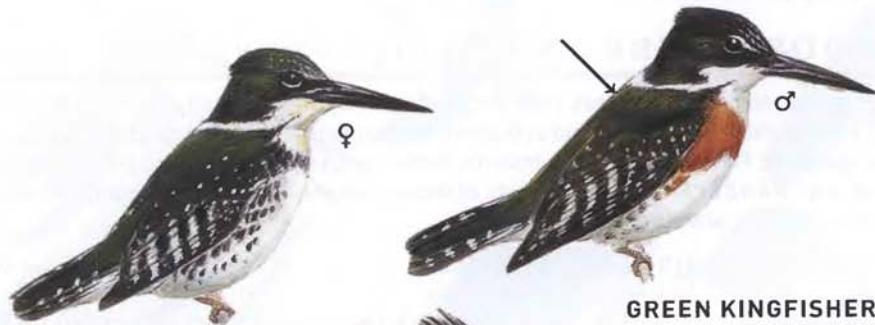


RINGED KINGFISHER *Ceryle torquatus* Uncommon, local M357
16 in. (41 cm). Larger than Belted Kingfisher; bill very large. *Male*: Has entirely chestnut breast and belly. *Female*: Has broad blue-gray band across breast, separated from chestnut belly by narrow white line. **VOICE**: Rusty cla-ack or wa-ak or rolling rattle after a loud chack. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Belted Kingfisher. **HABITAT**: Slow rivers, marshes.



BELTED KINGFISHER *Ceryle alcyon* Fairly common M358
13 in. (33 cm). Hovering on rapidly beating wings in readiness for the plunge, or flying with uneven wingbeats (as if changing gear), rattling as it goes, Belted Kingfisher is easily recognized. Perched, it is big-headed and big-billed, larger than a robin. *Male*: Blue-gray above, with ragged bushy crest and broad gray breast-band. *Female*: Has an additional rusty breast-band. **VOICE**: Loud dry rattle. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Ringed Kingfisher in TX. **HABITAT**: Streams, lakes, bays, coasts; nests in banks, perches on wires.

KINGFISHERS



RINGED KINGFISHER

male entirely
chestnut below



WOODPECKERS AND ALLIES Family Picidae

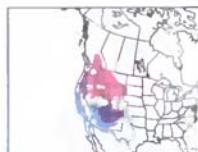
Chisel-billed, wood-boring birds with strong zygodactyl feet (usually two toes front, two rear), remarkably long tongue, and stiff spiny tail that acts as prop for climbing. Flight usually undulating. **FOOD:** Tree-boring insects; some species eat ants, flying insects, berries, acorns, sap. **RANGE:** Most wooded parts of world; absent in Australian region, Madagascar, most oceanic islands.



RED-HEADED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

Uncommon M361

9 1/4 in. (24 cm). Adult: A black-backed woodpecker with *entirely red head* (other woodpeckers may have patch of red). Back *solid black*, rump white. Large, square *white patches* conspicuous on wing (making lower back look white when bird is on a tree). Sexes similar. Immature: Dusky-headed; wing patches mottled with dark. **VOICE:** Loud *queer* or *queeah*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red-bellied Woodpecker has partially red head. **HABITAT:** Groves, farm country, shade trees in towns, large scattered trees.



LEWIS'S WOODPECKER *Melanerpes lewis*

Uncommon M360

10 3/4–11 in. (27–28 cm). A large, dark woodpecker with extensive *pinkish red belly*. Has *wide gray collar* and dark red face patch. Sexes similar. Has straight *crowlike flight*; flycatching habit. **VOICE:** Usually silent. Occasionally a harsh *churr* or *chee-ur*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red-headed and Acorn woodpeckers. **HABITAT:** Open, burned, or logged forests, usually of ponderosa pine or oak, river groves, oak savanna.



ACORN WOODPECKER *Melanerpes formicivorus*

Common M362

9 in. (23 cm). Social, usually found in clans. Note *clownish black, white, and red head pattern*. A black-backed woodpecker showing conspicuous white rump and *white wing patches* in flight. Both sexes have whitish eyes, red on crown. Stores acorns in holes drilled in bark and wooden building sides. **VOICE:** *Whack-up, whack-up, whack-up*, or *ja-cob, ja-cob*. **HABITAT:** Oak woods, mixed oak-pine forests, foothills.



RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes carolinus*

Common M365

9 1/4 in. (24 cm). Adult: A *zebra-backed* woodpecker with *red cap*, *white rump*. Red covers both crown and nape in male, *only nape in female*. Juvenile: Also zebra-backed, but has brown head, devoid of red. **VOICE:** Call *kwirr, churr, or chaw*; also *chiv, chiv*. Also a muffled flickerlike series. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Golden-fronted and Red-headed woodpeckers. **HABITAT:** Woodlands, groves, orchards, towns, feeders.



GILA WOODPECKER *Melanerpes uropygialis*

Fairly common M363

9 1/4 in. (24 cm). Male: Note *round red cap*. A zebra-backed woodpecker; in flight, shows *white wing patch*. Head and underparts gray-brown. Female: Similar, but without red cap. **VOICE:** Rolling *churr* and a sharp *pit* or *yip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Ladder-backed Woodpecker has striped face, lacks white wing patch. See female Williamson's Sapsucker. **HABITAT:** Desert washes, saguaros, riparian woodlands, towns.

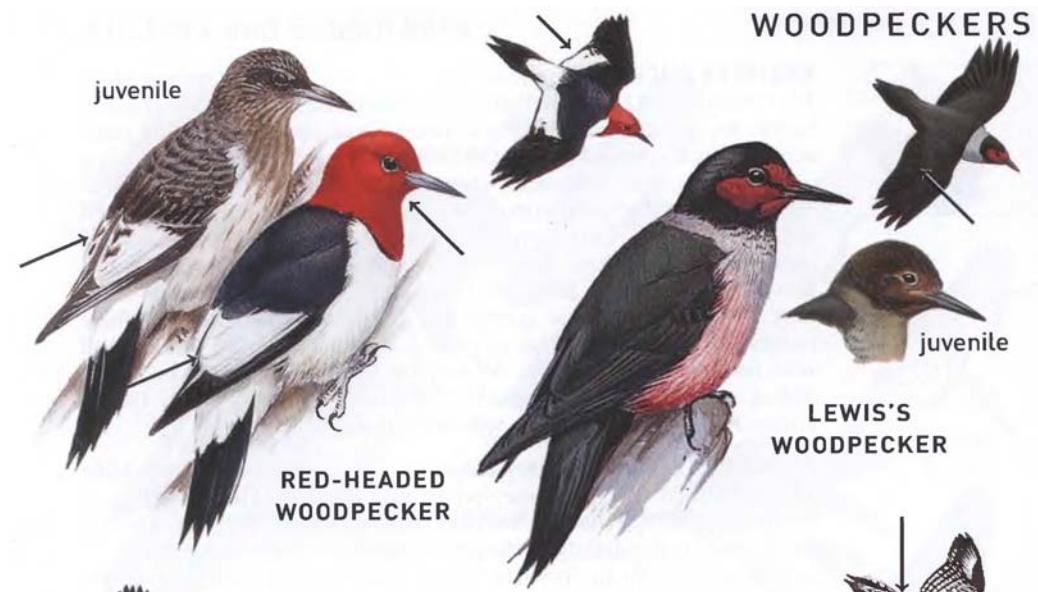


GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes aurifrons*

Common M364

9 1/2 in. (25 cm). Male: Note *multicolored head* (yellow near bill, poppy red on crown, orange nape). A zebra-backed woodpecker with light underparts and white rump. Shows white wing patch in flight. Female: Lacks red crown patch. Immature: Lacks color patches on head. **VOICE:** Tremulous *churrrr*; flickerlike *kek-kek-kek-kek*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red-bellied Woodpecker. **HABITAT:** Mesquite, woodlands, groves.

WOODPECKERS



RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER



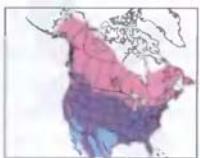
ACORN WOODPECKER

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER



GILA WOODPECKER

GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER

**NORTHERN FLICKER** *Colaptes auratus*

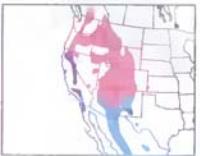
Common M379

12–12½ in. (30–32 cm). In flight, note conspicuous *white rump*. This and barred *brown back* mark bird as a flicker. Close up, it shows *black patch* across chest. Flight undulating. Often hops awkwardly on ground, feeding on ants. Two basic subspecies groups are recognized: "Yellow-shafted" Flicker, the Northern and eastern form, has *golden yellow* underwings and tail. *Red crescent* on nape; *gray crown*; *tan-brown cheeks*; male has *black mustache*. "Red-shafted" Flicker, the widespread western form, has *underwing* and *undertail salmon red*. Both sexes lack red crescent on nape; have *brownish crown* and *gray cheeks*; male has *red mustache*. Where ranges overlap (western edge of plains), intergrades occur. **VOICE:** Loud *wick wick wick wick*, etc. Also a loud *klee-yer* and a squeaky *flick-a, flick-a*, etc. (see also Pileated Woodpecker). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gilded Flicker. **HABITAT:** Open forests, woodlots, towns.

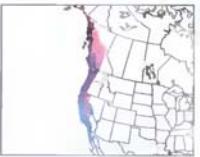
**GILDED FLICKER** *Colaptes chrysoides*

Uncommon, local M380

11–11½ in. (28–29 cm). Some overlap with Northern Flicker. Wing and tail linings usually *yellow*, crown mustard brown, male has *red mustache*. Black breast patch slightly thicker, dark barring on back slightly narrower. **VOICE:** Same as Northern Flicker's, but slightly higher pitched. **HABITAT:** Cactus deserts, riparian woodland corridors.

**WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER** *Sphyrapicus thyroideus* Uncommon M366

9 in. (23 cm). *Male:* Black crown, *black back*, *long white shoulder patch*, white rump. Note white facial stripes, *red throat*, *yellow belly*. *Female:* Very different looking: a brownish *zebra-backed* woodpecker with white rump, *barred sides*, *brown head*, *yellow belly*. **VOICE:** Nasal *cheer*. Drum is several rapid thumps followed by three or four slow, accented thumps. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female told from Gila Woodpecker by medium brown head, barred sides, yellow belly, and usually habitat. **HABITAT:** Coniferous forests, rarely other types of trees.

**RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER** *Sphyrapicus ruber*

Uncommon M369

8½ in. (22 cm). Note *entirely red head and breast*, *sapsucker wing stripe*. Northern birds have blacker back, less white and black in face than birds from CA. Hybridizes regularly with Red-naped Sapsucker. **VOICE:** Similar to Red-naped Sapsucker. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Hybrid Red-naped × Red-breasted sapsuckers have more black and white on face (but some southern Red-breasted quite similar) and mix of black and red on breast. **HABITAT:** Coniferous and mixed woods, groves.

**RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER** *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*

Fairly common M368

8½ in. (22 cm). Sapsuckers drill orderly rows of small holes in trees for sap and the insects it attracts. Note *longish sapsucker wing patch* and *striped head*. Very similar to Yellow-bellied but note *red nape*. Black frame around throat *broken* toward rear. Female shows both red and white on throat. Hybridizes with Red-breasted Sapsucker. **VOICE:** Nasal mewing note, *cheerrrr*; drum is several rapid thumps followed by several slow, rhythmic thumps; similar to Yellow-bellied and Red-breasted sapsuckers. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. **HABITAT:** Coniferous, mixed, and deciduous woodlands; in summer, particularly aspen groves.

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER** *Sphyrapicus varius*

Fairly common M367

8½ in. (22 cm). *Adult:* Note sapsucker wing stripe, red forehead. Male has all-red throat, female white. **VOICE:** Similar to Red-naped Sapsucker. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red-naped Sapsucker. **HABITAT:** Coniferous, mixed, and deciduous woods, shade trees.

Flickers and Sapsuckers

WOODPECKERS





NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER *Picoides nuttallii* Fairly common M371
7½ in. (19 cm). The only black-and-white zebra-backed woodpecker with *black-and-white-striped face* normally found in *far west*. Male has red crown. **VOICE:** High-pitched whinny or rattle. Call a low *pa-teck*, lower and raspier than that of Ladder-backed Woodpecker. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Ladder-backed Woodpecker inhabits more arid country; range barely overlaps (hybrids are known); has thicker white stripes on face and back. See Downy Woodpecker. **HABITAT:** Riparian, canyon, and mixed montane woodlands, particularly those with oaks.



LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER *Picoides scalaris* Fairly common M370
7¼ in. (18 cm). The only black-and-white zebra-backed woodpecker with *black-and-white-striped face* in more arid country *east of Sierra Nevada*. Male has red crown. **VOICE:** Rattling series, *chikikikikikikikikik*, diminishing. Call a sharp *pick* or *chik* (like Downy Woodpecker). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nuttall's Woodpecker. **HABITAT:** Deserts, canyons, pinyon-juniper, riparian woodlands, arid brush.



HAIRY WOODPECKER *Picoides villosus* Fairly common M373
9–9½ in. (23–24 cm). Note *white back* and *large bill*. Downy and Hairy woodpeckers are almost identical in pattern, checkered and spotted with black and white; males with small red patch on back of head, females without. Hairy is like an exaggerated Downy, especially its bill. *Juvenile:* May show orangey crown patch. **VOICE:** Kingfisher-like rattle, run together more than that of Downy. Call a sharp *peek!* (Downy says *pick*.) **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Downy Woodpecker. American Three-toed Woodpecker has some barring on back and barred sides. **HABITAT:** Forests, woodlands, shade trees, suet feeders.



DOWNY WOODPECKER *Picoides pubescens* Common M372
6½–6¾ in. (17 cm). Note *white back* and *small bill*. This industrious bird is like a small edition of Hairy Woodpecker. Outer tail feathers spotted, red nape patch of male in unbroken square. Amount of white spotting in wings varies regionally, as it does in Hairy. **VOICE:** Rapid whinny of notes, descending in pitch. Call a flat *pick*, not as sharp as Hairy's *peek!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Hairy Woodpecker has clean white outer tail feathers. Ladder-backed Woodpecker has similar call. **HABITAT:** Forests, woods, residential areas, suet feeders, even corn and cattail stems.



AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER *Picoides dorsalis* Scarce M377
8½–8¾ in. (22 cm). Males of this and the next species are our only woodpeckers that normally have *yellow cap*. Both have *barred sides*. This species is distinguished by irregular white patch on back (Rockies) or *bars* (farther north). Female lacks yellow cap and suggests Downy or Hairy woodpecker, but note *barred sides*. **VOICE:** A level-pitched whinny and a flat *pyik*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black-backed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker. **HABITAT:** Coniferous forests, particularly where deadwood is present.



BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER *Picoides arcticus* Scarce M378
9½ in. (24 cm). Note combination of *solid black back* and *barred sides*. Male has *yellow cap*. This and preceding species (both have three toes) inhabit boreal and montane forests; their presence can be detected by patches of bark scaled from dead conifers. **VOICE:** Low flat *kuk* or *puk* and a short buzzy call. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American Three-toed and Hairy woodpeckers. **HABITAT:** Coniferous forests, particularly where deadwood is present.





ARIZONA WOODPECKER *Picoides arizonae* Uncommon, local M374
7½ in. (19 cm). A dark, brown-backed woodpecker with white-striped face; spotted and barred below. Male has red nape patch. The only U.S. woodpecker with solid brown back. **VOICE:** Sharp *spik*; a hoarse whinny. Fairly similar to Hairy Woodpecker's calls. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Northern Flicker has barred brown back, white rump, is larger. Also see Ladder-backed, Downy, and Hairy woodpeckers. **HABITAT:** Canyon woodlands of oak, juniper, and pine-oak.



RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER *Picoides borealis* Rare, local M375
8½ in. (22 cm). Zebra-backed, with black cap. White cheek is obvious field mark. Male's tiny red cockade hard to see. Endangered. **VOICE:** Rough rasping *sripp* or *zhilp* (suggests flock note of young starling). Sometimes a higher *tsick*. Forms colonial "clans." **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Downy and Hairy woodpeckers. **HABITAT:** Open pine woodlands that have trees with heartwood disease. Red-cockaded numbers continue to decline.



WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER *Picoides albolarvatus* Uncommon M376
9¼ in. (23 cm). Our only woodpecker with white head. Male has red patch on nape; otherwise black overall, with large white patch in primaries. No white on rump (as in Acorn Woodpecker). **VOICE:** Sharp, doubled *ki-dik*, sometimes rapidly repeated, *chick-ik-ik-ik*; also a rattle similar to Downy Woodpecker's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Downy and Hairy woodpecker calls are single, not double, notes. **HABITAT:** Mountain pine forests, particularly ponderosa, Jeffrey, and sugar pines.



PILEATED WOODPECKER *Dryocopus pileatus* Uncommon M381
16½–17 in. (42–44 cm). A spectacular black, crow-sized woodpecker, with flaming red crest. Female has blackish forehead, lacks red on mustache. Great size, sweeping wingbeats, and flashing white underwing coverts identify Pileated in flight. Large foraging pits in dead or dying trees—large oval or oblong holes—indicate its presence. **VOICE:** Call resembles a flicker, but louder, irregular: *kik-kik-kikkik-kik-kik*, etc. Also a more ringing, hurried call that may rise or fall slightly in pitch and volume. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Ivory-billed Woodpecker (possibly extinct). **HABITAT:** Coniferous, mixed, and hardwood forests; woodlots.

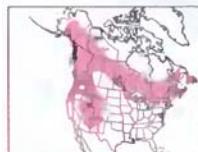
IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER *Campetherus principalis* Possibly extinct
19–19½ in. (40–50 cm). Separated from Pileated Woodpecker by its slightly larger size, ivory white bill, large white wing patch visible at rest, and all-white underwing pattern with black line through it. Female has black crest. **VOICE:** Call unlike that of Pileated: a single loud tooting note constantly uttered as bird forages—a sharp nasal *kent* suggesting to some a big nuthatch. Audubon wrote it as *pait*, resembling high false note of a clarinet. Drum is a quick double knock, unique among North American woodpeckers. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Pileated Woodpecker. **RANGE:** Throughout the Southeast. Reports persist, but the last universally accepted sightings were in the 1940s. **HABITAT:** Bottomland hardwood forests, wooded bayous and swamps.

WOODPECKERS



TYRANT FLYCATCHERS Family Tyrannidae

New World Flycatchers, or Tyrant Flycatchers, make up the largest family of birds in the world, with approximately 425 known species. They are found chiefly in the Neotropics. A large number are very similar and require attention to fine points to separate them. Most species perch quietly, sitting upright on exposed branches, and sally forth to snap up insects. Bill flattened, with bristles at base. **FOOD:** Mainly flying insects. Some species also eat fruit in winter. **RANGE:** New World; majority in Tropics.



OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER *Contopus cooperi* Uncommon M383
7½ in. (19 cm). A stout, large-headed flycatcher; often perches on dead snags at tops of trees. Note large bill and *dark chest patches* separated by narrow strip of white (like unbuttoned vest). A cottony tuft may poke from behind wing (often not visible). **VOICE:** Call a two- or three-note *pip-pip-pip*. Song a spirited whistle, *I SAY there* or *Quick three beers!*, middle note highest, last one sliding. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Wood-pewees, Greater Pewee. **HABITAT:** Coniferous forests, bogs, burns. In migration, usually seen on dead branches at tips of trees.



GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* Uncommon, local M384
7¾ in. (20 cm). Resembles Olive-sided Flycatcher, but more obvious crest, breast more uniformly gray with *no white stripe* down center. *Lower mandible brighter and more extensively orangey*. **VOICE:** Thin, plaintive whistle, *ho-say, re-ah* or *ho-say, ma-re-ah* (nickname, "José María"). Call *pip-pip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Western Wood-Pewee. **HABITAT:** Pine and pine-oak forests of mountains, canyons.



WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE *Contopus sordidulus* Fairly common M385
6¼ in. (16 cm). A dusky, sparrow-sized flycatcher with two narrow wing bars but *no eye-ring*. Often appears "vested" below (with "top button buttoned"). Some fresh fall birds tinged yellow on belly. Bill shows small amount of pale on lower mandible. **VOICE:** Nasal *peeyee* or *peeee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Eastern Wood-Pewee. Olive-sided Flycatcher larger, more strongly "vested," different voice. Lack of any tail flicking, and calls, distinguish wood-pewees from *Empidonax* flycatchers, most of which also have eye-ring. **HABITAT:** Pine-oak forests, open conifers, canyon and riparian woodlands.



EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE *Contopus virens* Fairly common M386
6½ in. (16 cm). About the size of Eastern Phoebe, but with *two narrow wing bars, no eye-ring*, and variably pale orangish lower mandible. Slightly larger than *Empidonax* flycatchers, but with no eye-ring; wings extend farther down tail; *does not flick tail*. Very similar to Western Wood-Pewee, but slightly greener above and paler below (vest "not buttoned"); best distinguished by voice, range. **VOICE:** Sweet plaintive whistle, *pee-a-wee*, slurring down, then up. Also *pee-ur*, slurring down, and a *chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Western Wood-Pewee. Eastern Phoebe lacks wing bars; bobs tail downward. **HABITAT:** Woodlands, groves.

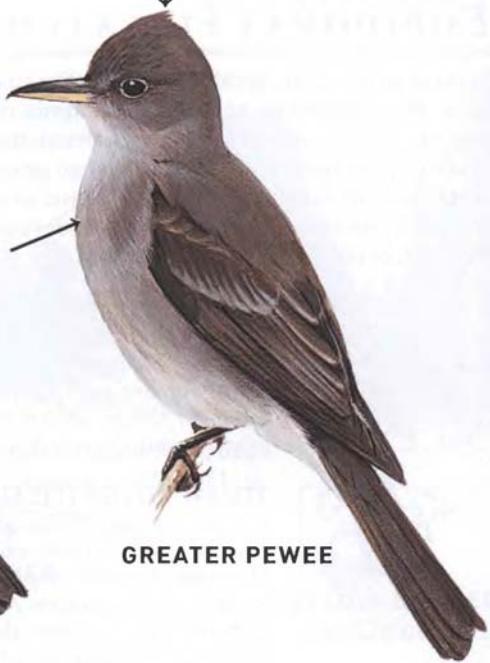


NORTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET *Camptostoma imberbe* Uncommon, local M382
4¼ in. (11 cm). A very small, nondescript flycatcher that may suggest a kinglet, Bell's Vireo, or immature Verdin. Grayish olive, with *slight crested look*. *Dull wing bars* and indistinct pale supercilium. Distinguished from *Empidonax* flycatchers by its smaller size, smaller head, and stubby bill, and voice. **VOICE:** Thin *peeee-yuk*. A gentle, descending *ee, ee, ee, ee, ee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Buff-breasted Flycatcher, *Empidonax* flycatchers. **HABITAT:** Lowland woods, mesquite, stream thickets, lower canyons. Builds a globular nest with entrance on side.

FLYCATCHERS



OLIVE-SIDED
FLYCATCHER



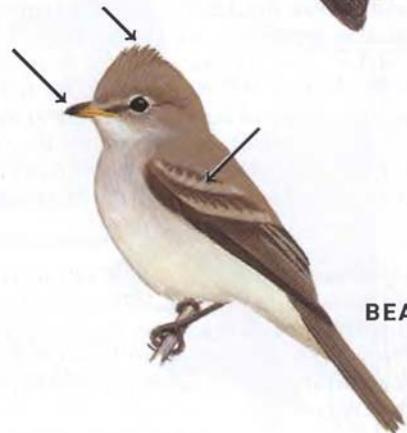
GREATER PEWEE



WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE



EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE



NORTHERN
BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET

EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS

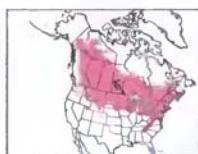
Several small, drab flycatchers share the characters of light eye-ring and two pale wing bars. When breeding, some of these birds may be separated by habitat and manner of nesting. Voice is always the best means of identification. Silent individuals are very tough to identify, so many may have to be let go simply as "empids." Distinguishing characters to emphasize are subtle and include size and shape of bill and color of lower mandible; shape and boldness of eye-ring; pattern of underparts; primary (wingtip) projection; tail length; direction of tail wag; habitat; and calls.



ACADIAN FLYCATCHER *Empidonax virescens* Fairly common M388
5¾ in. (15 cm). A greenish Empidonax with pale underparts, thin eye-ring, thin, long bill with pale lower mandible. **VOICE:** "Song" a sharp explosive *pit-see!* or *wee-see!* (sharp upward inflection); also a sharp *peet*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other eastern empids. **HABITAT:** Shady deciduous forests, ravines, swampy woods, beech and hemlock groves.



YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris* Uncommon M387
5½ in. (14 cm). Yellowish underparts (including *throat*) separate this from all other empids except Cordilleran and Pacific-slope flycatchers. (Caution: All other empids may show yellow belly but not throat.) **VOICE:** Song a simple, spiritless *chi-lek*; also a rising *chu-wee*, whistled *chew*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Among other Eastern empids, only Acadian is so green above but Acadian has white throat and paler, less olive washed underparts. Cordilleran and Pacific-slope flycatchers slightly browner, with peaked head; teardrop-shaped eye-ring, often broken above eye; duller wings. **HABITAT:** In summer, boreal forests, muskeg, bogs.



LEAST FLYCATCHER *Empidonax minimus* Fairly common M391
5¼ in. (13 cm). A small empid, grayish above and pale below with bold white eye-ring, short wingtip projection, and short, wide-based bill. Whitish wing bars on mostly blackish wing. Actively flicks tail. **VOICE:** Emphatic, sharply snapped *che-bek!* Call a sharp, dry *whit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Alder Flycatcher is browner above with bigger bill, longer wingtips, and weaker eye-ring. Hammond's and Dusky flycatchers have darker throat and underparts, duller wings. Hammond's also has thinner, darker bill, more teardrop-shaped eye-ring, and longer wingtips. **HABITAT:** Deciduous and mixed woodlands, poplars, aspens.



WILLOW FLYCATCHER *Empidonax traillii* Fairly common M390
5¾ in. (15 cm). Alder and Willow flycatchers (formerly lumped as one species) are almost identical in appearance, a bit larger, longer billed, and browner than Least Flycatcher. They may be separated from each other mainly by voice and breeding habitat. Willow averages paler and browner (less olive) than Alder and shows little or no eye-ring (weak to moderately bold in Alder). **VOICE:** Song a sneezy *fitz-bew*, unlike *fee-BE-o* of Alder. Call a soft *whit*. **HABITAT:** Bushes, willow thickets, etc.; often in drier situations (brushy fields, upland coves, etc.) than Alder, but found side by side in some areas.



ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum* Fairly common M389
5¾ in. (15 cm). The northern counterpart of Willow Flycatcher, with which it was formerly lumped as Traill's Flycatcher. Safely separated only by voice. (See Willow Flycatcher.) **VOICE:** Song an accented *fee-BE-o* or *rree-BE-o*. Call *kep* or *pit*. **HABITAT:** Willows, alders, brushy swamps, swales. Usually in moister areas than Willow.

EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS

pit-see!

Empidonax flycatchers are best identified by voice. Breeding habitat is also a helpful clue.

chi-lek

deciduous woods, esp.
beech trees; wooded
swamps; s. and cen. U.S.

coniferous woods, bogs;
Canada, n. edge of U.S.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER

greener than Least,
Alder, or Willow

LEAST FLYCATCHER

che-BEK or
chebek

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER

throat and
breast washed
with yellow

fitz-bew

grayest of the group

fee-bee'-o

wet and dry thickets, brushy
pastures, old orchards,
willows; n. and cen. U.S.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER

alder swamps, wet thickets,
usually near water; n. U.S.,
Canada

ALDER FLYCATCHER



BUFF-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax fulvifrons* Scarce, local M397 5 in. (13 cm). Easily distinguished from the other empids by its small size and rich buffy breast. **VOICE:** Accented *chee-lik*. Call a dry *pit* or *whit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet. **HABITAT:** High-elevation canyons, open pine forests.



PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER *Empidonax difficilis* Uncommon M395 5½ in. (14 cm). This species and Cordilleran Flycatcher were formerly considered conspecific, as Western Flycatcher. Silent birds are impossible to tell apart with certainty. Voice and range are best identification clues. Pacific-slope Flycatcher slightly less colorful than Cordilleran. Both species have *yellowish* underparts, *including throat*. Other empids in their ranges may have wash of yellow, especially in fall, but their throats are gray or whitish. Eye-ring of Pacific-slope and Cordilleran is *teardrop-shaped and broken above*. **VOICE:** Song of both species a thin, squeaky *pit-PEET SWEET*; variable. Call an upslurred *tsweet*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cordilleran and Yellow-bellied flycatchers. **HABITAT:** In summer, riparian, mixed, or coniferous woodlands.



CORDILLERAN FLYCATCHER *Empidonax occidentalis* Uncommon M396 5½ in. (14 cm). This species and Pacific-slope Flycatcher were split from a single species, Western Flycatcher. Silent birds are impossible to tell apart with certainty. Identify by voice and range. **VOICE:** Song of both species a thin, squeaky *pit-PEET SWEET*; variable. Call a two-noted *soo-seet*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Pacific-slope and Yellow-bellied flycatchers. Other empids have white or gray throats. **HABITAT:** In summer, riparian, mixed, or coniferous woodlands; shaded canyons, often with rock walls.



HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER *Empidonax hammondi* Uncommon M392 5½ in. (14 cm). Both Hammond's and Dusky flycatchers breed in coniferous and mixed woods, with Hammond's preferring a more closed canopy. Hammond's has more *teardrop-shaped eye-ring*; slightly *shorter and thinner bill* (almost kingletlike) with mostly *dark lower mandible*; is more prone to flick wings; has slightly shorter tail and longer wings. In late summer and fall it molts *before* migrating and is more olive and yellowish below with grayer throat. **VOICE:** Song typically three-parted and similar to that of Dusky Flycatcher but slightly lower pitched. Abrupt *tse-beek*. Call a sharp, thin *peep* or *peek*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Dusky and Least flycatchers. **HABITAT:** Woodlands with coniferous component; in migration through lowlands, other trees, thickets.

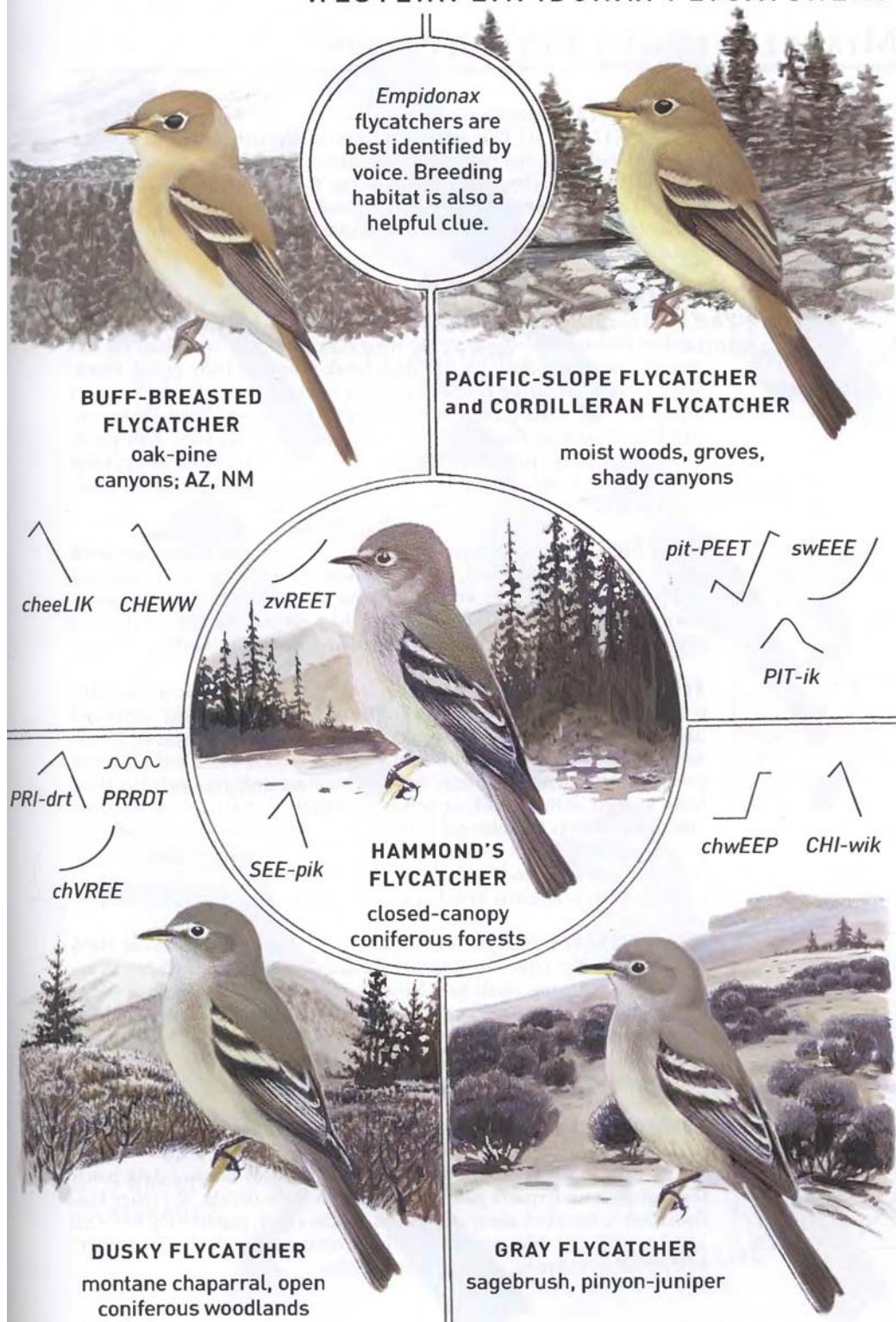


DUSKY FLYCATCHER *Empidonax oberholseri* Uncommon M394 5¾ in. (15 cm). Very similar to Hammond's Flycatcher; see that account for subtle differences. **VOICE:** Three-part song ends in a high *preet*. Call a dry *whit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Least, Hammond's, and Gray flycatchers. **HABITAT:** Breeds in open pine forests, montane chaparral with scattering of trees, brushy meadow and stream edges.



GRAY FLYCATCHER *Empidonax wrightii* Uncommon M393 6 in. (15 cm). Similar to Dusky and Hammond's flycatchers, but in spring and summer even grayer overall, lower mandible mostly pinkish. In fall and early winter, trace of yellow below, olive above. Has habit of *first wagging its tail downward* like a phoebe, then bringing it back up (all other empids *flick tail upward*). *Direction of tail wag best noted immediately after bird lands*. **VOICE:** Two-syllable *chewip* or *cheh-we*. Call a dry *whit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other empids. **HABITAT:** Dry pine forests with sagebrush, pinyon-juniper; in winter, willows, mesquite. Often drops to ground to grab prey.

WESTERN EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS



MISCELLANEOUS FLYCATCHERS



BLACK PHOEBE *Sayornis nigricans* Fairly common M398
6¾–7 in. (17–18 cm). Our only black-breasted flycatcher; belly white. Has typical phoebe tail-bobbing habit. **Immature:** Wing bars cinnamon-buff. **VOICE:** Thin, strident *fi-bee, fi-bee*, rising then dropping; also a sharp slurred *chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Eastern Phoebe, juncos (which are ground-loving birds). **HABITAT:** Streams, walled canyons, farmyards, towns, parks; usually near water.



EASTERN PHOEBE *Sayornis phoebe* Fairly common M399
7 in. (18 cm). Note downward tail-bobbing. A grayish, sparrow-sized flycatcher without eye-ring or strong wing bars (thin buff wing bars on immature); small, all-dark bill and dark head; yellowish belly in fall. **VOICE:** Song a well-enunciated *phoe-be* or *fi-bree* (second note alternately higher or lower). Call a sharp *chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Eastern Wood-Pewee and smaller *Empidonax* flycatchers have conspicuous wing bars; bills partly yellowish or horn colored on lower mandible. All *Empidonax* except Gray Flycatcher flick tail upward. **HABITAT:** Streamside, bridges, farms, roadsides, towns.



SAY'S PHOEBE *Sayornis saya* Fairly common M400
7½ in. (19 cm). A midsized, brownish flycatcher with contrasty black tail and pale orange-buff belly. **VOICE:** Plaintive, down-slurred *pweer* or *pee-ee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Ash-throated and Dusky-capped flycatchers, Eastern Phoebe. **HABITAT:** Open country, scrub, canyons, ranches, parks.



VERMILION FLYCATCHER *Pyrocephalus rubinus* Uncommon M401
6 in. (15 cm). Adult male: Crown (often raised in slight bushy crest) and underparts flaming vermilion; upperparts brown and tail blackish. **Immature male:** Breast whitish, with some streaks; crown, belly, and undertail coverts washed with vermilion. **Female:** Breast whitish, narrowly streaked; belly washed with pinkish or yellowish. **VOICE:** *P-p-pit-zee* or *pit-a-zee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female told from Say's Phoebe by shorter tail, pale supercilium, and dusky streaks on breast. See also male Scarlet Tanager (which has scarlet back and black wings). **HABITAT:** Moist areas in arid country, such as streams, ponds, pastures, golf courses, ranches.

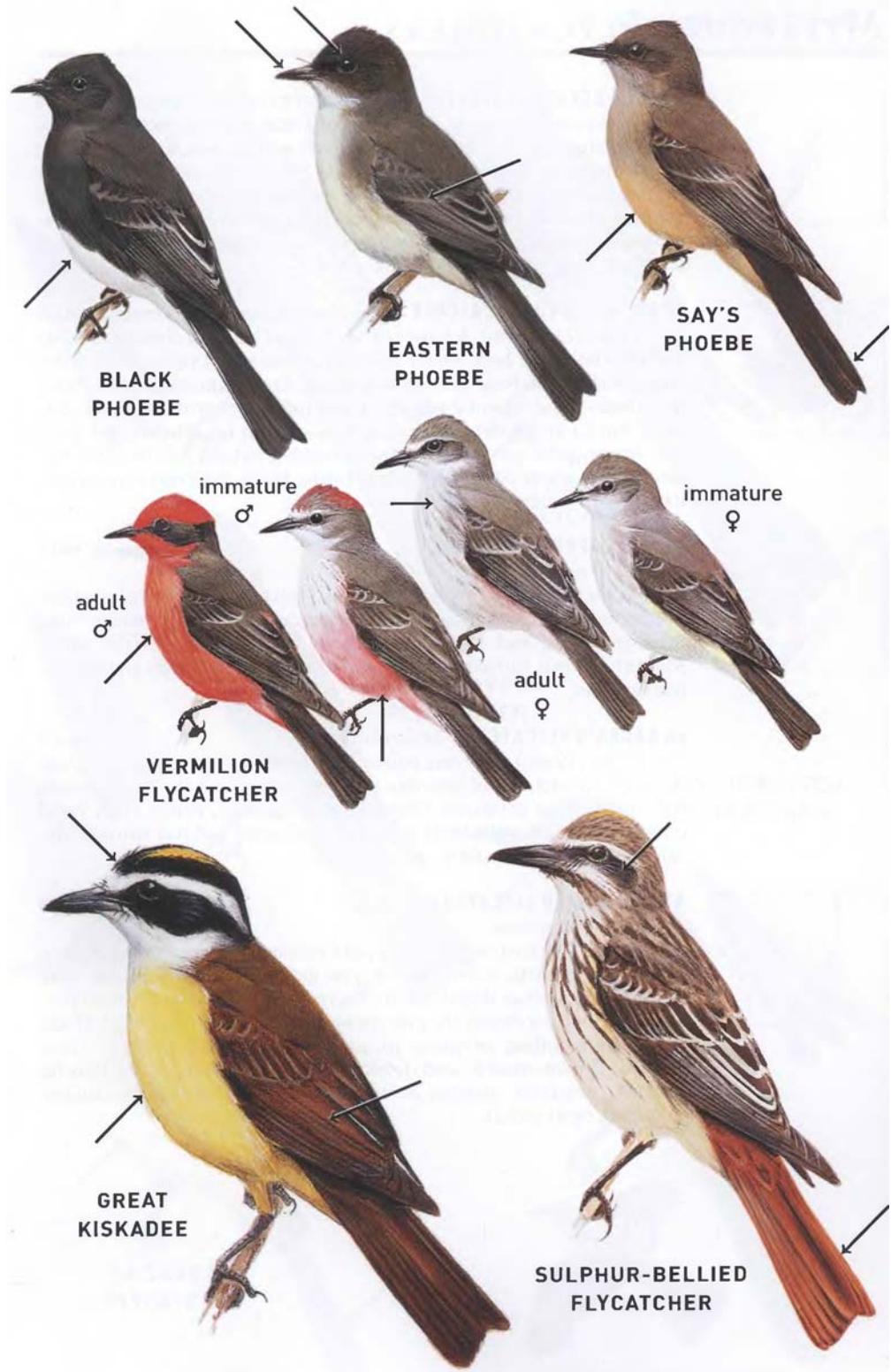


GREAT KISKADEE *Pitangus sulphuratus* Fairly common, local M406
9¾ in. (25 cm). A large, big-headed flycatcher, like Belted Kingfisher in actions, even catching small fish. Note striking head pattern, rufous wings and tail, yellow underparts and crown. **VOICE:** Loud *kiss-ka-dee*; also a loud *reea*. Often heard before it is seen. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Tropical and Couch's kingbirds, which share this kiskadee's limited range. **HABITAT:** Woodlands and brushy edges, usually near water.



SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Myiodynastes luteiventris* Uncommon, local M407
8½ in. (22 cm). A large flycatcher with bright rufous tail and dark patch through eye; underparts pale yellowish, with black streaks. No other U.S. flycatcher is streaked above and below. **VOICE:** High, penetrating *kee-ZEE ick!* *kee-ZEE ick!* (like squeezing a bathroom rubber duckie). **HABITAT:** Midelevation canyons, often with sycamores.

FLYCATCHERS



MYIARCHUS FLYCATCHERS



BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tyrannulus* Uncommon M405
8½ in. (22 cm). Similar to Ash-throated Flycatcher, but larger, with noticeably larger bill. Underparts brighter yellow. Tail rusty, a bit less so than in Ash-throated. Voice important. **VOICE:** Sharp *whit* and rolling, throaty *purreeer*. Voice much more vigorous and raucous than Ash-throated's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Great Crested Flycatcher. **HABITAT:** In Southwest, sycamore-dominated canyons, cottonwood groves, saguaros. In TX, woodlands and well-vegetated residential areas.

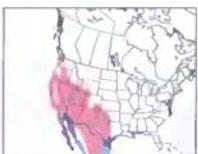


GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus* Fairly common M404
8½–8¾ in. (21–22 cm). A kingbird-sized flycatcher with cinnamon wings and tail, dark olive back, *mouse gray* breast, and bright yellow belly. Often erects bushy crest. Note *strongly contrasting tertial pattern* and pink-based bill. **VOICE:** Loud whistled *wheep!* Also a rolling *prrrrreet!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Brown-crested Flycatcher equal in size but has all-dark bill, paler gray breast, paler yellow belly, less contrasting tertials. Ash-throated Flycatcher has grayer back, much paler below. Vocal differences important. **HABITAT:** Woodlands, groves.



DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer* Uncommon, local M402
7 in. (18 cm). Similar to Ash-throated Flycatcher, but slightly smaller overall with proportionately larger bill; cap and throat darker, belly brighter yellow, and *almost no rusty* in tail. Voice distinctive. **VOICE:** Mournful, down-slurred whistle, *pweeeur*. **HABITAT:** Pine-oak and deciduous canyons.

LA SAGRA'S FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus sagrae* Vagrant
7¼–7½ in. (19 cm). Very rare visitor to FL from W. Indies. Similar to Ash-throated Flycatcher, but has only a *hint of yellow* on belly. Tail brownish, *not rufous*. Short primaries. Often "droopy" posture. **VOICE:** High, rapid double *wick-wick*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Great Crested and Ash-throated flycatchers. **HABITAT:** Shrubby coastal woods.



ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus cinerascens* Fairly common M403
8–8½ in. (20–21 cm). A medium-sized flycatcher, smaller than a kingbird, with two wing bars, *whitish* throat, *pale* gray breast, *pale yellowish* belly, and *rufous* tail. Head slightly bushy. Except for prairie and southwest border areas, this is normally the only flycatcher in West with rusty tail. **VOICE:** *Prrt*; also a rolling *chi-queer* or *prit-wheel*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Great Crested, Brown-crested, and Dusky-capped flycatchers; Say's Phoebe. **HABITAT:** Semiarid country, deserts, brush, mesquite, pinyon-juniper, chaparral, open woods.



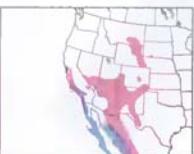
KINGBIRDS



WESTERN KINGBIRD *Tyrannus verticalis* Common M412
8¾ in. (22 cm). The most widespread kingbird in West. Note *pale gray head and breast*, white throat, *yellowish belly*. Western's black tail has narrow white edges. **VOICE:** Shrill, bickering calls; a sharp *kip* or *whit-ker-whit*; dawn song *pit-PEE-tu-whee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Eastern, Cassin's, Couch's, and Tropical kingbirds. **HABITAT:** Farms, shelterbelts, semiopen country, roadsides, fences, wires.



EASTERN KINGBIRD *Tyrannus tyrannus* Common M413
8½ in. (22 cm). The *white band* across tail tip marks Eastern Kingbird. Red crown mark is concealed and rarely seen. Often seems to fly quivering on tips of wings. Harasses crows, hawks. **VOICE:** Rapid sputter of high, bickering electric-shock notes: *dzee-dzee-dzee*, etc., and *kit-kit-kitter-kitter*, etc. Also a nasal *dzeep*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gray Kingbird. **HABITAT:** Wood edges, river groves, farms, shelterbelts, roadsides, fences, wires.



CASSIN'S KINGBIRD *Tyrannus vociferans* Uncommon to fairly common M410
9 in. (23 cm). Like Western Kingbird, but *darker head and chest contrast with whitish chin and upper throat*, darker olive-gray back; *no distinct white sides* on dark brown (not truly black) tail, which may be *lightly tipped with gray-buff*. Wing coverts often edged in pale gray. **VOICE:** Low, nasal *queer*, *chi-queer*, or *chi-beer*; also an excited *ki-ki-ki-dear*, *ki-dear*, *ki-dear*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Some worn Western Kingbirds may lack white sides on tail, but head, breast, and back *paler*, *lack contrasty pale chin and pale edges to wing coverts*, and have *different call*. In much of interior, Cassin's prefers higher elevations. **HABITAT:** Semiopen country, pine-oak mountains, pinyon-juniper, ranch groves, eucalyptus.



THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* Scarce, local M411
9½ in. (24 cm). A large kingbird with *oversized bill*; differs from similar kingbirds in having extensive *dark cap*. Entirely dark tail. **Adult:** Upperparts *brownish*, underparts *whitish* with pale yellow wash on belly. **Fall adult and immature:** May be quite yellow below. **VOICE:** Quick, shrill *brrr-zee* or *kut'r-eet*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bright, fresh fall birds told from Tropical Kingbird by bill size, dark head. **HABITAT:** Riparian woodlands, particularly sycamores.



TROPICAL KINGBIRD *Tyrannus melancholicus* Uncommon, local M408
9¼ in. (23 cm). Nearly identical to Couch's Kingbird. Both species similar to Western and Cassin's kingbirds, but *bill larger and longer*, tail *notched* and *brownish*; bright yellow on underparts *includes breast*. **VOICE:** Insect-like twittering. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** See Couch's Kingbird. **HABITAT:** Groves along streams and ponds, open areas with scattered trees and short cut grass (golf courses, ball fields, etc.).



COUCH'S KINGBIRD *Tyrannus couchii* Fairly common, local M409
9¼ in. (23 cm). Very similar to Tropical Kingbird and best distinguished by voice. Couch's has slightly shorter, thicker bill and brighter green back. **VOICE:** Nasal *queer* or *beeer* (suggests Common Pauraque). Also a sharp *kip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Tropical Kingbird. **HABITAT:** Open wooded and brushy areas with large trees; most common in native habitat.

KINGBIRDS

WESTERN KINGBIRD

EASTERN KINGBIRD

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD
fall

TROPICAL KINGBIRD

COUCH'S KINGBIRD

Tropical



MORE TYRANT FLYCATCHERS AND BECARD

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus savana*

Vagrant

14½–16 in. (37–41 cm). Vagrant from Tropics. Told from Scissor-tailed Flycatcher by *black cap*, white flanks and underwing. Black tail not rigid in flight. *Immature*: Much shorter tail; might be confused with Eastern Kingbird. **VOICE**: Mechanical-sounding *tik-tik-tik*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. **RANGE**: Normal range from Mex. to S. America. Vagrant to U.S. and Canada; records widespread but predominantly in the East and in fall. **HABITAT**: Open fields, pastures with scattered trees, wires.



SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus*

Common M415

13–15 in. (33–38 cm). A beautiful bird, pale pearly gray, with *extremely long, scissorlike tail* that is usually folded. Flanks orange-buff, wing linings salmon pink. *Immature*: Shorter tail and duller sides may suggest Western Kingbird. Hybrids are known. **VOICE**: Harsh *keck* or *kew*; a repeated *ka-leep*; also shrill, kingbirdlike bickering and stutters. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Western Kingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher. **HABITAT**: Semiopen country, ranches, farms, roadsides, fences, wires.



GRAY KINGBIRD *Tyrannus dominicensis*

Fairly common, local M414

9 in. (23 cm). Resembles Eastern Kingbird, but larger and much paler. Conspicuously *notched tail* has no white band. *Very large bill* gives large-headed look. Dark ear patch. **VOICE**: Rolling *pi-teer-rrry* or *pe-cheer-ry*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Eastern Kingbird. **HABITAT**: Roadsides, wires, mangroves, edges.



ROSE-THROATED BECARD *Pachyramphus aglaiae*

Rare, local M416

7¼ in. (18 cm). Big-headed and thick-billed. *Male*: Dark gray above, pale to dusky below, with *blackish cap and cheeks* and lovely *rose-colored throat* (lacking in some males). *Female*: Brown above, with *dark cap* and *light buffy collar* around nape. Underparts strong buff. **VOICE**: Thin, slurred whistle, *seeoo*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Kingbirds, Say's Phoebe. **HABITAT**: Riparian woodlands, particularly sycamores.

FLYCATCHERS



SHRIKES Family Laniidae

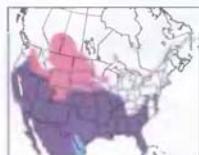
Songbirds with hook-tipped bill. Shrikes perch watchfully on bush tops, treetops, wires; often impale prey on thorns, barbed wire. **FOOD:** Insects, lizards, small rodents, small birds. **RANGE:** Widespread in Old World; two species breed in N. America.



NORTHERN SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Scarce M418

10–10½ in. (25–26 cm). This denizen of North is an irregular winter visitor south of Canadian border. Similar to Loggerhead Shrike, but paler; note narrower dark mask with more white around eye, faintly barred breast, and longer, more hooked bill with pale base. **Juvenile:** Plumage held throughout first winter; brown, with weak mask and extensive fine barring below. **VOICE:** Song a disjointed, thrasherlike succession of harsh notes and musical notes. Call shek-shek; a grating jaaeg. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Mockingbird. **HABITAT:** Semiopen country with lookout posts; in summer, taiga, muskeg, tundra.



LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE *Lanius ludovicianus*

Uncommon to rare M417

9 in. (23 cm). Big head, slim tail; gray, black, and white, with black mask, short hooked bill. Sits quietly on wires or bush tops; flies low with flickering flight showing white patches in wings, then swoops up to perch. **Juvenile:** Shows faint barring below briefly in late summer. **VOICE:** Song consists of harsh, deliberate notes and phrases, repeated 3 to 20 times, suggesting mockingbird's song; queedle, queedle, over and over, or tsurp-see, tsurp-see. Call shack shack or jeer jeer. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Northern Shrike. Northern Mockingbird lacks dark mask and hooked bill. **HABITAT:** Semiopen country with lookout posts: wires, fences, trees, shrubs.

VIREOS Family Vireonidae

Small olive- or gray-backed birds, much like wood-warblers, usually less active. Bill slightly thicker, with more curved ridge and small hook to tip. May be divided into those with wing bars (and "spectacles") and those without (these have eye stripes). **FOOD:** Mostly insects, also fruit in winter. **RANGE:** Canada to Argentina.



BELL'S VIREO *Vireo bellii*

Uncommon M420

4¾ in. (12 cm). Small, nondescript. Usually stays concealed in dense cover. Thin, pale, broken eye-ring and loral stripe. One or two weak wing bars. Southwestern birds are grayer, flick tail like gnatcatchers; eastern birds are green on back, yellow on flanks, pump tail like Palm Warbler. **VOICE:** Sings as if through clenched teeth; husky phrases at short intervals: cheedle cheedle chee? cheedle cheedle chew! **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Warbling Vireo has plain wings, bold eyebrow. Immature White-eyed Vireo has bolder wing bars, yellow lores. Gray Vireo slightly larger with complete eye-ring; note voice and habitat. **HABITAT:** Willows, streamside, hedgerows, mesquite.



BLACK-CAPPED VIREO *Vireo atricapilla*

Scarce, local, endangered M421

4½ in. (11 cm). Small and sprightly; cap glossy black in male, slate gray in female. Note wing bars, white spectacles, red eyes. **VOICE:** Song hurried, harsh; phrases remarkable for restless, almost angry quality. Call a harsh chit-ah. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Blue-headed and Cassin's vireos larger with dark eyes. **HABITAT:** Oak scrub, brushy hills, rocky canyons. Often hard to see.

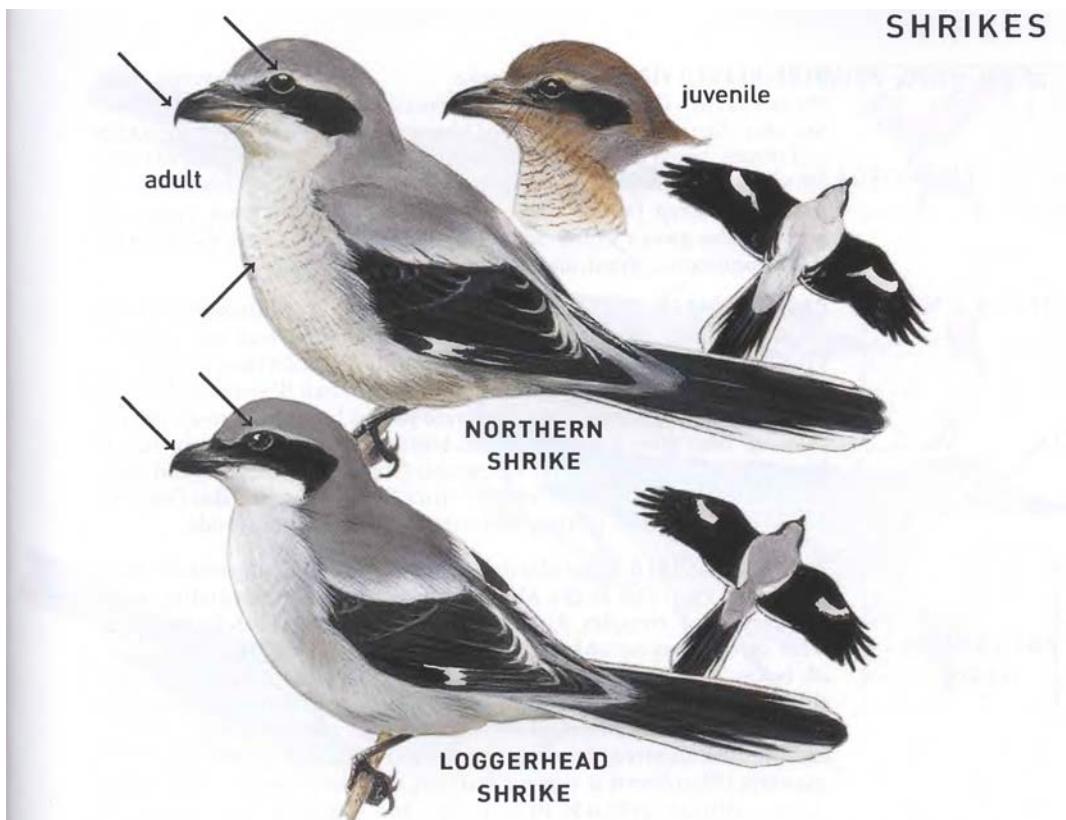


WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus*

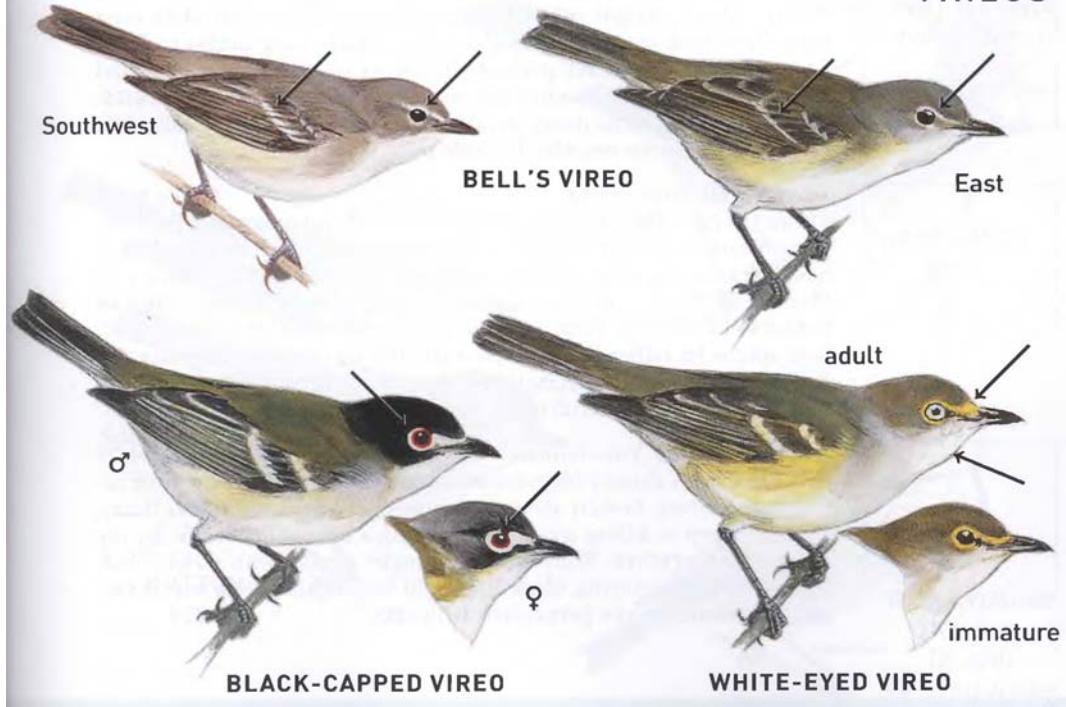
Fairly common M419

5 in. (13 cm). Distinctive combination of yellow spectacles, whitish throat. Also note wing bars, yellowish sides, white eye (dark in immature). Somewhat skulking. **VOICE:** Song a sharply enunciated CHICK-a-per-weeo-CHICK. Variable; usually starts and ends with chick. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bell's Vireo. **HABITAT:** Wood edges, brush, brambles, dense undergrowth.

SHRIKES



VIREOS



**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** *Vireo solitarius*

Fairly common M426

5½ in. (14 cm). The northern/eastern representative of the “Solitary Vireo” complex. Note *sharply demarcated* blue-gray cap, *bright white* spectacles and throat, *bright green* back, yellowish wash to side. **VOICE:** Song of burry phrases with deliberate pauses between; sweet and high pitched: *wee-ay, chweeo, chuweep* (slower than Red-eyed Vireo with fewer notes per phrase). Also gives a whiny chatter. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cassin’s Vireo. **HABITAT:** Coniferous, mixed, and deciduous woods.

**CASSIN'S VIREO** *Vireo cassinii*

Uncommon M425

5½ in. (14 cm). The Pacific/northwest representative of the “Solitary Vireo” complex. Greener back and more yellowish sides than Plumbeous. Duller overall with less contrasting face pattern than Blue-headed. **VOICE:** Song of slurred phrases with deliberate pauses between, *wee-ay, chweeo, chuweep*. Also gives a whiny chatter. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Some worn, dull Blue-headeds can be difficult to separate from bright Cassin’s, and some dull Cassin’s are difficult to separate from Plumbeous. See also Gray and Bell’s vireos. **HABITAT:** Coniferous, mixed, and deciduous woods.

**PLUMBEOUS VIREO** *Vireo plumbeus*

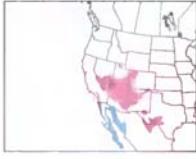
Uncommon M424

5½ in. (15 cm). The Rocky Mountain/Great Basin representative of the “Solitary Vireo” complex. Although their nesting ranges barely overlap, all three species may occur together on migration. Mostly gray above, whitish below, with grayish or grayish olive wash to sides of breast and variable wash of gray or yellow on flanks. **VOICE:** Song of slurred phrases with deliberate pauses between. Blue-headed Vireo’s phrases sweeter. Cassin’s and Plumbeous vireos have burrier, slurred phrases, e.g., *wee-ay, chweeo, chuweep*. (Plumbeous is slowest, burriest.) All three species give a whiny chatter. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Blue-headed and Cassin’s vireos. Some dull Cassin’s are difficult to separate from Plumbeous. See also Gray Vireo. **HABITAT:** Coniferous, mixed, and deciduous woods.

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** *Vireo flavifrons*

Fairly common M423

5½ in. (14 cm). Bright yellow throat, yellow spectacles, and white wing bars. Olive back contrasts with gray rump. **VOICE:** Song similar to Blue-headed Vireo’s, but lower pitched with *burry quality*; swings back and forth with phrases that sound like *ee-yay, three-eight*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Pine Warbler has some dusky streaks below, white tail spots, smaller bill. **HABITAT:** Deciduous woodlands, shade trees, particularly oaks.

**GRAY VIREO** *Vireo vicinior*

Scarce M422

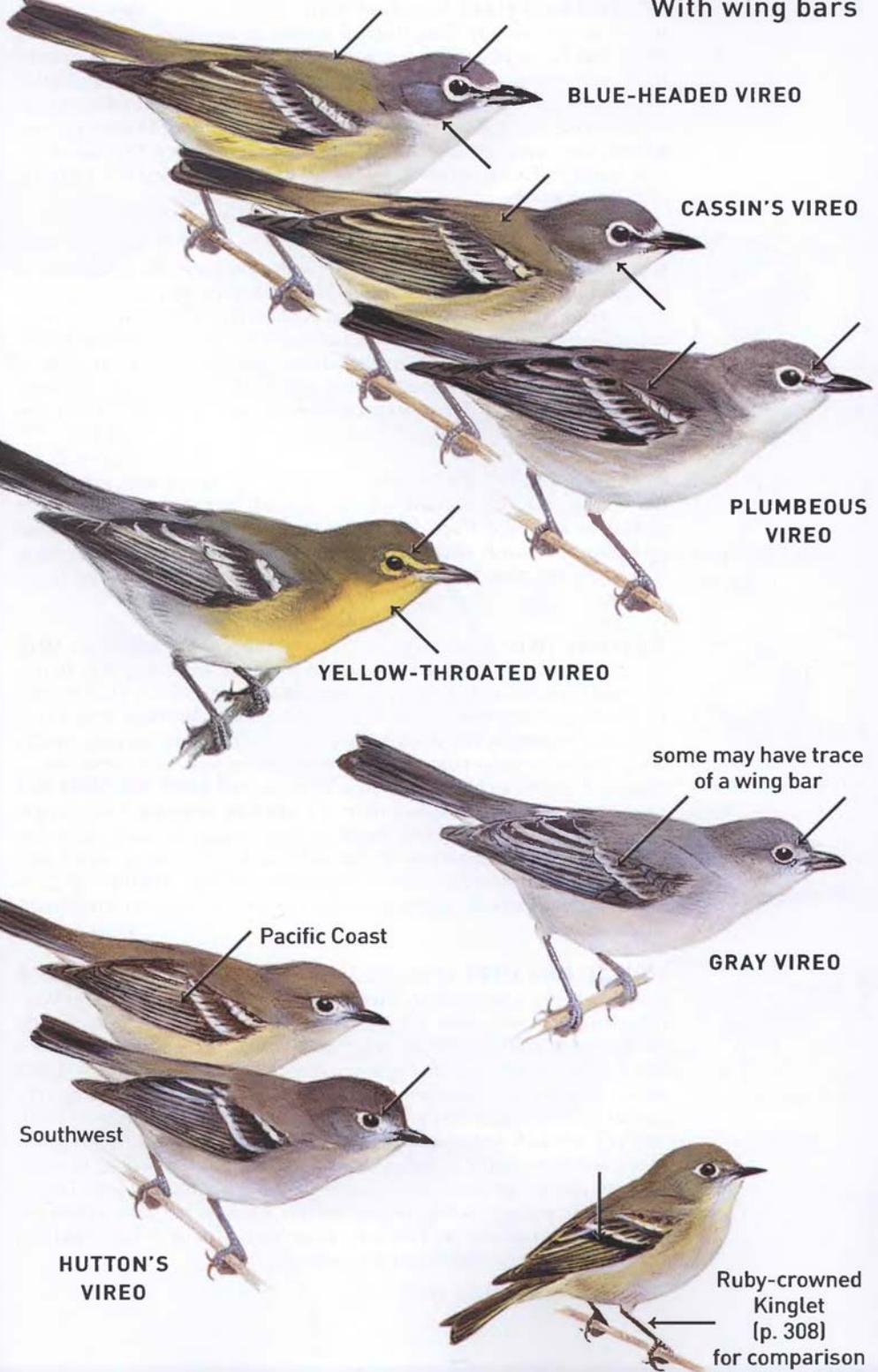
5½ in. (14 cm). This plain, gray-backed vireo of arid mountains has *complete, narrow, white eye-ring* and only *one faint wing bar*. Though drab, it has character, flipping tail like a gnatcatcher. **VOICE:** Song similar to Plumbeous Vireo’s, but sweeter, more rapid, in regular series. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Plumbeous Vireo stockier, has shorter tail that is not flipped, bold spectacles rather than just eye-ring, and two, thicker wing bars. See Bell’s Vireo. **HABITAT:** Pinyon-juniper woodlands, brushy slopes, chamise-dominated chaparral, scrub oak.

**HUTTON'S VIREO** *Vireo huttoni*

Fairly common M427

5 in. (13 cm). A chunky olive-brown vireo with bold wing bars. Note *incomplete eye-ring* broken *above*, and large light loral spot. **VOICE:** Buzzy, rising *zu-weep* or falling *zee-ur*, oft-repeated; a hoarse, deliberate *day dee dee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Ruby-crowned Kinglet smaller with skinny black legs, quicker movements, black “highlight bar” behind wing bars. **HABITAT:** Woodlands, parks, particularly with oaks.

VIREOS
With wing bars



YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis*

Very rare, local

6–6½ in. (15–16 cm). This tropical species is very similar to Red-eyed Vireo, but has *strong yellow tones* on sides, flanks, and undertail coverts; back *yellower green*; head stripes *less distinct*; bill slightly *longer* and paler. (Immature Red-eyed Vireos may have yellow on flanks and undertail coverts.) **VOICE:** Song slower than Red-eyed's, suggestive of House Sparrow. **RANGE:** Rare summer resident in lower Rio Grande Valley, TX. Casual farther north in TX and in s. AZ; casual fall vagrant in coastal CA. **HABITAT:** Deciduous woods.

**RED-EYED VIREO** *Vireo olivaceus*

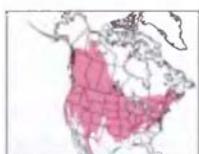
Common M430

6 in. (15 cm). Note *gray cap contrasting with olive back*, and strong, *black-bordered white eyebrow stripe (supercilium)*. Red iris may not be obvious at a distance. Iris is brown in immature birds in fall. **VOICE:** Song is abrupt, robinlike phrases, monotonous. Call a nasal, whining *chway*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Warbling Vireo slightly smaller, duller and less contrasty above, with pale lores and arching supercilium. See Yellow-green and Black-whiskered vireos, both scarce and local. **HABITAT:** Deciduous woodlands, shade trees, groves.

**BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO** *Vireo altiloquus*

Uncommon, local M431

6¼ in. (16 cm). Narrow dark whisker on each side of throat. Otherwise similar to Red-eyed Vireo, but duller overall, particularly head pattern, and more brownish olive above, with slightly longer bill. **VOICE:** Song slightly slower than Red-eyed's. **HABITAT:** Mangroves, subtropical hardwoods.

**WARBLING VIREO** *Vireo gilvus*

Fairly common M428

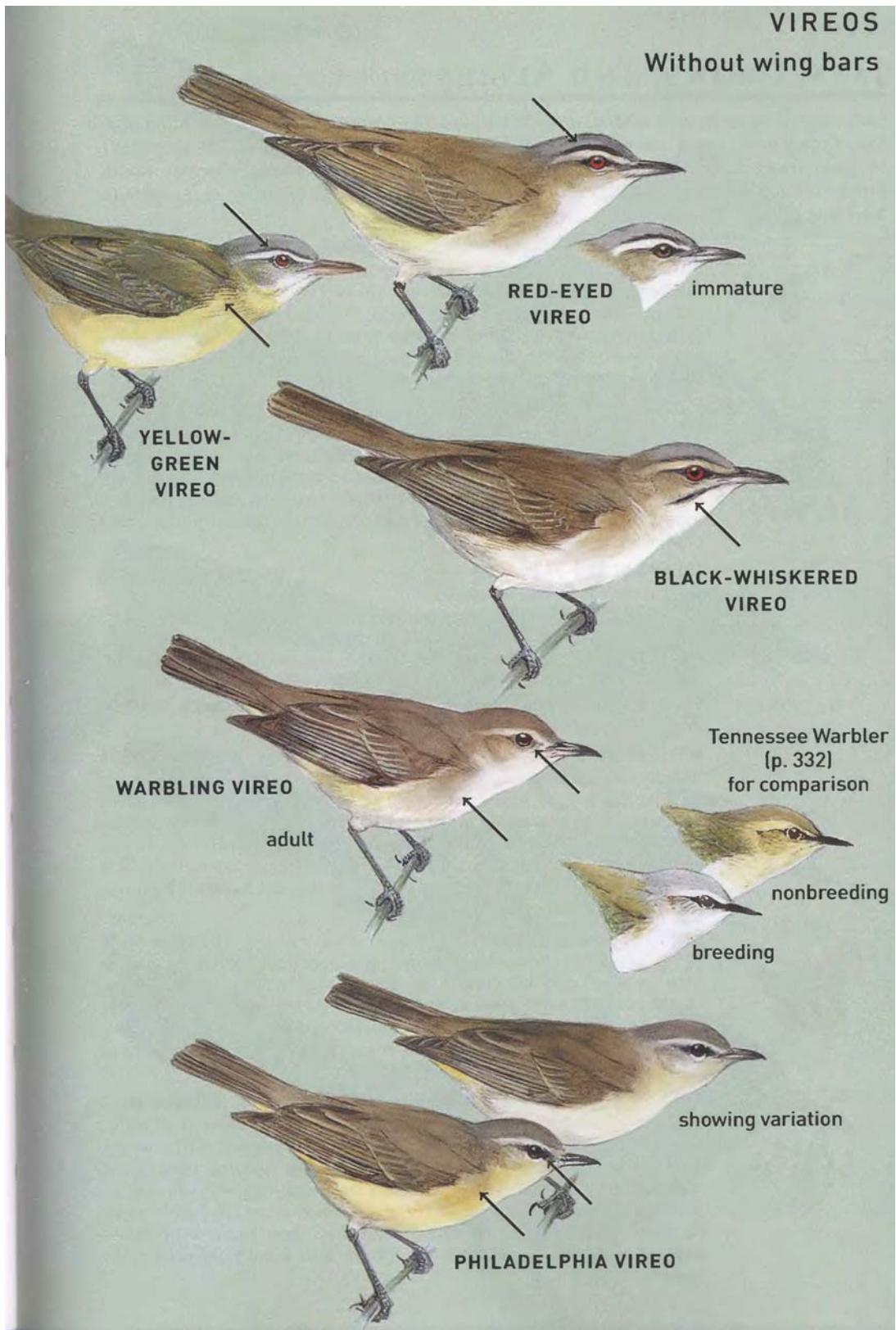
5½ in. (14 cm). One of the widespread vireos that lack wing bars. In this *very plain* species, note *whitish breast, pale lores, and lack of black borders* on eyebrow stripe that arches slightly above dark eye. Back tinged dull greenish. Immature and Western birds have more yellow on sides. **VOICE:** Song distinctive: a languid warble, unlike broken phrases of other vireos; suggests Purple Finch's song, but less spirited, with burry undertone. Call a wheezy querulous *tweet* and short *vit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Philadelphia Vireo yellowish on throat and breast, as bright in middle as on sides, has slate gray line through lores. Red-eyed Vireo larger, greener above, and has bolder eyebrow stripe. See also Tennessee Warbler. **HABITAT:** Deciduous and mixed woods, aspen groves, cottonwoods, riparian woodlands, shade trees.

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** *Vireo philadelphicus*

Uncommon M429

5¼ in. (13 cm). This smallish vireo has a face pattern reminiscent of Warbling Vireo, but with more distinct dark eye line (including lores), slightly greener back, and single faint wing bar. Underparts pale and vary from a small wash of pale yellow on lower throat and upper breast in duller adults to more extensive yellow in bright immatures. **VOICE:** Song very similar to Red-eyed Vireo's; higher, slower. Call, a quick, husky *niff-niff-niff-niff*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bright Warbling Vireos in fall tinged green above and have yellow on sides, but that yellow is *dull or lacking in center of breast and throat*; also *lack Philadelphia's dark line through lores*. Different song. Tennessee Warbler slightly smaller, has finer bill, clear white (not yellow) undertail coverts, blackish rather than blue-gray legs. **HABITAT:** Second-growth woodlands, poplars, willows, alders.

VIREOS
Without wing bars



JAYS, CROWS, AND ALLIES Family Corvidae

Large perching birds with strong, longish bill, nostrils covered by forward-pointing bristles. Crows and ravens are very large and black. Jays are often colorful (usually blue). Magpies are black and white, with long tail. Sexes alike. Most immatures resemble adults. **FOOD:** Almost anything edible. **RANGE:** Worldwide except s. S. America, some islands, Antarctica.



FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY *Aphelocoma coerulescens* Uncommon, local M437
11–11½ in. (29 cm). Look for this crestless jay in FL in stretches of oak scrub. Note whitish forehead, pale gray-brown back, solid blue wings and tail (no white markings). **VOICE:** Rough, rasping *kwesh . . . kwesh*. Also a low, rasping *zhreek* or *zhrink*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Blue Jay, often present in same localities in FL, has crest and bold white spotting on wings and tail. **HABITAT:** Mainly scrub, low oaks.



WESTERN SCRUB-JAY *Aphelocoma californica* Common M439
11–11½ in. (29 cm). Crestless with blue head, wings, and tail, brownish back, white throat with necklace. **VOICE:** Rough, rasping *kwesh . . . kwesh*. Also a harsh *shreck-shreck-shreck-shreck* and a rasping *zhreek*, *zhreek*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Mexican Jay. **HABITAT:** Oaks, pine-oak, oak-chaparral of foothills and lower mountains, riparian woodlands, pinyon-juniper, residential areas, parks.



ISLAND SCRUB-JAY *Aphelocoma insularis* (not shown) Uncommon, local M438
12½–13 in. (31–33 cm). Recently elevated to full species status. Found only on Santa Cruz I. off coast of s. CA, most restricted range of any species in N. America. **VOICE:** Same as Western Scrub-Jay. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Almost identical to Pacific Coast Western Scrub-Jay (no range overlap), but slightly larger and larger billed, deeper blue, darker cheek. **HABITAT:** Woodlands and scrubby habitat.



MEXICAN JAY *Aphelocoma ultramarina* Fairly common, local M440
11½ in. (29 cm). A blue crestless jay of Southwest. Resembles Western Scrub-Jay, but more uniform; back and breast grayer. No strong contrast between throat and breast. Also lacks narrow whitish line over eye. In AZ, juveniles may have partly yellow bill. **VOICE:** Rough, querulous *wink? wink?* or *zhenk?* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Western Scrub-Jay. **HABITAT:** Pine-oak and oak-juniper woodlands.



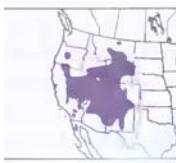
BLUE JAY *Cyanocitta cristata* Common M434
11 in. (28 cm). A showy, noisy, crested jay; larger than a robin. Bold white spots on wings and tail; whitish or dull gray underparts; black necklace. **VOICE:** Harsh slurring *jeeah* or *jay*; a musical *queedle*, *queedle*; also many other notes. Mimics calls of Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Florida Scrub-Jay, Steller's. **HABITAT:** Oak and pine woods, suburban gardens, groves, towns, feeders.



STELLER'S JAY *Cyanocitta stelleri* Common M433
11½ in. (29 cm). In coniferous woodlands between Rockies and Pacific, this is the resident jay with a crest. Foreparts blackish; rear parts (wings, tail, belly) deep blue. Some interior birds have white eyebrow. **VOICE:** Loud *shook-shook-shook* or *shack-shack-shack* or *wheck-wek-wek-wek* or *kwesh kwesh kwesh*; harsh *jjaairr* and many other notes. Frequently mimics hawks. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other "blue jays" show some white below. **HABITAT:** Coniferous and pine-oak forests; also some residential areas, feeders.

JAYS



**PINYON JAY** *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*

Uncommon M441

10½ in. (27 cm). Looks like a small dull blue crow, but nearer size of a robin, though chunkier, with long, sharp bill. Readily told from other jays by its short tail, uniform pale blue coloration, and crowlike flight. Pinyon Jays are gregarious, often gathering in large noisy flocks and walking about like small crows. **VOICE:** Nuthatchlike *nasal* cawing, *kaa-ah* or *karn-ah* (descending inflection); has mewing effect. Also jaylike notes; chattering. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other western jays. **HABITAT:** Primarily pinyon-juniper; also dry, open ponderosa and Jeffrey pine woodlands; ranges into sagebrush.

**CLARK'S NUTCRACKER** *Nucifraga columbiana*

Fairly common M442

12 in. (30–31 cm). Built like a small crow, with *light gray* or tan-gray body and large *white patches* in black wings and tail. If these patches are seen, it should be confused with no other bird of high mountains. Long bill. Tame birds often can be fed by hand. **VOICE:** Flat, drawn-out, grating *caw, khaaa* or *khraa*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gray Jay has shorter bill, lacks white patches. **HABITAT:** Coniferous forests in mountains as high as near tree line; mountain resorts.

**GRAY JAY** *Perisoreus canadensis*

Uncommon M432

11¼–11½ in. (28–29 cm). A large, fluffy, gray bird of cool northern forests; larger than a robin. Called "Whiskey Jack" by woodsmen. *Adult:* Black patch or partial cap across back of head and *white forehead* (or crown); suggests a huge overgrown chickadee. *Juvenile:* Dark sooty, almost blackish; only distinguishing mark is *whitish whisker*. Pacific Coast and far northern birds have dark on heads. Rocky Mt. birds have mostly white heads. **VOICE:** Soft *whee-ah*; also many other notes, some harsh. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Clark's Nutcracker. **HABITAT:** Spruce and fir forests. Becomes tame around campgrounds, picnic areas.

**GREEN JAY** *Cyanocorax yncas*

Fairly common, local M435

10½ in. (27 cm). Unmistakable. The *only green-colored jay*. *Black throat, violet crown*. Often seen in noisy flocks. **VOICE:** Four or more harsh notes given rapidly: *cheek, cheek, cheek, cheek*. Also a variety of jaylike croaks and squeaks. **HABITAT:** Dense cover in scrubby woods. Visits feeders for fruit and seeds.

**BROWN JAY** *Cyanocorax morio*

Rare, local M436

16½–17 in. (42–43 cm). A very large jay with *brown upperparts and pale belly*. Adult has dark bill; juvenile has yellow bill. In flight, pale belly stands out. **VOICE:** Very loud *chaa-chaa-chaa* repeated over and over. Flocks can make a loud noise. **HABITAT:** Dense scrub and brushy woods.

JAYS



**CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN** *Corvus cryptoleucus*

Fairly common M448

19–19½ in. (48–50 cm). Slightly larger than American Crow; a small raven of arid plains and deserts. Flies with typical flat-winged glide of a raven; has somewhat wedge-shaped tail. White feather bases on neck and breast sometimes show when feathers are ruffled by the wind, hence former name White-necked Raven. **VOICE:** Hoarse *kraak*, flatter and higher than Common Raven's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Difficult to tell from Common Raven, particularly when separate, but slightly smaller and tail slightly less wedge-shaped, calls higher pitched, and bristles extend farther down upper mandible. **HABITAT:** Arid and semiarid scrub and grasslands, deserts, yucca, mesquite, towns, dumps.

**COMMON RAVEN** *Corvus corax*

Common M449

23½–24 in. (59–61 cm). Note *wedge-shaped tail*. Much larger than American Crow; has heavier voice and is not inclined to be as gregarious, often solitary or in family groups. More hawklike in flight, it alternates flapping and sailing, gliding on flat, somewhat sweptback wings (crow glides much less and with slight upward dihedral). When bird is perched and not too distant, note “goiter” look created by shaggy throat feathers and heavier “Roman-nose” bill. **VOICE:** Croaking *cr-r-ruck* or *prruk*; also a metallic *tok*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Chihuahuan Raven. **HABITAT:** Boreal and mountain forests, desert lowlands (particularly in winter), cliffs, tundra, towns, dumps.

**YELLOW-BILLED MAGPIE** *Pica nuttalli*

Fairly common, local M444

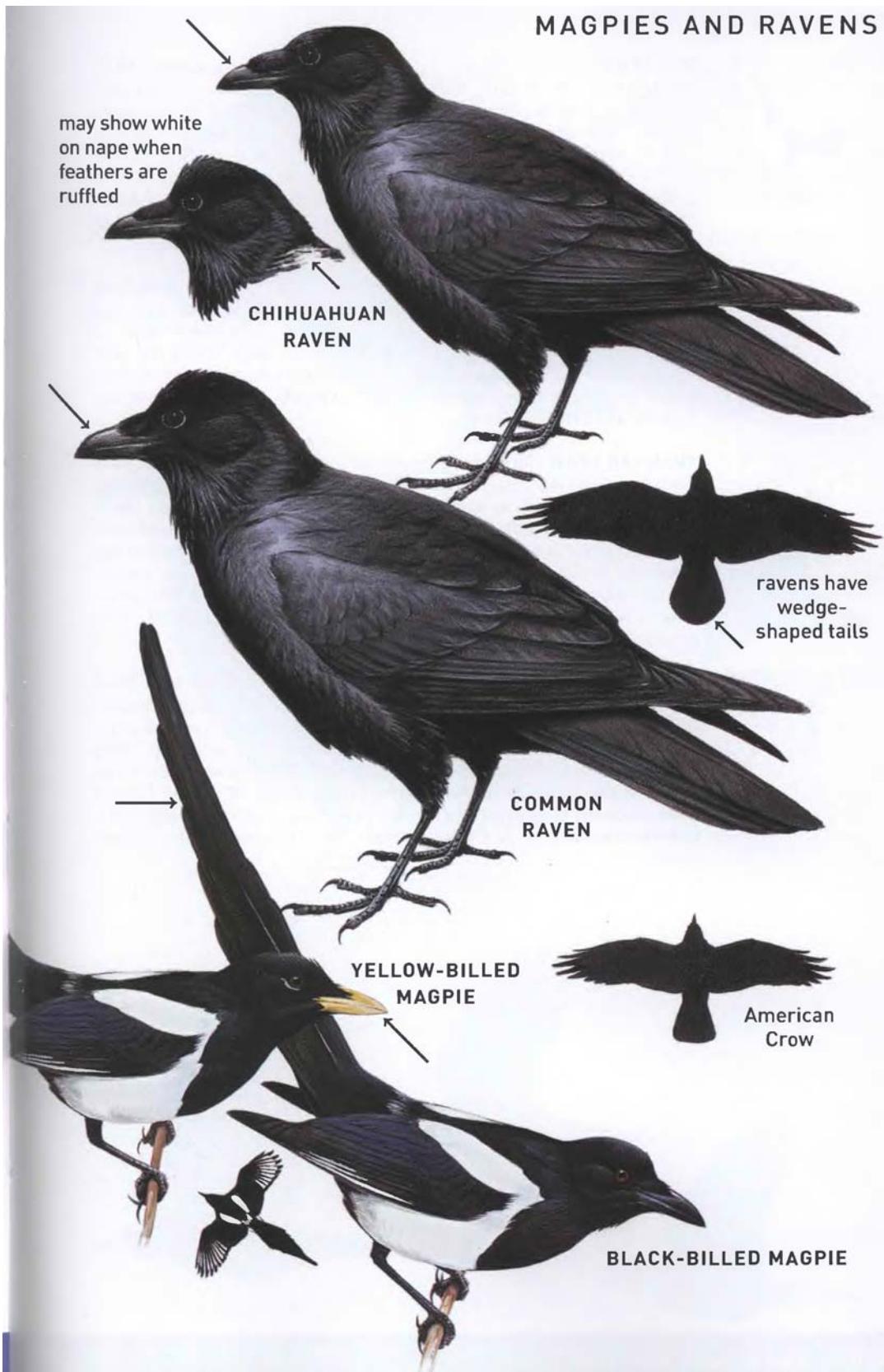
16½–17 in. (42–43 cm). Similar to Black-billed Magpie, but *bill yellow*. At close range shows crescent of bare yellow skin below eye. **VOICE:** Similar to Black-billed Magpie's *maag?*, etc. **HABITAT:** Oak savanna, riparian groves, ranches, farms. Usually in small to medium-sized flocks.

**BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE** *Pica hudsonia*

Fairly common M443

18½–19½ in. (47–49 cm); tail 9½–12 in. (24–30 cm). A large, slender, black-and-white bird, with *long, graduated tail*. In flight, iridescent greenish black tail streams behind and large *white patches flash in wings*. **VOICE:** Harsh, rapid *queg queg queg queg* or *wah-wah-wah*. Also a querulous, nasal *maag?* or *aag-aag?* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Yellow-billed Magpie; ranges do not overlap, although escapees may occur. **HABITAT:** Rangeland, brushy country, conifers, streamsides, forest edges, farms. Often in flocks.

MAGPIES AND RAVENS



**FISH CROW** *Corvus ossifragus*

Fairly common M447
15½–15½ in. (38–39 cm). Slightly smaller and more delicately proportioned than American Crow. Tail slightly longer and wings slightly more tapered. Best identified by voice, as measurements of the two species broadly overlap. **VOICE:** Short nasal *car* or *ca*. Most distinctive is two-syllable *ca-ha*. (American Crow utters *caw*.) Some calls of young American Crows may sound like those of Fish Crows. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American Crow larger, has different call. **HABITAT:** Often near tidewater, river valleys, lakes. Also farm fields, wood edges, towns and cities, dumps.

TAMAULIPAS CROW *Corvus imparatus*

Rare, local
14¼–14½ in. (36–37 cm). A small crow with small bill, long tail, and slim wings. Glossier colored than other crows. **VOICE:** A “stressed” voice (a harsh, froglike *awwwk*). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** In its range this is the only small crow—next larger all-black corvid is Chihuahuan Raven. **RANGE:** Found irregularly near Brownsville, TX. **HABITAT:** Arid scrub, mesquite thickets; also ranches, dumps.

**AMERICAN CROW** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Common M445
17–17½ in. (43–45 cm). A large, chunky, ebony bird. Completely black; glossed with purplish in strong sunlight. Bill and feet strong and black. Often gregarious. **VOICE:** Loud *caw, caw, caw* or *cah* or *kahr*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Fish Crow is smaller with longer, slimmer tail, more tapered wings; most readily distinguished by voice. Common Raven larger, has wedge-shaped tail, more sweptback wings, different call. See also Chihuahuan Raven, Northwestern Crow. **HABITAT:** Woodlands, farms, fields, river groves, shores, towns, dumps.

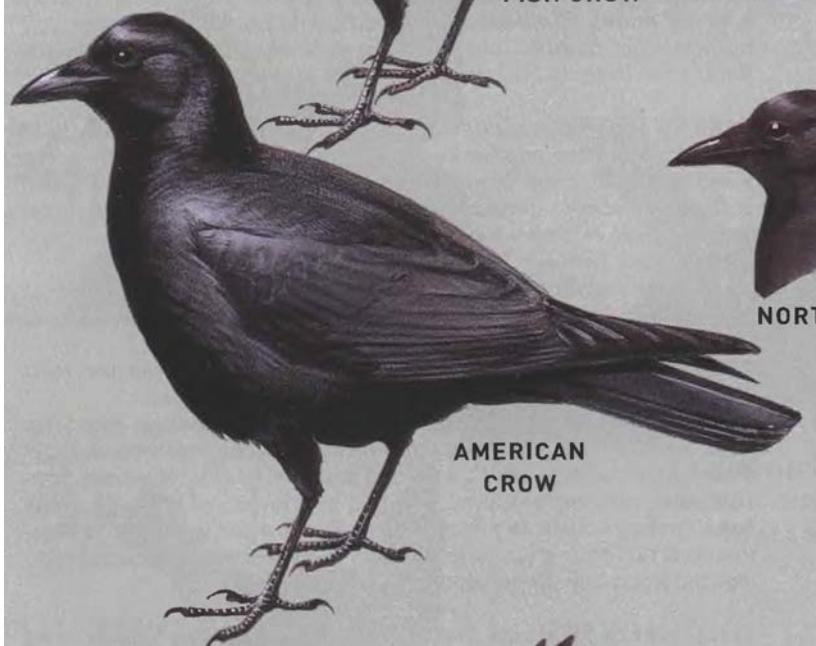
**NORTHWESTERN CROW** *Corvus caurinus*

Uncommon, local M446
16 in. (41 cm). This small beachcombing crow of Northwest is very similar to American Crow but is slightly smaller and has slightly quicker wing-beats. It replaces the latter on the narrow northwestern coastal strip. There is apparently integration with American Crow in Puget Sound area; hence some believe they may be conspecific. **VOICE:** *Khaaa* or *khaaw*. Usually more resonant than American Crow's *caw*. Also, *cowp-cowp-cowp*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American Crow. **HABITAT:** Near tidewater, shores, coastal towns.

CROWS



FISH CROW



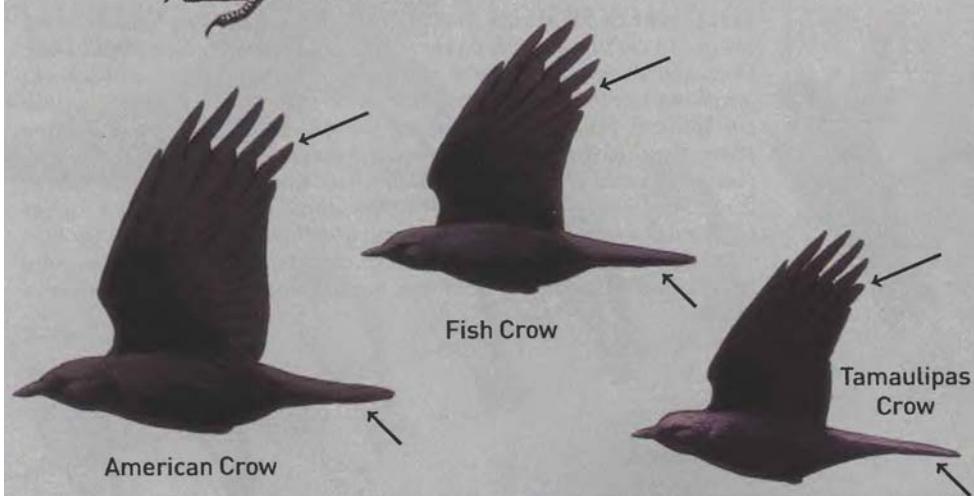
AMERICAN
CROW



NORTHWESTERN
CROW



TAMAULIPAS
CROW



SWALLOWS Family Hirundinidae

Slim, streamlined form and graceful flight characterize these sparrow-sized birds. Pointed wings; short bill with very wide gape; tiny feet. **FOOD:** Mostly flying insects. **RANGE:** Worldwide except for polar regions, some islands.



TREE SWALLOW *Tachycineta bicolor*

Common M452
5¾ in. (15 cm). **Adult:** Male steely blue, tinged green, above; white below. Female slightly duller than male. **Juvenile:** Dusky gray-brown back and dusky smudge across breast. Tree Swallows have distinctly notched tail; glide in circles, ending glide with quick flaps and a short climb. **VOICE:** Rich cheet or chi-veet; a liquid twitter, weet, trit, weet, etc. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** May be confused with Violet-green Swallow (white or light brown above eye, more obvious white patches on sides of rump), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (dingy throat, different flight style), or Bank Swallow (bolder dark breast-band than juvenile Tree, smaller overall, browner above). All species also have different calls. **HABITAT:** Open country near water, marshes, meadows, streams, lakes, wires. Fall premigratory flocks roost in reeds. Nests in holes in trees, birdhouses.



BANK SWALLOW *Riparia riparia*

Fairly common M455
5 in. (12 cm). Our smallest swallow. Brown-backed with slightly darker wings and paler rump. Note distinct dark breast-band. White of throat curls up behind ear. Wingbeats rapid and shallow. **VOICE:** Dry, trilled chitter or rattle, brtt or trr-tri-tri. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Northern Rough-winged Swallow and juvenile Tree Swallow. When perched in mixed-species flocks, Bank's smaller size stands out. **HABITAT:** Near water; fields, marshes, lakes. Nests colonially in dirt and sand banks.



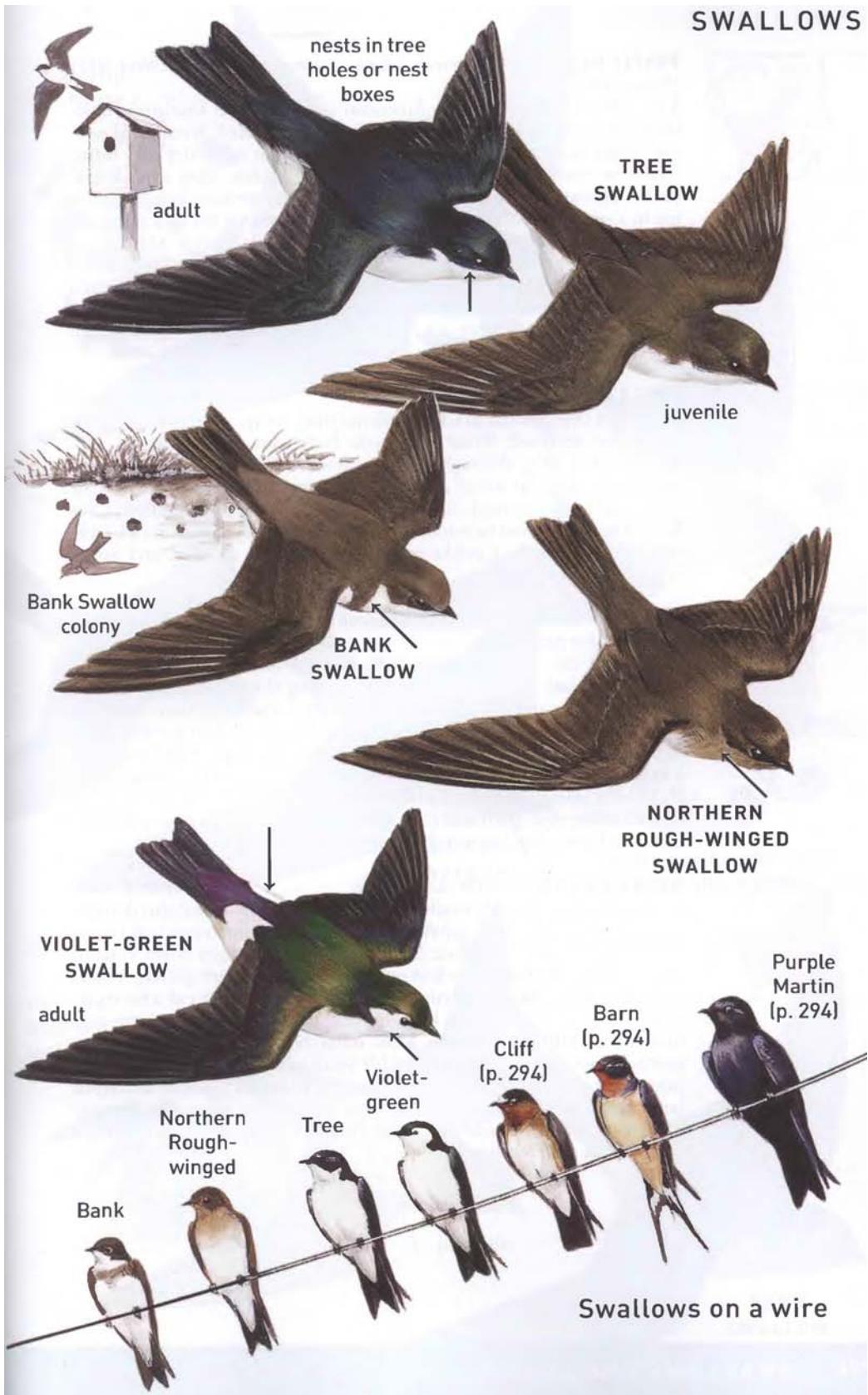
NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW

Fairly common M454
Stelgidopteryx serripennis
5¼ in. (12 cm). **Adult:** Brown-backed; does not show contrast above that Bank Swallow does; throat and upper breast dusky; no breast-band. Flight more languid; wings pulled back at end of stroke. **Juvenile:** Has cinnamon-rusty wing bars. **VOICE:** Call a low, liquid trrit, lower and less grating than Bank Swallow's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bank Swallow and juvenile Tree Swallow. **HABITAT:** Near streams, lakes, rivers. Nests in banks, pipes, and crevices, but not colonially as Bank Swallow does.



Fairly common M453
Tachycineta thalassina
5½ in. (13 cm). Note white patches that almost meet over base of tail. **Male:** Dark and shiny above; adults glossed with beautiful green on back and purple on rump and uppertail; clear white below. White of face partially encircles eye. **Female and immature:** Somewhat duller above, and white above eye tinged grayish or brownish. **VOICE:** A twitter; a thin ch-lip or chew-chit; rapid chit-chit-chit wheet, wheet. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Separated from Tree Swallow by pale feathering above eye, greener back, white patches on sides of rump, slightly smaller size, and shorter wings. See also White-throated Swift. **HABITAT:** Widespread when foraging. Nests in holes in cliffs and in trees in open forests, foothill woods, mountains, canyons, towns.

SWALLOWS





PURPLE MARTIN Fairly common in East, uncommon and local in West M451
Progne subis

8 in. (20 cm). The largest N. American swallow. **Male:** Uniformly blue-black above and below; no other swallow is dark-bellied. **Female and juvenile:** Light-bellied; throat and breast grayish, often with faint gray collar. Glides in circles, alternating quick flaps and glides; often spreads tail. **VOICE:** Throaty and rich *tchew-wew*, etc., or *pew, pew*. Song gurgling, ending in a succession of rich, low guttural notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Tree and Violet-green swallows, much smaller than female Purple Martin, are cleaner white below. In flight, male martin might be confused with European Starling. **HABITAT:** Towns, farms, open or semiopen country, often near water. In East, nests exclusively in human-supplied martin houses. In West, uses cavities in trees (e.g., sycamores, ponderosa pines), posts, and, in s. AZ, saguaros; rarely martin houses.



CAVE SWALLOW *Petrochelidon fulva*

Uncommon M457

5½ in. (14 cm). Similar to Cliff Swallow (rusty rump, square-cut tail), but face colors reversed: *throat and cheeks buffy* (not dark), forehead *dark chestnut* (not pale, although Cliff Swallows in Southwest have chestnut forehead). *Buff color sets off dark mask and cap.* **VOICE:** Clear, sweet *weet* or *chweet*; a loud, accented *chu, chu*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cliff Swallow; Cave has buffier throat and face, more deeply colored rump, different call. **HABITAT:** Open country. Cuplike nest placed in caves, culverts, and under bridges; nests colonially.



CLIFF SWALLOW

Common in West, uncommon in East M456

Petrochelidon pyrrhonota

5½ in. (14 cm). Note *rusty* or *buffy rump*. Overhead, appears square-tailed, with dark throat patch. Glides in a long ellipse, ending each glide with a roller coaster-like climb. **VOICE:** *Zayrp*; a low *chur*. Alarm call *keer!* Song consists of creaking notes and guttural grating; harsher than Barn and Cave swallows' songs. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Barn and Cave swallows. **HABITAT:** Open to semiopen land, farms, cliffs, lakes. Nests colonially on cliffs, barn sides, under eaves and bridges; rarely on trees. Builds mud jug, or gourdlike, nest. Barn and Cave swallows build cuplike open nest; and Barn Swallows often but not always nest *inside* the barn.



BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Common M458

6¾ in. (17 cm). Our only swallow that is truly *swallow-tailed*; also the only one with *white tail spots*. **Adult:** Blue-black above; cinnamon-buff below, with darker throat. **Immature:** More whitish below. Flight direct, close to ground; wingtips pulled back at end of stroke; not much gliding. **VOICE:** Soft *vit* or *kvik-kvik, vit-vit*. Also *sze-szah* or *sze*. Anxiety call a harsh, irritated *ee-tee* or *keet*. Song a long, musical twitter interspersed with guttural notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Most other N. American swallows have notched (not deeply forked) tail. Cliff Swallow is colonial, building mud jugs under eaves or cliffs. See Cave Swallow. **HABITAT:** Open or semiopen land; farms, fields, marshes, lakes; often perches on wires; usually near habitation. Builds *cuplike nest inside* barns or under eaves, not in tight colonies like Cliff Swallow.

SWALLOWS



LARKS Family Alaudidae

Brown terrestrial birds with long hind claws. Gregarious in nonbreeding season, when they may be joined by longspurs and Snow Buntings. Larks often sing in high display flights. **FOOD:** Seeds, insects. **RANGE:** Mainly Old World.



HORNED LARK *Eremophila alpestris* Uncommon to common M450
7–7½ in. (18–19 cm). **Male:** Note head pattern. A brown ground bird, larger than a sparrow, with *black mustache*, two small *black “horns”* (not always noticeable), and black breast splotch. **Walks**, does not hop. Overhead, pale with *black tail*; folds wings after each beat. Varies from paler to darker races. **Female and immature:** Duller. **Juvenile:** Very different, *streaked below*. **VOICE:** Song tinkling, irregular, high-pitched, often prolonged; from ground or in air. Call a clear *tsee-titi*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Juvenile sometimes misidentified as Sprague’s Pipit. **HABITAT:** Prairies, short-grass and dirt fields, golf courses, airports, shores, tundra.

SKY LARK (EURASIAN SKYLARK) *Alauda arvensis* Scarce, local
7½ in. (19 cm). Slightly larger than a sparrow; brown, strongly streaked; underparts buff white; breast streaked. *Trailing edge of broad-based wing and sides of tail white*. Short *crest*. **VOICE:** Call a clear, liquid *chir-r-up*. Song, in hovering flight, high-pitched, with long-sustained runs and trills. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Juvenile Horned Lark, pipits. **RANGE:** Introduced birds from Europe are resident on s. Vancouver I., BC. Vagrants from Asia reach w. AK islands. **HABITAT:** Open country, fields, airports.

BUSHTITS Family Aegithalidae

Very small, drab-gray birds with long tail. Nearly always found in flocks except during breeding season, often mixing with small birds of other species. Only representative in N. America of this Old World family. **FOOD:** Insects. **RANGE:** From sw. BC to s. Guatemala.



BUSHTIT *Psaltriparus minimus* Common M472
4½ in. (11 cm). A very small, plain bird that, except briefly during nesting season, moves from bush to tree in *straggling flocks*, conversing in light gentle notes. Other species, such as warblers, may join these flocks. Non-descript; gray back, pale underparts, brownish crown and cheeks, stubby bill, longish tail. Females have yellow eyes. Birds in Rockies and Great Basin have gray crown. Males of form known as “Black-eared” Bushtit in s. NM (San Luis Mts.) and w. TX (Davis and Chisos mts.) have black or black-flecked cheeks. **VOICE:** Insistent light *tsits*, *pits*, and *clenks*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Verdin, Wrentit. **HABITAT:** Oak scrub, chaparral, mixed woods, pinyon-juniper, parks, residential areas.

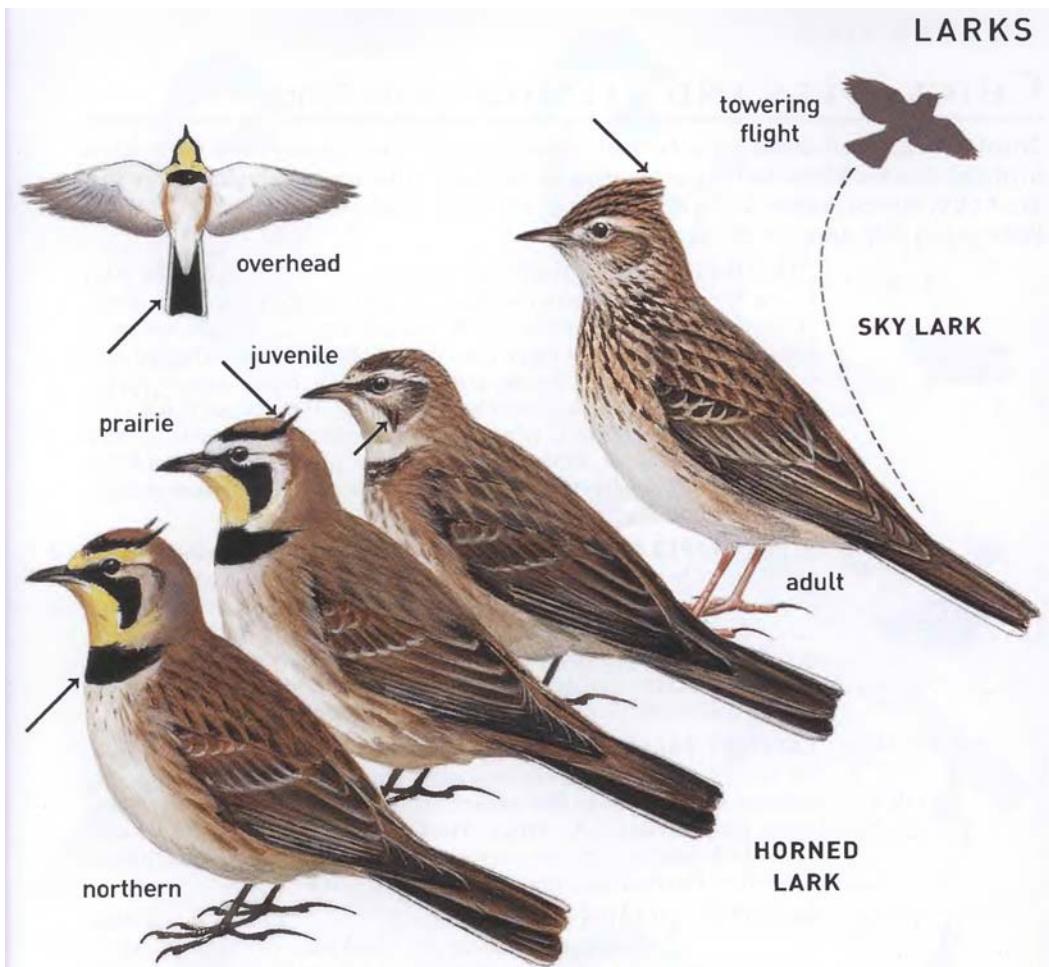
VERDIN Family Remizidae

Small, very active, pale gray desert birds with short, rounded tail and tiny pointed bill. Most often heard before they are seen. Found singly or in pairs, not flocks. Build large spherical nest for roosting. **FOOD:** Insects, fruit, berries. **RANGE:** Desert regions of sw. N. America.

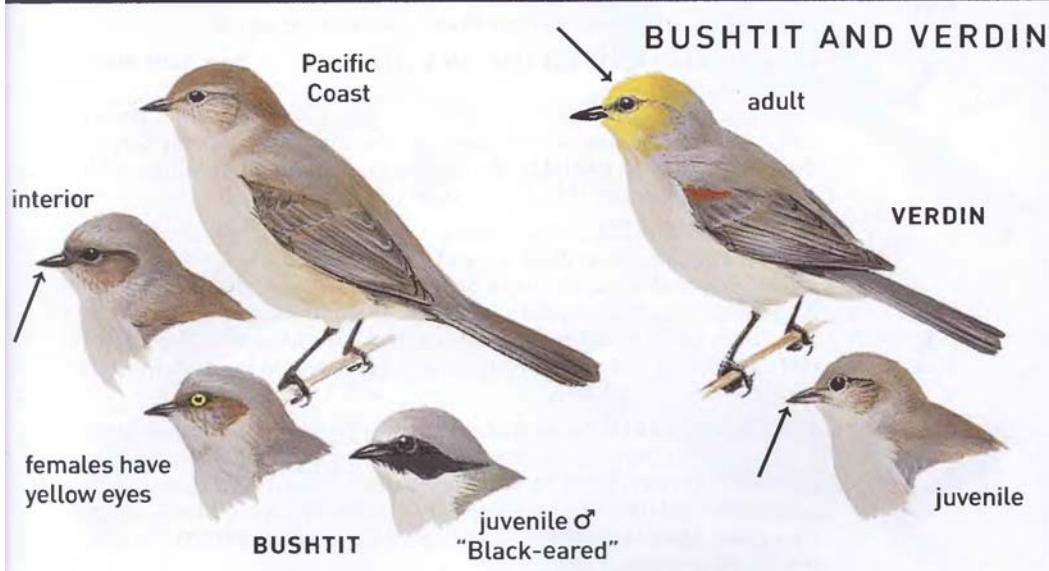


VERDIN *Auriparus flaviceps* Fairly common M471
4½ in. (11 cm). Tiny. **Adult:** Gray, with *yellowish head*, *rufous bend of wing* (often hidden). **Juvenile:** Just plain gray. **VOICE:** Insistent *see-lip*. Rapid chipping. Song a three-note whistle, *tsee see-see*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bushtit longer tailed than immature Verdin; does not usually live in desert lowlands. See also Lucy’s Warbler, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet. **HABITAT:** Brushy desert and semiarid lowlands, mesquite.

LARKS



BUSHTIT AND VERDIN



CHICKADEES AND TITMICE Family Paridae

Small, plump, small-billed birds. Acrobatic when feeding. Sexes usually alike. Often found in mixed-species flocks during nonbreeding season with other parids, kinglets, warblers, etc. **FOOD:** Insects, seeds, acorn mast, berries; at feeders, suet, sunflower seeds. **RANGE:** Widespread in N. America, Eurasia, Africa.



CAROLINA CHICKADEE *Poecile carolinensis*

Common M459

4¾ in. (12 cm). Very similar to Black-capped Chickadee and best distinguished by range and voice. **VOICE:** "Chickadee" call of this species is higher pitched and more rapid than that of Black-capped. Whistled song is a four-syllable *fee-bee, fee-bay*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black-capped Chickadee is slightly larger with cleaner white rear edge of cheek patch and more prominent white edging in wings (particularly the wing coverts). Hybrids are known. In some winters, Black-cappeds penetrate southward into range of Carolina. **HABITAT:** Mixed and deciduous woods; willow thickets, shade trees, residential areas, feeders.



BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE *Poecile atricapillus*

Common M460

5–5½ in. (12–13 cm). This small, tame acrobat can be separated from other widespread chickadees except Carolina by its *solid black cap* in conjunction with *gray back* and *buffy sides*. **VOICE:** Clearly enunciated *chick-a-dee-dee-dee*. Song a clear whistle, *fee-bee-ee* or *fee-bee*, first note higher. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Carolina Chickadee. **HABITAT:** Mixed and deciduous woods; willow thickets, shade trees, residential areas, feeders.



CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE *Poecile rufescens*

Fairly common M463

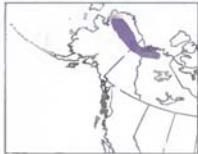
4¾ in. (12 cm). The cap, bib, and white cheeks indicate a chickadee; the *chestnut back and rump*, this species. Sides *chestnut* (or gray in race found along coast of cen. CA). **VOICE:** Hoarser and more rapid than Black-capped Chickadee, e.g., *sick-a-see-see*. No whistled song. **HABITAT:** Moist coniferous forests, oaks, willows, shade trees, parks.



MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE *Poecile gambeli*

Fairly common M461

5¼ in. (13 cm). Similar to Black-capped Chickadee, but black of cap interrupted by *white line over eye*. **VOICE:** Song a clear whistled *fee-bee-bee* or *fee-ee-bee-bee*, first note(s) usually higher; also *tsick-a-zee-zee-zee*, huskier than Black-capped's, and a rolling *deedledeleoo*. **HABITAT:** Mountain forests, conifers; irregularly moves to lower elevations in winter.



GRAY-HEADED CHICKADEE (SIBERIAN TIT) *Poecile cincta*

Rare, local M465

5½ in. (14 cm). This subarctic chickadee can be separated from Boreal Chickadee by its *grayer cap* and *more extensive white cheek*. **VOICE:** Peevish *dee-deer* or *chee-ee*. **HABITAT:** Spruce forests, particularly at border with streamside willow and alder thickets and cottonwoods.



MEXICAN CHICKADEE *Poecile sclateri*

Uncommon, local M462

5 in. (13 cm). Similar to Black-capped Chickadee, but *black of throat more extensive*, spreading across upper breast. Note *dark gray sides*. Lacks whitish supercilium of Mountain Chickadee. The only chickadee in its local U.S. range. **VOICE:** Nasal and husky for a chickadee: a low *dzay-dzee*. **HABITAT:** Montane coniferous forests; sometimes moves to lower canyons in winter.



BOREAL CHICKADEE *Poecile hudsonica*

Uncommon M464

5½ in. (14 cm). Note *dull brown cap*, rich brown to pinkish brown flanks, extensively *grayish cheeks*. **VOICE:** Wheezy *chick-che-day-day*; notes slower, more raspy and drawling than lively *chick-a-dee-dee-dee* of Black-capped Chickadee. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gray-headed Chickadee. **HABITAT:** Coniferous forests, evergreen plantations.

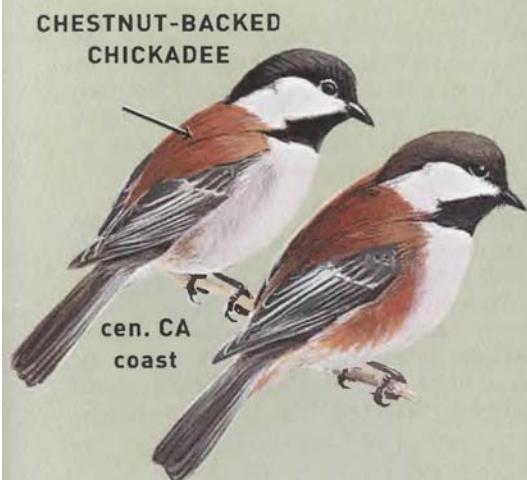
CHICKADEES



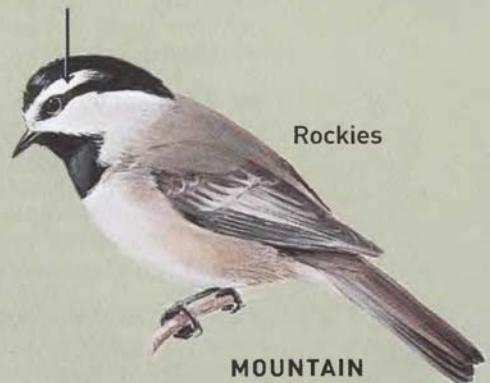
CAROLINA
CHICKADEE



BLACK-CAPPED
CHICKADEE



CHESTNUT-BACKED
CHICKADEE



MOUNTAIN
CHICKADEE



GRAY-HEADED
CHICKADEE

MEXICAN
CHICKADEE

BOREAL
CHICKADEE

**BLACK-CRESTED TITMOUSE***Baeolophus atricristatus*

Fairly common M470

6½ in. (16 cm). A small gray bird with *black crown and crest*. Forehead and underparts pale, sides rusty. Juveniles have mostly gray crest briefly in summer. **VOICE:** Chickadee-like calls. Song a whistled *peter peter peter peter* or *hear hear hear hear*. Varied. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Tufted Titmouse has plain gray crest and black forehead. Bridled Titmouse has harlequin face pattern. **HABITAT:** Woodlands, canyons, towns, feeders.

**TUFTED TITMOUSE***Baeolophus bicolor*

Common M469

6½ in. (16 cm). A small, gray, *mouse-colored bird with tufted crest*. Flanks *rusty buff*. Plain face, large black eyes. Very inquisitive and loudly vocal. **VOICE:** Clear whistled chant: *peter peter, peter or here, here, here, here*. Calls similar to those of chickadees, but more drawling, nasal, wheezy, and complaining. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other titmice, chickadees. **HABITAT:** Woodlands, shade trees, groves, residential areas, feeders.

**OAK TITMOUSE***Baeolophus inornatus*

Fairly common M467

5¾ in. (15 cm). This is the sole titmouse west of Sierra Nevada. Very like Juniper Titmouse, but slightly browner. Plain Titmouse was split into Oak and Juniper titmice. **VOICE:** Call a scratchy *sissi-chee*. Song a whistled *weety weety* or *tee-wit tee-wit tee-wit*; highly variable. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other titmice, but separated by range. **HABITAT:** Oak and oak-pine woods; locally in riparian woodlands, shade trees, residential areas.

**JUNIPER TITMOUSE***Baeolophus ridgwayi*

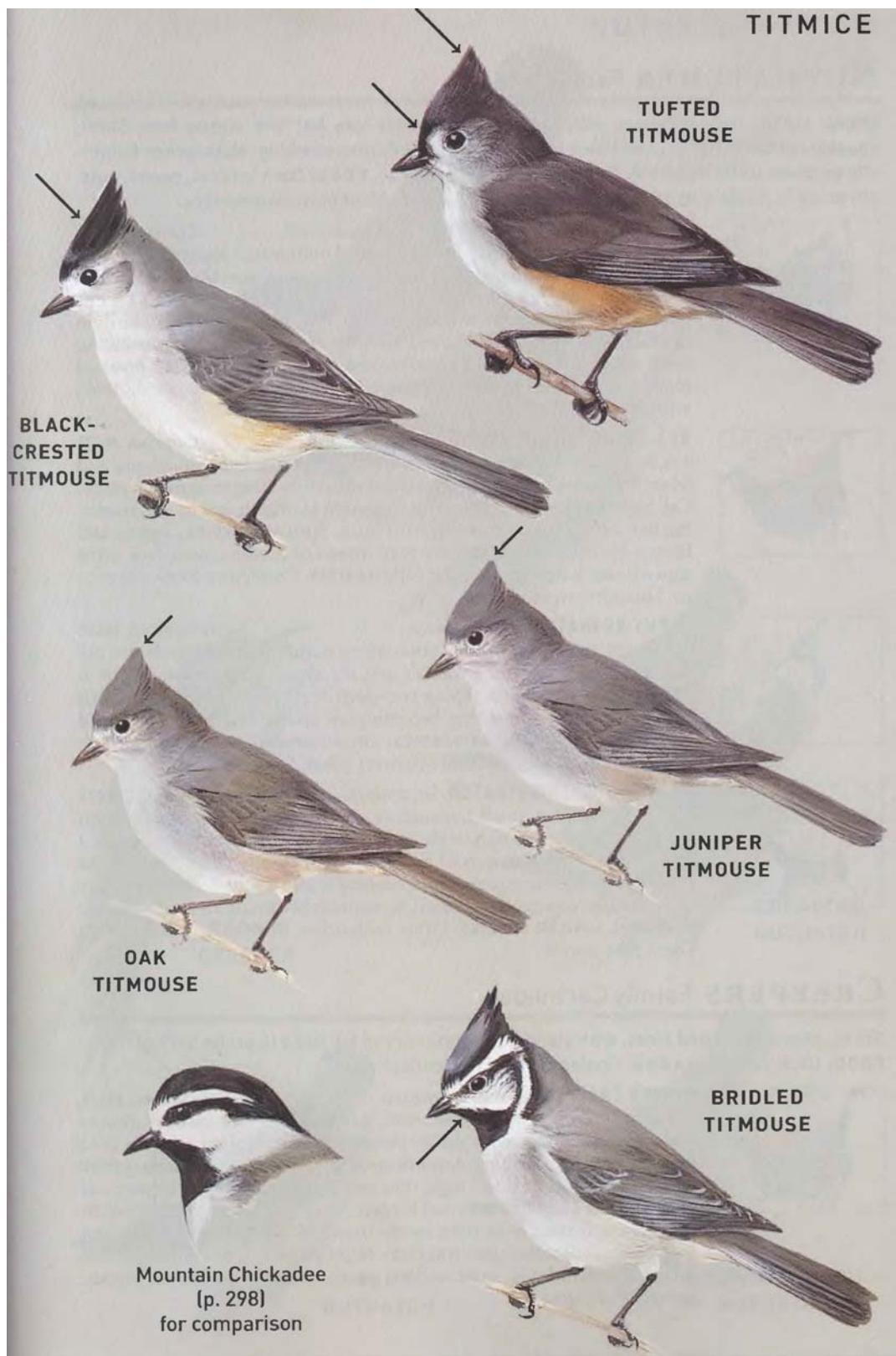
Uncommon M468

5¾ in. (15 cm). Birds bearing the name "titmouse" are our only *small*, gray-backed birds with pointed crest. Juniper and Oak titmice were once combined as a single species, Plain Titmouse. The two are very similar, although Juniper is slightly grayer. **VOICE:** Call more rapid than Oak's, *si-dee-dee-dee-dee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Juniper Titmice reported from Big Bend and Edwards Plateau areas of TX are probably young Black-crested Titmice, which have short gray crest. **HABITAT:** Pinyon-juniper and oak-juniper woodlands.

**BRIDLED TITMOUSE***Baeolophus wollweberi*

Fairly common M466

5¼ in. (13 cm). Crest and black-and-white "*bridled*" face identify this small gray titmouse of Southwest. **VOICE:** Similar to other titmice and chickadees, but higher and faster. Song a repeated two-syllable phrase. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black-crested Titmouse. **HABITAT:** Oak, pine-oak, and sycamore canyons, riparian woodlands, feeders.



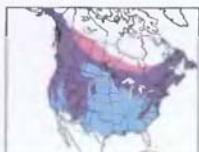
NUTHATCHES Family Sittidae

Small, stubby tree climbers with strong, woodpecker-like bill and strong feet. Short, square-cut tail is not braced like a woodpecker's tail during climbing. Nuthatches habitually go down trees headfirst. Sexes similar, or mostly so. FOOD: Bark insects, seeds, nuts; attracted to feeders by suet, sunflower seeds. RANGE: Most of N. Hemisphere.



WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH *Sitta carolinensis* Common M474

5½ in. (15 cm). This, the most widespread nuthatch, is known by its *black cap* (gray in female) and beady black eye on white face. Undertail coverts chestnut. VOICE: Song a rapid series of low, nasal, whistled notes on one pitch: *whi, whi, whi, whi, whi, whi* or *who, who, who, who, who*, etc. Notes of birds in interior West higher pitched and given in rapid series. Call a distinctive nasal *yank, yank, yank*; also a nasal *tootoo*. SIMILAR SPECIES: Red-breasted Nuthatch. HABITAT: Forests, woodlots, groves, river woods, shade trees; visits feeders.



RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH *Sitta canadensis* Common M473

4½ in. (11 cm). A small nuthatch with *broad black line* through eye and white line above it. Underparts washed with rusty (deeper in male). VOICE: Call higher, more nasal than White-breasted Nuthatch, *ank* or *enk*, sounding like a baby nuthatch or tiny tin horn. SIMILAR SPECIES: Pygmy and Brown-headed nuthatches have gray-brown or brown crown, lack white supercilium, have very different calls. HABITAT: Coniferous forests; in winter, also other trees, feeders.



PYGMY NUTHATCH *Sitta pygmaea* Fairly common M475

4½ in. (11 cm). A very small, pine-loving nuthatch, with *gray-brown cap coming down to eye* and a whitish spot on nape. Usually roams about in little flocks. VOICE: High, piping *peep-peep* or *pit-pi-dit-pi-dit*. Also a high *ki-dee*; incessant, sometimes becoming an excited chatter. Often heard before it is seen. SIMILAR SPECIES: Brown-headed Nuthatch. HABITAT: Favors ponderosa, Jeffrey, and Monterey pines, Douglas-fir.

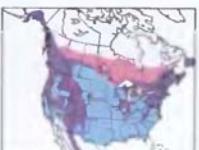


BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH *Sitta pusilla* Uncommon M476

4½ in. (11 cm). A small nuthatch of southern pinelands. Smaller than White-breasted Nuthatch, with brown cap coming down to eye and a usually pale or whitish spot on nape. Travels in groups. VOICE: Sounds like a toy rubber mouse: a high, rapid *kit-kit-kit*; also a squeaky piping *ki-day* or *ki-dee-dee*, constantly repeated, sometimes becoming an excited twitter or chatter. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other nuthatches, Brown Creeper. HABITAT: Open pine woods.

CREEPERS Family Certhiidae

Small, slim, stiff-tailed birds, with slender, slightly curved bill used to probe bark of trees. FOOD: Bark insects. RANGE: Cooler parts of N. Hemisphere.

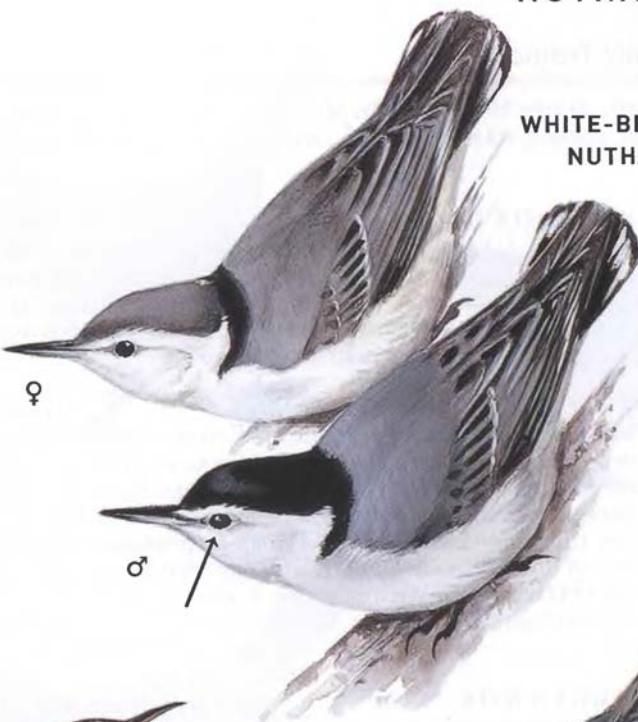


BROWN CREEPER *Certhia americana* Uncommon M477

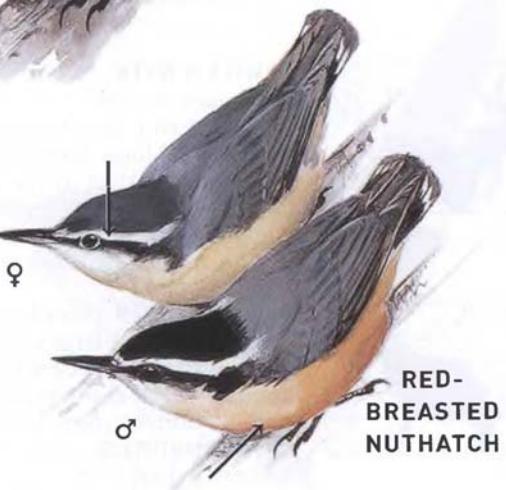
5¼ in. (13 cm). A very small, slim, camouflaged tree climber. Brown above, whitish below, with *slender decurved bill* and *stiff tail*, which is used as a brace during climbing. Ascends trees spirally from base, hugging bark closely. VOICE: Call a single high, thin *see*, similar to quick three-note call (*see-see-see*) of Golden-crowned Kinglet. Song a high, thin, sibilant *see-ti-wee-tu-wee* or *trees, trees, trees, see the trees*. SIMILAR SPECIES: Pygmy and Brown-headed nuthatches. HABITAT: Nests in variety of coniferous and mixed woodlands; in nonbreeding season, also in deciduous woods, groves, shade trees.

NUTHATCHES AND
CREEPER

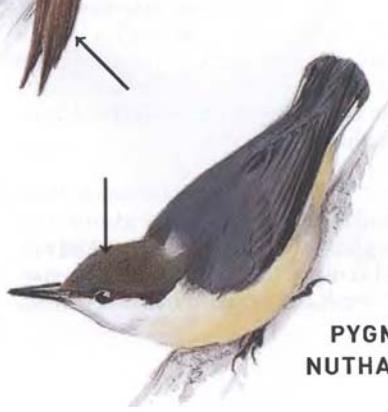
WHITE-BREASTED
NUTHATCH



BROWN
CREEPER



RED-
BREASTED
NUTHATCH



PYGMY
NUTHATCH



BROWN-HEADED
NUTHATCH

WRENS Family Troglodytidae

Mostly small, energetic brown birds; stumpy, with slim, slightly curved bill; tail often cocked. **FOOD:** Insects, spiders. **RANGE:** N., Cen., and S. America; one (Winter Wren) also in Eurasia.



HOUSE WREN *Troglodytes aedon*

Common M483
4½–4¾ in. (11–12 cm). A small, energetic, gray-brown wren with light eye-ring and no strong eyebrow stripe. **VOICE:** Stuttering, gurgling song rises in a musical burst, then falls at end; calls a rolled *prrrrr* and harsh *cheh, cheh*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Winter Wren. **HABITAT:** Open woods, thickets, towns, gardens; often nests in bird boxes.



WINTER WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Uncommon M484
4 in. (10 cm). A very small, round, dark wren, told from House Wren by its smaller size, *much stubbier tail*, stronger eyebrow, and *dark, heavily barred belly*. Often bobs body and flicks wings. Mouselike and secretive; stays near ground. **VOICE:** Song a rapid succession of high tinkling warbles, trills. Call a hard, two-syllable *timp-timp* (suggests Wilson's Warbler) west of Rockies, or *kip-kip* (suggests Song Sparrow) east of Rockies. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** House Wren and other small wrens. **HABITAT:** Dense, shaded woodland underbrush, ferns, fallen trees; in summer, also coniferous forests.



BEWICK'S WREN

Thryomanes bewickii

Common in West, scarce in East M482

5¼ in. (13 cm). Note longish tail with *white corners* and bold *white eyebrow stripe*. Mouse brown above. **VOICE:** Song suggests Song Sparrow's, but thinner, starting on two or three high notes, dropping lower, ending on a thin trill; calls sharp *vit, vit* and buzzy *dzzzzzt*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Some Carolina Wrens have limited buff below. **HABITAT:** Thickets, underbrush, gardens; often nests in bird boxes.



CAROLINA WREN *Thryothorus ludovicianus*

Common M481
5½ in. (14 cm). A large wren, near size of a sparrow. *Warm rusty brown* above, variably buff below; conspicuous *white eyebrow stripe*. **VOICE:** Two- or three-syllable chant. Variable; *tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea kettle*, or *chirpy, chirpy, chirpy, chirp*. Variety of chips and churrs. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bewick's and Marsh wrens. **HABITAT:** Tangles, undergrowth, gardens; often nests in bird boxes.



SEDGE WREN *Cistothorus platensis*

Uncommon, secretive M485
4½ in. (11 cm). Stubbier than Marsh Wren; buffier, with *buffy undertail coverts, barred wings, and finely streaked crown*. **VOICE:** Song a dry staccato chattering: *chap chap chap chap chap chap chapper-rrrrr*. Call a single or double *chap*, like first note of song. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** House Wren. **HABITAT:** Grassy and sedgy marshes and meadows.

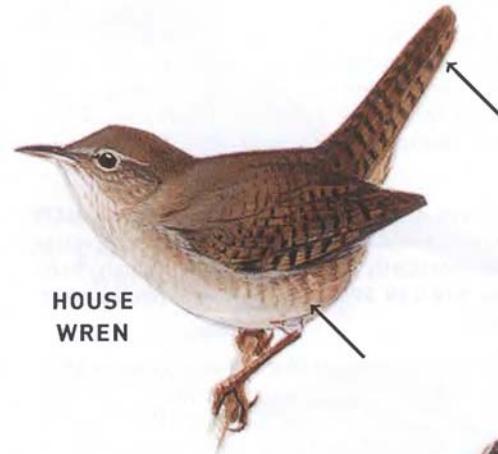


MARSH WREN *Cistothorus palustris*

Fairly common M486
5 in. (13 cm). *White stripes on back* and white eyebrow stripe identify this marsh dweller. **VOICE:** Song reedy, gurgling, often ending in a guttural rattle: *cut-cut-turrrrrrrr-ur*; often heard at night. Call a low *tsuck-tsuck*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Sedge Wren. **HABITAT:** Fresh and brackish marshes (cattail, tule, bulrush); in winter, also salt marshes.

WRENS

HOUSE
WREN



WINTER
WREN



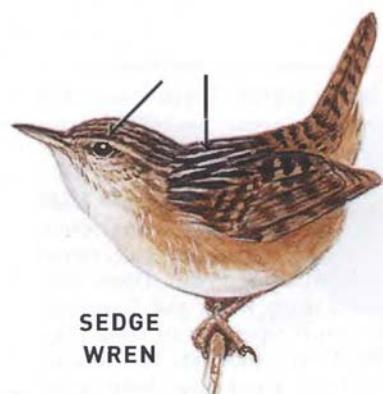
BEWICK'S
WREN



CAROLINA
WREN



SEDGE
WREN



MARSH
WREN



**CANYON WREN** *Catherpes mexicanus*

Fairly common M480

5¾–6 in. (15 cm). Note white bib. Rusty, with dark rufous brown belly contrasting with white breast and throat. Long, slightly decurved bill.

VOICE: Gushing cadence of clear, curved notes tripping down scale; *te-you, te-you, tew tew*. Or *tee tee tee tew tew tew tew tew*. Call a shrill *beet*.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Rock and Bewick's wrens. **HABITAT:** Cliffs, canyons, rockslides, stone buildings.

**ROCK WREN** *Salpinctes obsoletus*

Fairly common M479

6 in. (15 cm). A gray western wren with *finely streaked breast*, rusty rump, and *buffy terminal tail band*. Frequently bobs. **VOICE:** Song a harsh chant. A loud dry trill; also *ti-keer*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Canyon Wren. **HABITAT:** Rocky slopes, canyons, rubble.

**CACTUS WREN** *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*

Fairly common M478

8½ in. (22 cm). A very large wren of arid country. Distinguished from other N. American wrens by *much larger size and heavy spotting*, which in adults gathers into *a cluster on upper breast*. White supercilium, chestnut cap. Spotted outer tail feathers. **VOICE:** Monotonous *chu-chu-chu-chu* or *chug-chug-chug-chug*, on one pitch, gaining speed. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Smaller wrens, Sage Thrasher. **HABITAT:** Arid areas of cactus, mesquite, yucca.

BABBLERS Family Timaliidae

Long-tailed denizens of brushy cover. This Old World family is represented in N. America by just one species. **FOOD:** Insects, fruit. **RANGE:** Widespread in temperate and tropical Old World.

**WRENTIT** *Chamaea fasciata*

Fairly common M508

6½ in. (17 cm). Heard far more often than seen. *Long*, rounded, slightly cocked tail and obscurely streaked breast help identify this small, drab bird, which can be seen as it slips through brush. *Eye distinctly pale*. Bill short. Behavior wrenlike. Slight pinkish cast on breast. Southern birds grayer overall, northern ones browner. **VOICE:** Song (heard year-round) consists of staccato ringing notes on one pitch; starting deliberately, running into a trill—like a bouncing ball. Female gives slower, double-note version. Call a soft *prr*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bushtit much smaller, usually travels in flocks. **HABITAT:** Chaparral, coastal sage scrub, brush, parks, garden shrubs.

DIPPERS Family Cinclidae

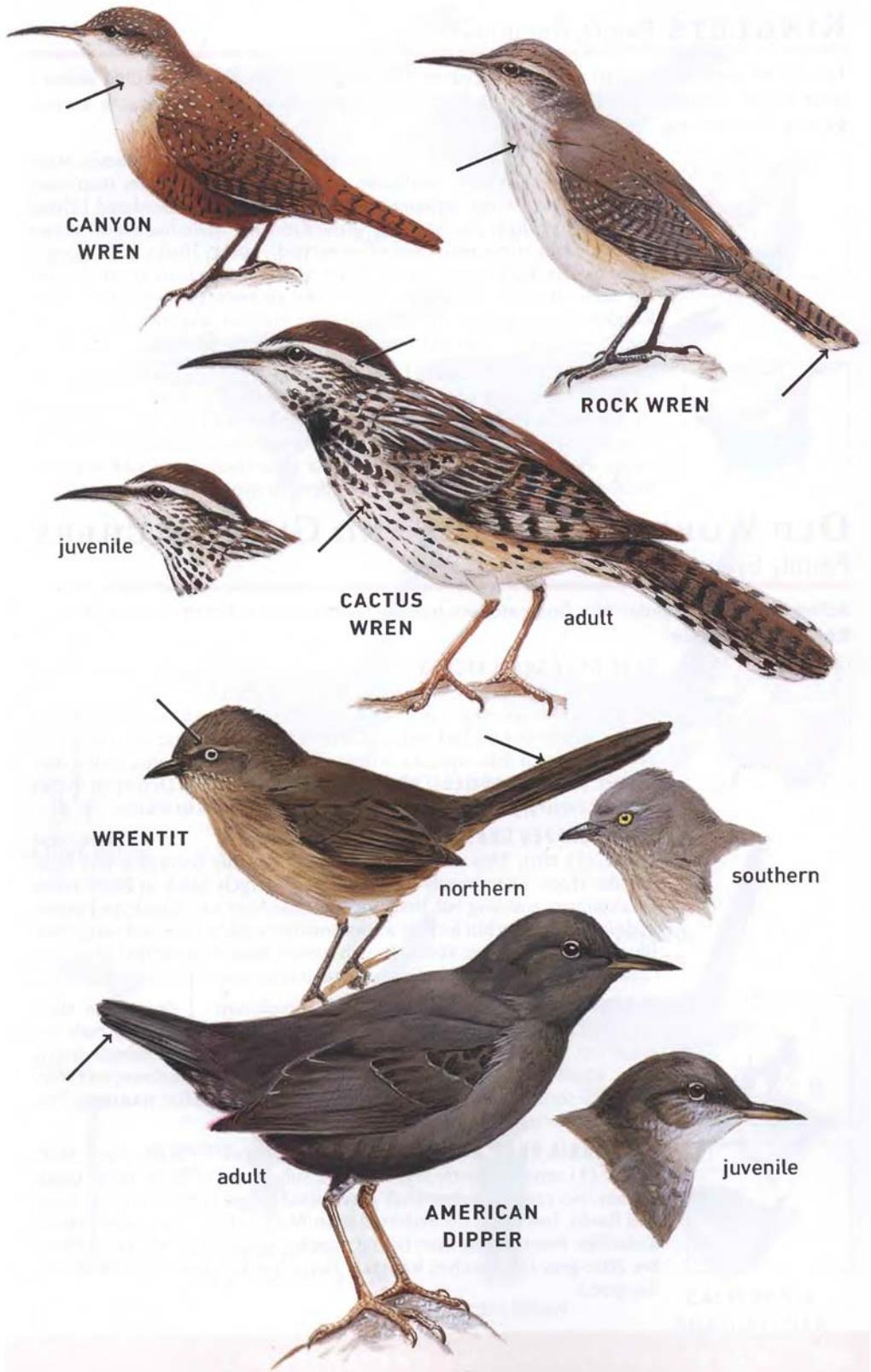
Plump, stub-tailed; like very large wrens. Solitary or in family groups. Dippers dive and swim underwater, where they walk on bottom. **FOOD:** Insects, larvae, aquatic invertebrates, small fish. **RANGE:** Eurasia, w. N. America, Andes of S. America.

**AMERICAN DIPPER** *Cinclus mexicanus*

Uncommon M487

7½ in. (19 cm). A chunky, *slate-colored* bird of rushing mountain streams. Shaped like a wren (size of a small thrush); *tail stubby*. Legs pale, *eyelids white*. Note bobbing motions, slaty color, flashing eyelid. Dives, submerges. *Juvenile*: Has pale bill. **VOICE:** Call a sharp, buzzy *zeet*. Song clear and ringing, mockingbird-like in form (much repetition of notes), but higher, more wrenlike. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Wrens. **HABITAT:** Fast-flowing streams in mountains and canyons; more rarely pond edges. Nests under bridges, behind waterfalls. Some birds move to lower elevations in winter.

WRENS, WRENTIT, AND DIPPER



KINGLETS Family Regulidae

Tiny active birds with small slender bill, short tail, bright crown. In nonbreeding season, often found in mixed-species flocks with chickadees and warblers. FOOD: Insects, larvae. RANGE: N. America.



RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET *Regulus calendula* Common M489
4½ in. (11 cm). A tiny, stub-tailed, olive-gray birdlet, smaller than most warblers, *flicks wings constantly*. Note bold wing bars bordered behind by black “highlight bar,” broken white eye-ring. Male has *scarlet crown patch* (usually concealed; erect when excited). VOICE: Husky *ji-dit*. Song is three or four high notes, several lower notes, and a chant, *tee tee tee-tew tew tew—ti-didee, ti-didee, ti-didee*. SIMILAR SPECIES: Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hutton’s Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler. HABITAT: In summer, coniferous forests; in migration and winter, variety of other woodlands.



GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET *Regulus satrapa* Fairly common M488
4 in. (10 cm). Tiny olive-gray bird, smaller than warblers. Note *boldly striped face*, wing bars. Flicks wings, though less emphatically than Ruby-crowned Kinglet. VOICE: High, wiry *see-see-see*. Song a series of high thin notes, ascending, then dropping into a little chatter. SIMILAR SPECIES: Ruby-crowned Kinglet. HABITAT: Conifers; in winter, also other trees.

OLD WORLD WARBLERS AND GNATCATCHERS Family Sylviidae

Active birds with slender bill. Gnatcatchers have long, mobile tail. FOOD: Insects, larvae. RANGE: Worldwide.



BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER *Polioptila caerulea* Fairly common M491
4½ in. (11 cm). A tiny, slim mite, blue-gray above, whitish below, with narrow white eye-ring. Long tail is mostly white underneath and often flipped about and cocked. VOICE: Call a thin, peevish *zpee*; often doubled, *zpee-zee*. Song a thin, squeaky, wheezy, bubbly series of notes, easily overlooked. SIMILAR SPECIES: Other gnatcatchers. HABITAT: Dry, open woods in West; swampier woods in East; also brushy habitats in winter.



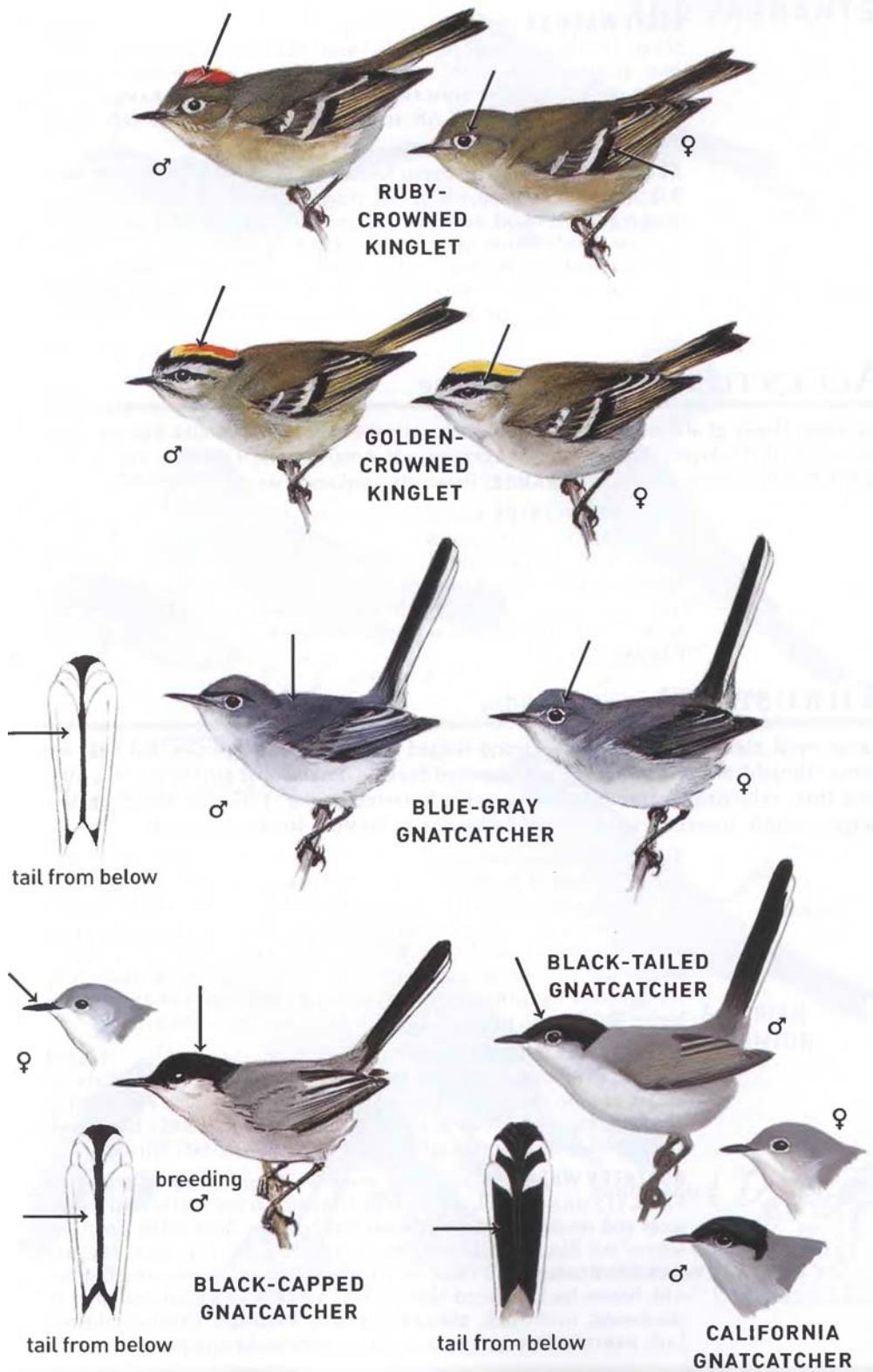
BLACK-CAPPED GNATCATCHER *Polioptila nigriceps* Rare, local
4½ in. (11 cm). This visitor to se. AZ has recently become a very local breeder there. Note *largely white undertail* (largely black in Black-tailed Gnatcatcher) and *long bill*. Breeding male has *black cap*; female and winter male lack black cap but former shows browner wash to back and wings than Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. VOICE: Rough *meeeer*. SIMILAR SPECIES: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. HABITAT: Brushy washes and streamside habitat in desert.



BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER *Polioptila melanura* Uncommon M493
4½ in. (11 cm). Similar to Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, but breeding male has *black cap*, both sexes have darker underparts, underside of tail *largely black*. VOICE: Call a thin harsh *chee*, repeated two or three times; soft *chip-chip-chip* series. SIMILAR SPECIES: California Gnatcatcher. HABITAT: Desert brush, ravines, dry washes, mesquite.

CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER *Polioptila californica* Scarce, local M492
4½ in. (11 cm). Formerly regarded as a subspecies of Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. No range overlap. Dull gray below, tinged buff-brown on wings and flanks, less white on undertail than Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. VOICE: Kittenlike *meew*, rising then falling; harsher *jih-jih-jih*. SIMILAR SPECIES: See Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. HABITAT: Restricted to coastal sage scrub. Endangered.

KINGLETS AND GNATCATCHERS



DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Vagrant

5¼ in. (13 cm). A small, plain Old World warbler; *brown above, no wing bars*. Whitish below, with *buffy eyebrow*, flanks, and undertail coverts. **VOICE:** Call a hard *tik*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Arctic Warbler. **RANGE:** Asian species; casual vagrant to AK and CA, mostly in fall. **HABITAT:** Thick, scrubby cover.

**ARCTIC WARBLER** *Phylloscopus borealis*

Uncommon, local M490

5 in. (13 cm). A small, plain, Old World warbler; bill and legs slightly thicker than in wood-warblers. Dull greenish above, whitish below; light eyebrow; *single narrow whitish wing bar*; pale or dusky legs. Fresh birds in fall are brighter green above, yellowish below. Sexes similar. **VOICE:** Song a monotonous series of buzzy notes; call a buzzy *tsik*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Orange-crowned and Tennessee warblers. **HABITAT:** Willow and alder scrub.

ACCENTORS Family Prunellidae

Eurasian family of attractive birds in genus *Prunella* that appear thrushlike but are more closely related to pipits. Only one species occurs in N. America, and it does so only as a vagrant. **FOOD:** Insects, seeds, fruit. **RANGE:** Palearctic regions of world.

SIBERIAN ACCENTOR *Prunella montanella*

Vagrant

5½ in. (14 cm). *Dark cheeks; bright ochre-buff eyebrow; bright ochre-buff throat and underparts*; plum brown upperparts. Sides streaked; bill warblerlike. **VOICE:** Call a thin, high-pitched *sree* given in series. **RANGE:** Primarily a very rare fall visitor to St. Lawrence I., casual to other Bering Sea islands. Accidental at several seasons to mainland AK, BC, WA, ID, MT. **HABITAT:** Thickets.

THRUSHES Family Turdidae

Large-eyed, slender-billed, usually strong-legged songbirds. Most species that bear the name "thrush" are brown-backed with spotted breasts. Robins and bluebirds, etc., suggest their relationship through their speckle-breasted young. Thrushes are often fine singers. **FOOD:** Insects, worms, snails, berries, fruit. **RANGE:** Nearly worldwide.

**BLUETHROAT** *Luscinia svecica*

Scarce, local M494

5½ in. (14 cm). A small, sprightly bird; often cocks tail. Skulking, except for singing male. When tail slightly spread, shows *chestnut base*. Distinct pale supercilium. *Male: Blue throat* (partially blue in nonbreeding plumage) with *reddish patches*. *Female: Whitish throat with dark necklace*. **VOICE:** Call a sharp *tac* and a soft *wheet*; often a cricketlike note. Song composed of repetitious notes, musical and varied. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Siberian Rubythroat. **HABITAT:** Dwarf willows and alders, thick brush.

SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT *Luscinia calliope*

Vagrant

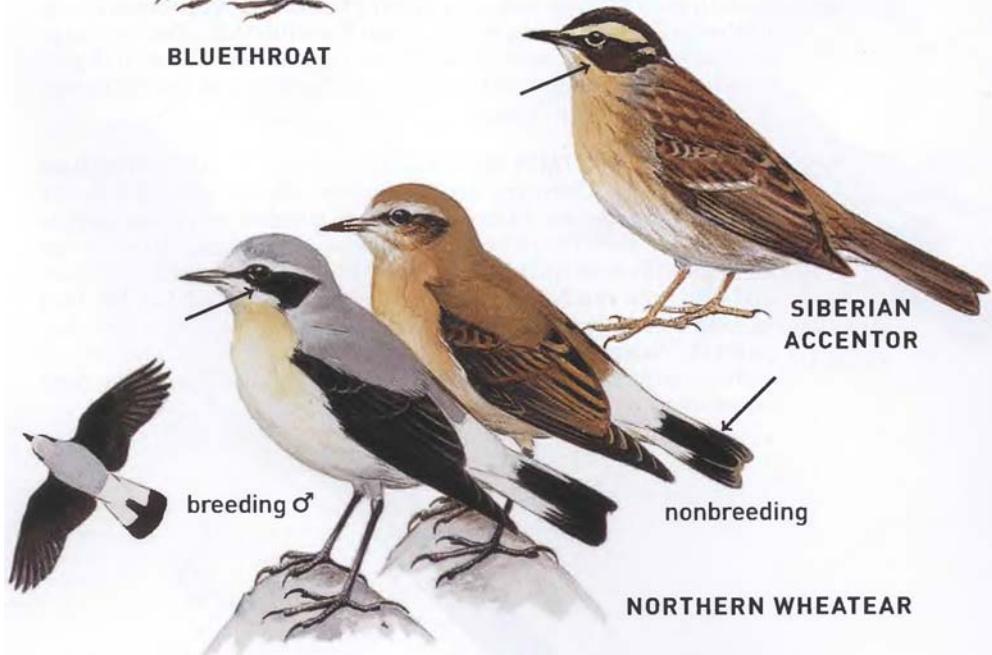
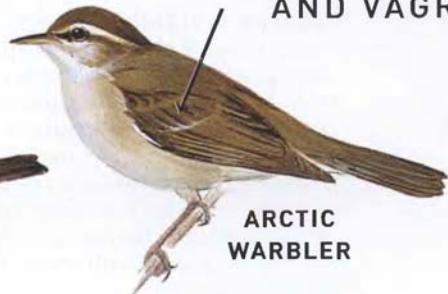
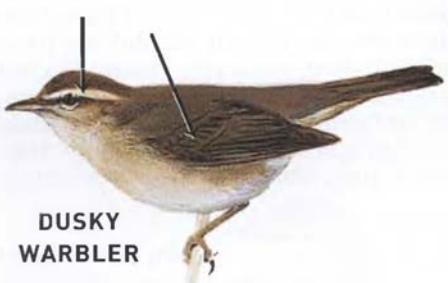
6 in. (15 cm). Brown above; white eyebrow and whiskers. *Male: Ruby red throat, gray breast*. *Female: White throat, light brown sides*. **VOICE:** Series of chattering notes. Call a sharp *chak*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bluethroat. **RANGE:** Asian species; very rare vagrant to w. AK. **HABITAT:** Thickets.

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Uncommon, local M495

5¾ in. (15 cm). A small, dapper bird of Arctic barrens, particularly rocky areas and roadsides, fanning its tail and bobbing. Note *white rump and sides of tail*. Black on tail forms *broad inverted T*. **Breeding male:** Pale gray back, black wings, and *black ear patch*. **Female and nonbreeding:** Buffier, with brown back, reduced black in face. **VOICE:** Call a hard *chak-chak* or *chack-weet, weet-chack*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Mountain Bluebird, Horned Lark. **HABITAT:** Open, stony areas; in summer, rocky tundra.

ALASKA AND ARCTIC NESTERS
AND VAGRANTS



**EASTERN BLUEBIRD** *Sialia sialis*

Fairly common M496

7 in. (18 cm). A blue bird with *rusty red breast*; appears round-shouldered when perched. Female duller than male; has *rusty throat* and *breast*, *white belly*. *Juvenile*: Speckle-breasted. **VOICE**: Call a musical *chur-wi*. Song three or four gurgling notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Western Bluebird, but *throat rusty*, not blue. Belly and undertail *whiter*, not as gray. Western Bluebird usually has some rust color on back. Fresh female and immature Mountain Bluebirds may have warm buff wash on throat and breast, but flanks not as bright, and they are longer winged and slightly longer billed. **HABITAT**: Open country with scattered trees; farms, roadsides. Often nests in bluebird boxes.

**WESTERN BLUEBIRD** *Sialia mexicana*

Fairly common M497

7 in. (18 cm). Appears round-shouldered when perched. **Male**: Head, wings, and tail *blue*; breast and back *rusty red*. (In some birds, back is partially or wholly blue.) **Throat blue**. **Female**: Paler, duller, with *rusty breast*, *grayish throat* and *belly*. **Juvenile**: Speckle-breasted, grayish, devoid of red, but with some telltale blue in wings and tail. **VOICE**: Short *pew* or *mew*. Also a hard, chattering note. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Eastern Bluebird. Fresh female and immature Mountain Bluebirds have buff wash on breast, but flanks duller, blue typically slightly paler, and bill and wings slightly longer. **HABITAT**: Scattered trees, open pine forests, oak savanna, farms; in winter, semiopen terrain, pinyon-juniper, mistletoe, mesquite, parks, golf courses, desert edges. Nests in cavities, including nest boxes.

**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** *Sialia currucoides*

Fairly common M498

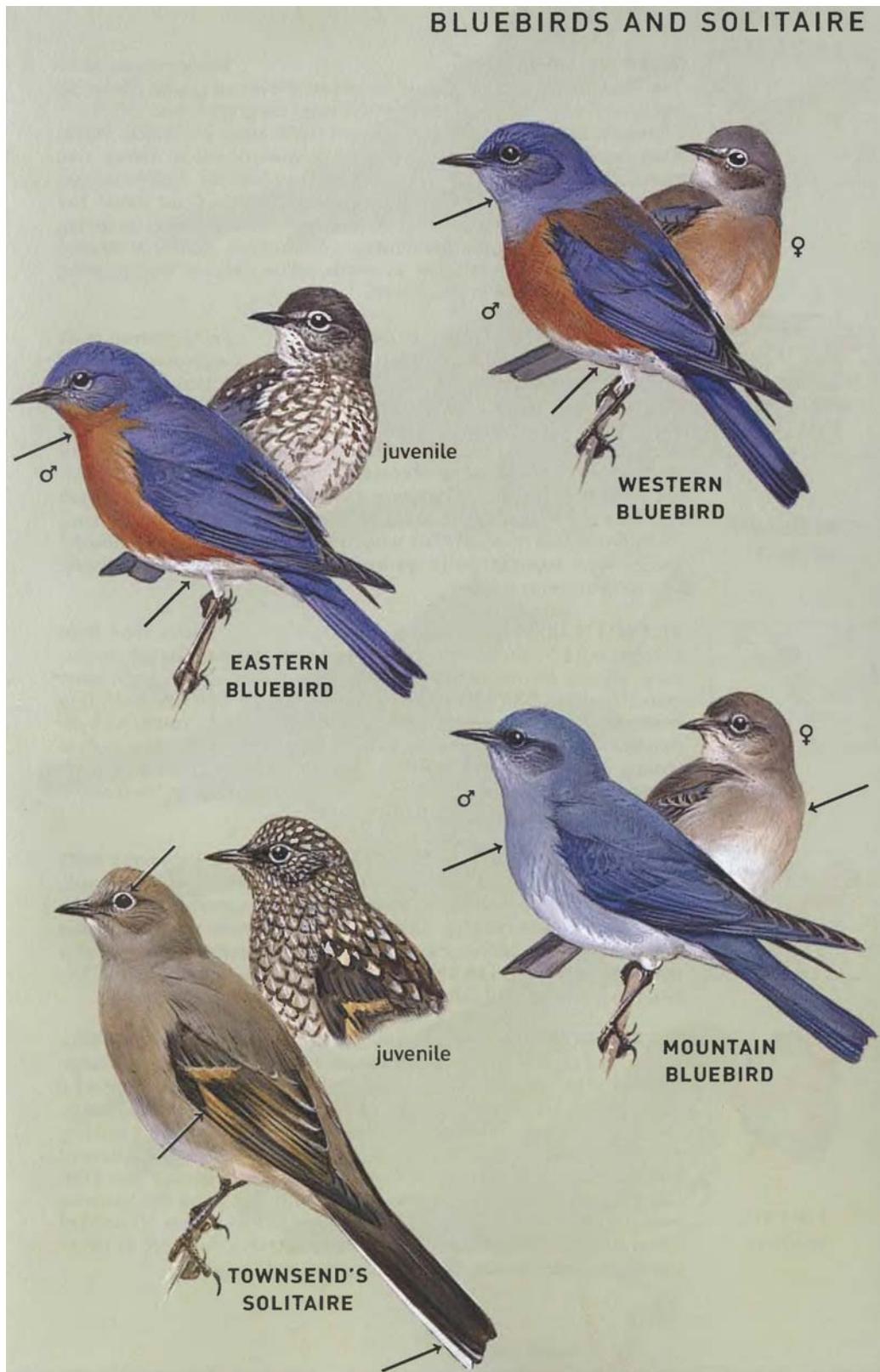
7½–7½ in. (18–19 cm). **Male**: *Turquoise blue*, paler below; belly whitish. No *rusty*. **Female and immature**: Dull brownish gray, with touch of pale blue on rump, tail, and wings. **VOICE**: Low *chur* or *vhew*. Song a short, subdued warble. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Has straighter posture than female Western and Eastern bluebirds, with slightly longer bill and tail. Warm-colored birds in fresh plumage lack *rusty-colored flanks*. Like other bluebirds, often forms flocks in winter, but Mountain Bluebird flocks often very large, and this species more apt to be seen hovering over fields in search of prey. **HABITAT**: Open country with some trees; in winter, also treeless terrain. Often nests in bluebird boxes.

**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** *Myadestes townsendi*

Uncommon M499

8½ in. (22 cm). A slim gray bird with *white eye-ring*, *white sides on tail*, and *buffy wing patches*. Pattern in wing and tail gives it a not-too-remote resemblance to Northern Mockingbird, but note eye-ring, darker breast, and especially buff wing patches. **Juvenile**: Dark overall with light spots and scaly belly. **VOICE**: Song a rich warbling. Call a high-pitched *eek*, like a squeaky bicycle wheel. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Northern Mockingbird, shrikes. **HABITAT**: Variety of coniferous forests almost to tree line, rocky cliffs; in winter, particularly fond of junipers, also chaparral, open woods. Nests on ground.

BLUEBIRDS AND SOLITAIRE



**VEERY** *Catharus fuscescens*

Fairly common M500
7 in. (18 cm). Note *uniform rusty brown* cast above and grayish flanks. No strong eye-ring (may have dull whitish ring) on grayish face. Of all our brown thrushes, this is the least spotted (spots often indistinct). **VOICE:** Song liquid, breezy, ethereal, wheeling downward: *vee-ur, vee-ur, veer, veer*. Call a down-slurred *phew* or *view*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Easily confused with russet-backed race of Swainson's Thrush (Pacific Coast states), but latter has distinct buffy eye-ring or spectacles, more spotting on breast, browner sides and flanks, and different vocalizations. Also Gray-cheeked Thrush. **HABITAT:** Moist deciduous woods, willow and alder thickets along streams and meadows in pine forests.

**SWAINSON'S THRUSH** *Catharus ustulatus*

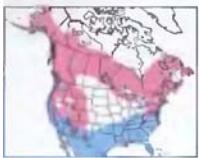
Fairly common M503
7 in. (18 cm). This spotted thrush is marked by its conspicuous *buffy eye-ring* or *spectacles*, buff on cheeks and upper breast. Interior and eastern forms are dull *olivey brown* above; subspecies in Pacific Coast region much more *russet*. **VOICE:** Song is breezy, flutelike phrases, each phrase sliding *upward*. Call a liquid *whit* or *foot*. Migrants at night (in sky) give a short whistled *quee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gray-cheeked Thrush has thin, often *incomplete* grayish eye-ring on *grayish face*. Young Hermit Thrush may have buff-tinged eye-ring, but all Hermits show *contrasty rufous tail, no buffy* on breast, regularly *flick wings and raise tail*, and *vocalizations differ*. See Veery. **HABITAT:** Moist spruce and fir forests, riparian woodlands; in migration, other woods.

**BICKNELL'S THRUSH** *Catharus bicknelli*

Scarce, local M502
6½–6¾ in. (17 cm). Slightly smaller than Gray-cheeked Thrush, upperparts *warmer brown, tail dull chestnut*, breast *washed with buffy*, lower mandible more than half yellow (less than half in Gray-cheeked). Legs more dusky than toes (uniform pale in Gray-cheeked). **VOICE:** Melodic flutelike rolling from high to low to high, *whee-toolee-weee*, rising at close (falling in Gray-cheeked). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gray-cheeked and Hermit thrushes. **HABITAT:** Breeds in stunted mountain fir forests of Northeast to shoreline in Maritimes. In migration, forests.

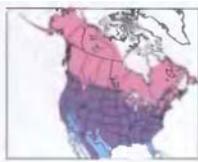
**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** *Catharus minimus*

Uncommon M501
7–7¼ in. (17–18 cm). A dull, "cold-colored," *gray-brown*, furtive thrush, distinguished from Swainson's by its *grayish cheeks, grayish, less conspicuous, often broken eye-ring*. *Little or no buffy on breast*. **VOICE:** Song thin and nasal, downward, suggesting Veery's: *whee-wheeo-titi-wheew*. Call a downward *pheu*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other thrushes. **HABITAT:** Boreal forests, tundra willow and alder scrub; in migration, other woodlands.

**HERMIT THRUSH** *Catharus guttatus*

Fairly common M504
6¾ in. (17 cm). A spot-breasted brown thrush with *rufous tail*. When perched, it has habit of *flicking wings* and of *cocking tail and dropping it slowly*. Different subspecies groups vary in exact color of back and flanks, some being warmer, others grayer. **VOICE:** Call a low *chuck*; also a scolding *tuk-tuk-tuk* and a rising, whiny *pay*. Song clear, ethereal, flutelike; three or four phrases at *different pitches*, each with a *long introductory note*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes. Some Fox Sparrows have rusty tail and are found in same habitat, but they are heavily streaked rather than spotted and have conical bill. **HABITAT:** Coniferous or mixed woods; in winter, woods, thickets, chaparral, parks, gardens.



**AMERICAN ROBIN** *Turdus migratorius*

Common M506

10 in. (25 cm). A very familiar bird; often seen on lawns, with an erect stance, giving short runs then pauses. Recognized by dark gray back and brick red breast. Dark stripes on white throat. On male, head and tail blackish, underparts solid, deep reddish; those colors duller on female. *Juvenile*: Has speckled breast, but rusty wash identifies it. **VOICE**: Song a clear caroling; short phrases, rising and falling, often prolonged. Calls *tyeep* and *tut-tut-tut*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Varied Thrush (in West), Clay-colored and Rufous-backed robins (both rare). **HABITAT**: Wide variety of habitats, including towns, parks, lawns, farmland, shade trees, many types of forests and woodlands; in winter, also berry-producing trees.

**VARIED THRUSH** *Ixoreus naevius*

Uncommon M507

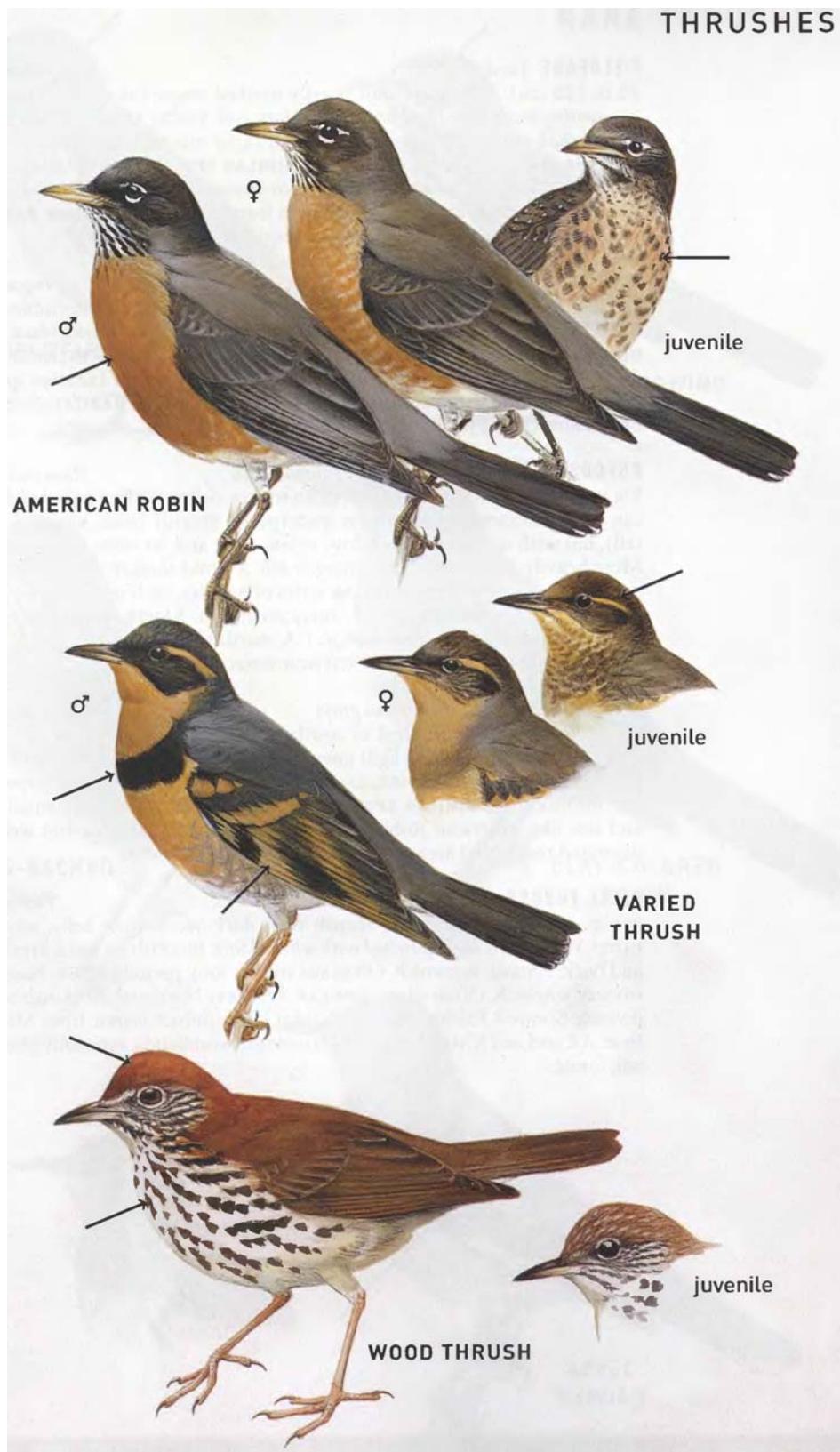
9½ in. (24 cm). Similar to American Robin, but with *orangish eye stripe*, *orange wing bars*, and *orange bar on underwing* visible in flight. *Male*: Blue-gray above, with wide black breast-band. *Female*: Duller gray above, with gray breast-band. *Juvenile*: Breast-band imperfect or speckled. **VOICE**: Song a long, eerie, quavering, whistled note, followed, after a pause, by one on a lower or higher pitch. Call a liquid *chup*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Orangey wing bars and eye stripe, and a breast-band, distinguish it from a robin, with which it only rarely mingles. **HABITAT**: Thick, wet coniferous and mixed forests; in winter, also other moist, dense woods, ravines, thickets.

**WOOD THRUSH** *Hylocichla mustelina*

Fairly common M505

7¾ in. (20 cm). *Rusty-headed*. Smaller than a robin; plumper than other brown thrushes, distinguished by deepening rufous about head, *streaked gray cheeks*, white eye-ring, and *rounder, bolder*, more numerous *breast spots*. **VOICE**: Song with rounder phrases than other thrushes. Listen for flutelike *ee-o-lay*. Occasional guttural notes are distinctive. Call a rapid *pip-pip-pip-pip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Other brown thrushes, juvenile American Robin. **HABITAT**: Mainly deciduous woodlands, cool moist glades.

THRUSHES



FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Vagrant

10 in. (25 cm). Robinlike, with heavily marked tawny breast. *Back rusty, contrasting with gray head and rump, dark tail.* **VOICE:** Harsh, chattering *tchak-tchak-tchak* and a quiet *see*. Song a rapid mix of feeble squeaking, chuckling notes, often given in flight. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Juvenile American Robin, Redwing (vagrant), other spot-breasted thrushes. **RANGE:** Eurasian species; most N. American records from Northeast in winter. **HABITAT:** Open country, fields, hedgerows, residential areas.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Vagrant

8½ in. (21 cm). Named for its rust-colored wing linings (most visible in flight). Broad *pale eyebrow, heavily streaked below*. Bill two-toned, black at tip, yellow at base. **VOICE:** Flight call a thin, high, reedy *seeh*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Fieldfare (vagrant), juvenile American Robin. **RANGE:** Eurasian species; most N. American records from Northeast in winter. **HABITAT:** Semi-open country and young woodlands.

RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN *Turdus rufopalliatus*

Rare visitor

9¼ in. (24 cm). This very rare Mexican winter visitor is like a pale American Robin (extensive cinnamon underparts; grayish head, wings, and tail), but with orangier tinge below, *rufous back*, and *no white around eye*. More heavily streaked throat. *Orangier bill*. A timid skulker. **VOICE:** Call a soft whistled *teeww*. Song a mellow series of warbles, each repeated two or more times. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American Robin. **RANGE:** Most records from AZ, but also recorded west to CA, north to UT, and east to s. TX. **HABITAT:** Woods and thickets, often near water.

CLAY-COLORED ROBIN *Turdus grayi*

Scarce, local

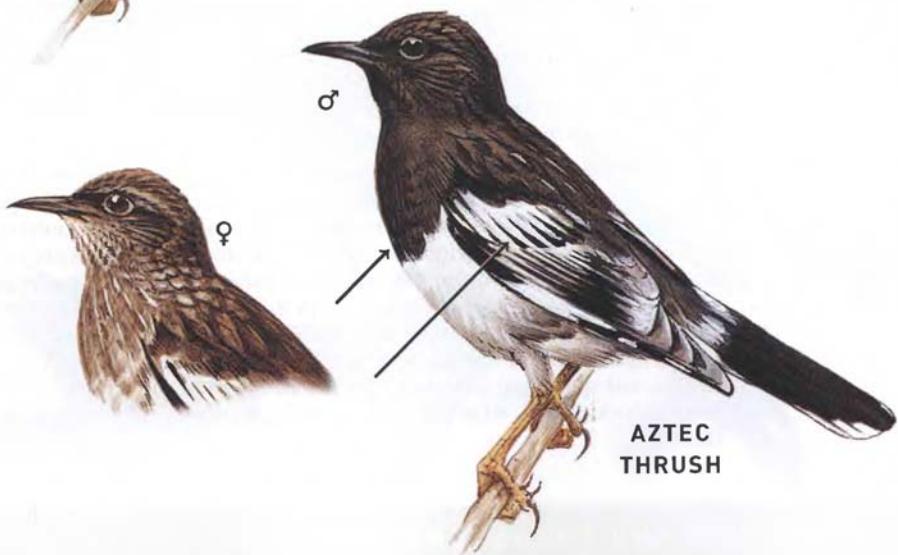
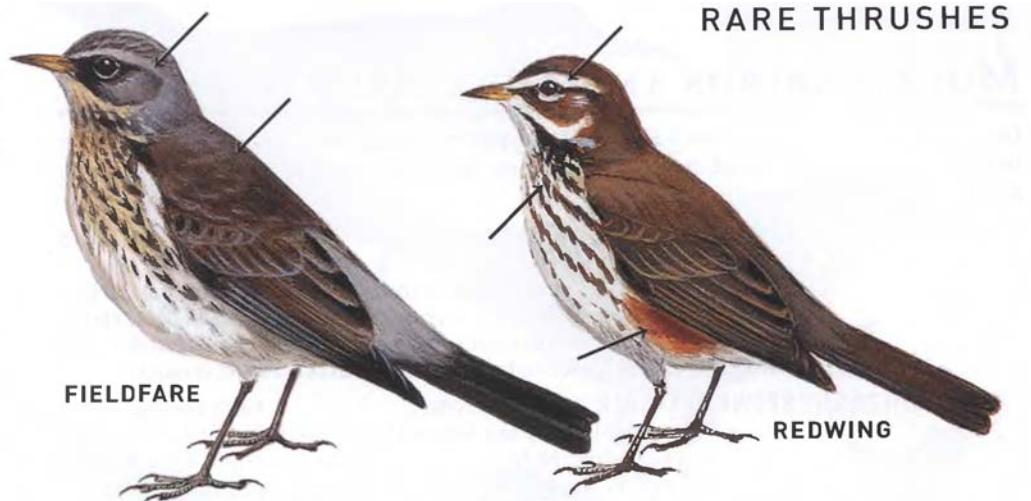
9 in. (23 cm). Scarce resident of southernmost TX. Warm brown above, dull tan on chest, paling to light tawny buff on belly. Throat streaked with light brown, not black. **VOICE:** Lower-pitched, simpler version of American Robin's song. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Brown thrushes (which are smaller and less like American Robin). **HABITAT:** Tropical woodlands and well-vegetated residential areas.

AZTEC THRUSH *Ridgwayia pinicola*

Vagrant

9¼ in. (24 cm). A robinlike thrush with *dark hood*, white belly, white rump. Wings strikingly *patched with white*. **Male:** Blackish on head, breast, and back. **Female:** Brownish. Often sits still for long periods. **VOICE:** Nasal, wheezy *wheeeah*. Often silent. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Northern Mockingbird, juvenile Spotted Towhee. **RANGE:** Casual late-summer visitor from Mex. to se. AZ and w. TX. **HABITAT:** Mixed montane woodlands, especially pine-oak forests.

RARE THRUSHES



MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS Family Mimidae

Often called "mimic thrushes." Excellent songsters; some mimic other birds. Strong-legged; usually longer tailed than true thrushes, bill usually longer and more decurved.

FOOD: Insects, fruit. **RANGE:** New World.



LONG-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma longirostre*

Fairly common, local M513

11½ in. (29 cm). Duller brown above than Brown Thrasher, breast stripes blacker, cheeks grayer; bill longer, slightly more curved, and all dark. **VOICE:** Song similar to Brown Thrasher's, but more jumbled. Call a harsh *tchuk*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Curve-billed Thrasher. **HABITAT:** Brush, mesquite.



BROWN THRASHER *Toxostoma rufum*

Fairly common M512

11½ in. (29 cm). Slimmer but longer than a robin; bright rufous above, heavily streaked below. Note wing bars, slightly curved bill, long tail, and yellow eyes. **VOICE:** Song a succession of deliberate notes and phrases resembling Gray Catbird's song, but each phrase usually *in pairs*. Call a harsh *chack!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** The various brown thrushes have shorter tails, lack wing bars, are spotted (not striped), and have brown (not yellow) eyes. In s. TX see Long-billed Thrasher. **HABITAT:** Thickets, brush.



SAGE THRASHER *Oreoscoptes montanus*

Uncommon M511

8½ in. (22 cm). A bit smaller than a robin. Gray-backed, with heavily streaked breast, white wing bars, and white tail corners. Eyes pale yellow, duller in immature. Small size, shorter tail, shorter bill, and striped breast distinguish it from other western thrashers. Streaking may be muted in worn plumage in late summer. **VOICE:** Song is clear, ecstatic warbled phrases, sometimes repeated in thrasher fashion; more often continuous, suggestive of Black-headed Grosbeak. Call a blackbirdlike *chuck*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cactus Wren, Bendire's Thrasher, juvenile Northern Mockingbird. **HABITAT:** Sagebrush, mesas; in winter, also deserts.



GRAY CATBIRD *Dumetella carolinensis*

Common M509

8¾ in. (23 cm). Slate gray; slim. Note black cap. Chestnut undertail coverts (may not be noticeable). Flips tail jauntily. **VOICE:** Catlike mewing; distinctive. Also a grating *tcheck-tcheck*. Song is disjointed notes and phrases; not repetitious, compared with other mimids. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Northern Mockingbird. **HABITAT:** Riparian undergrowth, brush.

BAHAMA MOCKINGBIRD *Mimus gundlachii*

Vagrant

11 in. (28 cm). Chunkier than Northern Mockingbird and overall browner with less white in tail and no white in wings. Dark streaks on flanks, belly, and neck give this species a thrasherlike appearance. **VOICE:** Song simpler than Northern's, with two-syllable phrases. Call a sharp *tchak*, like Northern's but harsher. **RANGE:** Straggler to s. FL from Caribbean. **HABITAT:** A skulker in deep brushy cover.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD *Mimus polyglottos*

Common M510

10 in. (25 cm). A familiar and conspicuous species. Gray; slimmer, longer tailed than a robin. Note large white patches on wings and tail, prominent in flight. **VOICE:** Song a varied, prolonged succession of notes and phrases, may be repeated a half-dozen times or more before changing. Often heard at night. Many mockingbirds are excellent mimics of other species. Call a loud *tchack*; also *chair*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Shrikes have dark facial masks. Sage Thrasher looks similar to juvenile mockingbird but has distinct streaks, not spots, and lacks large white flashes in tail and wings. See Bahama Mockingbird. **HABITAT:** Towns, parks, gardens, farms, roadsides, thickets.

THRASHERS AND
MOCKINGBIRDS

LONG-BILLED
THRASHER

BROWN
THRASHER

SAGE
THRASHER

BAHAMA
MOCKINGBIRD

GRAY
CATBIRD

NORTHERN
MOCKINGBIRD

wing-flashing

juvenile

shrike (p. 278)
for comparison





CALIFORNIA THRASHER *Toxostoma redivivum* Fairly common M516
12 in. (31 cm). A large, brownish thrasher, with *pale cinnamon belly and undertail coverts*; tail long; bill long and *sickle-shaped*. Eyes dark brown. It is the only thrasher of this type in CA west of deserts (except locally where Le Conte's Thrasher overlaps). **VOICE:** Call a dry *chak*, also a sharp *g-leek*. Song a long, sustained series of notes and phrases, some musical, some harsh. Phrases may be *repeated* once or twice, but not several times as in Northern Mockingbird; song more leisurely than Mocker's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Crissal Thrasher very similar but has deeper chestnut undertail coverts; ranges do not overlap. **HABITAT:** Chaparral, coastal sage scrub, thickets, parks, gardens.



CRISSEL THRASHER *Toxostoma crissale* Uncommon M517
11½ in. (29 cm). A *rather dark* thrasher of desert, with long, *deeply curved bill*. Note dark *chestnut undertail coverts* (or "crissum"), darker than in other thrashers. No breast spots. Eyes dull yellowish. **VOICE:** Song sweeter and less spasmodic than in other thrashers. Call *pichoory* or *chideary*, repeated two or three times. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** California Thrasher. **HABITAT:** Dense brush along desert streams, mesquite thickets, willows, locally at higher elevations in manzanita, scrub oak.



LE CONTE'S THRASHER *Toxostoma lecontei* Uncommon M518
11 in. (28 cm). A *very pale* thrasher of driest deserts. Shows contrastingly *darker tail*. Salmon-rust undertail coverts. Eyes dark and stand out on plain face. Rather shy. Runs long distances on ground. **VOICE:** Song (Jan.–Apr.) similar to songs of most other thrashers. Call *ti-reep*, rising on second syllable. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Crissal and California thrashers much darker overall. Sage Sparrow also runs on desert floor with tail cocked up, but much smaller and very differently plumaged. **HABITAT:** Desert flats with sparse bushes, mostly saltbush (*Atriplex*) or creosote bush.

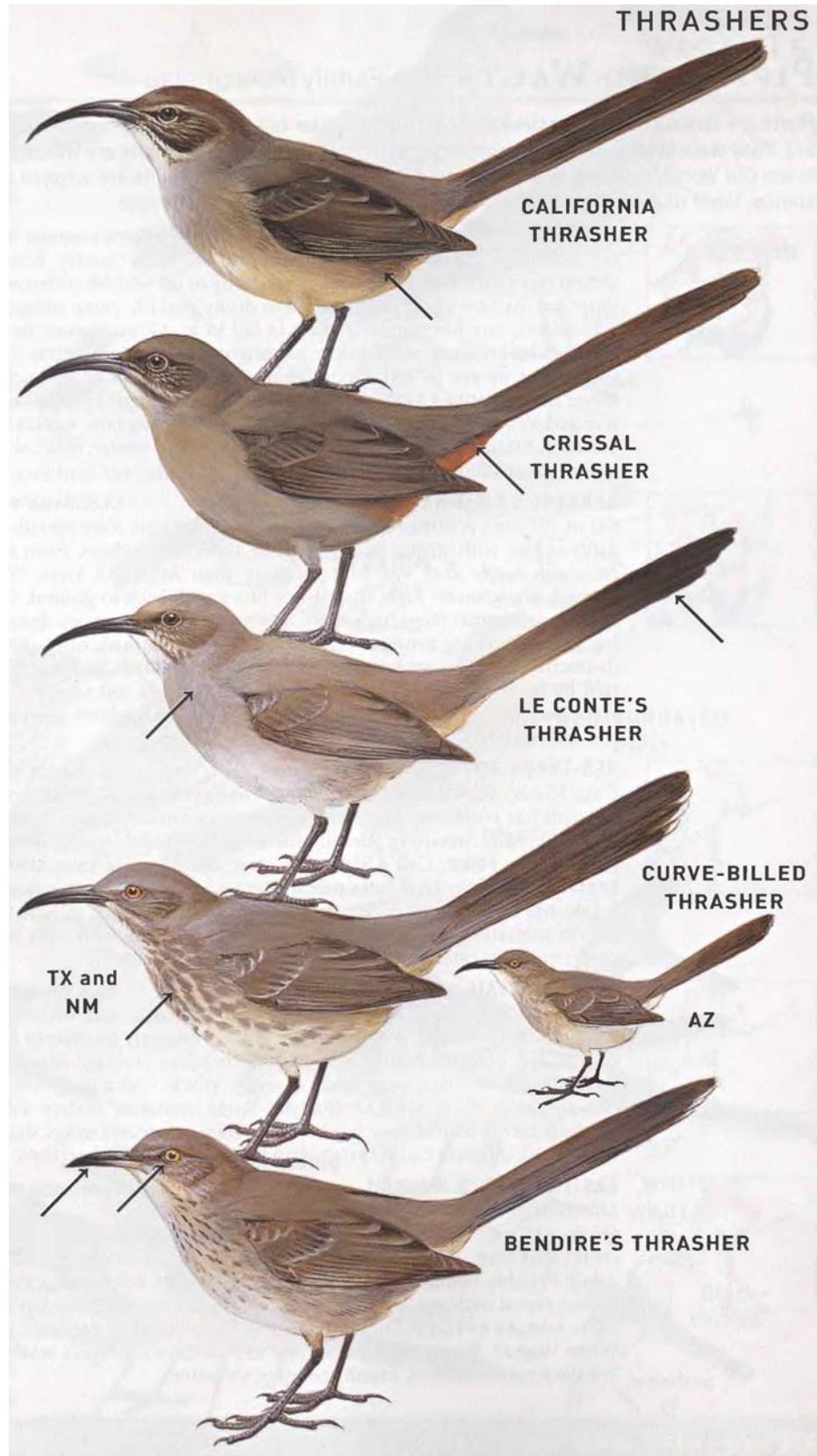


CURVE-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma curvirostre* Fairly common M515
11 in. (28 cm). This, the most common desert thrasher, can be told from others that have *well-curved bill by mottled breast*. Some individuals have narrow white wing bars. Eyes pale orange. *Juvenile:* Yellow eyes, somewhat straighter bill. **VOICE:** Call a sharp, liquid *whit-wheel!* (like a whistle to attract attention). Song a musical series of notes and phrases, almost gosbeaklike in quality but faster. Not much repetition. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Bendire's Thrasher has *shorter, straighter bill, with slight paling at base*, is slightly browner overall, breast spots more triangular (except when worn), different call. **HABITAT:** Deserts, arid brush, lower canyons, ranch yards.



BENDIRE'S THRASHER *Toxostoma bendirei* Uncommon, local M514
9¾ in. (25 cm). Of the various drab desert thrashers, this one may be known by its *shorter, more robinlike bill* (lower mandible quite straight), with paler (horn-colored or pale gray) base. Breast lightly spotted. Eyes usually *yellow*. **VOICE:** Song a *continuous, clear, double-note warble*, not broken into phrases. Call a soft *tirup*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Curve-billed Thrasher. *Caution:* Young Curve-billed may have a bill as short as Bendire's, and yellow eyes. Worn Sage Thrasher has much shorter, straighter bill. **HABITAT:** Deserts, yuccas, dry brushy farmland.

THRASHERS



PIPITS AND WAGTAILS Family Motacillidae

Pipits are streaked brown ground birds with white outer tail feathers, long hind claws, thin bill. They walk briskly instead of hopping, and most wag their tail. Wagtails are widespread in the Old World, with two species breeding eastward into AK. Long tails are wagged constantly; flight undulating. **FOOD:** Insects, seeds. **RANGE:** Nearly worldwide.



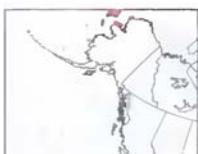
AMERICAN PIPIT *Anthus rubescens*

Fairly common M523
6½ in. (17 cm). A slim-billed, sparrowlike bird of open country. *Bobs* tail almost constantly as it walks. Underparts buffy or off-whitish with streaks; outer tail feathers white; legs blackish to dusky pinkish. Asian subspecies (*japonicus*), rare but regular mostly in fall in w. AK and casual farther south, more boldly streaked below, has brighter pinkish legs. **VOICE:** Call a thin *jeet* or *jee-eet*. In aerial song flight, *chwee chwee chwee chwee chwee chwee chwee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red-throated and Sprague's pipits. Savannah and Vesper sparrows have thicker bills, do not wag tails. **HABITAT:** In summer, Arctic and alpine tundra; in migration and winter, fields, short-grass habitats, shores.



SPRAGUE'S PIPIT *Anthus spragueii*

Uncommon M524
6½ in. (17 cm). A furtive species, often hard to see well. Note *pinkish* legs. Buffy below, with *striped back* and white outer tail feathers. *Plain buffy face with beady dark eye*. More solitary than American Pipit. When flushed, often towers high, then drops like a rock back to ground. Does *not wag tail*. **VOICE:** Sings high in air; a sweet, thin jingling series, descending in pitch: *shing-a-ring-a-ring-a-ring-a*. When flushed, often gives a distinctive *squeet* or *squeet-squeet* call. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American Pipit told by its facial and upperpart patterns, darker legs, tail wagging, and voice. See juvenile Horned Lark. **HABITAT:** Short- to medium-grass prairies and fields.



RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

Rare, local M522
6 in. (15 cm). Rare Pacific Coast visitor. A few nest in w. AK. *Adult:* Breeding male has *pinkish red face and breast*; less extensive in female and non-breeding male. *Immature:* Heavily streaked below; bold striping on back, pinkish legs. **VOICE:** Call a high, thin *speee* and a hoarse *tzeez*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American Pipit lacks pale stripes on back, is less heavily marked below, has duskier legs, different call. **HABITAT:** In summer, hillside tundra; in migration, same as American Pipit but usually with a bit more cover; migrants often found in flocks of American Pipits.



WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

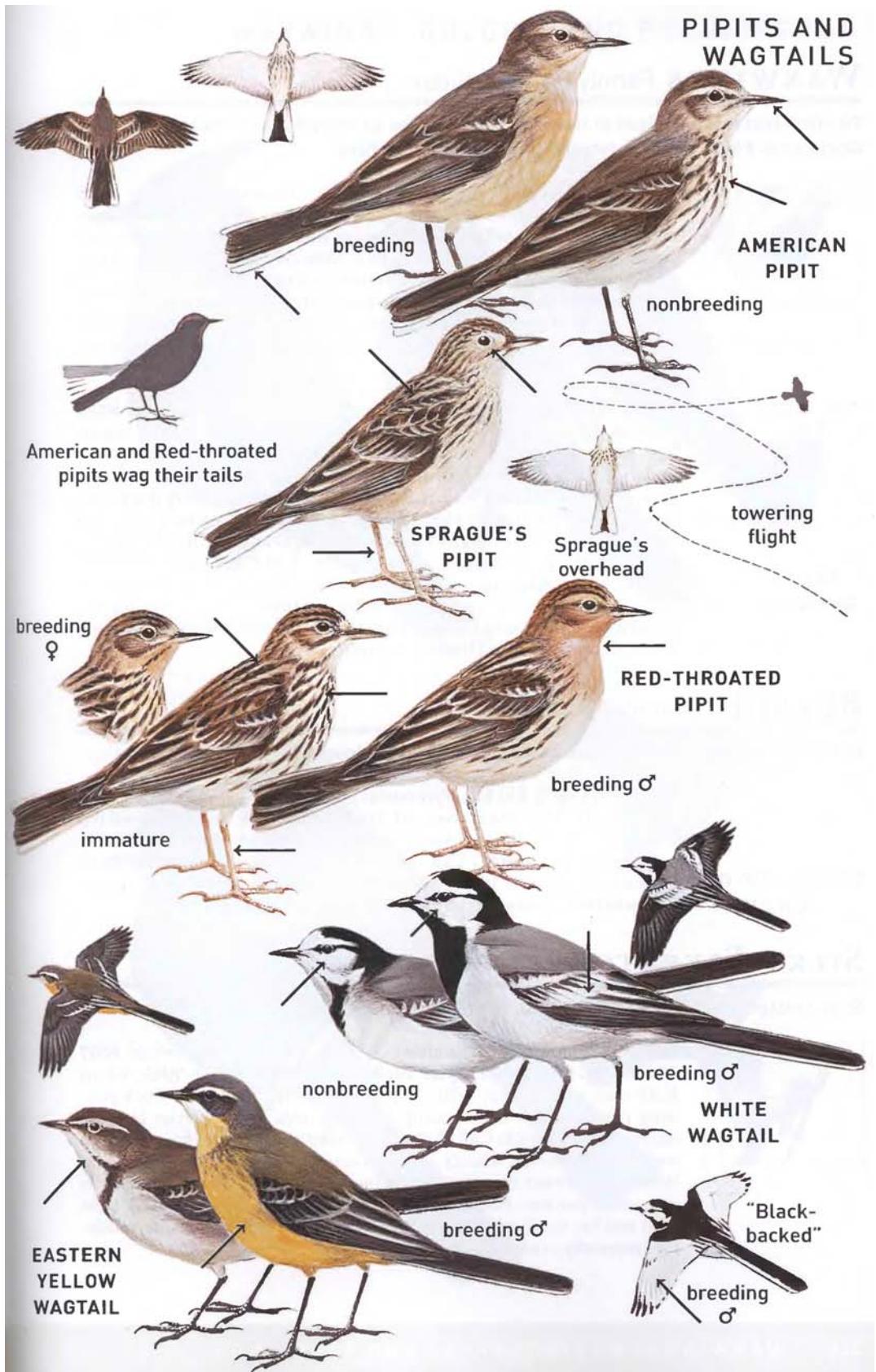
Rare, local M521
7¼ in. (18 cm). Note bold head pattern, gray back, and white wing patches. "Black-backed" Wagtail (*M. a. lugens*), formerly considered a full species, has *black back* and *white chin* in breeding plumage (dark gray back in nonbreeding), *more white in wings*. **VOICE:** Call a lively *tchizzik*, also an abrupt *tchik*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Some immature Eastern Yellow Wagtails are off-white below, but have less white in face and wings; slightly shorter tail; different call. **HABITAT:** Tundra, open country, shorelines.



EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla tschutschensis*

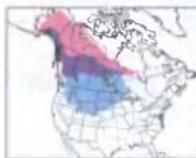
Uncommon, local M520
6½ in. (17 cm). This species of AK and northeasternmost Asia was recently split from Yellow Wagtail (*M. flava*) of the remainder of Eurasia. *Adult:* Variably yellow below. *Immature:* Dull whitish below, some tinged yellow; throat outlined in dark. **VOICE:** Call a buzzy *tsoueep*. Song *tsip-tsip-tsipsi*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Dull immature in flight might be confused with White Wagtail. Buzzy flight call similar to Red-throated Pipit's. **HABITAT:** Willow scrub on tundra, marshy country, shorelines.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS



WAXWINGS Family Bombycillidae

Pointed crest may be raised or lowered. Waxy red tips on secondaries in most individuals. Gregarious. **FOOD:** Berries, insects. **RANGE:** N. Hemisphere.



BOHEMIAN WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* Uncommon, irregular M525 8½ in. (21 cm). Similar to Cedar Waxwing (yellow tip on tail), but larger and grayer, with *no yellow on belly*; wings with strong white or *white and yellow* markings, warmer brown to face. Note *deep rusty* undertail coverts (white in Cedar Waxwing). Often travels in large nomadic flocks. Shape in flight very starlinglike. **VOICE:** *Zreee*, rougher than thin note of Cedar Waxwing. **HABITAT:** In summer, boreal forests, muskeg; in winter, widespread in search of berries, especially in towns where plantings and fruiting trees attract them.



CEDAR WAXWING *Bombycilla cedrorum* Common M526 7¼ in. (18 cm). Note *yellow band* at tip of tail. A sleek, crested, brown bird, larger than House Sparrow. Adults usually have *waxy red tips* on secondaries. *Juvenile:* Grayer, with blurry streaks below. Waxwings are gregarious in nonbreeding season, flying and feeding in compact flocks. Although berry eaters, they often indulge in flycatching. **VOICE:** High, thin lisp or *zeeee*; sometimes slightly trilled. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Differs from Bohemian Waxwing in having yellow on belly, *white* (not rusty) undertail coverts, fewer markings on wings. Flocking behavior and silhouette in flight reminiscent of European Starling. **HABITAT:** Open woodlands, streamside willows and alders, orchards; in winter, widespread, including towns, fruiting trees and bushes; nomadic.

BULBULS Family Pycnonotidae

Native to Old World. One species introduced in FL. **FOOD:** Insects, fruit.

RED-WHISKERED BULBUL *Pycnonotus jocosus* Uncommon, local 7 in. (18 cm). Note black crest, red cheek patch, black half-collar, and red undertail coverts. **VOICE:** Noisy chattering. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Phainopepla, waxwings. **RANGE:** This native of se. Asia was established locally in s. Miami, FL, in early 1960s, where it still forms a small breeding population. **HABITAT:** Heavy vegetation in suburban neighborhoods.

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS Family Ptilogonatidae

Slim, crested, waxwinglike birds. **FOOD:** Berries, insects. **RANGE:** Sw. U.S. to Panama.



PHAINOPEPLA *Phainopepla nitens* Uncommon M527 7¾ in. (20 cm). Both sexes are sleek, crested, with red eye. *Male:* Glossy black with conspicuous *white wing patches* in flight. *Female:* Dark gray; wing patches light, not as conspicuous as male's. Eats berries but also catches insects. **VOICE:** Call a soft, rising *wurp* and harsher *churrrr*. Song a weak, casual warble, wheezy and disconnected. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cedar Waxwing browner than female Phainopepla, has yellow tail band, lacks pale wing patches. Northern Mockingbird (white wing patches) lacks crest and has much white in tail. **HABITAT:** Desert scrub, mesquite, mistletoe (especially), oak foothills, pepper trees.

WAXWINGS, BULBUL, AND PHAINOPEPLA



STARLINGS Family Sturnidae

A varied family; some blackbirdlike. Sharp-billed, usually short-tailed. Gregarious. FOOD: Insects, seeds, berries. RANGE: Widespread in Old World. Introduced in New World.



EUROPEAN STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common M519
8½ in. (22 cm). Introduced from Europe in 1890. A gregarious, garrulous “blackbird”; shape of a meadowlark with *short tail* and *sharply pointed bill*. In flight, has *triangular wings*; flies swiftly and directly. Breeding: Plumage iridescent, bill yellow. Nonbreeding: Heavily speckled with white, bill dark. Immature: Dusky gray-brown, a bit like a female cowbird, but tail shorter, bill longer. VOICE: Harsh *tseeee*; a whistled *whooee*. Also clear whistles, clicks, chuckles; often mimics other birds. SIMILAR SPECIES: Cedar Waxwing, in flight. HABITAT: Cities, suburbs, parks, feeders, farms, livestock pens, open groves, fields. Has had substantial negative impact on several native cavity-nesting species.

HILL MYNA *Gracula religiosa*

Uncommon, local
10½ in. (27 cm). Glossy black body, orange bill, yellow face wattles and legs. White wing patches stand out in flight. Sexes alike. VOICE: Squawks, buzzes, whistles; excellent mimic. SIMILAR SPECIES: European Starling. RANGE: Exotic from Asia, established in s. FL. HABITAT: Lush suburban neighborhoods and parks.

COMMON MYNA *Acridotheres tristis*

Common, local
10 in. (25 cm). A *brown-bodied* relative of European Starling, with black head and *white undertail*. Bill, face, and legs bright yellow. VOICE: Starlinglike gurgles, squeaks, and cackles. SIMILAR SPECIES: European Starling. RANGE: Introduced from s. Asia. Widespread and increasing in s. and cen. FL. HABITAT: Urban and suburban habitats.

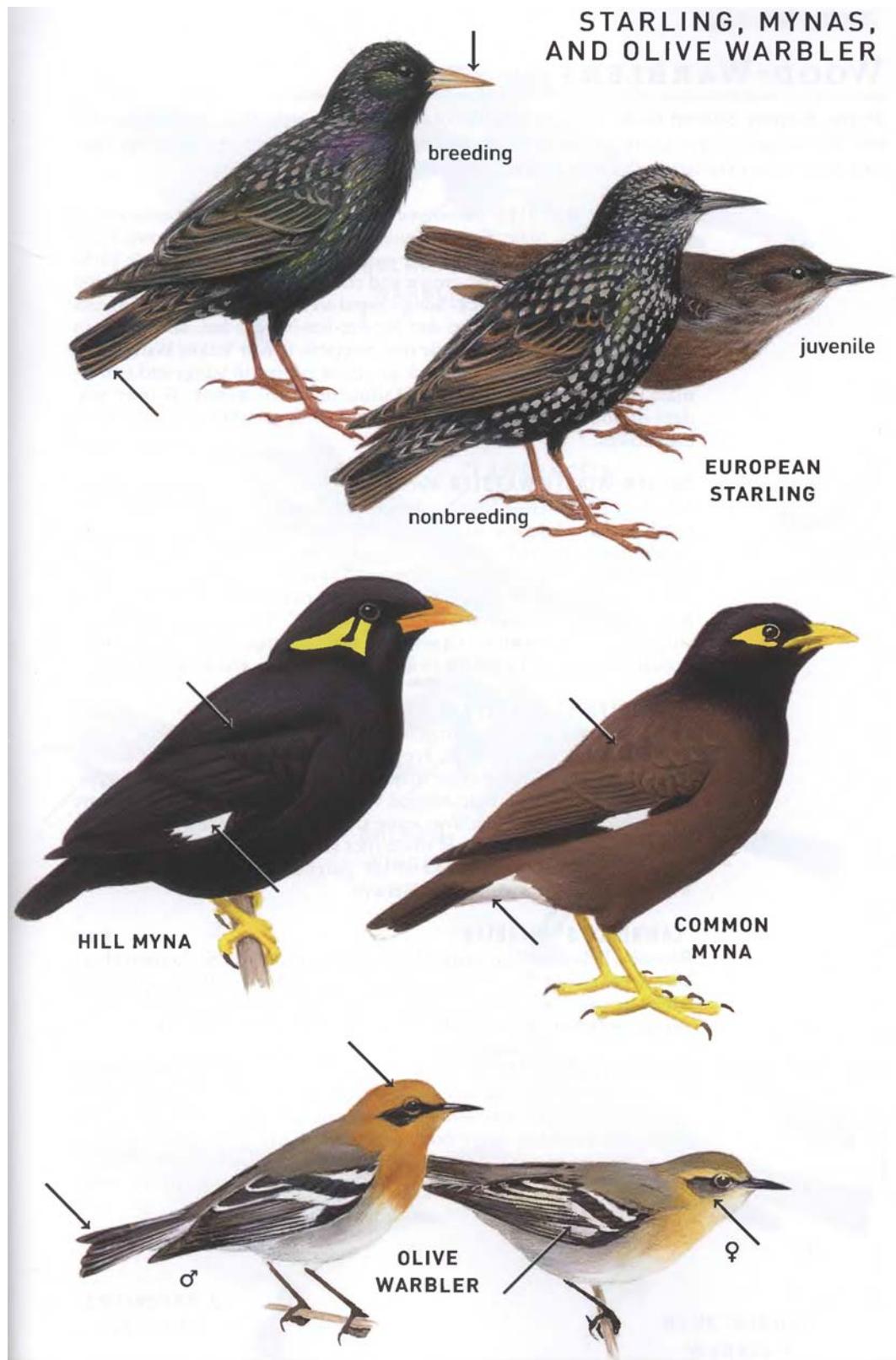
OLIVE WARBLER Family Peucedramidae

Formerly considered a wood-warbler but now placed in its own family. Young males may take two full years to reach adult plumage. Longer winged than wood-warblers, and tail deeply notched. FOOD: Insects. RANGE: Pine and oak forests at higher elevations from se. AZ and sw. NM to Nicaragua.



OLIVE WARBLER *Peucedramus taeniatus*

Uncommon, local M528
5¼ in. (13 cm). Male: Note orange-brown head and chest and black ear patch. Female: Duller crown tinged olive, breast yellowish. Ear patch dusky. Immature: Like female, but may lack most yellow. All plumages show *deeply notched tail* and bold wing bars with *white patch at base of primaries*. VOICE: Song a ringing *peter peter peter peter*, variable. Call a rich *kew*. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female Grace's and Pine warblers. Male Western Tanager much larger with black wings. HABITAT: Pine and fir forests of high mountains.



WOOD-WARBLERS Family Parulidae

Active, brightly colored birds, usually smaller than sparrows, with thin, needle-pointed bill. The majority have some yellow in plumage. FOOD: Mainly insects though many species also eat fruit in fall and winter. RANGE: AK and Canada to n. Argentina.

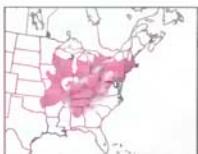
BACHMAN'S WARBLER *Vermivora bachmanii* Probably extinct
4¾ in. (12 cm). Male: Face and underparts yellow; bib and crown black (suggests a small Hooded Warbler with incomplete hood). Female: Lacks black bib; forehead yellow; crown and cheek grayish; eye-ring yellow. Bill thin and downcurved. VOICE: Song a rapid series of flat mechanical buzzes rendered on one pitch: *bzz-bzz-bzz-bzz-bzz-bzz-bzz*, also given in flight. SIMILAR SPECIES: Female may resemble female Yellow Warbler but note more decurved bill and lack of yellow edging in wings and tail; female Wilson's lacks gray head and white undertail. RANGE: Former resident of Southeast; last definite record in 1962. HABITAT: Swampy areas, canebrakes.



GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* Uncommon M530
4¾ in. (12 cm). Gray above, white below. Male: The only warbler with combination of yellow wing patch and black throat. Note yellow forecrown, black ear patch, whitish underparts. Female: Ear and throat patches grayer. VOICE: Song a buzzy note followed by one to three on a lower pitch: *bee-bz-bz-bz*. (Blue-winged Warbler sings a lazier *bee-bzzz*.) Call like Blue-winged's. SIMILAR SPECIES: "Brewster's," "Lawrence's," and Blue-winged warblers. HABITAT: Open woodlands, swampy edges, brushy clearings, undergrowth. Declining in many northeastern and southern areas.

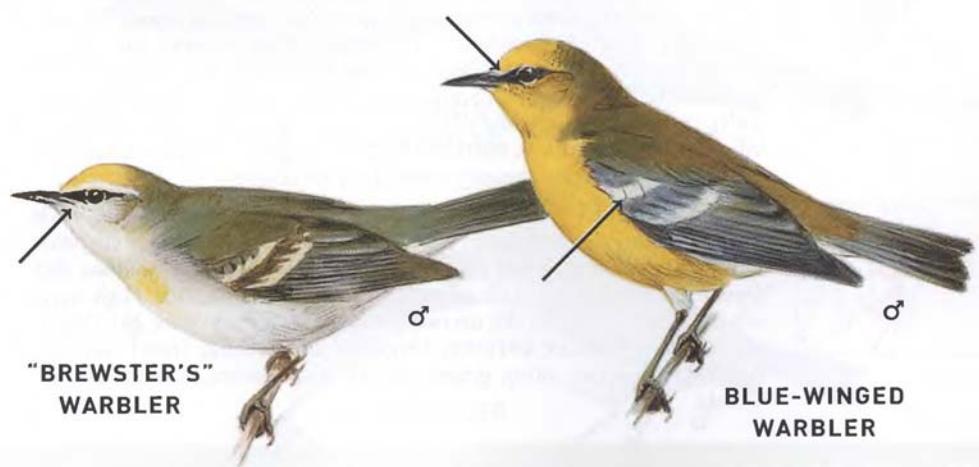
"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER Scarce
Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers hybridize where their ranges overlap, producing two basic types, "Lawrence's" and "Brewster's" warblers ("Brewster's" is the more frequent hybrid and more variable). Typical "Brewster's" is like Blue-winged with whitish underparts. Some have white wing bars, others yellow; some are tinged with yellow below. Black eye mark and white or largely white (not solid yellow) underparts are diagnostic. VOICE: May sing like either parent. HABITAT: Same as Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers.

"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER Rare
Recessive hybrid of Blue-winged × Golden-winged warbler combination. Yellow below like Blue-winged, but with black head pattern of Golden-winged. Note black ear patch. VOICE: Like either Golden-winged or Blue-winged. HABITAT: Same as Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers.



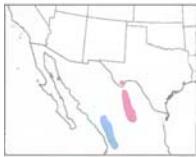
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* Fairly common M529
4¾ in. (12 cm). Note narrow black line through eye. Face and underparts yellow; wings with two white bars. Female averages duller than male. VOICE: Song a buzzy *beeee-bzzz*, as if inhaled and exhaled. Call a sharp *tsik*. SIMILAR SPECIES: "Brewster's," "Lawrence's," Prothonotary, Golden-winged, and Yellow warblers. HABITAT: Field edges, undergrowth, bushy edges, woodland openings.

WARBLERS

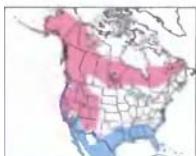




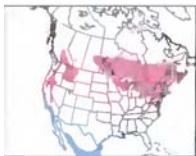
TENNESSEE WARBLER *Vermivora peregrina* Fairly common M531
4½ in. (12 cm). Note short tail, bold eyebrow, white undertail coverts. Breeding male: Pale gray head contrasting with greenish back. Female and immature: Washed with greenish on head, yellow on breast; often showing a trace of a single wing bar. **VOICE:** Song staccato, three-part: *ticka ticka ticka*, *swit swit*, *chew-chew-chew-chew-chew*. Call a sweet *chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Orange-crowned Warbler. Warbling and Philadelphia vireos slightly larger and thicker billed, duller on back. **HABITAT:** Deciduous and mixed forests; in migration, variety of woodlands.



COLIMA WARBLER *Vermivora crissalis* Scarce, local M535
5¾ in. (15 cm). Found in high Chisos Mts. in w. TX. Drab, with yellow rump and undertail coverts. Larger than Virginia's Warbler; sides brownish; lacks yellow on breast. **VOICE:** Song a trill, like Chipping Sparrow or Orange-crowned Warbler, but more musical and ending in two lower notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Lucy's and Virginia's warblers. **HABITAT:** Oak-pine canyons.



ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER Common in West, uncommon in East M532
Vermivora celata
5 in. (13 cm). Usually drab olive green with yellow undertail coverts and blurry breast streaking. Subspecies vary in brightness: some quite drab and gray-headed, others brighter yellow-green. "Orange" of crown seldom visible. **VOICE:** Song a colorless trill, becoming weaker toward end. Often changes pitch, rising or dropping slightly. Call a sharp *stik*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nonbreeding Tennessee Warbler has white undertail coverts, shorter tail, brighter green above, lacks dusky breast streaks. See Yellow and Wilson's warblers. **HABITAT:** Open woodlands, brushy clearings, willows, chaparral, parks, gardens.



NASHVILLE WARBLER *Vermivora ruficapilla* Uncommon M533
4¾ in. (12 cm). Note white eye-ring in combination with yellow throat. Head gray, contrasting with olive green back. No wing bars. Underparts bright yellow with white vest. Regularly bobs tail. **VOICE:** Song two-part: *seebit, seebit, seebit, seebit, tititititi* (ends like Chipping Sparrow's song). Call a sharp *pink*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Connecticut Warbler is larger, behaves very differently (*walks* on limbs and ground, does *not* flutter about actively), and has grayish or brownish throat. Some dull Nashvilles in fall can look almost as dull as Virginia's, but always have *yellow on throat*. **HABITAT:** Open mixed woods with undergrowth, forest edges, bogs; in migration, also brushy areas.

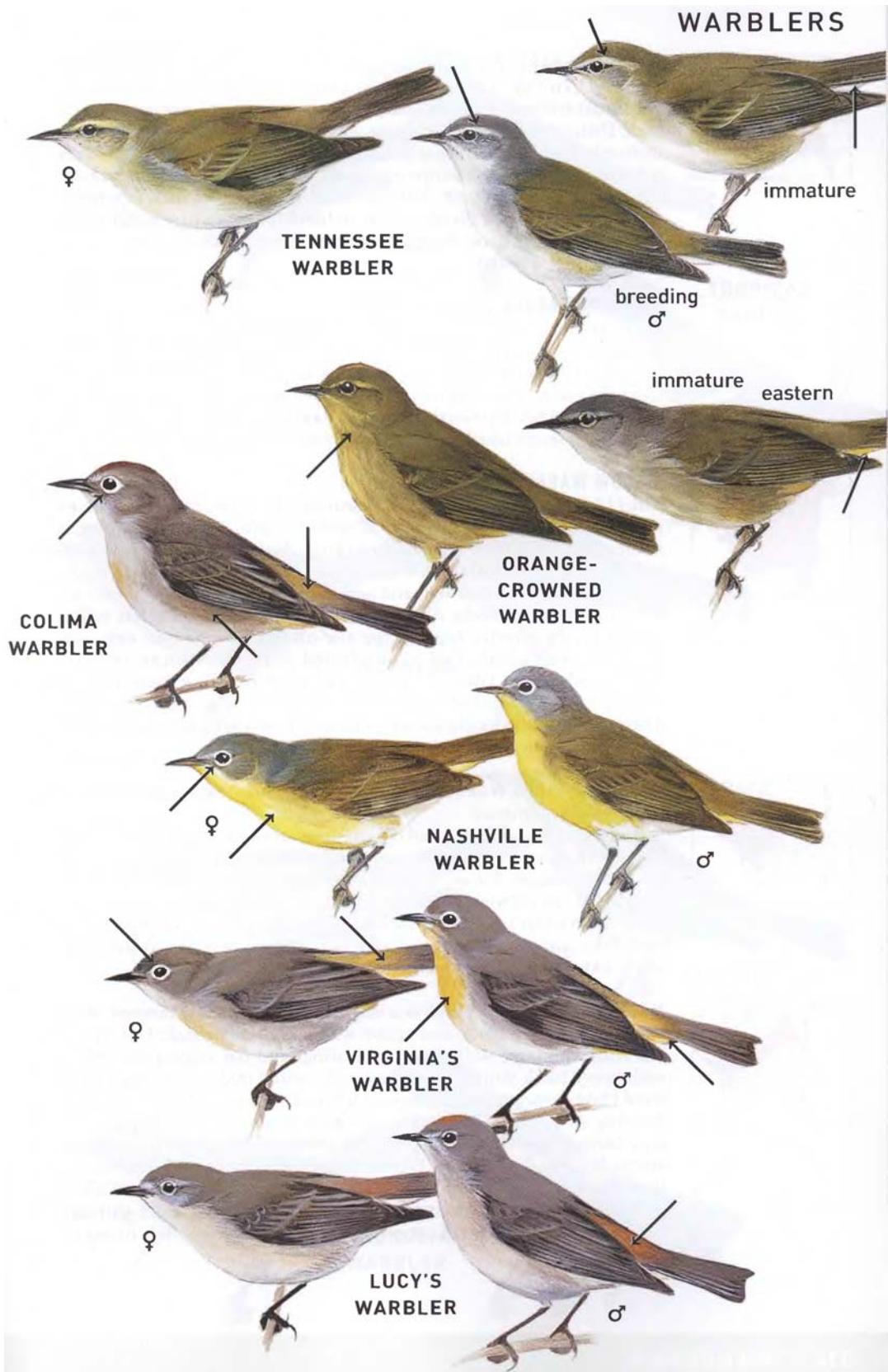


VIRGINIA'S WARBLER *Vermivora virginiae* Uncommon M534
4¾ in. (12 cm). Male: A slim gray warbler with yellowish rump and bright yellow undertail coverts, white eye-ring, rufous spot on crown (usually concealed), and touch of yellow on breast. Flicks or jerks tail. Female: Duller. Immature: Lacks yellow on breast, but always has contrasting yellow undertail coverts. **VOICE:** Song loose, colorless notes on nearly the same pitch: *chlip-chlip-chlip-chlip-chlip-wick-wick*. Call a sharp *pink*, like Nashville and Lucy's warblers. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nashville and Lucy's warblers. **HABITAT:** Oak canyons, brushy slopes, pinyon-juniper.



LUCY'S WARBLER *Vermivora luciae* Uncommon M536
4½ in. (11 cm). A small desert warbler; known by its *chestnut rump patch*. Dull white eye-ring, small patch of chestnut on crown (difficult to see). Immature: May show touch of peach-buff on breast. **VOICE:** High *weeta weeta weeta che che che che*, on two pitches. Call a sharp *pink*, like Virginia's Warbler. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Virginia's and Colima (rare) warblers. **HABITAT:** Mesquite along desert streams and washes; willows, cottonwoods.

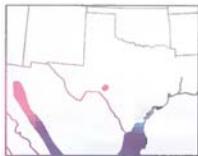
WARBLERS



**NORTHERN PARULA** *Parula americana*

Fairly common M537

4½ in. (11 cm). A small, short-tailed warbler, *pale bluish above*, with yellow throat and breast and two white wing bars. Suffused greenish patch on back. Distinct *broken white eye-ring*. Adult male has *dark breast-band*; immature lacks breast-band, has greenish wash on head. **VOICE:** Song a buzzy trill that climbs scale and trips over the top: *zeeeeeee-up*. Also *zh-zh-zheeeee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Tropical Parula of s. TX has dark face mask, no eye-ring. **HABITAT:** Breeds mainly in humid woods where either *Usnea* lichen or Spanish moss hangs from trees (occasionally in some woods where neither is found).

**TROPICAL PARULA** *Parula pitiayumi*

Rare, local M538

4½ in. (11 cm). Similar in size and habits to Northern Parula, but limited in range to s. TX, near Rio Grande. Dark head and *black face, lacks white eye-ring*. Two bold white wing bars. Lacks distinct color bands across chest (like adult male Northern Parula has). **VOICE:** Like Northern Parula's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Northern Parula. **HABITAT:** Breeds mainly in humid woods near water, usually where Spanish moss hangs from trees.

**YELLOW WARBLER** *Dendroica petechia*

Common M539

5 in. (13 cm). No other warbler is so extensively yellow. Even *tail spots are yellow* (other warblers have white tail spots or none). Male has *rusty breast streaks* (in female, these are faint or lacking). Note dark beady eye. **Immature:** Lacks breast streaks; some individuals may be quite dull, with bright yellow restricted to lower vent and undertail coverts. May show some very faint dusky breast streaks. All show *yellow edgings to wing and tail*. **VOICE:** Song a bright cheerful *tsee-tsee-tsee-titi-wee* or *weet weet weet weet tsee-tsee wew*. Variable. Call a soft, slurred, rich *chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Shorter tailed than Wilson's Warbler and brighter yellow individuals of Orange-crowned Warbler, with yellow tail spots. Note vocal differences. **HABITAT:** Riparian woodlands and understory, swamp edges, particularly alders and willows; also parks, gardens.

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER**

Fairly common M540

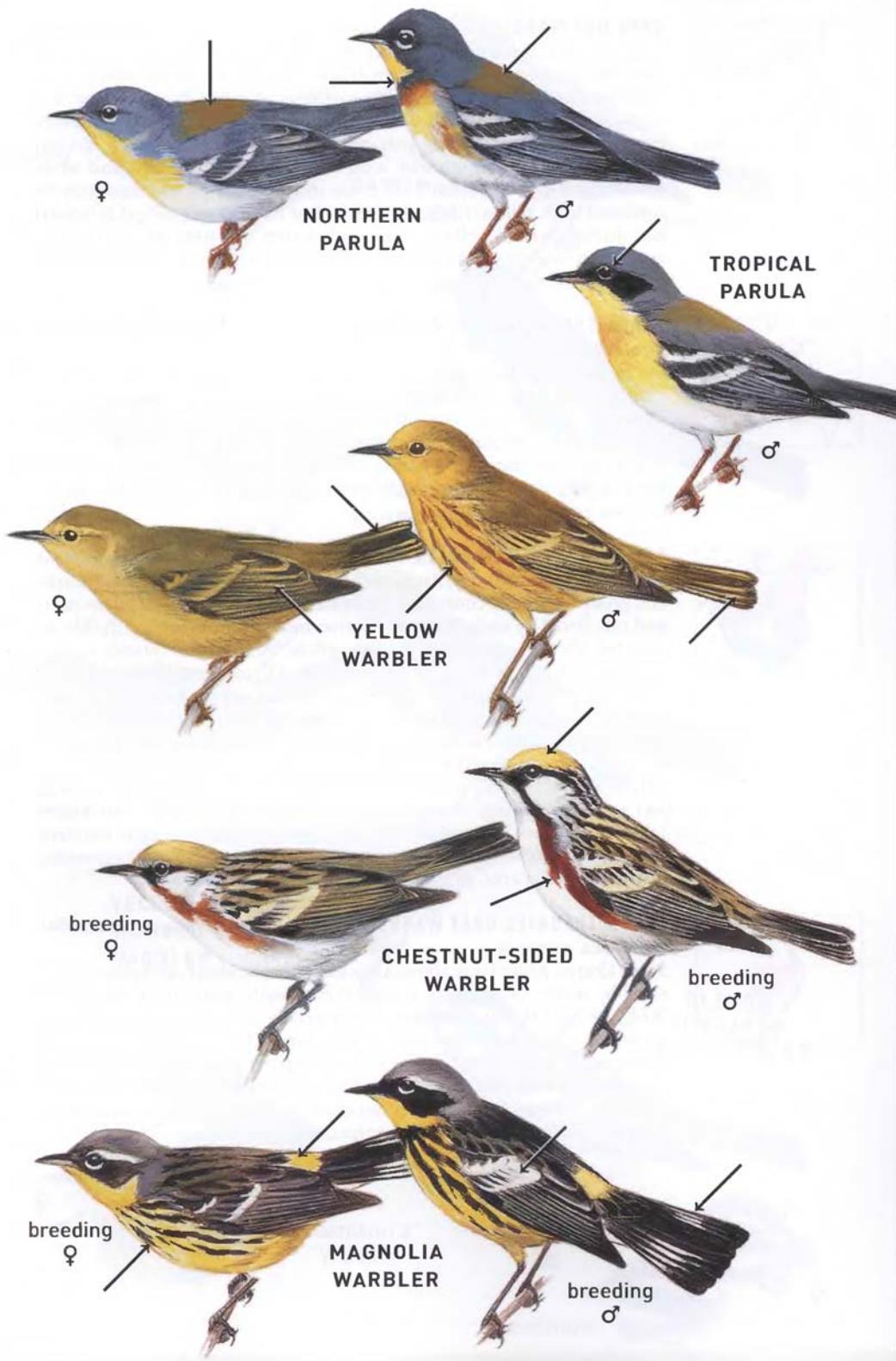
Dendroica pensylvanica
5 in. (13 cm). Usually holds tail cocked up at an angle. **Breeding:** Identified by combination of *yellow crown, chestnut sides*. **Nonbreeding:** Lime greenish above, whitish below; narrow white eye-ring, *two pale yellow wing bars*. Adults retain some chestnut; immatures do not. **VOICE:** Song similar to Yellow Warbler's: *see see see see Miss BEECHer* or *please please pleased to MEETcha*, last note dropping. Call a rich, slurred *chip*, like Yellow Warbler's. **HABITAT:** Undergrowth, overgrown field edges, small trees.

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER** *Dendroica magnolia*

Fairly common M541

5 in. (13 cm). The "black-and-yellow warbler." **Breeding male:** Upperparts blackish, with large white patches on wings and tail; underparts yellow, with heavy black stripes. Note black tail crossed midway by *broad white band* (from beneath, tail is white with broad black tip). **Female and nonbreeding male:** Duller. **Immature:** Has weak stripes on sides, but tail pattern distinctive; often shows thin, weak grayish band across upper breast. **VOICE:** Song suggests Yellow Warbler's but is shorter: *weeta weeta weetsee* (last note rising); or a Hooded Warbler-like *weeta weeta wit-chew*. Call an odd nasal note. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Yellow-rumped and Black-throated Green warblers. **HABITAT:** Low conifers; in migration, a variety of woodlands.

WARBLERS



**CAPE MAY WARBLER** *Dendroica tigrina*

Uncommon M542

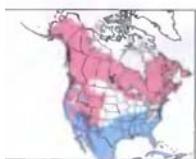
5 in. (13 cm). **Breeding male:** Note *chestnut* cheeks. Yellow below, striped with black; rump yellow, crown black. **Female and nonbreeding:** Lack chestnut cheeks; duller, breast often whitish, streaked. Note dull *patch of yellow behind ear, yellowish rump, and one wing bar bolder than the other.* Immature female distinctly *gray*. **VOICE:** Song a very high, thin *seet seet seet seet*. May be confused with song of Bay-breasted or Black-and-white warbler. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Dull birds in nonbreeding plumage may be confused with Yellow-rumped Warbler but have small pale patch behind ear; duller, greenish yellow rump; and shorter tail. **HABITAT:** Spruce forests; often searches out isolated spruce and fir trees in migration, also broadleaf trees.

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER**

Fairly common M543

Dendroica caerulescens

5½ in. (13 cm). **Male:** Clean-cut; upperparts *deep blue*; throat and sides *black*, belly white; wing with white spot. **Female:** Olive-brown-backed, with light line over eye and small *white wing spot*. Immature female may lack this white “pocket handkerchief,” but note *dark cheek*. **VOICE:** Song a husky, lazy *zur, zur, zur, zreee* or *beer, beer, bree* (ending higher). Call a hard *tchip*, similar to call of Dark-eyed Junco. **HABITAT:** Understory of deciduous and mixed woodlands.

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER** *Dendroica coronata*

Common M544

5½ in. (14 cm). Includes “Audubon’s” and “Myrtle” warblers, two subspecies groups formerly considered separate species. Note bright *yellow rump* and call. **Breeding male:** Blue-gray above; heavy black breast patch (like an inverted U); crown and side patches yellow. “Audubon’s” (breeds w. U.S., sw. Canada) differs from “Myrtle” (breeds AK, much of Canada, e. U.S.) in having *yellow throat* (which does not extend back below cheek, as white does in “Myrtle”), large white wing patches, no white supercilium. **Breeding female:** Duller. **Nonbreeding:** More brownish above; whitish below, streaked; throat yellowish (sometimes dim) in “Audubon’s”; *rump yellow*. **VOICE:** Variable song, juncolike but two-part, rising or dropping in pitch, *seet-seet-seet-seet-seet*, *trrrrrrrr*. Call a loud *check* (“Myrtle”) or higher *tchip* (“Audubon’s”). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cape May and Magnolia warblers. **HABITAT:** Coniferous forests. In migration and winter, varied; open woods, brush, thickets, parks, gardens, even upper beaches.

**BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER**

Fairly common M545

Dendroica nigrescens

5 in. (13 cm). **Male:** Gray above, with black throat, cheek, and crown separated by white. Small yellow spot in lores. **Female:** Slaty crown and cheek; dusky or light throat; loral spot duller yellow. **Immature:** May be tinged brownish above; loral spot pale. **VOICE:** Song a buzzy chant, “full of Zs,” *zeedle zeedle zeedle ZEETche* (next-to-last or last note higher). Call a dull *tup*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Suggests Black-and-white Warbler, but lacks white stripes on back and crown, does not crawl around on branches and limbs. **HABITAT:** Nests in oaks, pinyon-juniper, mixed woods.

WARBLERS





GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER *Dendroica chrysoparia* Scarce, local M546
5½ in. (14 cm). Breeds in Ashe Juniper hills of Edwards Plateau, TX. **Male:** Similar to Black-throated Green Warbler, but with *black back* and blacker line through eye. **Female:** Similar to female Black-throated Green, but back darker olive with dusky streaks, belly snowy white (lacking tinge of yellow on flanks). **VOICE:** Song a hurried *tweeah, tweeah, tweesy* or *bzzzz, laysee, daysee*. Call like Black-throated Green's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black-throated Green, Hermit, and Townsend's warblers. **HABITAT:** Junipers, oaks; also streamside trees.



HERMIT WARBLER *Dendroica occidentalis* Uncommon M549
5 in. (13 cm). **Male:** Note bright yellow face set off by *black throat and nape* and dark gray back. **Female:** Black of throat much reduced or wanting, but plain-looking yellow face, gray back, and *unstreaked* underparts identify it. **VOICE:** Song three high lisping notes followed by two abrupt lower ones: *sweety, sweety, sweety, CHUP CHUP* or *seedle, seedle, seedle, CHUP CHUP*. Call a flat *tip* (like Townsend's Warbler's). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Townsend's Warbler has dark cheek patches, olive back, extensive yellow below. Hybrid Townsend's × Hermit warblers occur regularly. East of Rockies, see Black-throated Green Warbler. **HABITAT:** Coniferous forests; in migration, coniferous and deciduous woods.



TOWNSEND'S WARBLER *Dendroica townsendi* Fairly common M548
5 in. (13 cm). **Male:** Easily distinguished by *black-and-yellow pattern of head*, with *blackish cheek patch*; *underparts yellow*, with heavily striped sides. **Female and immature:** Throat largely yellow, not black; may be known by *well-defined dark cheek patch, bordered by yellow* as in male. **VOICE:** Song like Black-throated Gray Warbler's but higher: *dzeer dzeer dzeer tseetsee* or *weazy, weazy, seese*. Call a soft, flat *tip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Hermit Warbler, with which Townsend's sometimes hybridizes, lacks distinct dark cheek and crown, has duller back. See Black-throated Green Warbler. **HABITAT:** Tall conifers, cool fir forests; in migration and winter, also oaks, riparian woodlands, parks, gardens.



BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER *Dendroica virens* Fairly common M547
5 in. (13 cm). **Male:** Bright yellow face is framed by black throat and olive green crown. **Female and immature:** Recognized by yellow face; much less black on throat; unmarked olive green back. All birds show small yellow spot on rear flank. **VOICE:** Lisping, weedy or buzzy *zoo zee zee zee zee* or *zee zee zee zee zee*; *zee* notes on same pitch, *zoo* notes lower. Call a flat *tip* or *tup*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Townsend's Warbler has darker cheek, darker above, yellow on lower breast. Hermit Warbler has yellow on crown, lacks eye stripe; back gray; no black stripes on sides. Golden-cheeked Warbler rare and very local, has black line through eye. **HABITAT:** Mainly coniferous or mixed woods; in migration, variety of woodlands.



BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER *Dendroica fusca* Fairly common M550
5 in. (13 cm). The "fire throat." **Breeding male:** Black and white, with *flame orange* on head and throat. **Female and nonbreeding:** Paler orange (adult female and immature male) or yellowish (immature female) on throat; dark cheek patch. Note head stripes, *pale back stripes*. **VOICE:** Song *zip zip zip titi tseeeeeee*, ending on a very high, up-slurred note (inaudible to some ears). Also a two-part *teetsa teetsa teetsa teetsa zizizizi*, more like Nashville Warbler. Call a rich *chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Yellow-rumped ("Audubon's"), Yellow-throated, and Cerulean warblers. **HABITAT:** Woodlands; in summer, conifers.

WARBLERS



**PINE WARBLER** *Dendroica pinus*

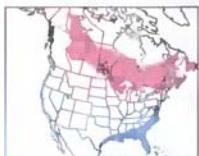
Common M553

5½ in. (14 cm). All plumages show dark cheeks, blurry streaking at breast-sides, unstreaked back, and white tail spots. **Male:** Yellow-breasted, with olive green back, *white wing bars*. **Female:** Duller; brownish olive above; immature females often obscure. **VOICE:** Song a trill on one pitch like Chipping Sparrow's song, but more musical, slower. Call a sweet *chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nonbreeding Blackpoll and Bay-breasted warblers. **HABITAT:** Pine woods. In winter sometimes in fields with bluebirds.

**PRairie WARBLER** *Dendroica discolor*

Fairly common M555

4¾ in. (12 cm). This warbler *bobs its tail* (as does Palm Warbler); underparts yellow, paling on undertail coverts; black stripes *confined to sides*; *two black face marks*, one through eye, one below. At close range, chestnut marks may be seen on back of male (reduced in female). **VOICE:** Song a thin *zee zee zee zee zee zee zee zee*, ascending the chromatic scale. Call a sharp *tchip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Pine, Palm, and Yellow warblers. **HABITAT:** Brushy pastures, low pines, mangroves.

**PALM WARBLER** *Dendroica palmarum*

Common M556

5¼ in. (14 cm). Note constant *bobbing* of tail. Both sexes brownish or olive above; yellowish or dirty white below, narrowly streaked; *bright yellow* undertail coverts, white spots in tail corners. In breeding plumage has *chestnut cap*. Two subspecies: Eastern breeders show more yellow below and on eyebrow; western breeders duller, may have yellow restricted to undertail coverts in fall. **VOICE:** Song weak, repetitious notes: *zhe-zhe-zhe-zhe-zhe-zhe*. Call a distinctive sharp *tsup*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Yellow-rumped and Prairie warblers. **HABITAT:** In summer, wooded borders of muskeg, bogs. In migration and winter, low trees, bushes, weedy fields. A ground-loving warbler.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** *Dendroica dominica*

Fairly common M551

5½ in. (14 cm). A gray-backed warbler with *yellow throat*. *Black eye mask*, white wing bars, black stripes on sides. Sexes similar. Creeps about branches of trees. "Sutton's" Warbler is a very rare hybrid of Yellow-throated Warbler and Northern Parula. **VOICE:** Song a series of clear slurred notes dropping slightly in pitch: *tee-ew, tew, tew, tew, tew, tew wi* (last note rising). Call a rich *chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Grace's and female Blackburnian warblers. **HABITAT:** Open woodlands, especially sycamores, live oaks, pines. In winter, almost always in palms.

**KIRTLAND'S WARBLER** *Dendroica kirtlandii*

Rare, local M554

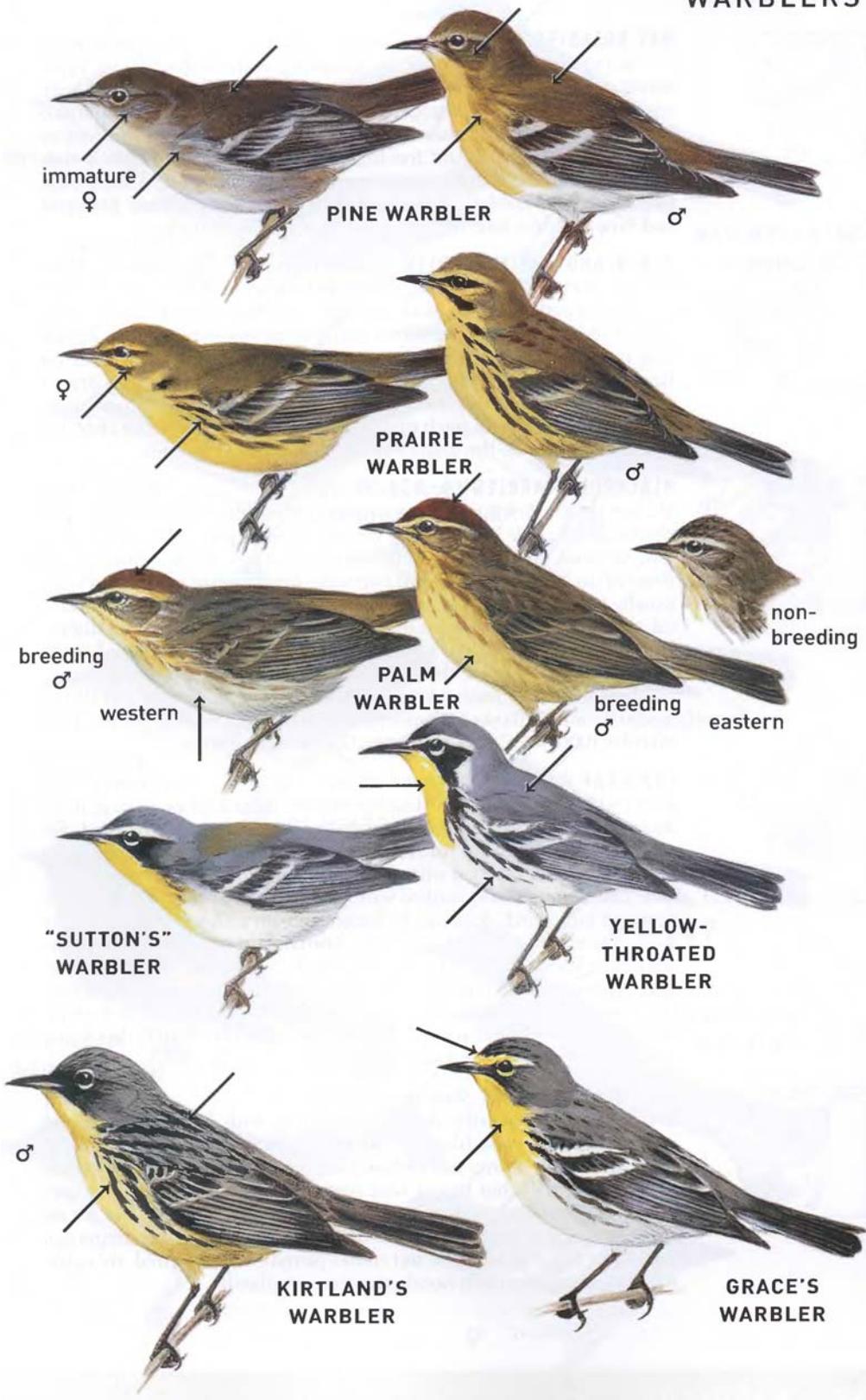
5¾ in. (15 cm). Bluish gray above, *streaked with black*; yellow below, with black spots or streaks *confined to sides*. **Male:** Has *blackish mask*. **Female:** Duller, lacks mask; immature female browner. Persistently wags tail (as does Prairie Warbler). **VOICE:** Song, loud and low-pitched for a *Dendroica*, resembles Northern Waterthrush's song. Typical song starts with three or four low staccato notes, continues with rapid ringing notes on higher pitch, and ends abruptly. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Yellow-rumped, Yellow-throated, and Magnolia warblers. **HABITAT:** Groves of young jack pines 5 to 18 ft. high with ground cover of blueberries, bearberry, or sweet fern. Habitat succession and Brown-headed Cowbird are having an impact on endangered Kirtland's population.

**GRACE'S WARBLER** *Dendroica graciae*

Uncommon M552

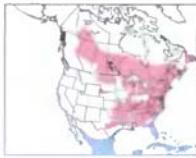
5 in. (13 cm). *Gray-backed, with yellow throat and upper breast*, two wing bars, *yellowish eyebrow stripe*, dark streaks on sides. **VOICE:** *Cheedle cheedle che che che che* (ends in a trill). Call a soft, sweet *chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Yellow-rumped ("Audubon's") Warbler. Yellow-throated Warbler, a vagrant in West, has white patch behind ear, blacker facial pattern. **HABITAT:** Pine-oak forests of canyons and mountains.

WARBLERS

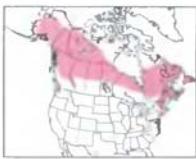




BAY-BREASTED WARBLER *Dendroica castanea* Uncommon M557
5½ in. (14 cm). *Breeding male:* Dark looking, with *chestnut throat, upper breast, and sides*. Note *buff patch on neck*. *Breeding female:* Paler, with *whitish throat*. *Nonbreeding:* Olive green above; two white wing bars; pale *buff breast, flanks, and undertail coverts, dark feet; no streaks on back or breast*. **VOICE:** High, sibilant *tees teesi teesi*; resembles song of Black-and-white Warbler, but thinner, shorter, more on one pitch. Call a sharp *chip*, like Blackpoll Warbler's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** See nonbreeding Blackpoll and Pine warblers. **HABITAT:** Woodlands; in summer, conifers.



BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER *Mniotilla varia* Common M560
5¼ in. (13 cm). *Creeping along trunks and branches of trees*, this warbler is *striped lengthwise with black and white* and has *striped crown, white stripes on back*. *Male:* Black throat partly or mostly lost in winter. *Female and immature:* Paler cheek, fainter streaks below, and buffy wash on flanks. **VOICE:** Song a thin *weesee weesee weesee weesee*; suggests one of American Redstart's songs, but higher pitched and longer. A second, more rambling song drops in pitch midway. Call a sharp *chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Blackpoll and Black-throated Gray warblers. **HABITAT:** Woods.



BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Dendroica striata* Common M558
5½ in. (14 cm). *Breeding male:* A striped gray warbler with *black cap, white cheeks, distinct pale legs*. *Breeding female:* Greenish gray above, whitish below, *streaked*. *Nonbreeding:* Olive above, greenish yellow below, *faintly streaked on back and on breast; two wing bars; whitish undertail coverts; usually pale legs (or at least feet)*. **VOICE:** Song a thin, deliberate, mechanical *zi-zi-zi-zi-zi-zi-zi-zi* on one pitch, becoming stronger, then diminishing. Call a sharp *chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Breeding Black-and-white Warbler has white stripe through crown and on back, different behavior. Nonbreeding Bay-breasted Warbler lacks streaking on breast and flanks, has buff wash on flanks and undertail coverts, and dark feet. See also Pine Warbler. **HABITAT:** Conifers; in migration, broadleaf trees.

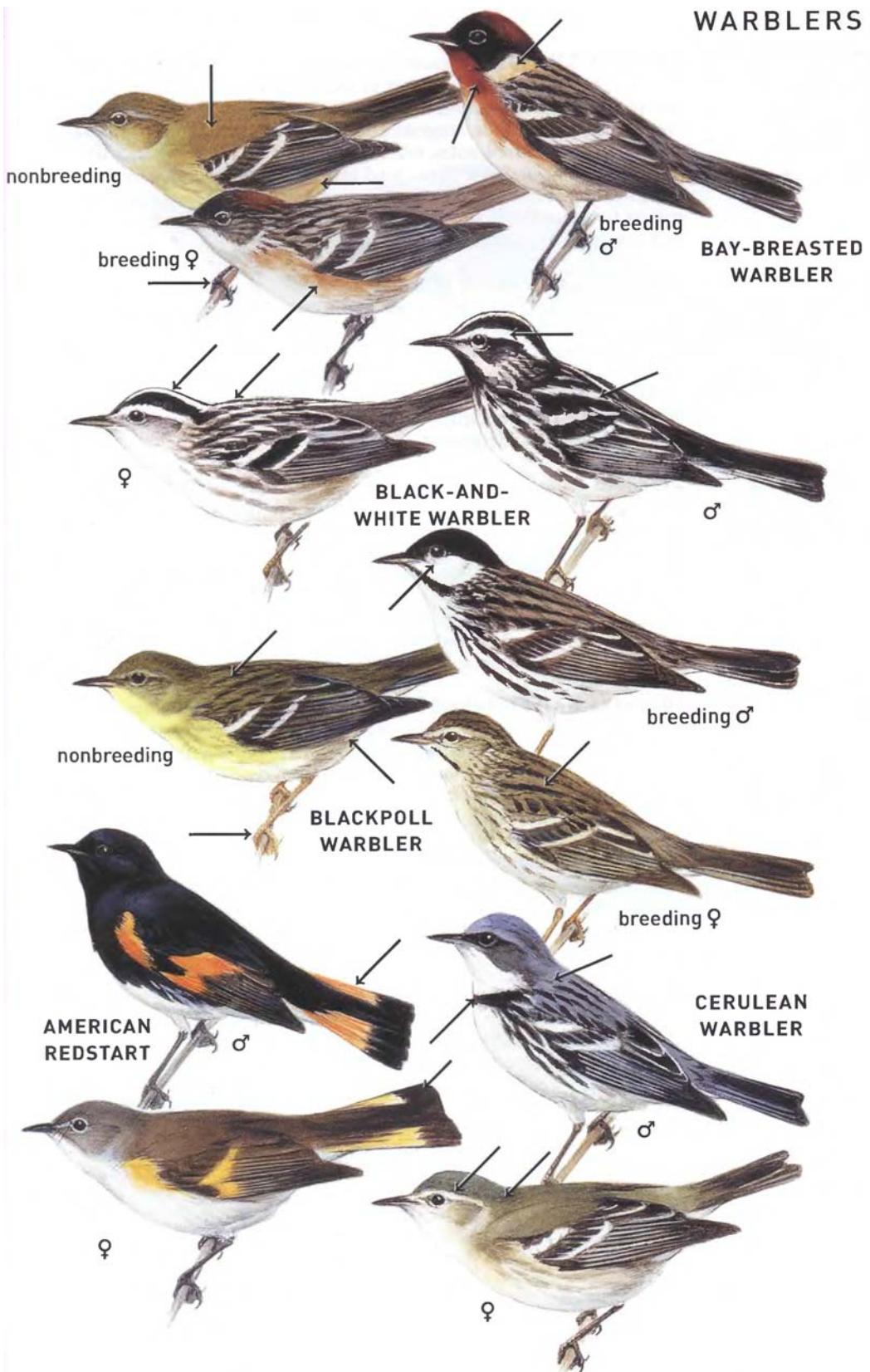


CERULEAN WARBLER *Dendroica cerulea* Uncommon M559
4¾ in. (12 cm). A small, short-tailed warbler, often high up in large trees. *Male:* Blue above, white below. Note *narrow black band across chest*. *Female:* Dull blue (mostly restricted to crown and rump) and *olive green above*, whitish below; two white wing bars, *broad whitish eyebrow*. *Immature:* Like a dull female; washed with pale yellow on breast. **VOICE:** Buzzy notes on same pitch, followed by longer note on a higher pitch: *zray zray z-z-z zeeee*. Call a rich, slurred *chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female suggests Tennessee Warbler, but latter has no wing bars; also nonbreeding Blackpoll Warbler, but greener above, whitish below, with more conspicuous eyebrow. Dull female Blackburnian Warbler has streaked back pattern. See also female Black-throated Gray Warbler. **HABITAT:** High in deciduous forests, especially in river valleys and ridges.



AMERICAN REDSTART *Setophaga ruticilla* Common M561
5¼ in. (13 cm). Butterfly-like; actively flitting, with drooping wings and spread tail. *Adult male:* Black; *bright orange patches on wings and tail*. *Female:* Gray-olive above; *yellow flash patches on wings and tail*. *Immature male:* Like female, but tinged with orange on chest patches, sometimes with black splotches on face. **VOICE:** Songs (often alternated) *zee zee zee zee zwee* (last note higher), *tsee tsee tsee tsee-o* (last syllable dropping), and *teetsa teetsa teetsa teetsa teet* (notes paired). Call a slurred, rich *chip*. **HABITAT:** Second-growth woods, riparian woodlands.

WARBLERS





SWAINSON'S WARBLER *Limnothlypis swainsonii* Uncommon M564
5½ in. (14 cm). A skulker, difficult to see. Long bill. Olive-brown above and plain buffy white below, with *brown crown and light eyebrow stripe*. Sexes alike. **VOICE:** Song suggests Louisiana Waterthrush's, but shorter (five notes: two slurred notes, two lower notes, and a higher note): *wee-wee-chip-poor-will*. Call a sharp, loud *chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, waterthrushes. **HABITAT:** Cane thickets, swamps, stream bottoms, thick woodland brush; locally in rhododendron-hemlock tangles in Appalachians.



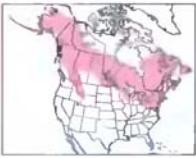
WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum* Uncommon M563
5¼ in. (13 cm). An unobtrusive forager of wooded slopes and thick understory. Often probes dead-leaf clusters. *Dull olive, with black stripes on buffy head*. Breast *rich buff*. Sexes alike. **VOICE:** Song a series of thin dry notes; resembles trill or rattle of Chipping Sparrow, but thinner, more rapid, and insectlike. Call a flat *chip*, also a distinctive *zeet-zeet* in flight. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Ovenbird, Swainson's Warbler, waterthrushes. **HABITAT:** Wooded hillsides, undergrowth, ravines.



OVENBIRD *Seiurus aurocapilla* Common M565
6 in. (15 cm). When breeding, more often heard than seen. Usually seen walking on leafy floor of woods. Suggests a small thrush, but *striped* rather than spotted beneath. *Orangish patch on crown bordered by blackish stripes*. *White eye-ring*. **VOICE:** Song an emphatic TEACHER, TEACHER, TEACHER, etc., in crescendo. In some areas, monosyllabic, TEACH, TEACH, TEACH, etc. Call a loud, sharp *tshuk*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Waterthrushes. See also spotted thrushes (p. 314). **HABITAT:** Near or on ground in leafy and pine-oak woods; in migration, also thickets.

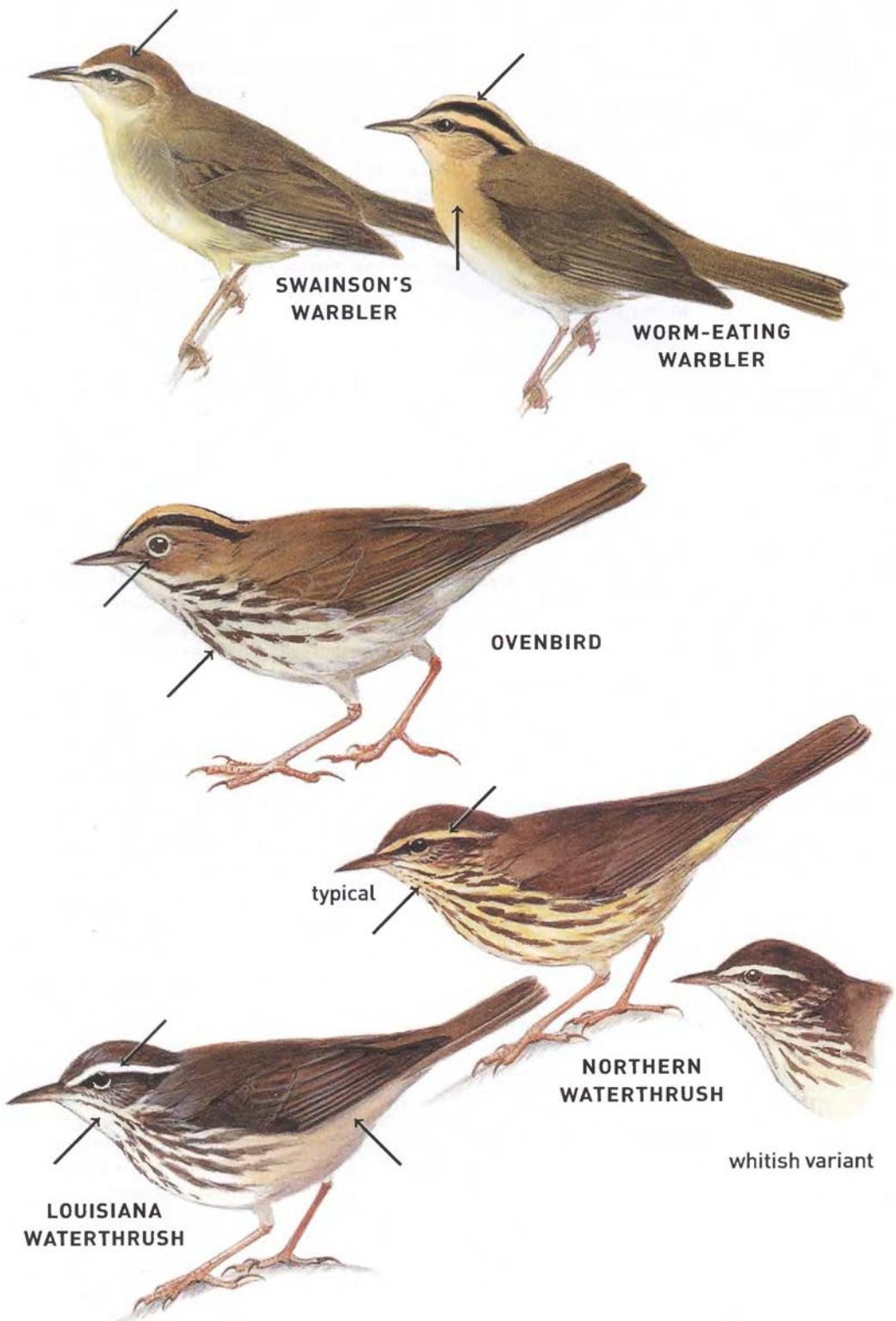


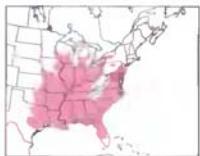
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH *Seiurus motacilla* Uncommon M567
6 in. (15 cm). Similar to Northern Waterthrush, but underparts *white on breast, pinkish buff on flanks and undertail coverts*. Bill slightly larger. *Eyebrow stripe pure white and flares noticeably behind eye*. Throat usually lacks stripes. Legs pinkish. **VOICE:** Song musical and ringing; three clear slurred whistles, followed by a jumble of twittering notes dropping in pitch. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Some nonbreeding Northern Waterthrushes (particularly western form, *S. n. notabilis*) have whitish eyebrow stripe. Northern has small spots or stripes on throat and ground color of underparts is *even-toned* (yellow to off-white), not bicolored like Louisiana. Song of Swainson's Warbler somewhat similar. **HABITAT:** Streams, brooks, ravines, wooded swamps.



NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH *Seiurus noveboracensis* Common M566
5¾ in. (15 cm). Suggests a small thrush. *Walks along water's edge and teeters* like a Spotted Sandpiper. Brown-backed, with *striped* underparts, strong eyebrow stripe; both eyebrow and underparts vary from whitish to pale yellow. *Throat striped*. **VOICE:** Call a sharp *chink*. Song a vigorous, rapid *twit twit twit sweet sweet chew chew chew* (*chews* drop in pitch). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Louisiana Waterthrush, Ovenbird. **HABITAT:** Swamps, bogs, wet woods with standing water, streamsides, pond shores; in migration, also marsh edges, puddles, mangroves.

WARBLERS





PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Protonotaria citrea* Fairly common M562
5½ in. (14 cm). A golden bird of wooded swamps. *Male*: Entire head and breast deep yellow to orangey. Wings blue-gray with no bars. *Female*: Duller. **VOICE**: Song zweet zweet zweet zweet zweet zweet, on one pitch. Call a loud seep. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Yellow and Blue-winged warblers. **HABITAT**: Wooded swamps, backwaters, river edges.



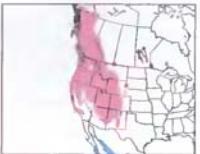
KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus* Uncommon M568
5¼ in. (13 cm). Note broad black sideburns extending down from eye and yellow spectacles. Sexes similar, though female and immature slightly duller. Learn song; 10 Kentuckies are heard for every 1 seen. **VOICE**: Song a rapid rolling chant, tory-tory-tory-tory or churrry-churrry-churrry-churrry, suggestive of Carolina Wren, but less musical (two-syllable rather than three-syllable). Call a rich, low tup. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Common Yellowthroat lacks spectacles. See also Hooded Warbler. **HABITAT**: Woodland undergrowth.



CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* Uncommon M569
5¾–6 in. (15 cm). Shy and skulking. Similar to MacGillivray's and Mourning warblers, but slightly larger; note walking behavior—on limbs and ground—and complete white eye-ring, long undertail coverts reaching almost to tail tip. **Breeding**: Hood gray in male, gray-brown in female. **Non-breeding female and immature**: Duller, with brownish hood, paler throat. **VOICE**: Repetitious chip-chup-ee, chip-chup-ee, chip-chup-ee, chip or sugar-tweet, sugar-tweet, sugar-tweet. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Breeding Mourning Warbler lacks eye-ring (but immature has slightly broken one). Male has black throat. Also, Connecticut walks, Mourning hops. Nashville Warbler also has eye-ring, but is smaller, has yellow throat, and is a more active feeder. See also MacGillivray's Warbler. **HABITAT**: Poplar bluffs, muskeg, mixed woods; in migration, undergrowth. Feeds mostly on ground.

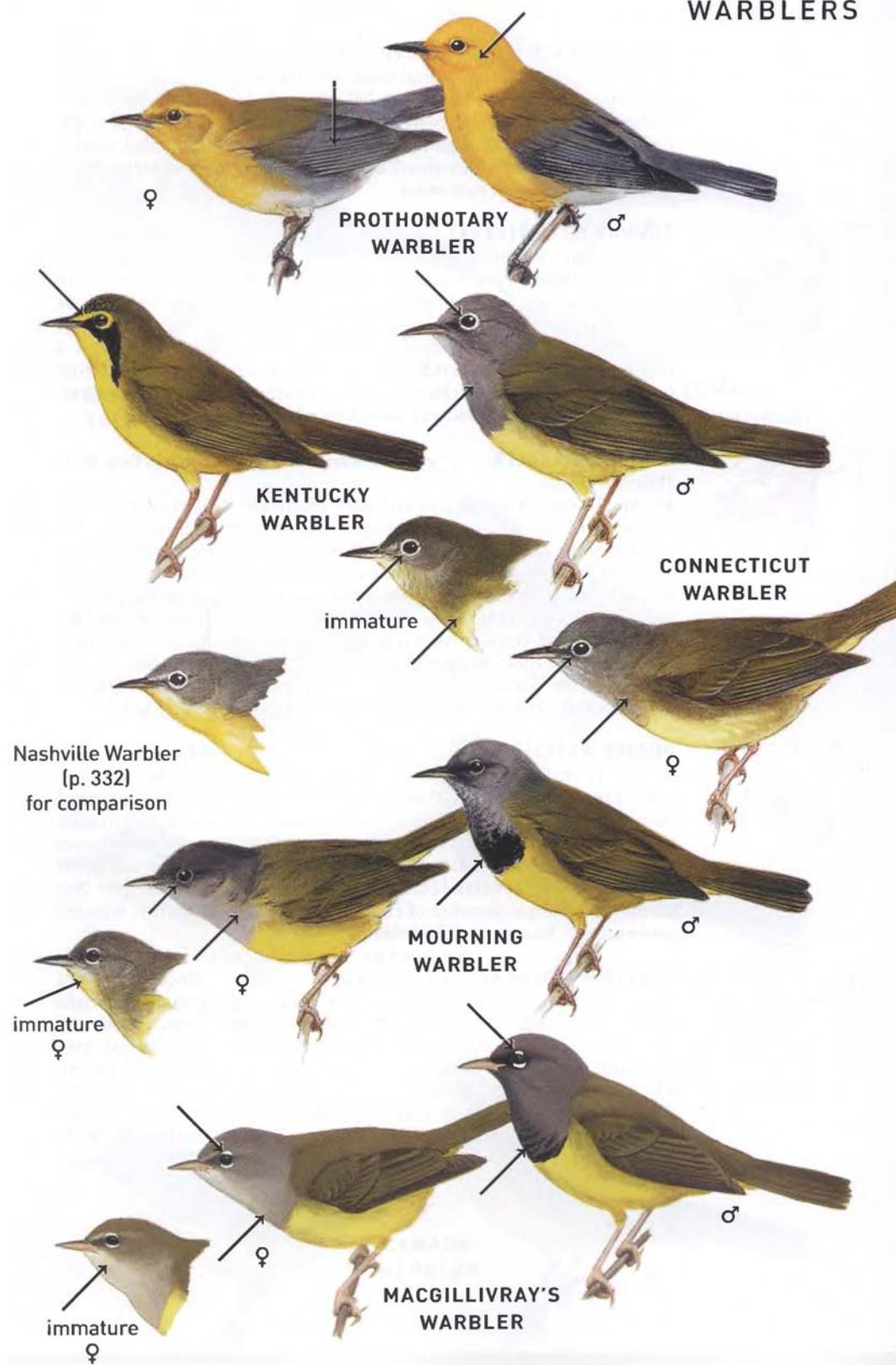


MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphica* Uncommon M570
5¼ in. (13 cm). Shy and skulking. Olive above, yellow below, with slate gray hood encircling head and neck. *Male*: Has irregular black bib. *Female and immature*: May have thin, light eye-ring that is barely broken, typically not thicker eye-arcs of MacGillivray's Warbler, but this difference may be minimal. Some breeding females and most nonbreeding birds show yellow wash on throat, sometimes extending through middle breast and resulting in bird not appearing "hooded." Yellow undertail coverts of medium length of the three similar *Oporornis* warblers. **VOICE**: Song chirry, chirry, chirry, chirry (chirry lower). Considerable variation. Call a hard, buzzy, wrenlike chack. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: MacGillivray's and Connecticut warblers; both are skulkers. **HABITAT**: Thickets, undergrowth.



MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER *Oporornis tolmiei* Uncommon M571
5¼ in. (13 cm). *Male*: Olive above, yellow below, with slate gray hood (blackish lores and upper breast) completely encircling head and neck. Partial white eye-ring is broken fore and aft, forming crescent shapes. *Female*: Similar, but hood paler, washed out on throat. *Immature*: Like a dull female. **VOICE**: Song a rolling chiddle-chiddle-chiddle, turtle-turtle, last notes dropping; or sweeter-sweeter-sweeter, sugar-sugar. Call a low, hard chik, given often. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Immature told from young Mourning Warbler in fall by grayish white, not yellowish, throat and by complete pale grayish breast-band. Some Orange-crowned Warblers also have grayish head contrasting with olivey yellow body and pale, broken eye-ring; but they are shaped and behave differently, are duller yellow, and have blurry breast streaks. See voice. **HABITAT**: Low dense undergrowth; shady thickets.

WARBLERS



GRAY-CROWNED YELLOWTHROAT *Geothlypis poliocephala* Vagrant
 5½ in. (14 cm). Male has partial mask *not extending to forehead or cheeks*; gray crown. Both sexes have *thick bill with pale lower mandible*; broken white eye-ring. **VOICE:** Burbling warble. Call *chlee-dee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Yellowthroat slightly smaller, and slightly smaller billed. **RANGE:** Very rare visitor from Mex. to s. TX, where formerly bred. **HABITAT:** Reeds and weedy vegetation near water.



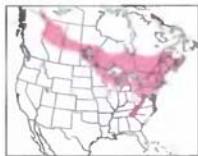
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT *Geothlypis trichas* Common M572
 5 in. (13 cm). Wrenlike. **Male:** Black (*Lone Ranger*) mask, yellow throat and upper breast. **Female and immature:** Olive-brown, with rich yellow throat, duller below, but brighter yellow undertail coverts; lack or have only a suggestion of black mask. **VOICE:** Bright rapid chant, *witchity-witchity-witchity-witch*; sometimes *witchy-witchy-witchy-witch*. Call a husky *tchap*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female and immature distinguished from immature *Oporornis* warbler by whitish belly, smaller size. **HABITAT:** Swamps, marshes, wet thickets, woodland edges.



WILSON'S WARBLER *Wilsonia pusilla* Common in West, uncommon in East M574
 4¾ in. (12 cm). Note longish tail, dark beady eye. **Male:** Golden yellow with *round black cap*. **Female:** May show trace of cap (on forecrown). **Immature:** Some lack even suggestion of dark cap; they are golden-looking birds with yellow stripe above *beady eye* and *yellow lores*. Constantly moving and flitting about. **VOICE:** Song a thin, rapid little chatter, dropping in pitch at end: *chi chi chi chi chi chet chet*. Call a flat *timp*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Hooded Warbler has white spots on tail, dark lores. Yellow Warbler has yellow spots on shorter tail, yellow edging in wings. See also Orange-crowned Warbler. Vocal differences important. **HABITAT:** Thickets and trees along streams, moist tangles, low shrubs, willows, alders.

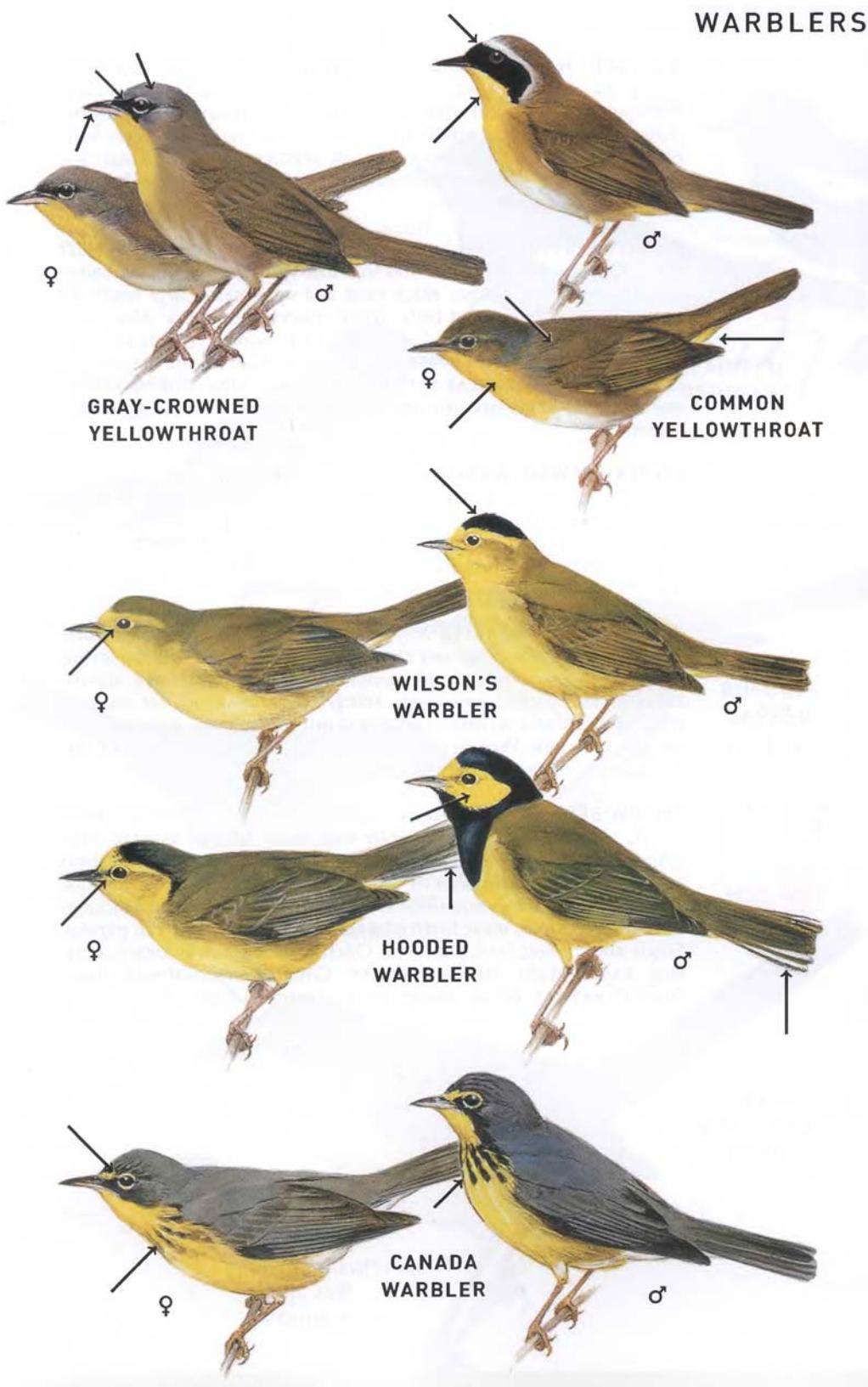


HOODED WARBLER *Wilsonia citrina* Fairly common M573
 5¼ in. (13 cm). **Male:** Black hood or cowl encircles yellow face and forehead. **Female:** Lacks hood, although yellow face may be sharply outlined (adults); aside from *white tail spots*, may lack other distinctive marks. **VOICE:** Song a loud whistled *weeta wee-tee-o*. Also other arrangements; slurred *tee-o* is a clue. Call a sharp *chink*, like waterthrushes or California Towhee. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female and immature Wilson's Warbler lack tail spots and any suggestion of Hooded's face pattern. **HABITAT:** Wooded undergrowth, laurels, wooded swamps.



CANADA WARBLER *Wilsonia canadensis* Uncommon M575
 5¼ in. (13 cm). The "necklaced warbler." **Male:** Solid gray above; bright yellow below, with *necklace of short black stripes*; white vent. **Female and immature:** Similar; necklace fainter, upperparts may be washed with brownish. All have *spectacles of white eye-ring and yellow loral stripe*. No white in wings or tail. **VOICE:** Song a staccato burst, irregularly arranged. *Chip, chupety swee-ditchety*. Call *tchip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Magnolia, Yellow-throated, and Grace's warblers. **HABITAT:** Forest undergrowth, shady thickets.

WARBLERS





RED-FACED WARBLER *Cardellina rubrifrons* Uncommon, local M576
5½ in. (14 cm). The only U.S. warbler with *bright red face*. Has gray back, black patch on head, and white nape. Females and immatures only slightly duller than adult male. **VOICE:** Clear, sweet song, similar to Yellow Warbler. Call a sharp *chip* or *chup*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Painted Redstart has overlapping range in Southwest. **HABITAT:** Open fir and pine-oak forests in upper canyons, mountains.



PAINTED REDSTART *Myioborus pictus* Uncommon M577
5¾ in. (15 cm). Beautiful; postures with half-spread wings and tail, showing off *large white patches*. Black head and upperparts; *large bright red patch* on lower breast and belly. White crescent under eye. Also called Painted Whitestart. *Juvenile*: Lacks red. **VOICE:** Song a repetitious *weeta weeta weeta wee* or *weeta weeta chilp chilp chilp*. Call *clee-ip*, suggesting a siskin, not warbler. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red-faced Warbler, American Redstart. **HABITAT:** Pine-oak canyons and mountains; comes to sugar-water feeders.

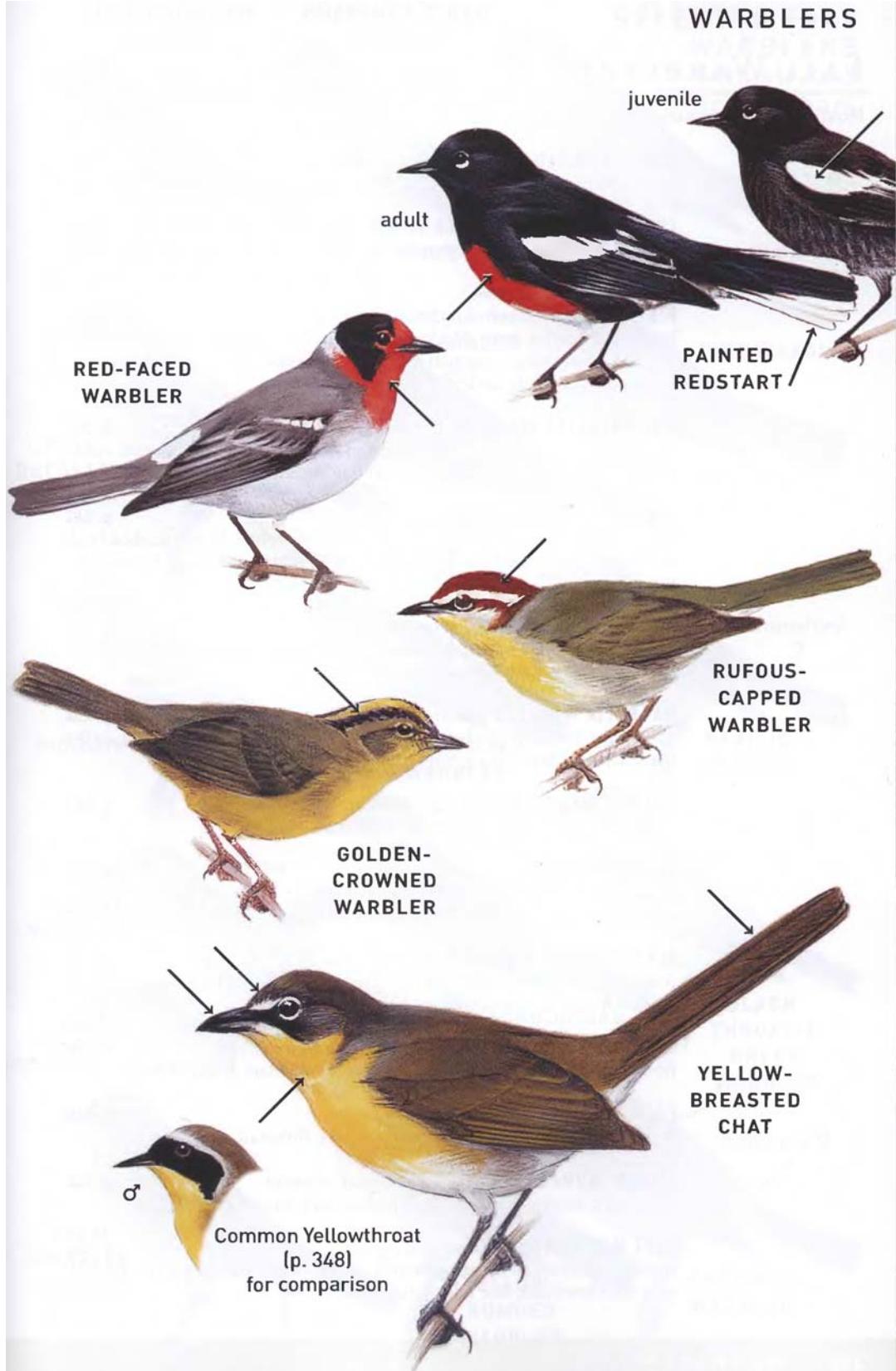
GOLDEN-CROWNED WARBLER *Basileuterus culicivorus* Vagrant
5 in. (13 cm). Yellow crown and gray eyebrow stripe bordered by black. Broken eye-ring. Dusky yellow below. Drab olive above. **VOICE:** Song a series of slurred whistles. Call a short, sharp *tuk*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned Warbler. **RANGE:** Casual stray from Mex. to s. TX. **HABITAT:** Dense woodland understory.



RUFOUS-CAPPED WARBLER *Basileuterus rufifrons* Very rare visitor
5 in. (13 cm). *Rufous cap and cheek* separated by white eyebrow stripe. Throat and upper breast bright yellow, upperparts olive. Long, spindly tail often held cocked up at angle. **VOICE:** Accelerating series of whistled, musical chips and warbles. Call *tick*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Yellowthroat. **RANGE:** Very rare visitor from Mex. to s. AZ and TX. **HABITAT:** Thick brush, oak woodlands near water.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT *Icteria virens* Uncommon M578
7½ in. (19 cm). Our largest warbler with *heavy bill* and *long tail*. Note *white spectacles*, *bright yellow* throat and breast. No wing bars. Habitat and voice suggest a thrasher or mockingbird. **VOICE:** Repeated whistles, alternating with harsh notes and soft *caws*. Suggests Northern Mockingbird, but repertoire more limited; much longer pauses between phrases. Single notes: *whoit*, *kook*, *zhairr*, etc. Often sings in short, awkward courtship display flight. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Yellowthroat (much smaller). **HABITAT:** Brushy tangles, briars, stream thickets.

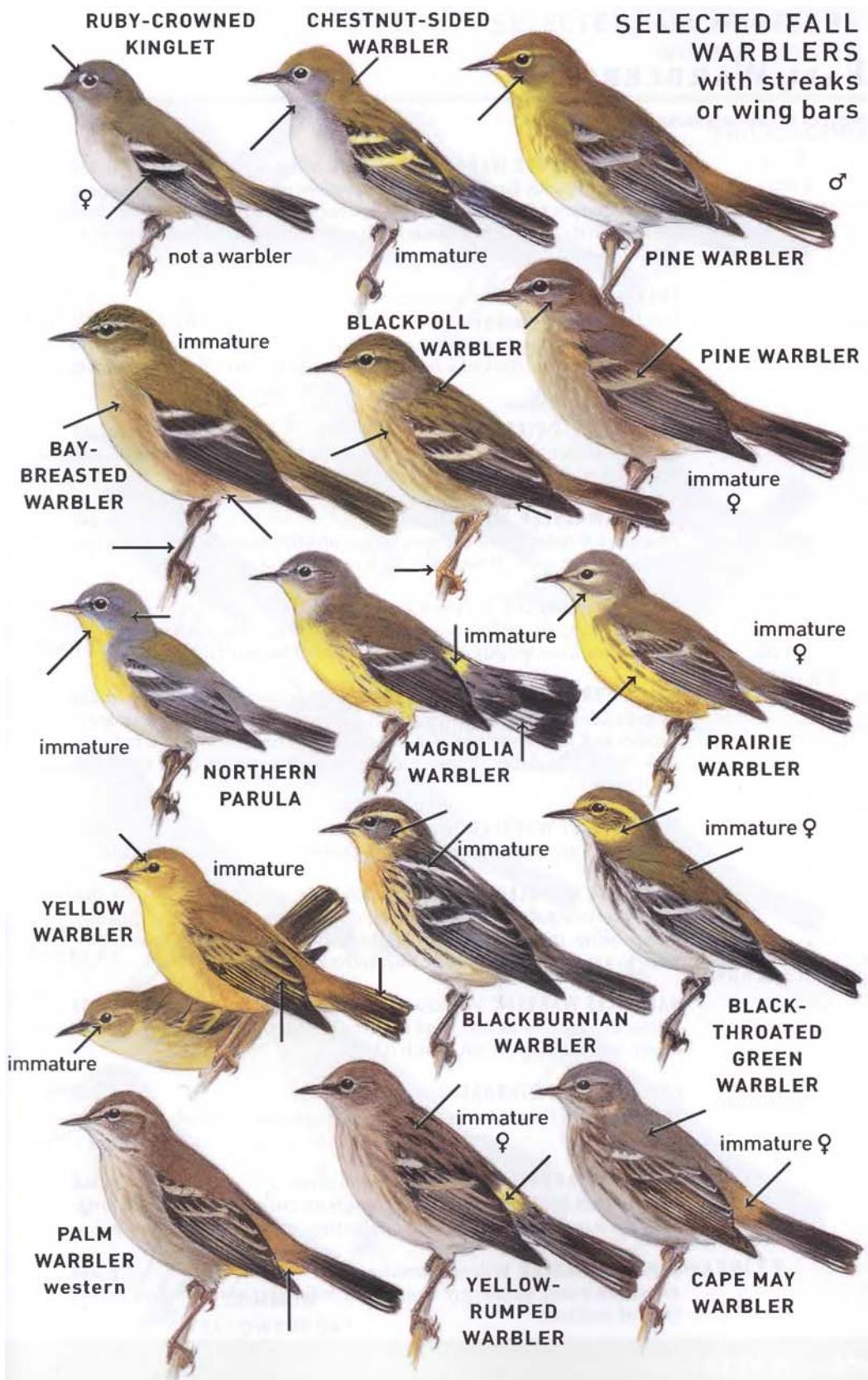
WARBLERS



FALL WARBLERS

Most of these have streaks or wing bars.

- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET** *Regulus calendula* p. 308
(Not a warbler.) Broken eye-ring, pale wing bars, wing-flicking behavior.
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** *Dendroica pensylvanica* p. 334
Immature: Green above, grayish-white below; eye-ring; tail cocked at angle.
- PINE WARBLER** *Dendroica pinus* p. 340
Immatures differ from Blackpoll and Bay-breasted warblers in heavier bill, less contrasting wing patterns, darker cheeks. Also note dark legs, unstreaked back, white undertail coverts.
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER** *Dendroica castanea* p. 342
Note dark legs and feet, buff undertail coverts, unstreaked breast. Adult may retain a wash of rust or "bay" on flanks. See Blackpoll Warbler.
- BLACKPOLL WARBLER** *Dendroica striata* p. 342
Very similar to Bay-breasted Warbler, but slimmer. Note streaked back and breast, white (not buff) undertail coverts; pale yellowish legs and especially feet.
- NORTHERN PARULA** *Parula americana* p. 334
Immature: Small and short-tailed. Combination of bluish head, broken eye-ring, and yellow throat; wing bars.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER** *Dendroica magnolia* p. 334
Immature: Broad white band at midtail. Note yellow rump. Faint dusky band across yellow breast. Side streaking.
- PRairie WARBLER** *Dendroica discolor* p. 340
Immature: Jaw stripe, side streaks. Bobs tail.
- YELLOW WARBLER** *Dendroica petechia* p. 334
Yellow edging to wings and tail. Beady dark eye. Some females and immatures are so dusky that they may resemble Orange-crowned Warbler.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** *Dendroica fusca* p. 338
Immature: Yellow or yellow-orange throat, dark cheek; broad supercilium, pale back stripes. Obvious wing bars.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** *Dendroica virens* p. 338
Immature: Dusky outline frames yellow cheek. Plain greenish back.
- PALM WARBLER** *Dendroica palmarum* p. 340
Brownish back, yellowish undertail coverts. Bobs tail.
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER** *Dendroica coronata* p. 336
Immature: Bright yellow rump, streaked back; brownish above.
- CAPE MAY WARBLER** *Dendroica tigrina* p. 336
Immature: Streaked breast, greenish yellow rump. Immature female very gray (not brownish like Yellow-rumped).



FALL WARBLERS

Most of these lack streaks or wing bars.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER *Vermivora celata* p. 332

Dingy breast with faint dusky streaks, yellow undertail coverts, faint eye line. Immature of northern and eastern subspecies (*celata*) greenish drab overall, barely paler below. Some birds often quite gray; other, more western subspecies, brighter yellow.

TENNESSEE WARBLER *Vermivora peregrina* p. 332

Similar to Orange-crowned Warbler but has white undertail coverts; more conspicuous eyebrow stripe; greener look above; paler underparts, with no hint of streaks; trace of a light wing bar; shorter tail. Note also needle-thin bill.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus* p. 282

(Not a warbler.) "Vireo" song and actions. Note also thicker vireo bill. Compare with female Tennessee Warbler.

HOODED WARBLER *Wilsonia citrina* p. 348

Immature female: Yellow eyebrow stripe, mostly yellow cheeks, dark lores, bold white tail spots. (Immature male resembles adult male.)

WILSON'S WARBLER *Wilsonia pusilla* p. 348

Immature: Beady dark eye. Smaller and slimmer than Hooded Warbler with yellow lores, mostly olive cheeks, slimmer tail with no white.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER *Dendroica caerulescens* p. 336

Female: Dark cheek, white wing spot ("handkerchief"). Some immature females lack this white spot and may suggest Tennessee Warbler, but note dark cheek and duller (browner olive) back. (Immature male resembles adult male.)

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* p. 346

Immature: Large size. Brownish hood; complete, bold, eye-ring. Walks.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphica* p. 346

Immature and fall female: Suggestion of hood; broken eye-ring. Brighter yellow below than Connecticut Warbler, including often on throat, contrary to grayish white throat of MacGillivray's Warbler.

NASHVILLE WARBLER *Vermivora ruficapilla* p. 332

Yellow throat (may be dull) and undertail coverts, white eye-ring, grayish crown and nape. Short tail, which it bobs.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT *Geothlypis trichas* p. 348

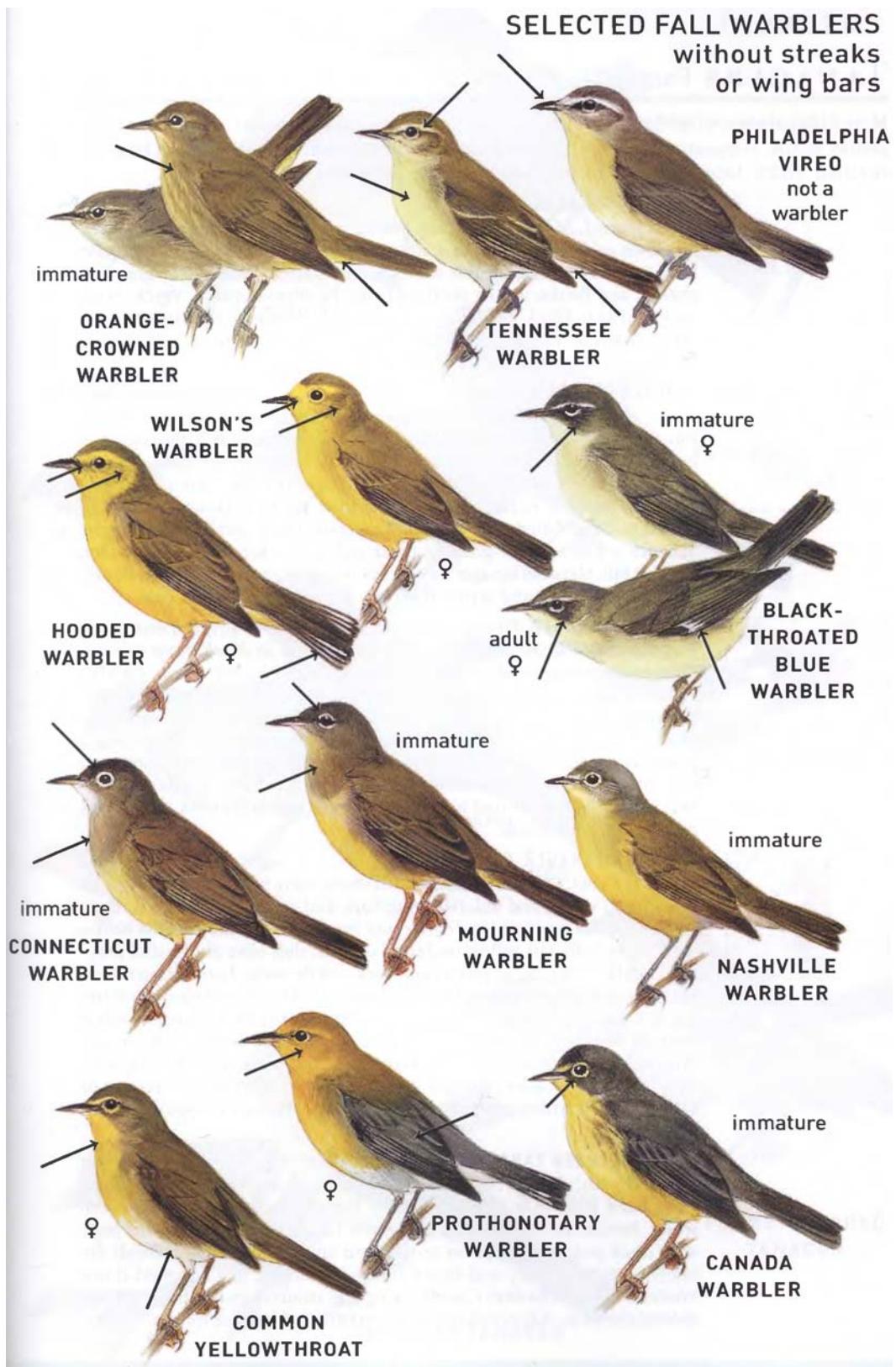
Female: Yellow throat, breast, and undertail coverts; brownish sides; white belly.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Protonotaria citrea* p. 346

Female: Dull golden head tinged greenish on crown in some immatures; dark eye stands out on plain face. Gray wings, white undertail, long bill.

CANADA WARBLER *Wilsonia canadensis* p. 348

Immature: Lores yellow, eye-ring white. Solid gray above, yellow below, trace of necklace.



TANAGERS Family Thraupidae

Male tanagers are brightly colored; females of our species are greenish to grayish above, yellow below, suggesting large, thick-billed warblers or orioles. The rather stout bills are notched. **FOOD:** Insects, fruit. **RANGE:** New World, most species in Tropics.



HEPATIC TANAGER *Piranga flava*

Uncommon, local M579

8 in. (20 cm). Male: Darker than Summer Tanager; orange-red, *brightest on crown and throat, with dark ear patch, dark bill, grayish flanks*. Female: Dull yellowish and gray, but shares male's pattern with dusky gray bill, cheeks, and flanks; yellow on throat may be tinged orange. **VOICE:** Song very similar to Black-headed Grosbeak's. Call a single *chuck*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Summer Tanager. **HABITAT:** Nests in open mountain and canyon woodlands with oaks, pines.



SUMMER TANAGER *Piranga rubra*

Fairly common M580

7 1/4 in. (20 cm). Male: *Rose red all over, with pale bill*. Female: Olive above, mustard yellow below; pale bill. Young males acquiring adult plumage may be patched with red, yellow, and green; some adult females have orangey undertail coverts. **VOICE:** Call a staccato *pi-tuk* or *pik-i-tuk-i-tuk*. Song robinlike phrases, richer and less nasal than Western Tanager's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Male Northern Cardinal has crest, black face. Female Scarlet Tanager is more yellow-green in color and has darker wings and smaller, duskier bill. Hepatic Tanager has darker bill, grayish cheek, grayish flanks; brightest on crown and throat. **HABITAT:** Riparian woodlands, oaks.



SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea*

Fairly common M581

7 in. (18 cm). Breeding male: *Flaming scarlet, with jet-black wings and tail*. Female, immature, and nonbreeding male: Greenish olive above, variably yellowish below; dark brownish or blackish wings; normally no wing bars, but young birds may have single faint bar. Molting male patched with red. **VOICE:** Song four or five short phrases, robinlike but hoarse (suggesting a robin with a sore throat): *hurry-worry-flurry-blurry*. Call *chip-burr*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Summer and Western tanagers, Northern Cardinal. **HABITAT:** Deciduous and mixed forests, shade trees, especially oaks. Often stays high and is overlooked.



WESTERN TANAGER *Piranga ludoviciana*

Fairly common M582

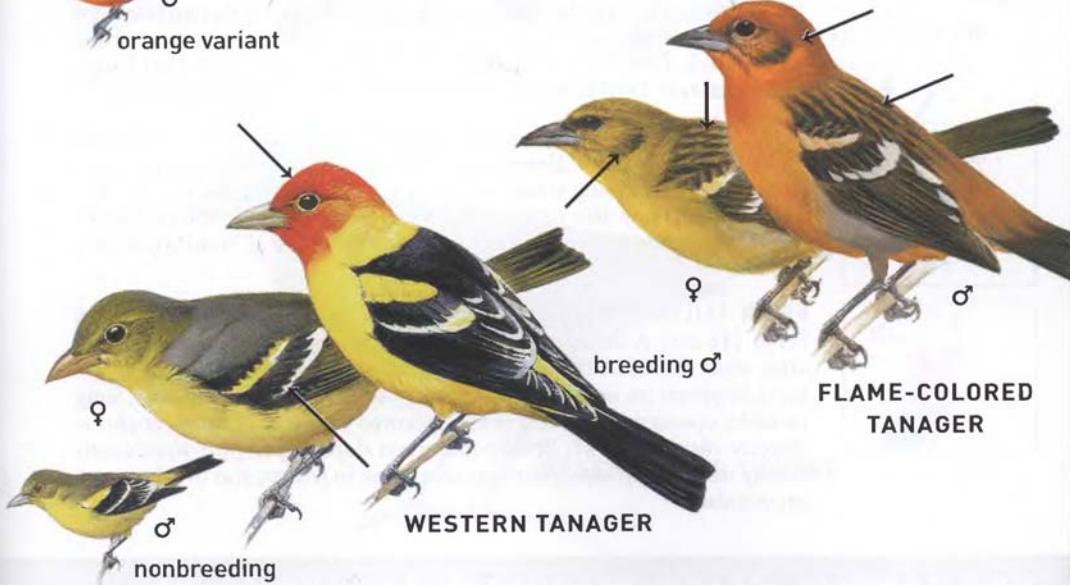
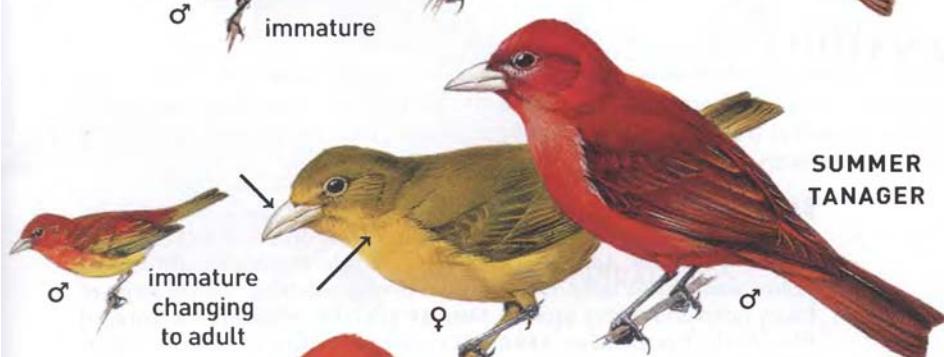
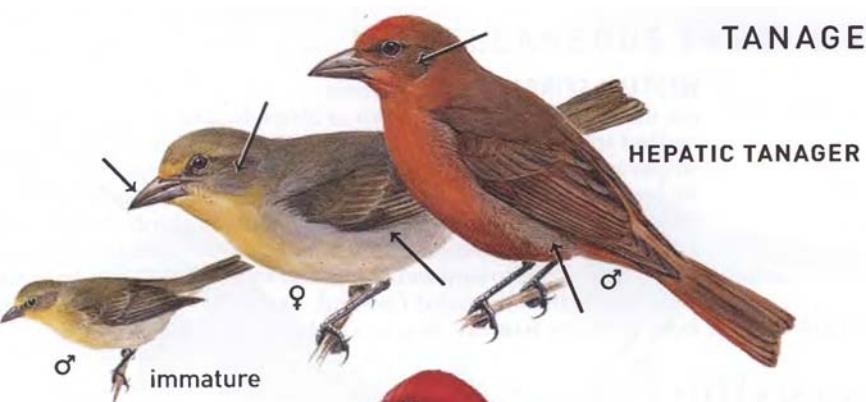
7 1/4 in. (18 cm). Our only tanager with *strong wing bars*. Male: Yellow with black back, wings, and tail, two wing bars, and reddish head. Red is much reduced in fall and winter. Female and immature: Variably yellow below, with white belly but yellow undertail coverts; dull olive above, dull grayish "saddle" may be apparent on back, white wing bars thinner than male's. **VOICE:** Song is short phrases; similar to American Robin's in form, but less sustained, hoarser. Calls a dry *pr-tee* or *pri-ti-tic* and breathy *whee?* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Resembles female orioles, but tail shorter, bill stouter. Worn birds in late summer may have very faint wing bars and might be confused with Scarlet Tanager. **HABITAT:** Nests in open coniferous or mixed forests; widespread in migration; a few winter in blooming eucalyptus in CA.

FLAME-COLORED TANAGER *Piranga bidentata*

Vagrant

7 1/4 in. (18 cm). Male: *Fire red with streaked back, dark ear patch, two white wing bars, and white tips on tertials*. Dark tail tipped at corners with white. Female: Looks like female Western Tanager, but note *streaked back, dark cheek patch, pale tips on tertials and tail, and dark bill*. Hybrids are known. **VOICE:** Husky and burry series of phrases, like a slowed-down Western Tanager. **RANGE:** Casual spring and summer visitor from Mex. to mountains of se. AZ; accidental to TX. **HABITAT:** Pine-oak forests.

TANAGERS



FLAME-COLORED TANAGER



WESTERN SPINDALIS *Spindalis zena*

Vagrant

6¾ in. (17 cm). Formerly known as Stripe-headed Tanager. This boldly marked species is our smallest tanager. **Male:** Bold black-and-white head stripes and shoulder patch stand out. Body burnt orange, back color varies by subspecies from black to green. **Female:** Plain gray-brown overall with pale wing spot; differentiated from other drab birds by thick tanager bill and size. **VOICE:** Series of thin high notes, *tzee-tzee-tzee*, often given with buzzy phrase toward end. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female may be confused with female Brown-headed Cowbird. **RANGE:** Very rare visitor to s. FL from W. Indies. **HABITAT:** Brushy woodlands, fruit trees.

BANANAQUIT Family Coerebidae

The Bananaquit is currently “homeless” taxonomically, although the species is likely most closely related to several tropical Emberizids. **FOOD:** Nectar, insects. **RANGE:** New World tropical areas centered on Caribbean.

BANANAQUIT *Coereba flaveola*

Vagrant

4½ in. (11 cm). A small, short-tailed bird with decurved bill and bold white supercilium. **Adult:** Dark above, white below with white throat and yellow wash across belly. **Juvenile:** Paler overall. **VOICE:** Explosive series of buzzy notes and sneezy squeaks. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Black-throated Blue Warbler, nuthatches. **RANGE:** Very rare visitor to s. FL from W. Indies. **HABITAT:** Open brushy areas, nectar- and fruit-bearing trees.

EMBERIZIDS: SPARROWS, OLD WORLD BUNTINGS, AND RELATIVES

Family Emberizidae

This large family of songbirds, whose taxonomic relationships are incompletely understood, comprises species with short conical bills, such as seedeaters, towhees, sparrows, longspurs, and Old World buntings. **FOOD:** Seeds, insects, fruit, varying seasonally. **RANGE:** Worldwide.



WHITE-COLLARED SEEDEATER *Sporophila torqueola* Scarce, local M583
4½ in. (11 cm). Tiny, with stubby bill. **Male:** Dark cap, incomplete light collar, white wing spot. Variable. **Female:** Buffy with eye-ring, wing bars. **VOICE:** High, then low *sweet, sweet, sweet, cheer, cheer, cheer*. Call a high *wink*. **HABITAT:** Tall, thick stands of grass and other similar deep cover.



OLIVE SPARROW *Arremonops rufivirgatus* Uncommon, local M584
6¼ in. (16 cm). Olive above, gray below with two dull brown stripes on crown. **VOICE:** Song composed of dry notes on one pitch going into Chipping Sparrow-like rattle; reminiscent of Field Sparrow. Call a sharp *chip* like Orange-crowned Warbler; also a hissing trill. **HABITAT:** Bushy thickets.



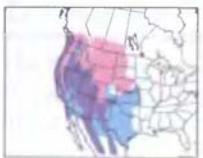
GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE *Pipilo chlorurus* Fairly common M585
7¼ in. (18 cm). A slender finchlike bird, known by its *rufous cap*, conspicuous *white throat*, black mustache, gray chest, and plain *olive green upperparts*, brightest on wings and tail. **VOICE:** Call a catlike mewing note. Song variable; opening with sweet notes, followed by burry notes: *weet-churr-cheeeeeee-churr*. **HABITAT:** Brushy mountain slopes, open pine woods with brushy understory, sage, montane chaparral; in winter, also brushy riparian woods.

MISCELLANEOUS PASSERINES





EASTERN TOWHEE *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* Fairly common M587
8 in. (20–21 cm). Smaller and more slender than a robin; rummages among leaf litter. Readily recognized by rufous sides. *Male*: Head and upperparts black; sides rufous rust, belly white. Flashes large white patches at tail corners. Eye usually red (but white in birds of s. Atlantic Coast and FL). *Female*: Similar, but brown where male is black. *Juvenile*: Streaked below like a large sparrow, but with diagnostic towhee wing and tail pattern. **VOICE**: Song *drink-your-tea*, last syllable higher, wavering. Call a loud *chewink!* Southern white-eyed race gives a more slurred *shrink* or *zree*; song *cheet cheet cheeeee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Spotted Towhee. **HABITAT**: Open woods, undergrowth, brushy edges, hedgerows, feeders.



SPOTTED TOWHEE *Pipilo maculatus* Common M586
8 in. (20–21 cm). Formerly lumped with Eastern Towhee, this species is also readily recognized by rufous sides. *Male*: Head and chest black; sides rufous red, belly white, back heavily spotted with white (amount varying geographically). Flashes large white patches in tail corners. Eye fiery red. *Female*: Similar, but black replaced by dusky grayish black to brownish black—also varying geographically. *Juvenile*: Streaked below, like a large sparrow, but with flash pattern in tail. **VOICE**: Song a drawn-out, buzzy *chweeeeeee*. Sometimes *chup chup chup zeeeeeee*; variable. Call a catlike *gu-eeee?* or (Southwest mountains) rising and falling *chreeeer*. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Eastern Towhee overlaps slightly on Great Plains in winter; lacks white spotting on back, shows small white patch at base of primaries; female is dark chocolate brown. Call might be confused with one call of Hermit Thrush. **HABITAT**: Open woods, undergrowth, chaparral, brushy edges, gardens.



CANYON TOWHEE *Pipilo fuscus* Uncommon M588
8½ in. (22 cm). Slightly paler and grayer than California Towhee, with rufous crown, faint dusky necklace, and dark spot on breast. **VOICE**: Very different from California Towhee. Call an odd *shed-ip* or *kedlp*. Song an accelerating string of call notes. **HABITAT**: Brushy areas in canyons and deserts, residential areas, feeders.

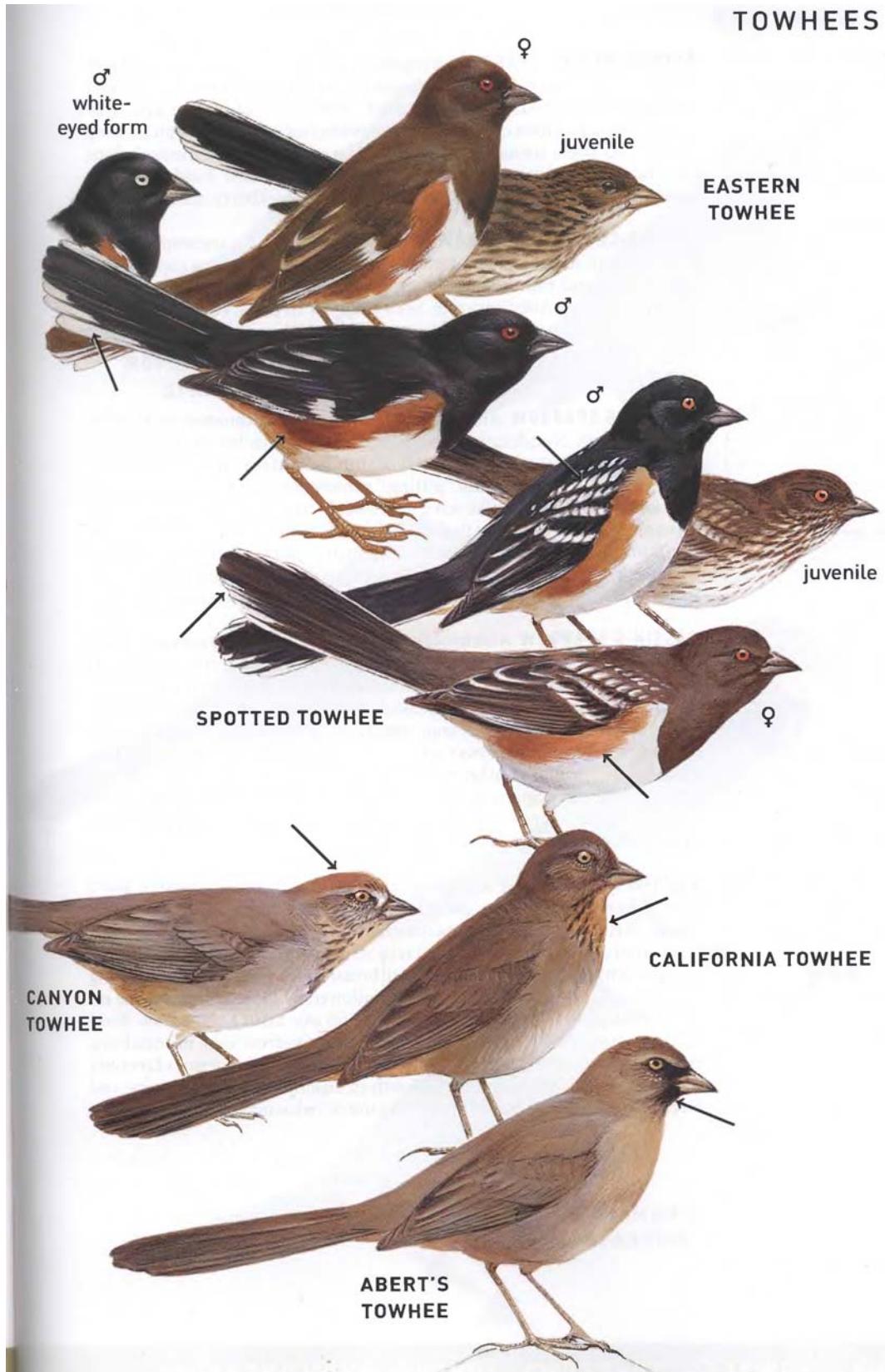


CALIFORNIA TOWHEE *Pipilo crissalis* Common M589
9 in. (23 cm). A common, dull brown, ground-loving bird, with moderately long dark tail; suggests a very plain, slim, overgrown sparrow. Note pale *rusty undertail coverts* and streaked buffy or rusty throat. **VOICE**: Call a metallic *chink*. Song a rapid *chink-chink-ink-ink-ink-ink-ink* on one pitch; often ends in trill. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: Canyon and Abert's towhees (but ranges do not overlap with California). California Thrasher larger, with long, slim, curved bill. **HABITAT**: Brushy areas, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, canyons, gardens.



ABERT'S TOWHEE *Pipilo aberti* Uncommon M590
9½ in. (24 cm). A desert species, similar to California Towhee, but note *blackish facial patch embracing base of bill*. Entire underparts buffy brown, sometimes appearing washed with cinnamon or pinkish buff; rustier on undertail coverts. **VOICE**: Call a sharp *peek* and high squeal. Song a rapid series of high *peek* and lower *tuk* notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES**: California and Canyon towhees. **HABITAT**: Riparian scrub, desert brush, mesquite, parks.

TOWHEES





RUFOUS-WINGED SPARROW *Aimophila carpalis* Scarce, local M591
5¾ in. (15 cm). An AZ specialty. Suggests Chipping Sparrow, but plumper bodied, tail not notched. Double black “whiskers,” rufous eye line, gray stripe through rufous crown. *Rufous shoulder* not easily seen. **VOICE:** Song one or two sweet introductory notes and a rapid series of musical chips on one pitch. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Rufous-crowned and Field sparrows. **HABITAT:** Desert grasslands, thorn brush, desert hackberry, mesquite.



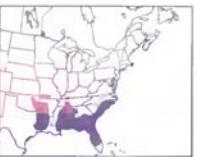
RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW *Aimophila rufuliceps* Uncommon M595
6 in. (15 cm). A dark sparrow with plain dusky breast, rufous cap and line behind eye, and rounded tail. Note *black whiskers* bordering throat and *distinct circular whitish eye-ring*. Seen singly or in pairs. **VOICE:** Song stuttering, gurgling, suggesting a thin, weak House Wren song. Call *dear, dear, dear*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Chipping Sparrow. **HABITAT:** Grassy or rocky slopes with sparse low bushes; open pine-oak woods.



BOTTERI'S SPARROW *Aimophila botterii* Uncommon, local M594
6 in. (15 cm). Nondescript. Has buffy breast, plain brown tail lacking white corners. *Best told by voice*. Bill slightly curved on upper edge. **VOICE:** Song a constant tinkling and “pitting,” sometimes running into a dry trill on same pitch. Very unlike song of Cassin’s Sparrow. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cassin’s Sparrow, breeding in same habitat, is almost identical, but grayer, has faint dusky streaks on flanks, small white corners to tail, straighter upper edge to bill; upperparts often look spotted (streaked in Botteri’s). **HABITAT:** Desert grasslands and bunch grass (particularly sacaton grass).

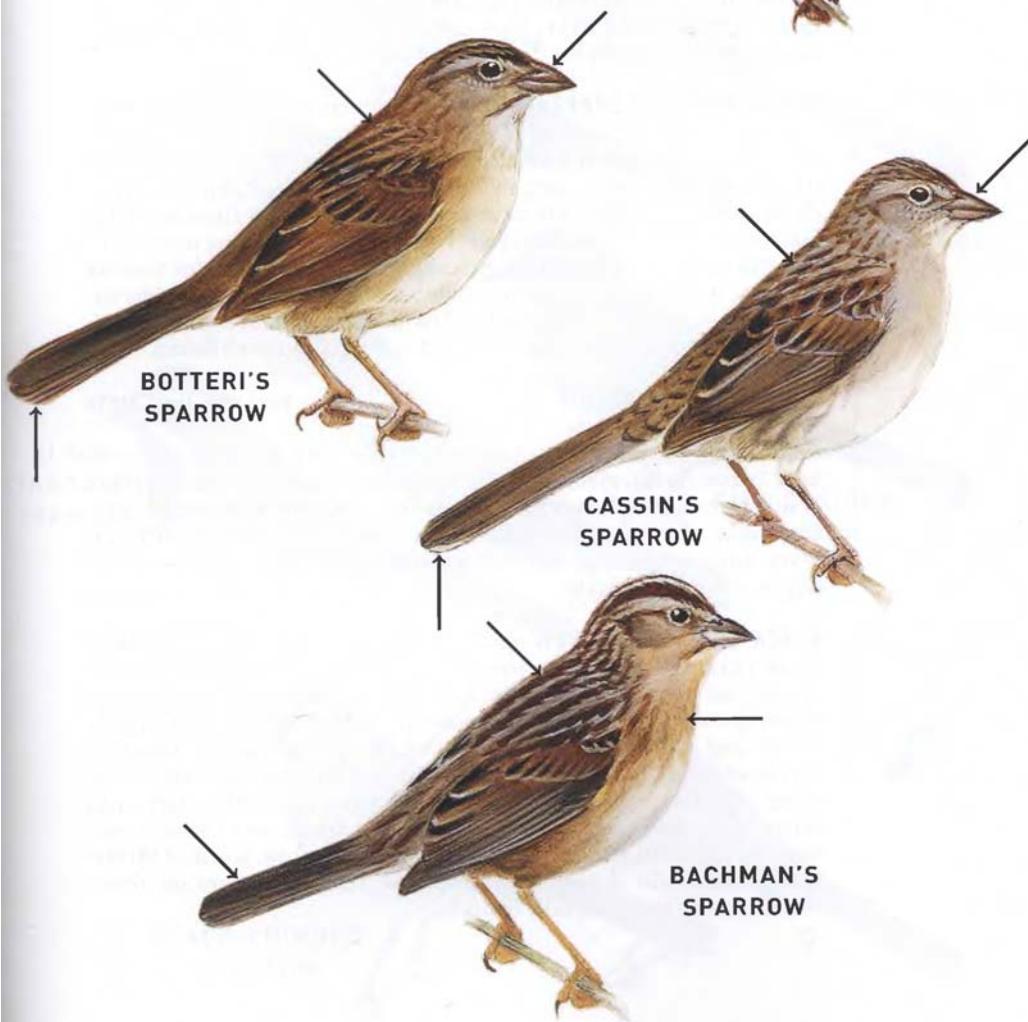


CASSIN'S SPARROW *Aimophila cassinii* Fairly common M592
6 in. (15 cm). A large, drab sparrow of open arid country; underparts dingy without markings, or with faint streaking on flanks. Upperparts often appear more spotted than streaked. *Pale or whitish corners on rounded*, gray-brown tail. *Best clue is song*. **VOICE:** Song one or two short notes, a high sweet trill, and two lower notes: *ti ti tseeeeeee tay tay*. Often “skylarks” in air, giving trill at climax; Botteri’s Sparrow does not skylark. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Botteri’s Sparrow. Savannah Sparrow also has yellow lore spots but is streakier overall, and shorter tailed, than Cassin’s. **HABITAT:** Desert grasslands and semiarid prairies, bushes.



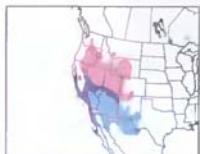
BACHMAN'S SPARROW *Aimophila aestivalis* Scarce M593
6 in. (15 cm). In dry open pine woods with grass and palmetto scrub of South, this shy sparrow flushes reluctantly, then drops back into cover. A large sparrow, with long, rounded tail. Striped with reddish brown above, washed with dingy buff across plain breast, with gray bill. **VOICE:** Song variable; usually a clear liquid whistle followed by loose trill or warble on a different pitch, e.g., *seeeee, slip slip slip slip slip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Field Sparrow smaller, with pink bill. Grasshopper Sparrow lives in meadows, has light crown stripe and short tail. Juvenile Bachman’s suggests Lincoln’s Sparrow, which would not be in South in summer and has eye-ring and streaked buffy breast. **HABITAT:** Open pine or oak woods, palmetto scrub.

SPARROWS





LARK SPARROW *Chondestes grammacus* Fairly common M604
6½ in. (17 cm). Adult: Note black tail with much white at corners; also single dark central breast spot on clean grayish white underparts, and quail-like head pattern, with chestnut ear patch and striped crown. Immature: Head pattern duller, but still clearly of this species; a few dusky streaks on breast sides. **VOICE:** A broken song; clear notes and trills with pauses between, characterized by buzzing and churring passages. Call a sharp *tsip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Vesper Sparrow. **HABITAT:** Open country with bushes, trees; pastures, farms, roadsides.



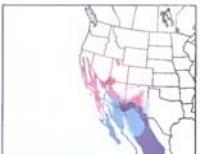
SAGE SPARROW *Amphispiza belli* Uncommon M606
6–6½ in. (15–16 cm). A gray sparrow of arid brush. Note combination of single breast spot and heavy dark “whiskers” on each side of throat. Gray head contrasts with browner back and wing. Dark cheek, white eye-ring, touch of whitish over eye. Long tail often flicked and waved about. Often seen running on ground, with tail held high, like a miniature thrasher. “Bell’s” Sparrow, a subspecies resident west of Sierra Nevada in CA, is darker, with heavier black whiskers. **VOICE:** Song four to seven mechanically delivered notes, *tsit-tsoo-tsee-tsay* (third note highest). Or *tsit, tsit, tsit you, tee a-tee*. Twittering call. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** See juvenile Black-throated Sparrow. **HABITAT:** Sage and saltbush flats; in winter, also creosote bush. “Bell’s” found in dry brushy foothills, chaparral.



BLACK-THROATED SPARROW *Amphispiza bilineata* Fairly common M605
5½ in. (14 cm). Adult: Note face pattern. A pretty, gray, desert sparrow, with white face stripes and jet-black throat and chest. White corners to distinct black tail. Juvenile: Seen into fall; lacks black throat but has similar cheek pattern and broad white supercilium; breast weakly streaked. **VOICE:** Song a sweet *cheet cheet cheeeeeeee* (two short, clear opening notes and a fine trill on lower or higher pitch); calls are light tinkling notes. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Juveniles somewhat resemble Sage Sparrow but have bolder supercilium and contrastingly black tail (with more white at corners). **HABITAT:** Arid brush, creosote-bush and cactus deserts, juniper hillsides.



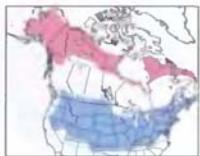
FIVE-STRIPED SPARROW *Aimophila quinquestriata* Very rare, local M596
6 in. (15 cm). A rare Mexican sparrow. Dusky, with five white stripes on head (white throat, eyebrow, and jaw line) and single black spot on dark gray breast. **VOICE:** High-pitched, watery phrases, each note repeated several times, like a thrasher does. Call a sharp *tchak!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black-throated and Sage sparrows. **HABITAT:** Dense shrubs on dry canyon slopes, rocky arid hillsides.



BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW *Spizella atrogularis* Uncommon M602
5¾ in. (15 cm). A small, slim, somewhat juncolike sparrow (with no white in tail); has streaked brown back, but head and underparts medium gray. Breeding male: Small pinkish bill encircled by black chin and facial patch. Female and nonbreeding male: Lack black face. Can be told by unmarked gray head and breast, pinkish bill, striped brown back. **VOICE:** Song a sweet series of notes on about same pitch, or descending slightly; starts with several high, thin, clear notes and ends in rough trill, *sweet, sweet, sweet, weet-trrrrrrr*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black-throated Sparrow, juncos. **HABITAT:** Brushy mountain slopes, open chaparral, juniper; winters on rocky, brushy canyon slopes, usually in flocks.

SPARROWS





AMERICAN TREE SPARROW *Spizella arborea* Fairly common M597
6½ in. (16 cm). Note dark “stickpin,” on breast, and red-brown cap. Bill dark above, yellow below; white wing bars; rufous wash on flanks. **VOICE:** Song sweet, variable, opening on one or two high, clear notes. Call *tseet*; feeding call a musical *teelwit*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Field and Chipping sparrows. **HABITAT:** Arctic and taiga scrub, willow thickets; in winter, brushy roadsides, weedy edges, freshwater marshes (particularly with cattails), feeders.



CHIPPING SPARROW *Spizella passerina* Common M598
5½ in. (14 cm). **Breeding:** A small, slim, long-tailed, plain-breasted sparrow with bright rufous cap, black eye line, white eyebrow. **Nonbreeding:** Duller; note dark eyeline, dirty grayish breast, gray rump. **Juvenile:** Shows fine streaks on breast, rump not as gray; this plumage may be held until midautumn in western birds. **VOICE:** Song a dry chipping rattle on one pitch. Call a thin *tseet*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Clay-colored and Brewer’s sparrows. Also Rufous-winged and Swamp sparrows. **HABITAT:** Open woods, especially pine, oak; orchards, farms, towns, lawns, feeders. Often forms flocks in fall and winter.



FIELD SPARROW *Spizella pusilla* Fairly common M601
5¾ in. (15 cm). A small, slim, rusty-capped sparrow. Note pink bill, white eye-ring, plain buffy breast; rusty upperparts, and weak face striping. **Juvenile:** Has finely streaked breast, but this plumage not held long. **VOICE:** Song opens on deliberate, sweet, slurring notes, speeding into a trill (which ascends, descends, or stays on same pitch). Call *tseew*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American Tree, Chipping, and Brewer’s sparrows. **HABITAT:** Overgrown fields, pastures, brush, feeders.



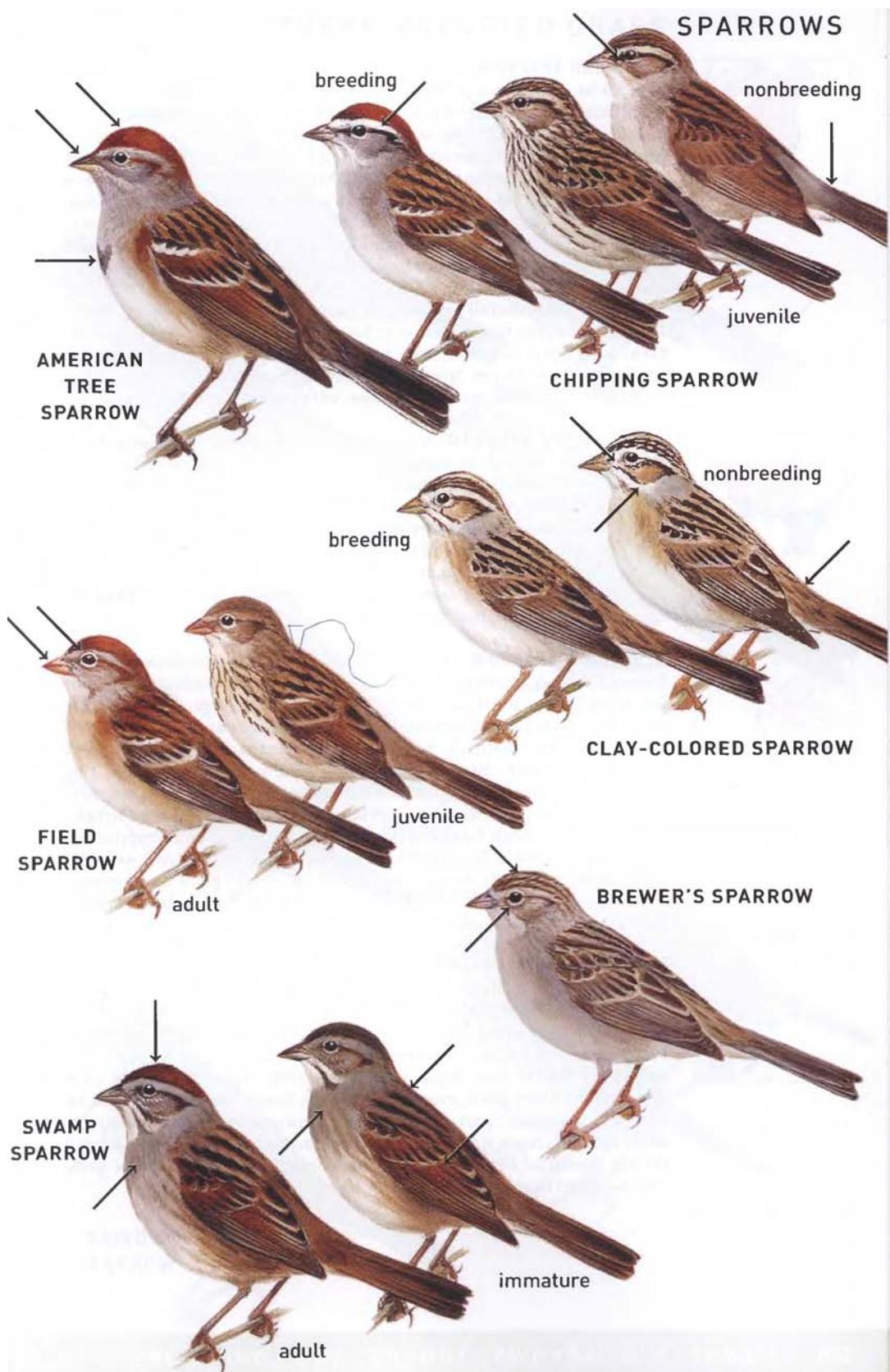
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW *Spizella pallida* Fairly common M599
5½ in. (14 cm). Like a pale, nonbreeding Chipping Sparrow, but buffer, with pale lores, sharply outlined ear patch, more contrasting gray nape, bolder white mustache, browner rump, whiter underparts. **VOICE:** Unbirdlike; three or four low, flat buzzes: *bzzz, bzzz, bzzz*. Call a thin *tseet*, like Chipping’s but higher. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** See also Brewer’s Sparrow. **HABITAT:** Scrub, brushy prairies, jack pines, weedy areas.

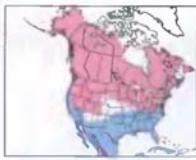


SWAMP SPARROW *Melospiza georgiana* Fairly common M619
5¾ in. (15 cm). A rather plump, dark, rusty-winged sparrow with tawny flanks and broad black back striping. **Adult:** White throat, rusty cap, blue-gray neck and breast. **Immature:** Blackish or dark rust crown, olive-gray neck and breast; dim flank streaking. **VOICE:** Song a loose trill, similar to Chipping Sparrow’s but slower, sweeter, and stronger. Call a hard *cheep*, similar to Black or Eastern phoebe. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Song Sparrow slightly larger, has heavier breast streaks, lacks tawny flanks. Lincoln’s Sparrow has buff breast with fine sharp streaks. Chipping, Field, and American Tree sparrows are longer tailed and have wing bars. **HABITAT:** Nests in freshwater marshes with bushes, cattails, sedges, willows; winters in marshes, pond edges, moist brushy areas, weedy ditches.



BREWER’S SPARROW *Spizella breweri* Fairly common M600
5½ in. (14 cm). A small, slim, pale, nondescript sparrow of sagebrush and desert scrub. Resembles Chipping and Clay-colored sparrows. Note pale lores, brownish rump, pale eye-ring, and lack of white central crown stripe. “Timberline” subspecies has slightly bolder plumage; nests near tree line in n. Rockies of Canada and extreme e. AK. **VOICE:** Song long, musical buzzy trills on different pitches; canarylike. Call a thin *tsee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Chipping and Clay-colored sparrows. **HABITAT:** Nests in sagebrush, saltbush; winters in brushy plains and deserts, weedy fields. “Timberline” Sparrow nests near tree line, mostly in stunted willow.



**SAVANNAH SPARROW** *Passerculus sandwichensis*

Common M608

5½–5¾ in. (14–15 cm). This streaked, open-country sparrow suggests a small Song Sparrow, but it usually has *yellowish on front of eyebrow (may be lacking or difficult to see in some birds); whitish stripe through crown; short, notched tail; pinker legs*. Noting tail notch and length is an identification aid when flushing sparrows. “Large-billed” Savannah Sparrow is scarce and local post-breeding visitor to Salton Sea and coastal s. CA from w. Mex. Has larger, paler bill and pale but warm-toned brownish body. “Belding’s” Savannah Sparrow is one of several very dark subspecies that are permanent residents in coastal salt marshes of CA; threatened. “Ipswich” race birds (breeding on Sable I., NS and wintering along Atlantic Coast) are paler overall and slightly larger. **VOICE:** Song a lisping, buzzy *tsit-tsits-tsit, tseeee-tsaay* (last note lower). Call a light *tsu*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Song Sparrow’s tail longer, rounded. See also Vesper Sparrow. Song similar to Grasshopper Sparrow’s except for Savannah’s lower last note. **HABITAT:** Open fields, farms, meadows, salt marshes, prairies, dunes.

**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW** *Ammodramus savannarum* Uncommon M609

5 in. (13 cm). A small-bodied, large- and flat-headed, short- and sharp-tailed sparrow of taller grasslands. Crown with pale median stripe; *yellow lores; whitish eye-ring; note relatively unstriped buffy breast*. Yellow bend in wing hard to see. Flight feeble. **Juvenile:** Has dusky streaks on sides. **VOICE:** Very thin, dry, insectlike *pi-tup zeeeeeeeeeee*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Le Conte’s Sparrow has longer, bolder, orangier eyebrow; bolder side streaking. Grasshopper’s song fairly similar to Savannah Sparrow’s. **HABITAT:** Grasslands, hayfields, pastures, prairies.

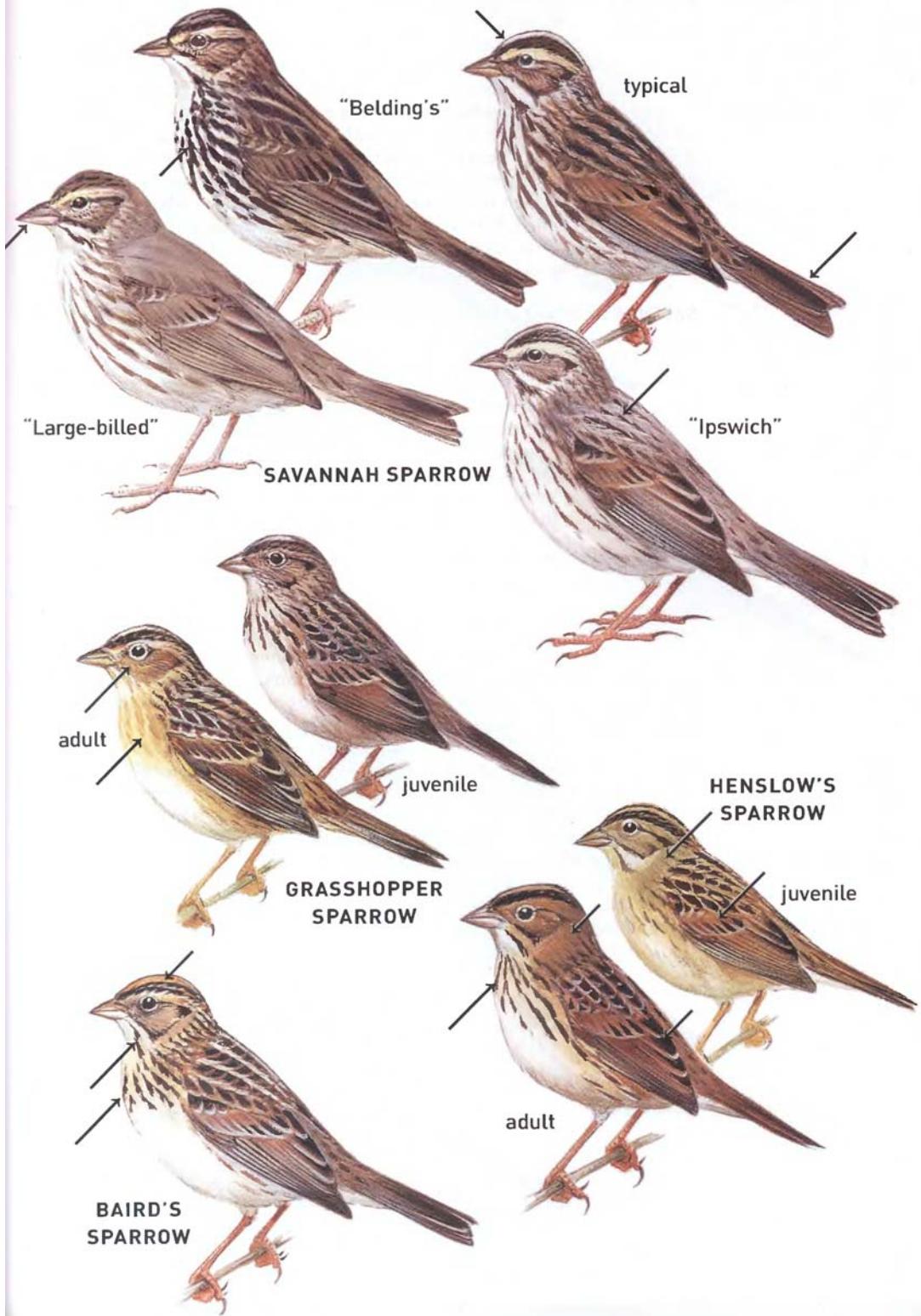
**HENSLOW’S SPARROW** *Ammodramus henslowii* Scarce, secretive M611

5 in. (13 cm). A secretive sparrow of fields, easily overlooked were it not for its odd song. Short-tailed and flat-headed, with large pale bill; finely striped across breast. Striped olive-colored head in conjunction with reddish wings help identify it. Also *note double mustache stripes and spots behind “ear.”* **VOICE:** Song a poor vocal effort: a hiccuping *tsi-lick*. May sing on quiet, windless nights. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Grasshopper Sparrow. Young Henslow’s Sparrow (summer) is practically without breast streaks, thus resembles adult Grasshopper. Conversely, young Grasshopper has breast streaks, but lacks adult Henslow’s olive and russet tones. **HABITAT:** Very specific. Partially overgrown fields with certain plant development of exacting components. Disappearing from many former haunts. Winters in dense cover in southern pine forests.

**BAIRD’S SPARROW** *Ammodramus bairdii* Scarce, local, secretive M610

5½ in. (14 cm). An elusive, skulking prairie sparrow. Light breast crossed by *narrow band* of fine black streaks. Head ochre-buff, streaked. Key mark is broad *ocher* median crown stripe. *Double mustache stripes*. Flat head. Hard to see well except when singing. **Juvenile:** Pale edges form scaly pattern above. **VOICE:** Song begins with two or three high musical *zips*, ends with trill on lower pitch; more musical than Savannah Sparrow. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Savannah Sparrow has more extensive streaking below, narrow white median crown stripe, and lacks dark marks at rear of auriculars and double mustache stripes. See Henslow’s Sparrow. **HABITAT:** Native prairies, scattered bushes used as song perches.

STREAK-BREASTED GRASS SPARROWS



**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW***Ammodramus nelsoni*

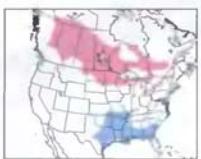
Uncommon M613

5 in. (13 cm). A shy marshland skulker with three widely separated breeding populations. Note bright *orange* on face, completely surrounding gray ear patch. *Breast warm buff with faint blurry streaks*, stronger streaks on flanks. Gray central crown and *unmarked gray nape*. Back sharply striped with white. Birds of New England and Maritimes grayer with less distinct stripes. **VOICE:** Song a buzzy, two-part *shleeee-tup*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow has heavier breast streaking and any orange on breast is *paler* than orange on face (breast and face equally bright in Nelson's). Le Conte's Sparrow has white median crown stripe, purplish chestnut streaks on nape. **HABITAT:** In summer, prairie and coastal marshes, muskeg; in winter, coastal marshes.

**SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROW***Ammodramus caudacutus*

Uncommon M614

5 ¼ in. (13 cm). A short-tailed, often shy sparrow of coastal marshes. Note deep ocher yellow or orange of face, which completely surrounds gray ear patch. Distinct streaks on mostly whitish or light buff breast, flat-headed appearance. **VOICE:** Song a weak varied jumble of buzzy hisses and clicks; not distinctly two-part like Nelson's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nelson's Sharp-tailed and Le Conte's sparrows. Juvenile Seaside Sparrow in late summer is much like Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed. Savannah Sparrow has yellow in lores only, has notched tail. **HABITAT:** Coastal salt marshes.

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW***Ammodramus leconteii*

Uncommon M612

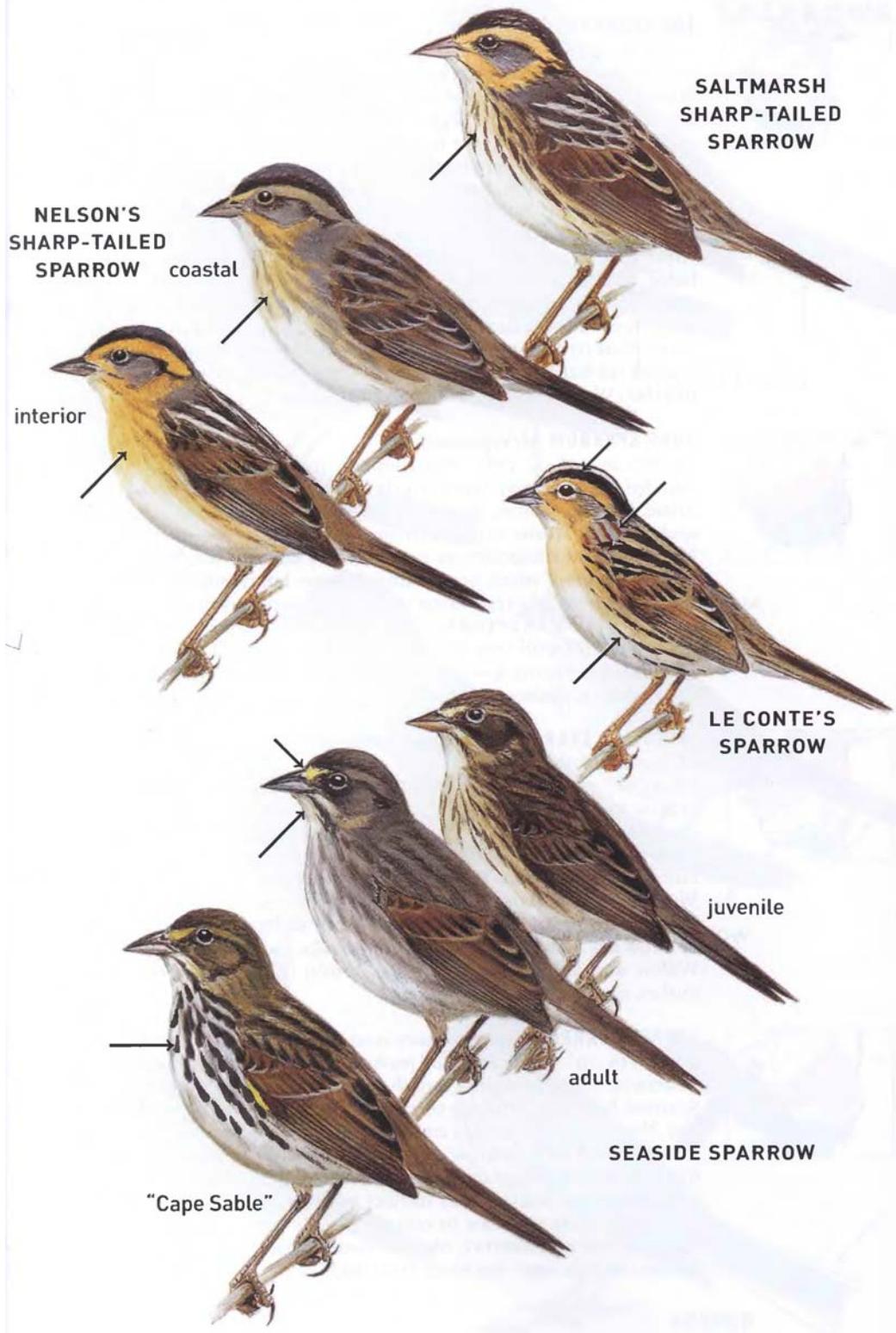
5 in. (13 cm). A skulking sharp-tailed sparrow of prairie marshes, boggy fields. Note *bright orange* eyebrow and buffy breast (with streaks *confined to sides*). Other points are *purplish chestnut streaks on nape*, white median crown stripe, strong stripes on back. **VOICE:** Song two extremely thin, grasshopper-like hisses. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Grasshopper Sparrow has yellow in front of eye only and faint side streaks, if any. **HABITAT:** Grassy marshes, tallgrass fields, weedy hayfields.

**SEASIDE SPARROW***Ammodramus maritimus*

Fairly common M615

6 in. (15 cm). A dark, gray sparrow of salt marshes, with short *yellow area above lores*. *Whitish throat* and white above dark malar. Shared marshes with both sharp-tailed sparrows. "Cape Sable" Seaside Sparrow is an endangered subspecies confined to s. FL (the only Seaside that breeds there); more greenish than typical birds with *much heavier streaking*. **VOICE:** Song *cutcut ZHE-eeeeeee*; much stronger than Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Call *chack*. **HABITAT:** Salt marshes.

MARSH SPARROWS



**FOX SPARROW** *Passerella iliaca*

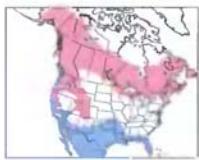
Uncommon M616

7 in. (18 cm). A large, plump sparrow; most subspecies have *rusty rump and tail*. Action towhee-like, kicking among dead leaves and other ground litter. *Breast heavily streaked* with triangular spots; these often cluster in large blotch on upper breast. Fox Sparrows vary widely. Many subspecies; can be roughly divided into four basic types, with breeding range noted: (1) "Red" subspecies: bright rusty with rusty back stripes (northern and eastern); (2) "Sooty" subspecies: dusky or sooty head, back (unstreaked), and upper breast (Northwest coast); (3) "Slate-colored" subspecies: gray-headed and gray-backed (unstreaked), yellowish-based bill (Rockies, Great Basin); and (4) "Thick-billed" subspecies: similar to 3 but large-billed (southern Cascades, CA mountains). In fall and winter, some of these types intermingle. **VOICE:** Song brilliant and musical; a varied arrangement of short clear notes and sliding whistles. Call varies by type, a sharp *chink* (type 4) to flatter *chup*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Hermit Thrush has reddish tail but lacks streaks on back, is thin-billed, spotted, not striped. **HABITAT:** Wooded undergrowth, brush, feeders.

**SONG SPARROW** *Melospiza melodia*

Common M617

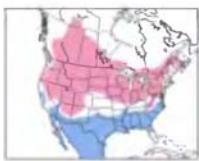
5½–6½ in. (15–17 cm). This common midsized sparrow has a *long rounded tail* and *heavy breast streaks* that merge into a *large central spot*. Broad grayish eyebrow. **Juvenile:** More finely streaked, often lacks central spot. Song Sparrows vary widely in color and size, as shown opposite. Many different subspecies are recognized by taxonomists. **VOICE:** Song a variable series of notes, some musical, some buzzy; usually starts with three or four bright repetitious notes, *sweet sweet sweet*, etc. Call a low, nasal *tchep*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Savannah Sparrow more of a field bird; often shows yellowish over eye, has shorter notched tail, pinker legs. See Lincoln's and Swamp sparrows. **HABITAT:** Thickets, brush, marshes, roadsides, gardens, feeders.

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW**

Fairly common in West, uncommon in East M618

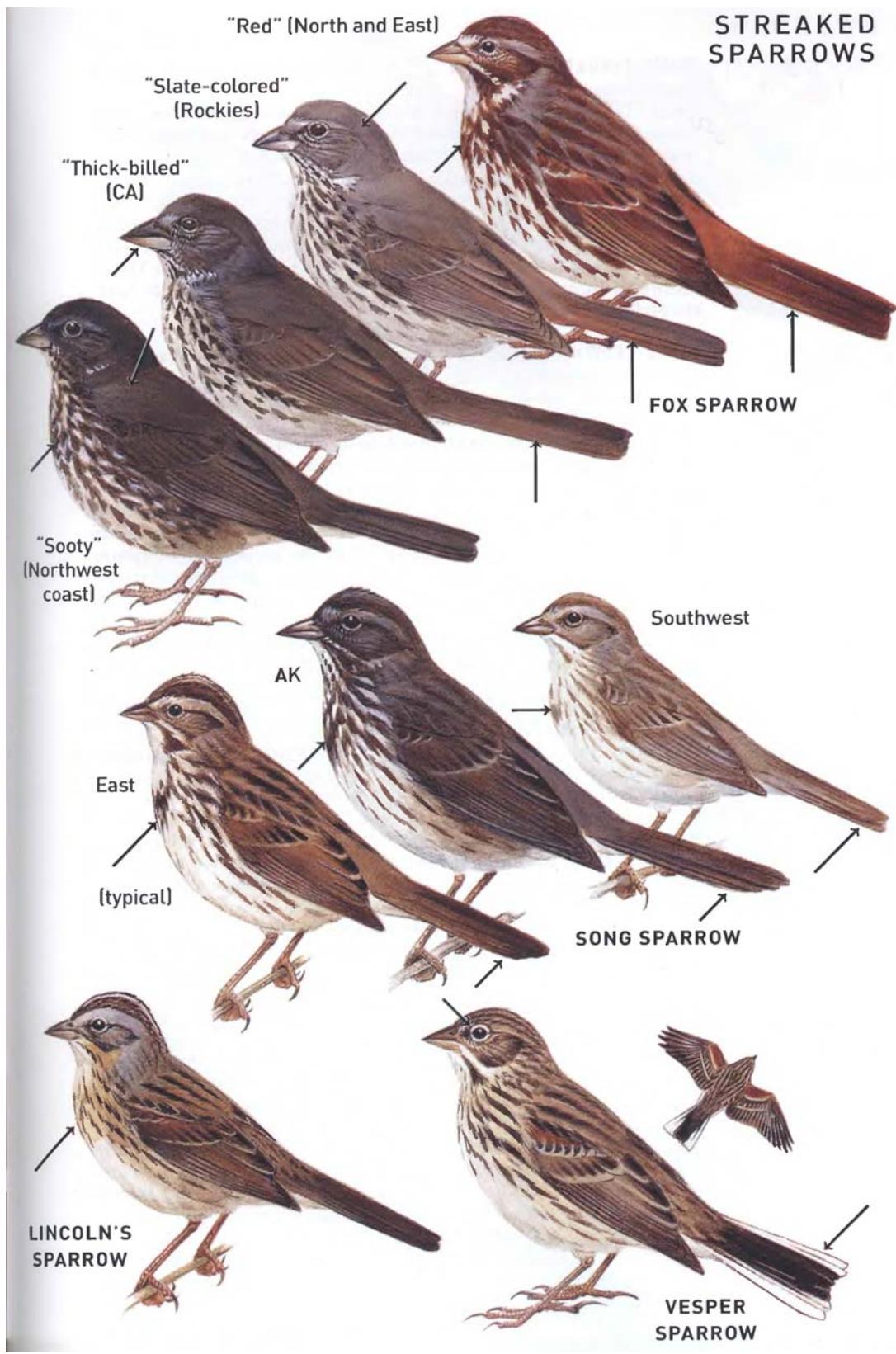
Melospiza lincolni

5¾ in. (15 cm). A somewhat skulking species, prefers to be near cover. Similar to Song Sparrow, but smaller and trimmer, side of face grayer, sharp breast streaks *much finer* and overlay band of *creamy buff* that contrasts with whitish belly and throat; also has narrow whitish eye-ring and buffy mustache. **VOICE:** Song sweet and gurgling; suggests both House Wren and Purple Finch; starts with low passages, rises abruptly, drops. Calls a hard *tik* and buzzy *zzzeet*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Immature Swamp Sparrow has duller breast, with blurry streaks and rustier wing. **HABITAT:** Willow and alder thickets, muskeg, brushy bogs; in winter, thickets, bushes, gardens, sometimes feeders.

**VESPER SPARROW** *Pooecetes gramineus*

Uncommon M603

6¼ in. (16 cm). *White outer tail feathers* are conspicuous when bird flies. Otherwise suggests slightly largish Savannah Sparrow or grayish Song Sparrow, but has *whitish eye-ring*. Bend of wing *chestnut* (*often difficult to see*). Note white male's stripe and lack of central crown stripe. **VOICE:** Song throatier than Song Sparrow's; usually begins with two clear minor notes, followed by two higher ones. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Savannah Sparrow lacks white outer tail feathers and distinct eye-ring. Other sparrowlike field birds with white tail-sides or corners include pipits, longspurs, juncos, and Lark Sparrow. **HABITAT:** Meadows and prairies with scattered trees or bushes (such as sage), roadsides, farm fields.



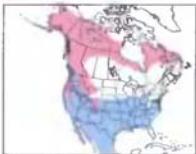


WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

Zonotrichia albicollis

Common in East, rare in West M620

6½ in. (17 cm). **Breeding:** A gray-breasted sparrow with white throat and yellow above the lores. Bill grayish. Polymorphic; some adults have black and white head stripes, others brown and tan. **Nonbreeding:** Somewhat duller; darker head stripes varying shades of black, brown, tan. **Immature:** May be somewhat streaked on breast; throat duller. **VOICE:** Song several clear pensive whistles, easily imitated; one or two clear notes, followed by three quavering notes on a different pitch. Call a thin, slurred *tsheet*; also a hard *chink*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** White-crowned Sparrow. **HABITAT:** Thickets, brush, undergrowth of coniferous and mixed woodlands. Visits feeders, preferring to stay on ground.



WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

Zonotrichia leucophrys Common in West, uncommon in East M622

7 in. (18 cm). This species comprises multiple subspecies, which exhibit variation in color of lores (whitish or black) and bill (orangey, pinkish, or yellowish). **Adult:** Clear grayish breast, puffy crown *striped with black and white*. **Immature:** Head stripes dark red-brown and light buff. **VOICE:** Song one or more clear, plaintive whistles (similar to White-throated Sparrow), followed by husky trilled whistles. Variable; many local dialects. Call a sharp *pink*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** White-throated Sparrow browner, has well-defined white throat, yellow spot before eye, grayish bill. Immature Golden-crowned Sparrow slightly larger, has *duskier bill and underparts*, more muted head pattern, *dull yellowish forehead*. “Gambel’s” subspecies nests on western tundra. They have orange bills and pale lores. **HABITAT:** Brush, forest edges, thickets, chaparral, gardens, parks; in winter, also farms, desert washes, feeders.



GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW

Zonotrichia atricapilla

Fairly common M623

7¼ in. (18 cm). Similar to White-crowned Sparrow, but without white head stripes; instead, adult has *dull yellow central crown stripe*, bordered broadly with black. Dusky bill. Immature birds and some nonbreeding adults may look like large female House Sparrows but are longer tailed and darker, usually with dull yellow suffusion on forehead. **VOICE:** Song three to five high whistled notes of plaintive minor quality, coming down scale, *oh-dear-me*. Sometimes a faint trill. Call a sharp *tsew*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** White-crowned Sparrow. **HABITAT:** Boreal and subalpine scrub, willow thickets, stunted spruces; in winter, similar to that of White-crowned (with which it is often found in mixed flocks), but Golden-crowned favors denser shrubs, particularly chaparral.



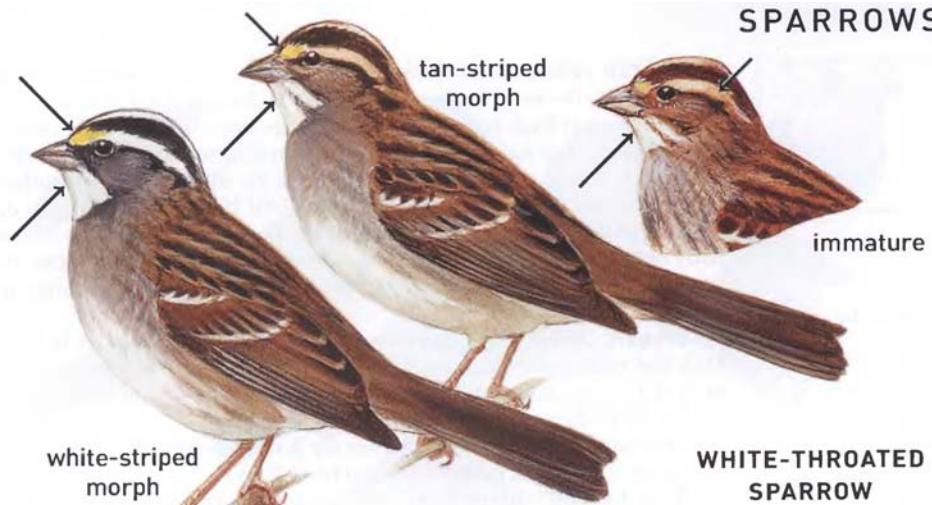
HARRIS'S SPARROW

Zonotrichia querula

Uncommon M621

7½ in. (19 cm). Large; size of Fox Sparrow. **Breeding adult:** Black crown, face, and bib encircling pink bill. **Nonbreeding adult:** Black crown scaled with gray, cheeks mostly tan-brown. **Immature:** Has *white on throat*, less black on crown, buffy brown on rest of head; blotched and streaked on breast. **VOICE:** Song has quavering quality of White-throated Sparrow: clear whistles on same pitch, or one or two at one pitch, the rest slightly lower; general effect *minor*. Alarm call *wink*. **HABITAT:** Stunted boreal forests; in winter, brush, hedgerows, open woods. May mix with White-crowned Sparrows in nonbreeding season.

SPARROWS

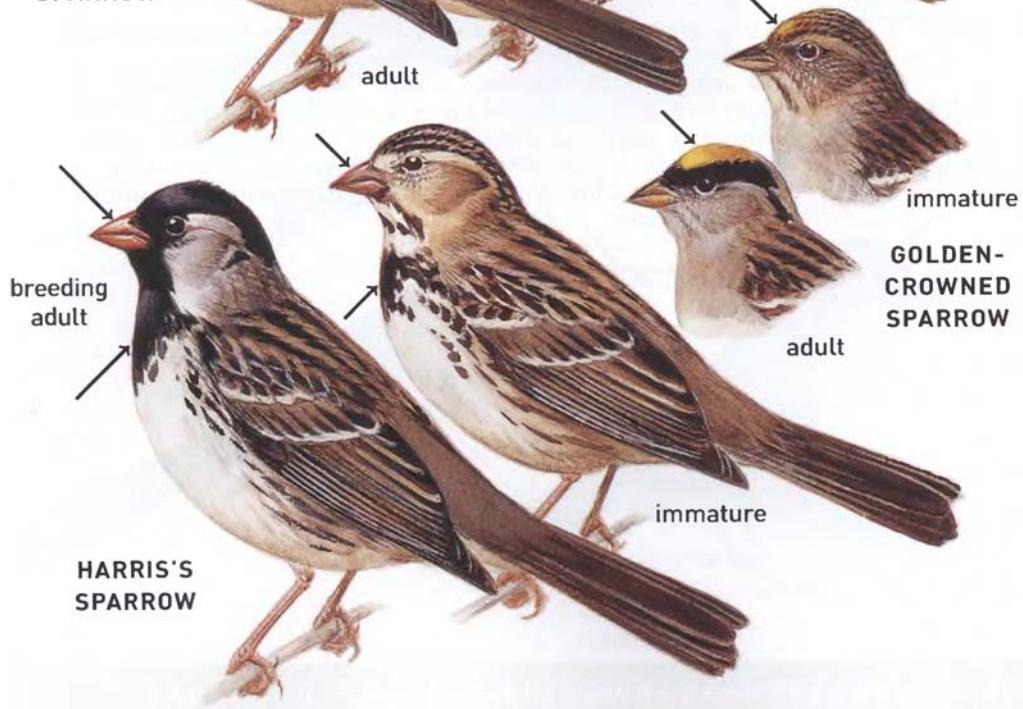


WHITE-THROATED SPARROW



WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

"Gambel's"



GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW

HARRIS'S SPARROW

**DARK-EYED JUNCO** *Junco hyemalis*

Common M624

6–6½ in. (15–16 cm). This hooded sparrow is characterized by *white outer tail feathers* that flash conspicuously as it flies away. Bill and belly usually whitish. Male may have dark hood; female and immature duller. Juvenile in summer finely streaked on breast, hence its white outer tail feathers might even suggest Vesper Sparrow. Note: Until 1970s this species was divided into four full species in N. America. Some have gray sides, others rusty or pinkish. They are now lumped as one highly complex species. Intergrades are known. Treated separately, the main subspecies groups are known as follows.

"Oregon" Junco is generally the most widespread subspecies in West. Male has *rusty brown back* with *blackish hood* and *buffy or rusty sides*. Female duller, but note contrast between paler gray hood and brown back, convex shape to lower border of hood.

"Pink-sided" Junco is found from the Rockies westward, south of AK. Has a pale gray hood, pink flanks, and black lores.

"Gray-headed" Junco occurs in Great Basin and s. Rockies. Rufous patch on back of otherwise pale to medium gray plumage, with *gray sides* and *gray head, dark lores*. Breeders in Southwest have bicolored bill.

"Slate-colored" Junco is most northern and eastern form, wintering mainly east of Rockies, sparingly westward. A gray junco with *gray back*, white belly. Female and immature duller gray tinged brownish. The more uniform coloration, lacking rusty areas, is distinctive. Some particularly brownish young birds may be confused with "Oregon" Junco.

"White-winged" Junco breeds in Black Hills region. A large, pale form with gray back; usually has *two whitish wing bars* and exhibits considerably more white in tail (four outer feathers on each side). Note: Some "Slate-colored" Juncos can show thin, weak wing bars.

VOICE: Song a loose trill, suggestive of Chipping Sparrow but more musical. Call a light *smack*; also clicking or twittering notes. **HABITAT:** Coniferous and mixed woods. In nonbreeding season, open woods, undergrowth, roadsides, brush, parks, gardens, feeders; usually in flocks, in West sometimes containing multiple subspecies.

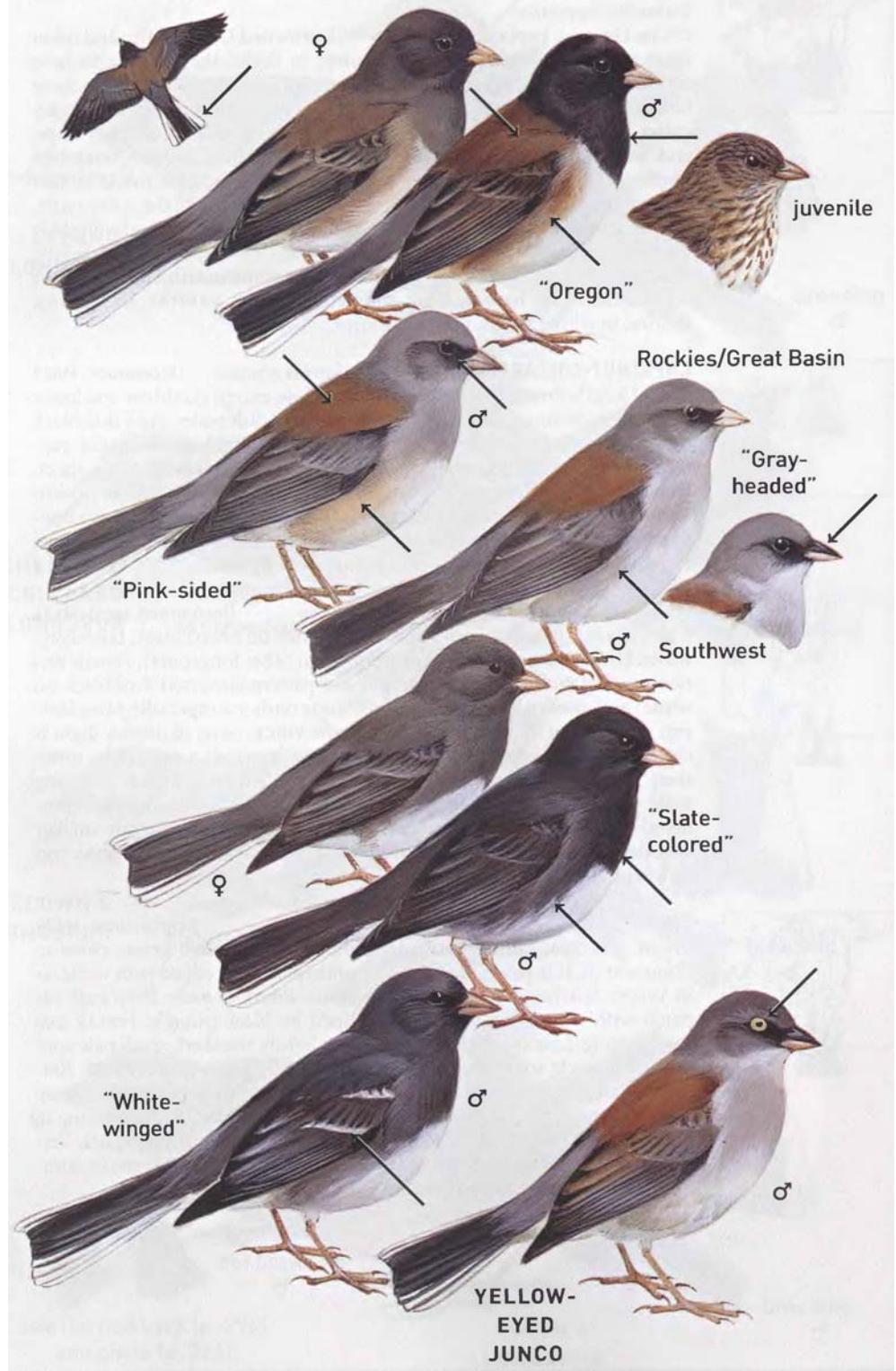
**YELLOW-EYED JUNCO** *Junco phaeonotus*

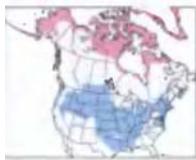
Uncommon, local M625

6¼ in. (16 cm). Our only junco with *yellow eyes*, which give it a somewhat fierce look. Otherwise like "Gray-headed" Junco except that rufous on back *extends onto wing*. Walks rather than hops. **VOICE:** Song musical, unjunco-like; more complicated, three-part: *chip chip chip, wheedle wheedle, che che che che che*. **HABITAT:** Coniferous forests, pine-oak woods; in winter, some come down to slightly lower elevations in canyons, including at feeders.

JUNCOS

DARK-EYED JUNCO





LAPLAND LONGSPUR

Calcarius lapponicus

Uncommon to fairly common M627

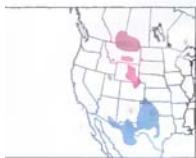
6½ in. (16 cm). Lapland Longspurs—like Horned Larks, pipits, and other longspurs—are birds of open country; in flight, they appear to have shorter tail. In nonbreeding season, longspurs are often found in flocks of larks. *Breeding male:* Black face outlined with white is distinctive. Rusty collar. *Nonbreeding male:* Sparse black streaks on sides, dull rusty nape, and smudge across breast help identify it. *Breeding female:* Resembles nonbreeding male. *All nonbreeding plumages:* Note dark frame to rear cheek, rufous brown wing coverts, tail pattern. **VOICE:** In flight, a dry rattle, also a musical *teew*; when perched, a soft *pee-dle*. Song in display flight is vigorous, musical. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Smith's Longspur buffier below; note face pattern. Other longspurs have more white in tail. American Pipit and Horned Lark have thin bill, different plumage. **HABITAT:** In summer, tundra; in winter, fields, prairies, shores.



CHESTNUT-COLLED LONGSPUR

Calcarius ornatus Uncommon M629

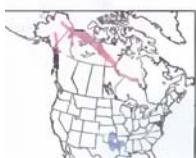
6 in. (15 cm). *Breeding male:* Solid black below, except on throat and lower belly; nape chestnut. *Female and nonbreeding:* Adult males show dull black belly, but otherwise all are sparrowlike; best field mark is tail pattern—dark triangle on white tail—and flight call. **VOICE:** Song short, feeble, but musical; suggests Western Meadowlark. Call a finchlike *ji-jiv* or *kittle-kittle*, unique among longspurs. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** McCown's Longspur. **HABITAT:** Plains, native-grass prairies; generally prefers some cover, and winter flocks may disappear in grass until flushed.



MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR

Calcarius mccownii Uncommon, local M626

6 in. (15 cm). *Breeding male:* Crown and patch on breast black, tail largely white. Hindneck gray (brown or chestnut in other longspurs). *Female and nonbreeding male:* Rather plain; note tail pattern (inverted T of black on white) and swollen-looking, fleshy bill. Some birds are especially *plain looking*, reminiscent of female House Sparrow. **VOICE:** Song in display flight is clear sweet warbles, suggestive of Lark Bunting. Call a dry rattle, softer than Lapland Longspur's. Also a soft pink. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Breeding male Chestnut-collared Longspur has chestnut collar, black belly; nonbreeding birds darker, more heavily marked below, have slightly smaller and darker bill, different call. **HABITAT:** Plains, prairies, short-grass and dirt fields.

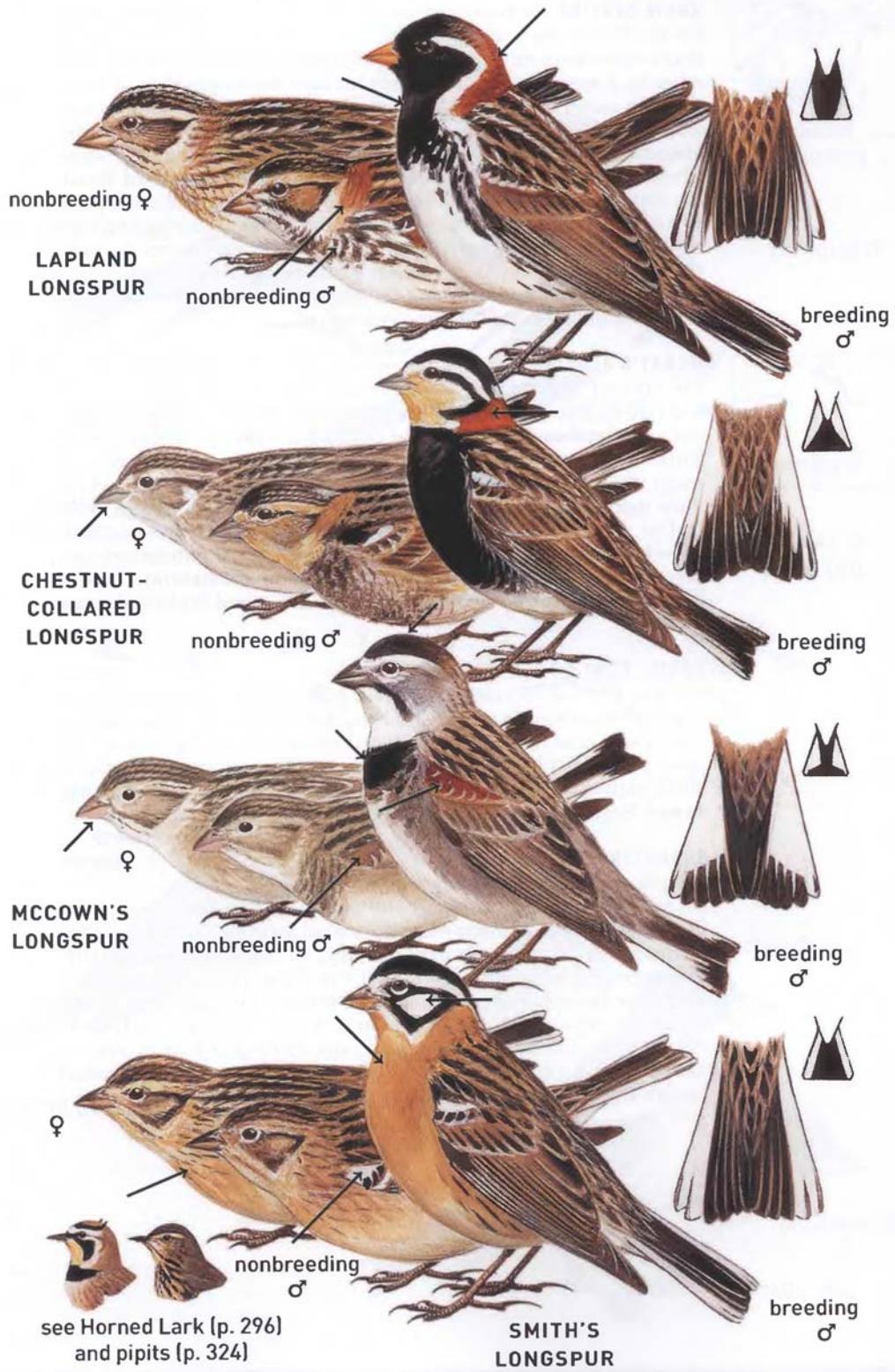


SMITH'S LONGSPUR

Calcarius pictus Scarce, local M628

6½ in. (16 cm). This secretive longspur prefers enough grassy cover to disappear in. It is *warm buff on entire underparts*. Tail edged with white, as in Vesper Sparrow and Lapland Longspur. *Breeding male:* Deep buff; ear patch with white spot, strikingly outlined by black triangle. *Female and nonbreeding:* Less distinctive; *buffy breast* lightly streaked; small pale spot on side of neck; some males may show white shoulder patch. **VOICE:** Rattling or clicking notes in flight (has been likened to winding of a cheap watch). Song sweet, warblerlike, terminating in *WEchew*. Does not sing in flight. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Lapland and Chestnut-collared longspurs, Vesper Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit. **HABITAT:** Prairies, fields, airports; in summer, tundra with scattered bushes.

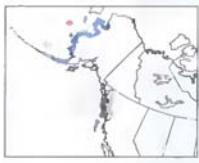
LONGSPURS



**SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Uncommon M630

6½ in. (17 cm). Snow Buntings often swirl over snowy fields or dunes in flocks, sometimes mixed with Horned Larks or Lapland Longspurs. No other N. American songbird (except McKay's Bunting) shows so much white. In winter some individuals, especially females and immatures, may look quite brown, but when they fly their flashing *white wing patches* identify them. Overhead, Snow Bunting looks almost entirely white, whereas American Pipit and Horned Lark are mostly black-tailed. Breeding male has black back, contrasting with white head and underparts. **VOICE:** Call a sharp, whistled *teer* or *tew*; also a rough, purring *brrt*, both similar to Lapland Longspur's calls. Song a musical *ti-ti-chu-ree*, repeated. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** In w. AK, see McKay's Bunting. Albino landbirds—such as juncos—are sometimes mistaken for Snow Buntings. **HABITAT:** Prairies, fields, dunes, shores. In summer, tundra.

**MCKAY'S BUNTING** *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*

Scarce, local M631

7 in. (18 cm). A specialty of w. AK, breeding regularly only on St. Matthew and Hall Is. **Breeding male:** Almost pure white, except for ends of primaries and scapulars and near tips of central tail feathers. **Breeding female:** Shows some dark on back. **Nonbreeding:** Both sexes have light touches of warm tan-brown above, but less than in Snow Bunting. Wings and tail show more white. Hybridizes with Snow Bunting. **VOICE:** Song of male said to suggest American Goldfinch. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Breeding male Snow Bunting has *black* back. Female and winter Snow Buntings browner; note coloration and pattern of tail, rump, and back. **HABITAT:** Tundra, barrens, shores; in nonbreeding season, often in mixed flocks with Snow Buntings.

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*

Vagrant

5¾–6 in. (16 cm). A *rusty*, sparrowlike bird with *rusty* breast-band and *dark cheek outlined in white*. Head slightly crested, bill pink. **Breeding male:** Black head markings. **Female and immature:** Light spot on brown cheek patch, rusty brown sides and rump. **VOICE:** Short, musical jumble of notes, ending on down-slurred *chew*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Little Bunting. **RANGE:** Regular Asian stray to w. AK islands, casual farther south.

BRAMBLING

Vagrant

Fringilla montifringilla (Family Fringillidae, p. 400)

6¼ in. (16 cm). Tawny or *orangey buff* breast and shoulders, *whitish rump distinctive in flight*. **Breeding male:** Black head and back. **Female and nonbreeding:** Gray cheek (with dark markings in male) bordered by dark, flanks streaked or spotted. **VOICE:** Call a rising, whiny *zweee*; in flight, a distinctive nasal, hollow *eck*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** This rarely seen species might be confused with more common N. American birds, including Orchard Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Spotted or Eastern towhee. **RANGE:** Eurasian species; regular on w. AK islands, casual but widespread records elsewhere in N. America.

BUNTINGS AND BRAMBLING



CARDINALS, BUNTINGS, AND ALLIES

Family Cardinalidae

Medium-sized songbirds with heavy, seed-crushing bills. Includes the crested cardinals, heavy-billed grosbeaks, and smaller *Passerina* buntings and grosbeak. **FOOD:** Seeds, fruit, insects. **RANGE:** New World.



ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK

Pheucticus ludovicianus

Fairly common M634

8 in. (20 cm). Adult male: Black and white, with large triangle of rose red on breast and thick pale bill. In flight, pattern of black and white flashes across upperparts. Wing linings rose pink. Immature male: In first-autumn plumage similar to female, but has touch of red on buffier breast. Female: Streaked, like a large sparrow or female Purple Finch; recognized by large grosbeak bill, broad white wing bars, striped crown, and broad white eyebrow stripe. Wing linings yellow. **VOICE:** Song consists of rising and falling passages; resembles American Robin's song, but given with more feeling (as if a robin had taken voice lessons). Call a squeaky, metallic kick or eek. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female told from female Purple Finch by larger size, boldly striped head, obvious wing bars, and pink bill. Differs from female and immature Black-headed Grosbeak in having heavily streaked breast, paler bill. **HABITAT:** Deciduous woods, orchards, groves, thickets, sometimes at feeders in spring.



BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

Pheucticus melanocephalus

Fairly common M635

8 ¼ in. (21 cm). A stocky bird, larger than a sparrow, with outsized bill. **Male:** Breast, collar, and rump dull orange-brown. Otherwise, black head and bold black-and-white wing and tail pattern are similar to those of its eastern counterpart, Rose-breasted Grosbeak. In nonbreeding plumage, head appears somewhat striped. **Female and immature:** Largely brown, with sparrowlike streaks above; head strongly patterned with light stripes and dark ear patch. Breast strongly washed with yellow-buff, ocher-buff, or butterscotch; dark streaks on sides fine, nearly absent across middle of chest. Wing linings yellow. Maxilla dark. **VOICE:** Song consists of rising and falling passages; resembles American Robin's song, but more fluent and mellow. Call a flat ik or eek. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Rarely hybridizes with Rose-breasted where ranges come into contact. **HABITAT:** Deciduous and riparian woods.

CRIMSON-COLLARED GROSBEAK

Rhodothraupis celaeno

Vagrant

8 ½ in. (22 cm). **Male:** A blackish grosbeak with dark red collar and underparts encircling throat and chest. Red underparts often spotted or blotched with black. **Female and immature:** Similar to male, but yellowish green replaces red. **VOICE:** Song similar to Black-headed Grosbeak; a hoarse, bouncy warble, ending in up-slurred note: zweet! **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female tanagers and orioles. **RANGE:** Mexican species, casual visitor (mostly in winter) to s. TX. **HABITAT:** Brushy woods, second growth.

YELLOW GROSBEAK

Pheucticus chrysopaeplus

Vagrant

9 ¼ in. (24 cm). Size and shape of Black-headed Grosbeak. **Male:** Golden yellow and black, suggesting overblown goldfinch except for large, blackish grosbeak bill. **Female:** Duller, with streaked back and crown. **VOICE:** Rich, whistly warble, similar to Black-headed Grosbeak: cheer-reah, churr-weoh. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Evening and Black-headed grosbeaks. **RANGE:** Mexican species, casual visitor to southwestern states. **HABITAT:** Deciduous woods, often near water.

GROSBEAKS



**NORTHERN CARDINAL** *Cardinalis cardinalis*

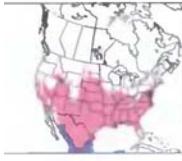
Common M632

8¾ in. (22 cm). **Male:** An all-red bird with pointed crest and black patch at base of heavy, triangular reddish bill. **Female:** Buff brown, with some red on wings and tail. **Crest, dark face, and heavy reddish orange bill** distinctive. **Juvenile:** Similar to female, but with blackish bill. **VOICE:** Song is clear, slurred whistles, repeated. Several variations: *what-cheer cheer cheer*, etc.; *whoit whoit whoit* or *birdy birdy birdy*, etc.; usually two-part. Call a short, sharp *tik*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Pyrrhuloxia. Male Summer and Hepatic tanagers, also all red, lack cardinal's crest. **HABITAT:** Woodland edges, thickets, deserts, towns, gardens, feeders.

**PYRRHULOXIA** *Cardinalis sinuatus*

Fairly common M633

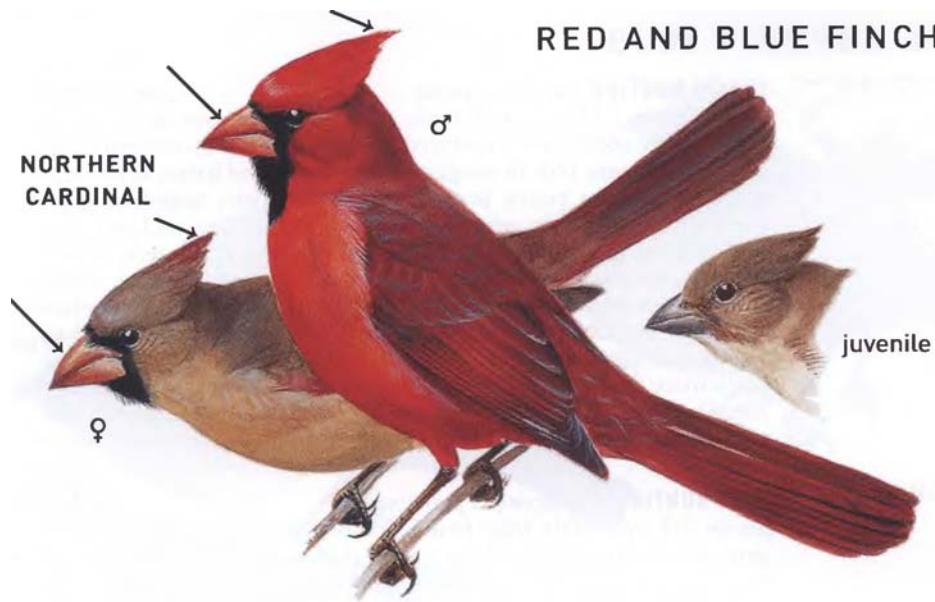
8¾ in. (22 cm). **Male:** A slender, gray and red bird, with long, spiky crest and pale yellowish, stubby, almost parrotlike bill (strongly curved upper mandible). **Female:** Has gray back, buff breast, and touch of red in wings. Always note spiky crest and stubby yellow bill. **VOICE:** Song a clear *quink quink quink quink*, on one pitch; also a slurred, whistled *what-cheer, what-cheer*, etc., usually not two-part like Northern Cardinal's song. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Best told from Northern Cardinal by bill color and shape, also by grayer color overall and spiky crest. **HABITAT:** Mesquite, thorn scrub, deserts, feeders.

**BLUE GROSBEAK** *Passerina caerulea*

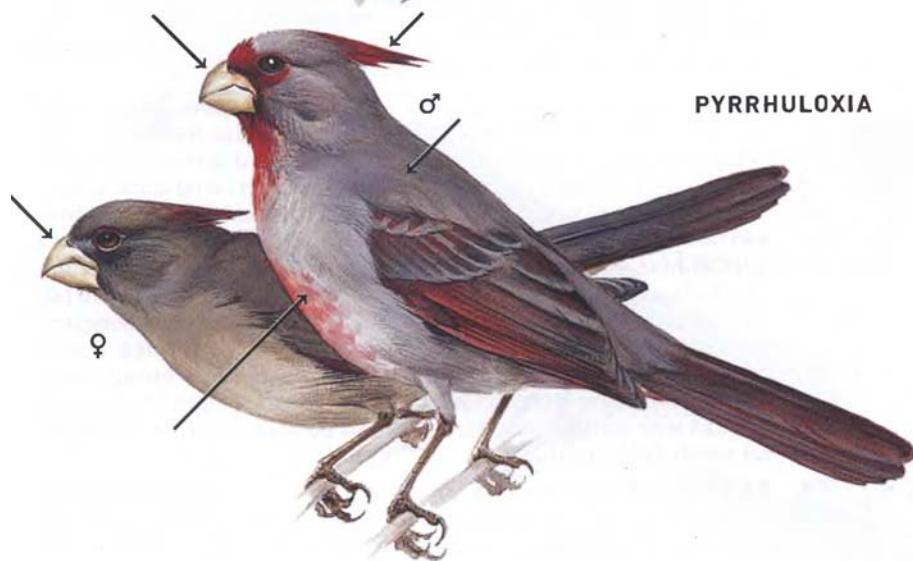
Uncommon M636

6¾ in. (17 cm). **Adult male:** Deep dull blue, with thick bill, two broad rusty or chestnut wing bars. Often flips or twitches tail. **Immature male:** A mixture of brown and blue. **Female:** About size of Brown-headed Cowbird; warm brown, slightly lighter below, with two rusty buff wing bars; rump or tail may be tinged with blue. **VOICE:** Warbling song, phrases rising and falling; suggests Purple or House finch, but slower, more guttural. Call a sharp *chink*, in flight a flat *bzzzt*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female and immature Indigo Bunting also warm brown and have buffy, though weaker, wing bars, but they are smaller, and smaller billed. **HABITAT:** Thickets, hedgerows, riparian undergrowth, brushy hillsides, weedy ditches.

RED AND BLUE FINCHES



PYRRHULOXIA



BLUE GROSBEAK



**INDIGO BUNTING** *Passerina cyanea*

Common M638

5½ in. (14 cm). **Male:** A small finch, *rich deep blue all over*. In first spring, blue is duller and blotchy. Nonbreeding male more like brown female, but usually with some blue in wings and tail. **Female and immature:** A small, medium to warm brown finch; breast slightly paler with faint *blurry streaks*; buffy wing bars weak or lacking. May hybridize with Lazuli Bunting where ranges overlap. Like Blue Grosbeak, may flick or jerk tail sideways. **VOICE:** Song lively, high, and strident; measured phrases, usually paired: *sweet-sweet, chew-chew*, etc. Call a sharp, thin *spit* and a dry buzz (in flight). **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Blue Grosbeak (larger) has rusty wing bars. Female and immature Lazuli Bunting have slightly duller brown upperparts; more distinct, whitish wing bars; and unstreaked breast (except for juveniles, whose streaks are finer and sharper than Indigo's broader, blurrier streaks). **HABITAT:** Overgrown brushy fields, riparian thickets, bushy wood edges.

BLUE BUNTING *Cyanocompsa parellina*

Vagrant

5½ in. (14 cm). **Male:** Deep blue-black; brighter blue on crown, shoulders, and rump. **Female:** Richer brown than female Indigo Bunting; no bars or streaks; *bill blacker*. **VOICE:** Song a high and sweet jumble of warbled phrases. Call a metallic *chink!* **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak. **RANGE:** Mexican visitor, casual to s. TX, mostly in winter. **HABITAT:** Brushy woods with dense cover.

**LAZULI BUNTING** *Passerina amoena*

Fairly common M637

5½ in. (14 cm). **Breeding male:** A small, turquoise blue finch with burnt orangey breast and white belly, suggesting a bluebird, but with *two white wing bars*. **Nonbreeding male:** Brownish tips to feathers mute some of blue. **Female and immature:** A small finch with unstreaked plain brown back and two pale wing bars (stronger than in female Indigo Bunting); often a trace of blue in wings and tail; breast washed with buff is typically unstreaked except in juvenile, which may retain fine, sharp streaks into fall. Hybrids are regular where range overlaps that of Indigo. **VOICE:** Song similar to Indigo Bunting's, but faster. Calls similar. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Indigo Bunting has less pronounced wing bars, is richer brown above, usually shows faint blurry streaks on breast. **HABITAT:** Open brush, grassy hillsides with scattered bushes, riparian shrubs, grassy patches in chaparral, weedy fields and ditches.

**PAINTED BUNTING** *Passerina ciris*

Uncommon M640

5½ in. (14 cm). The most gaudily colored N. American songbird. This small finch is size of Chipping Sparrow. **Male:** A patchwork of *blue-violet* on head, *green* on back, *red* on rump and underparts, red orbital ring. **Female and immature:** *Electric green above*, paling to lemon yellow below; *no other small finch is so green*. **Juvenile:** Grayer above with only tinge of green, duller below. **VOICE:** Song a wiry warble; suggests Warbling Vireo. Call a sharp *chip*. **HABITAT:** Riparian undergrowth, brushy hedgerows, woodland edges, stands of weedy grass.

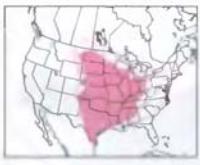
**VARIED BUNTING** *Passerina versicolor*

Scarce, local M639

5½ in. (14 cm). **Male:** A small dark finch with plum purple body (looks black at a distance). Crown, face, and rump blue, with *bright red patch on nape*; colored like an Easter egg. **Female:** A small, plain gray-brown finch with lighter underparts. *No strong wing bars, breast streaks, or distinctive marks of any kind*. **VOICE:** Song thin, bright, more distinctly phrased, less warbled than Painted Bunting's; notes not as paired as Lazuli Bunting's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Indigo Bunting warmer brown, with hint of blurry breast streaks. **HABITAT:** Riparian thickets, mesquite and other scrub in washes and lower canyons.

BLUE FINCHES, ETC.





DICKCISSEL *Spiza americana* (Family Cardinalidae) Fairly common M641
6½ in. (16 cm). A grass- and farmland bird; migrants often travel in large flocks. Sings from fenceposts and wires. **Male:** Suggests a miniature meadowlark (black bib, yellow chest). Has chestnut shoulder patch. In fall, bib obscure. **Female and immature:** Much like female House Sparrow, but with bolder stripe over eye (often tinged yellowish), touch of yellow on breast, and blue-gray bill. **VOICE:** Song a staccato *dick-ciss-ciss-ciss* or *chup-chup-klip-klip-klip*. Call a short, hard buzz, often given in flight. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Meadowlarks, female House Sparrow. **HABITAT:** Alfalfa and other fields, meadows, prairies, weedy patches.



LARK BUNTING *Calamospiza melanocorys* (Family Emberizidae) Fairly common M607
7 in. (18 cm). A plump, short-tailed prairie bird. Gregarious in nonbreeding season. Note rather heavy, blue-gray bill. **Breeding male:** Black, with large white wing patches. **Female, immature, and nonbreeding male:** Brown, streaked; pattern suggests female Purple Finch. Adult males retain some black on face, wings, and belly. All show whitish or buffy white wing patches and tail corners. **VOICE:** Song, given in display flight, composed of cardinal-like slurs, unmusical chatlike *chugs*, piping whistles and trills; each note repeated 3 to 11 times. Call a flat, mellow *heew*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Male Bobolink has yellow nape patch and white rump. Leucistic blackbirds—those showing odd patches of white in plumage, including wings—may be confused with male Lark Bunting. **HABITAT:** Plains, prairies; in winter, also weedy desert lowlands and farm fields.

BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES Family Icteridae

Varied color patterns; sharp bills. Some black and iridescent; orioles are highly colored. Sexes unlike. **FOOD:** Insects, fruit, seeds, waste grain, small aquatic life. **RANGE:** New World; most in Tropics.



EASTERN MEADOWLARK *Sturnella magna* Uncommon to fairly common M645
9½ in. (24 cm). In grassy country, a chunky, brown, starling-shaped bird. When flushed, shows conspicuous white sides on short tail. Several shallow, snappy wingbeats alternate with short glides—like a Spotted Sandpiper. When bird perches on a post, chest shows bright yellow crossed by black V. Walking, it flicks tail open and shut. Subspecies found in e. N. America are warmer, darker brown above, with blacker crown, buffier flanks. Southwestern subspecies—“Lilian’s” Meadowlark—paler overall, with more white in tail. **VOICE:** Song composed of two clear, slurred whistles, musical and pulled out, *tee-yah, tee-yair* (last note slurred and descending). Call a rasping or buzzy *dzrrt*; also a guttural chatter. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Western Meadowlark, Dickcissel. **HABITAT:** Open fields and pastures, meadows, prairies, marsh edges; “Lilian’s” partial to grasslands.



WESTERN MEADOWLARK *Sturnella neglecta* Fairly common M646
9½ in. (24 cm). Nearly identical to Eastern Meadowlark, but paler above and on flanks; yellow of throat invades malar area behind bill. Crown stripes paler, more streaked with buff; wingbeats floppier, more Starling-like; in the Southwest, “Lilian’s” Eastern Meadowlarks are just as pale as Westerns but show much more white in the tail. Best identified by call note. **VOICE:** Song variable; 7 to 10 flutelike notes, gurgling and double-note, unlike clear whistles of Eastern Meadowlark. Calls *chupp* or *chuck* and a dry rattle. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Eastern Meadowlark. **HABITAT:** Grasslands, cultivated fields and pastures, meadows, prairies, marsh edges.

OPEN FIELD BIRDS



**RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD** *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Common M643

8½–8¾ in. (22 cm). **Adult male:** Black, with bright red or orange-red epaulets, most conspicuous in breeding display. Much of the time red is concealed and only yellowish or off-whitish margin shows. **Immature male:** Sooty brown, mottled (like female), but with red shoulders. **Female:** Brownish, with sharply pointed bill, “blackbird” appearance, and well-defined dark streaking below; may have pinkish tinge to throat. Gregarious, traveling and roosting in flocks during nonbreeding season. “Bicolored” subspecies in cen. CA. **VOICE:** Calls a loud *check* and a high, slurred *tee-err*. Song a liquid, gurgling *konk-la-ree* or *o-ka-lay*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other blackbird species, especially Tricolored Blackbird. **HABITAT:** Breeds in marshes, brushy swamps, fields, pastures, roadsides; forages also in cultivated land, feedlots, towns, feeders, etc.

**TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD** *Agelaius tricolor*

Uncommon, local M644

8½–8¾ in. (22 cm). **Male:** Similar to Red-winged Blackbird, but shoulder patch darker red, with conspicuous white margin. (Note: Some male Red-wings have whitish margins as well.) Overall plumage slightly glossier. **Female:** Darker than most races of Red-winged, particularly on belly, and never shows pinkish on throat, but difficult to identify. See voice. Highly gregarious. Nests in dense colonies often numbering in the hundreds or thousands, whereas Red-winged is territorial. In nonbreeding season, may segregate by sex. **VOICE:** More nasal than Red-winged: *on-ke-kaangh*. A nasal *kemp*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red-winged Blackbird. **HABITAT:** Nests in cattail or tule marshes; forages in fields, farms, feedlots, park lawns.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**

Fairly common M647

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus
9–9¾ in. (23–25 cm). Gregarious. **Adult male:** A robin-sized blackbird, with yellow or orange-yellow head and breast; in flight, shows white wing patch. **Female and immature male:** Smaller (female) and browner; most of yellow confined to throat and chest; lower breast streaked with white; white wing patch restricted or lacking. **VOICE:** Song consists of low, hoarse rasping notes produced with much effort; suggests rusty hinges. Call a low *kruck* or *kack*. **HABITAT:** Nests in freshwater marshes. Forages in farm fields, open country, feedlots. Often associates with other blackbirds in mixed flocks in fall and winter.

**BOBOLINK** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

Fairly common M642

7 in. (18 cm). **Breeding male:** Our only songbird that is solid black below and largely white above, suggesting a dress suit on backward. Has buff-yellow nape. Birds in fresh plumage in spring show extensive brownish tips to dark feathering. **Female and nonbreeding male:** A bit larger than House Sparrow; rich buff-yellow, with dark striping on crown and back. Bill more like a sparrow’s than a blackbird’s. Note pointed tail feathers. **VOICE:** Song, in hovering flight and quivering descent, ecstatic and bubbling: starts with low, reedy notes and rollicks upward. Flight call a clear *ink*, often heard overhead in migration. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Male Lark Bunting has white confined to wings. Female Red-winged Blackbird heavily striped below; longer bill, less buff-yellow overall. **HABITAT:** Hayfields, moist meadows, marsh edges.

ICTERIDS
(BLACKBIRDS, ETC.)



**COMMON GRACKLE** *Quiscalus quiscula*

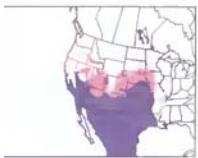
Common M650

12½ in. (32 cm). **Male:** A large, iridescent, yellow-eyed blackbird, larger than a robin, with long, wedge-shaped or *keel-shaped* (when breeding) tail. In good light, iridescent purple-blue on head. **Female:** Somewhat smaller and duller, with less wedge-shaped tail. **Juvenile:** Sooty, with dark eyes. "Bronzed" Grackle (New England and west of Appalachians; deep bronze on back and belly) and "Purple" Grackle (seaboard south of New England; greener tinge to back) are separate, identifiable subspecies. **VOICE:** Call *chuck* or *chack*. "Song" a split rasping note. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Boat-tailed and Great-tailed grackles, Brewer's Blackbird. **HABITAT:** Cropland, towns, parks, feeders, groves; swampy woods; often nests in conifers.

**BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE** *Quiscalus major*

Fairly common, local M651

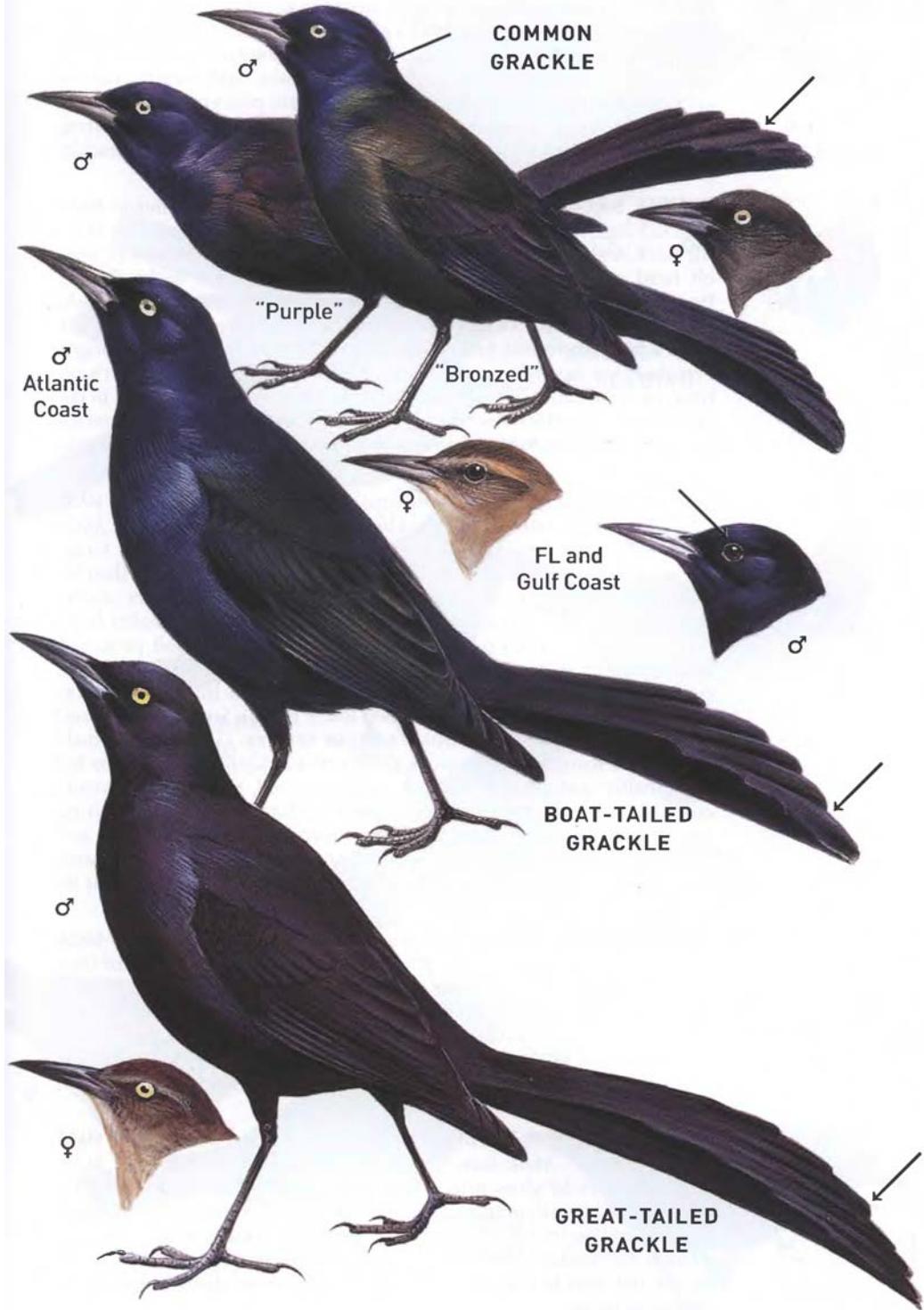
Male 16½ in. (42 cm); female 14½ in. (37 cm). **Male:** A very large blackbird; larger than Common Grackle, with longer, more ample tail. More rounded head than other grackles. Males of Atlantic Coast (except in FL) have yellow eyes; those of Gulf region and FL have brown eyes, but some may have dull yellowish eyes. **Female:** Smaller than male; much browner than female Common Grackle and with pale brownish breast. **VOICE:** Harsh *check check check*; harsh whistles and clucks. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** LA westward, see Great-tailed Grackle. **HABITAT:** Largely resident near salt water along coasts, marshes; more widespread habitats in FL.

**GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE** *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Common M652

Male 18 in. (46 cm); female 15 in. (38 cm). Like several other blackbirds, often found in large flocks. **Male:** A very large, purple-glossed blackbird, distinctly larger than Common Grackle and with longer, more ample tail. **Female:** Smaller than male; dark gray-brown above, warm brown below. Adults of both sexes have yellow eyes. **VOICE:** Harsh *check check check*; also a high *kee-kee-kee-kee*. Shrill, discordant notes, whistles, and clucks. A rapid, upward-slurring *ma-ree*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Grackle (smaller). Boat-tailed Grackle slightly smaller, with dark eyes (where ranges overlap), rounder crown (male), and slightly shorter, more rounded tail. **HABITAT:** Groves, farms, feedlots, towns, city parks, parking lots.

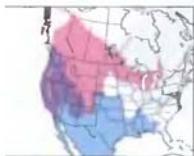
GRACKLES



**RUSTY BLACKBIRD** *Euphagus carolinus*

Uncommon M648

9 in. (23 cm). Rusty only in fall and winter; otherwise suggests Brewer's Blackbird. **Breeding male:** A medium-sized blackbird with pale yellow eye. Black head may show faint greenish gloss (not purplish). **Breeding female:** Slate colored, with light eye. **Nonbreeding and immature:** Varily washed with rusty, including rusty edgings to flight feathers, buffy eyebrow, narrow dark patch through eye; males barred below, have pale gray rump. **VOICE:** Call chack. "Song" a split creak, like a rusty hinge: kush-a-lee, alternating with ksh-lay. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle. **HABITAT:** River groves, wooded swamps, muskeg, pond edges.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** *Euphagus cyanocephalus*

Common M649

9 in. (23 cm). A common and familiar blackbird in w. N. America. **Male:** All black, with whitish eye; in good light, purplish reflections may be seen on head and neck, with some greenish reflections on body. **Female:** Brownish gray, with dark eye. **VOICE:** Song a harsh, wheezy, creaking ksh-eee. Call chack. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Breeding male Rusty Blackbird flatter black with dull greenish head reflections (hard to see); bill slightly longer. Female Rusty has light eye. Unlike Rusty (both sexes), adult Brewer's remain in same plumage year-round and do not acquire a rusty look in fall and winter. See also Brown-headed Cowbird. **HABITAT:** Fields, mountain meadows, prairies, farms, feedlots, towns, parks, lawns, shopping malls, parking lots.

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD** *Molothrus ater*

Common M655

7½ in. (19 cm). A rather small blackbird with short, sparrowlike bill. **Male:** Black with brown head (may appear all black in poor light). **Female:** Gray-brown with lighter throat; note short finchlike bill. **Juvenile:** Paler than female. Buffy gray, with soft breast streaking and pale scaling (edges) above; this plumage held into early fall. Often seen being fed by smaller birds whose nests have been parasitized. Young males in fall molt patterned with splotches of tan and black. When flocking with other blackbirds, cowbirds look smaller and feed on ground with tails lifted high. **VOICE:** Flight call weee-titi (high whistle, two lower notes). Song a bubbly and creaky glug-glug-gleeee. Call chack. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gray-brown female can be told from female Brewer's and Rusty blackbirds by its stubby bill and smaller size. Juvenile starling has longer bill, shorter tail. Juvenile cowbirds are often misidentified as nonblackbirds. **HABITAT:** In nesting season, where passerine nest-hosts are numerous, a variety of forests and woodlands; also farms, fields, feedlots, roadsides, towns, parks, lawns, feeders. Parasitizes a wide variety of smaller bird nests. Never builds its own nest.

**BRONZED COWBIRD** *Molothrus aeneus*

Fairly common M654

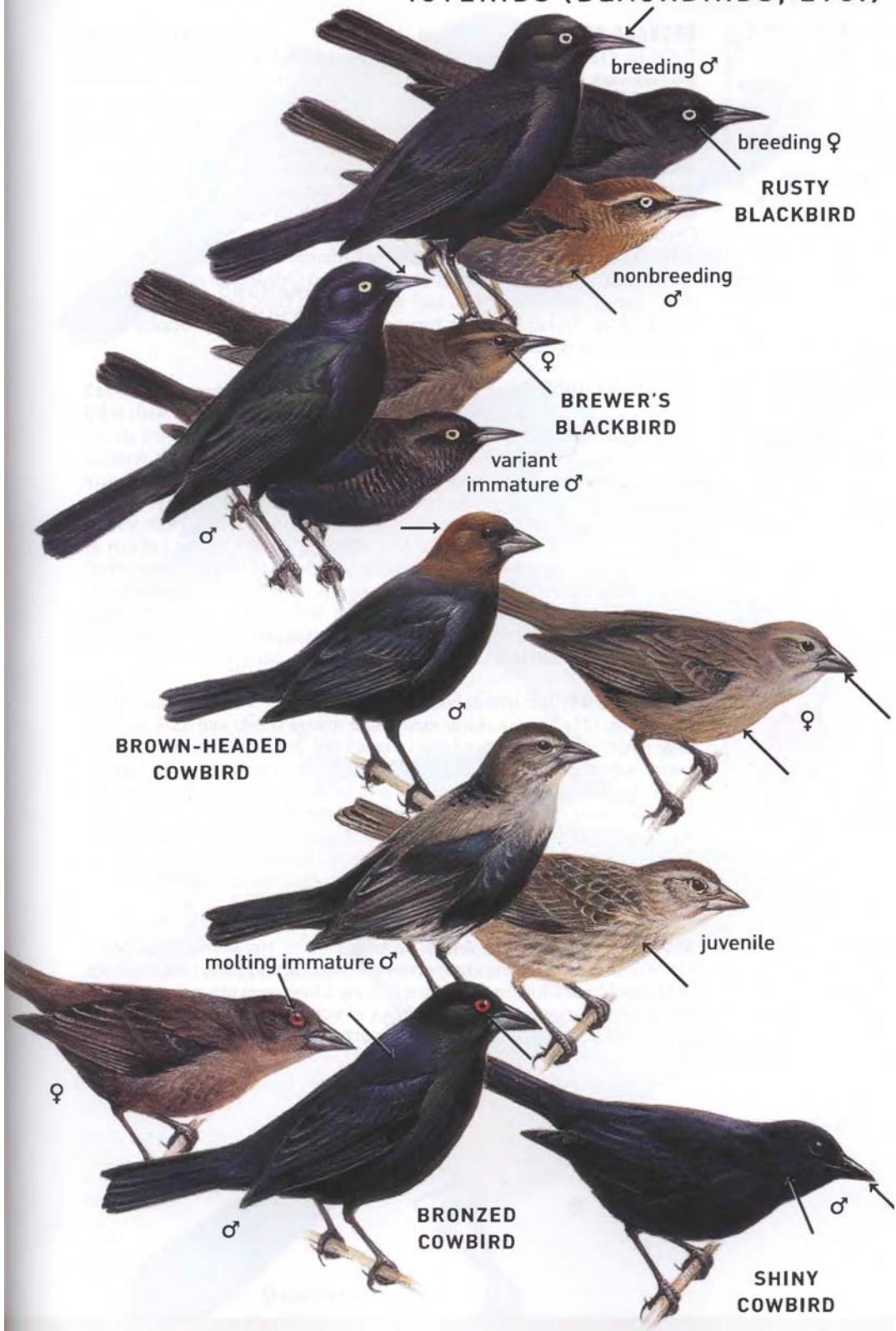
8½–8¾ in. (21–22 cm). **Male:** Slightly larger and more bull-headed than Brown-headed Cowbird. Does not have brown head. Bill longer. Red eye can be seen only at close range. In breeding season, has conspicuous ruff on nape. **Female:** Smaller nape ruff; dark gray overall, darker than female Brown-headed. **VOICE:** High-pitched mechanical creakings. Male's display very animated. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other cowbirds. **HABITAT:** Cropland, brush, semiprivate country, feedlots.

**SHINY COWBIRD** *Molothrus bonariensis*

Scarce, local M653

7½ in. (19 cm). **Male:** Same size as Brown-headed Cowbird, but black with overall violet gloss, thin pointed bill. **Female:** Warm brown, slightly thinner, blacker bill compared with Brown-headed. **VOICE:** Series of liquid burbles, ending in thin whistled note. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other cowbirds. **RANGE:** An invader to s. FL since 1985. Scattered records from as far north as NB and west to OK. **HABITAT:** Agricultural areas, disturbed habitats, suburban lawns.

ICTERIDS (BLACKBIRDS, ETC.)



**ORCHARD ORIOLE** *Icterus spurius*

Fairly common M656
7–7½ in. (18 cm). A small, short- and straight-billed oriole. Often flicks tail sideways. **Male:** All dark; rump and underparts *deep chestnut*. **Female and immature:** Olive or greenish gray above, yellowish below; two white wing bars. First-spring male has black bib down to chest. **VOICE:** Song a fast-moving outburst interspersed with piping whistles and guttural notes. Suggests Purple or House finch. A strident slurred *wheer!* at or near end is distinctive. Call a soft *chuck*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Some female and immature Baltimore Orioles have black throat (as do immature male Orchards), but are slightly larger and more orange. Female Scarlet and Summer tanagers lack wing bars, have different bill shape. Females and immatures difficult to tell from young Hooded Orioles but note Hooded's more curved bill, longer tail, and weaker wing bars. See voice. **HABITAT:** Wood edges, orchards, shade trees; more likely than other orioles to be seen in brushy areas.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** *Icterus galbula*

Fairly common M662
8½–8½ in. (21–22 cm). **Adult male:** Flame orange and black, with solid black head, orange sides to tail. **Female and immature:** Olive-brown above, burnt orange-yellow below; two white wing bars. Many adult females have traces of black on head, suggesting hood of male. Some immature females very dull, with grayer back, limited orange (mostly on plain face and breast), and whitish vent; much like female Bullock's Oriole. **VOICE:** Song rich, piping whistles. Call a low, whistled *hewli*. Chatter call not as rough as Bullock's. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Orchard Oriole greener than female Baltimore. Dull female Baltimore much like female Bullock's, but latter has more distinct dark eye line and yellowish supercilium, plain gray back lacking dark scalloping, and yellowish rather than orange undertail coverts. **HABITAT:** Open deciduous woods, elms, shade trees.

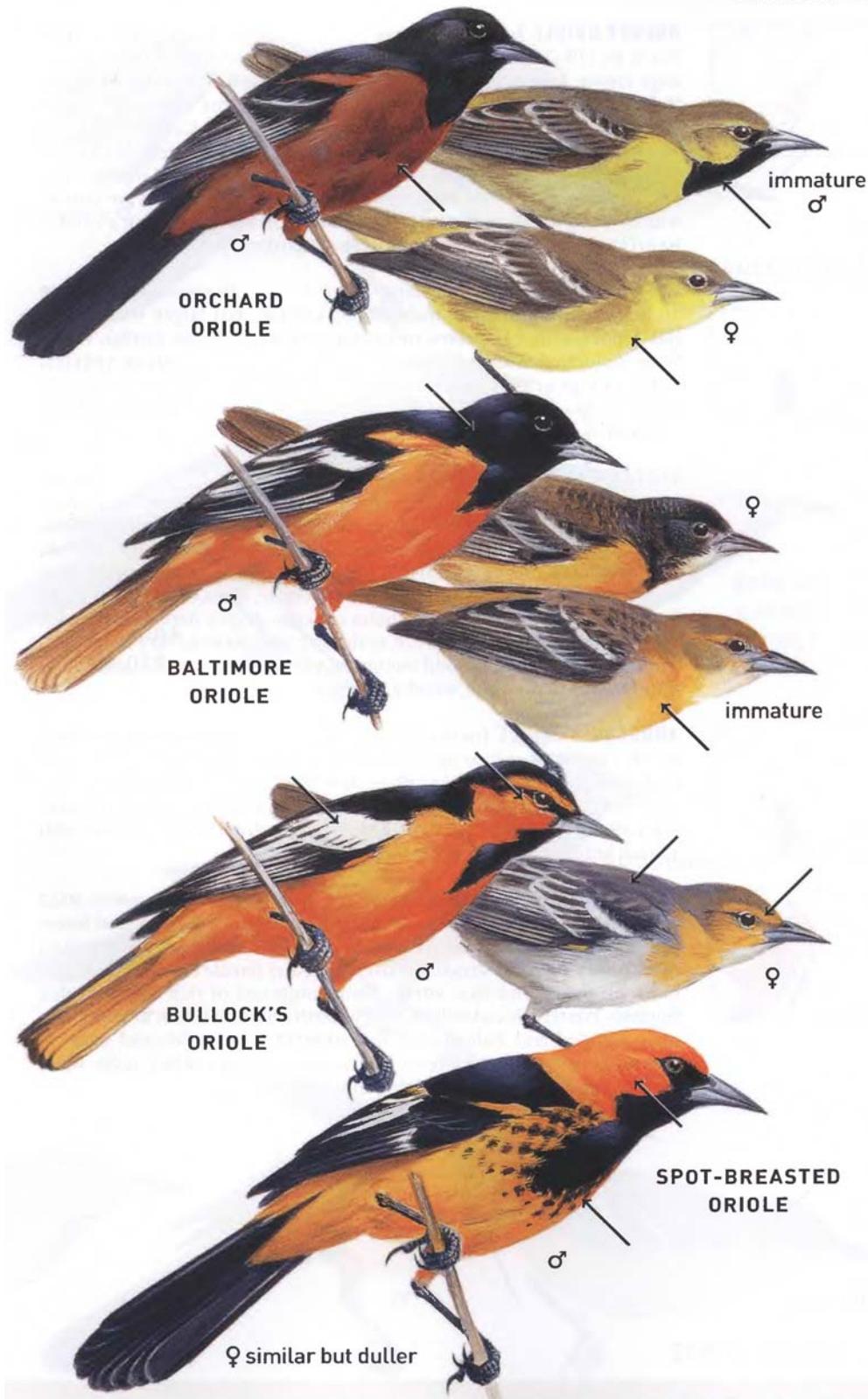
**BULLOCK'S ORIOLE** *Icterus bullockii*

Fairly common M658
8½–8½ in. (21–22 cm). **Adult male:** Note *orange cheeks and dark eye line, large white wing patches, and black-tipped tail*. **Female:** Dark eye line, yellowish supercilium, plain gray back, whitish belly. **Immature male:** Similar to female, but slightly more orange and has black goatee. May hybridize with Baltimore Oriole. **VOICE:** Accented double notes and one or two piping notes. Calls include a rough chatter and low *churp*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Baltimore Oriole; also Hooded and Orchard orioles. **HABITAT:** Deciduous and riparian woods, oaks, shade trees, ranch yards; small numbers winter in blooming eucalyptus in CA.

**SPOT-BREASTED ORIOLE** *Icterus pectoralis*

Uncommon, local M659
9¼–9½ in. (24 cm). Note *orange crown, black bib, and black spots on sides of breast*. Much white in wing. **VOICE:** Song a long, melodic series of whistles, slower than other orioles. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Baltimore Oriole. Spot-breasted Oriole has orange crown. **HABITAT:** Flowering trees, residential areas.

ORIOLES

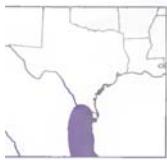


**HOODED ORIOLE** *Icterus cucullatus*

Fairly common M657

7½–8 in. (19–20 cm). **Male:** Orange and black, with black throat and orange crown. In winter, back obscurely scaled. **Female:** Similar to female Bullock's Oriole, but bill longer, slightly curved; more extensively yellow below; back olive-gray; head and tail more yellowish. Call different. **Immature:** Like female, with slightly shorter bill; much like female Orchard Oriole. **VOICE:** Song consists of rambling, grating notes and piping whistles: *chut chut chut whew whew*; opening notes throaty. Call an up-slurred, whistled *eek* or *wheenk*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Orchard and Scott's orioles.

HABITAT: Open woods, shade trees, towns, gardens, palms.

**ALTAMIRA ORIOLE** *Icterus gularis*

Uncommon, local M660

10 in. (25 cm). Similar to male Hooded Oriole, but larger, with thicker bill. Upper wing bar yellow or orange, not white. Sexes similar. **VOICE:** Song disjointed whistled notes. A harsh “fuss” note. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other orange orioles. **HABITAT:** Scrubby woodlands, often near water. Its name, in Spanish, means “look high.” And this is often where this species is found—in treetops.

STREAK-BACKED ORIOLE *Icterus pustulatus*

Vagrant

8¼ in. (21 cm). Breeding adult has *streaked back*. Much white in wing. Otherwise resembles Hooded Oriole or perhaps immature male Bullock's Oriole. **Male:** Basically yellow-orange, head much deeper orange. **Female:** Duller, back more olivaceous, but streaking still obvious. **VOICE:** Rich warble, similar to Baltimore or Bullock's oriole. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Adult male Hooded Oriole in winter shows crescent-shaped dark edges to back feathers, not streaks, and bill not as thick at base. **RANGE:** Very rare visitor from Mex., mostly in fall and winter, to AZ; casual west to CA and east to TX. **HABITAT:** Arid scrub, woodland edges.

**AUDUBON'S ORIOLE** *Icterus graduacauda*

Uncommon, local M661

9½ in. (24 cm). A yellow oriole with black wings, head, and tail. Yellowish back distinctive. Other male orioles have black back. Sexes similar, but female duller. **VOICE:** Disjointed notes suggesting a child learning to whistle. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Scott's Oriole. Green Jay at a distance looks yellow with a black head. **HABITAT:** Riparian woods.

**SCOTT'S ORIOLE** *Icterus parisorum*

Uncommon M663

8¾–9 in. (22–23 cm). **Adult male:** Solid black head and back and *lemon yellow* pattern distinguish it. **Female:** More greenish yellow below and more olivey gray and streaked above than other female orioles. Many have black on throat and face. **VOICE:** Song composed of rich fluty whistles; suggests Western Meadowlark. Call a harsh *chuck*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Hooded and Bullock's orioles. **HABITAT:** Dry woods and scrub in desert mountains, yucca forests, Joshua trees, pinyon-juniper, sugar-water feeders. Also eucalyptus and date palms in winter.

ORIOLES



FRINGILLINE AND CARDUEL LINE FINCHES AND ALLIES Family Fringillidae

These birds have a seed-cracking bill, relatively short, notched tail, and somewhat undulating flight. Sexes usually unlike. Tend to be more arboreal than sparrows. FOOD: Seeds, insects, small fruit. RANGE: Worldwide.



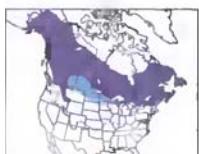
BLACK ROSY-FINCH *Leucosticte atrata* Uncommon, local M665
6–6½ in. (16 cm). Differs from other rosy-finches by adult male's blackish body color, feathering sometimes edged in gray. Female and immature grayer; the only truly grayish rosy-finches. **VOICE:** High chirping notes, suggestive of House Sparrow. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gray-crowned and Brown-capped rosy-finches. **HABITAT:** Similar to other rosy-finches.



BROWN-CAPPED ROSY-FINCH *Leucosticte australis* Uncommon, local M666
6–6½ in. (16 cm). The plainest rosy-finches. Like Gray-crowned, but male has more restricted gray on head, darker crown. Female and immature much drabber than male. **VOICE:** High chirping notes, suggestive of House Sparrow. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Gray-crowned and Black rosy-finches. **HABITAT:** Similar to other rosy-finches.



GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH *Leucosticte tephrocotis* Uncommon M664
6–8 in. (16–20 cm). A large sparrow-sized bird of high snowfields and maritime tundra; it walks, not hops. Several subspecies; vary in size and amount of gray on head. **Male:** Dark brown, with pinkish wash on belly, wings, and rump. Light gray patch on back of head; in some subspecies cheeks also gray. **Female and immature:** Duller; gray patch reduced or almost wanting. "Hepburn's" subspecies breeds in western mountains from AK and YT south to Cascades. Widespread in winter. **VOICE:** High chirping notes, suggestive of House Sparrow. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Black and Brown-capped rosy-finches. **HABITAT:** Rocky summits, alpine cirques and snowfields; also rocky islands (off AK); winters in open country at mid- and lower elevations, regular at feeders in mountain towns.



WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera* Uncommon, irregular M672
6½ in. (17 cm). All plumages show crossed mandibles, bold white wing bars, and white tertial tips. **Male:** Dull rose pink. **Female and immature:** Olive-gray, with yellowish rump. **Juvenile:** Heavily streaked. **VOICE:** Calls a liquid peet and a dry chif-chif. Song a succession of loud trills on different pitches. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Red Crossbill may show a single weak wing bar, but not two broad ones, and it lacks white tips to tertials. **HABITAT:** Spruce and fir forests, hemlocks; very rarely at feeders.



RED CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* Uncommon, irregular M671
5¾–7 in. (14–17 cm). This erratic wanderer has a heavy head and short tail. Note crossed mandibles and plain wings. The sound when it cracks cones of evergreens often betrays its presence. Usually found in flocks. **Male:** Dull red, brighter on rump. Subadult males are more orange. **Female and immature:** Dull olive-gray to mustard yellow; yellowish on rump. **Juvenile:** Streaked above and below, suggesting a large Pine Siskin; note bill. Many subspecies vary slightly in bill size, body size, and color; most readily distinguished by flight call. **VOICE:** Call a hard jip-jip or kip-kip-kip (in some populations, kwit-kwit or kewp-kewp). Song consists of finchlike warbled passages, jip-jip-jip-jeeaa-jeeaa; trills, chips. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** White-winged Crossbill has white wing bars in all plumages. **HABITAT:** Variety of conifers; rarely at feeders. Erratic and irruptive wanderings, especially in winter.

ROSY-FINCHES AND CROSSBILLS





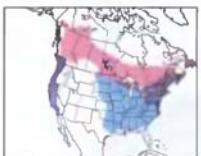
COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* Uncommon, irregular M673
5¼ in. (13 cm). Note bright red forehead and black chin of this little winter finch. Male has pink breast; female lacks this. Usually found in flocks.
VOICE: In flight, a rattling *chet-chet-chet*. Song a trill, followed by the rattling *chet-chet-chet*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Hoary Redpoll, Pine Siskin. Male House and Purple finches larger, redder, have red rump; lack black chin.
HABITAT: Birches, tundra scrub. In winter, weeds, brush, thistle feeders.



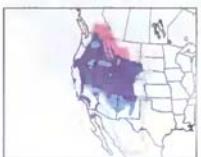
HOARY REDPOLL *Carduelis hornemannii* Rare, irregular M674
5½–5½ in. (13–14 cm). In nonbreeding season, often found in flocks of Common Redpolls. Very similar. Look for a “frostier” bird, with whiter rump containing little or no streaking. Also note stubbier bill and lighter streaking on flanks and undertail coverts. Some individuals very difficult to identify. **VOICE:** In flight, a rattling *chet-chet-chet*. Song a trill, followed by the rattling *chet-chet-chet*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin. **HABITAT:** Birches, tundra scrub. In winter, weeds, brush, feeders.



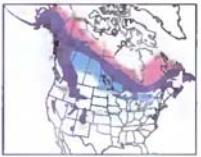
HOUSE FINCH *Carpodacus mexicanus* Common M670
5¾–6 in. (14–15 cm). Slimmer than Purple or Cassin’s finch with longer, more square-tipped tail. **Male:** Breast, forehead, stripe over eye, and rump vary from red to orange to almost deep yellow (diet related). Note dark streaks on sides and belly. **Female:** Streaked brown; separated from slightly larger female Purple and Cassin’s finches by its smaller head, bill, and bland face. **VOICE:** Song bright, loose, and disjointed; often ends in nasal wheer. Call suggests a House Sparrow’s *chirp*, but more musical. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Purple and Cassin’s finches. **HABITAT:** Cities, suburbs, farms. Bacterial infection of eyes has reduced numbers in some areas.



PURPLE FINCH *Carpodacus purpureus* Uncommon M668
6 in. (15 cm). Like a sparrow dipped in raspberry juice. **Adult male:** Dull rose red, brightest on head, chest, and rump. Flanks unstreaked. **Female and immature:** Heavily streaked, brown; similar to female House Finch, but note broad dark jaw stripe, dark ear patch, broad light stripe behind eye, more deeply notched tail, undertail coverts with few or no streaks. **VOICE:** Song a fast lively warble; call a dull, flat, metallic *pik* or *tick*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Cassin’s and House finches. East of Rockies, see Rose-breasted Grosbeak. **HABITAT:** Woods, groves, suburbs, feeders.



CASSIN’S FINCH *Carpodacus cassinii* Fairly common M669
6¼ in. (16 cm). **Adult male:** Very similar to Purple Finch, but red of breast paler; red crown patch contrasts abruptly with brown of nape; bill has straighter ridge. **Female and immature:** Whiter underparts, sharper streaking above and below, streaked undertail coverts, pale eye-ring, and bill shape distinguish it from Purple Finch. **VOICE:** Song flutier and more varied than Purple’s. Call a musical *chidiup*. **HABITAT:** Conifers in mountains; some move to lower elevations in winter.



PINE GROSBEAK *Pinicola enucleator* Scarce, irregular M667
8¾–9 in. (23 cm). Near size of a robin; a large, tame finch with dark, stubby bill, longish tail. Flight undulating. May be seen on dirt roads eating grit. **Adult male:** Dull rose red, wings dark with two white wing bars. **Female:** Gray, with two white wing bars; head and rump tinged with dull mustard yellow. **Immature male:** Similar to gray female, but with touch of russet on head and rump. **VOICE:** Song a rich, rapid warbling. Call a musical *chee-vli* in West; *pe-pew-pew* in East. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Crossbills, Purple Finch. **HABITAT:** Conifers, particularly lodgepole pines, larches; in winter, also mixed woods, crabapples and other fruiting trees, ashes. Much less irruptive in West than in East.

RED FINCHES, ETC.





EVENING GROSBEAK

Coccothraustes vespertinus

Uncommon, irregular M679

8 in. (20 cm). Size of a starling. A *chunky, short-tailed finch* with *very large, pale, conical bill* (sometimes tinged greenish). **Male:** Dull yellow, with darker head, *yellow eyebrow*, and black-and-white wings; suggests an overgrown American Goldfinch. **Female:** Silver gray, with enough yellow, black, and white to be recognized. Gregarious. In flight, overall shape and *large white wing patches* identify this species. **VOICE:** Song a short, uneven warble. Also a ringing, finchlike *dee-ip*; a high, clear *thew*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American Goldfinch (much smaller), female crossbills. **HABITAT:** Coniferous and mixed forests; in winter, box elders, fruiting shrubs, feeders.



AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

Carduelis tristis

Common M678

5 in. (13 cm). Goldfinches are distinguished from other small, olive-yellow birds (warblers, etc.) by their short, conical bill and behavior. **Breeding male:** A *small yellow bird with black forehead and wings*; tail also black; bill pale. **Breeding female:** Dull yellow-olive; darker above, with blackish wings and conspicuous wing bars. **Nonbreeding:** Both sexes much like breeding female, but gray-brown; yellow on throat, bill dark. **VOICE:** Song clear, light, canary-like. In undulating flight, each dip is punctuated by *ti-DEE-di-di* or *per-chik-o-ree* or *po-ta-to-chip*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Lesser and Lawrence's goldfinches, Pine Siskin. Yellow Warbler yellowish all over, including wings and tail. **HABITAT:** Patches of thistles and weeds, dandelions on lawns, sweet-gum balls, roadsides, open woods, edges; in winter, also feeders, where often in flocks.



LESSER GOLDFINCH

Carduelis psaltria

Fairly common M676

4½ in. (11 cm). **Male:** A very small finch with *black cap*, black or greenish back, and yellow underparts; white on wings. Black cap retained in winter. Males of subspecies *psaltria* (s. Rockies) have *black* back; males of western subspecies *hesperophilus* have *greenish* back. Some birds have mottled back. **Female:** Similar to nonbreeding American Goldfinch, but usually yellower below, has *less contrasting wing bars*, *yellowish* (not white) *undertail coverts*, and *dark rump*. Calls differ. **VOICE:** Sweet, plaintive, whiny notes, *tee-yee* (rising) and *tee-yer* (dropping). Song more phrased than American Goldfinch's; will imitate some other bird calls. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** American Goldfinch. **HABITAT:** Open brushy and weedy country, open woods, wooded streams, towns, parks, gardens, feeders.

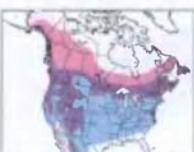


LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH

Carduelis lawrencei

Uncommon, irregular M677

4¾ in. (12 cm). Known in all plumages by *large amount of yellow in wings*. **Male:** Has bold *black face* (including chin). **Female and immature:** Very *plain and gray*. **VOICE:** Song similar to Lesser Goldfinch's, but with high tinkling notes and even more mimicry. Call distinctive: *tink-oo*, syllables emphasized equally. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Other goldfinches. **HABITAT:** Oak-pine and riparian woodland edges, chaparral, ranch yards, parks; often found near isolated water sources such as stream pools, stock tanks.

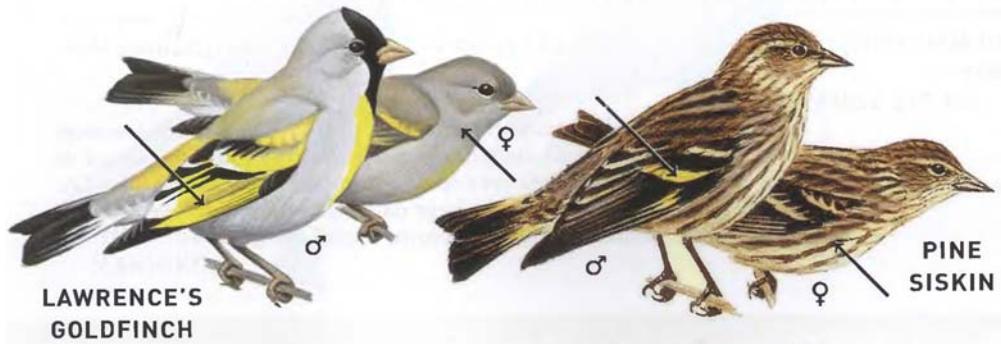


PINE SISKIN

Carduelis pinus

Fairly common, irregular M675

5 in. (13 cm). Size of a goldfinch. A small, dark, *heavily streaked* finch with deeply notched tail, sharply pointed bill. *A touch of yellow in wings* and at *base of tail* (not always evident). Often first detected by voice, flying over. **VOICE:** Call a loud *chlee-ip*; also a light *tit-i-bit*; a buzzy *shreeeee*. Song suggests goldfinch, but coarser, wheezy. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Nonbreeding American Goldfinch lacks streaks. Female House Finch has stubbier bill, less notch in tail. Common Redpoll has red forehead. All lack yellow in wings and tail. **HABITAT:** Conifers, mixed woods, alders, sweet-gum balls, weedy areas, feeders.



OLD WORLD SPARROWS Family Passeridae

Old World sparrows differ from our native sparrows (which are in the Emberizidae family) in several subtle ways, including having a more curved culmen (ridge on bill). The introduced and widespread House Sparrow is the best-known species. **FOOD:** Mainly insects, seeds. **RANGE:** Widespread in Old World, two species introduced in New World.



HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Common M680
6½ in. (16 cm). Introduced from Europe in 1840. Familiar to many people. Sooty city birds often bear little resemblance to clean country males with *black throat, white cheeks, chestnut nape*. Much plainer female and young lack black throat, have dingy breast, and dull eye stripe *behind eye only*; note *single bold wing bar*. **VOICE:** Hoarse *chirp* and *shillip* notes, also a rising *sweep*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** Female Dickcissel, buntings, sparrows, Eurasian Tree Sparrow. **HABITAT:** Cities, towns, farms, feeders.



EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Uncommon, local
6 in. (15 cm). Both sexes resemble male House Sparrow, but black throat patch smaller. Key mark is *black ear spot*. Crown brown. **VOICE:** Higher pitched than House Sparrow's. A metallic *chik* or *chup*, a repeated *chitchup*. In flight, a hard *tek*, *tek*. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** House Sparrow. **RANGE:** Introduced from Europe around St. Louis in 1870. Some northward expansion since then. Accidental to NE, NB, MN. **HABITAT:** Farmland, weedy patches, locally in residential areas, feeders.

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* (Family Fringillidae)

5½ in. (14 cm). Occasional reports, mostly at feeders. Assumed to be all or almost all escaped captive birds. Note red face, yellow wing patches.

WEAVERS Family Ploceidae

Old World family including weavers and bishops. Escaped captives established very locally in s. CA and possibly very locally elsewhere. **FOOD:** Seeds, insects. **RANGE:** Native to Old World. Several species introduced.

ORANGE BISHOP *Euplectes franciscanus*

Uncommon, local
4¼ in. (10 cm). This small member of the weaver finch family is native to Africa but has been introduced in CA, Puerto Rico, and Bermuda. There is a local established population in Los Angeles area. Short tail, large head, large bill. *Breeding male: Bright reddish body; black face, bill, belly. Female and nonbreeding male:* Similar to female House Sparrow or Grasshopper Sparrow, but with larger, paler bill, short tail.

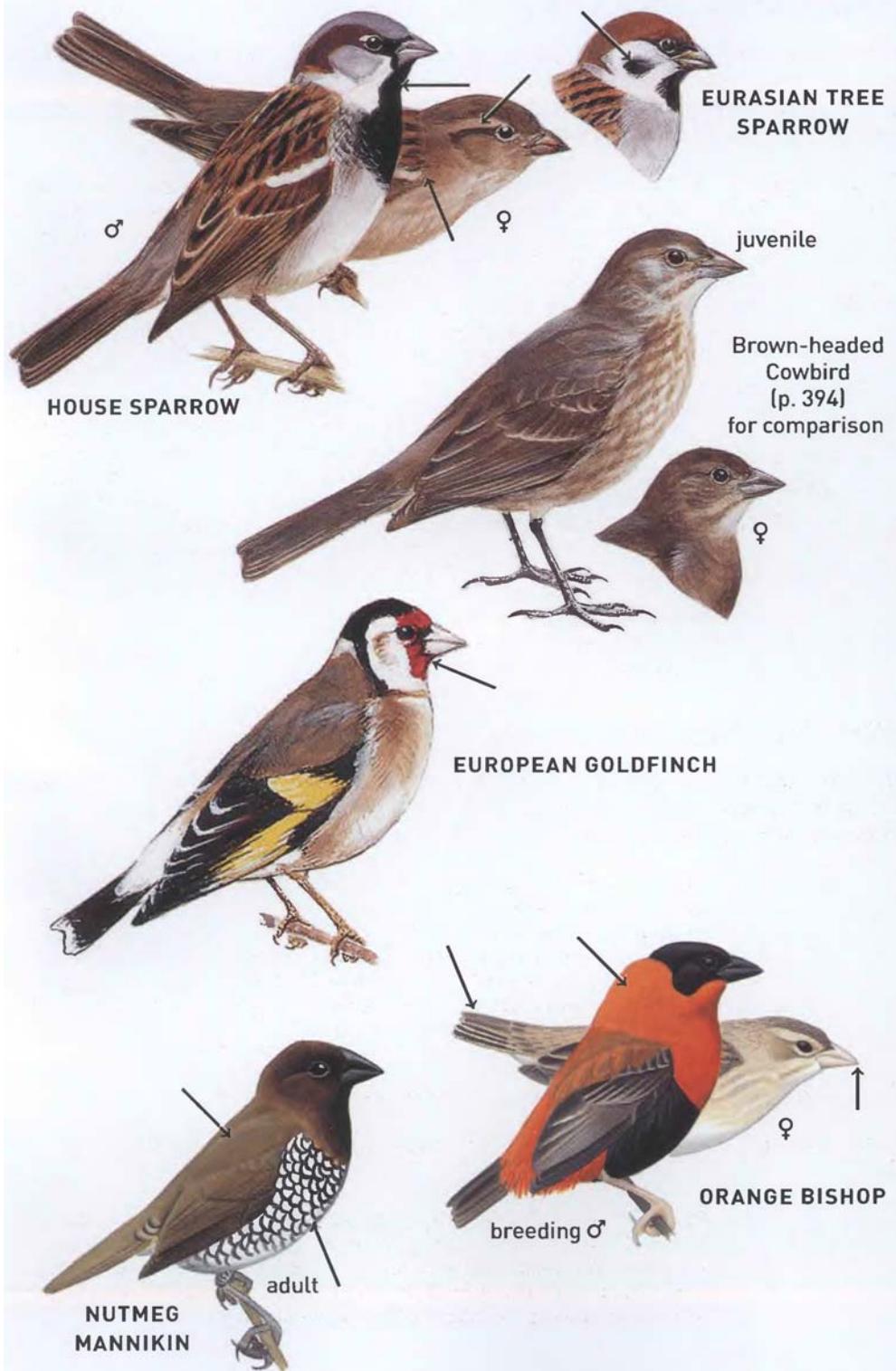
ESTRILDID FINCHES Family Estrildidae

Old World family represented in N. America by escaped cage birds, including Nutmeg Mannikin.

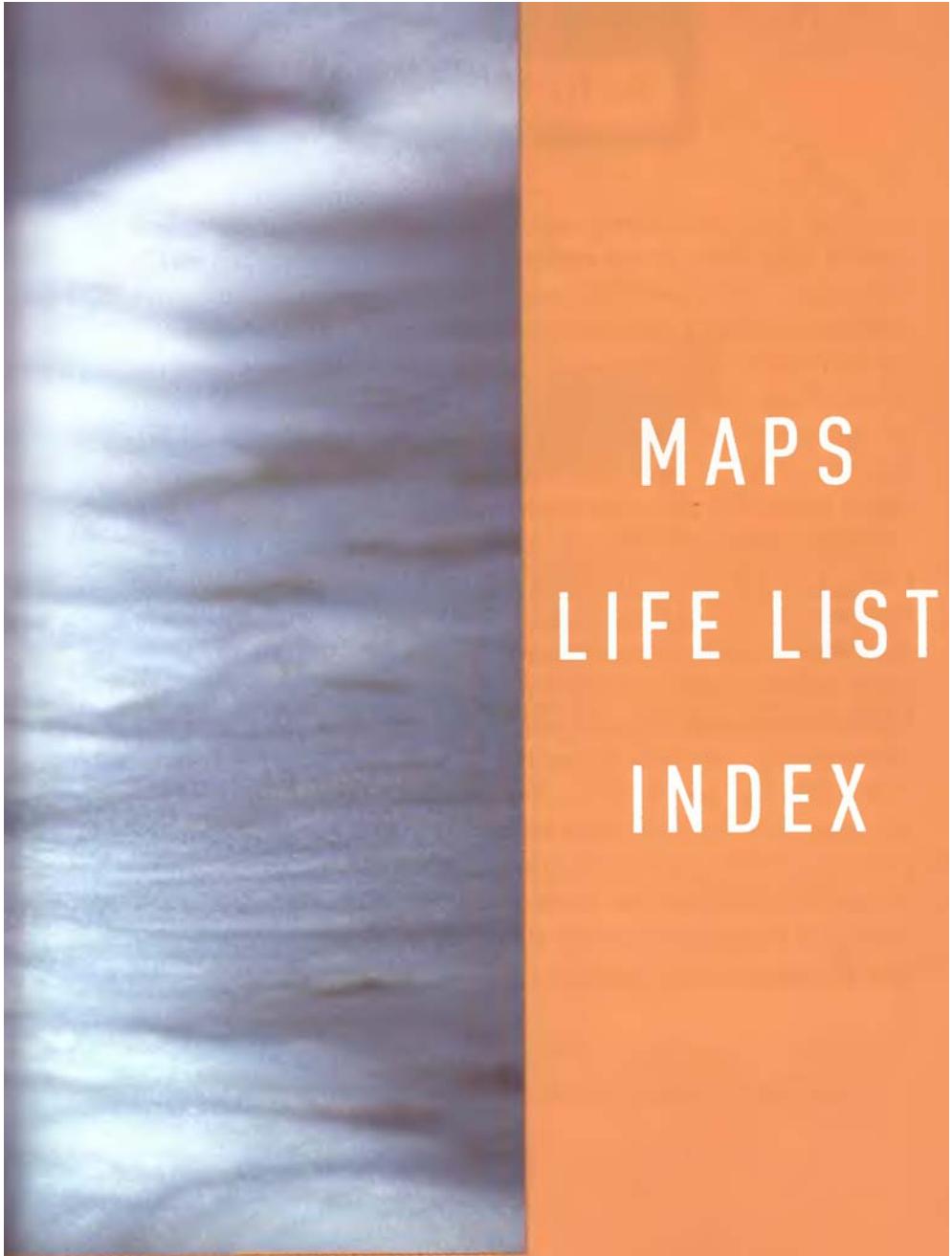
NUTMEG MANNIKIN *Lonchura punctulata*

Uncommon, local
4½ in. (11 cm). A small, dark finch, native to se. Asia but introduced to CA and s. FL. Established very locally in moderate numbers in s. CA. *Adult: Dark, cocoa brown body, large dark bill, brown belly checked with white. Juvenile: Pale brown overall, bill dark.*

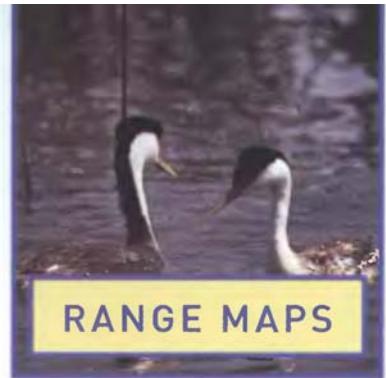
INTRODUCED FINCHLIKE BIRDS







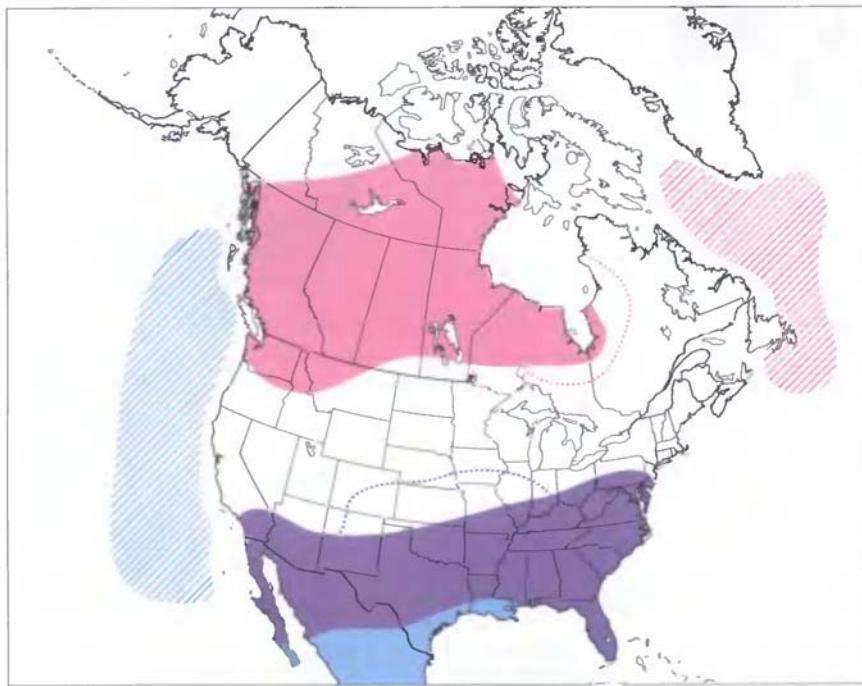
MAPS
LIFE LIST
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The maps on the following pages are approximate, giving the general outlines of the range of each species. Within these broad outlines may be many gaps—areas ecologically unsuitable for the species. A Marsh Wren must have a marsh, a Ruffed Grouse a woodland or a forest. Certain species may be extremely local or sporadic for reasons that may or may not be clear. Some birds are extending their ranges, a few explosively. Others are declining or even disappearing from large areas where they were formerly found. Winter ranges are often not as definite as breeding ranges. A species may exist at a very low density near the northern limits of its winter range, surviving through December in mild seasons but often succumbing to the bitter conditions of January and February. Varying weather conditions and food supplies from year to year may result in substantial variations in winter bird populations.

The maps are specific only for the area covered by this field guide. The Mallard, for example, is found over a large part of the globe. The map shows only its range in North America.

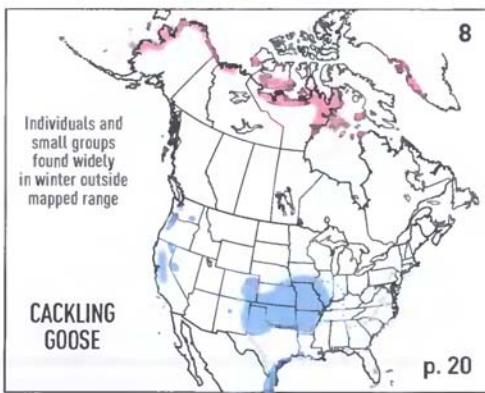
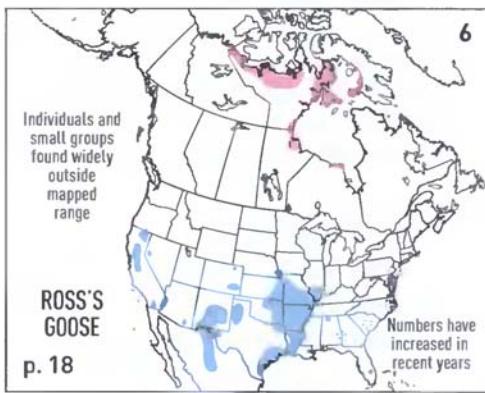
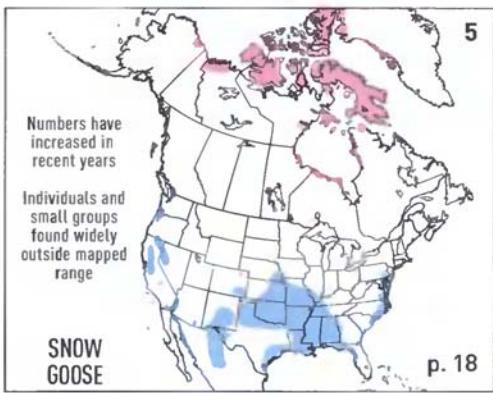
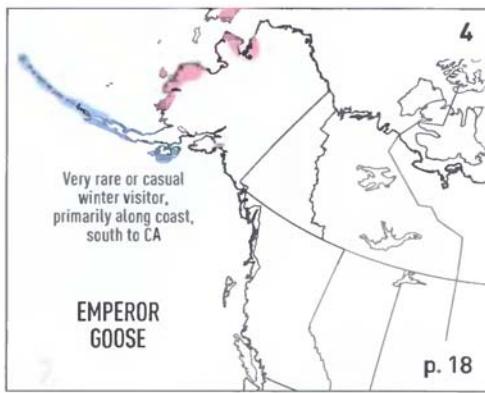
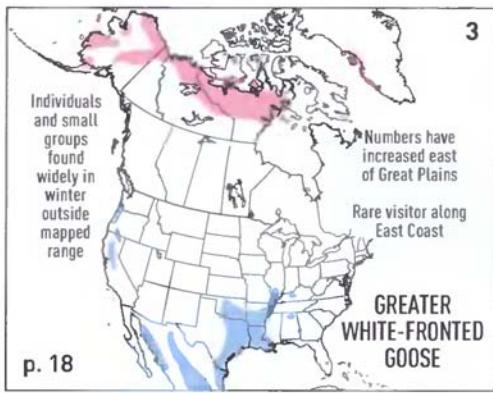
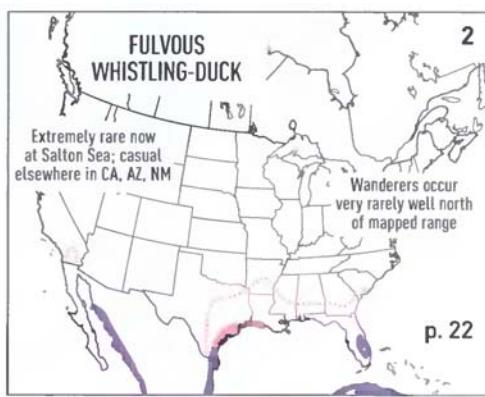
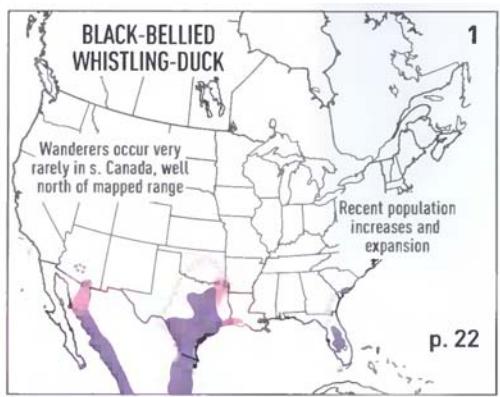
The maps are based on data culled from many publications (particularly from monographs detailing the status and distribution of a state or province's avifauna, as well as from breeding bird atlases), from such journals as *North American Birds* (formerly *American Birds* and *Audubon Field Notes*), and from communication with many state and provincial experts from throughout North America.

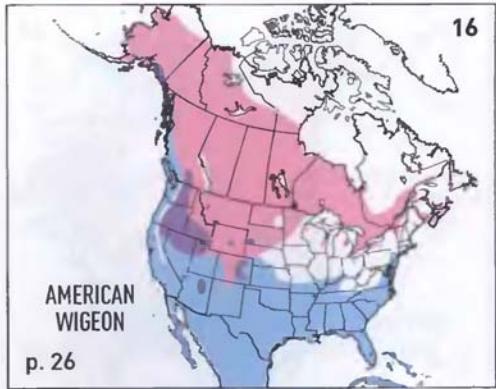
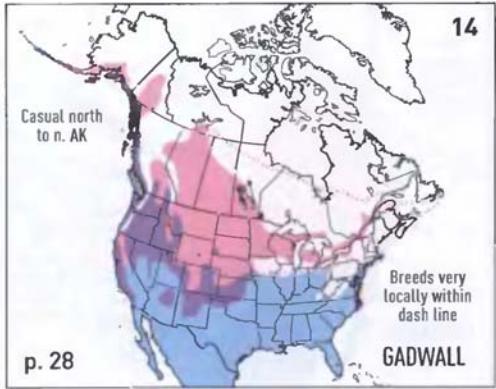
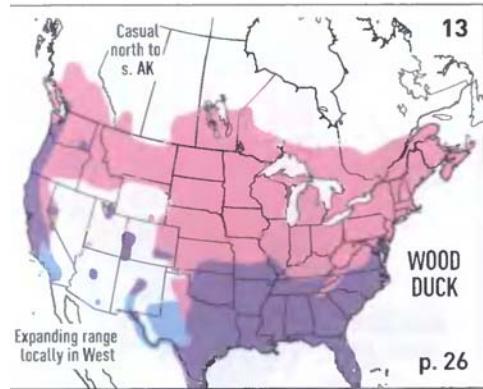
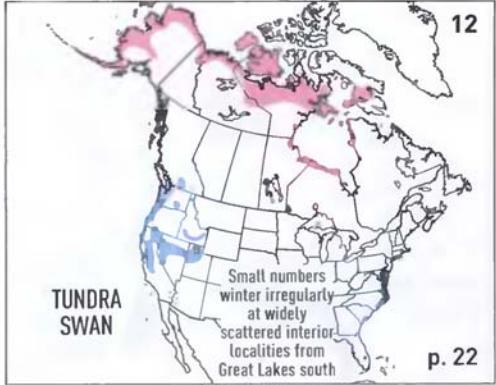
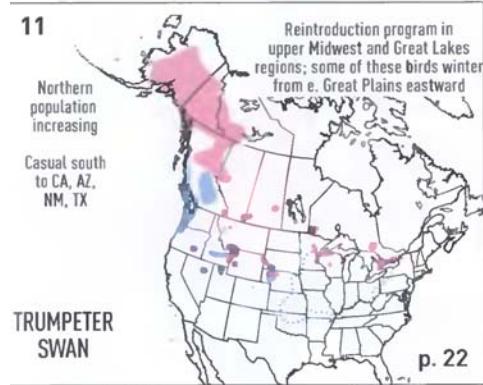
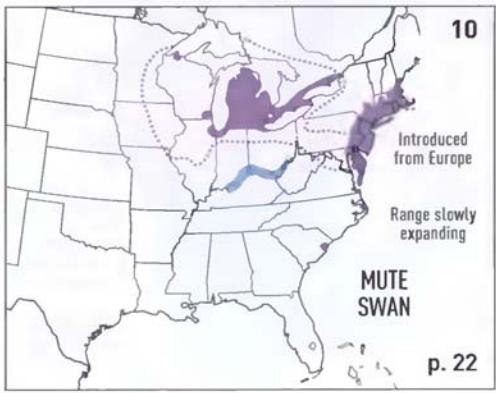
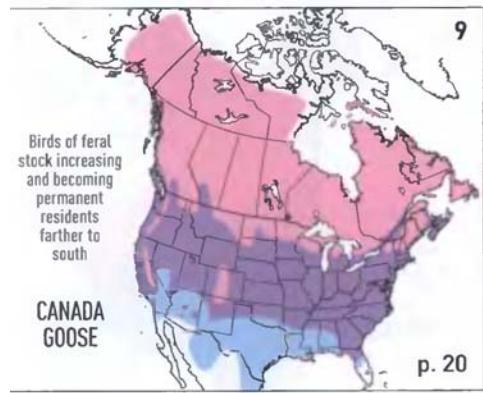


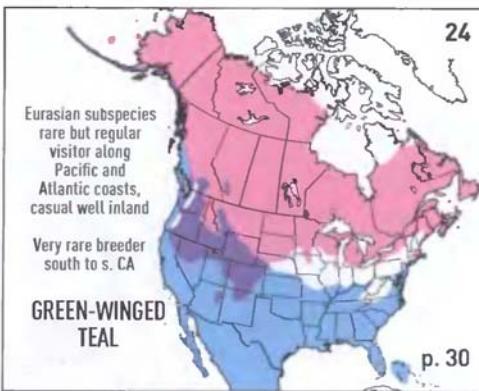
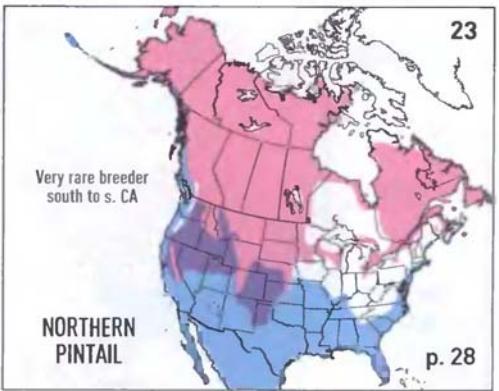
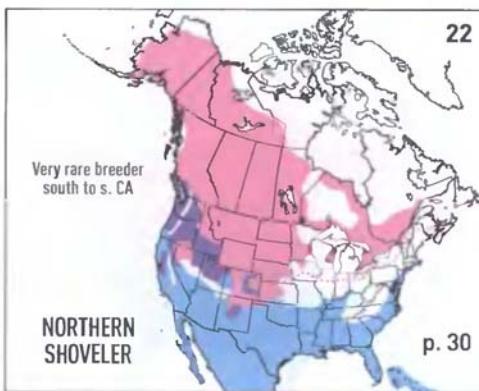
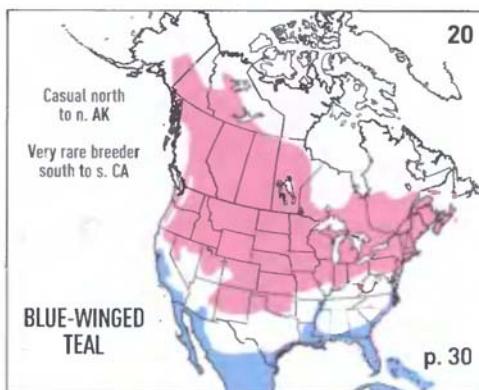
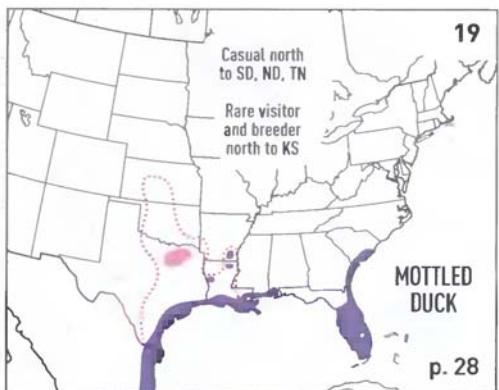
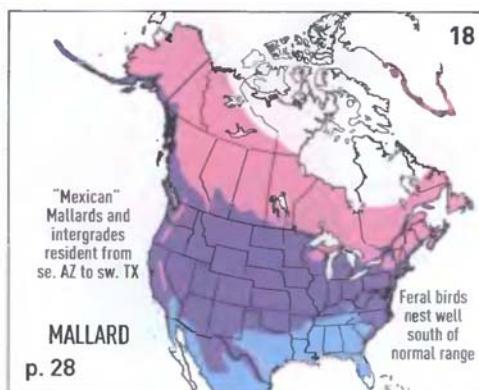
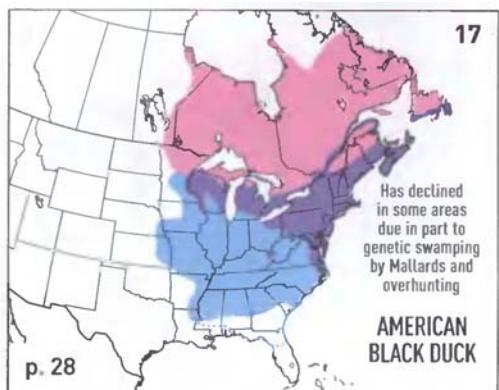
Many maps include comments on population increases and declines, extralimital occurrences, and regular winter or summer ranges outside North America. Migration routes are not depicted in these maps, but side notes sometimes include information on migration. Maps are likewise not filled in with solid color if the species is considered rare, very rare, casual, accidental, and/or a vagrant. Migrants can often be found in suitable habitat in those areas that lie between summering/breeding areas and wintering/nonbreeding areas.

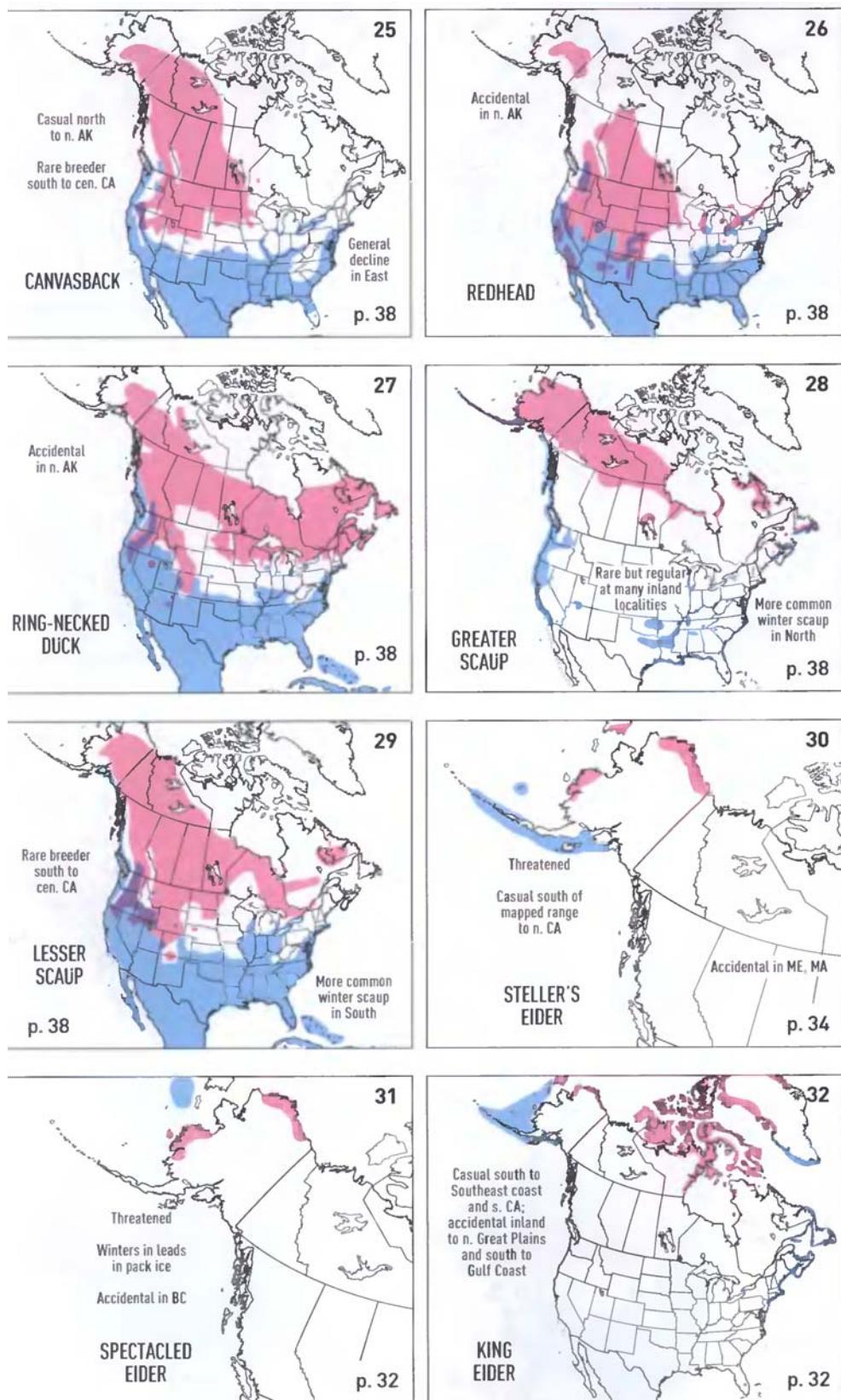
Key to Range Maps

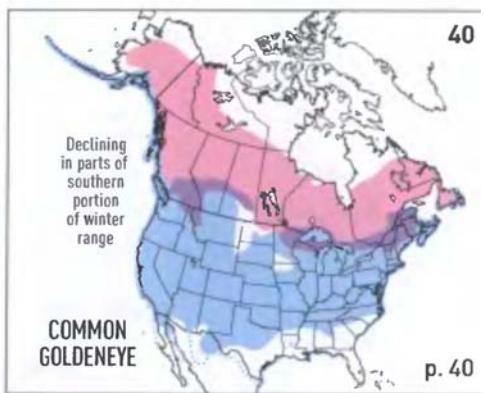
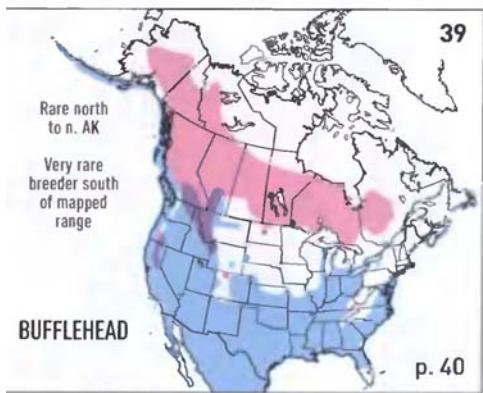
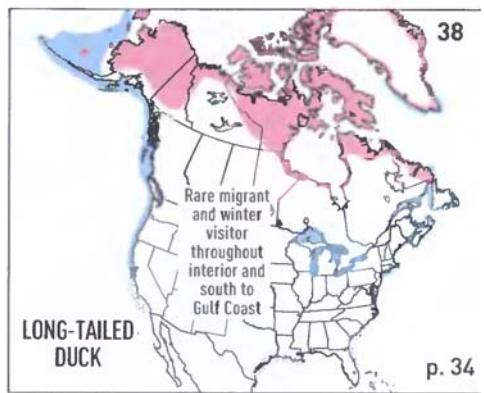
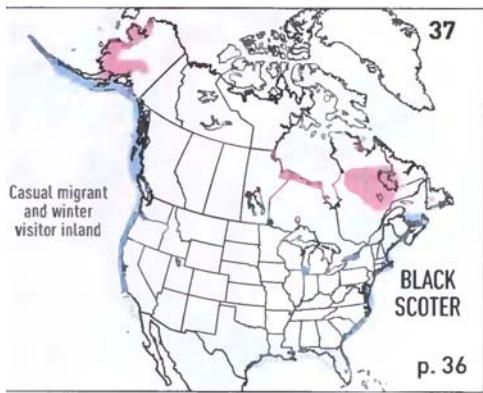
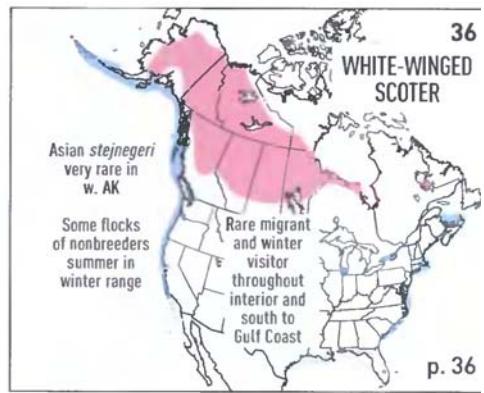
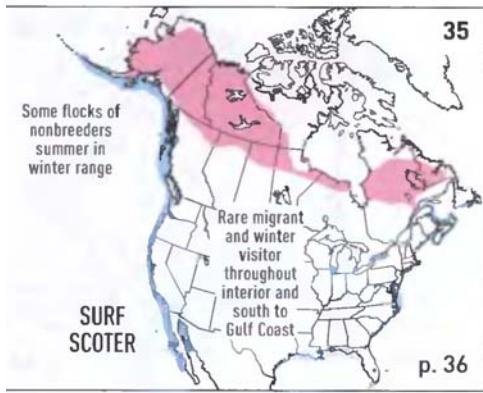
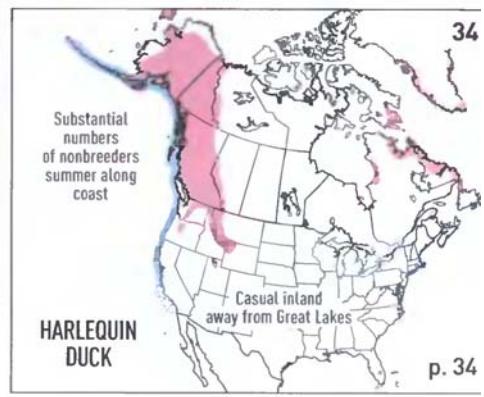
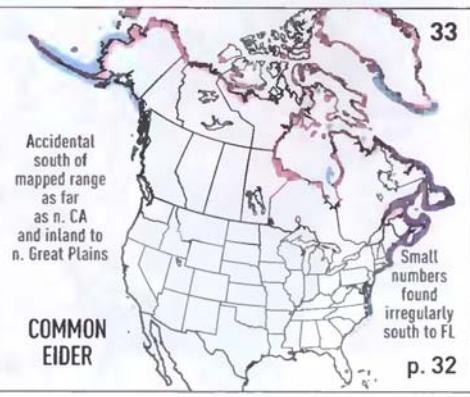
- Red: summer range
- Blue: winter range
- Purple: year-round range
 - Red dash line: approximate limits of irregular summer range and/or post-breeding dispersal
 - Blue dash line: approximate limits of irregular winter range
 - Purple dash line: approximate limits of irregular year-round range
- ▨ Striped area: pelagic range

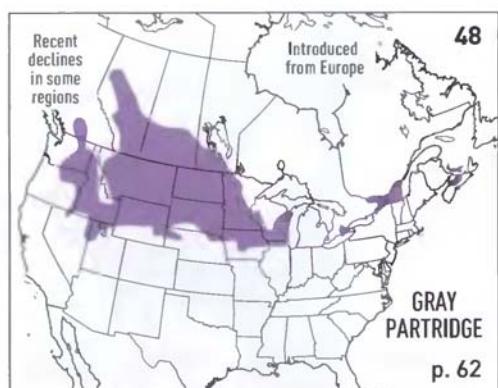
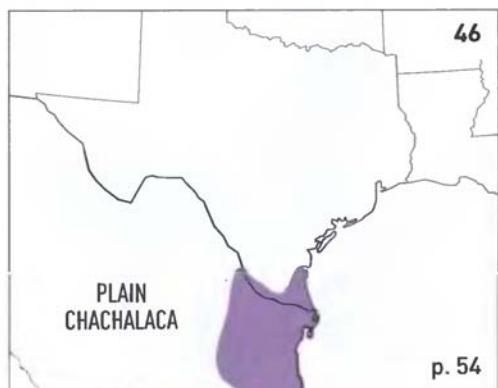
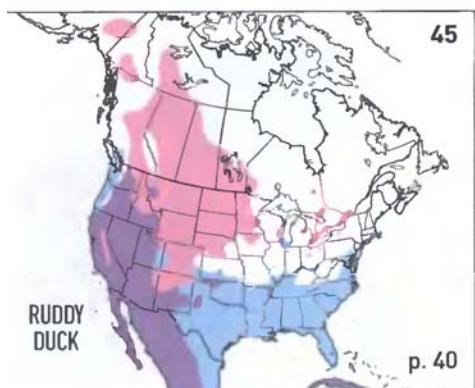
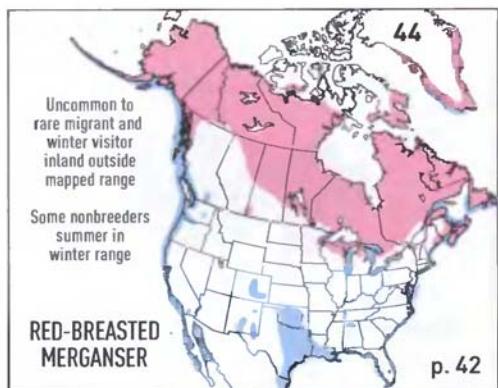
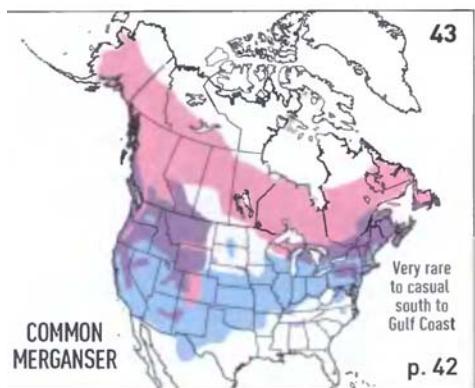
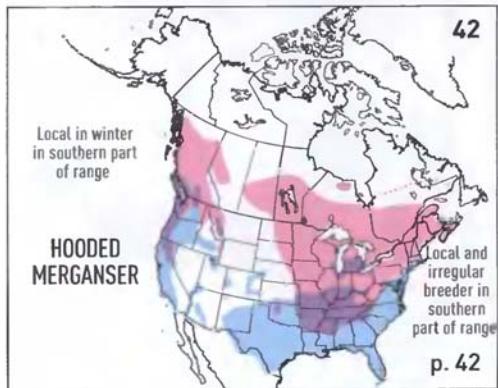
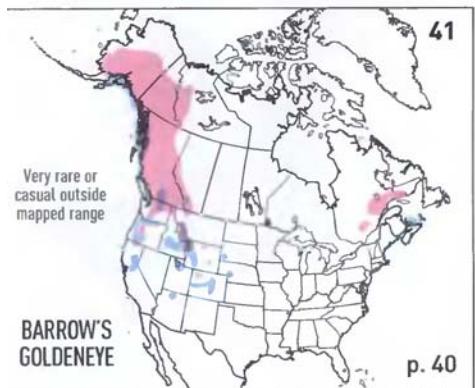


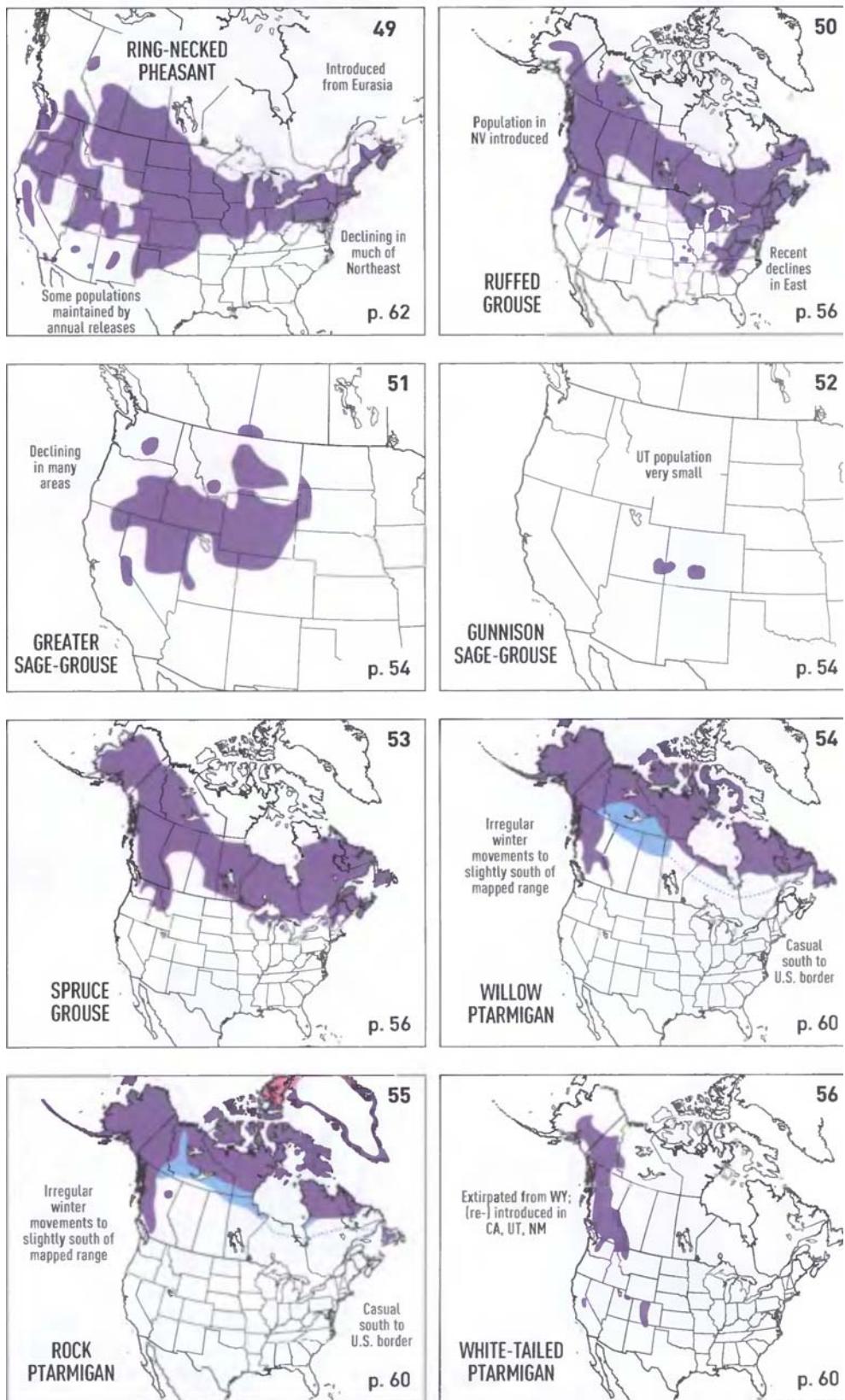


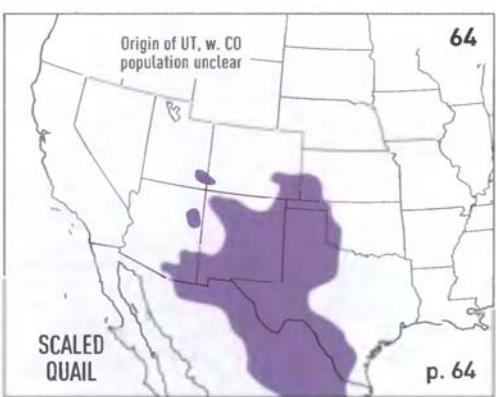
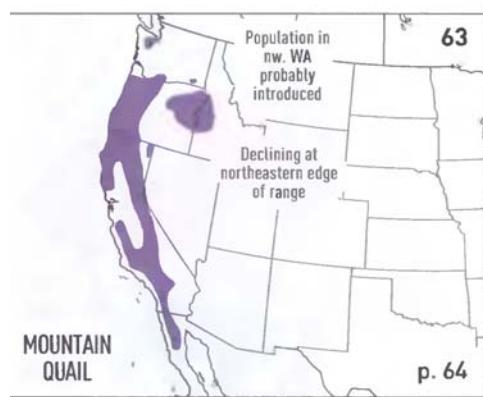
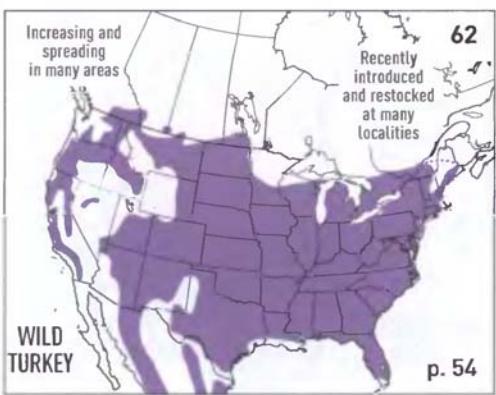
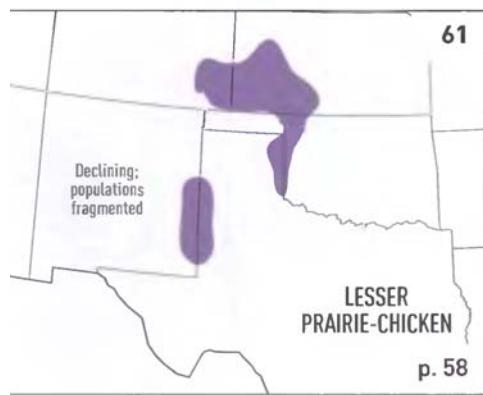
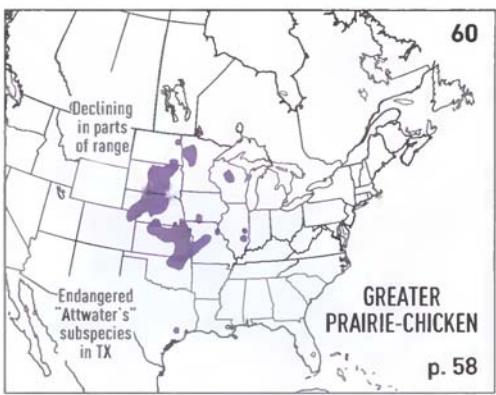
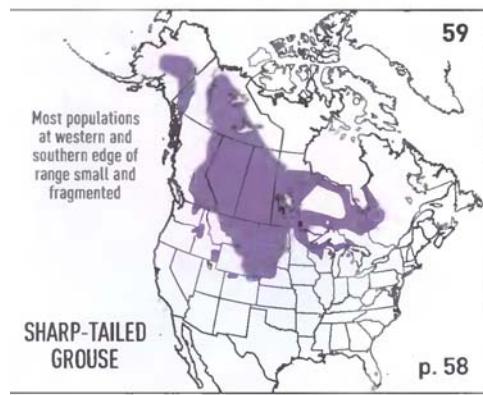
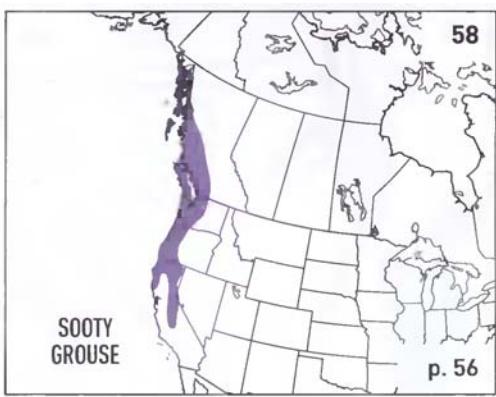
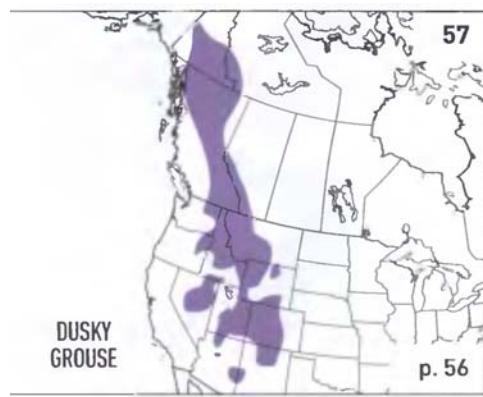


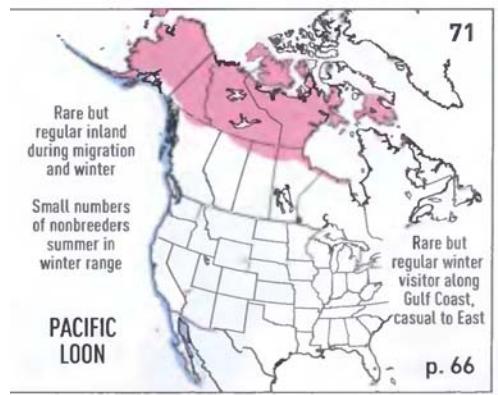
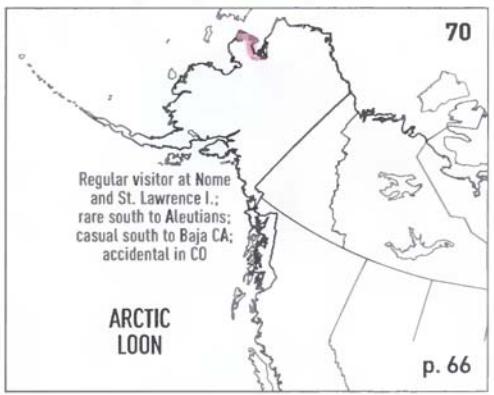
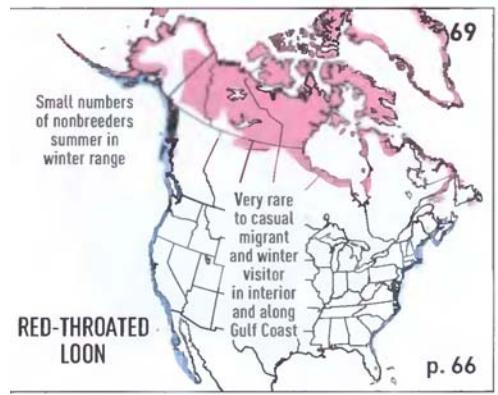
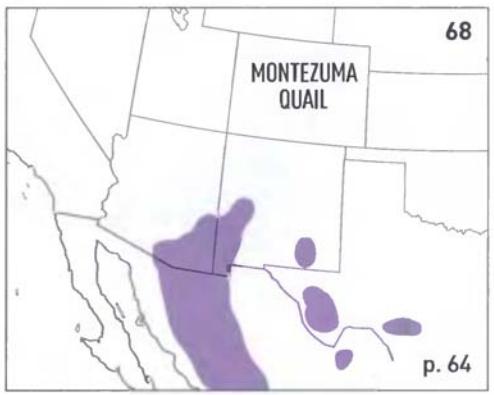
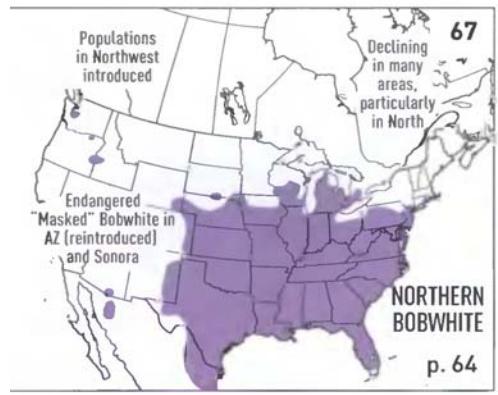
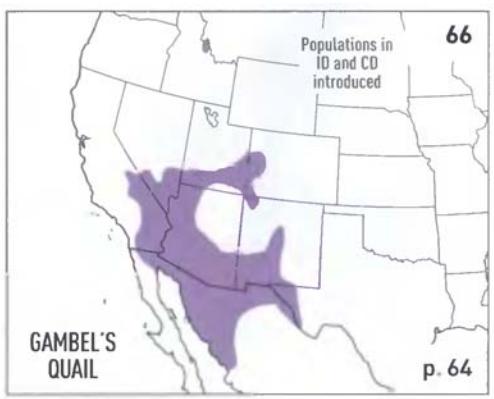
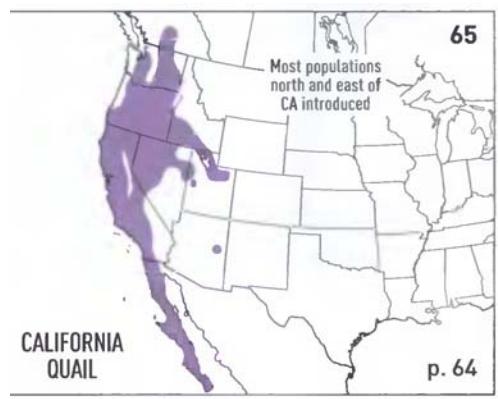


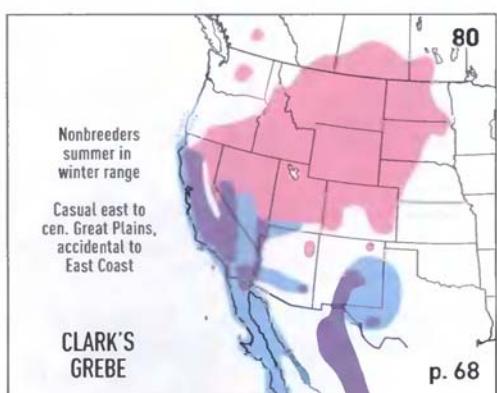
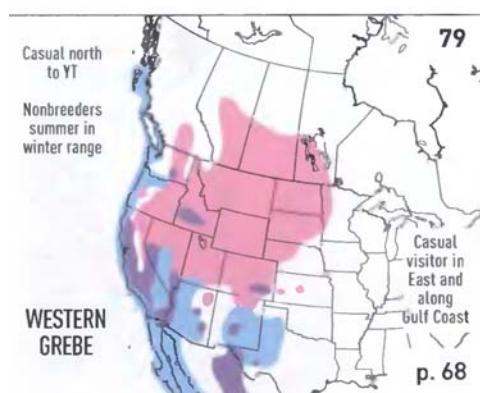
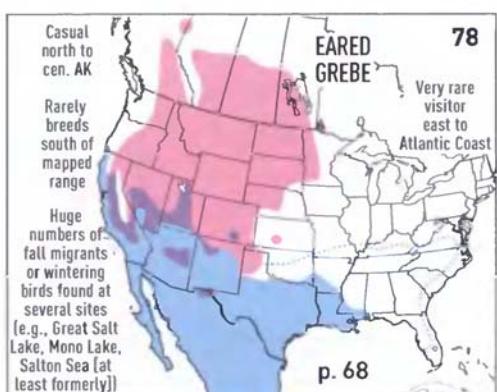
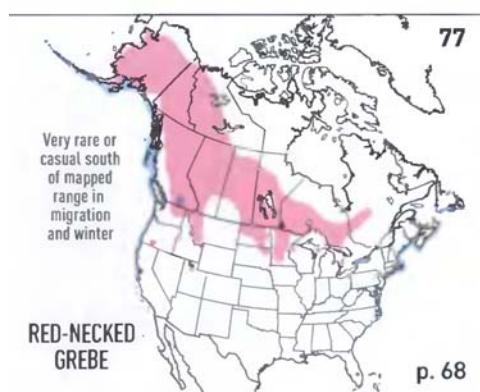
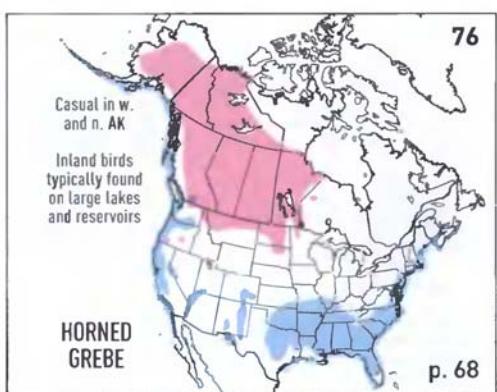
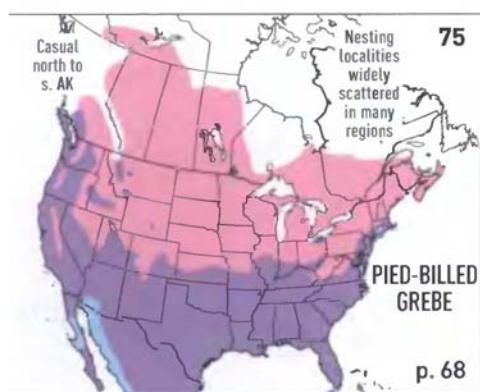
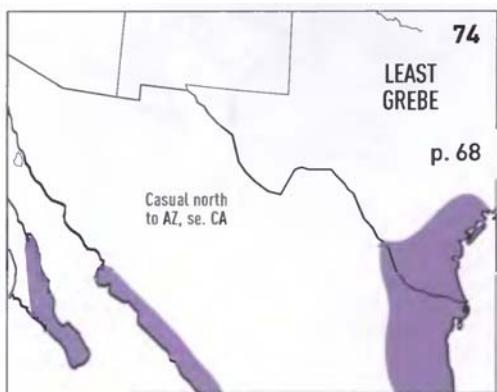
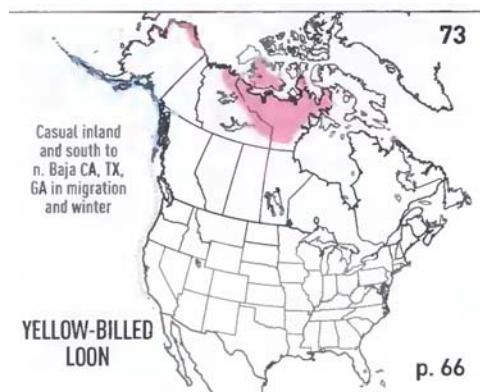


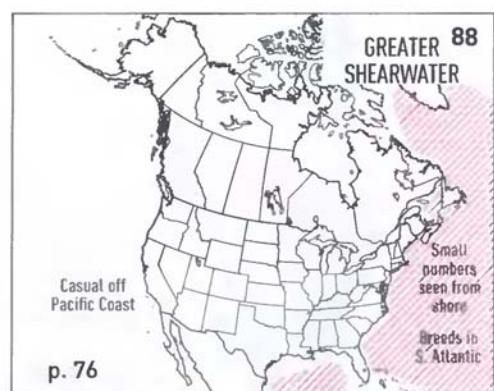
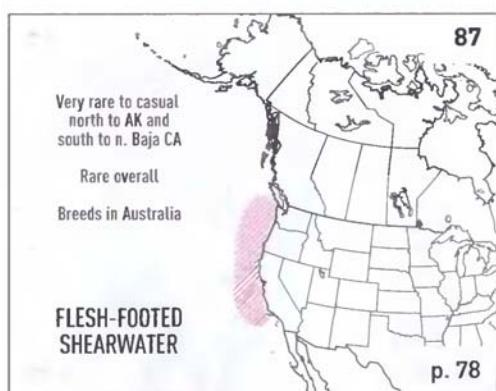
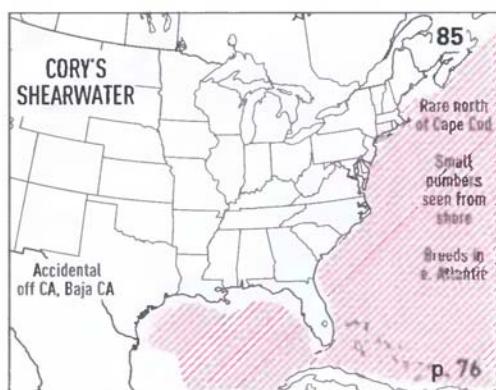
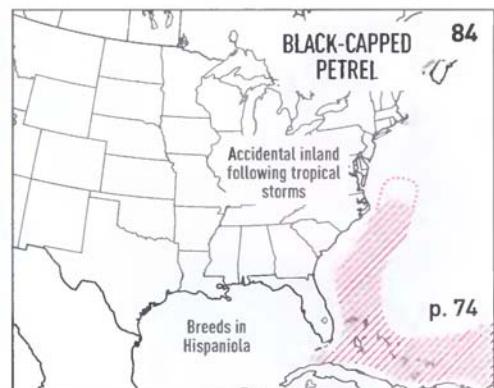
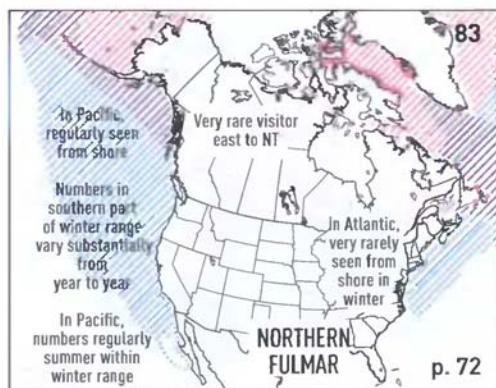
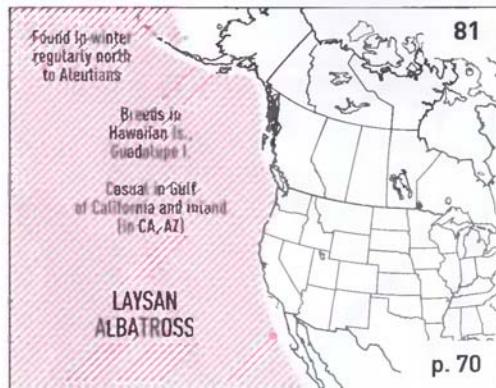


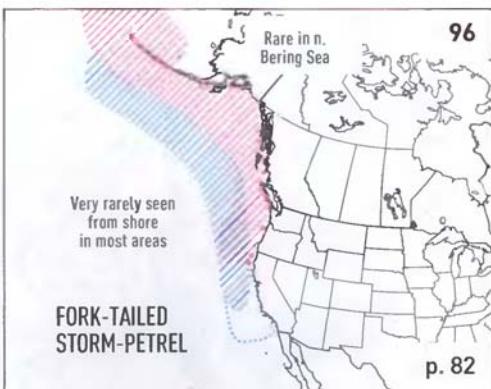
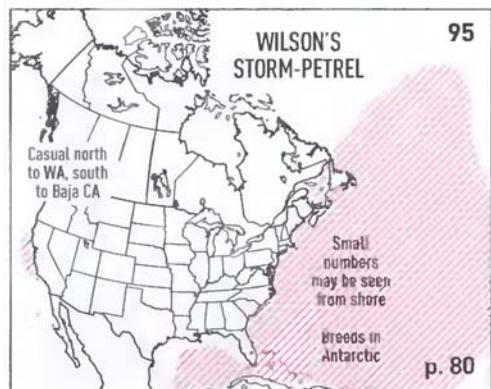
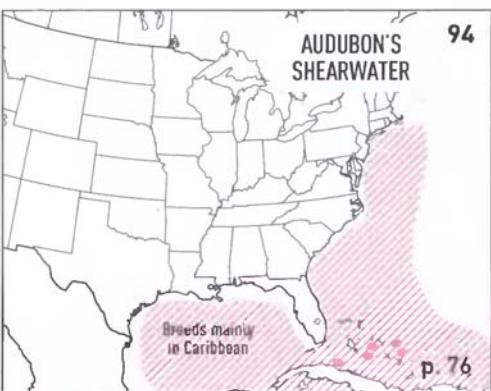
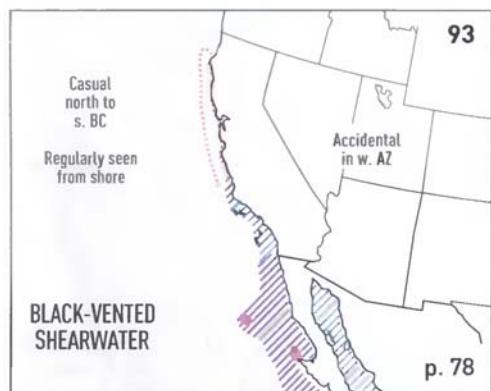
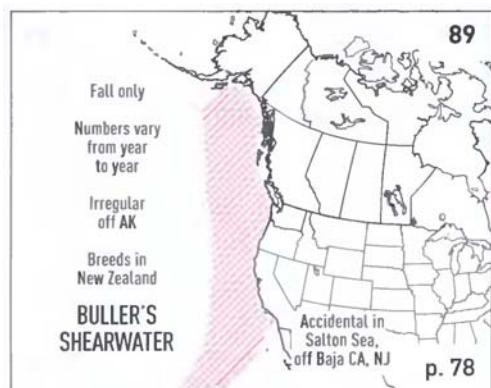


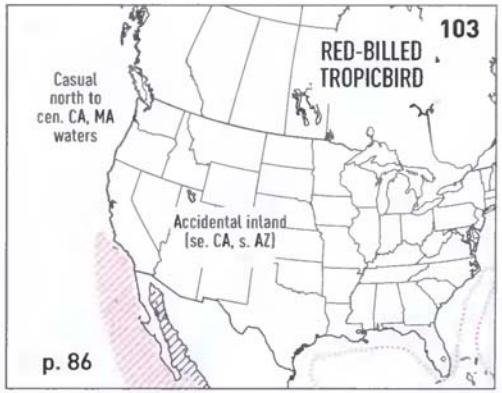
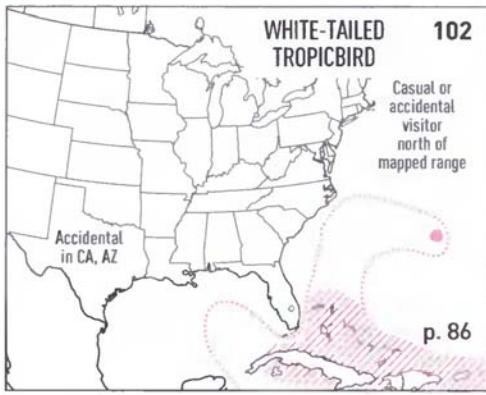
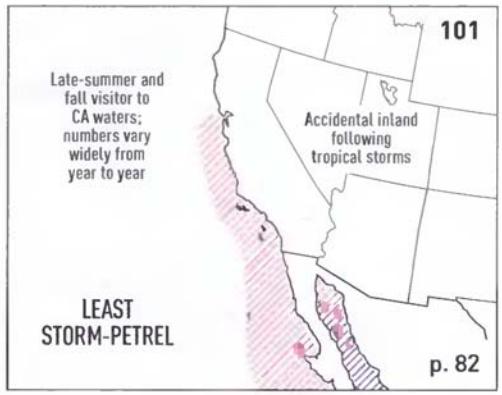
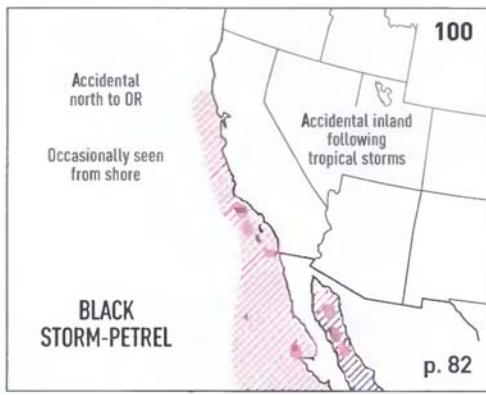
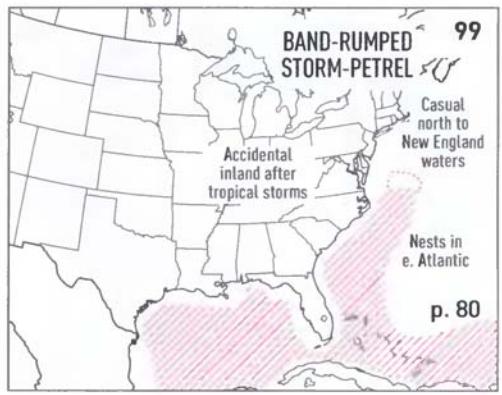
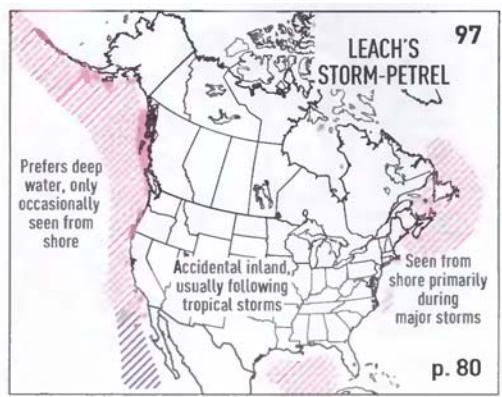


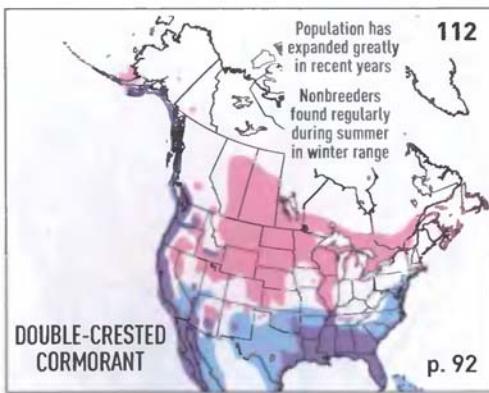
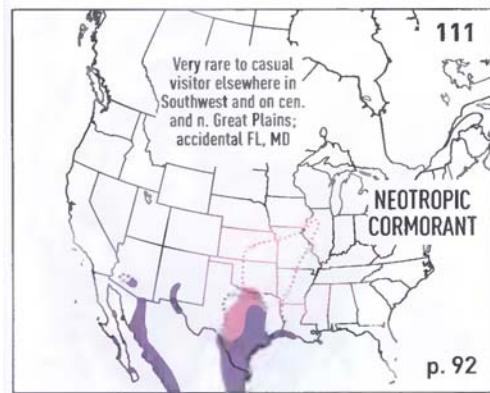
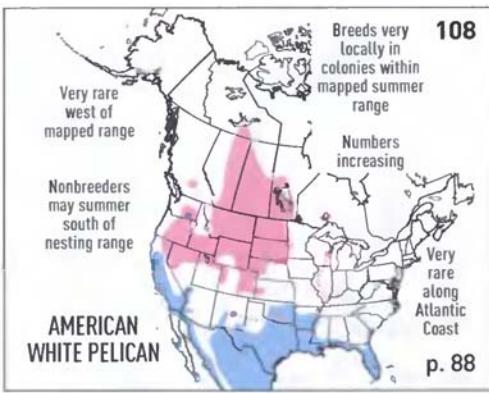
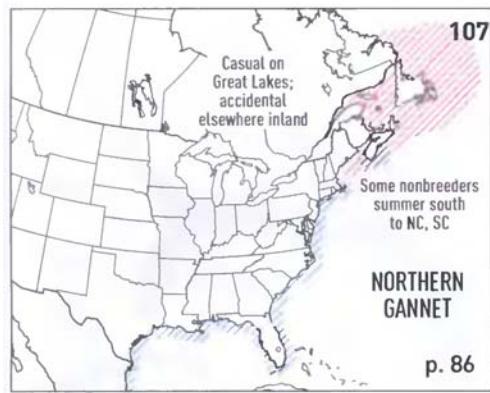
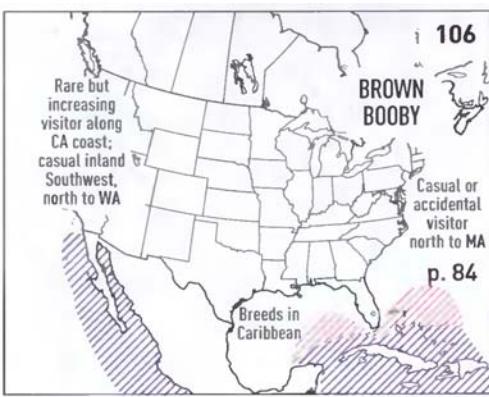
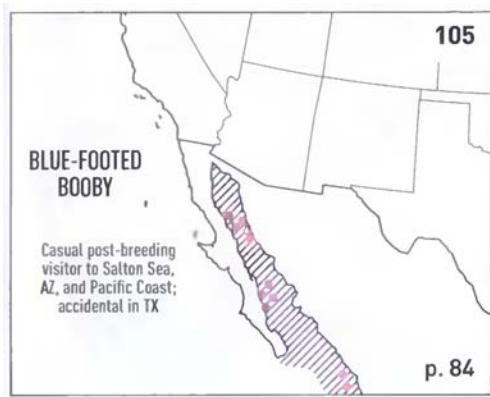


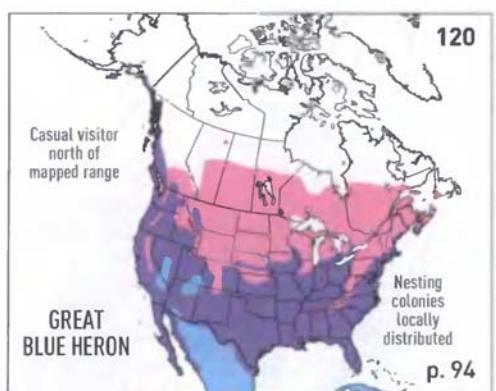
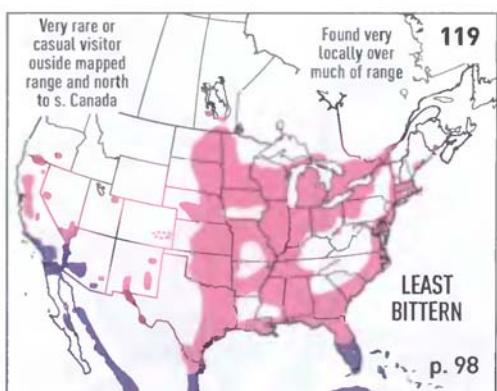
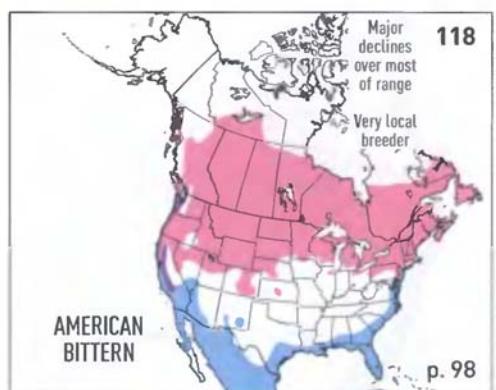
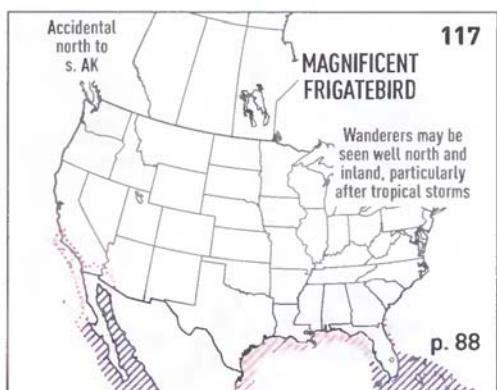
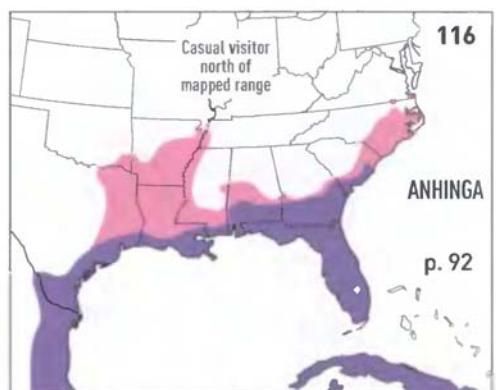
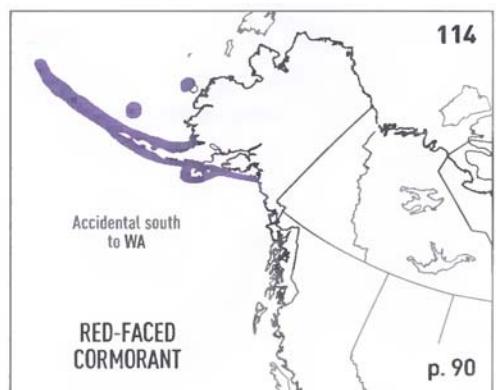


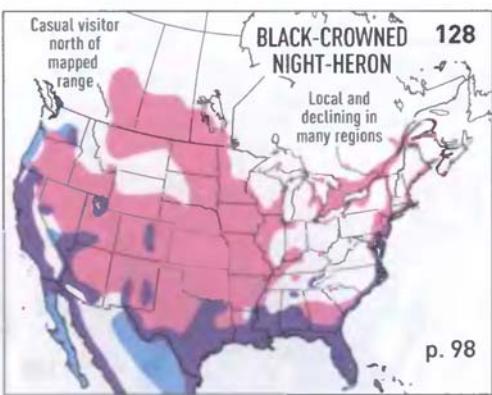
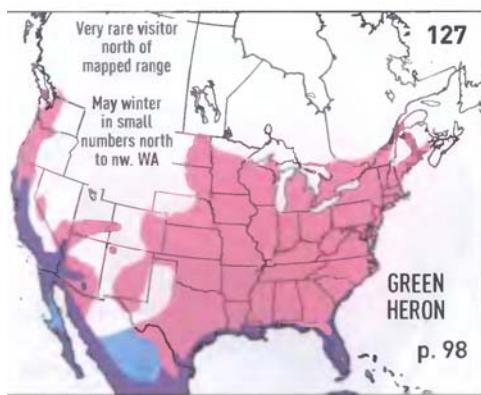
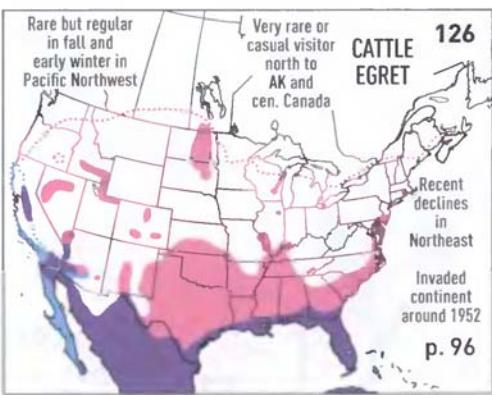
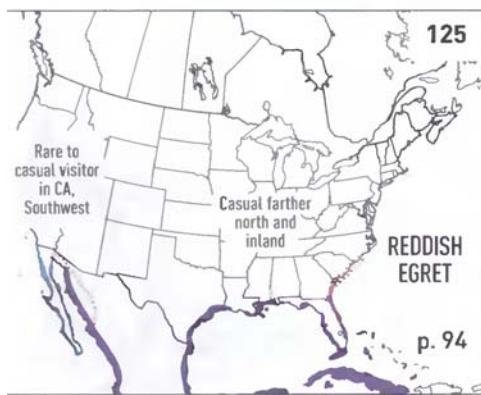
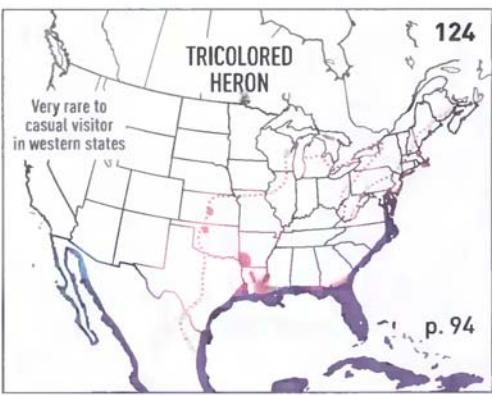
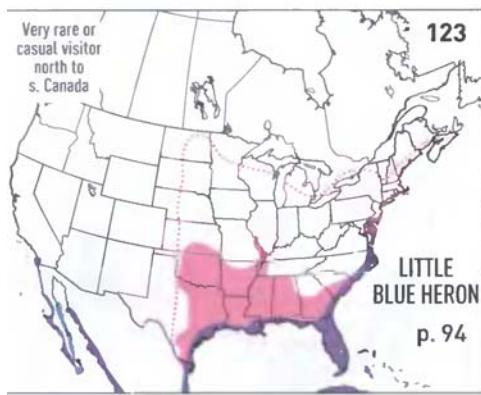
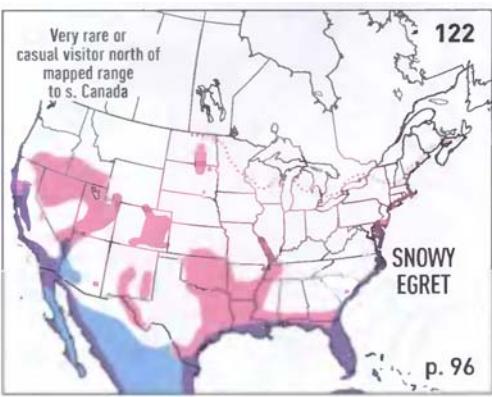
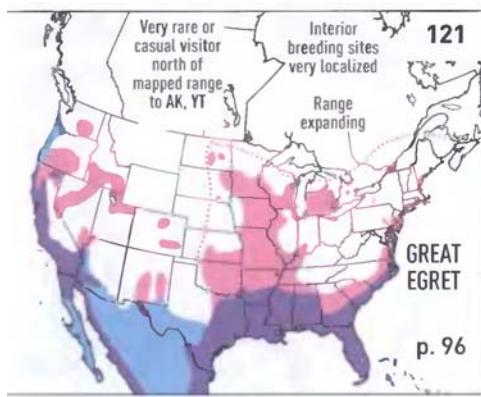


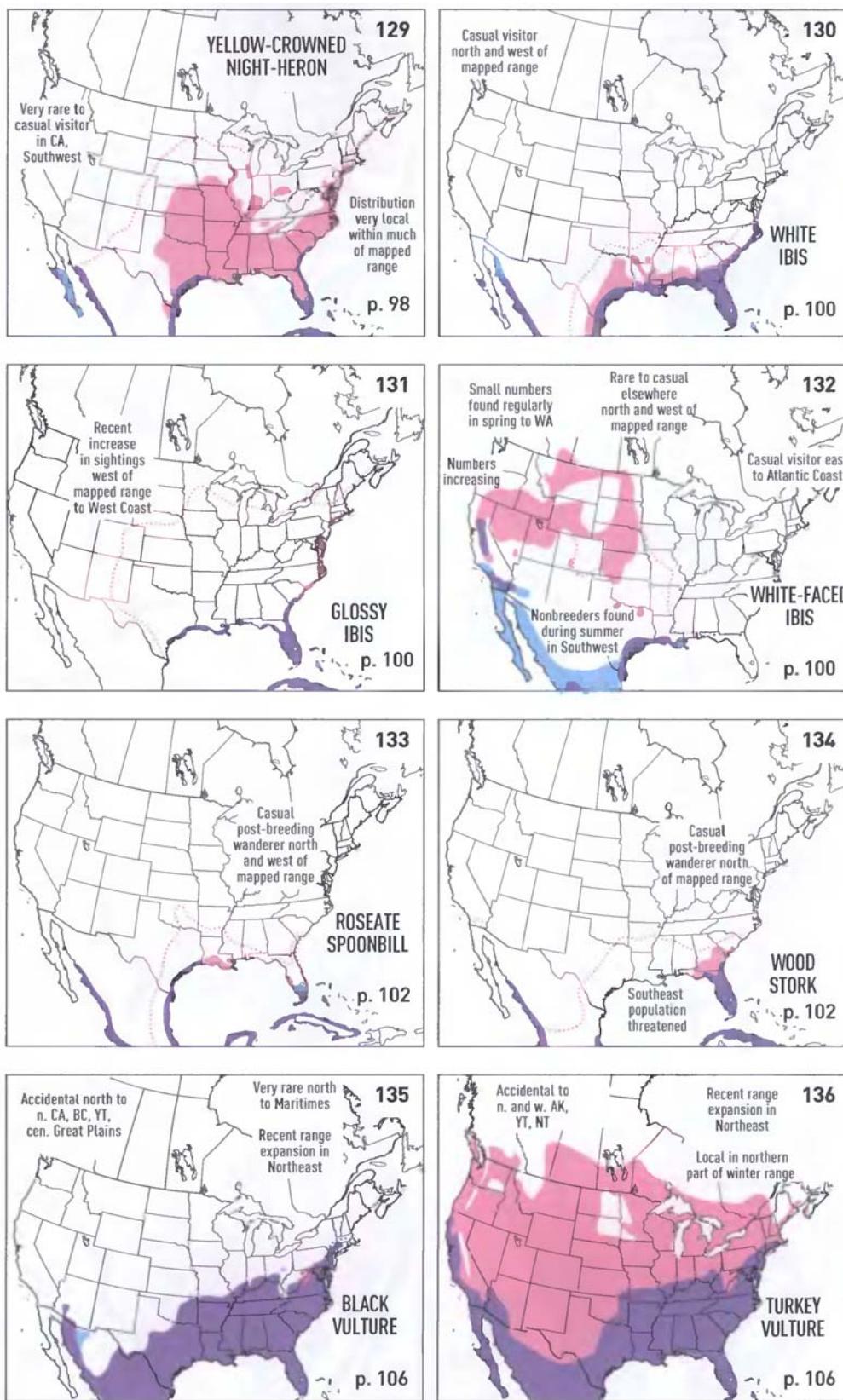


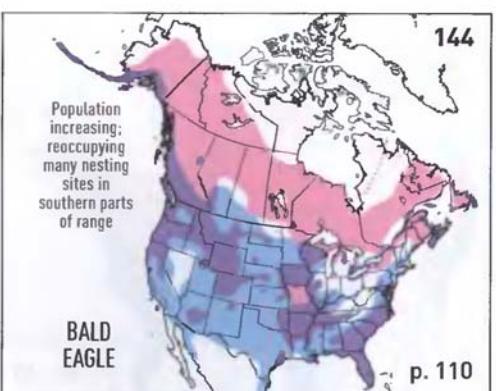
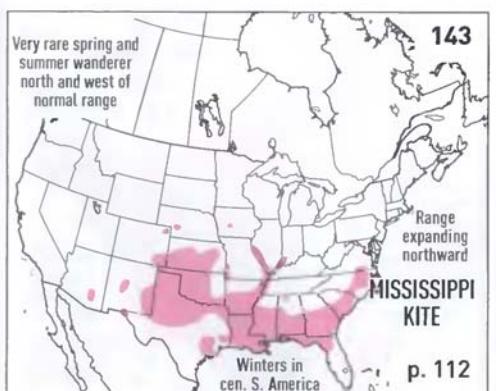
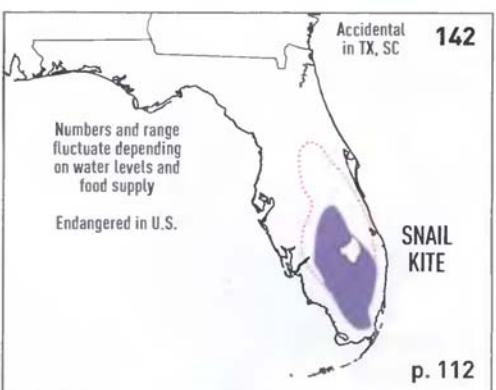
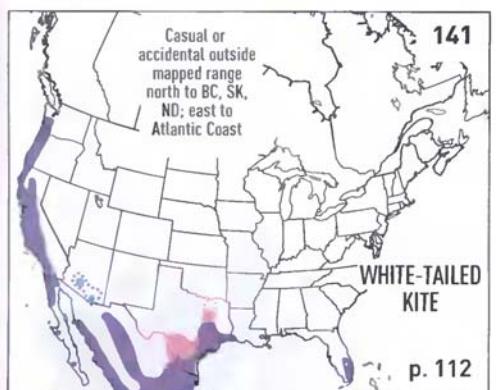
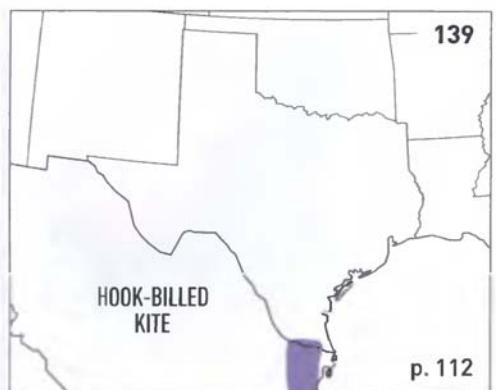
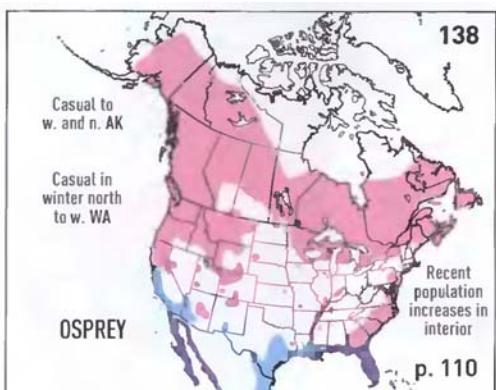
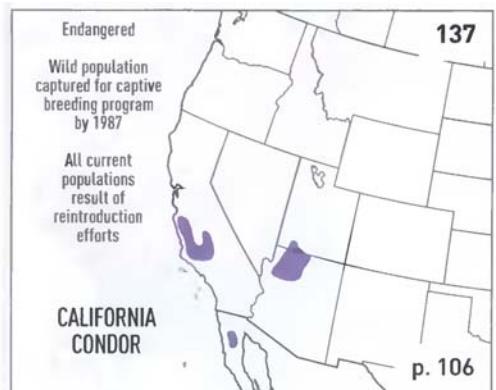


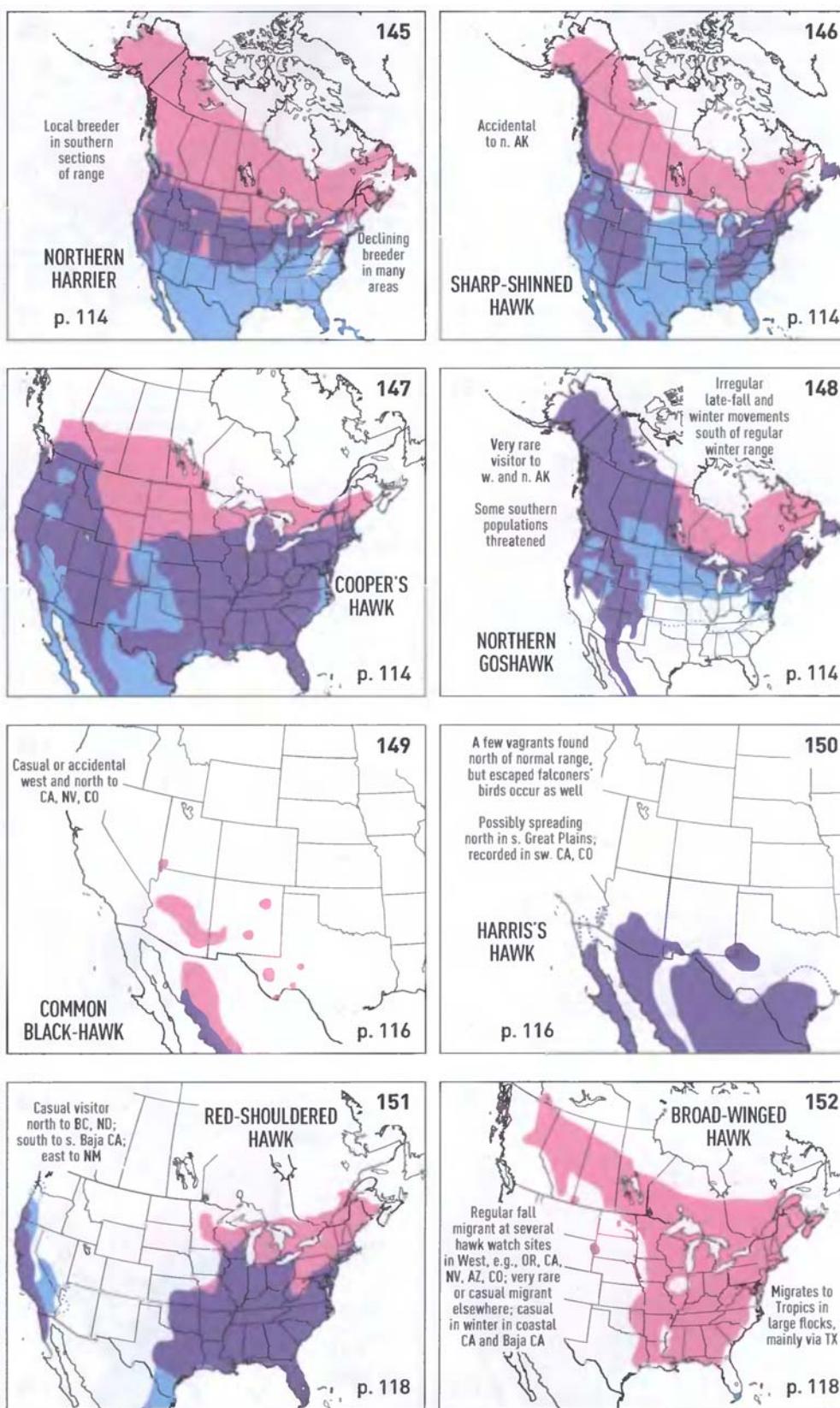


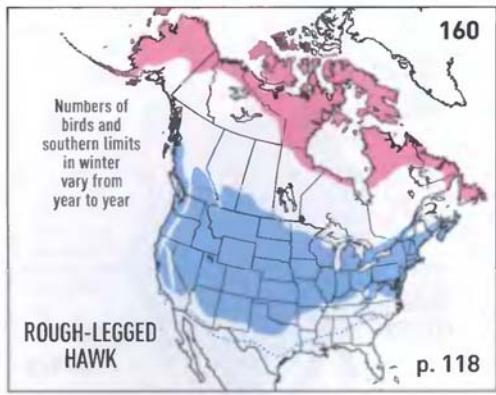
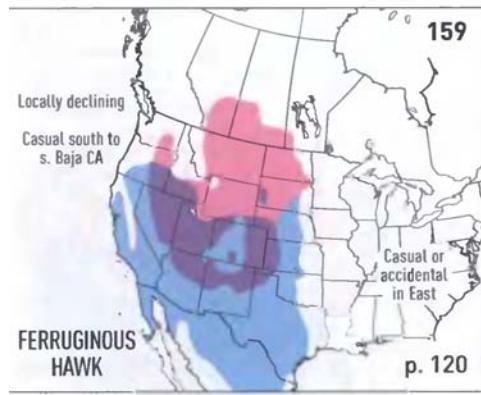
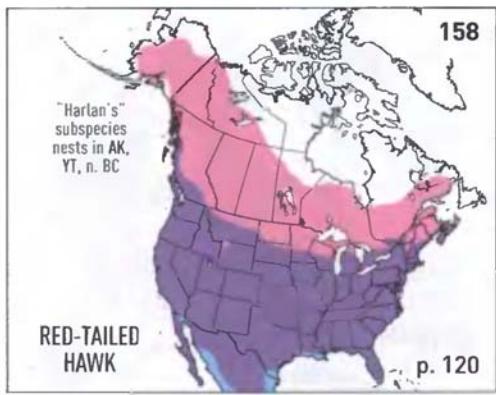
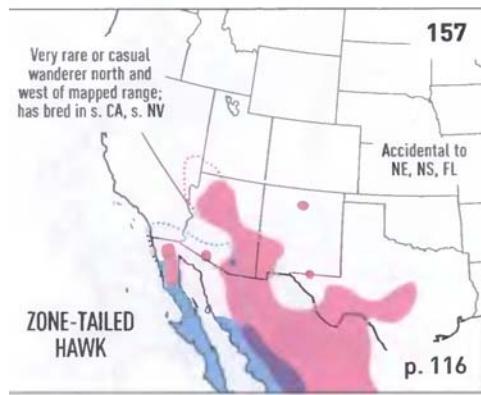
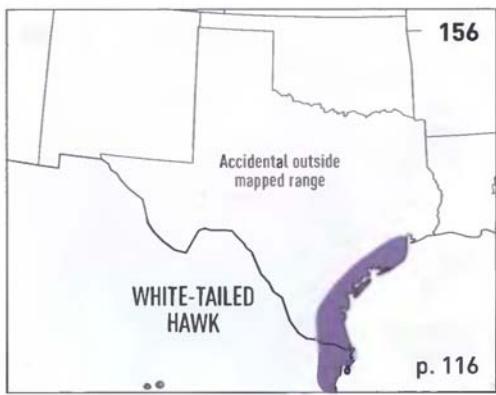
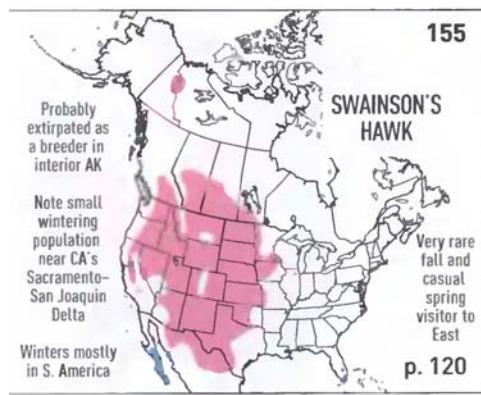
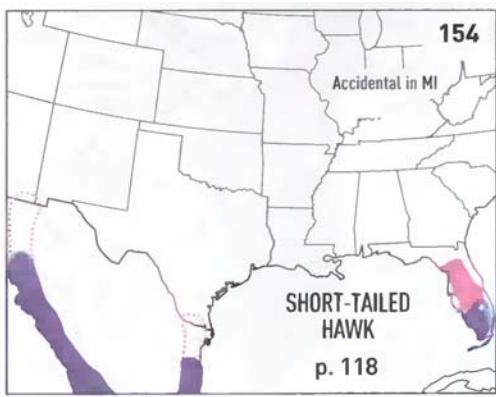
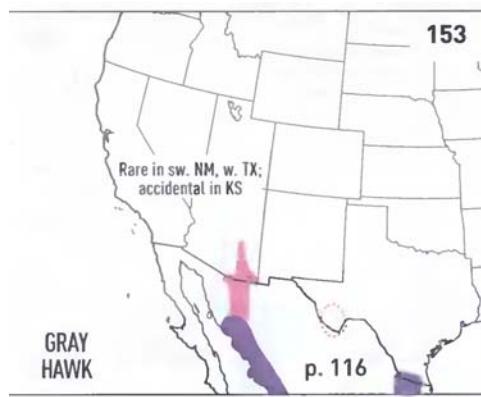


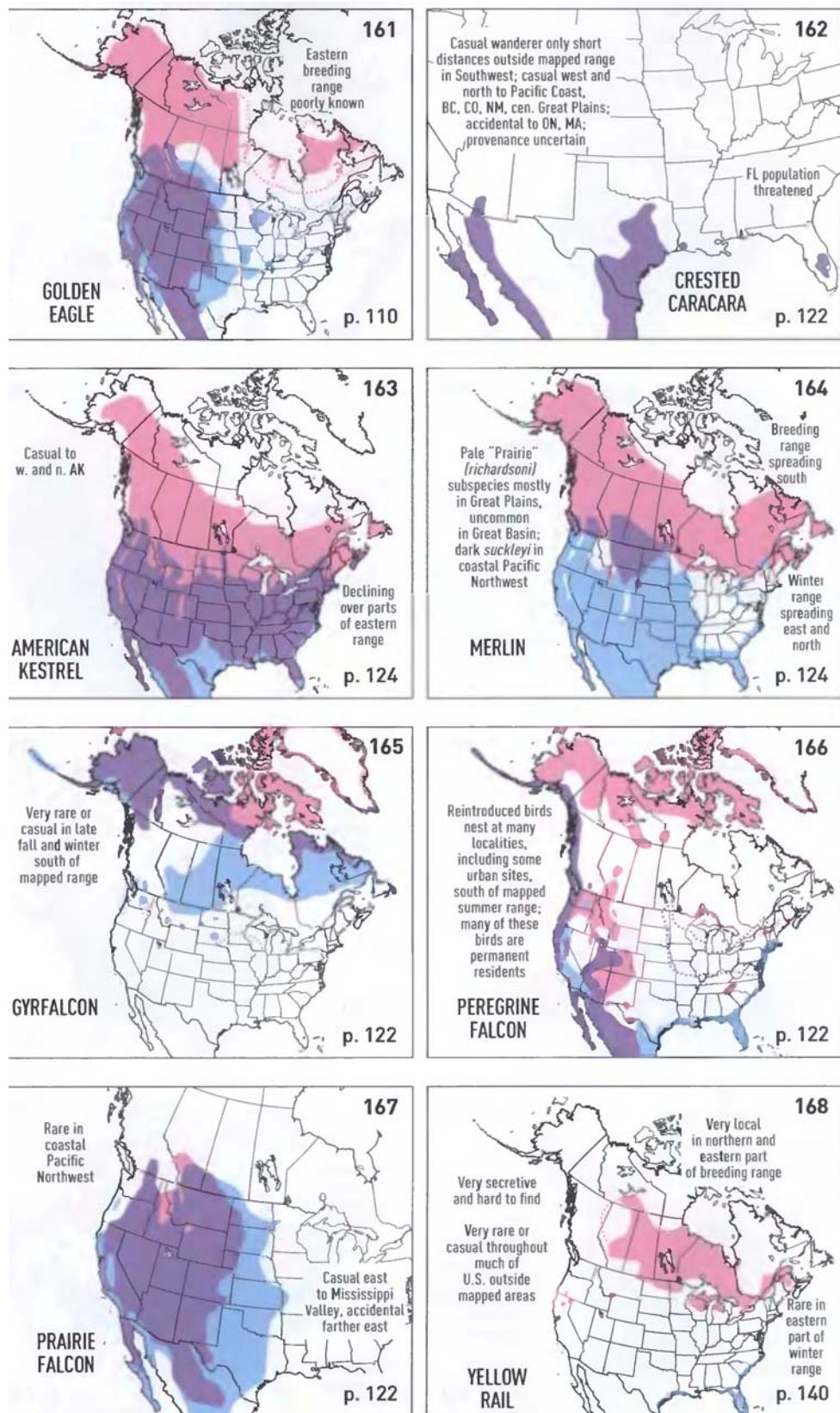


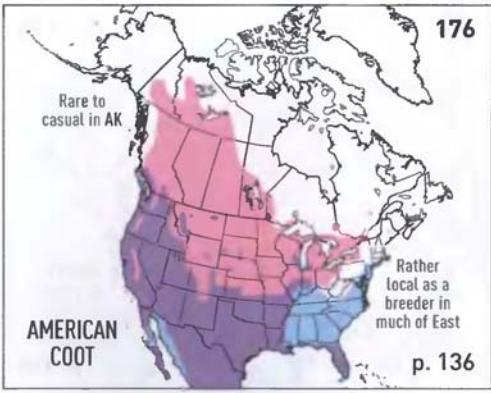
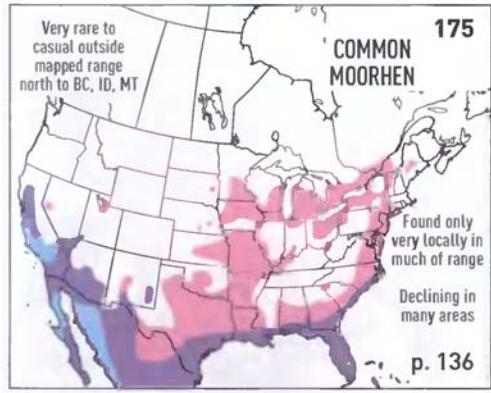
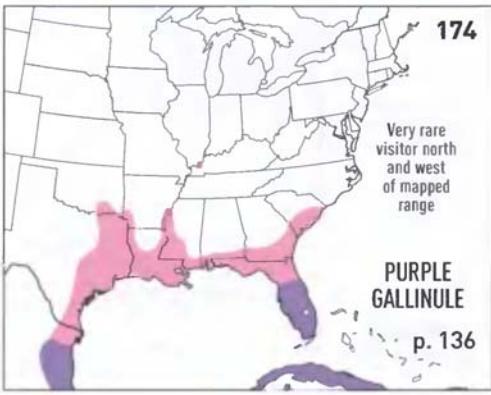
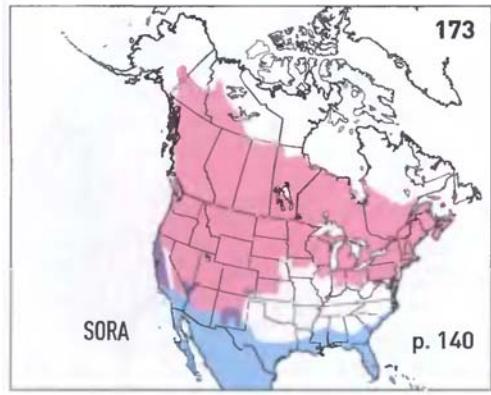
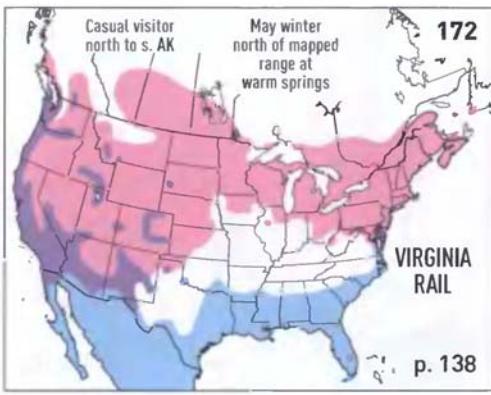
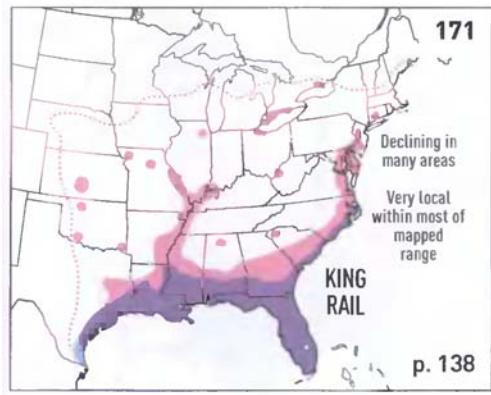
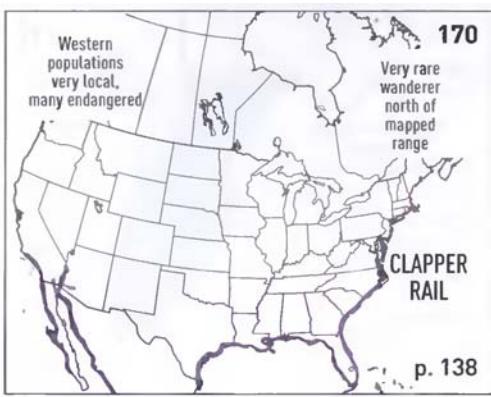
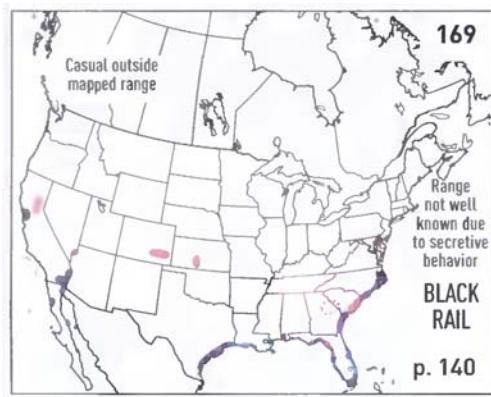


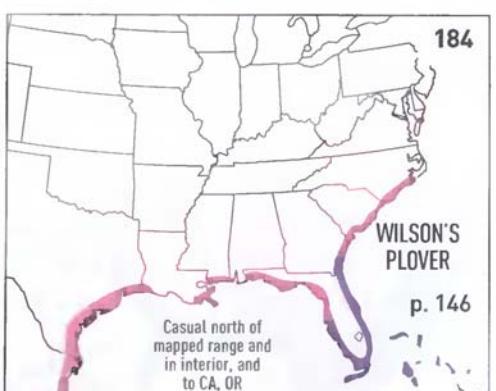
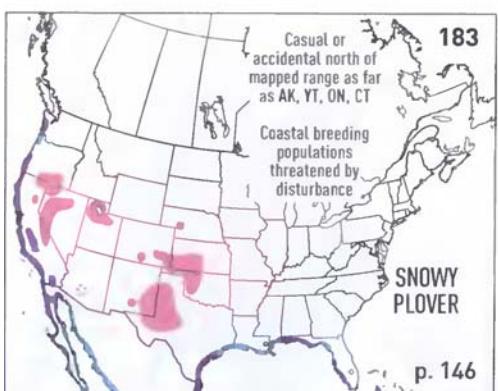
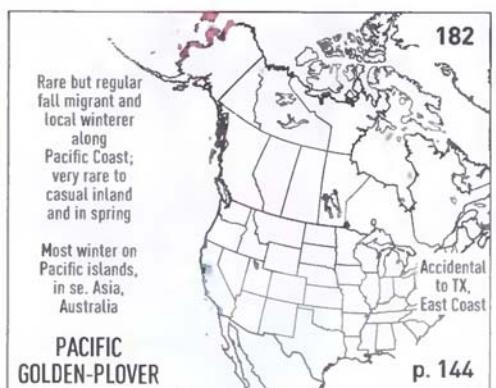
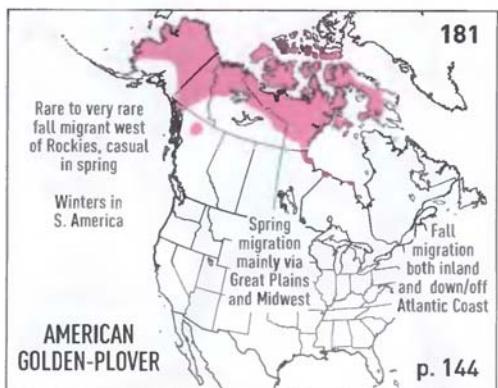
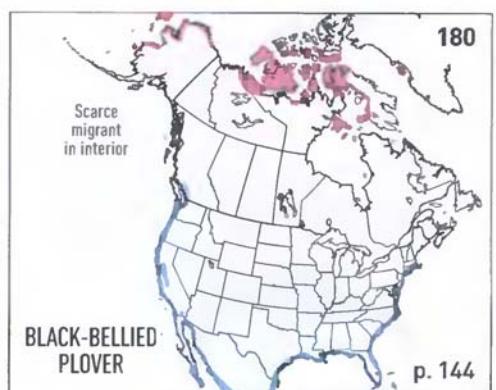
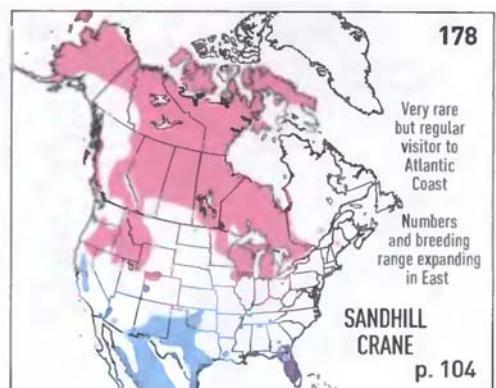
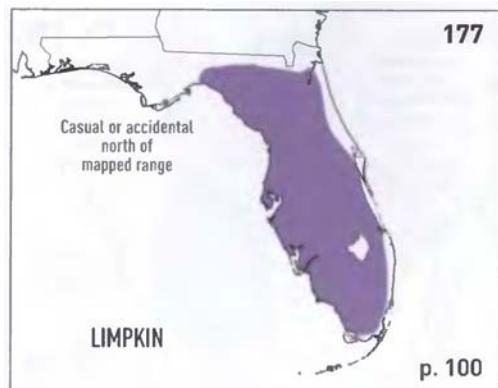


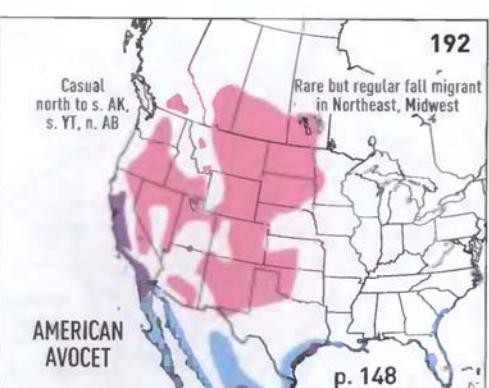
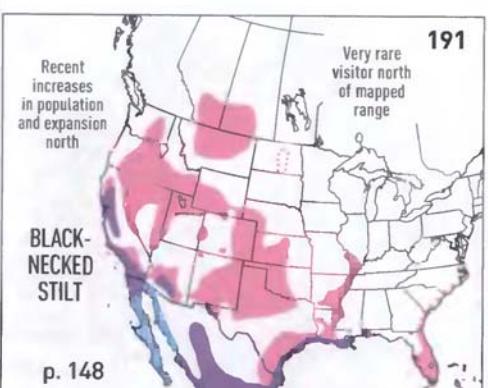
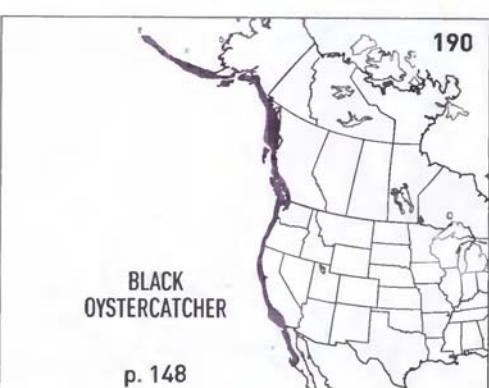
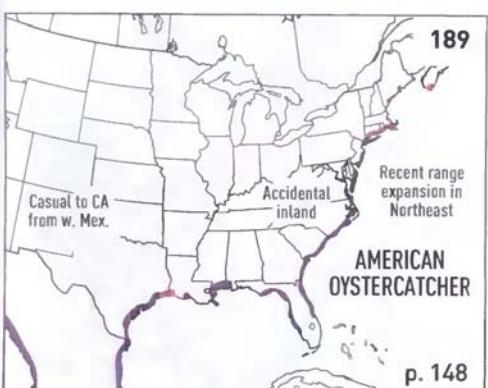
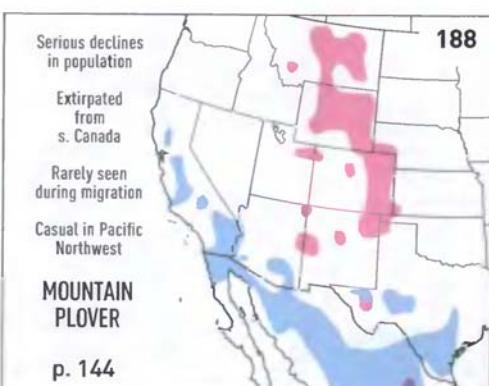
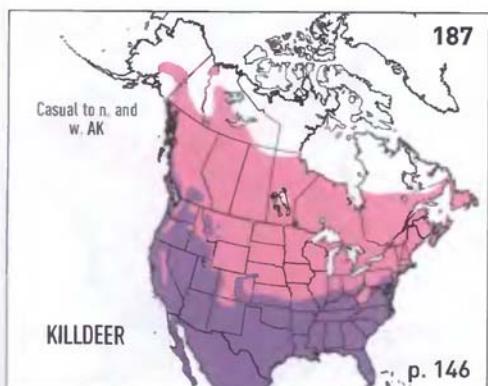
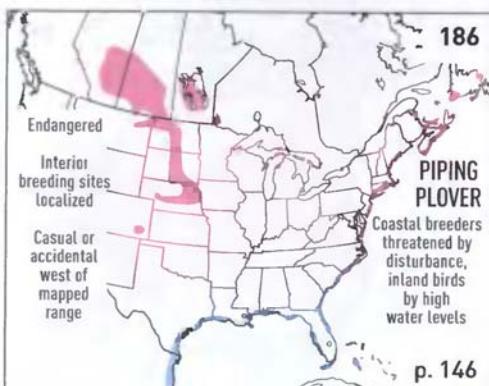
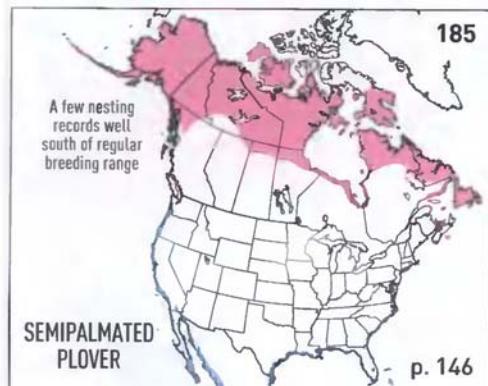


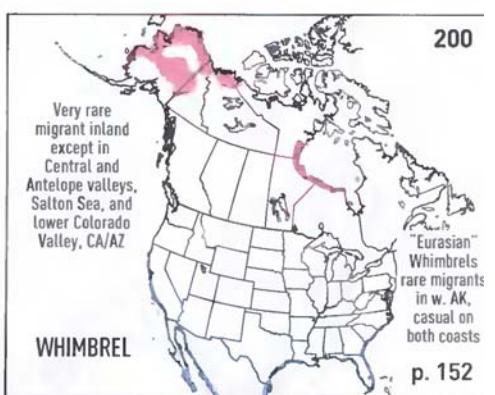
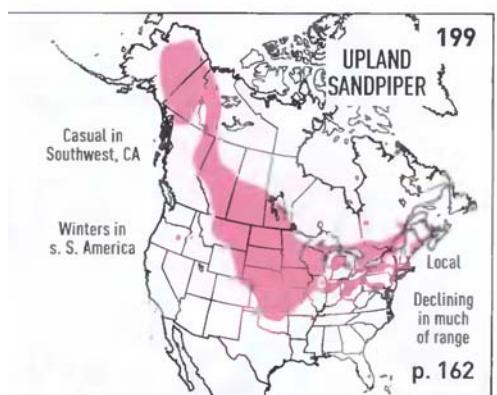
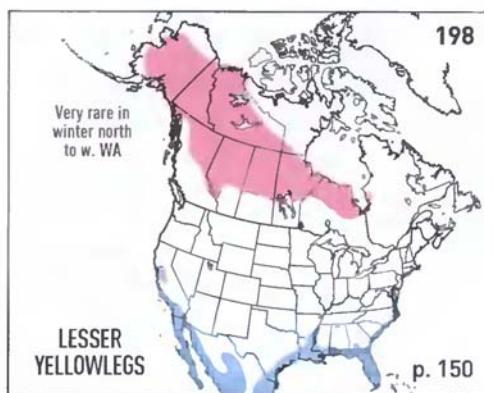
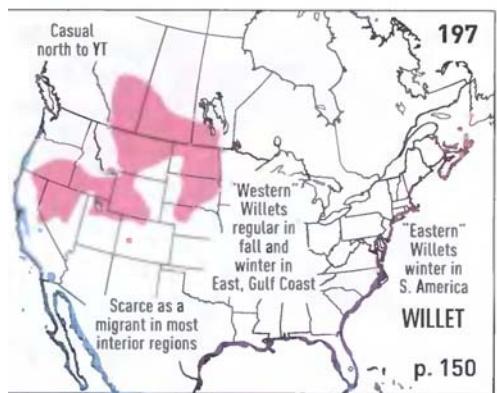
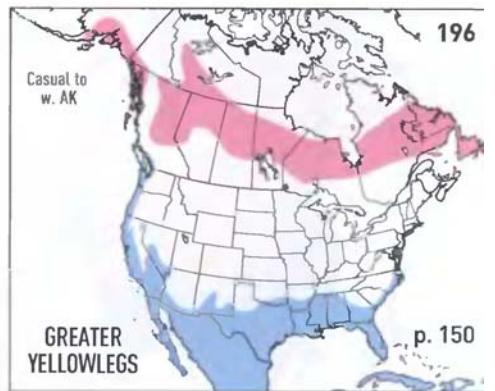
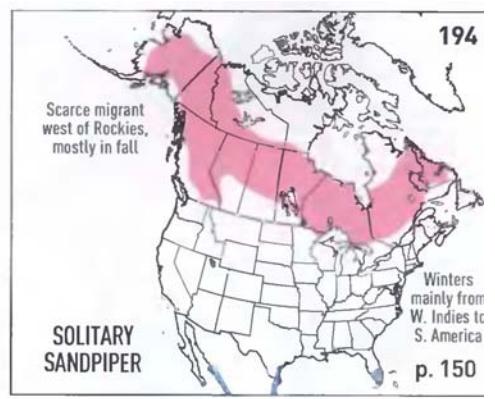
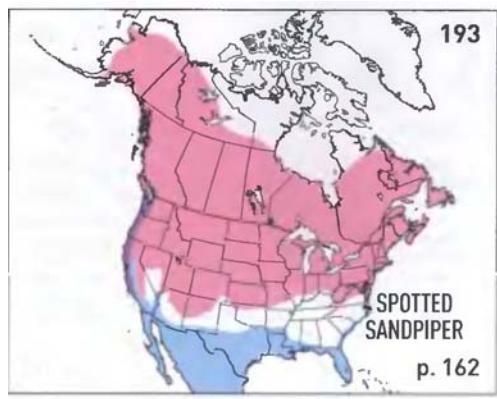


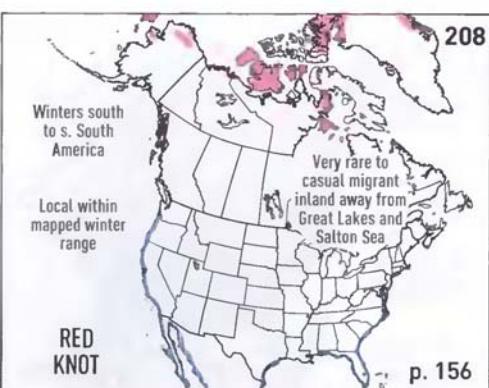
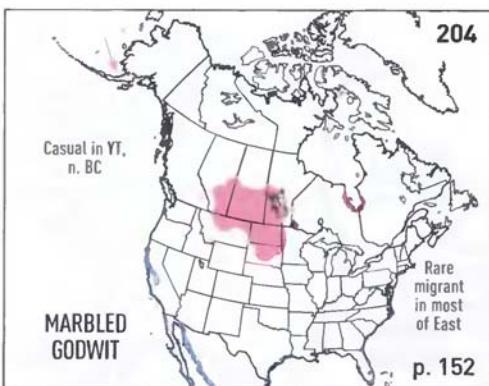
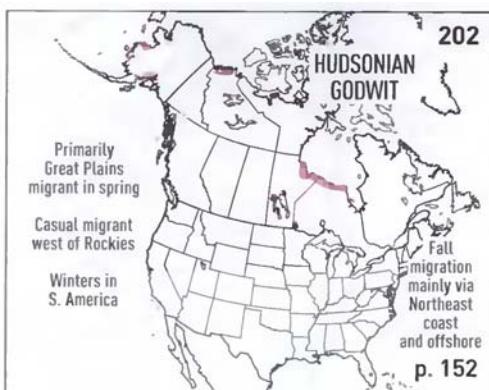
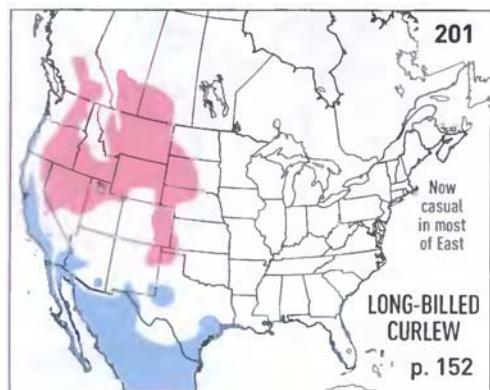


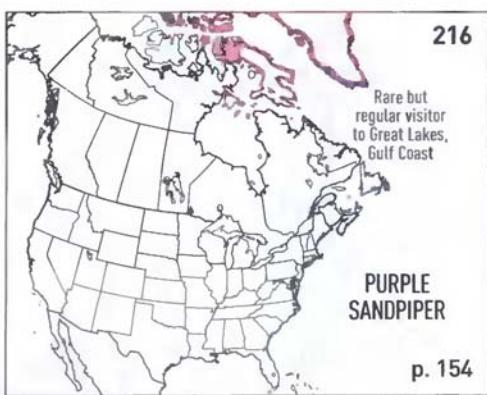
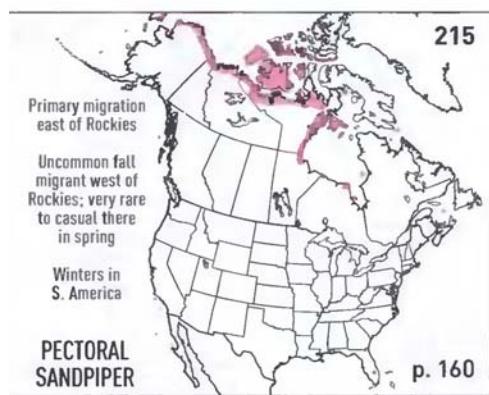
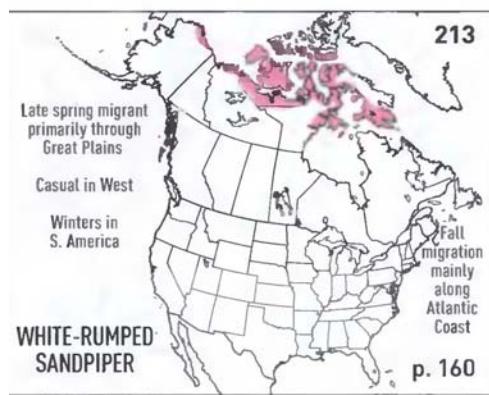
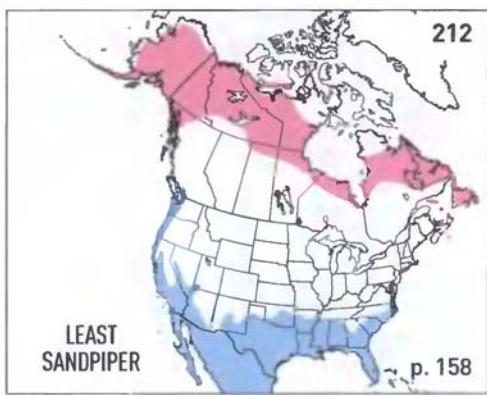
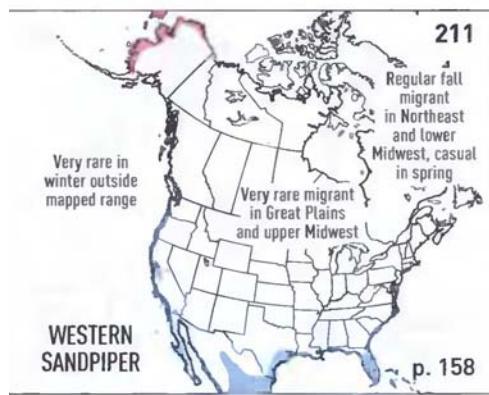
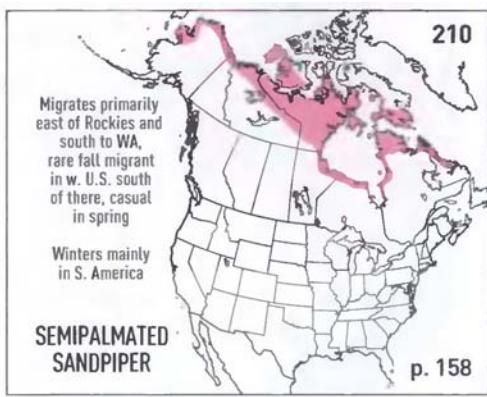
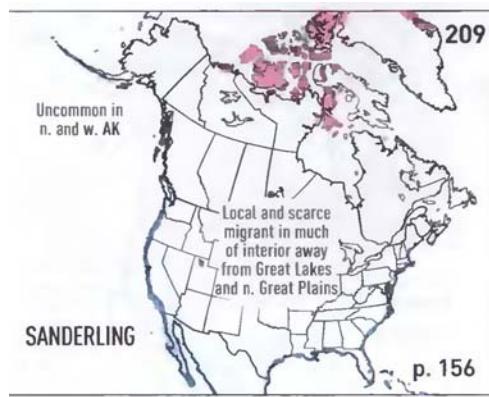


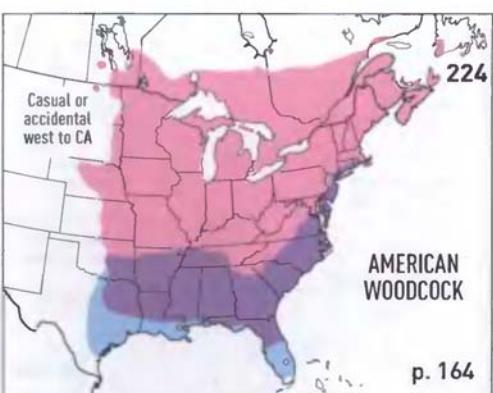
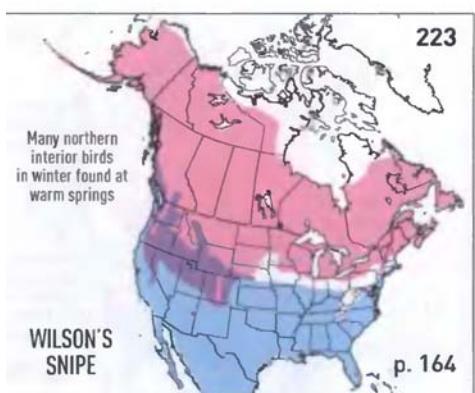
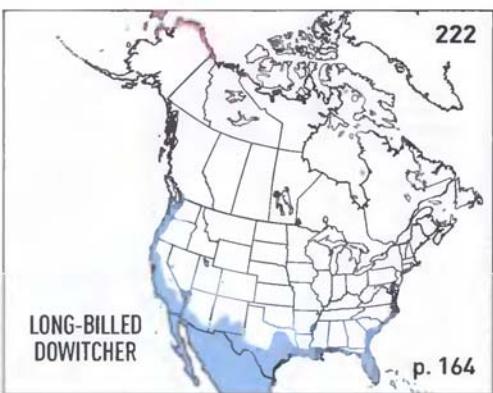
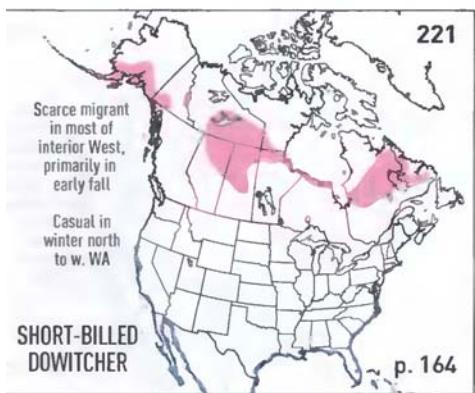
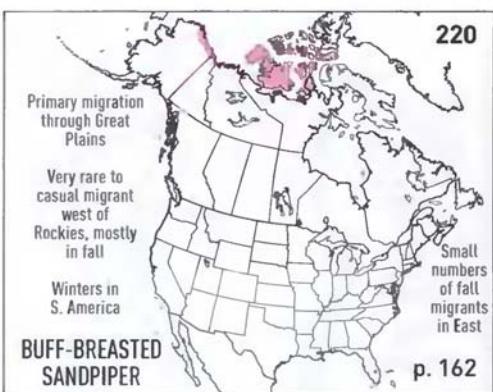
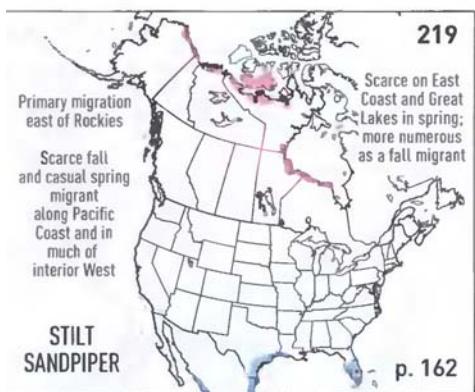
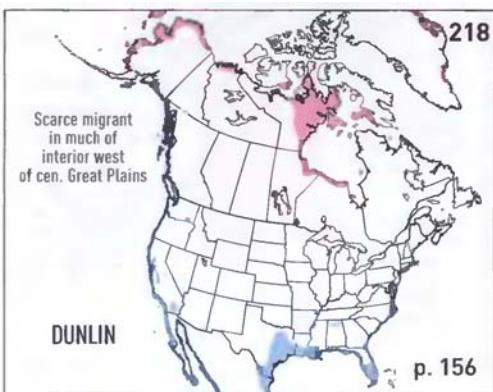
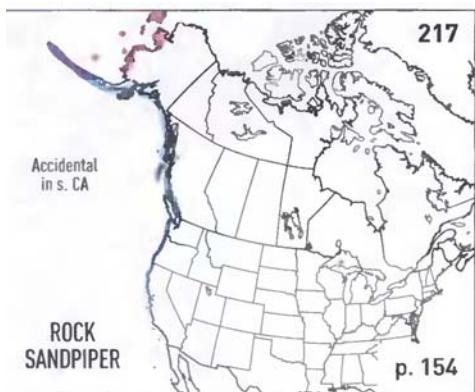


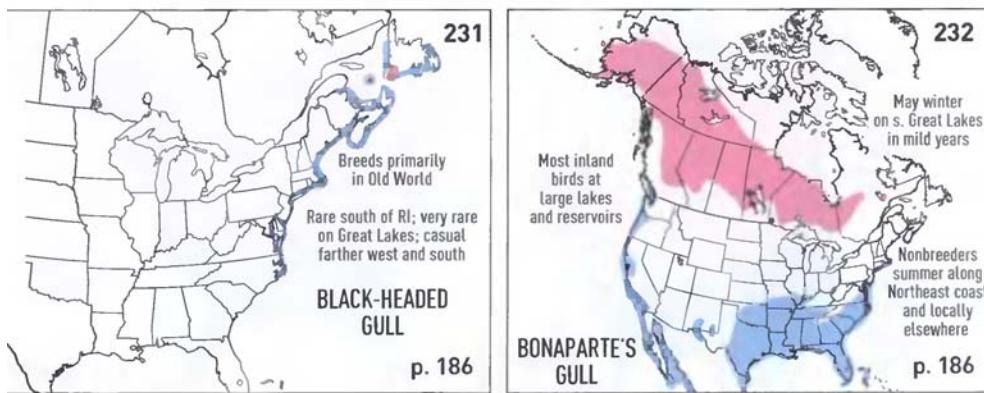
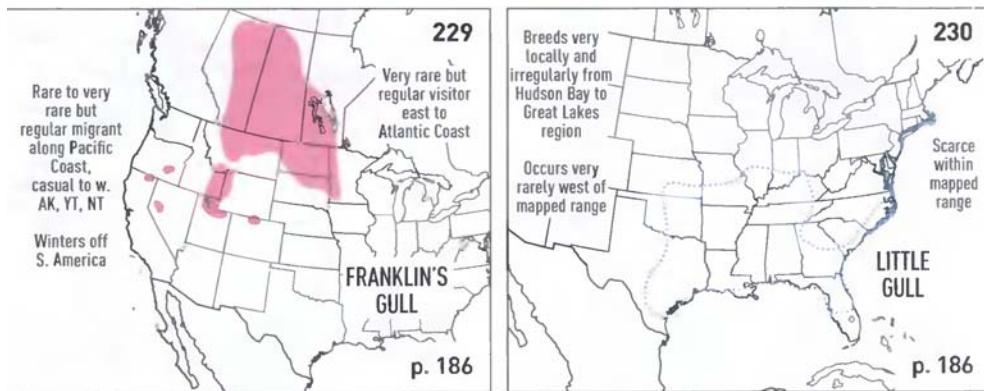
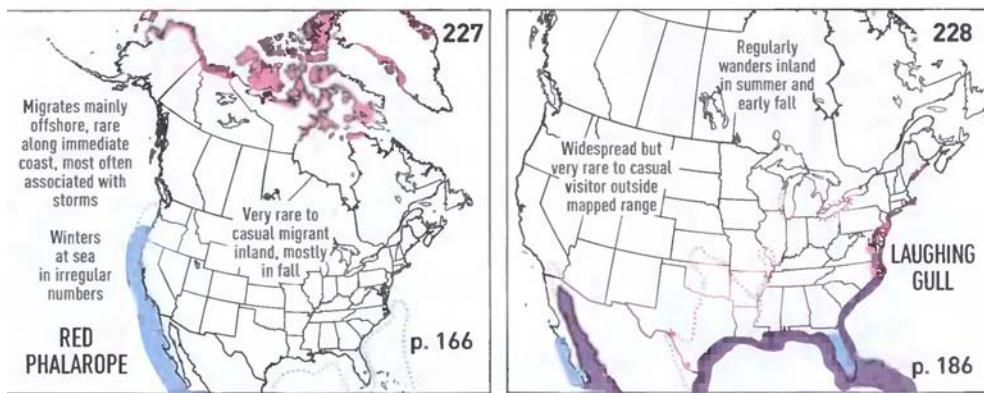
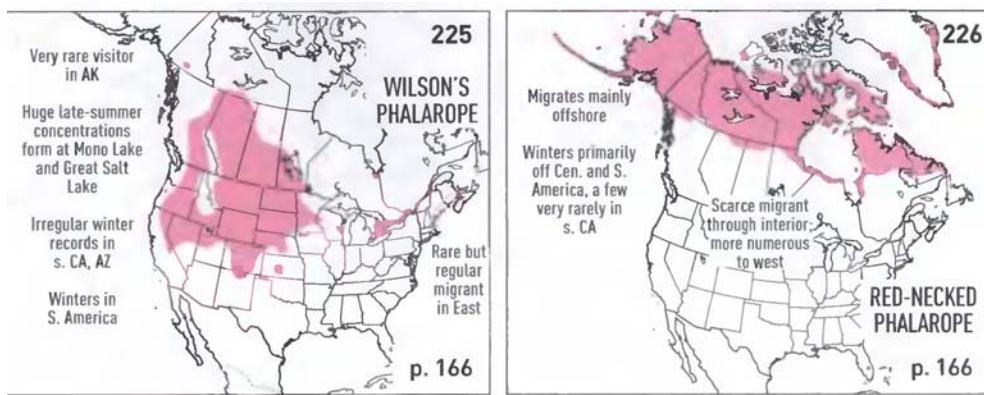


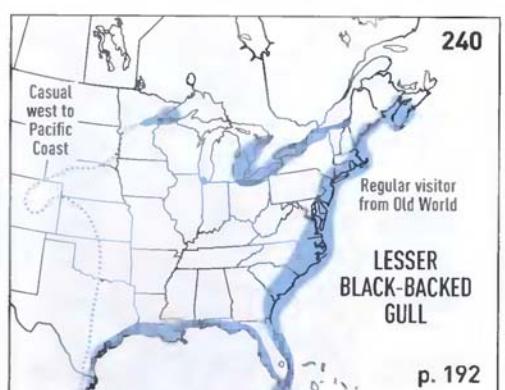
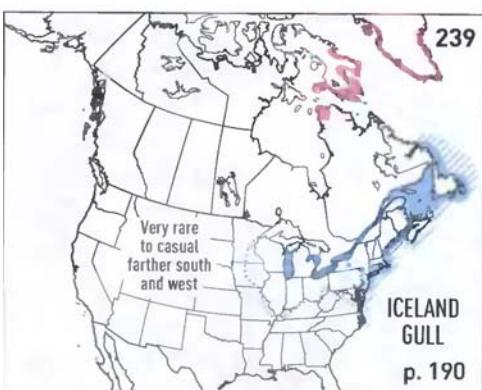
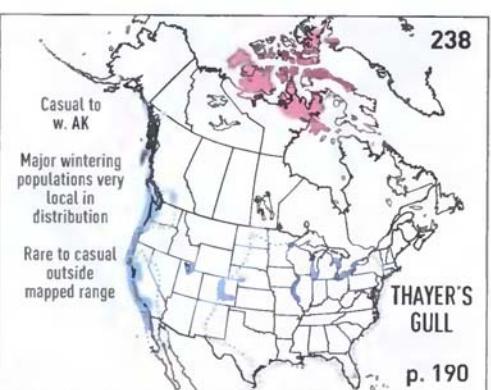
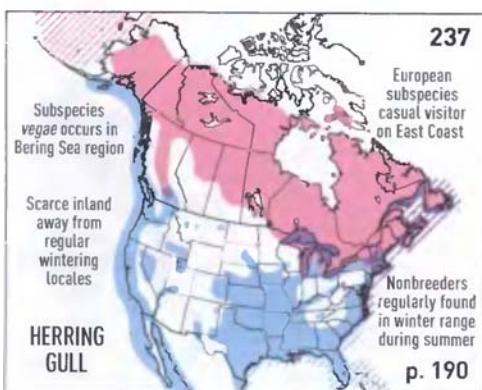
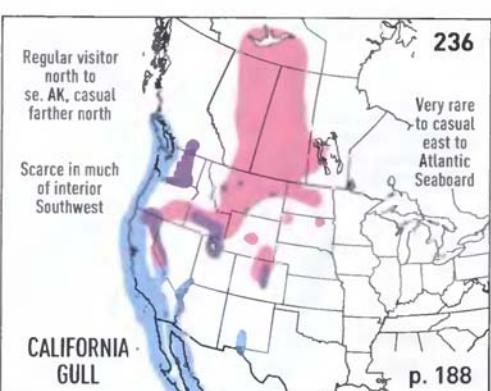
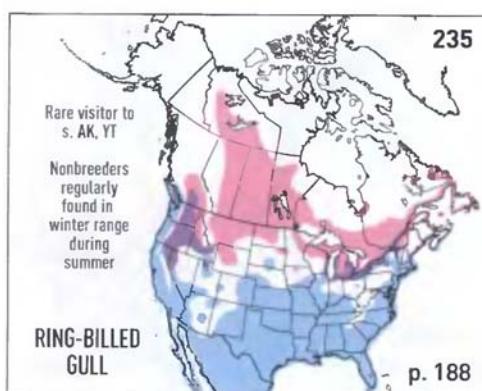
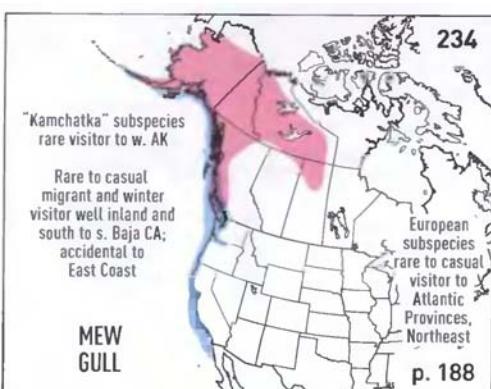


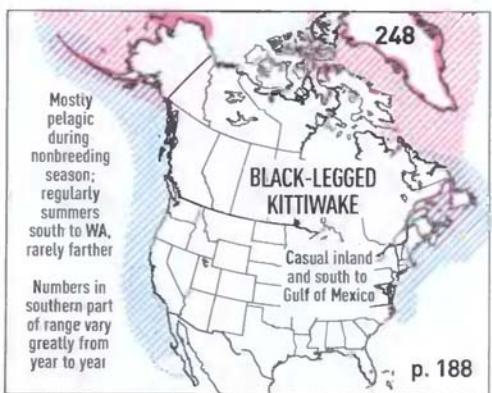
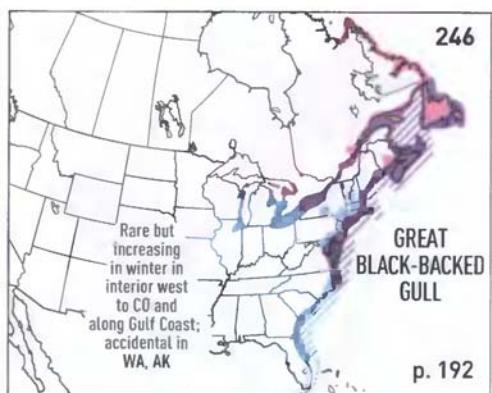
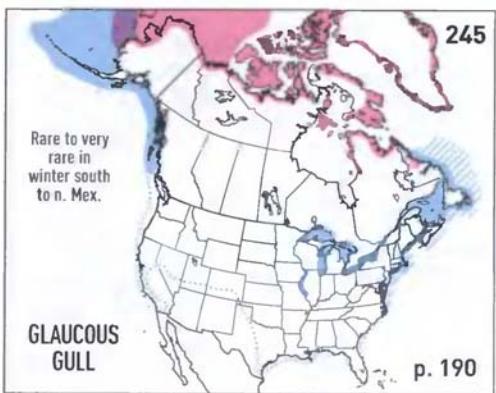
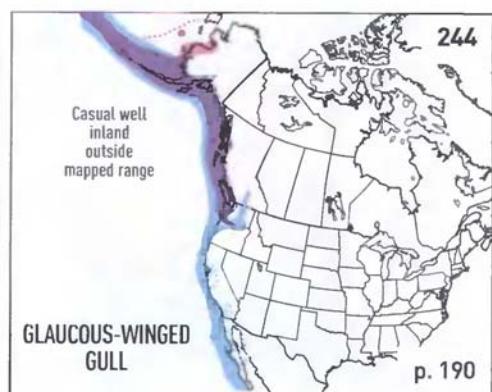
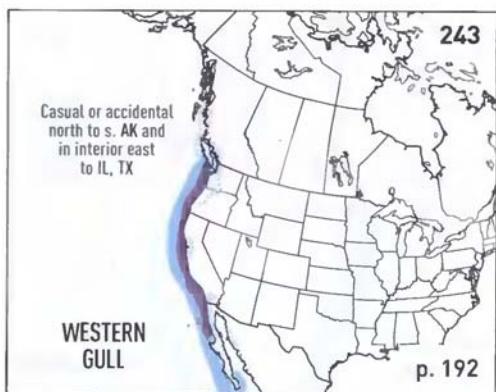
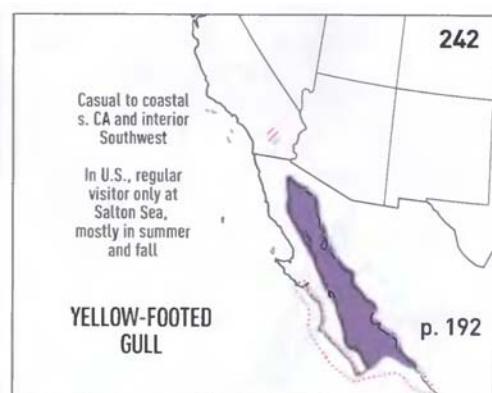
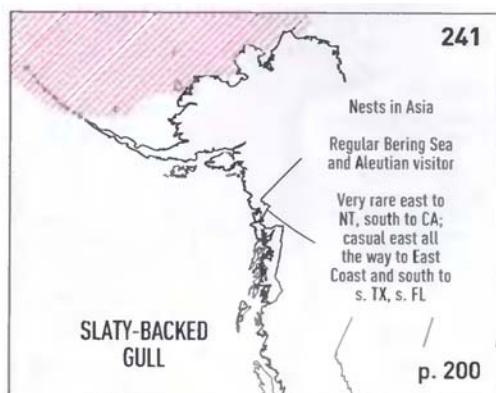


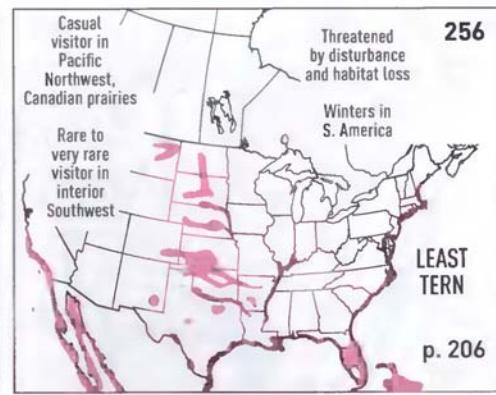
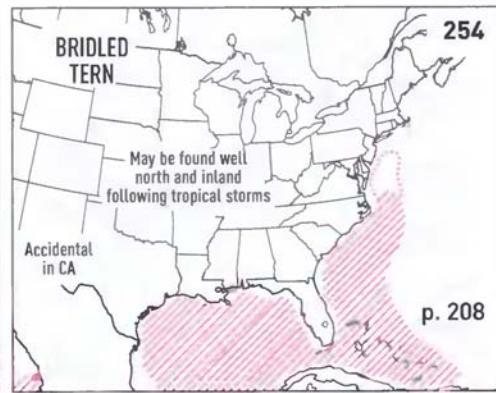
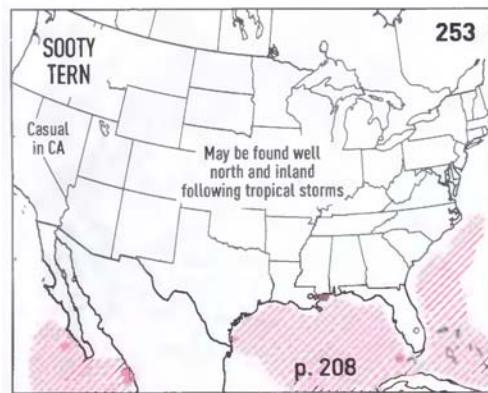
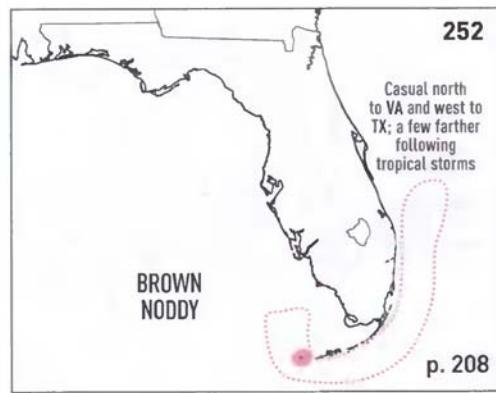
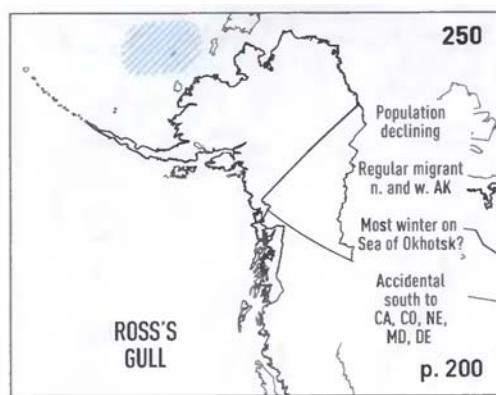
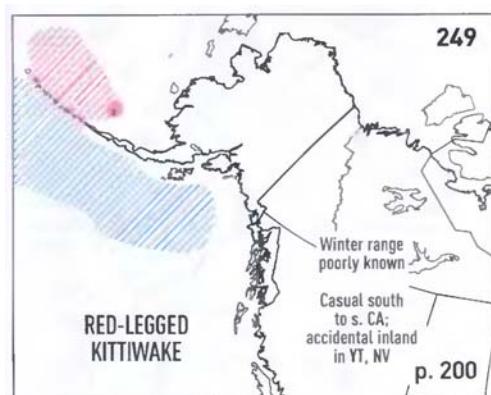


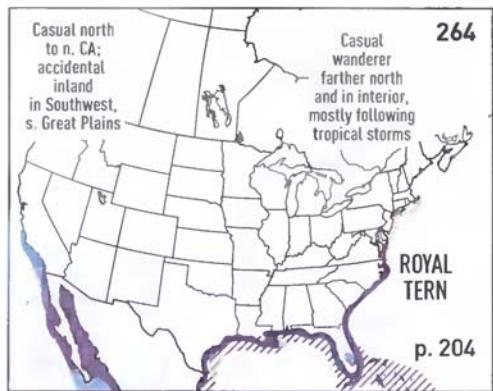
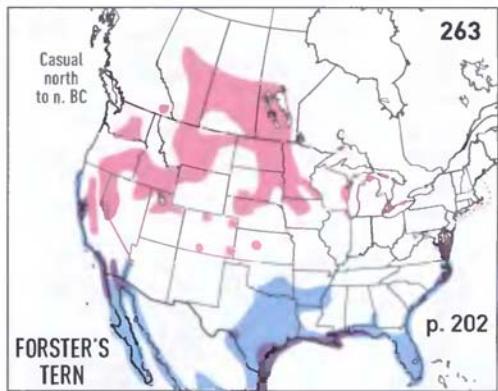
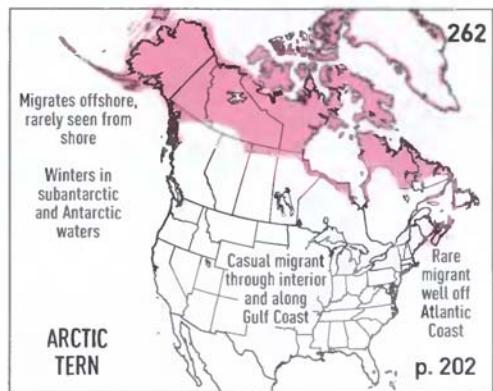
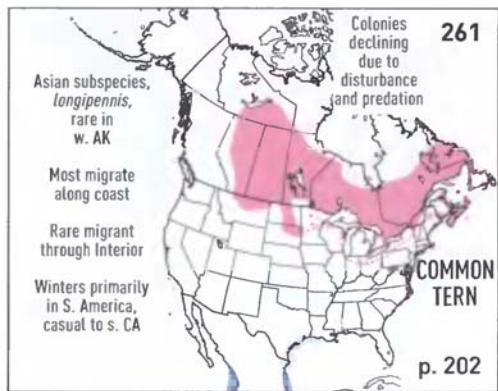
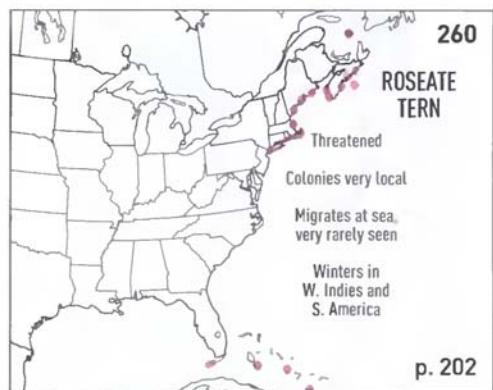
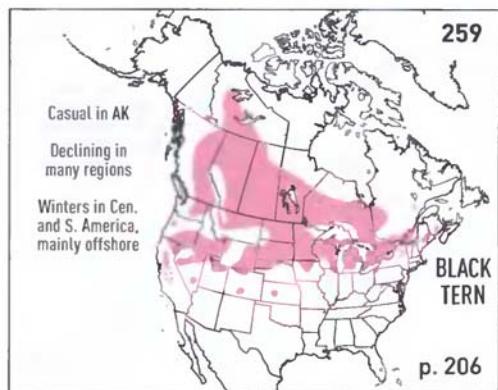
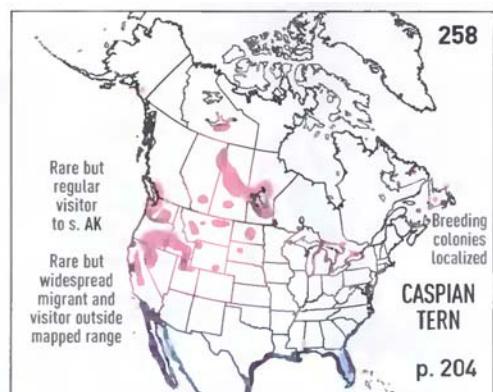
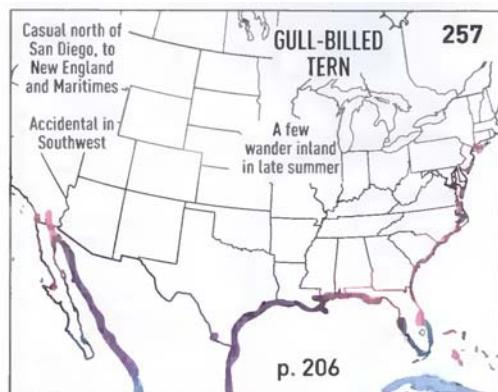


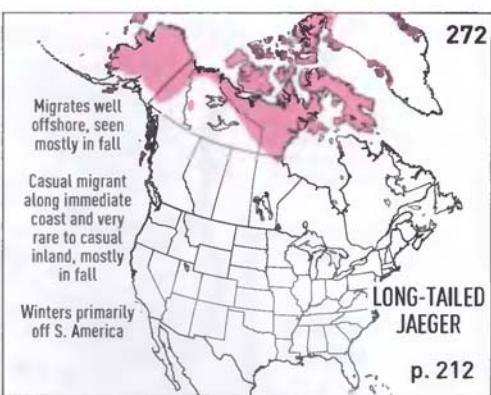
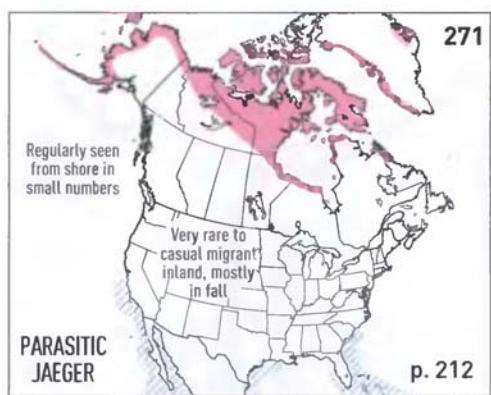
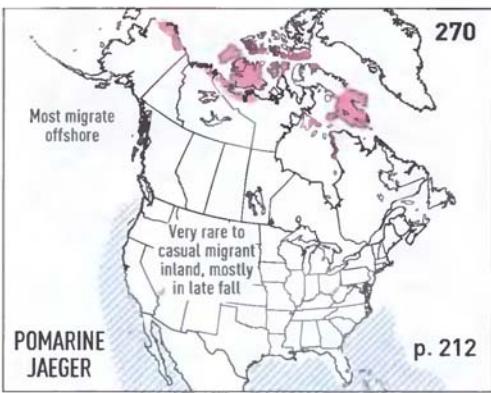
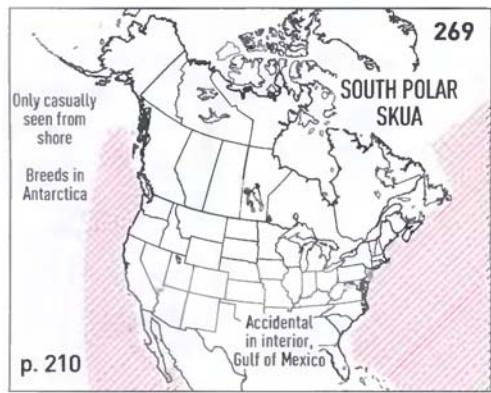
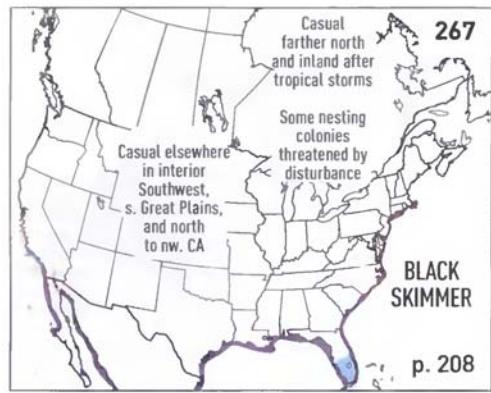
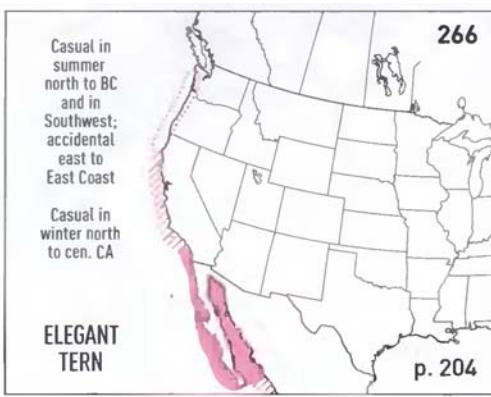
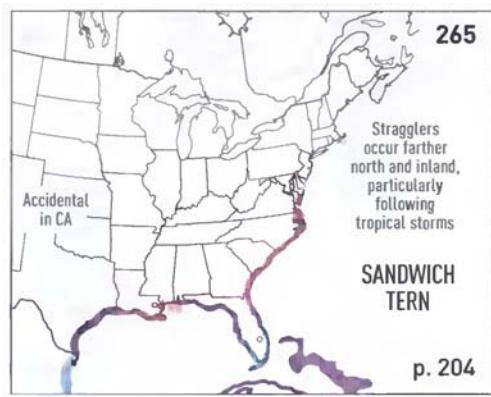


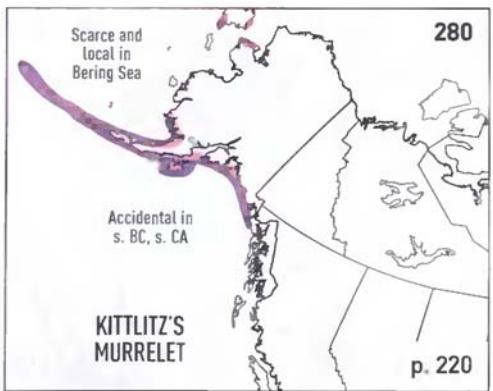
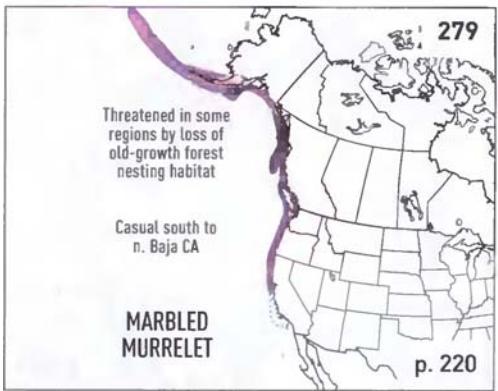
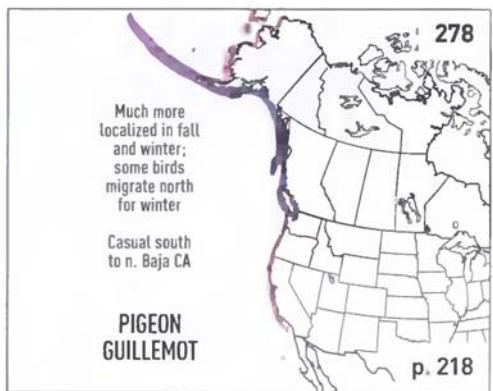
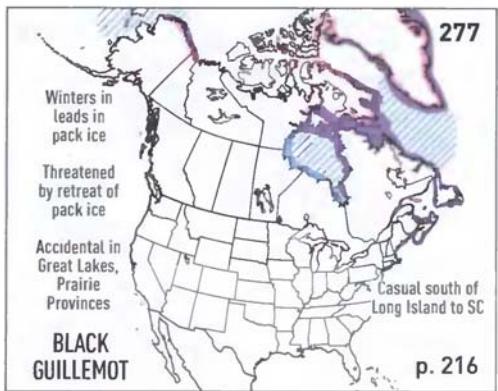
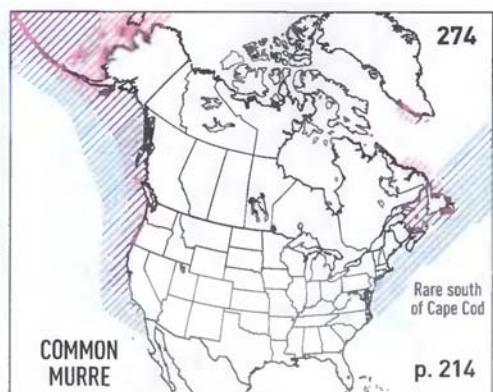
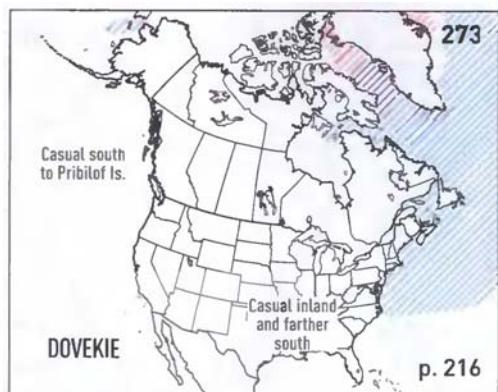


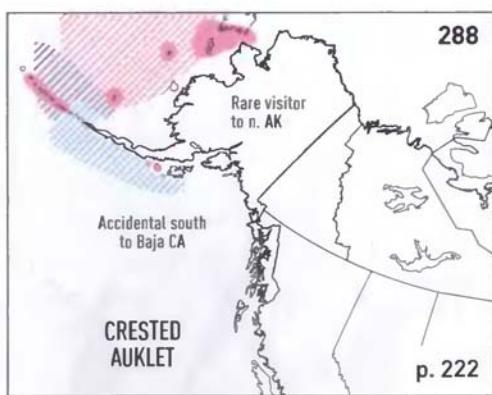
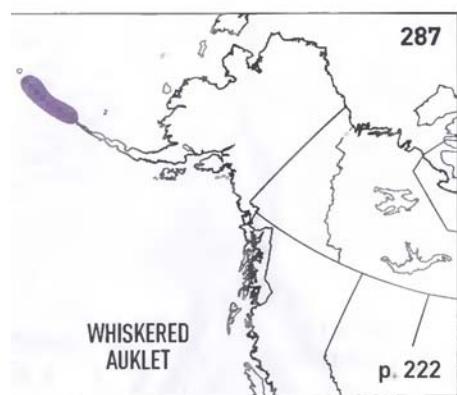
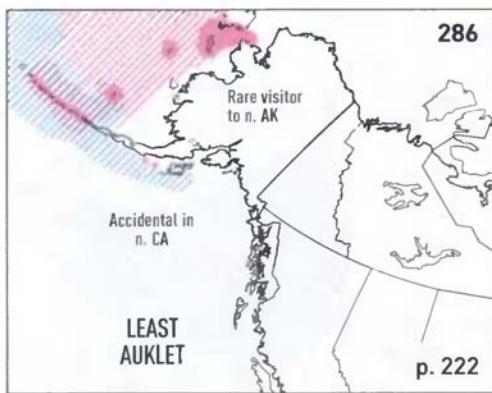
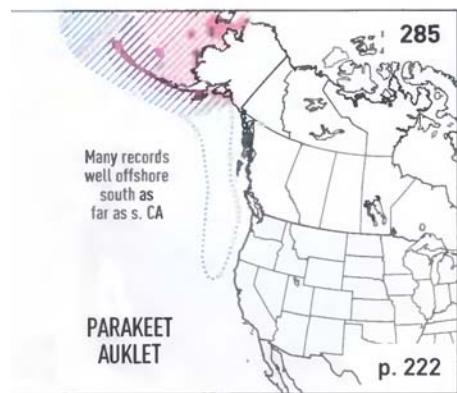
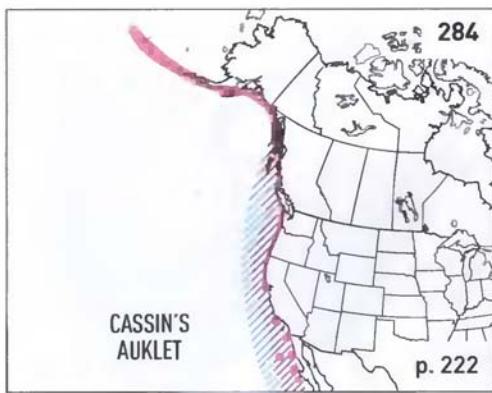
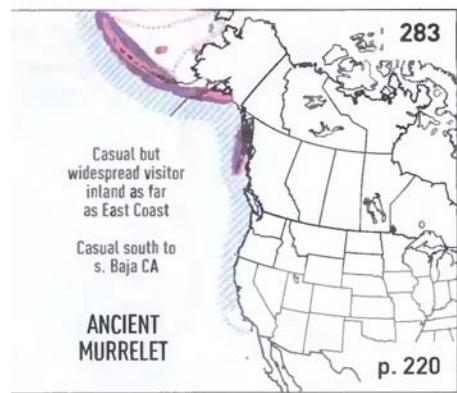
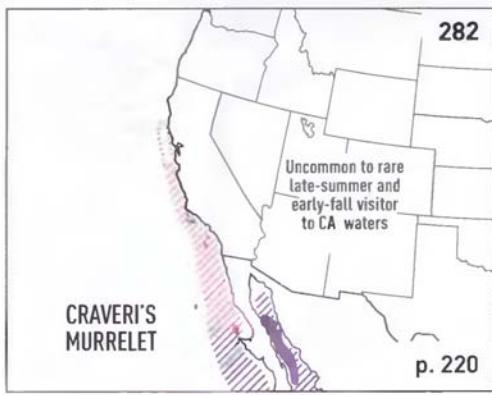
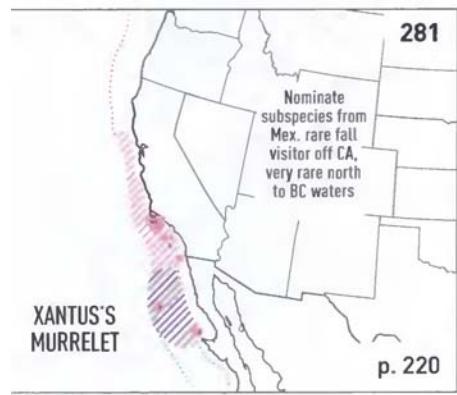


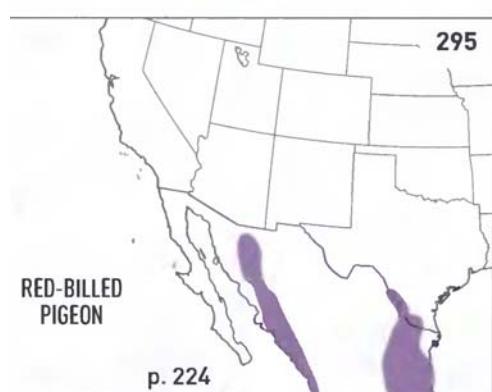
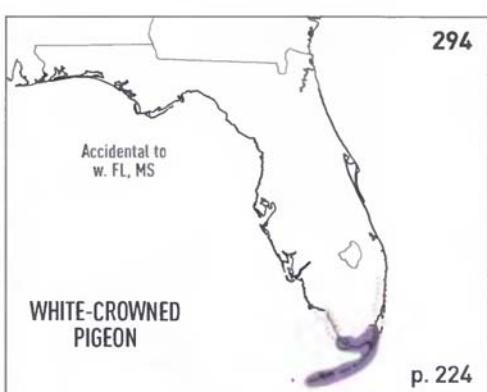
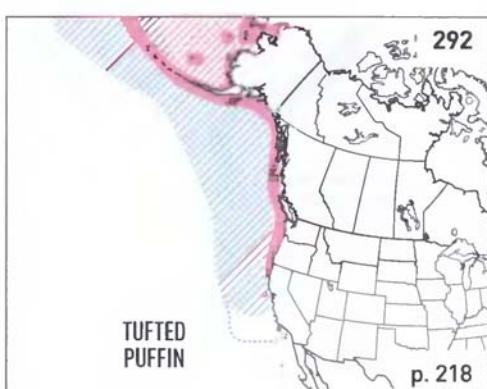
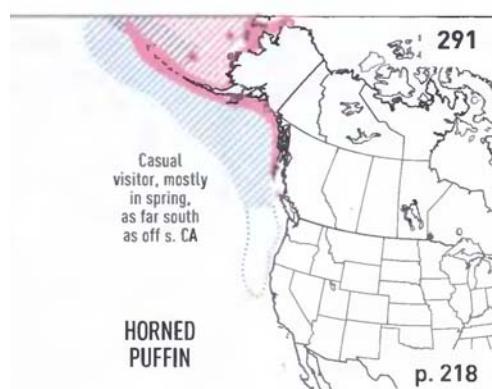
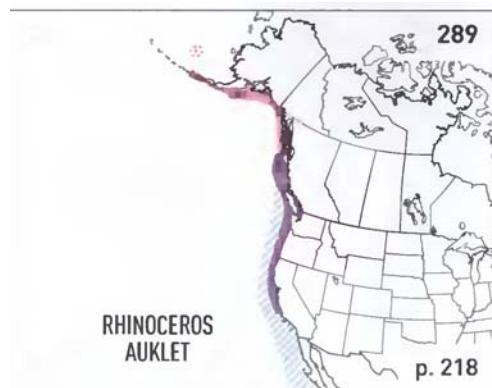


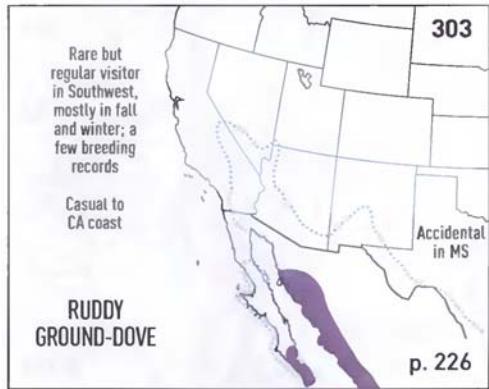
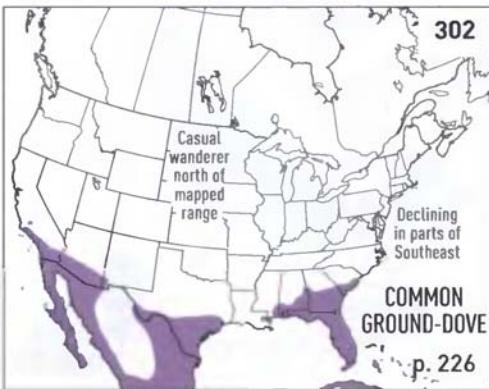
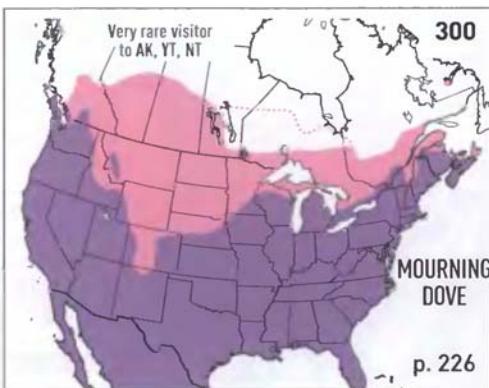
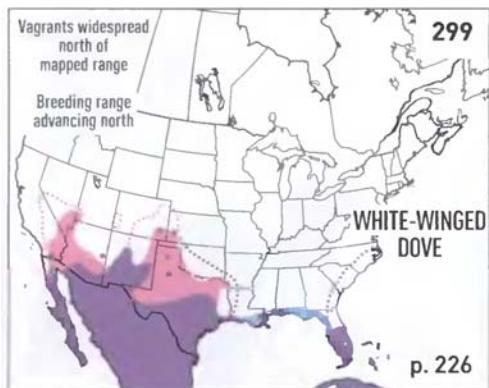
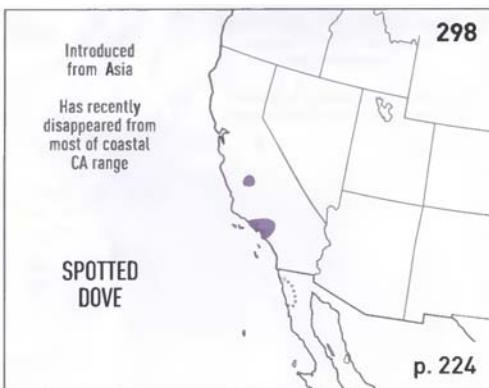
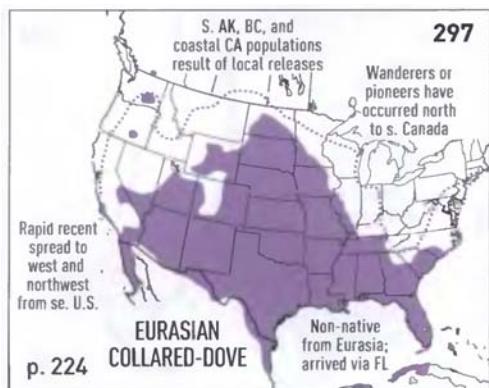


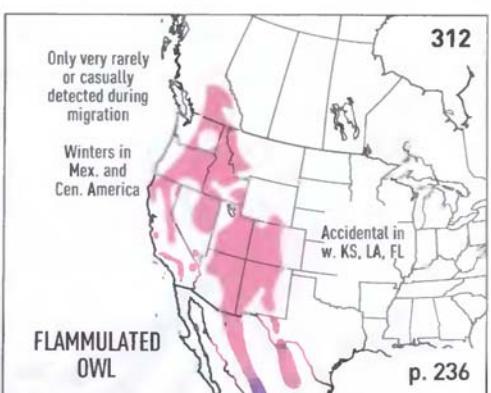
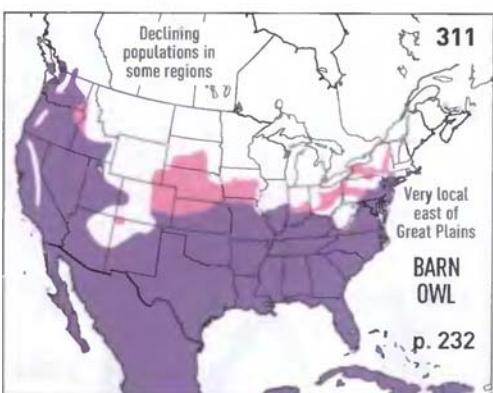
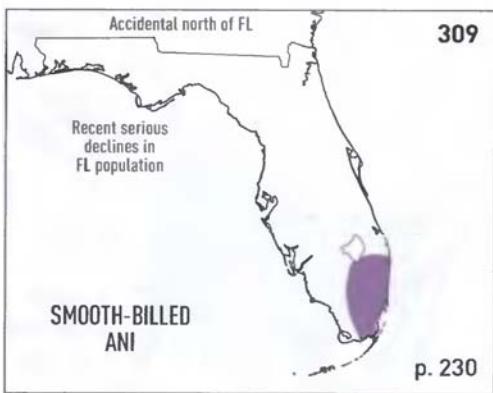
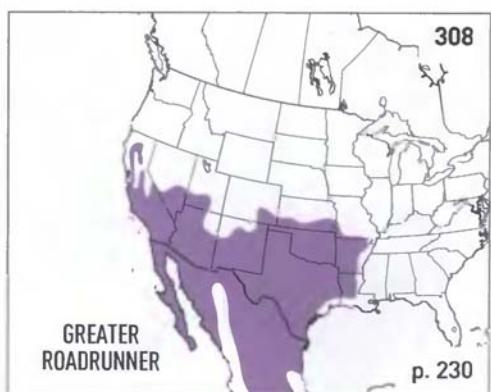
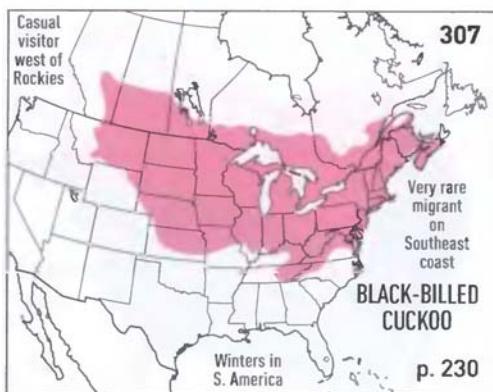
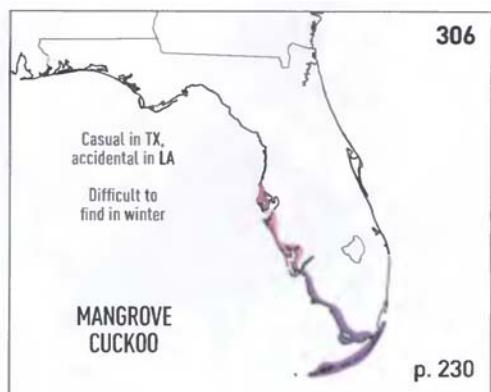
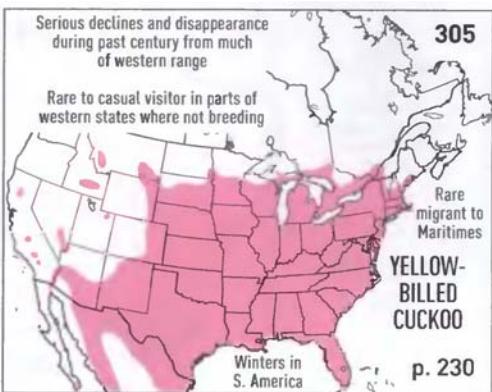


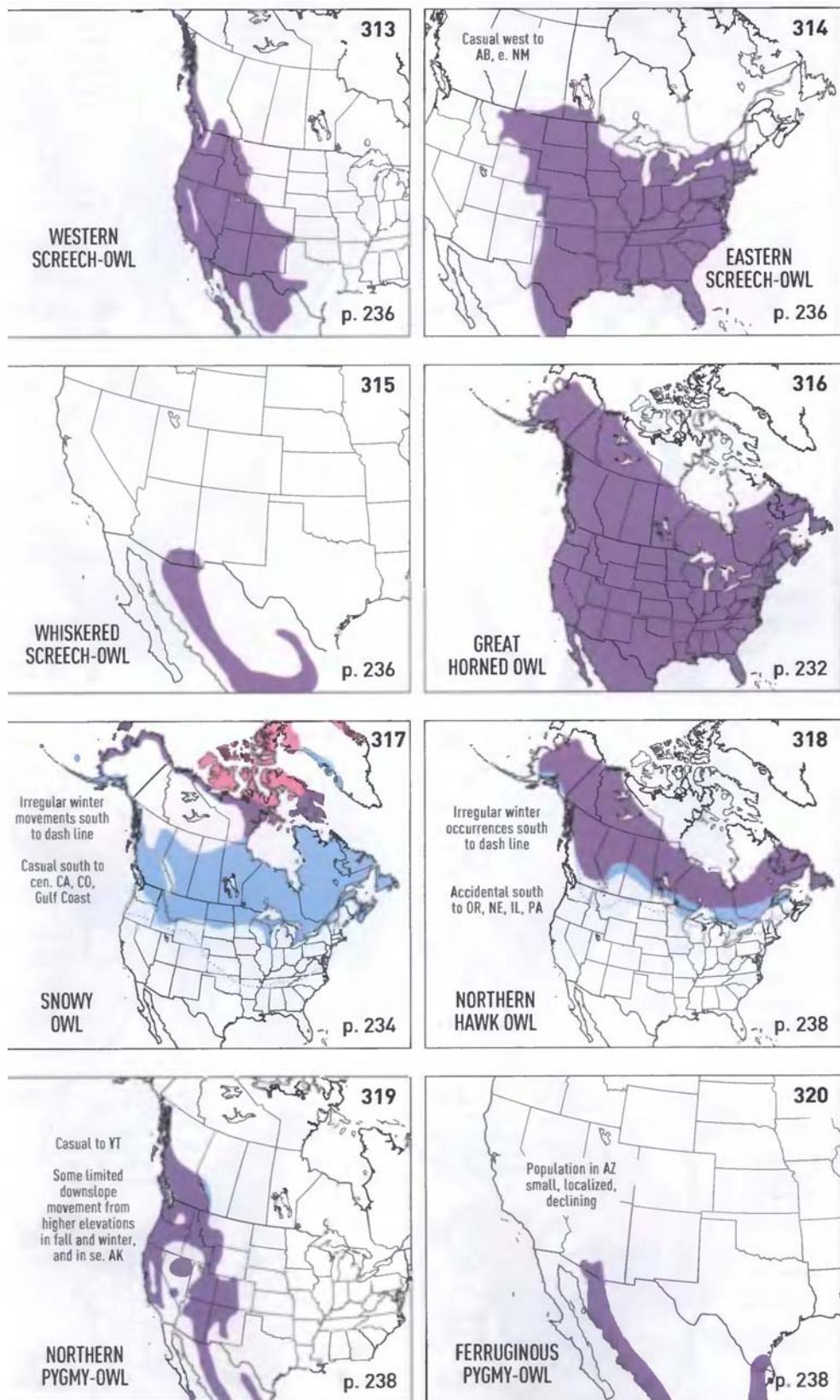


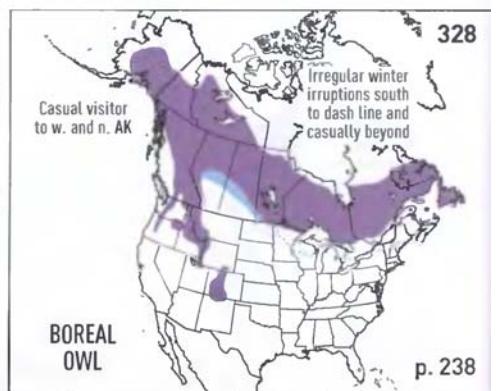
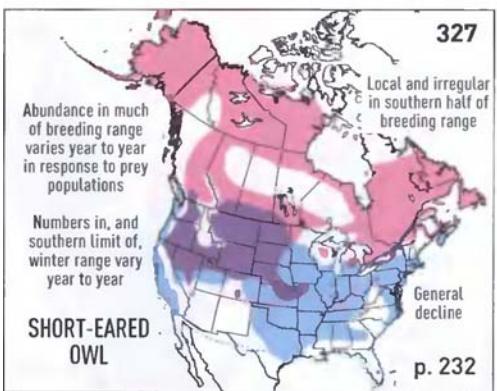
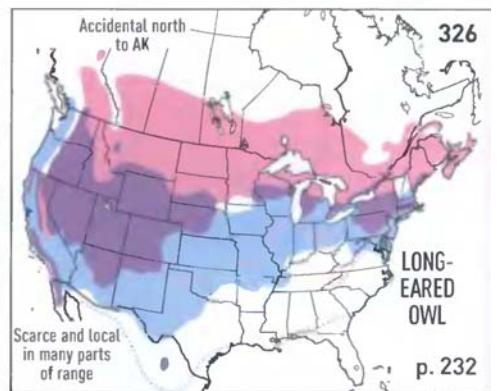
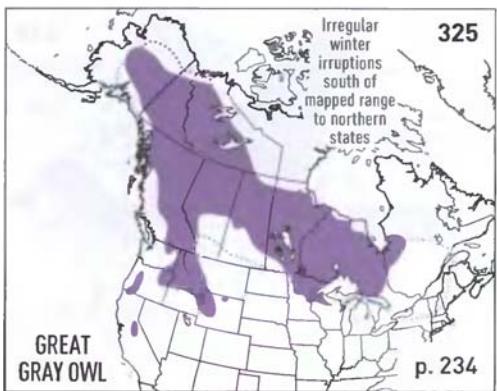
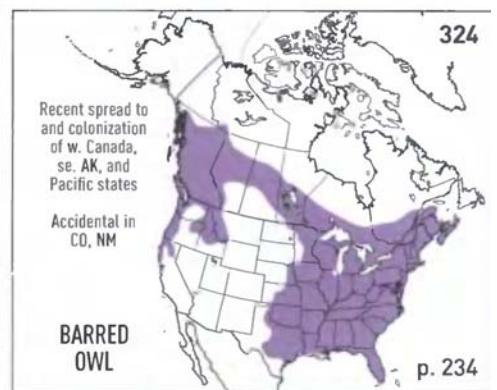
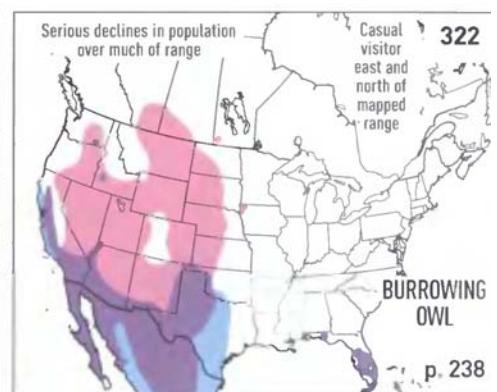


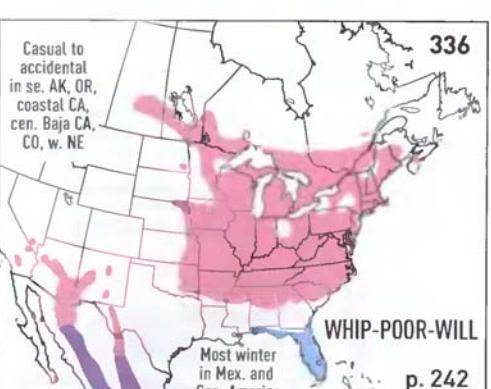
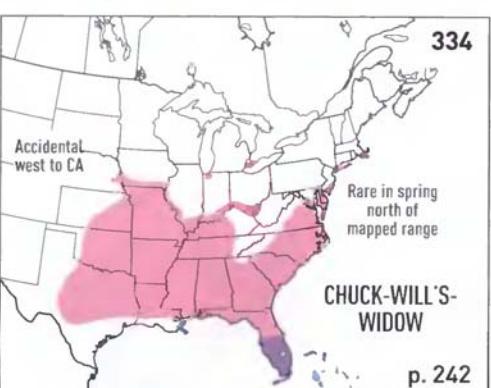
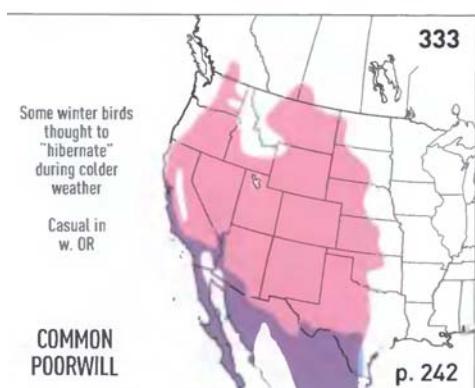
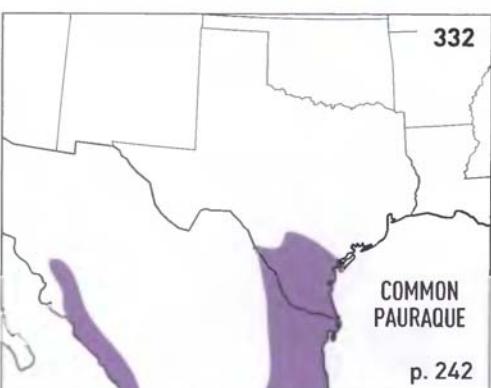
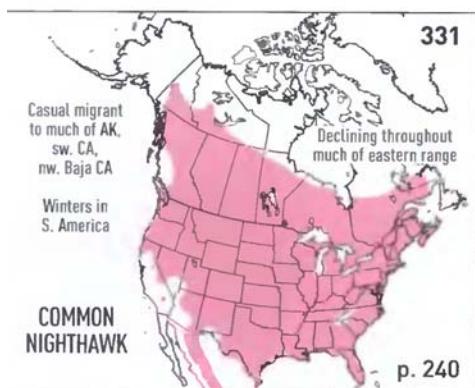
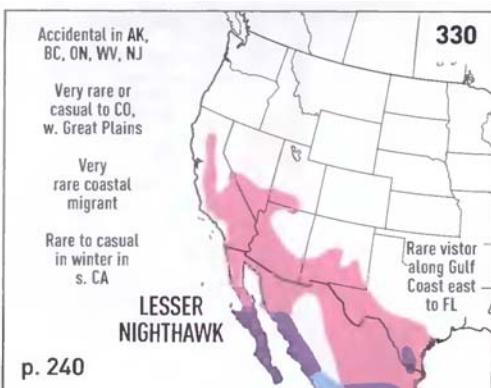
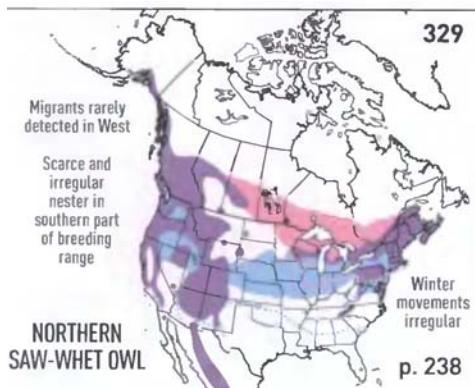


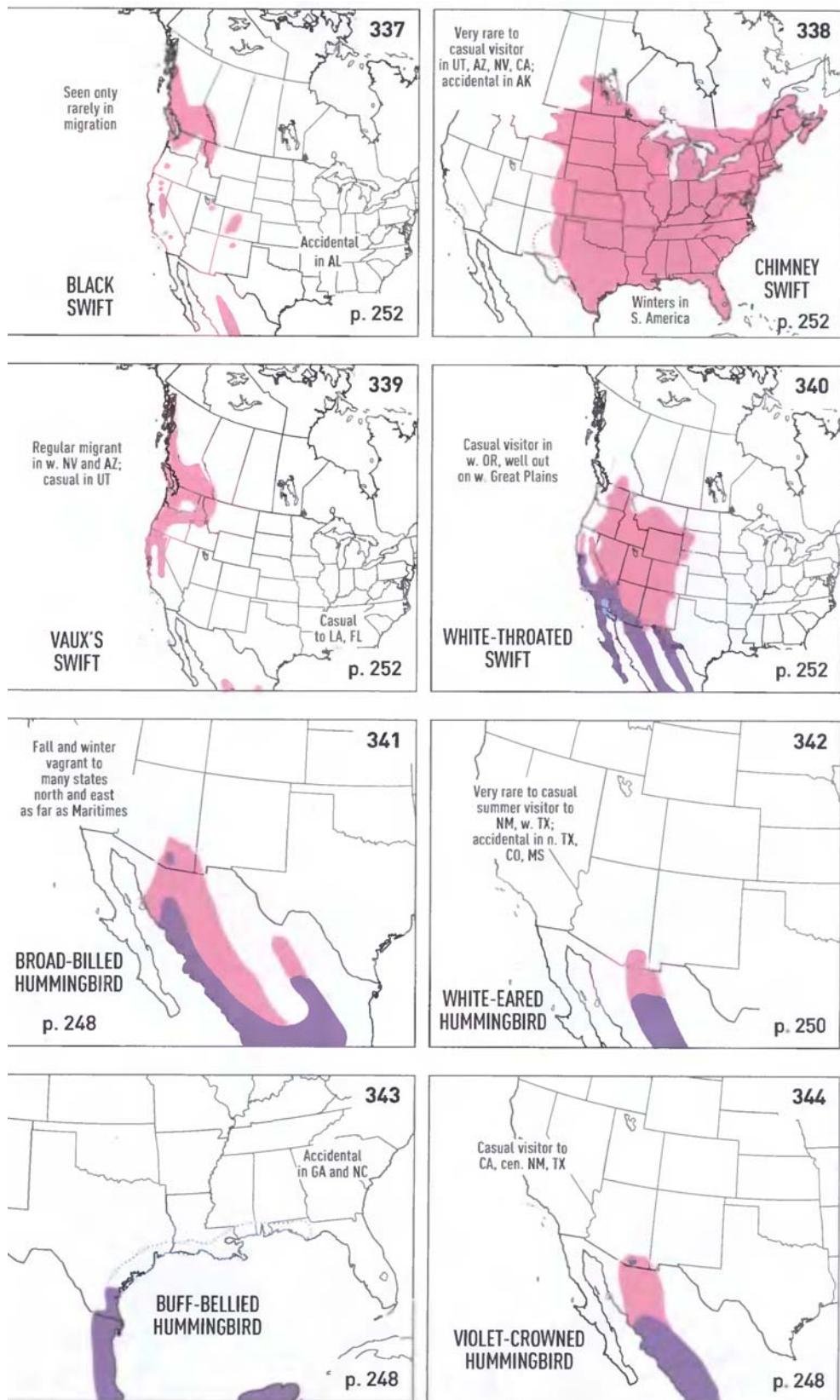


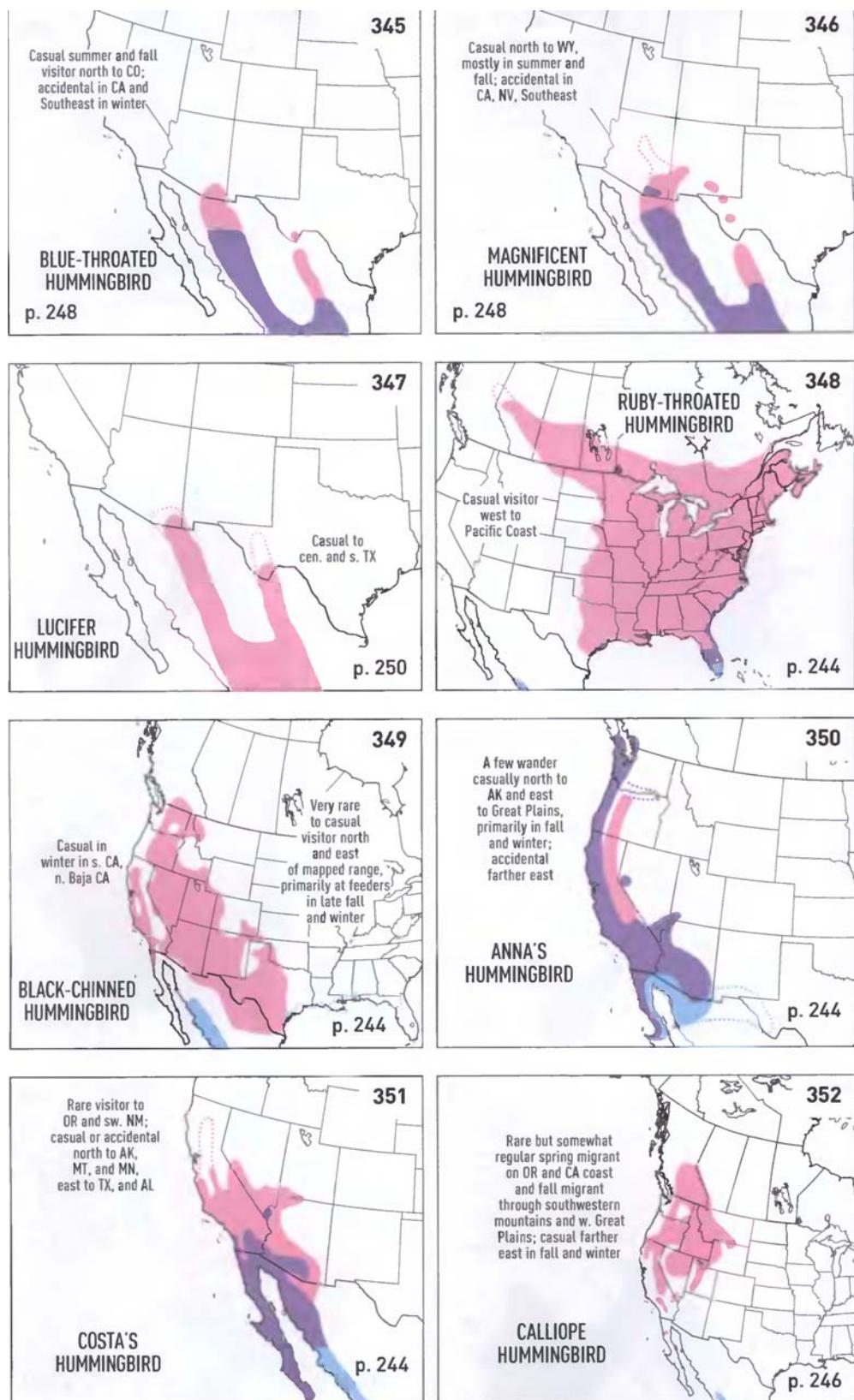


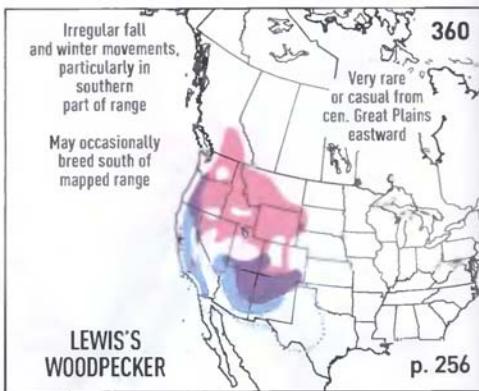
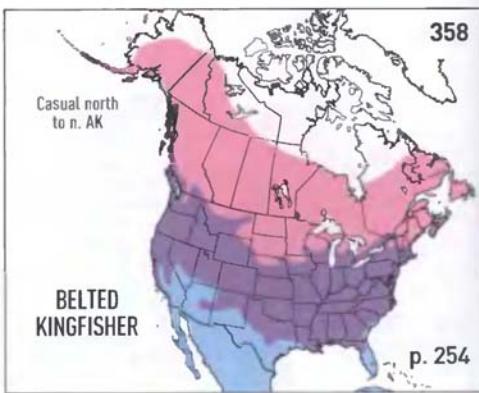
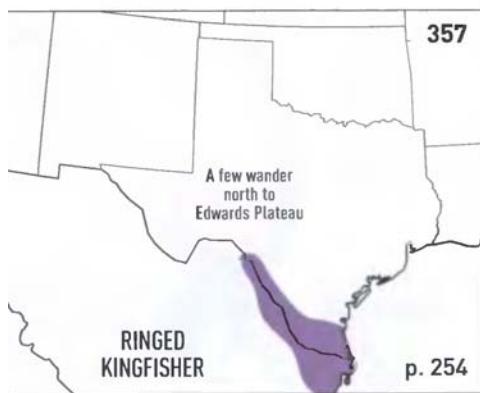
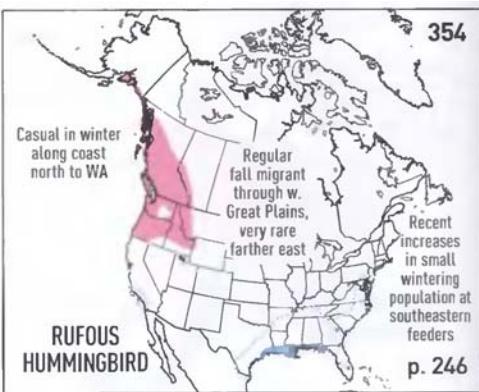
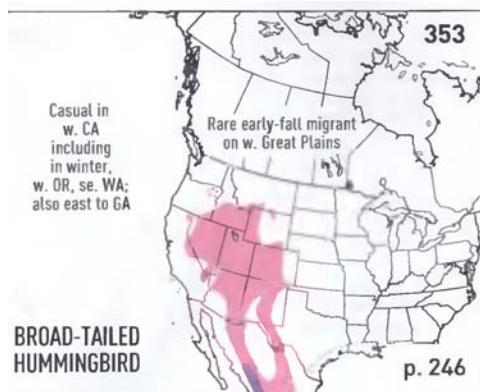


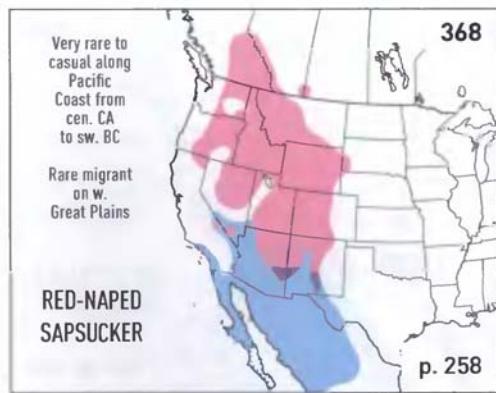
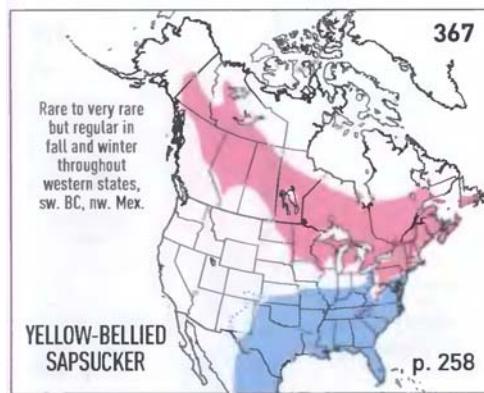
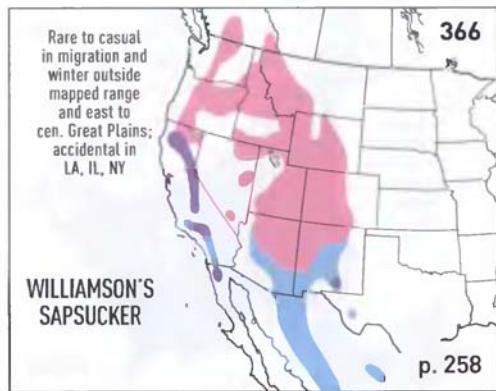
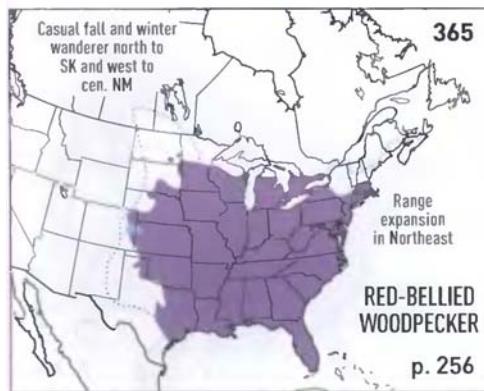
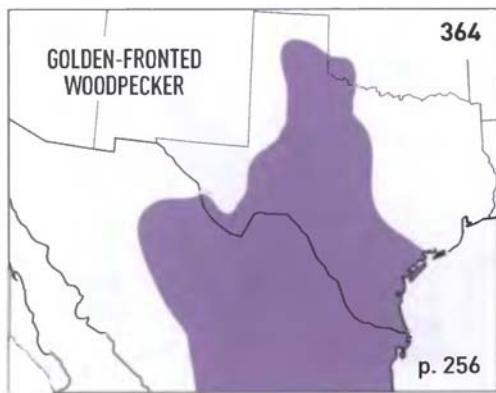
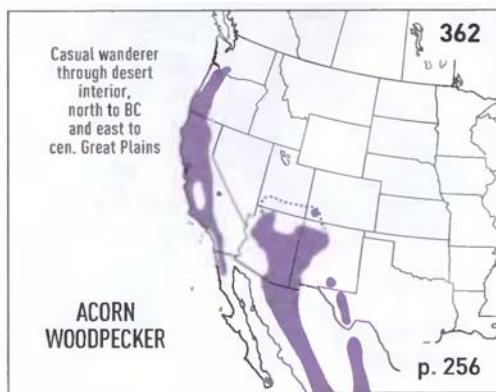
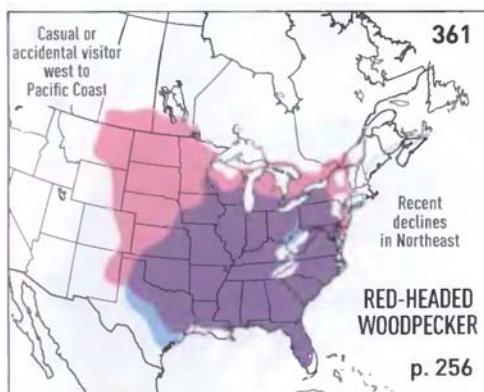


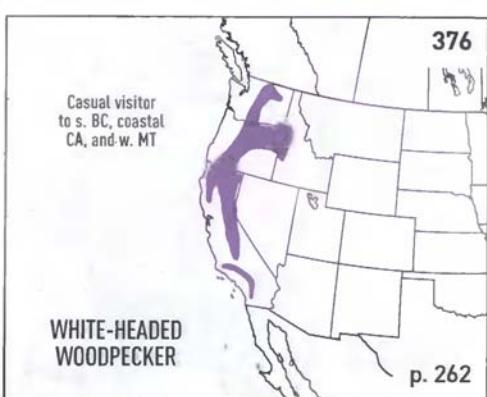
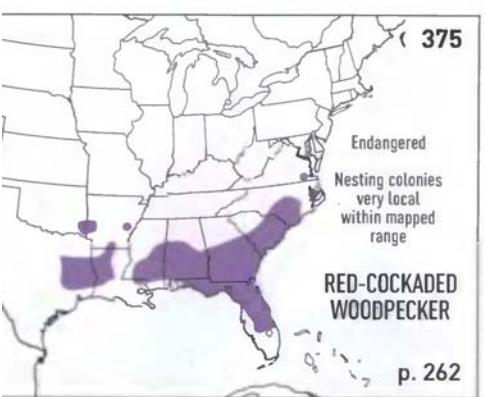
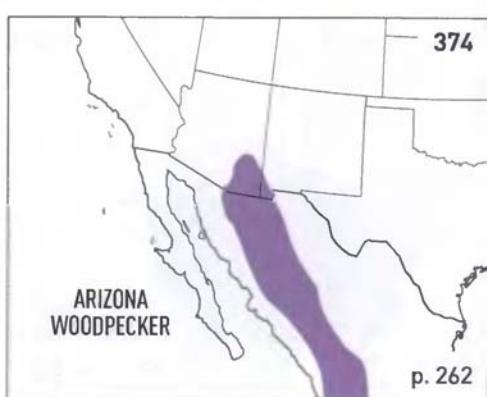
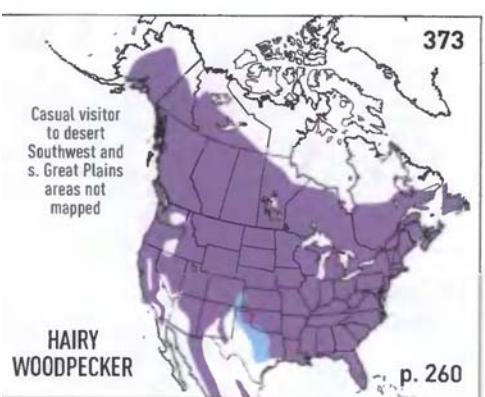
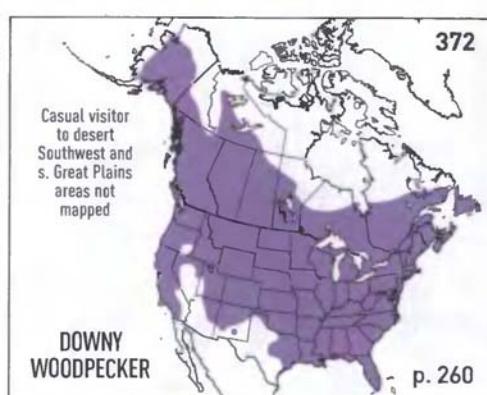
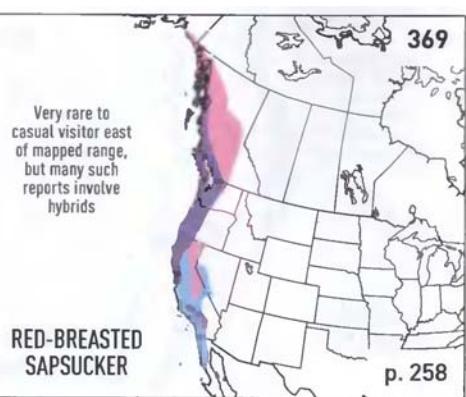


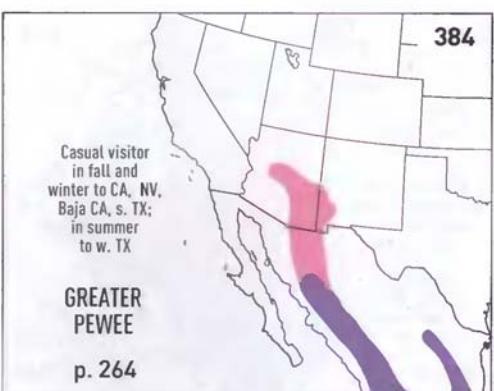
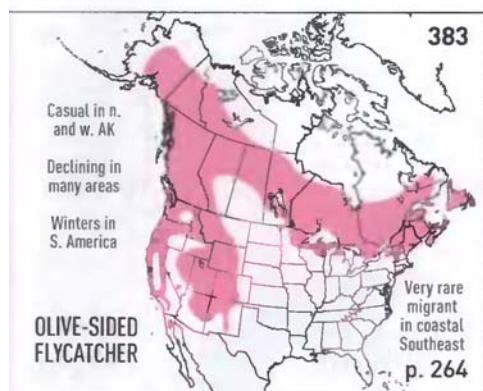
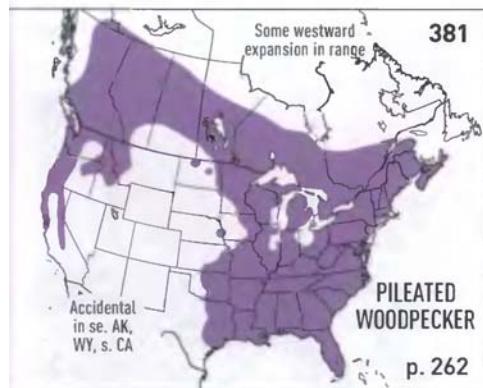
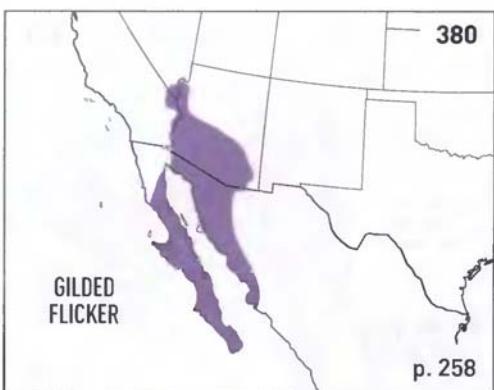
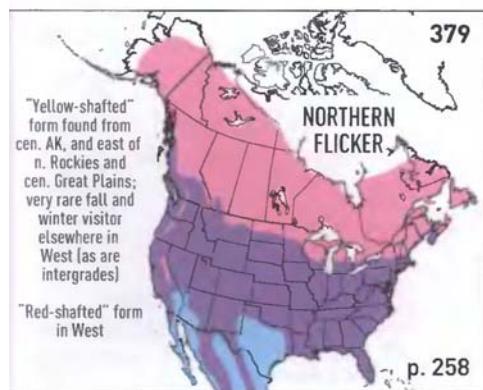
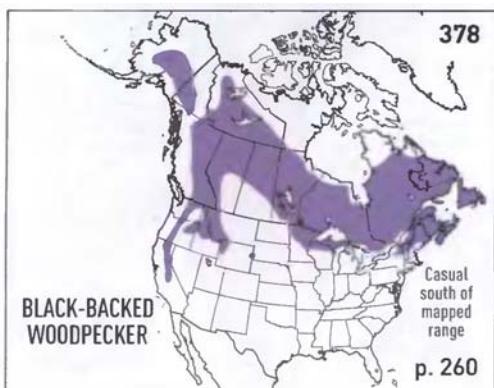
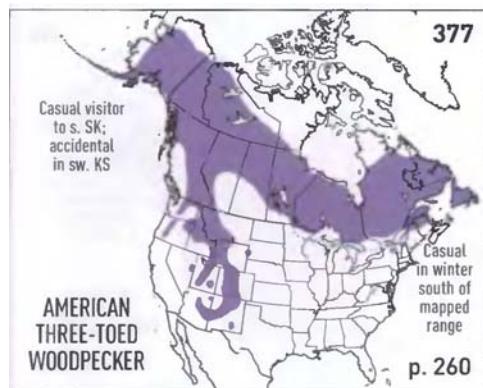


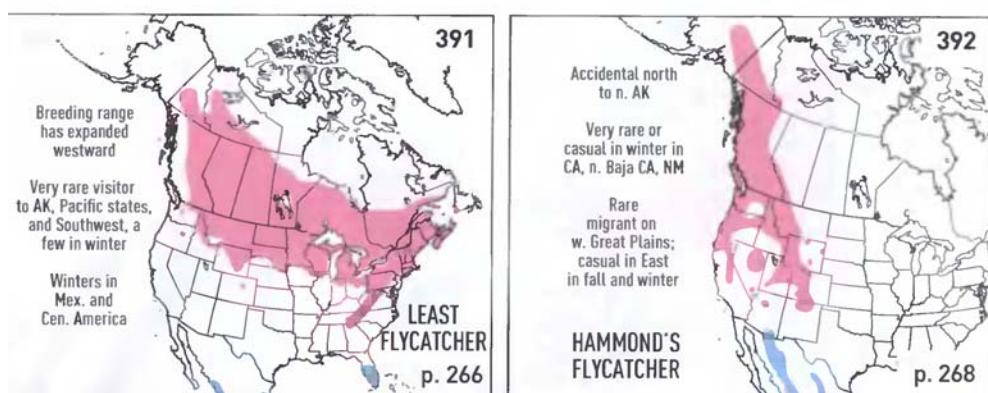
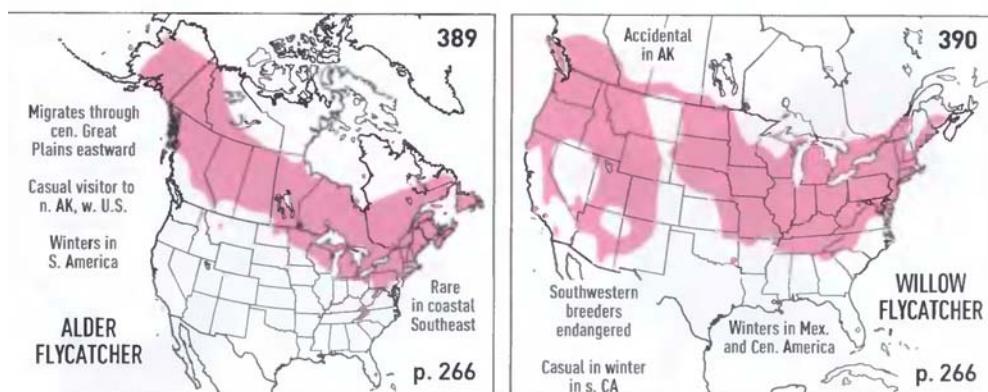
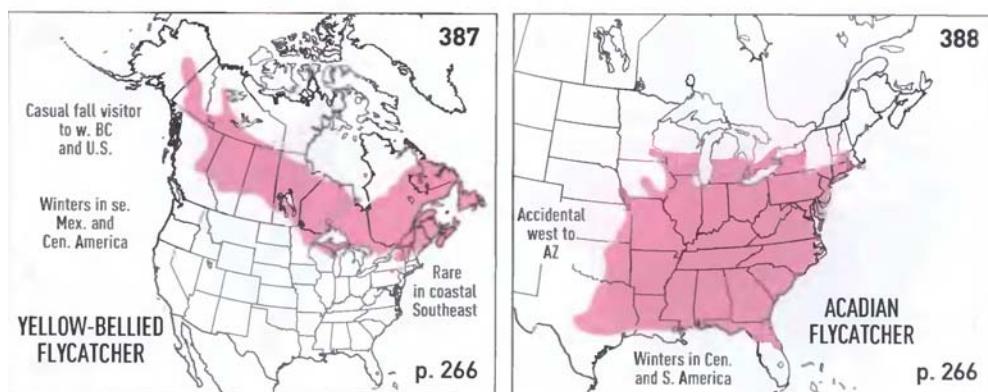
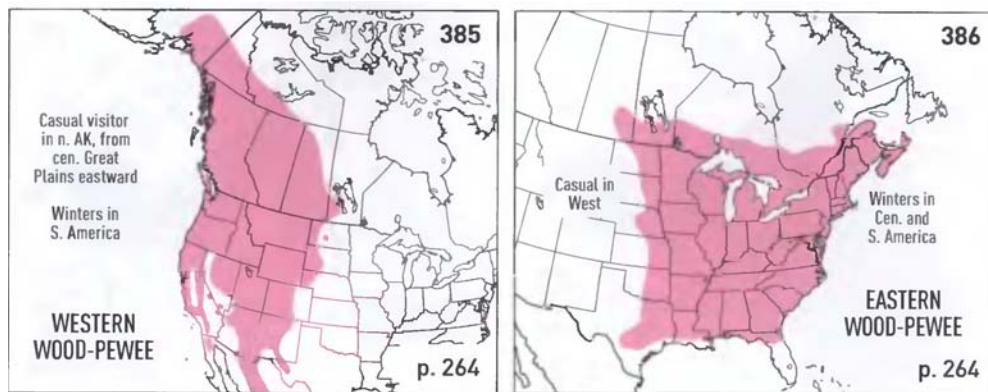


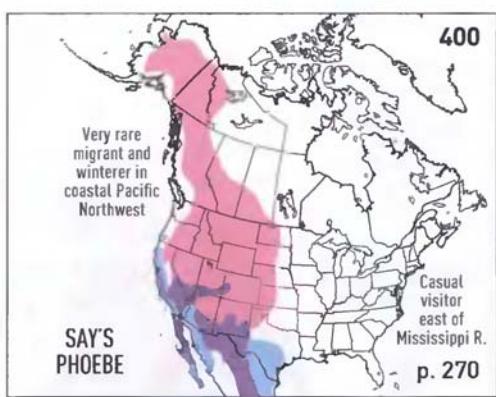
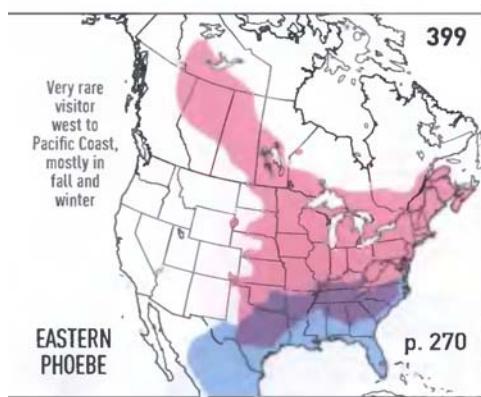
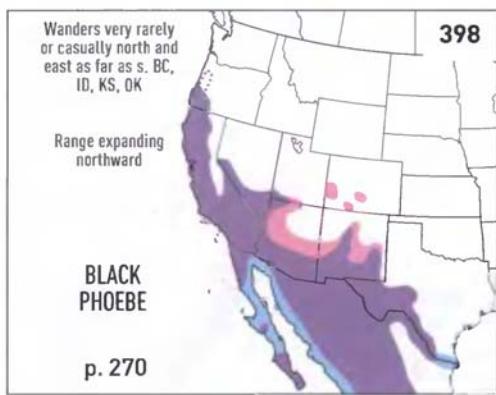
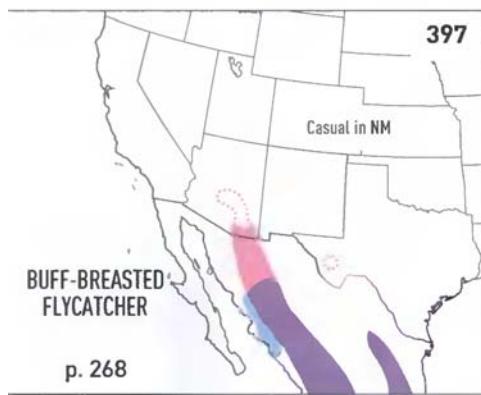
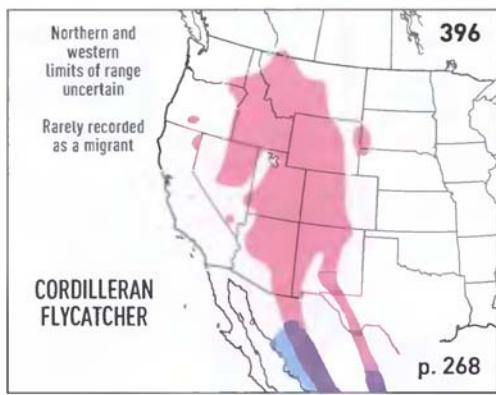
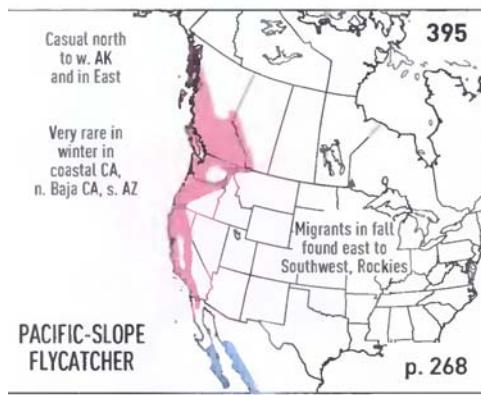
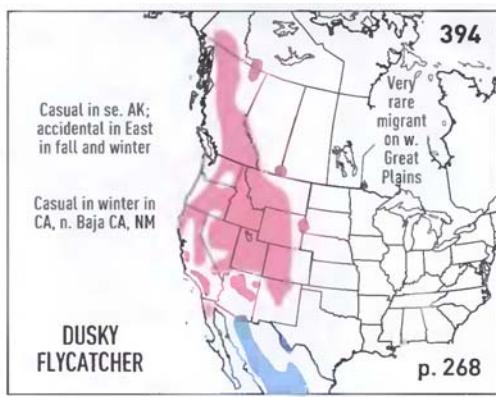
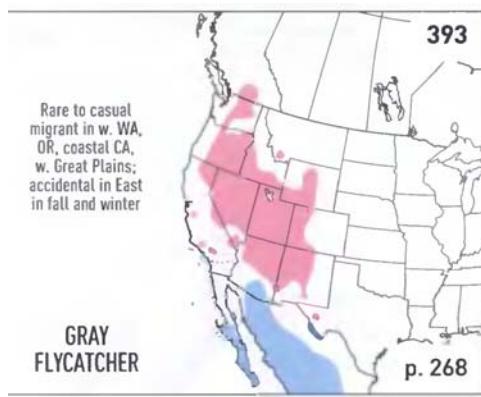


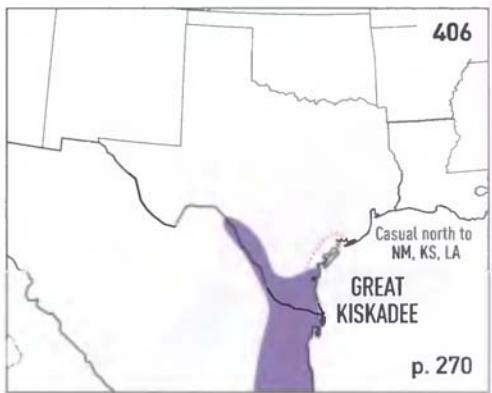
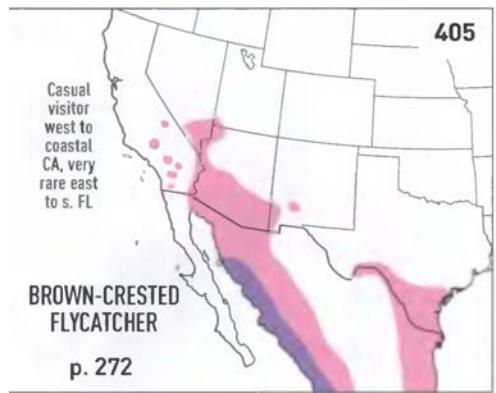
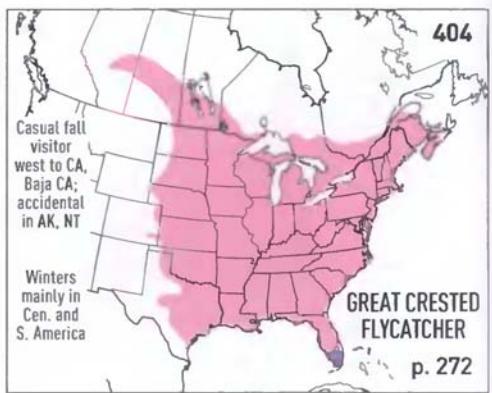
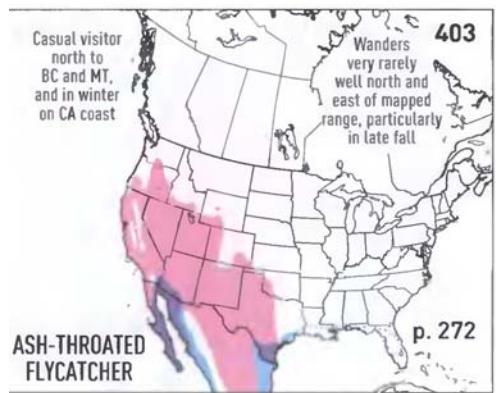
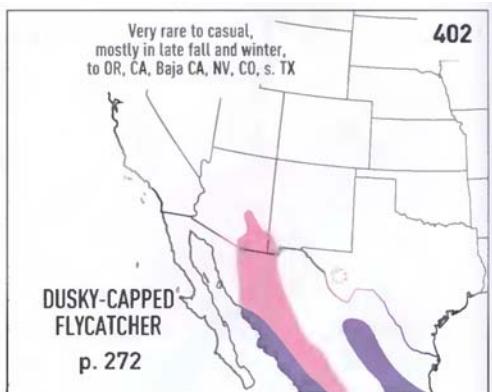
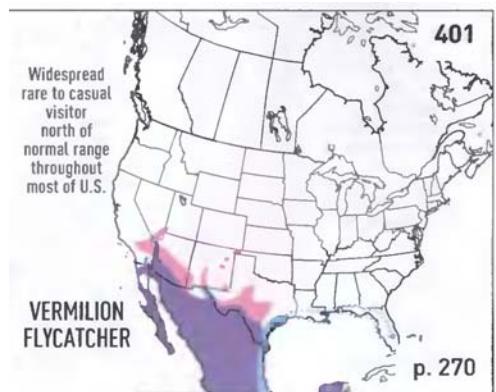


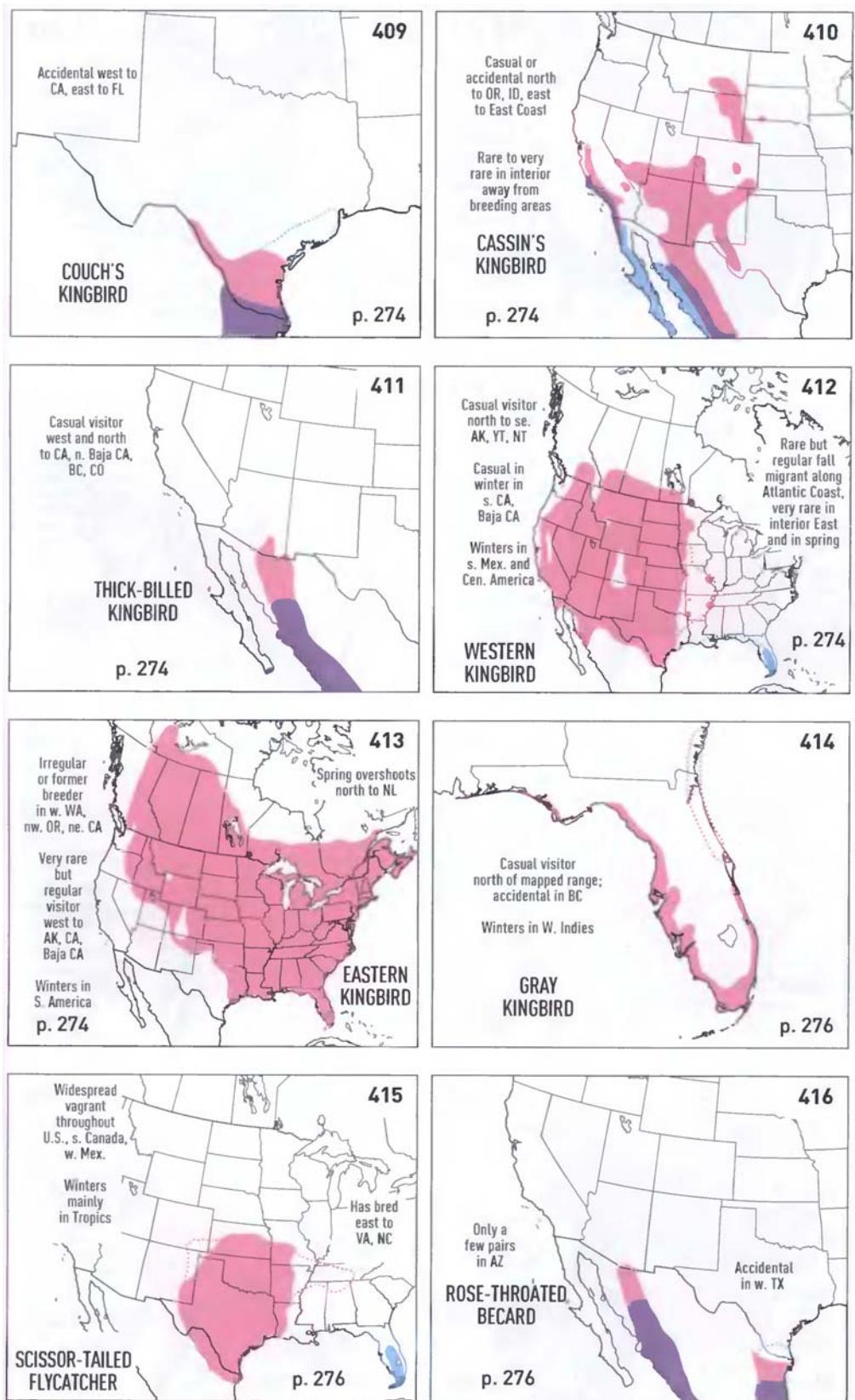


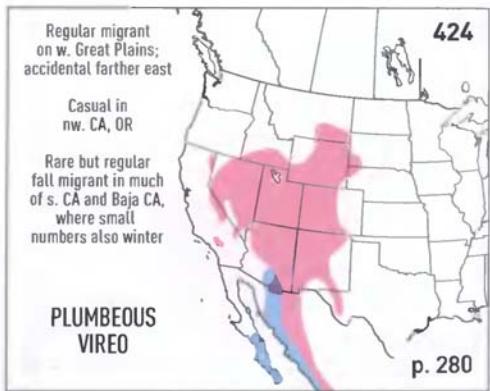
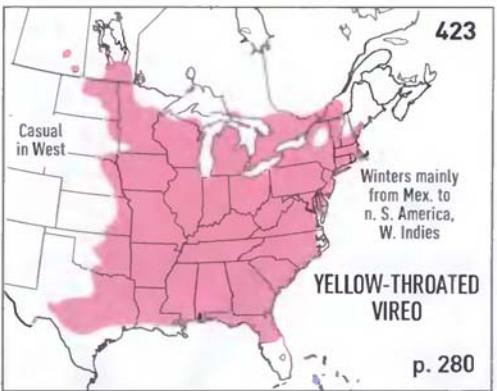
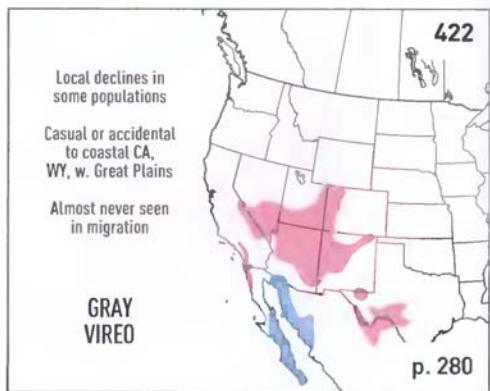
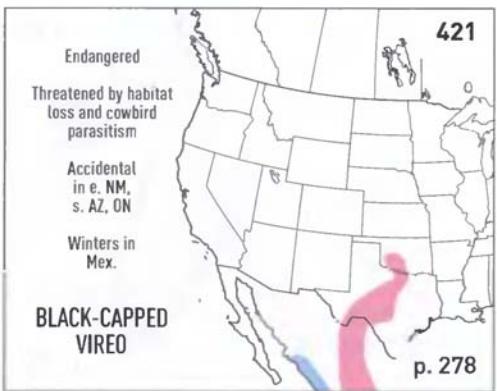
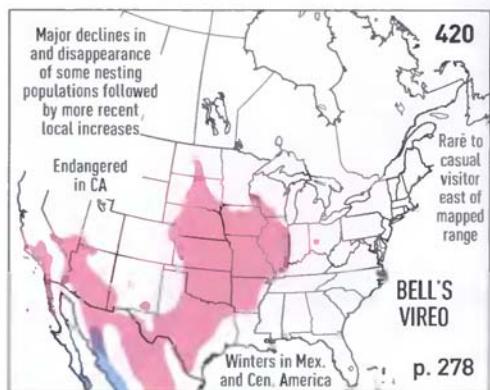
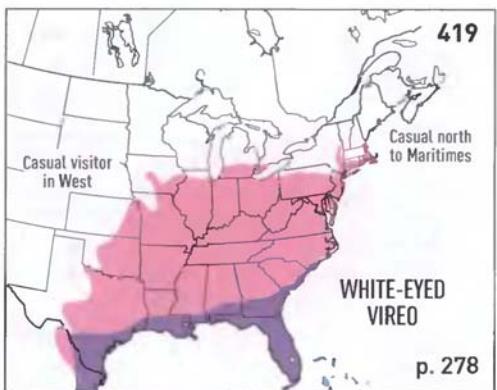
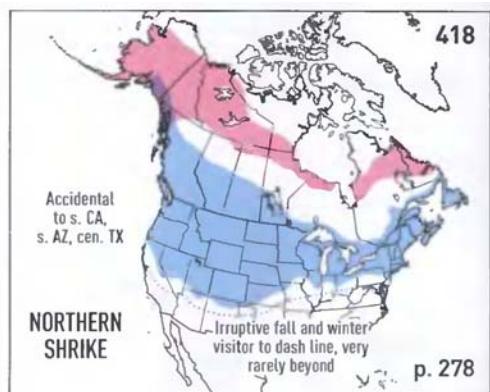
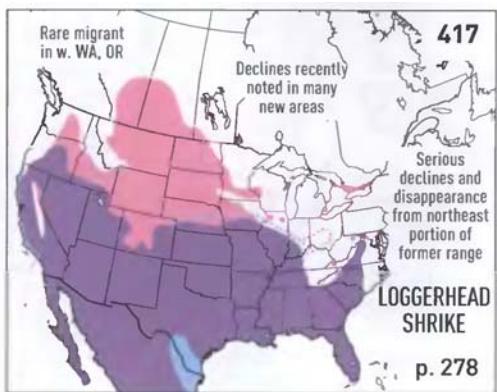


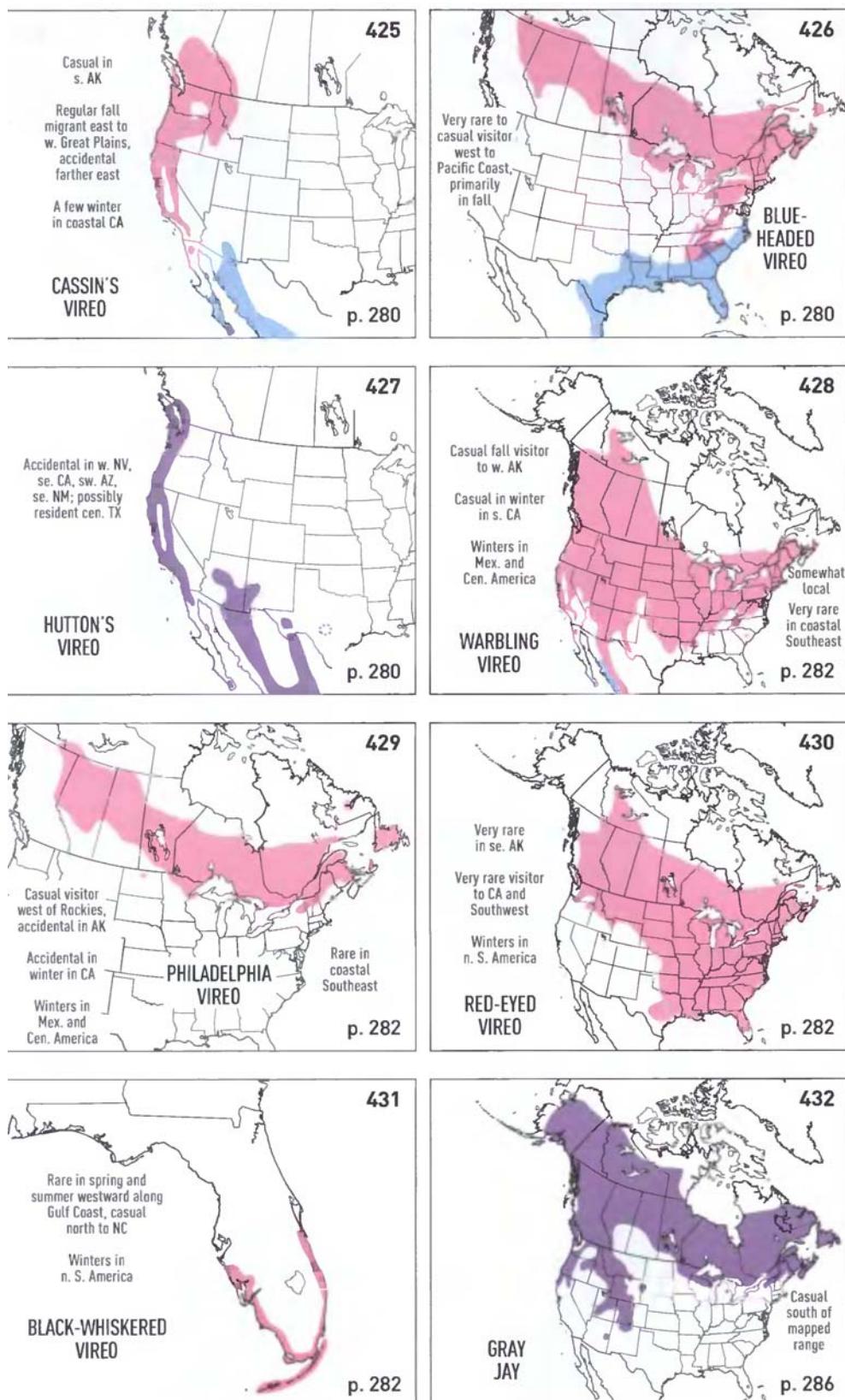


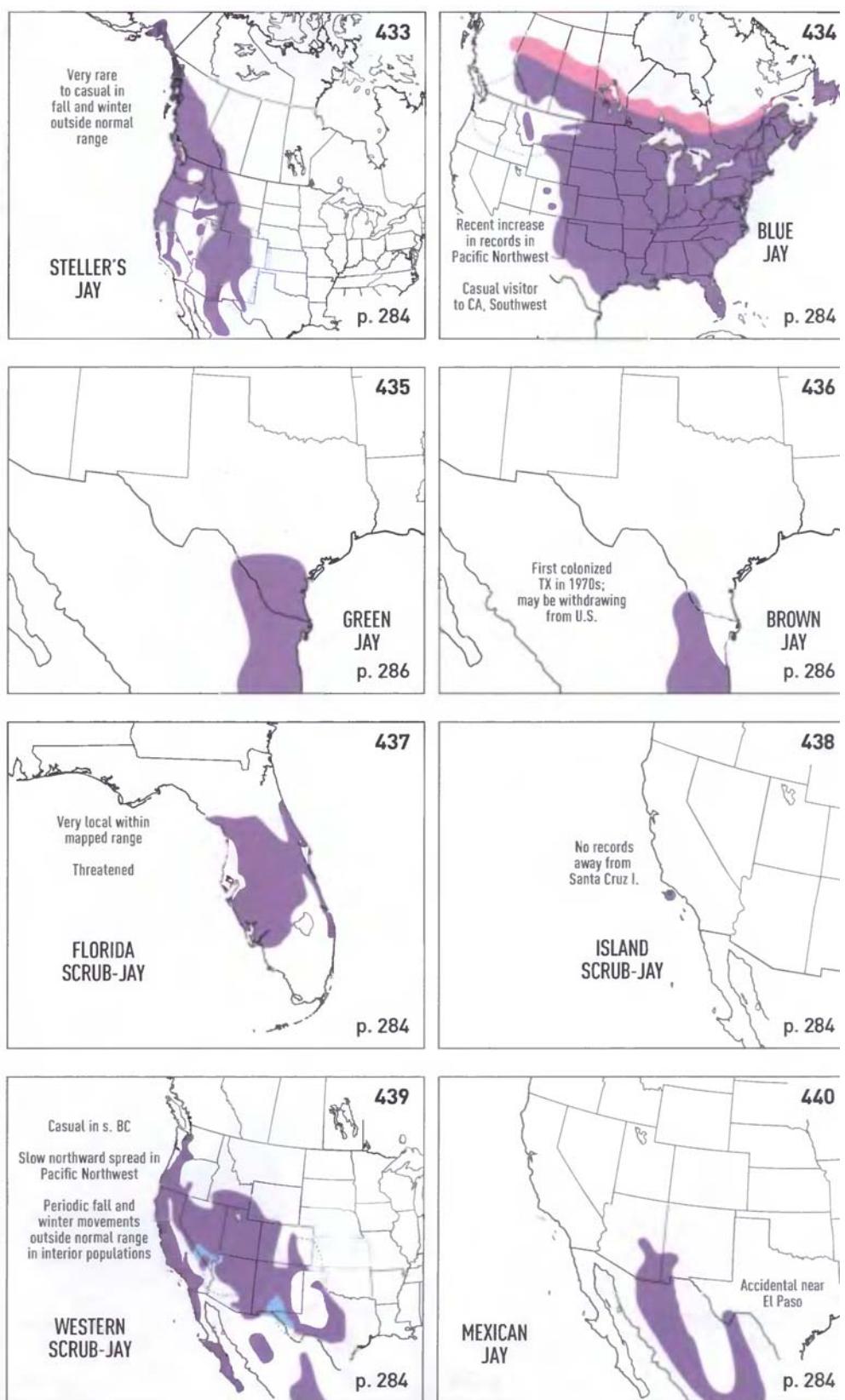


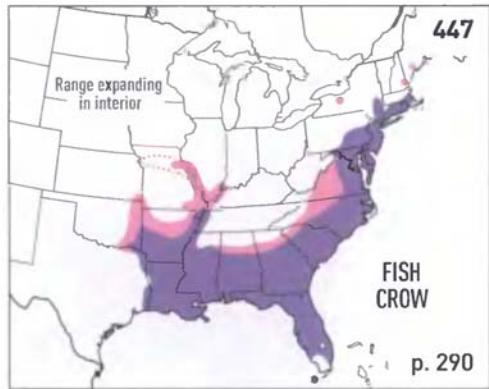
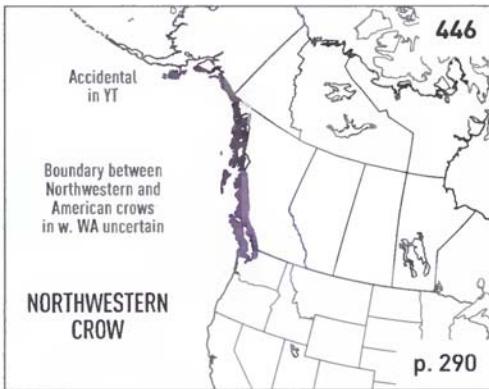
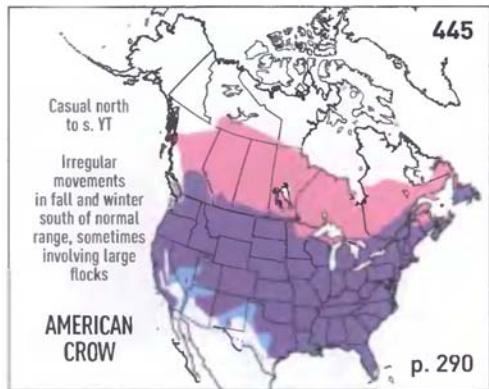
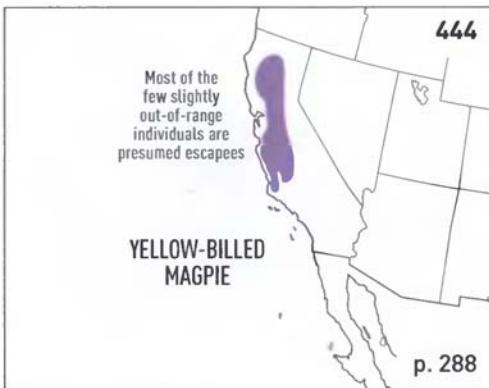
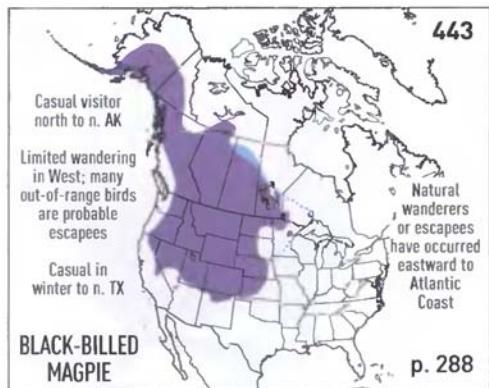
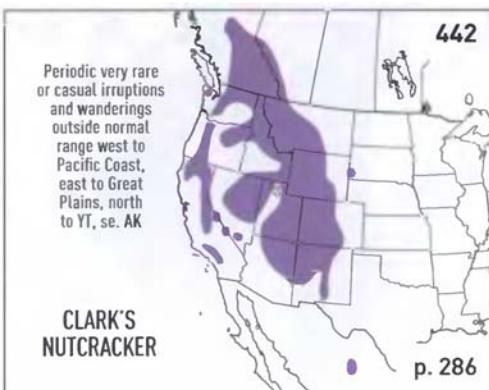
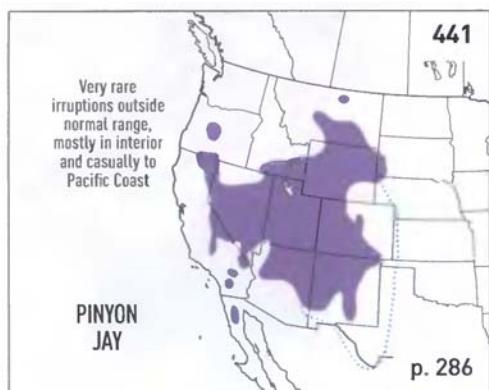


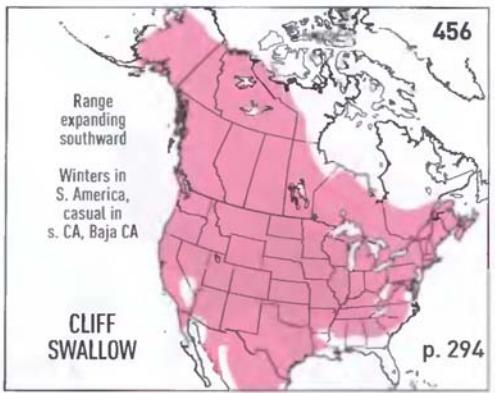
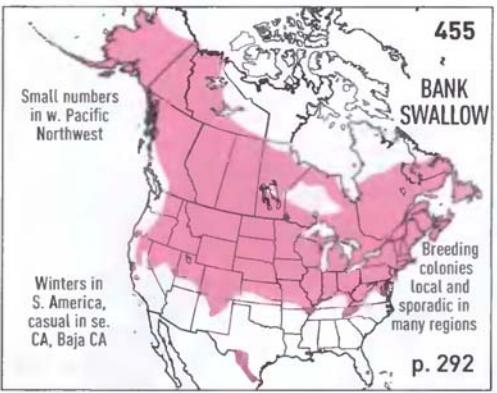
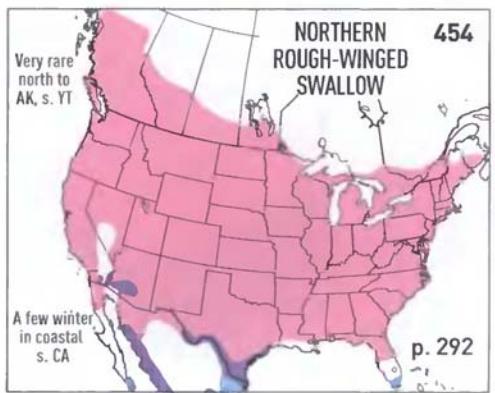
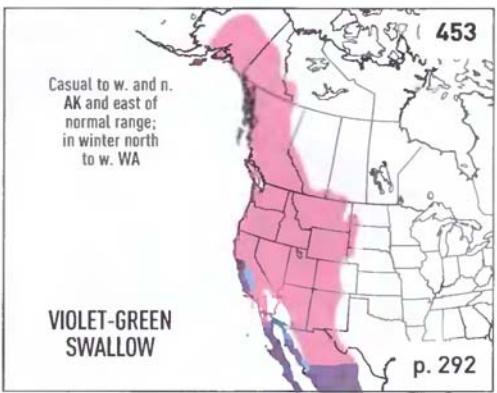
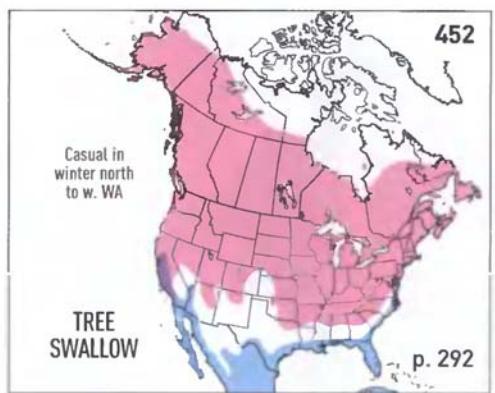
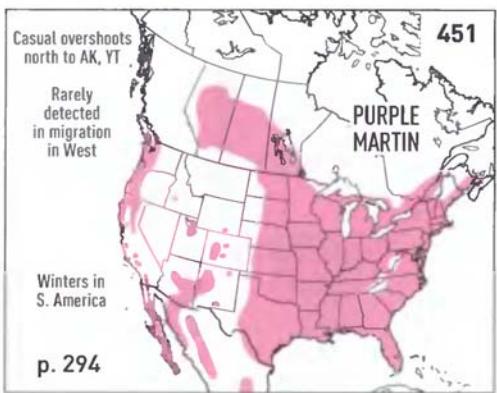
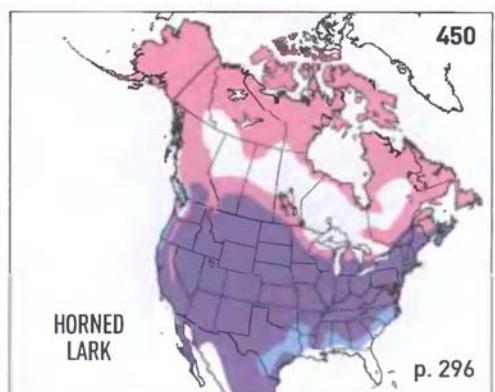
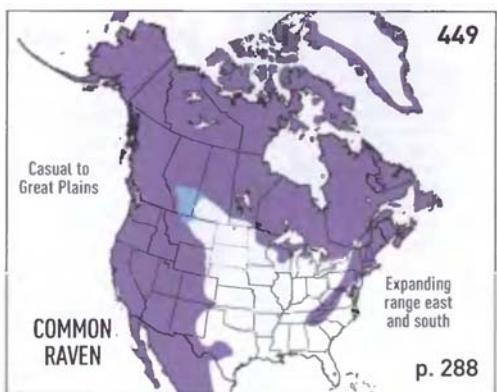


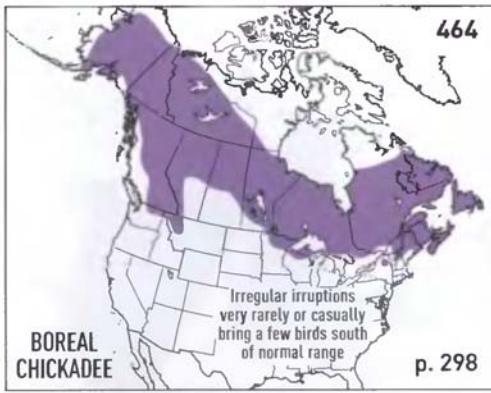
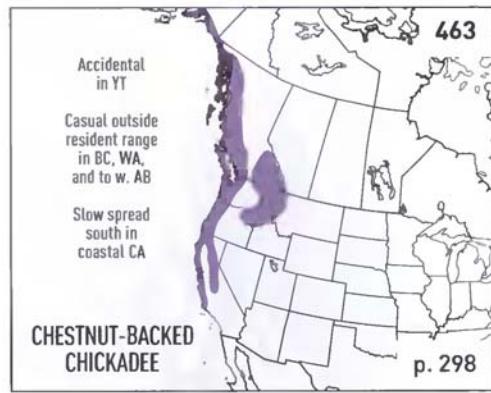
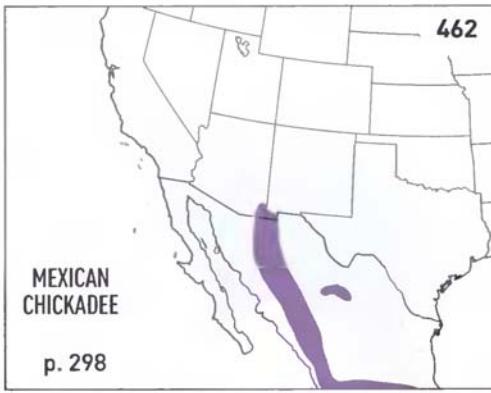
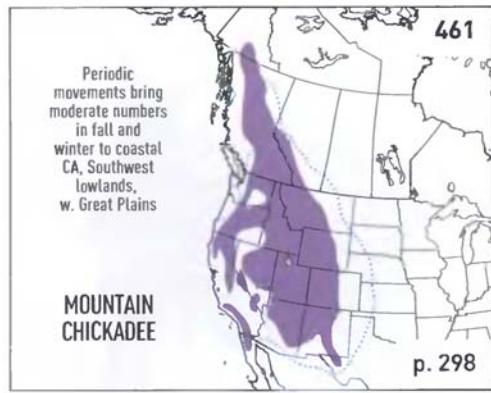
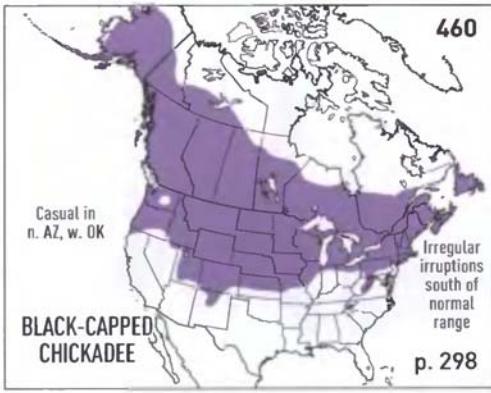
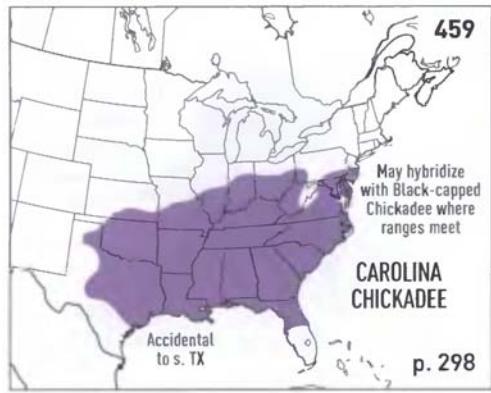
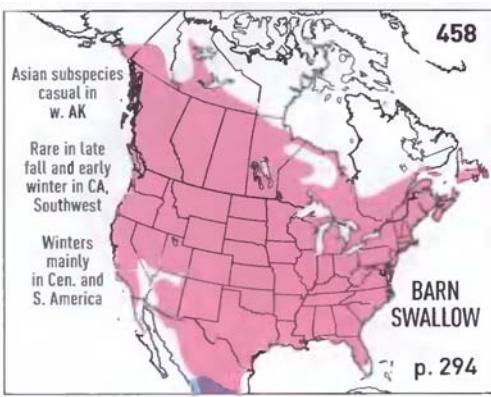
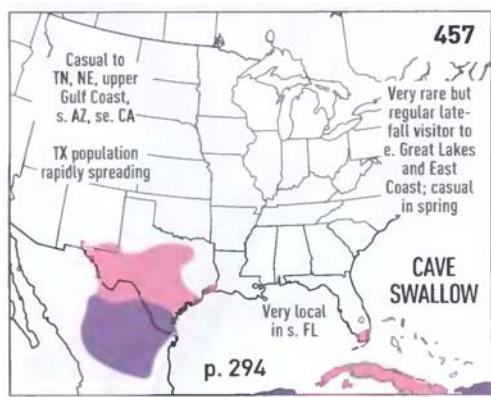


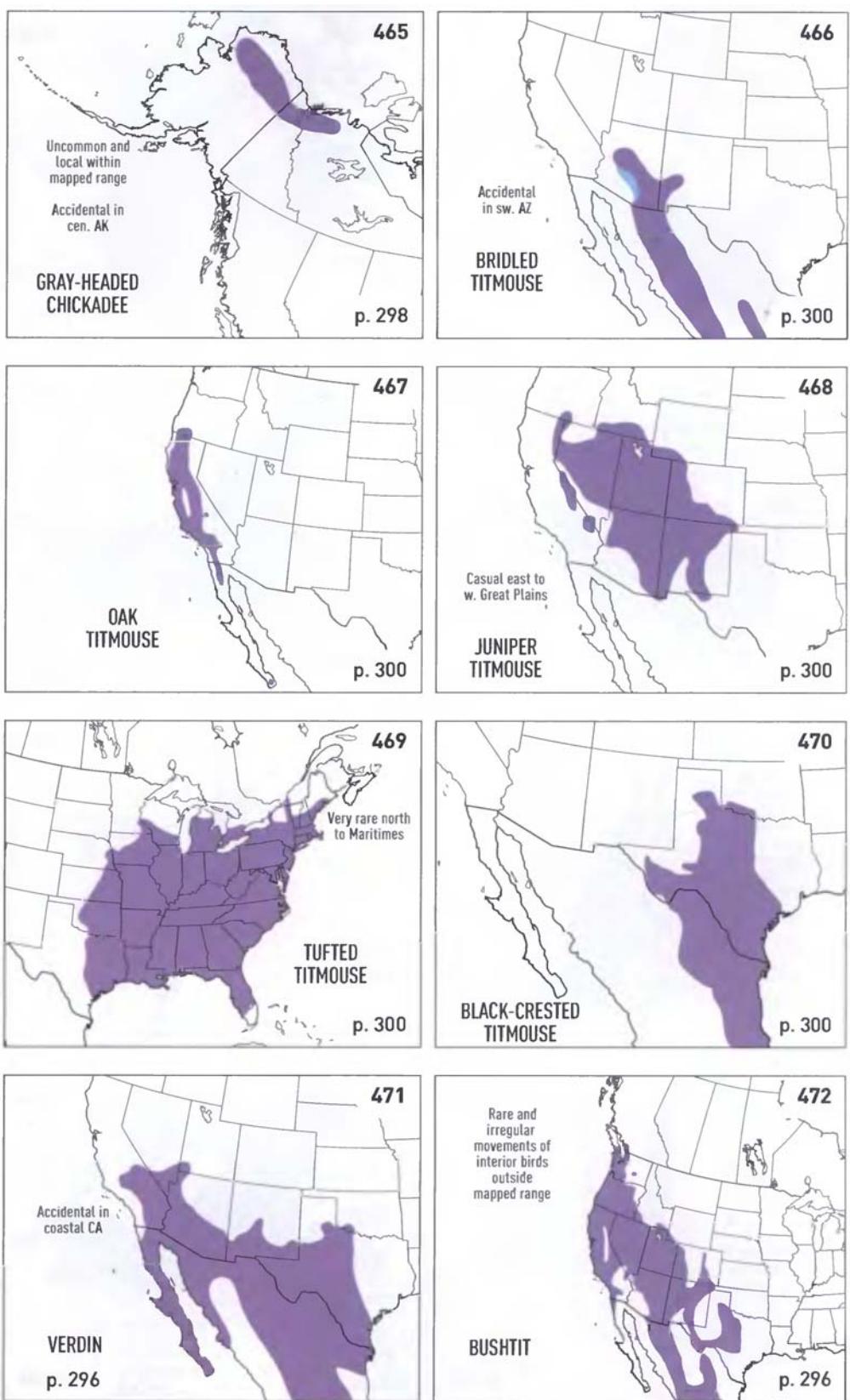


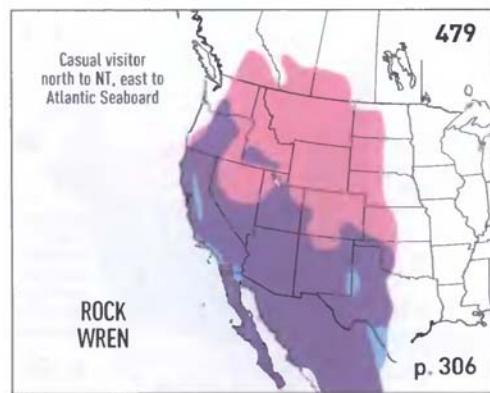
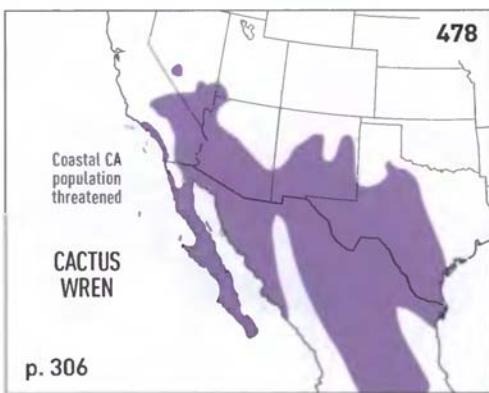
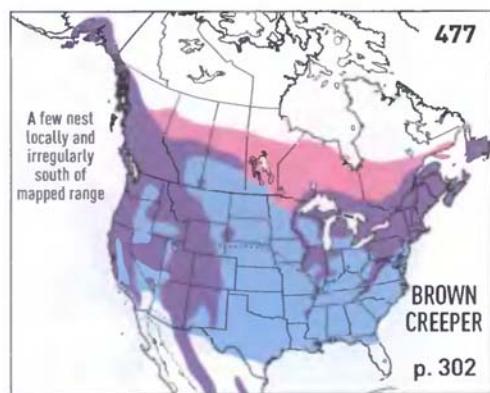
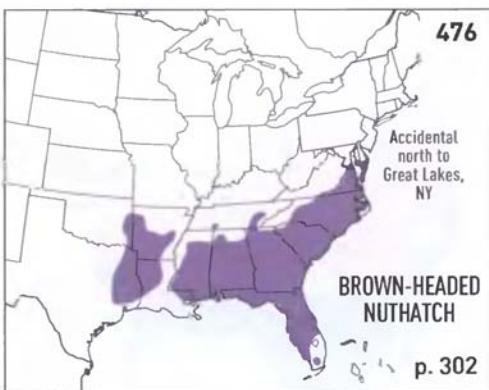
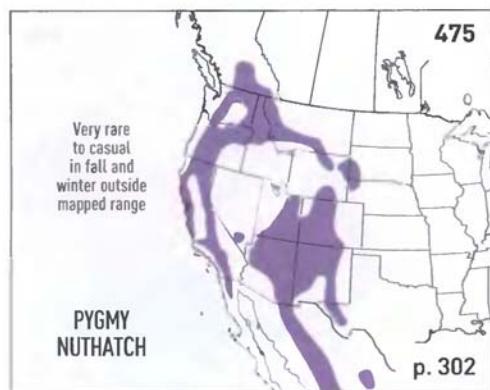
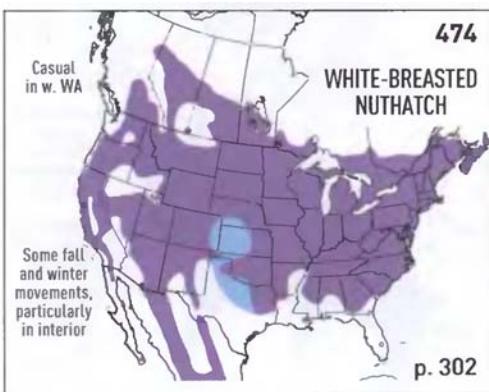
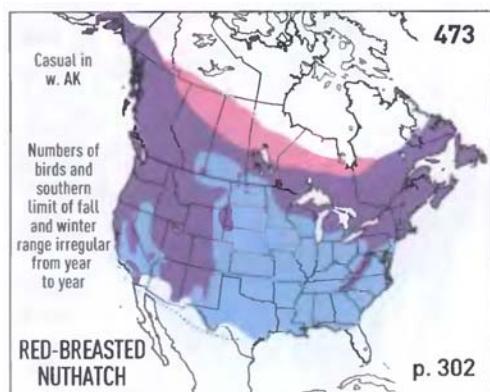


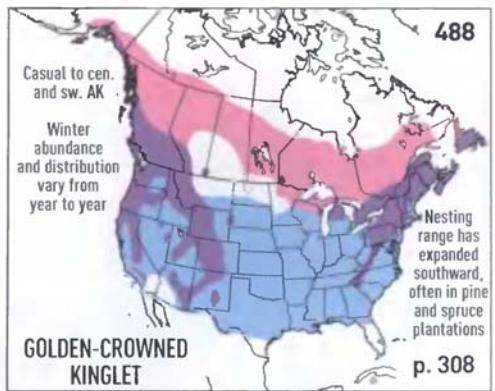
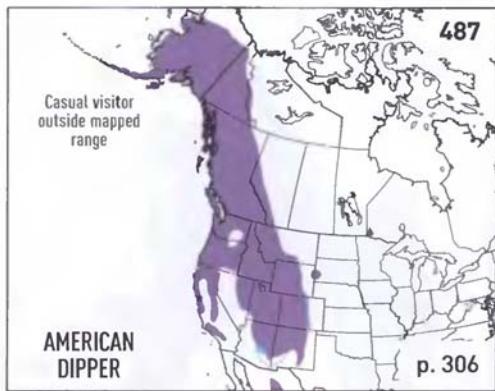
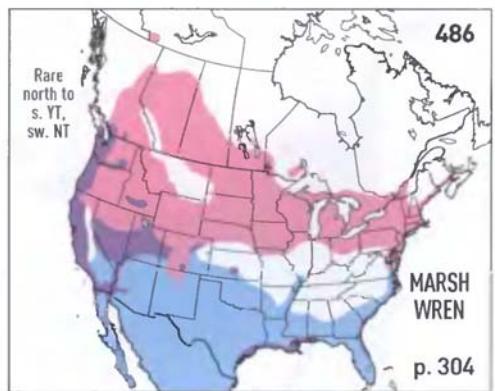
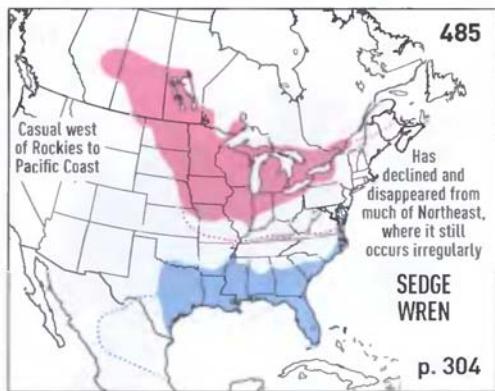
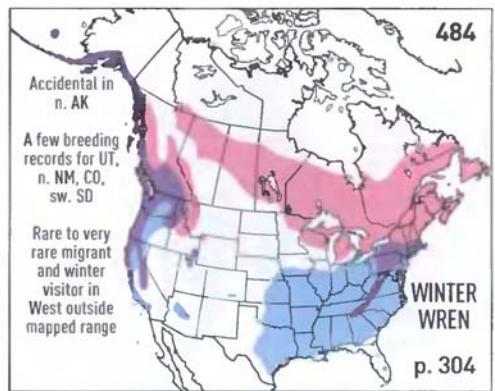
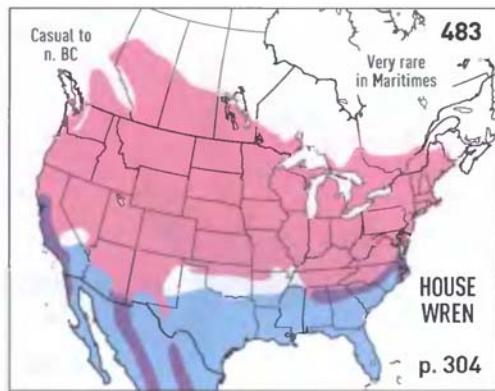
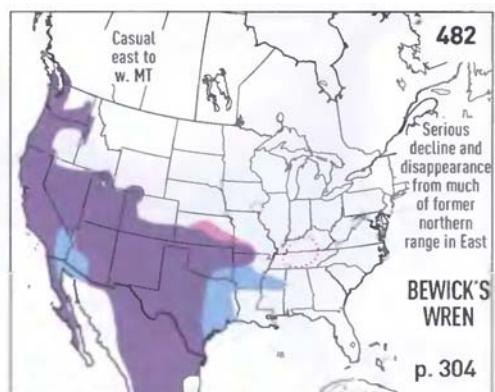
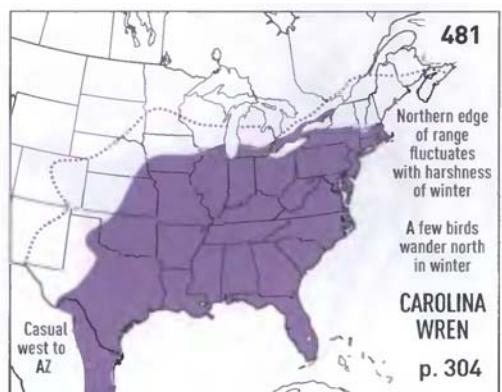


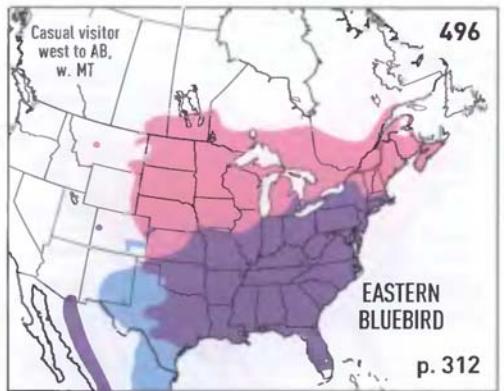
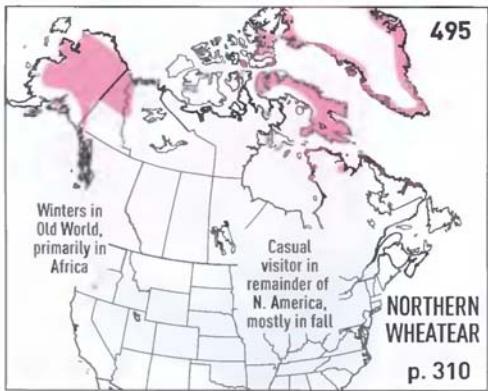
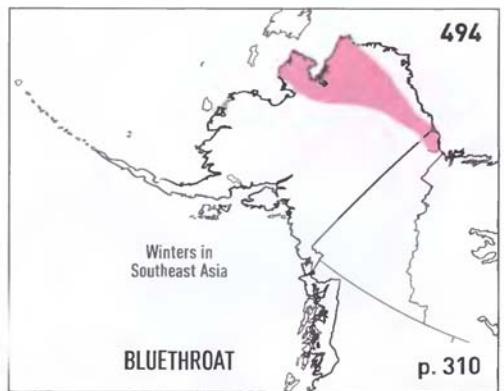
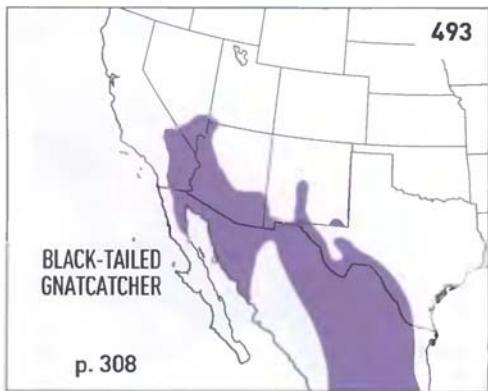
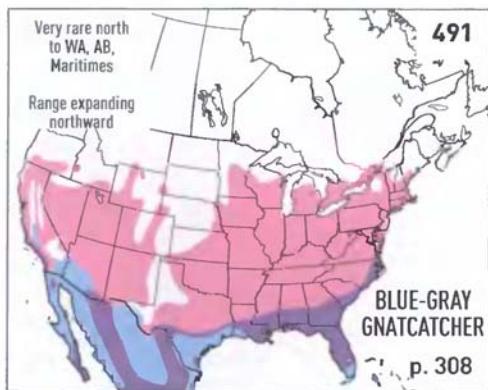
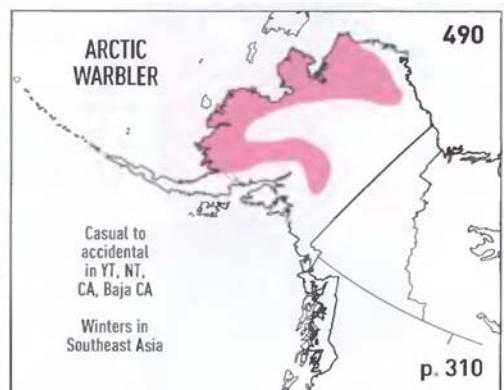
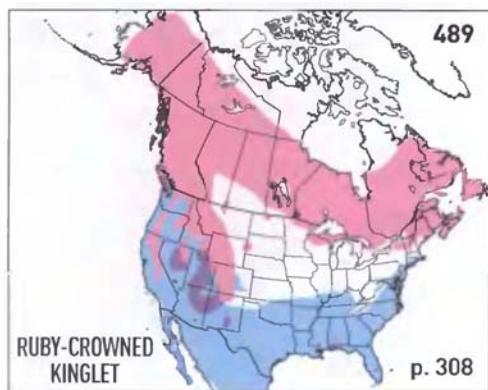


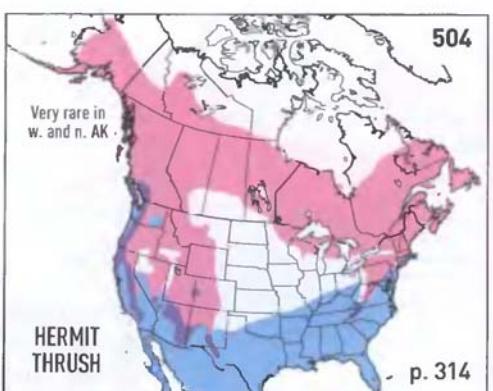
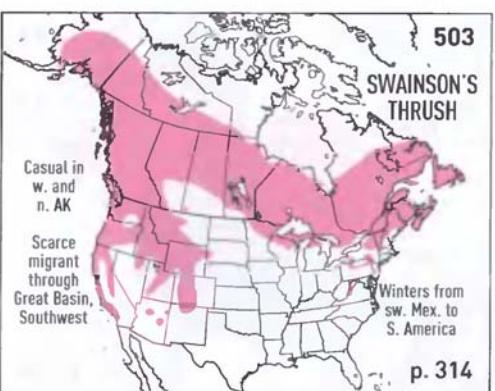
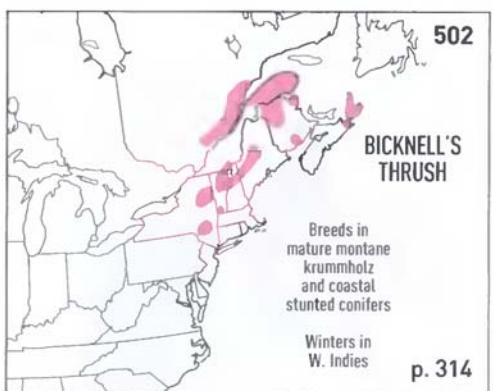
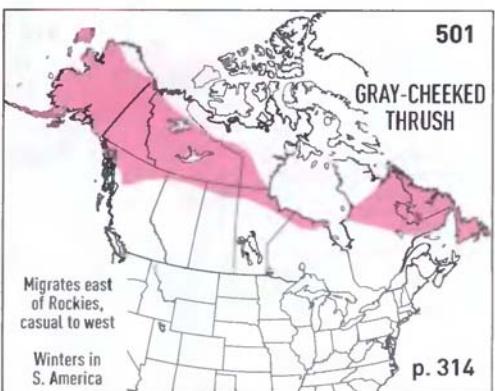
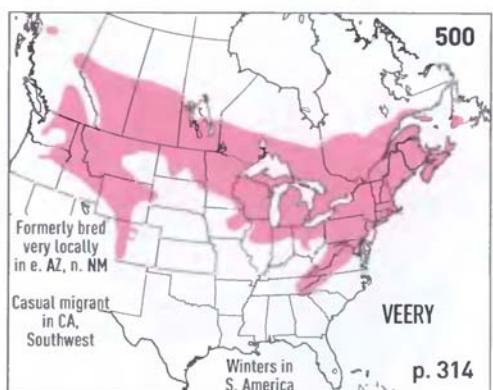
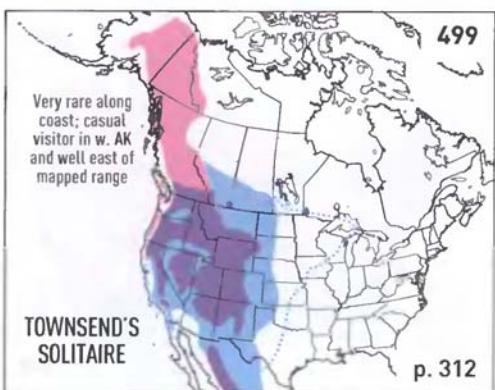
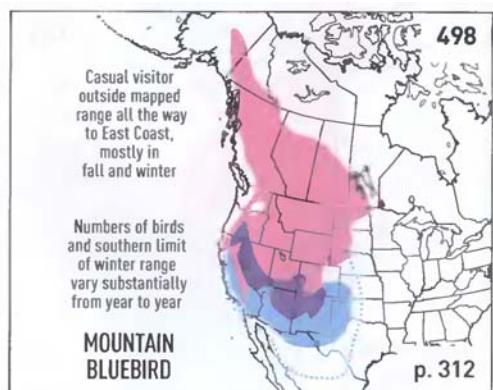
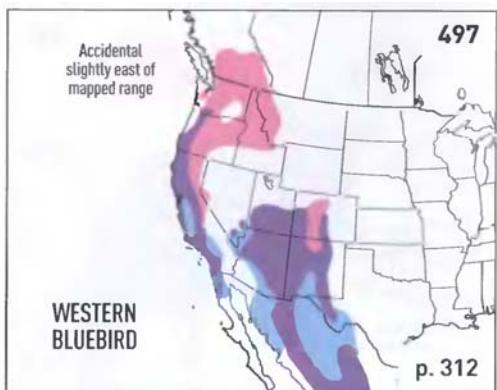


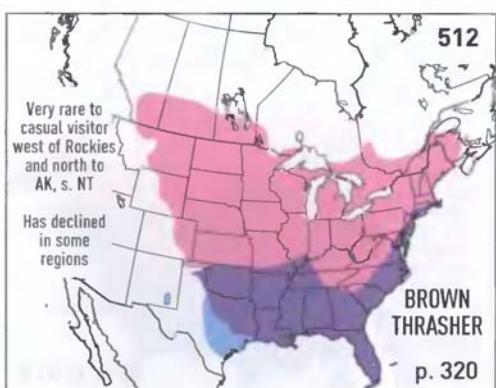
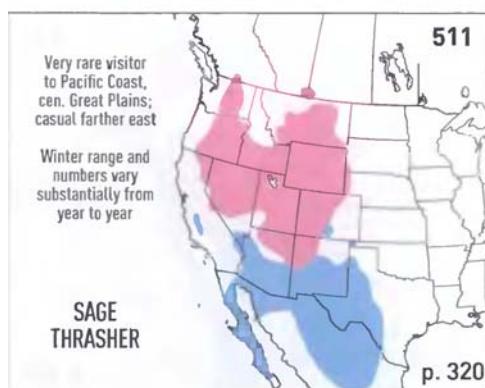
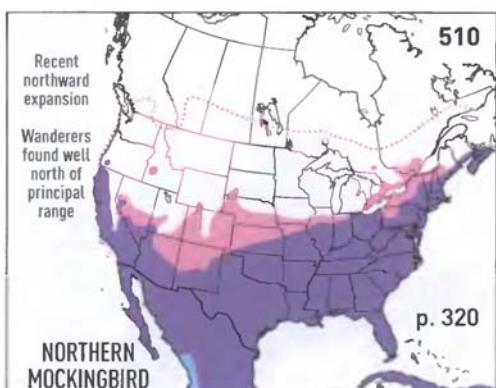
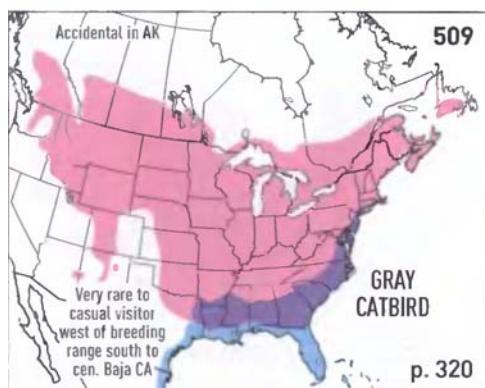
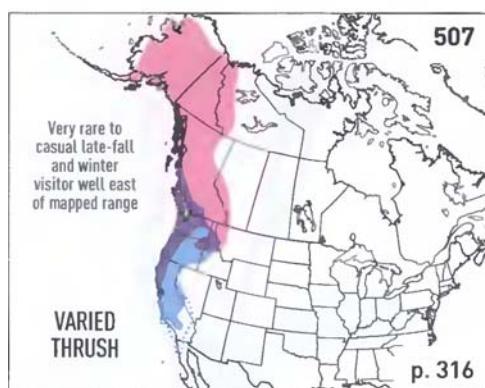
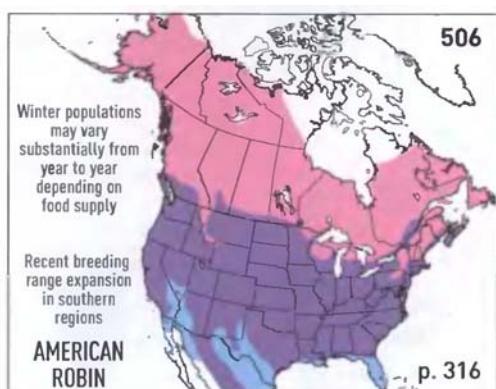
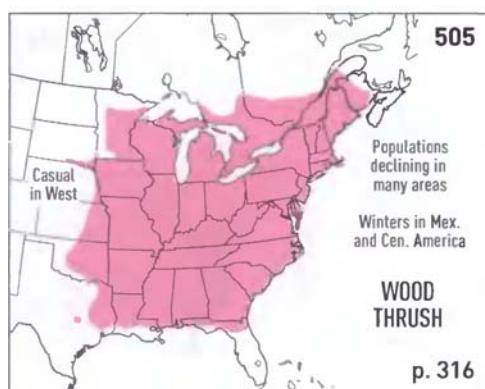


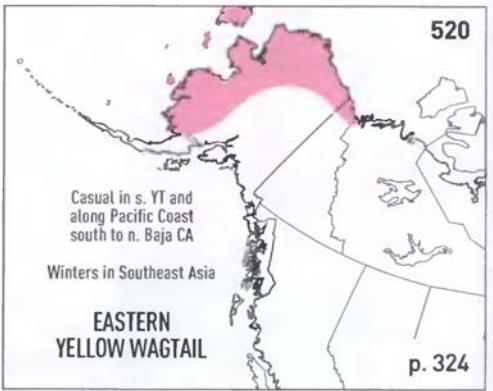
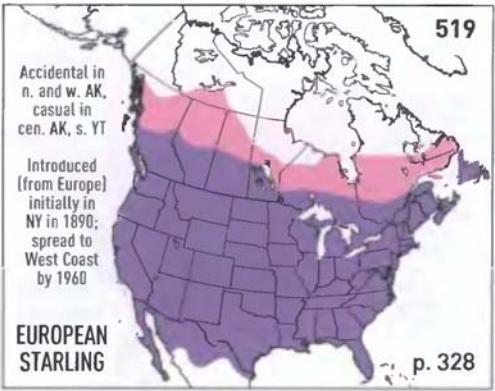
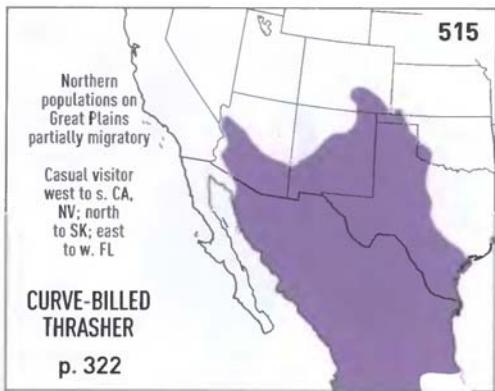
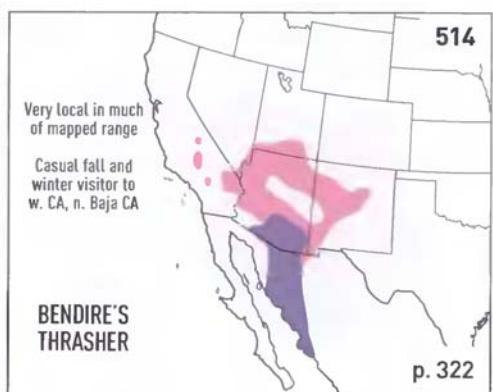


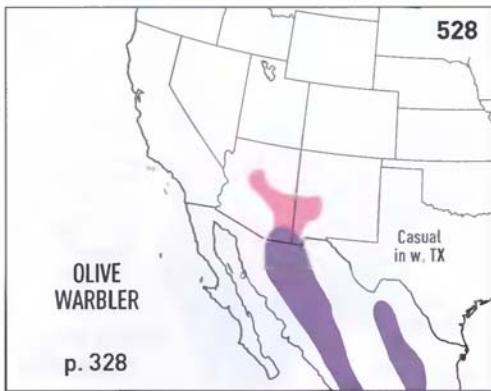
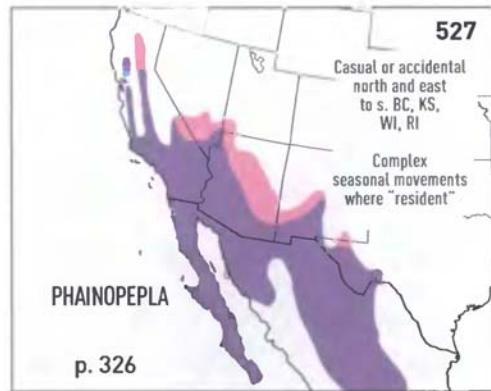
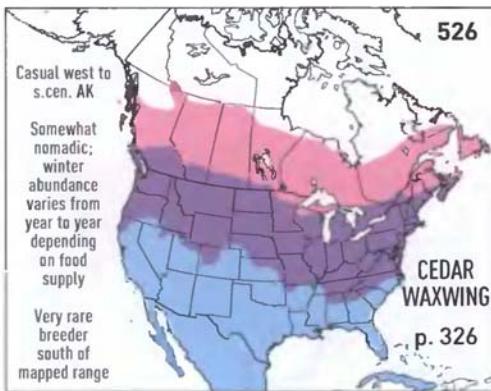
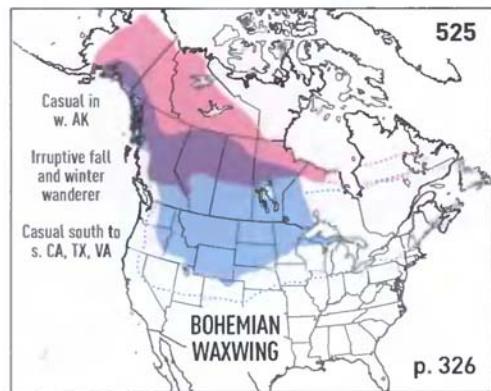
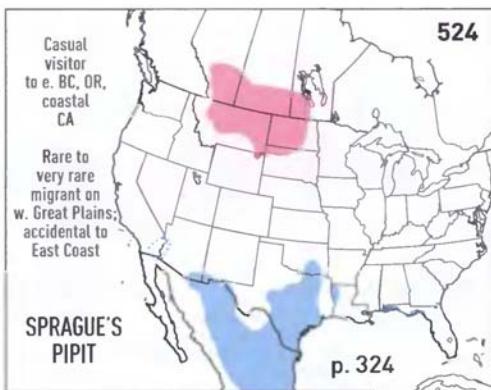
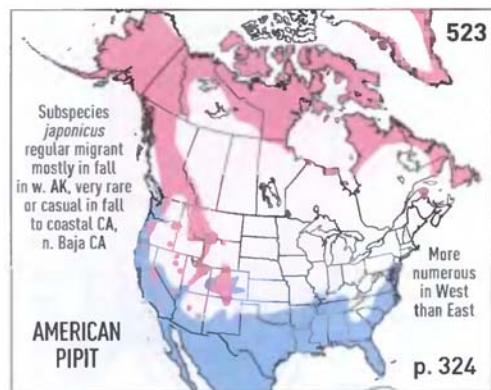
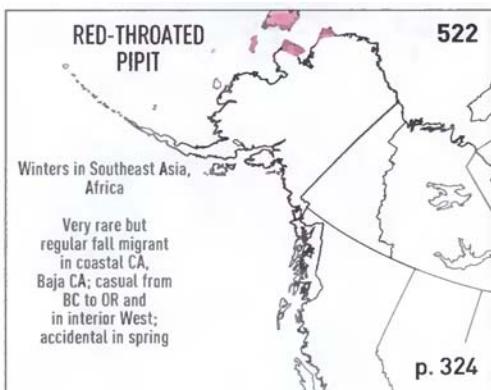
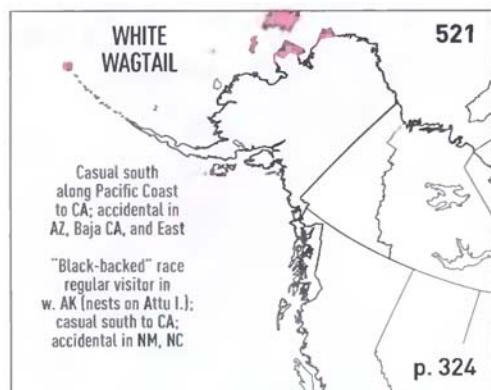


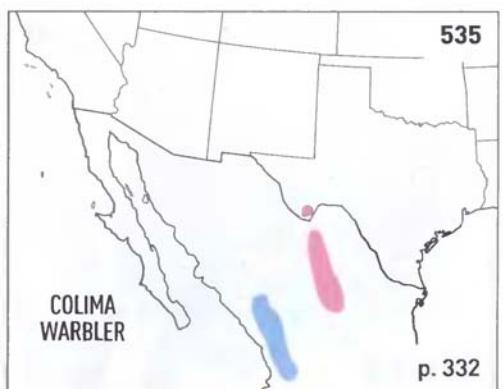
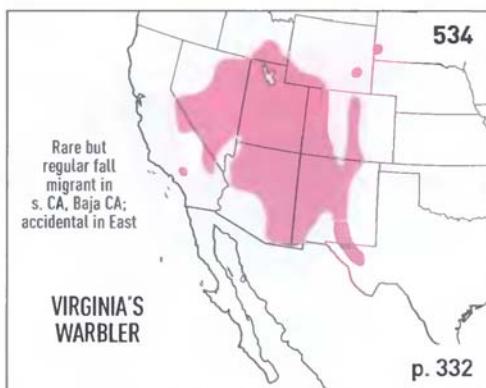
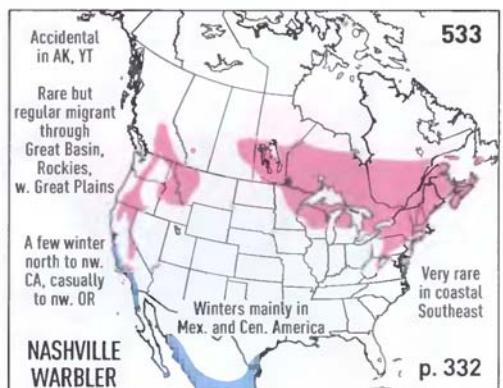
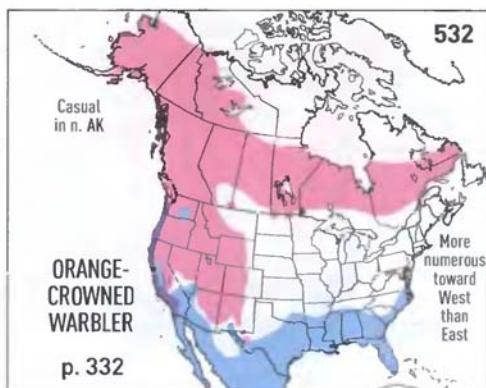
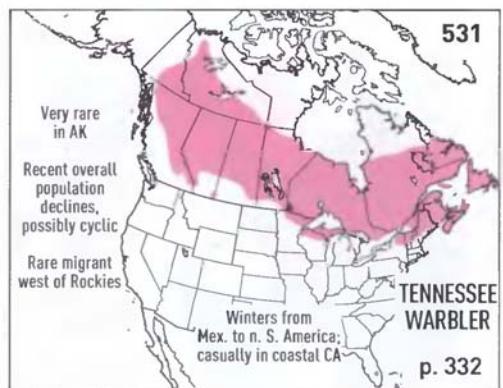
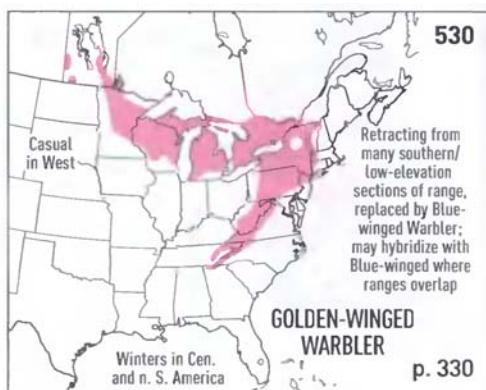
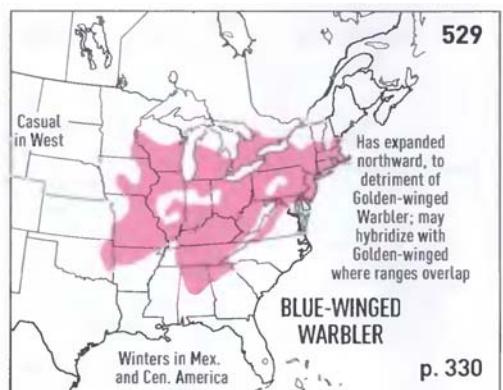


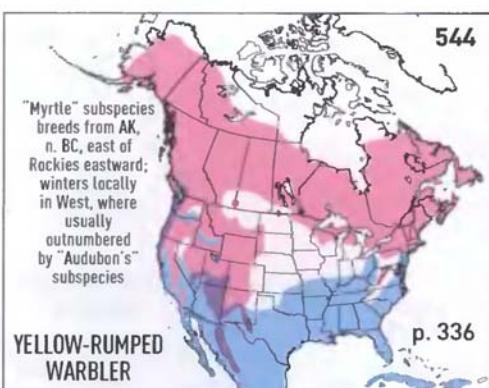
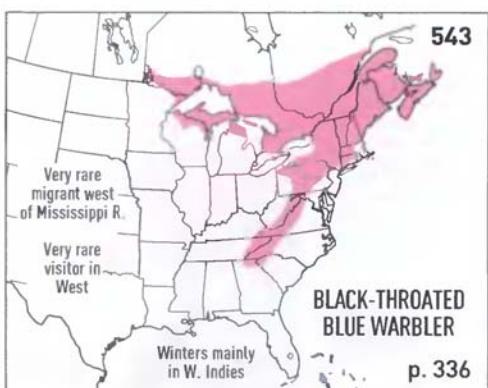
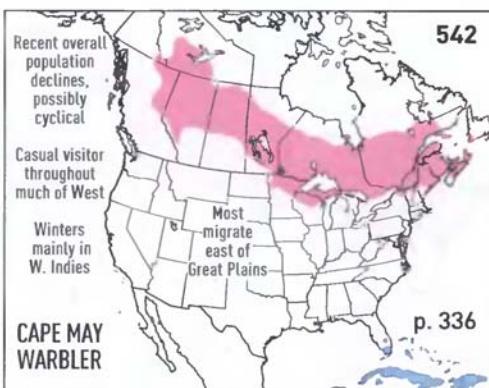
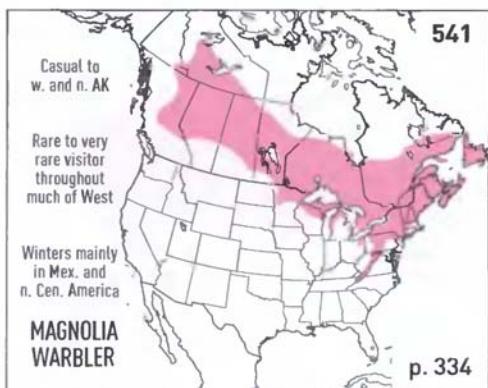
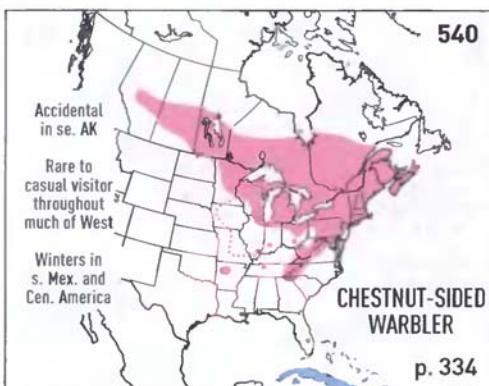
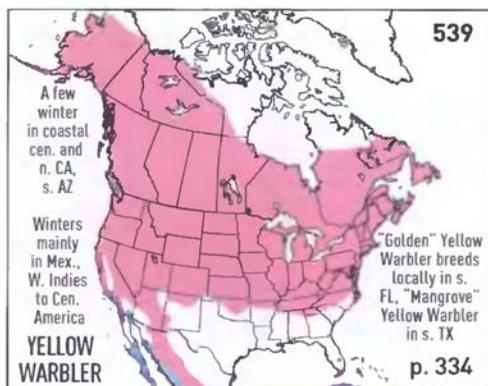
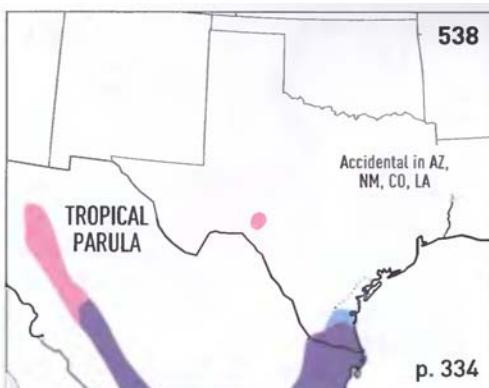
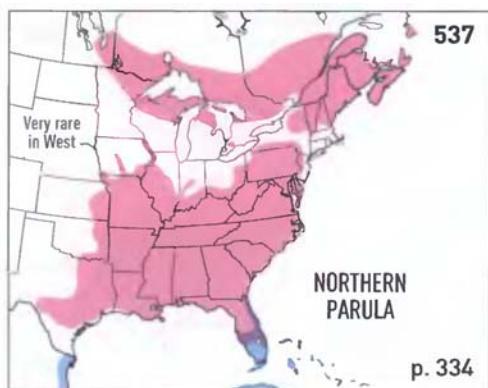


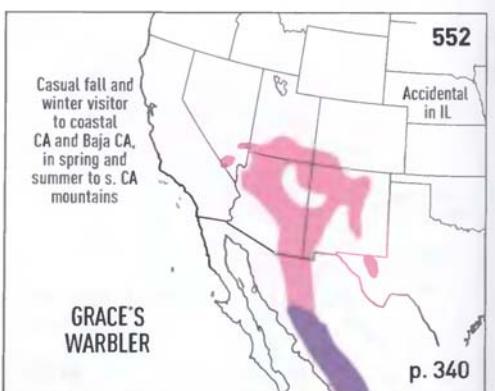
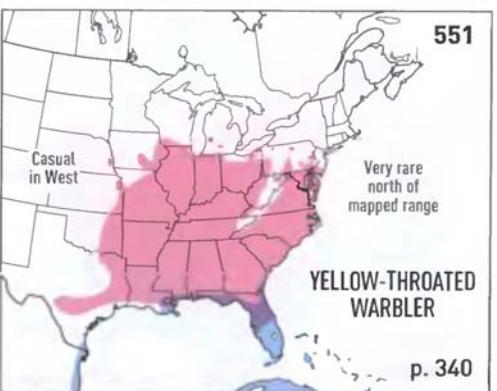
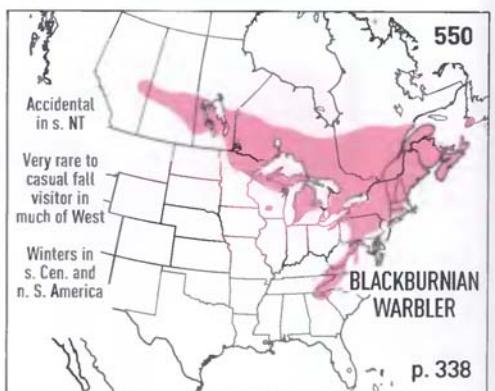
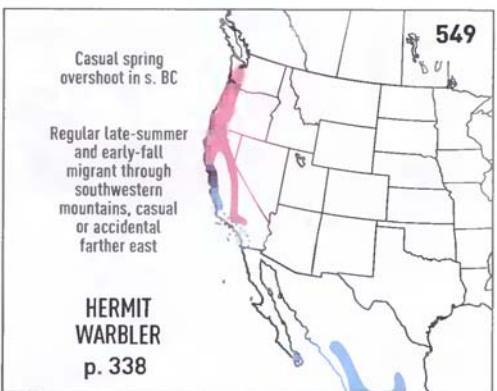
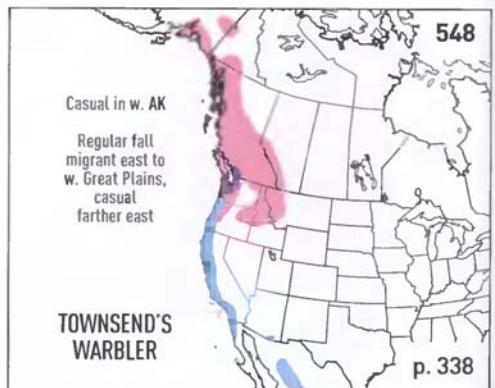
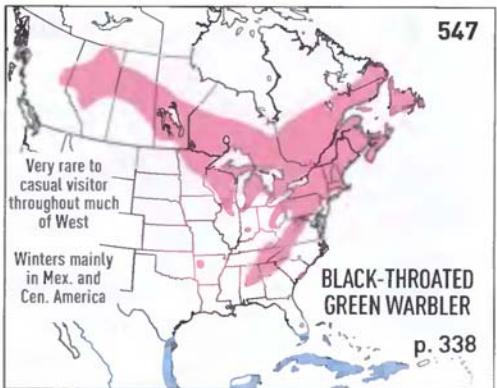
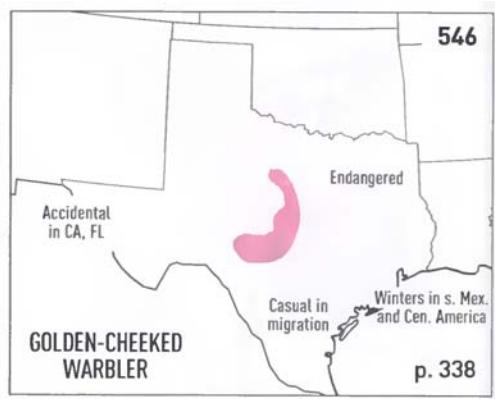
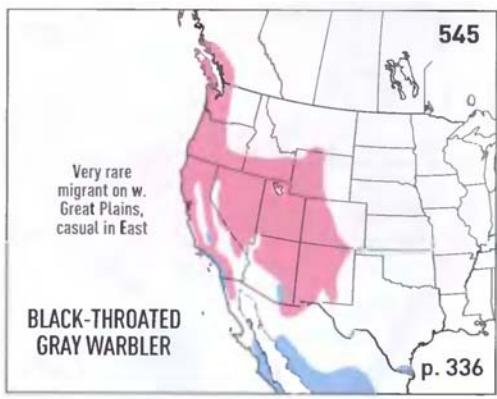


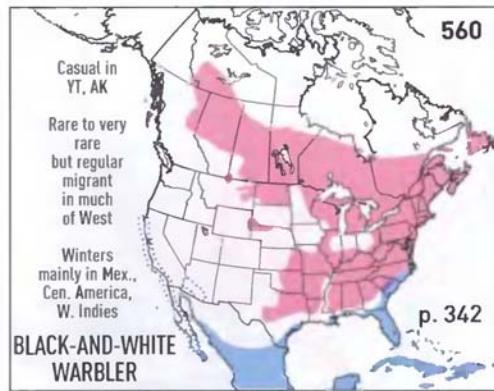
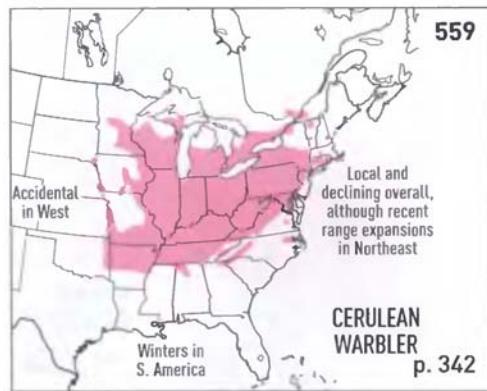
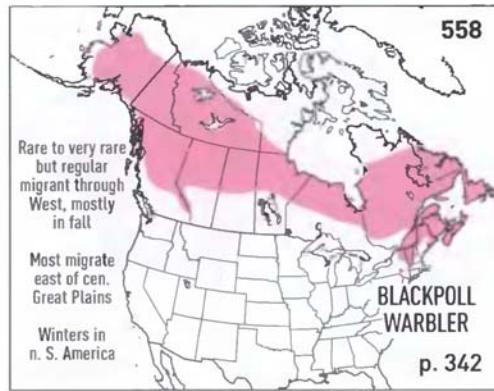
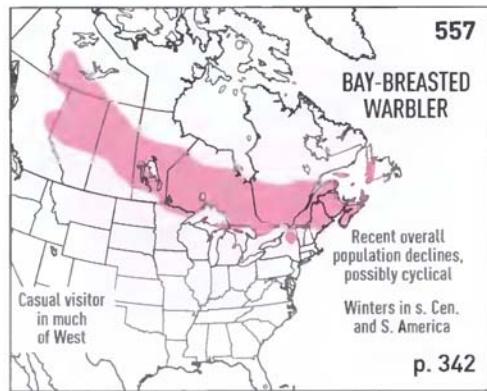
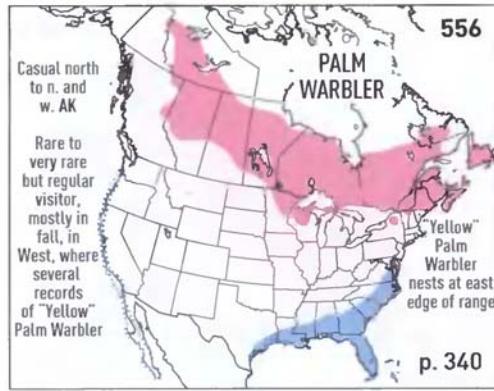
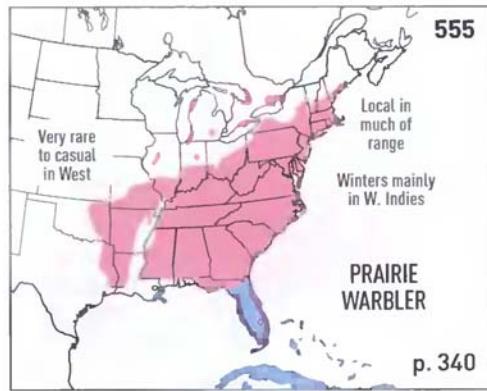
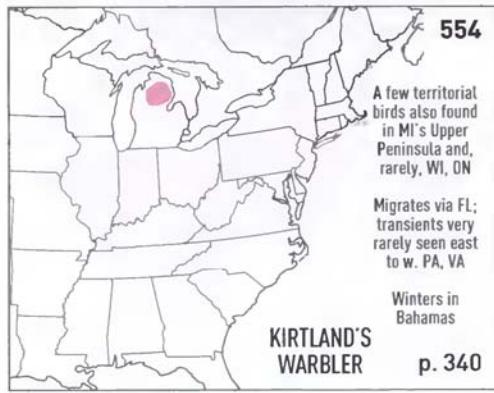
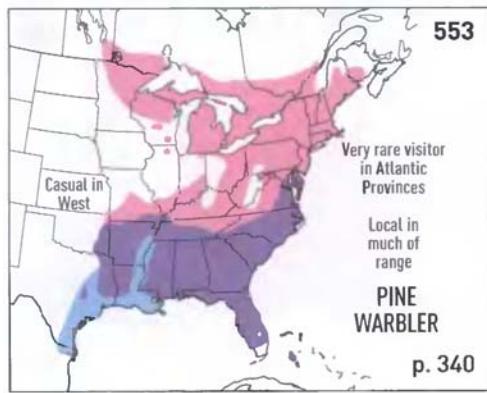


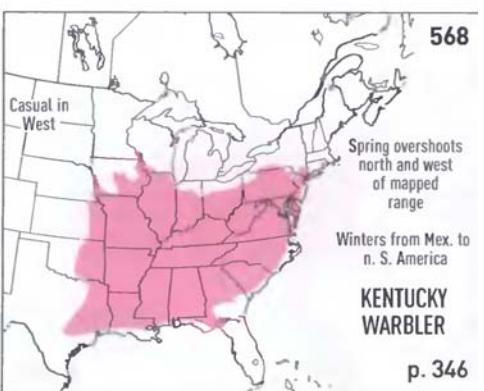
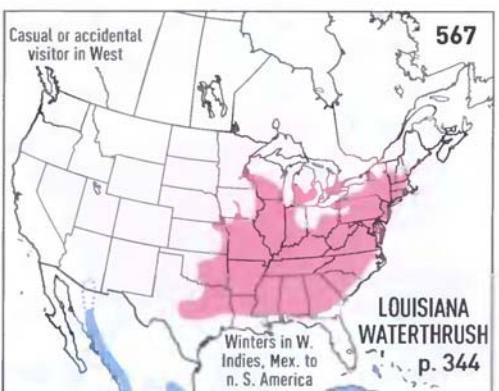
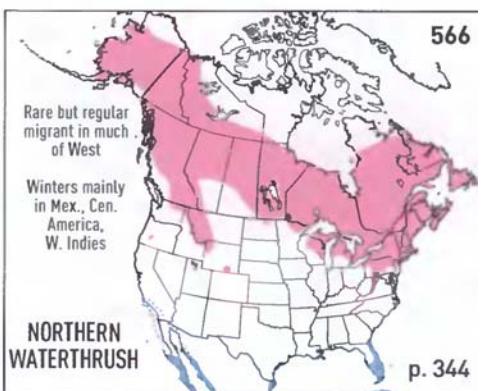
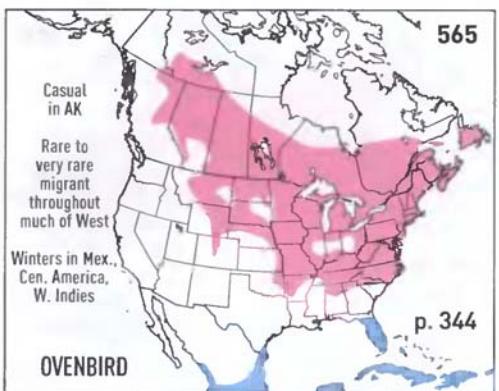
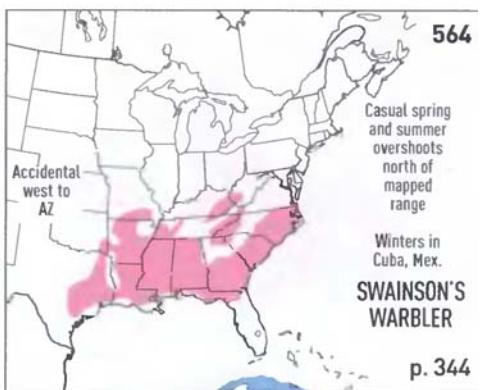
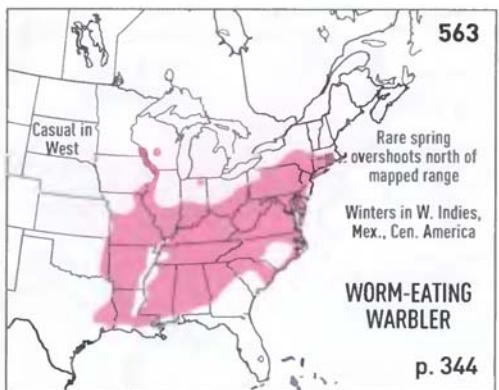
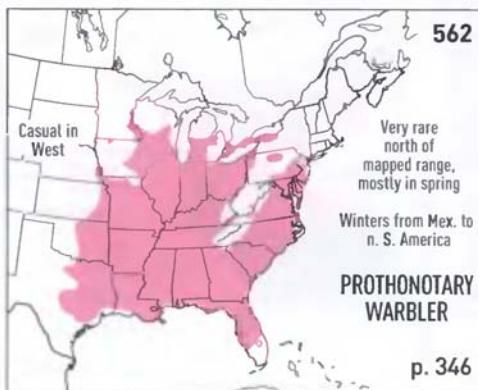
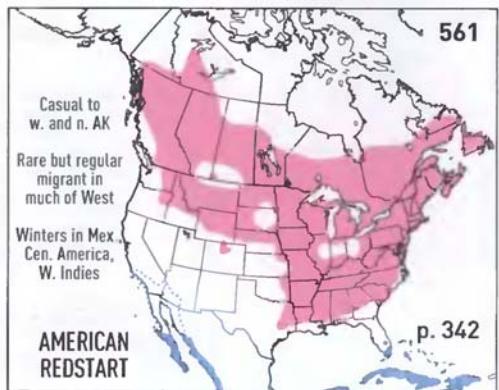


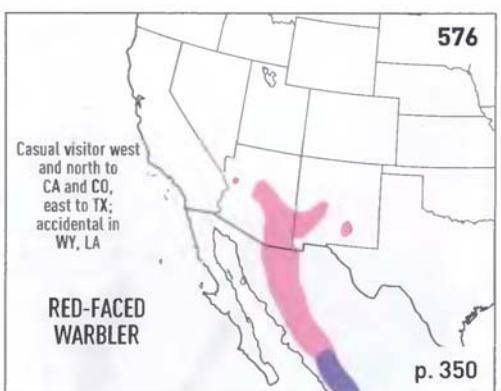
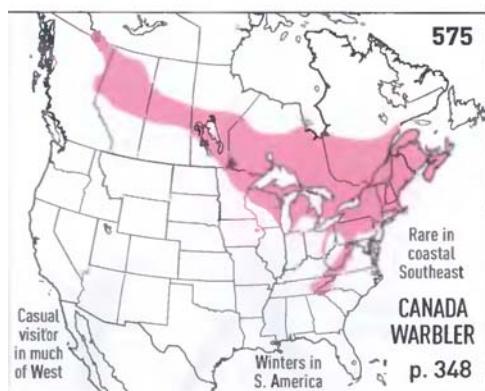
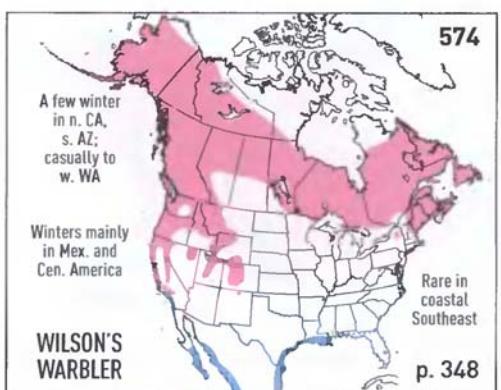
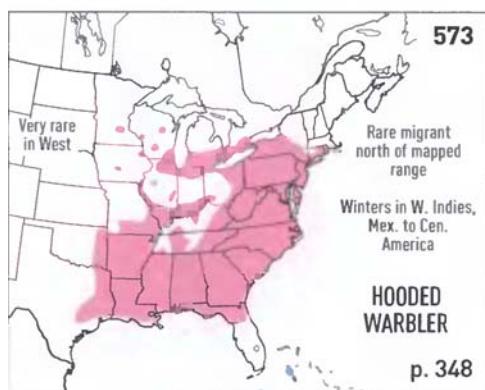
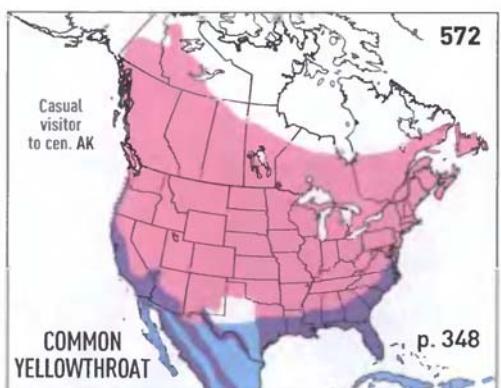
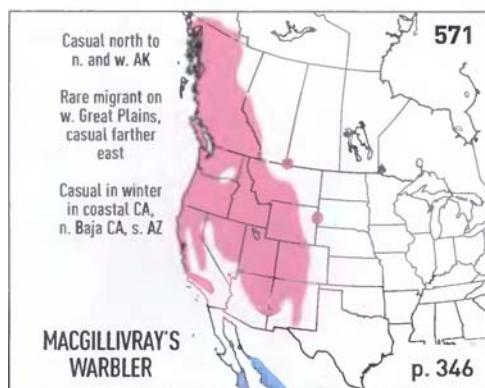
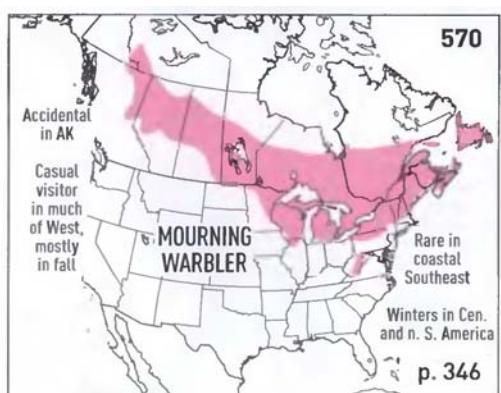
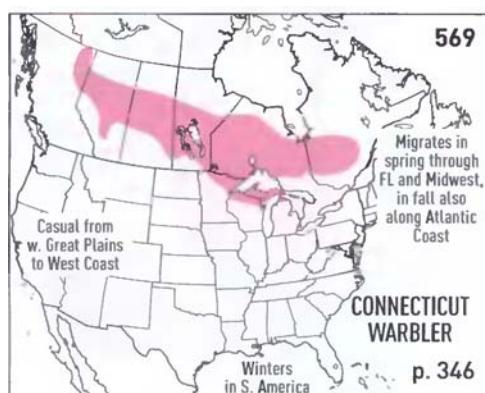


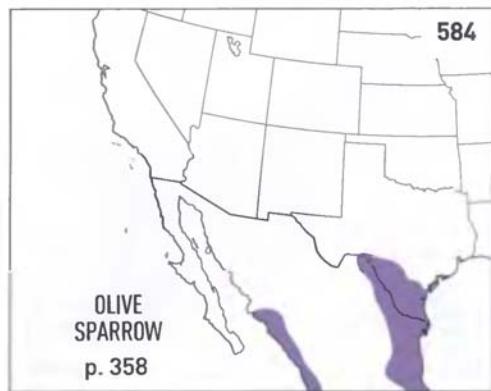
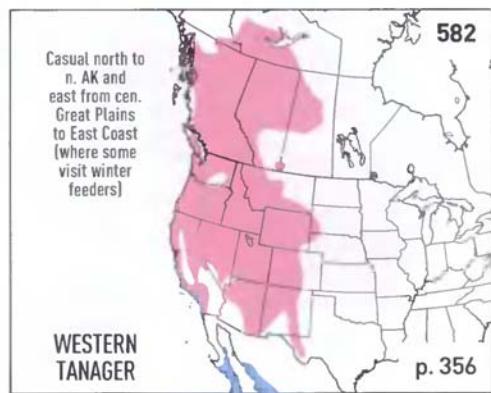
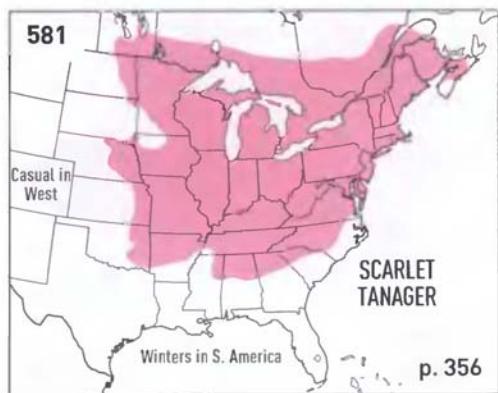
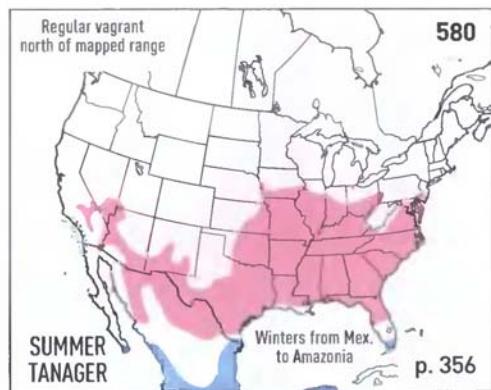
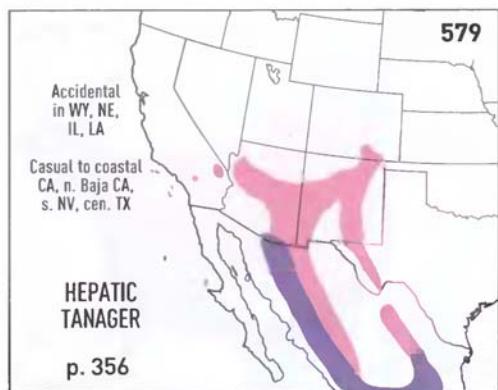
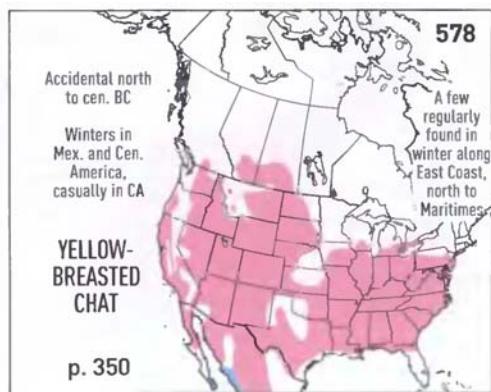
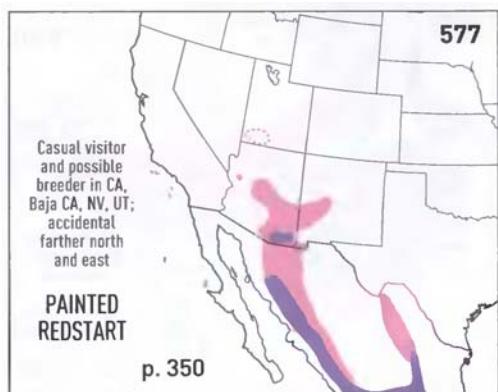


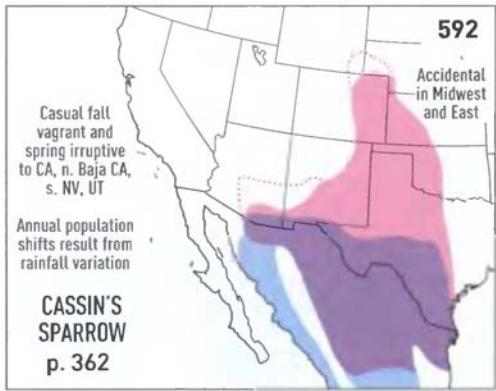
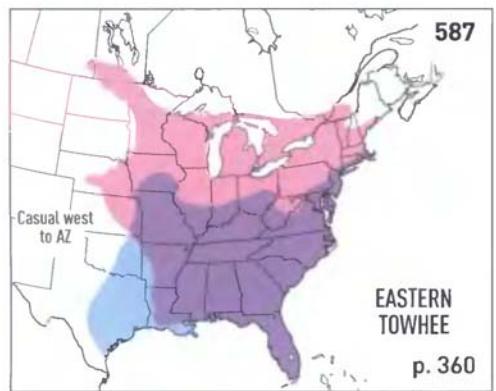
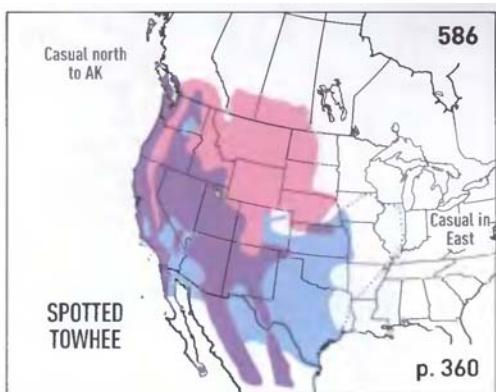


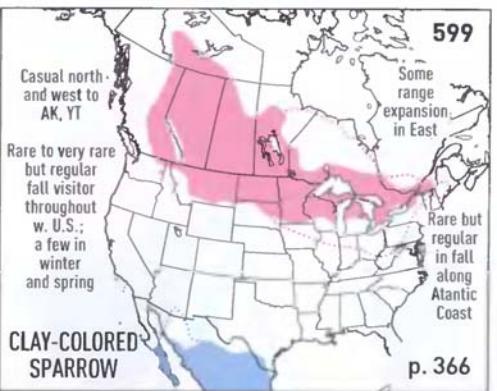
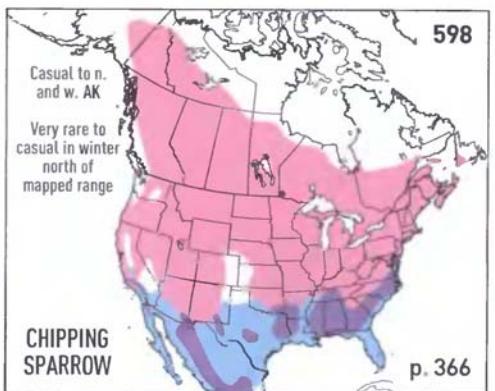
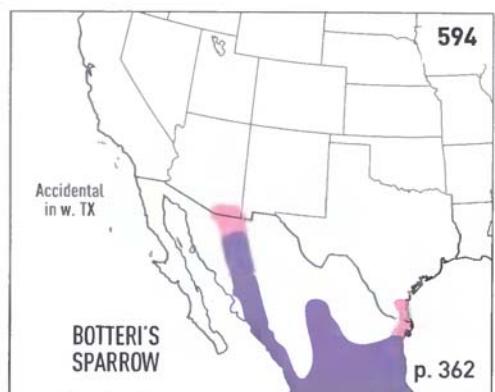
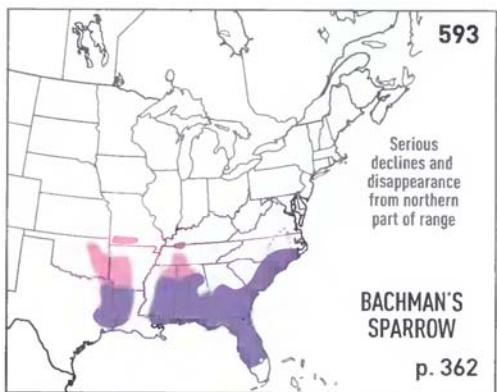


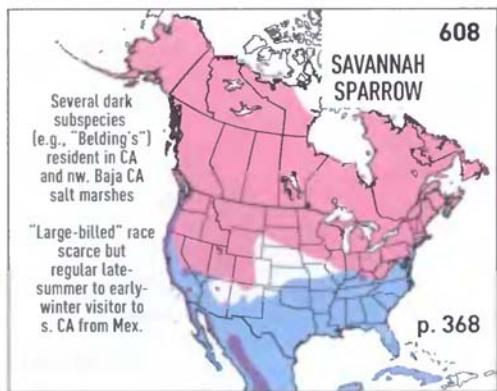
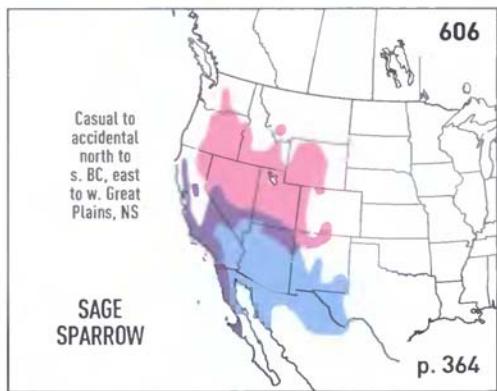
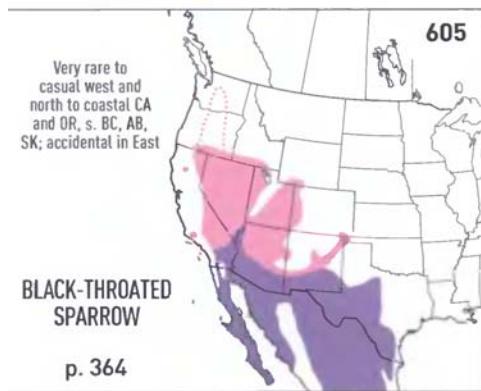
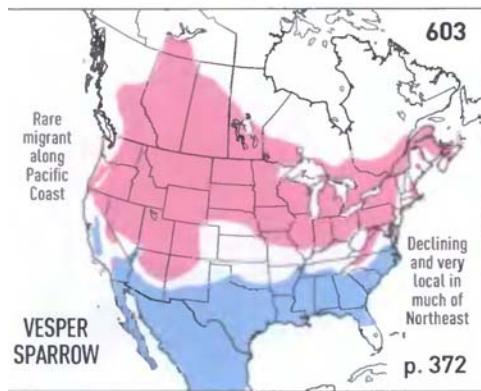
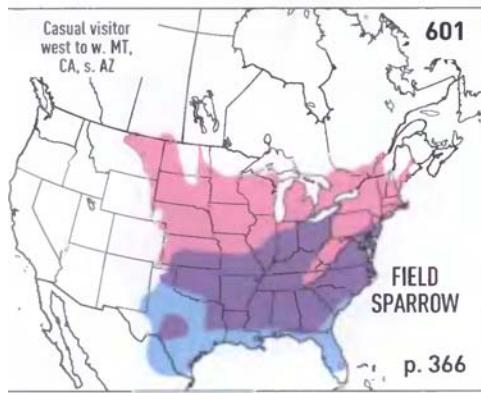


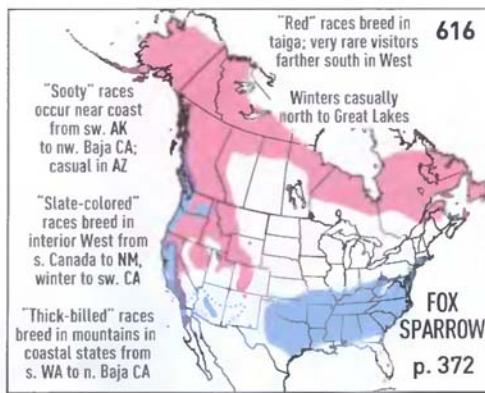
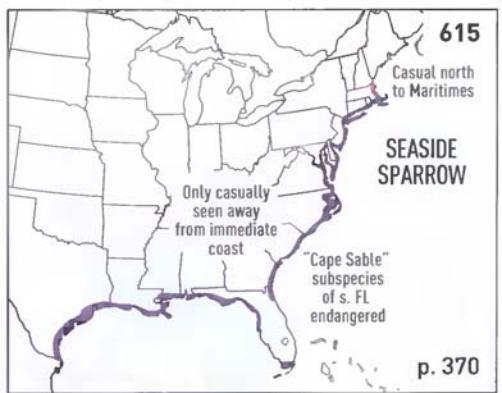
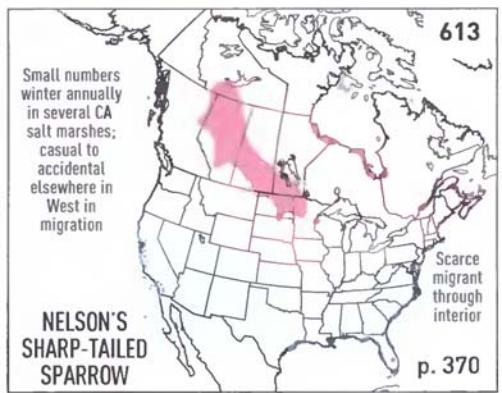
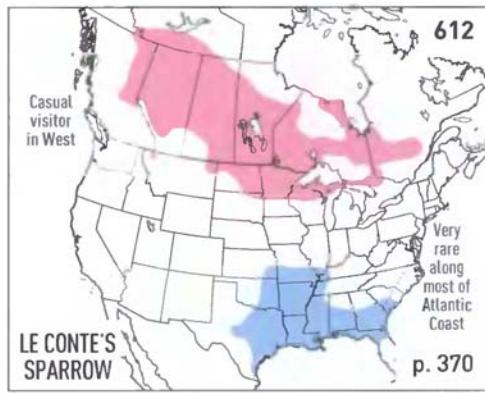
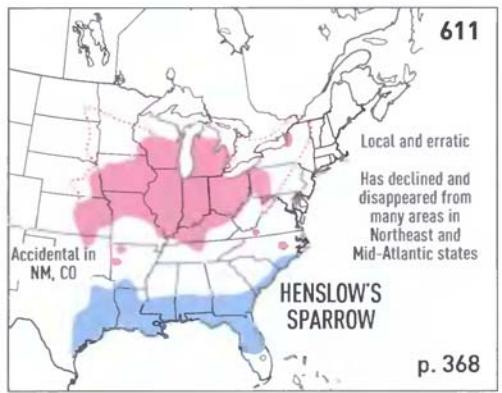
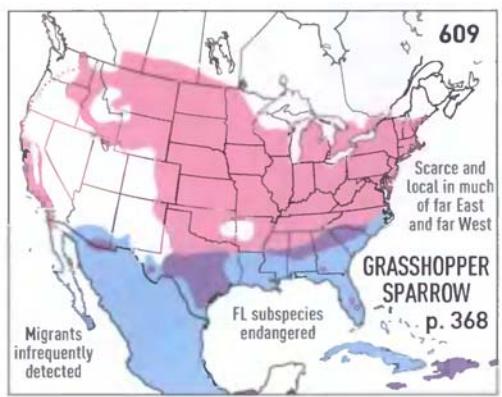


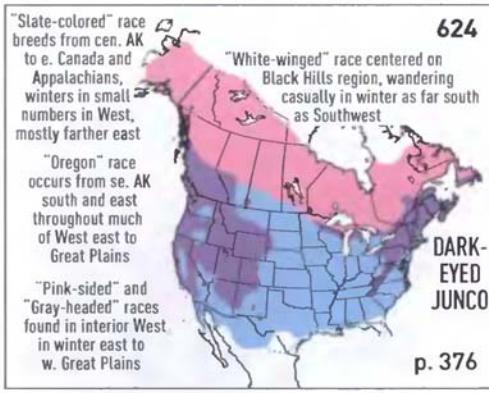
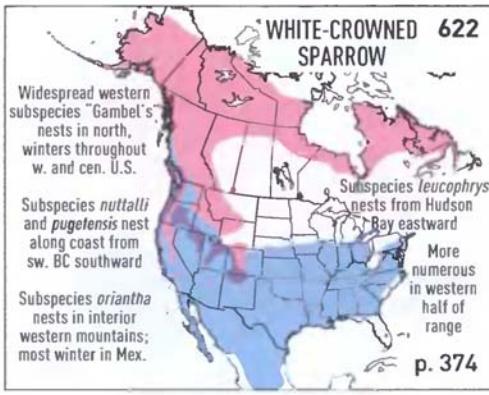
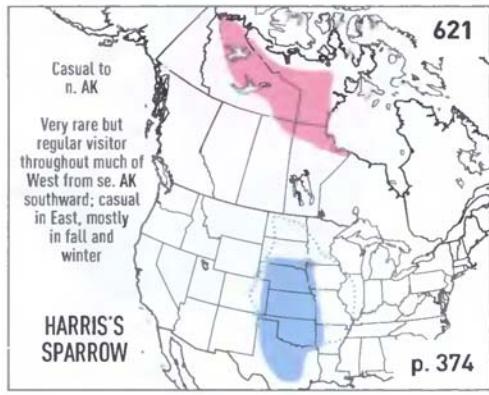
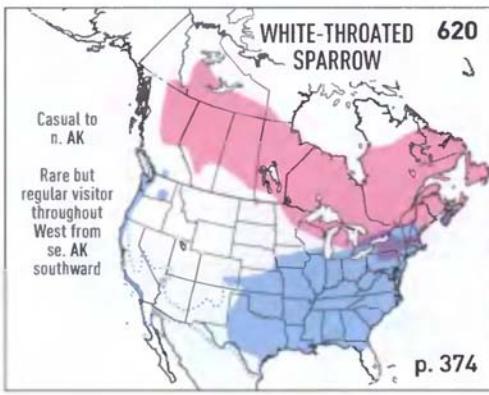
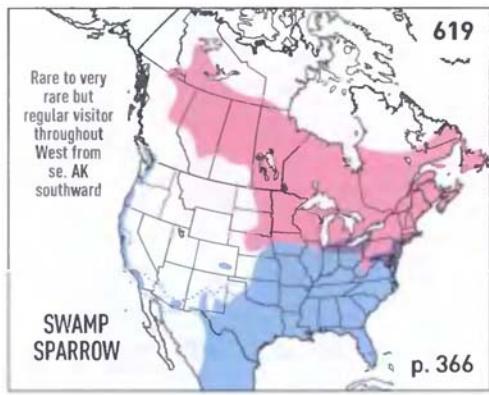
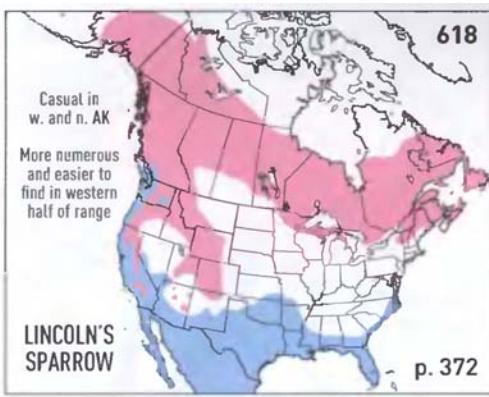
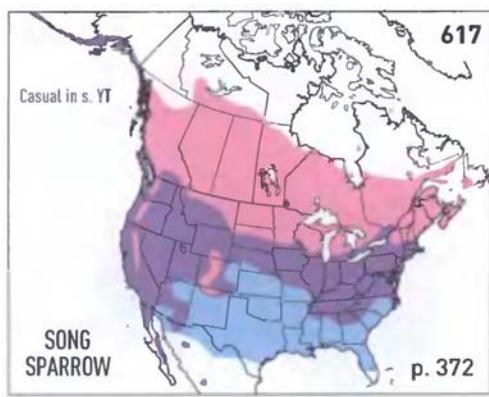


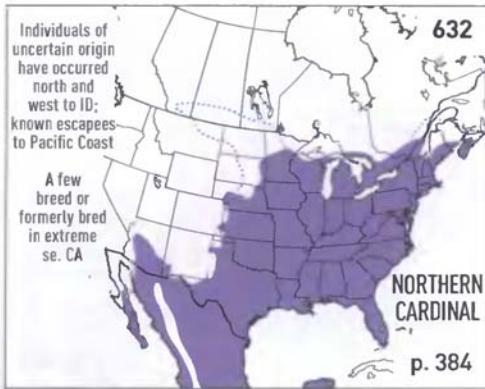
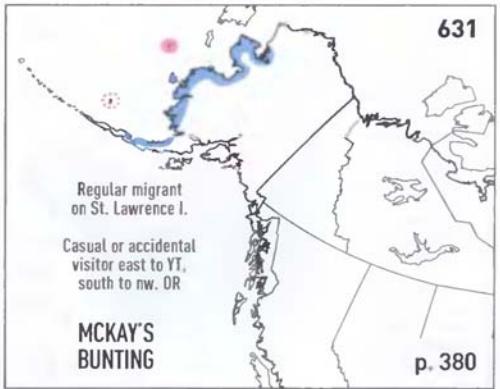
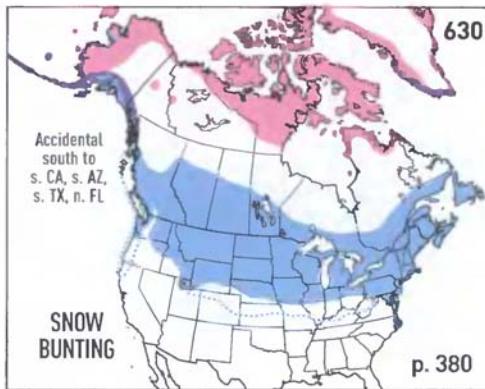
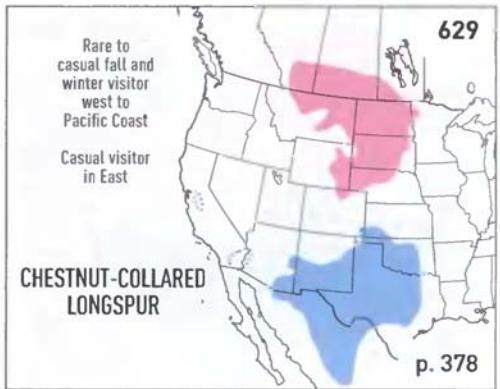
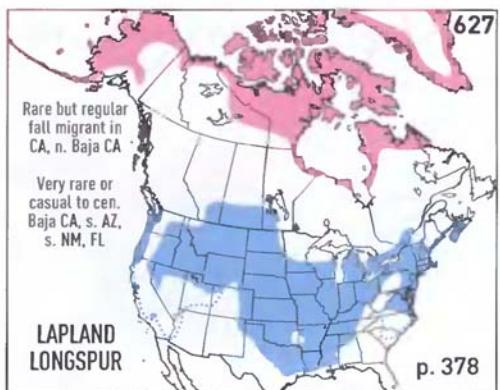
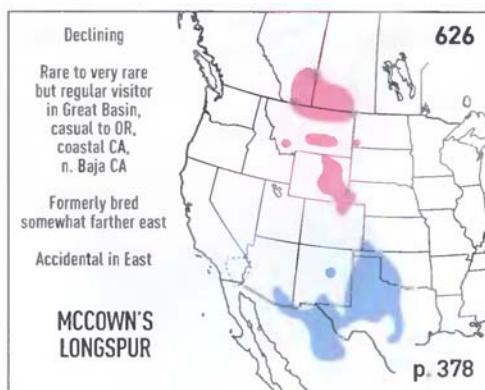
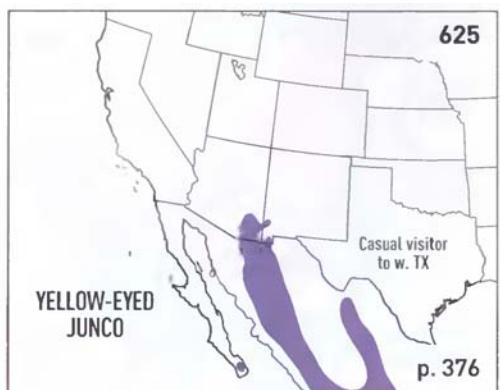


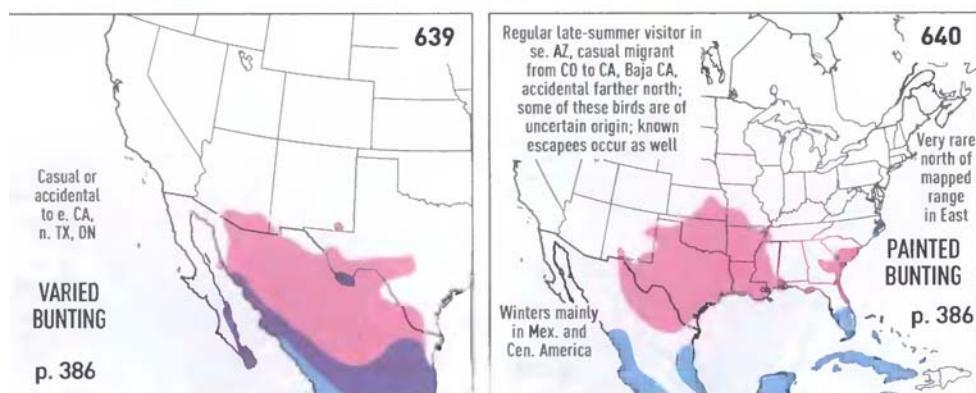
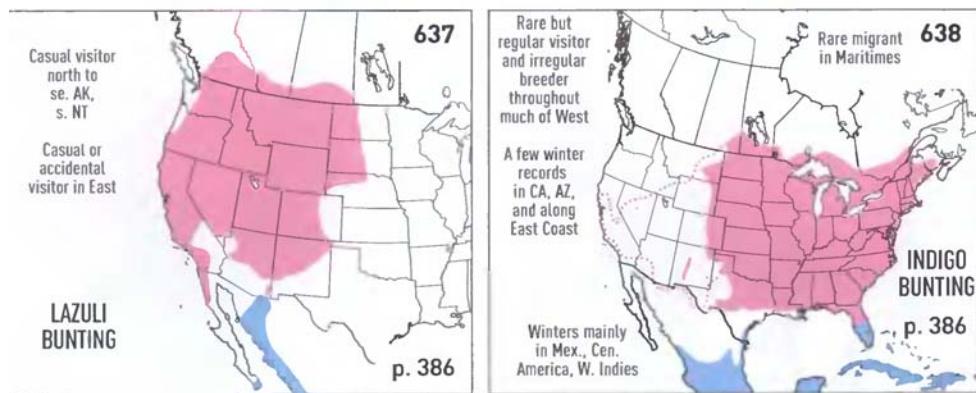
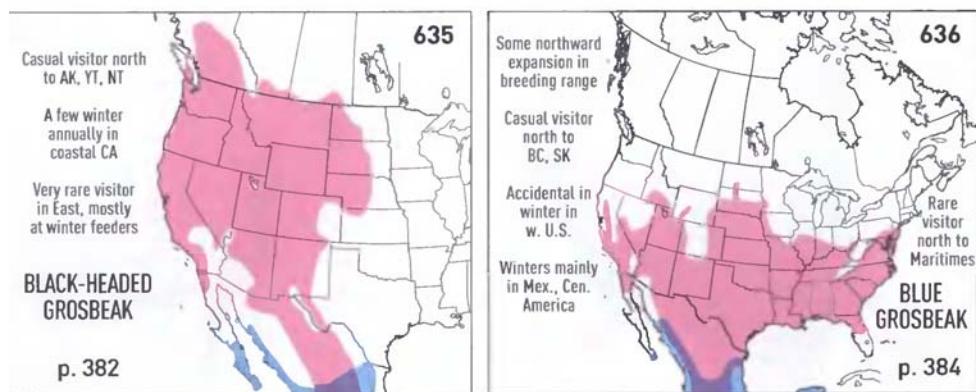
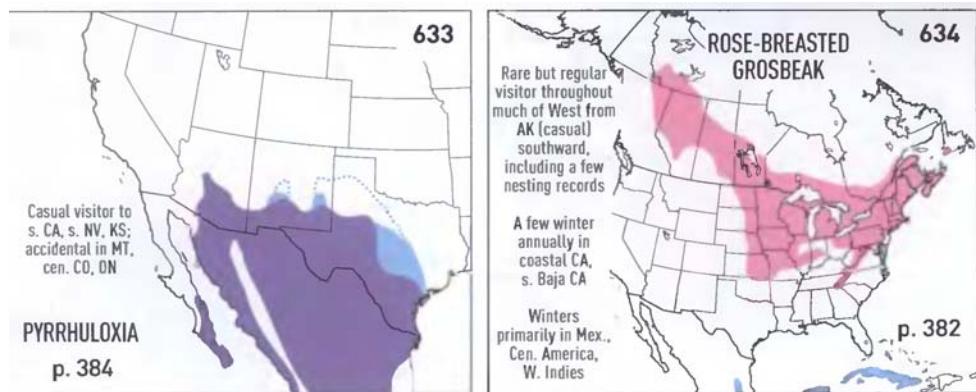


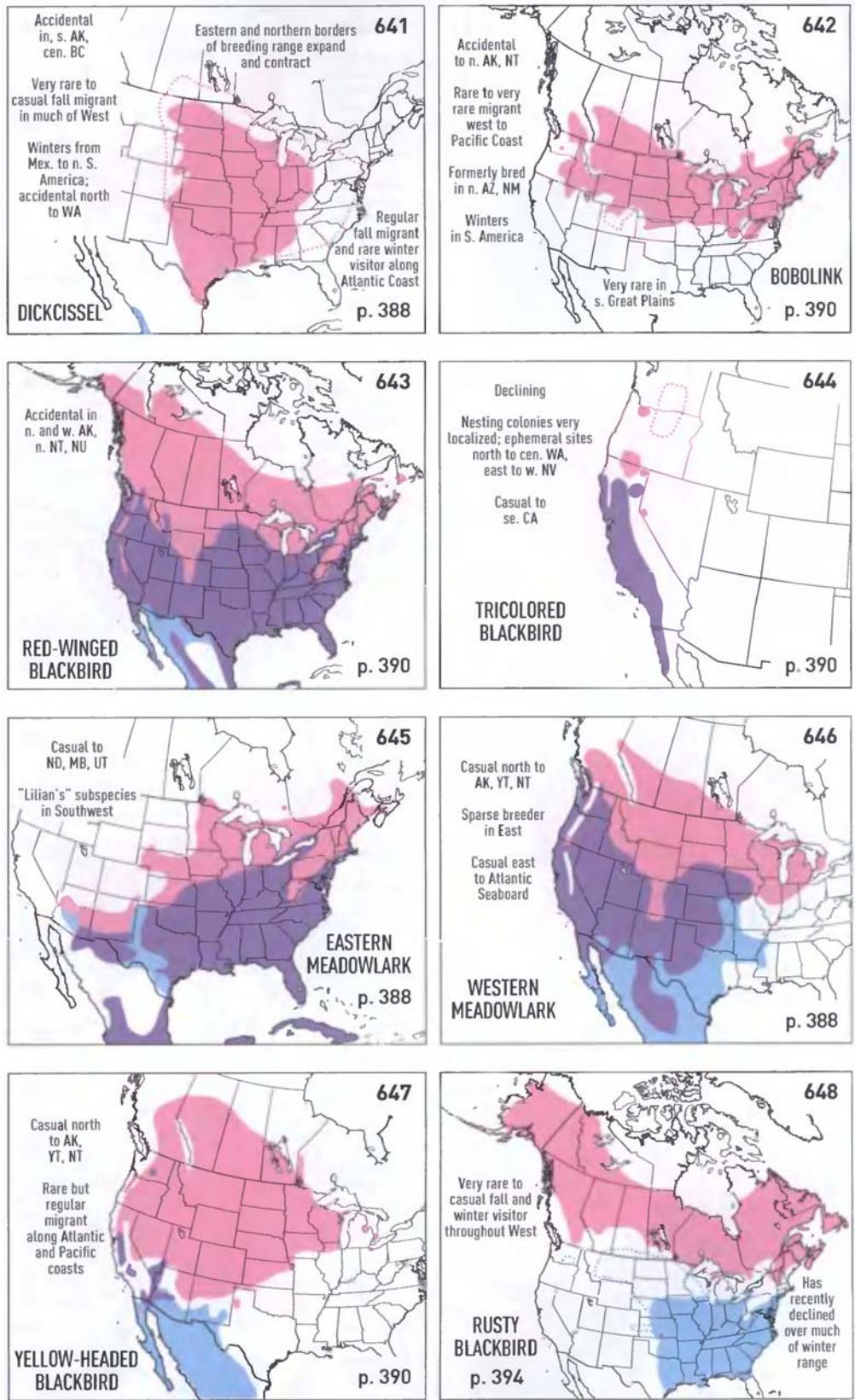


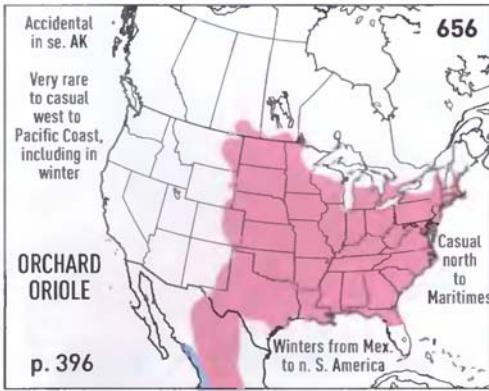
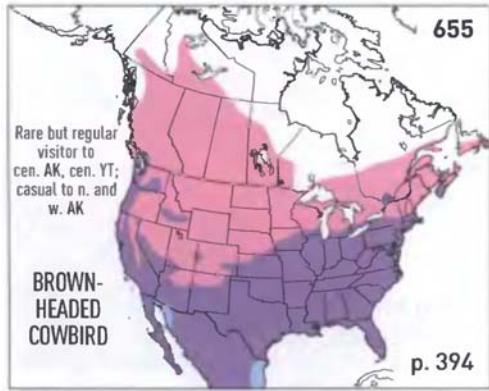
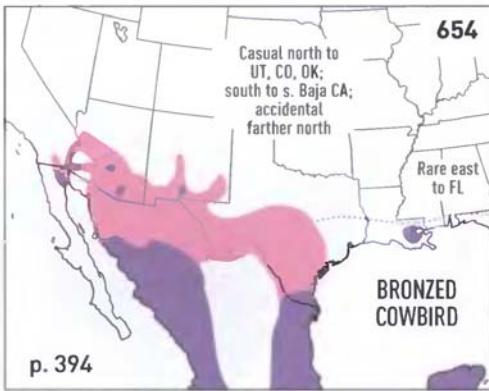
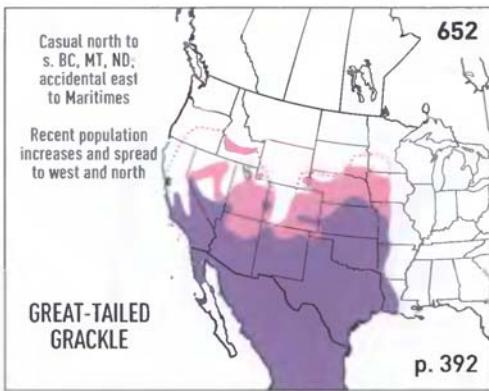
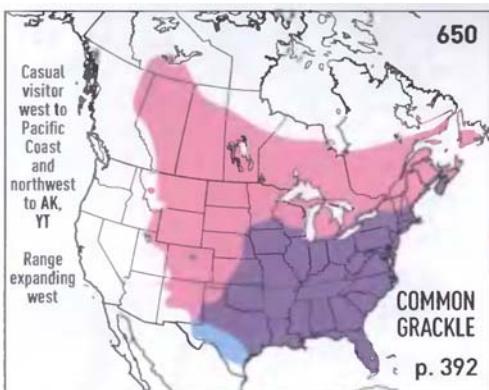
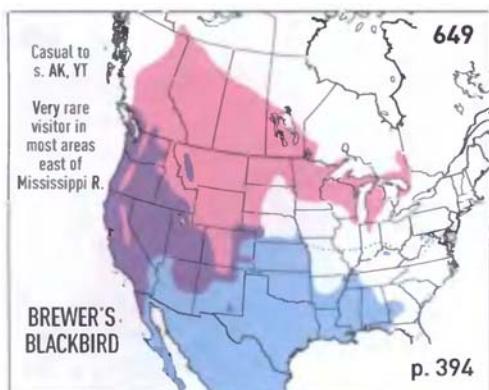


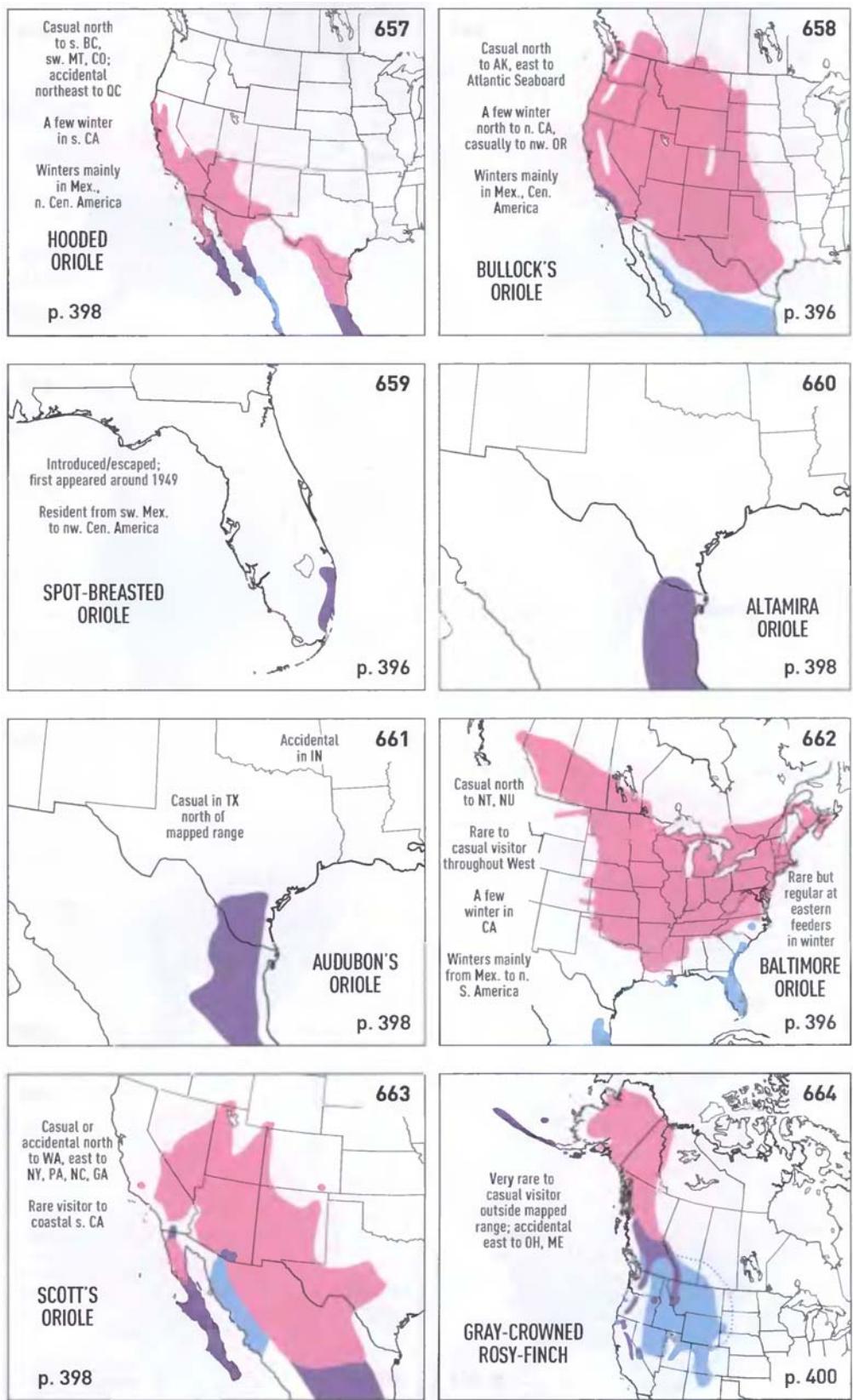


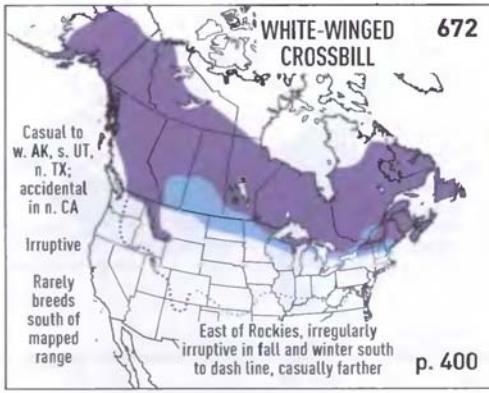
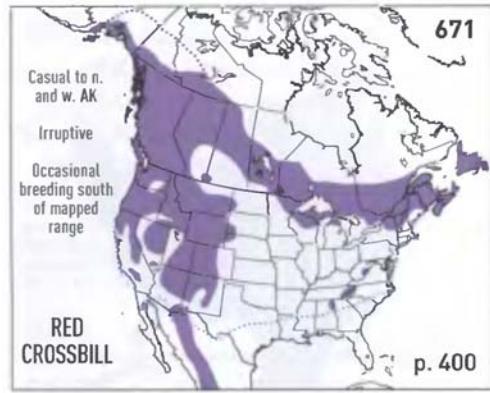
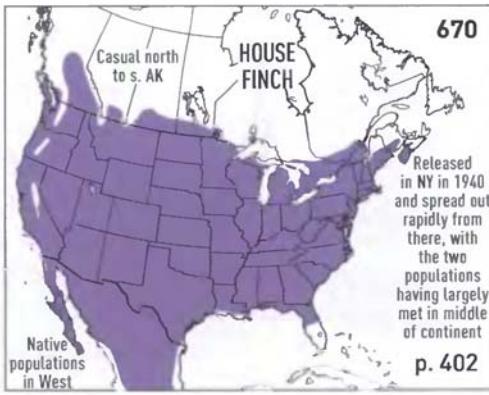
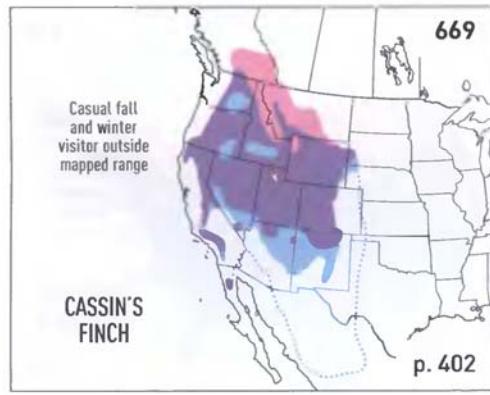
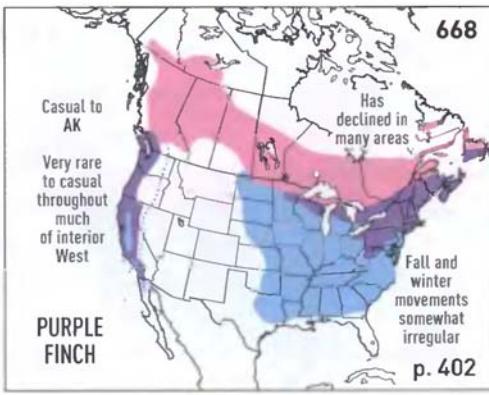
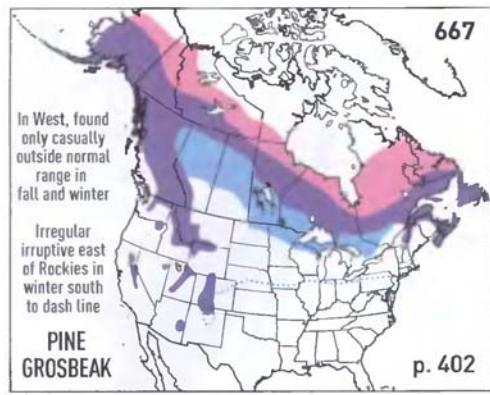
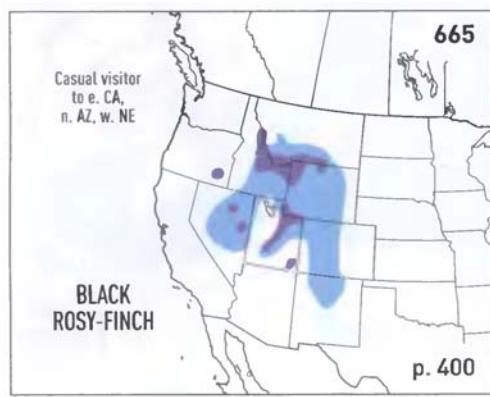


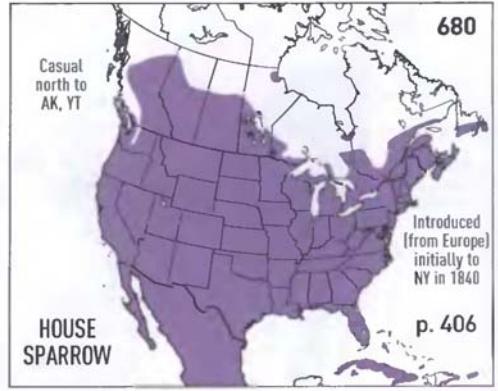
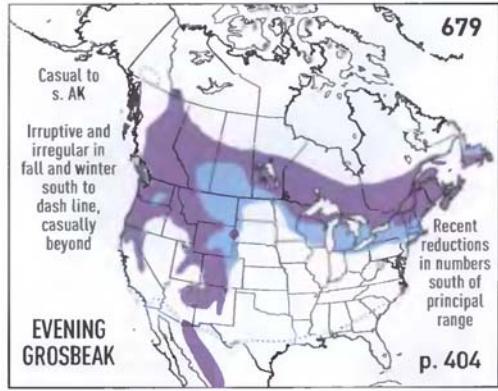
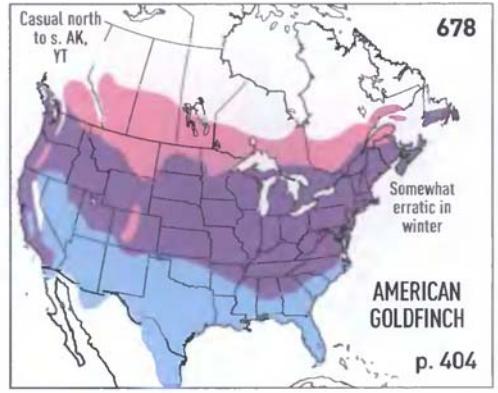
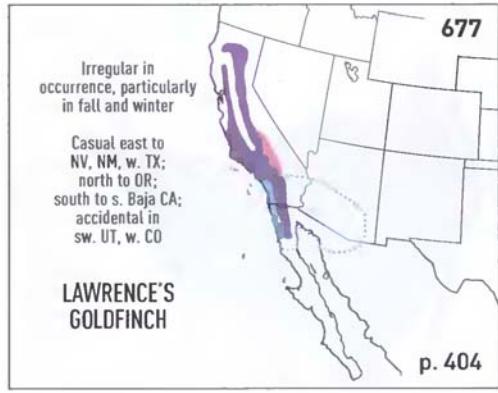
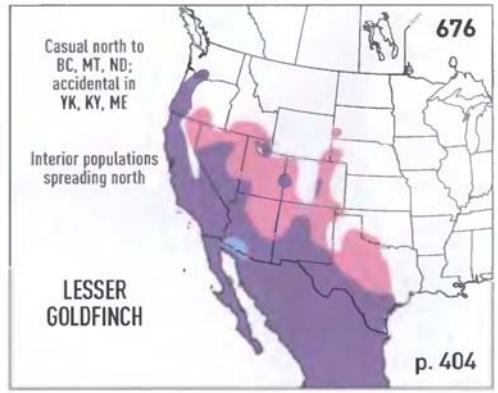
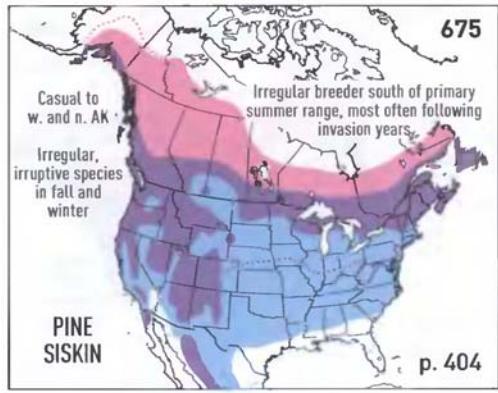
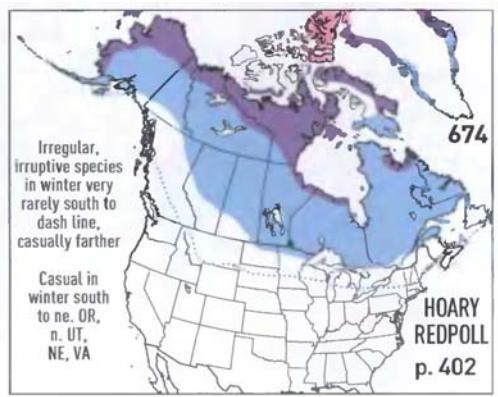
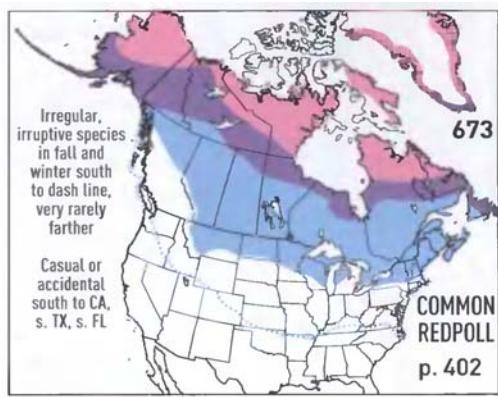














Keep a Life List. Check off the birds you have seen.

The list on the following pages includes all of the birds shown on the plates, except for some of the accidentals that have not been verified.

For a checklist of all the birds of North America, see the *ABA Checklist: Birds of the Continental United States and Canada*, compiled by the Checklist Committee of the American Birding Association, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934. It lists every species that has occurred north of the Mexican border.

In the following list, birds are grouped first under orders (identified by the Latin ending *-formes*), followed by families (*-dae* ending), and then species. Sequencing of orders and families follows the American Ornithologists' Union's Check-list of North American Birds (1998 through the 48th supplement, from 2007), as do the scientific names for genus and species. Scientific names are not given below but can be found in the species accounts throughout the book. The vernacular names given here are the ones decided upon by the ABA Checklist Committee. They are essentially the same as those adopted by the AOU.

Species marked with an asterisk are exotic and unestablished. Though not countable on official ABA lists, they are included here because birders may encounter them and wish to record their sightings.

ORDER ANSERIFORMES

Ducks, Geese, and Swans [Anatidae]

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
Fulvous Whistling-Duck
Bean Goose
Pink-footed Goose
Greater White-fronted Goose
Lesser White-fronted Goose

Emperor Goose
Snow Goose
Ross's Goose
Brant
Barnacle Goose
Cackling Goose
Canada Goose

Mute Swan
Trumpeter Swan
Tundra Swan
Whooper Swan
Muscovy Duck
Wood Duck
Gadwall
Falcated Duck
Eurasian Wigeon
American Wigeon
American Black Duck
Mallard
Mottled Duck
Spot-billed Duck
Blue-winged Teal
Cinnamon Teal
Northern Shoveler
White-cheeked Pintail
Northern Pintail
Garganey
Baikal Teal
Green-winged Teal
Canvasback
Redhead
Common Pochard
Ring-necked Duck
Tufted Duck
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
Steller's Eider
Spectacled Eider
King Eider
Common Eider
Harlequin Duck
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Black Scoter
Long-tailed Duck
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye
Barrow's Goldeneye
Smew
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Masked Duck
Ruddy Duck

ORDER GALLIFORMES

Curassows and Guans [Cracidae]

Plain Chachalaca

Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys, and Old World Quail [Phasianidae]

Chukar

Himalayan Snowcock

Gray Partridge

Ring-necked Pheasant

Ruffed Grouse

Greater Sage-Grouse

Gunnison Sage-Grouse

Spruce Grouse

Willow Ptarmigan

Rock Ptarmigan

White-tailed Ptarmigan

Dusky Grouse

Sooty Grouse

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Greater Prairie-Chicken

Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Wild Turkey

New World Quail [Odontophoridae]

Mountain Quail

Scaled Quail

California Quail

Gambel's Quail

Northern Bobwhite

Montezuma Quail

ORDER GAVIIFORMES

Loons [Gaviidae]

Red-throated Loon

Arctic Loon

Pacific Loon

Common Loon

Yellow-billed Loon

ORDER PODICIPEDIFORMES

Grebes [Podicipedidae]

Least Grebe

Pied-billed Grebe

Horned Grebe

Red-necked Grebe

Eared Grebe

Western Grebe

Clark's Grebe

ORDER PROCELLARIIFORMES

Albatrosses [Diomedeidae]

- _____ Yellow-nosed Albatross
- _____ Shy Albatross
- _____ Black-browed Albatross
- _____ Wandering Albatross
- _____ Laysan Albatross
- _____ Black-footed Albatross
- _____ Short-tailed Albatross

Shearwaters and Petrels [Procellariidae]

- _____ Northern Fulmar
 - _____ Great-winged Petrel
 - _____ Herald Petrel
 - _____ Murphy's Petrel
 - _____ Mottled Petrel
 - _____ Bermuda Petrel
 - _____ Black-capped Petrel
 - _____ Galápagos/Hawaiian ("Dark-rumped") Petrel
 - _____ Fea's/Zino's Petrel
 - _____ Cook's Petrel
 - _____ Stejneger's Petrel
 - _____ Bulwer's Petrel
 - _____ Streaked Shearwater
 - _____ Cory's Shearwater
 - _____ Cape Verde Shearwater
 - _____ Pink-footed Shearwater
 - _____ Flesh-footed Shearwater
 - _____ Greater Shearwater
 - _____ Wedge-tailed Shearwater
 - _____ Buller's Shearwater
 - _____ Sooty Shearwater
 - _____ Short-tailed Shearwater
 - _____ Manx Shearwater
 - _____ Black-vented Shearwater
 - _____ Audubon's Shearwater
 - _____ Little Shearwater
- Storm-Petrels [Hydrobatidae]**
- _____ Wilson's Storm-Petrel
 - _____ White-faced Storm-Petrel
 - _____ European Storm-Petrel
 - _____ Black-bellied Storm-Petrel
 - _____ Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel
 - _____ Leach's Storm-Petrel
 - _____ Ashy Storm-Petrel
 - _____ Band-rumped Storm-Petrel
 - _____ Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel

- _____ Black Storm-Petrel
- _____ Least Storm-Petrel

ORDER PELECANIFORMES

Tropicbirds [Phaethontidae]

- _____ White-tailed Tropicbird
- _____ Red-billed Tropicbird
- _____ Red-tailed Tropicbird

Boobies and Gannets [Sulidae]

- _____ Masked Booby
- _____ Blue-footed Booby
- _____ Brown Booby
- _____ Red-footed Booby
- _____ Northern Gannet

Pelicans [Pelecanidae]

- _____ American White Pelican
- _____ Brown Pelican

Cormorants [Phalacrocoracidae]

- _____ Brandt's Cormorant
- _____ Neotropic Cormorant
- _____ Double-crested Cormorant
- _____ Great Cormorant
- _____ Red-faced Cormorant
- _____ Pelagic Cormorant

Darters [Anhingidae]

- _____ Anhinga

Frigatebirds [Fregatidae]

- _____ Magnificent Frigatebird
- _____ Great Frigatebird
- _____ Lesser Frigatebird

ORDER CICONIIFORMES

Bitterns, Herons, and Allies [Ardeidae]

- _____ American Bittern
- _____ Yellow Bittern
- _____ Least Bittern
- _____ Great Blue Heron
- _____ Great Egret
- _____ Chinese Egret
- _____ Little Egret
- _____ Western Reef-Heron
- _____ Snowy Egret
- _____ Little Blue Heron
- _____ Tricolored Heron
- _____ Reddish Egret
- _____ Cattle Egret
- _____ Chinese Pond-Heron

- | | |
|--|--|
| ____ Green Heron | ____ White-tailed Hawk |
| ____ Black-crowned Night-Heron | ____ Zone-tailed Hawk |
| ____ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | ____ Red-tailed Hawk |
| Ibises and Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae) | ____ Ferruginous Hawk |
| ____ White Ibis | ____ Rough-legged Hawk |
| ____ Scarlet Ibis | ____ Golden Eagle |
| ____ Glossy Ibis | Caracaras and Falcons (Falconidae) |
| ____ White-faced Ibis | ____ Collared Forest-Falcon |
| ____ Roseate Spoonbill | ____ Crested Caracara |
| Storks (Ciconiidae) | ____ Eurasian Kestrel |
| ____ Jabiru | ____ American Kestrel |
| ____ Wood Stork | ____ Merlin |
| New World Vultures (Cathartidae) | ____ Eurasian Hobby |
| ____ Black Vulture | ____ Aplomado Falcon |
| ____ Turkey Vulture | ____ Gyrfalcon |
| ____ California Condor | ____ Peregrine Falcon |
| ORDER | ____ Prairie Falcon |
| PHOENICOPTERIFORMES | |
| Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae) | ORDER GRUIFORMES |
| ____ Greater Flamingo | Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (Rallidae) |
| ORDER FALCONIFORMES | ____ Yellow Rail |
| Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies (Accipitridae) | ____ Black Rail |
| ____ Osprey | ____ Corn Crake |
| ____ Hook-billed Kite | ____ Clapper Rail |
| ____ Swallow-tailed Kite | ____ King Rail |
| ____ White-tailed Kite | ____ Virginia Rail |
| ____ Snail Kite | ____ Sora |
| ____ Mississippi Kite | ____ Paint-billed Crake |
| ____ Bald Eagle | ____ Spotted Rail |
| ____ White-tailed Eagle | ____ Purple Gallinule |
| ____ Steller's Sea-Eagle | ____ Common Moorhen |
| ____ Northern Harrier | ____ Eurasian Coot |
| ____ Sharp-shinned Hawk | ____ American Coot |
| ____ Cooper's Hawk | Limpkins (Aramidae) |
| ____ Northern Goshawk | ____ Limpkin |
| ____ Crane Hawk | Cranes (Gruidae) |
| ____ Common Black-Hawk | ____ Sandhill Crane |
| ____ Harris's Hawk | ____ Common Crane |
| ____ Roadside Hawk | ____ Whooping Crane |
| ____ Red-shouldered Hawk | ORDER CHARADRIIFORMES |
| ____ Broad-winged Hawk | Thick-knees (Burhinidae) |
| ____ Gray Hawk | ____ Double-striped Thick-knee |
| ____ Short-tailed Hawk | Lapwings and Plovers (Charadriidae) |
| ____ Swainson's Hawk | ____ Northern Lapwing |
| | ____ Black-bellied Plover |

- _____ European Golden-Plover
- _____ American Golden-Plover
- _____ Pacific Golden-Plover
- _____ Lesser Sand-Plover
- _____ Greater Sand-Plover
- _____ Collared Plover
- _____ Snowy Plover
- _____ Wilson's Plover
- _____ Common Ringed Plover
- _____ Semipalmated Plover
- _____ Piping Plover
- _____ Little Ringed Plover
- _____ Killdeer
- _____ Mountain Plover
- _____ Eurasian Dotterel
- Oystercatchers [Haematopodidae]**
- _____ Eurasian Oystercatcher
- _____ American Oystercatcher
- _____ Black Oystercatcher
- Stilts and Avocets [Recurvirostridae]**
- _____ Black-winged Stilt
- _____ Black-necked Stilt
- _____ American Avocet
- Jacanas [Jacanidae]**
- _____ Northern Jacana
- Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies [Scolopacidae]**
- _____ Terek Sandpiper
- _____ Common Sandpiper
- _____ Spotted Sandpiper
- _____ Green Sandpiper
- _____ Solitary Sandpiper
- _____ Gray-tailed Tattler
- _____ Wandering Tattler
- _____ Spotted Redshank
- _____ Greater Yellowlegs
- _____ Common Greenshank
- _____ Willet
- _____ Lesser Yellowlegs
- _____ Marsh Sandpiper
- _____ Wood Sandpiper
- _____ Common Redshank
- _____ Upland Sandpiper
- _____ Little Curlew
- _____ Eskimo Curlew
- _____ Whimbrel
- _____ Bristle-thighed Curlew
- _____ Far Eastern Curlew
- _____ Slender-billed Curlew
- _____ Eurasian Curlew
- _____ Long-billed Curlew
- _____ Black-tailed Godwit
- _____ Hudsonian Godwit
- _____ Bar-tailed Godwit
- _____ Marbled Godwit
- _____ Ruddy Turnstone
- _____ Black Turnstone
- _____ Surfbird
- _____ Great Knot
- _____ Red Knot
- _____ Sanderling
- _____ Semipalmated Sandpiper
- _____ Western Sandpiper
- _____ Red-necked Stint
- _____ Little Stint
- _____ Temminck's Stint
- _____ Long-toed Stint
- _____ Least Sandpiper
- _____ White-rumped Sandpiper
- _____ Baird's Sandpiper
- _____ Pectoral Sandpiper
- _____ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
- _____ Purple Sandpiper
- _____ Rock Sandpiper
- _____ Dunlin
- _____ Curlew Sandpiper
- _____ Stilt Sandpiper
- _____ Spoon-billed Sandpiper
- _____ Broad-billed Sandpiper
- _____ Buff-breasted Sandpiper
- _____ Ruff
- _____ Short-billed Dowitcher
- _____ Long-billed Dowitcher
- _____ Jack Snipe
- _____ Wilson's Snipe
- _____ Common Snipe
- _____ Pin-tailed Snipe
- _____ Eurasian Woodcock
- _____ American Woodcock
- _____ Wilson's Phalarope
- _____ Red-necked Phalarope
- _____ Red Phalarope
- Pratincoles [Glareolidae]**
- _____ Oriental Pratincole

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers [Laridae]

- _____ Laughing Gull
- _____ Franklin's Gull
- _____ Little Gull
- _____ Black-headed Gull
- _____ Bonaparte's Gull
- _____ Heermann's Gull
- _____ Gray-hooded Gull
- _____ Belcher's Gull
- _____ Black-tailed Gull
- _____ Mew Gull
- _____ Ring-billed Gull
- _____ California Gull
- _____ Herring Gull
- _____ Yellow-legged Gull
- _____ Thayer's Gull
- _____ Iceland Gull
- _____ Lesser Black-backed Gull
- _____ Slaty-backed Gull
- _____ Yellow-footed Gull
- _____ Western Gull
- _____ Glaucous-winged Gull
- _____ Glaucous Gull
- _____ Great Black-backed Gull
- _____ Kelp Gull
- _____ Sabine's Gull
- _____ Black-legged Kittiwake
- _____ Red-legged Kittiwake
- _____ Ross's Gull
- _____ Ivory Gull
- _____ Brown Noddy
- _____ Black Noddy
- _____ Sooty Tern
- _____ Bridled Tern
- _____ Aleutian Tern
- _____ Least Tern
- _____ Large-billed Tern
- _____ Gull-billed Tern
- _____ Caspian Tern
- _____ Black Tern
- _____ White-winged Tern
- _____ Whiskered Tern
- _____ Roseate Tern
- _____ Common Tern
- _____ Arctic Tern
- _____ Forster's Tern

Royal Tern

- _____ Sandwich Tern
- _____ Elegant Tern
- _____ Black Skimmer

Skuas [Stercorariidae]

- _____ Great Skua
- _____ South Polar Skua
- _____ Pomarine Jaeger
- _____ Parasitic Jaeger
- _____ Long-tailed Jaeger

Auks, Murres, and Puffins [Alcidae]

- _____ Dovekie
- _____ Common Murre
- _____ Thick-billed Murre
- _____ Razorbill
- _____ Black Guillemot
- _____ Pigeon Guillemot
- _____ Long-billed Murrelet
- _____ Marbled Murrelet
- _____ Kittlitz's Murrelet
- _____ Xantus's Murrelet
- _____ Craveri's Murrelet
- _____ Ancient Murrelet
- _____ Cassin's Auklet
- _____ Parakeet Auklet
- _____ Least Auklet
- _____ Whiskered Auklet
- _____ Crested Auklet
- _____ Rhinoceros Auklet
- _____ Atlantic Puffin
- _____ Horned Puffin
- _____ Tufted Puffin

ORDER COLUMBIIFORMES**Pigeons and Doves [Columbidae]**

- _____ Rock Pigeon
- _____ Scaly-naped Pigeon
- _____ White-crowned Pigeon
- _____ Red-billed Pigeon
- _____ Band-tailed Pigeon
- _____ Oriental Turtle-Dove
- _____ Eurasian Collared-Dove
- _____ African Collared-Dove*
- _____ Spotted Dove
- _____ White-winged Dove
- _____ Zenaida Dove

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| _____ Mourning Dove | _____ Whiskered Screech-Owl |
| _____ Inca Dove | _____ Great Horned Owl |
| _____ Common Ground-Dove | _____ Snowy Owl |
| _____ Ruddy Ground-Dove | _____ Northern Hawk Owl |
| _____ White-tipped Dove | _____ Northern Pygmy-Owl |
| _____ Key West Quail-Dove | _____ Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl |
| _____ Ruddy Quail-Dove | _____ Elf Owl |
| ORDER PSITTACIFORMES | |
| Lories, Parakeets, Macaws, and Parrots | |
| [Psittacidae] | |
| _____ Budgerigar | _____ Burrowing Owl |
| _____ Rose-ringed Parakeet* | _____ Mottled Owl |
| _____ Monk Parakeet | _____ Spotted Owl |
| _____ Green Parakeet | _____ Barred Owl |
| _____ Mitred Parakeet* | _____ Great Gray Owl |
| _____ Black-hooded Parakeet* | _____ Long-eared Owl |
| _____ Thick-billed Parrot | _____ Stygian Owl |
| _____ White-winged Parakeet | _____ Short-eared Owl |
| _____ White-fronted Parrot* | _____ Boreal Owl |
| _____ Yellow-chevroned Parakeet* | _____ Northern Saw-whet Owl |
| _____ Red-crowned Parrot | |
| _____ Lilac-crowned Parrot* | |
| _____ Yellow-headed Parrot* | |
| _____ Red-lored Parrot* | |
| ORDER CUCULIFORMES | |
| Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis. | |
| [Cuculidae] | |
| _____ Common Cuckoo | _____ Lesser Nighthawk |
| _____ Oriental Cuckoo | _____ Common Nighthawk |
| _____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo | _____ Antillean Nighthawk |
| _____ Mangrove Cuckoo | _____ Common Pauraque |
| _____ Black-billed Cuckoo | _____ Common Poorwill |
| _____ Greater Roadrunner | _____ Chuck-will's-widow |
| _____ Smooth-billed Ani | _____ Buff-collared Nightjar |
| _____ Groove-billed Ani | _____ Whip-poor-will |
| _____ Groove-billed Ani | _____ Gray Nightjar |
| ORDER STRIGIFORMES | |
| Barn Owls [Tytonidae] | |
| _____ Barn Owl | _____ Black Swift |
| Typical Owls [Strigidae] | |
| _____ Flammulated Owl | _____ White-collared Swift |
| _____ Oriental Scops-Owl | _____ Chimney Swift |
| _____ Western Screech-Owl | _____ Vaux's Swift |
| _____ Eastern Screech-Owl | _____ White-throated Needletail |
| _____ Eastern Screech-Owl | _____ Common Swift |
| _____ Western Screech-Owl | _____ Fork-tailed Swift |
| _____ Eastern Screech-Owl | _____ White-throated Swift |
| _____ Western Screech-Owl | _____ Antillean Palm-Swift |
| Hummingbirds [Trochilidae] | |
| _____ Green Violet-ear | |
| _____ Green-breasted Mango | |
| _____ Broad-billed Hummingbird | |
| _____ White-eared Hummingbird | |

Xantus's Hummingbird
Berylline Hummingbird
Buff-bellied Hummingbird
Cinnamon Hummingbird
Violet-crowned Hummingbird
Blue-throated Hummingbird
Magnificent Hummingbird
Plain-capped Starthroat
Bahama Woodstar
Lucifer Hummingbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Black-chinned Hummingbird
Anna's Hummingbird
Costa's Hummingbird
Calliope Hummingbird
Bumblebee Hummingbird
Broad-tailed Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird
Allen's Hummingbird

ORDER TROGONIFORMES

Trogons (Trogonidae)

Elegant Tropic
Eared Quetzal

ORDER UPUPIFORMES

Hoopoes (Upupidae)

Eurasian Hoopoe

ORDER CORACIIFORMES

Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)

Ringed Kingfisher
Belted Kingfisher
Green Kingfisher

ORDER PICIFORMES

Woodpeckers and Allies (Picidae)

Eurasian Wryneck
Lewis's Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Acorn Woodpecker
Gila Woodpecker
Golden-fronted Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Williamson's Sapsucker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Red-naped Sapsucker
Red-breasted Sapsucker
Great Spotted Woodpecker
Ladder-backed Woodpecker
Nuttall's Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Arizona Woodpecker
Red-cockaded Woodpecker
White-headed Woodpecker
American Three-toed
Woodpecker
Black-backed Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Gilded Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Ivory-billed Woodpecker

ORDER PASSERIFORMES

Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet
Greenish Elaenia
Caribbean Elaenia
Tufted Flycatcher
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Greater Pewee
Western Wood-Pewee
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Cuban Pewee
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Acadian Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher
Willow Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Hammond's Flycatcher
Gray Flycatcher
Dusky Flycatcher
Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Cordilleran Flycatcher
Buff-breasted Flycatcher
Black Phoebe
Eastern Phoebe
Say's Phoebe
Vermilion Flycatcher
Dusky-capped Flycatcher
Ash-throated Flycatcher

Nutting's Flycatcher
Great Crested Flycatcher
Brown-crested Flycatcher
La Sagra's Flycatcher
Great Kiskadee
Social Flycatcher
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher
Piratic Flycatcher
Variegated Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird
Couch's Kingbird
Cassin's Kingbird
Thick-billed Kingbird
Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird
Gray Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Fork-tailed Flycatcher
Rose-throated Becard
Masked Tityra

Shrikes [Laniidae]

Brown Shrike
Loggerhead Shrike
Northern Shrike

Vireos [Vireonidae]

White-eyed Vireo
Thick-billed Vireo
Bell's Vireo
Black-capped Vireo
Gray Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Plumbeous Vireo
Cassin's Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Hutton's Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Yellow-green Vireo
Black-whiskered Vireo
Yucatan Vireo

Jays and Crows [Corvidae]

Gray Jay
Steller's Jay
Blue Jay
Green Jay

Brown Jay
Florida Scrub-Jay
Island Scrub-Jay
Western Scrub-Jay
Mexican Jay
Pinyon Jay
Clark's Nutcracker
Black-billed Magpie
Yellow-billed Magpie
Eurasian Jackdaw
American Crow
Northwestern Crow
Tamaulipas Crow
Fish Crow
Chihuahuan Raven
Common Raven

Larks [Alaudidae]

Sky Lark
Horned Lark

Swallows [Hirundinidae]

Purple Martin
Cuban Martin
Gray-breasted Martin
Southern Martin
Brown-chested Martin
Tree Swallow
Mangrove Swallow
Violet-green Swallow
Bahama Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Bank Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Cave Swallow
Barn Swallow
Common House-Martin

Chickadees and Titmice [Paridae]

Carolina Chickadee
Black-capped Chickadee
Mountain Chickadee
Mexican Chickadee
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Boreal Chickadee
Gray-headed Chickadee
Bridled Titmouse
Oak Titmouse

	Juniper Titmouse
	Tufted Titmouse
	Black-crested Titmouse
Verdin [Remizidae]	
	Verdin
Bushtits [Aegithalidae]	
	Bushtit
Nuthatches [Sittidae]	
	Red-breasted Nuthatch
	White-breasted Nuthatch
	Pygmy Nuthatch
	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Creepers [Certhiidae]	
	Brown Creeper
Wrens [Troglydytidae]	
	Cactus Wren
	Rock Wren
	Canyon Wren
	Carolina Wren
	Bewick's Wren
	House Wren
	Winter Wren
	Sedge Wren
	Marsh Wren
Dippers [Cinclidae]	
	American Dipper
Bulbuls [Pycnonotidae]	
	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Kinglets [Regulidae]	
	Golden-crowned Kinglet
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Old World Warblers and Gnatcatchers [Sylviidae]	
	Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler
	Lanceolated Warbler
	Willow Warbler
	Wood Warbler
	Dusky Warbler
	Yellow-browed Warbler
	Arctic Warbler
	Lesser Whitethroat
	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
	California Gnatcatcher
	Black-tailed Gnatcatcher
	Black-capped Gnatcatcher

Old World Flycatchers [Muscicapidae]

	Narcissus Flycatcher
	Mugimaki Flycatcher
	Dark-sided Flycatcher
	Gray-streaked Flycatcher
	Asian Brown Flycatcher
	Spotted Flycatcher
Thrushes [Turdidae]	
	Siberian Rubythroat
	Bluethroat
	Siberian Blue Robin
	Red-flanked Bluetail
	Northern Wheatear
	Stonechat
	Eastern Bluebird
	Western Bluebird
	Mountain Bluebird
	Townsend's Solitaire
	Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush
	Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush
	Veery
	Gray-cheeked Thrush
	Bicknell's Thrush
	Swainson's Thrush
	Hermit Thrush
	Wood Thrush
	Eurasian Blackbird
	Eyebrowed Thrush
	Dusky Thrush
	Fieldfare
	Redwing
	Clay-colored Robin
	White-throated Robin
	Rufous-backed Robin
	American Robin
	Varied Thrush
	Aztec Thrush
Babblers [Timaliidae]	
	Wrentit
Mockingbirds and Thrashers [Mimidae]	
	Gray Catbird
	Northern Mockingbird
	Bahama Mockingbird
	Sage Thrasher

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Brown Thrasher | Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| Long-billed Thrasher | Magnolia Warbler |
| Bendire's Thrasher | Cape May Warbler |
| Curve-billed Thrasher | Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| California Thrasher | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Crissal Thrasher | Black-throated Gray Warbler |
| Le Conte's Thrasher | Golden-cheeked Warbler |
| Blue Mockingbird | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| Starlings and Mynas [Sturnidae] | Townsend's Warbler |
| European Starling | Hermit Warbler |
| Hill Myna* | Blackburnian Warbler |
| Common Myna* | Yellow-throated Warbler |
| Accentors [Prunellidae] | Grace's Warbler |
| Siberian Accentor | Pine Warbler |
| Wagtails and Pipits [Motacillidae] | Kirtland's Warbler |
| Eastern Yellow Wagtail | Prairie Warbler |
| Citrine Wagtail | Palm Warbler |
| Gray Wagtail | Bay-breasted Warbler |
| White Wagtail | Blackpoll Warbler |
| Tree Pipit | Cerulean Warbler |
| Olive-backed Pipit | Black-and-white Warbler |
| Pechora Pipit | American Redstart |
| Red-throated Pipit | Prothonotary Warbler |
| American Pipit | Worm-eating Warbler |
| Sprague's Pipit | Swainson's Warbler |
| Waxwings [Bombycillidae] | Ovenbird |
| Bohemian Waxwing | Northern Waterthrush |
| Cedar Waxwing | Louisiana Waterthrush |
| Silky-Flycatchers [Ptilogonatidae] | Kentucky Warbler |
| Gray Silky-Flycatcher | Connecticut Warbler |
| Phainopepla | Mourning Warbler |
| Olive Warbler [Peucedramidae] | MacGillivray's Warbler |
| Olive Warbler | Common Yellowthroat |
| Wood-Warbblers [Parulidae] | Gray-crowned Yellowthroat |
| Blue-winged Warbler | Hooded Warbler |
| Golden-winged Warbler | Wilson's Warbler |
| Tennessee Warbler | Canada Warbler |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | Red-faced Warbler |
| Nashville Warbler | Painted Redstart |
| Virginia's Warbler | Slate-throated Redstart |
| Colima Warbler | Fan-tailed Warbler |
| Lucy's Warbler | Golden-crowned Warbler |
| Crescent-chested Warbler | Rufous-capped Warbler |
| Northern Parula | Yellow-breasted Chat |
| Tropical Parula | |
| Yellow Warbler | Bananaquits [Coerebidae] |
| | Bananaquit |

Tanagers [Thraupidae]

- _____ Hepatic Tanager
- _____ Summer Tanager
- _____ Scarlet Tanager
- _____ Western Tanager
- _____ Flame-colored Tanager
- _____ Western Spindalis

Emberizids [Emberizidae]

- _____ White-collared Seedeater
- _____ Yellow-faced Grassquit
- _____ Black-faced Grassquit
- _____ Olive Sparrow
- _____ Green-tailed Towhee
- _____ Spotted Towhee
- _____ Eastern Towhee
- _____ Canyon Towhee
- _____ California Towhee
- _____ Abert's Towhee
- _____ Rufous-winged Sparrow
- _____ Cassin's Sparrow
- _____ Bachman's Sparrow
- _____ Botteri's Sparrow
- _____ Rufous-crowned Sparrow
- _____ Five-striped Sparrow
- _____ American Tree Sparrow
- _____ Chipping Sparrow
- _____ Clay-colored Sparrow
- _____ Brewer's Sparrow
- _____ Field Sparrow
- _____ Worthen's Sparrow
- _____ Black-chinned Sparrow
- _____ Vesper Sparrow
- _____ Lark Sparrow
- _____ Black-throated Sparrow
- _____ Sage Sparrow
- _____ Lark Bunting
- _____ Savannah Sparrow
- _____ Grasshopper Sparrow
- _____ Baird's Sparrow
- _____ Henslow's Sparrow
- _____ Le Conte's Sparrow
- _____ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
- _____ Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
- _____ Seaside Sparrow
- _____ Fox Sparrow
- _____ Song Sparrow

_____ Lincoln's Sparrow

- _____ Swamp Sparrow
- _____ White-throated Sparrow
- _____ Harris's Sparrow
- _____ White-crowned Sparrow
- _____ Golden-crowned Sparrow
- _____ Dark-eyed Junco

- _____ Yellow-eyed Junco
- _____ McCown's Longspur
- _____ Lapland Longspur
- _____ Smith's Longspur
- _____ Chestnut-collared Longspur
- _____ Pine Bunting
- _____ Little Bunting
- _____ Rustic Bunting
- _____ Yellow-throated Bunting
- _____ Yellow-breasted Bunting
- _____ Gray Bunting
- _____ Pallas's Bunting
- _____ Reed Bunting
- _____ Snow Bunting
- _____ McKay's Bunting

Cardinals, Saltators, and Allies**[Cardinalidae]**

- _____ Crimson-collared Grosbeak
- _____ Northern Cardinal
- _____ Pyrrhuloxia
- _____ Yellow Grosbeak
- _____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- _____ Black-headed Grosbeak
- _____ Blue Bunting
- _____ Blue Grosbeak
- _____ Lazuli Bunting
- _____ Indigo Bunting
- _____ Varied Bunting
- _____ Painted Bunting
- _____ Dickcissel

Blackbirds [Icteridae]

- _____ Bobolink
- _____ Red-winged Blackbird
- _____ Tricolored Blackbird
- _____ Tawny-shouldered Blackbird
- _____ Eastern Meadowlark
- _____ Western Meadowlark
- _____ Yellow-headed Blackbird
- _____ Rusty Blackbird

_____ Brewer's Blackbird
_____ Common Grackle
_____ Boat-tailed Grackle
_____ Great-tailed Grackle
_____ Shiny Cowbird
_____ Bronzed Cowbird
_____ Brown-headed Cowbird
_____ Black-vented Oriole
_____ Orchard Oriole
_____ Hooded Oriole
_____ Streak-backed Oriole
_____ Bullock's Oriole
_____ Spot-breasted Oriole
_____ Altamira Oriole
_____ Audubon's Oriole
_____ Baltimore Oriole
_____ Scott's Oriole

Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies [Fringillidae]

_____ Common Chaffinch
_____ Brambling
_____ Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch
_____ Black Rosy-Finch
_____ Brown-capped Rosy-Finch
_____ Pine Grosbeak

_____ Common Rosefinch
_____ Purple Finch
_____ Cassin's Finch
_____ House Finch
_____ Red Crossbill
_____ White-winged Crossbill
_____ Common Redpoll
_____ Hoary Redpoll
_____ Eurasian Siskin
_____ Pine Siskin
_____ Lesser Goldfinch
_____ Lawrence's Goldfinch
_____ American Goldfinch
_____ European Goldfinch*
_____ Oriental Greenfinch
_____ Eurasian Bullfinch
_____ Evening Grosbeak
_____ Hawfinch

Old World Sparrows [Passeridae]

_____ House Sparrow
_____ Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Weavers [Ploceidae]

_____ Orange Bishop*

Estrildid Finches [Estrildidae]

_____ Nutmeg Mannikin*



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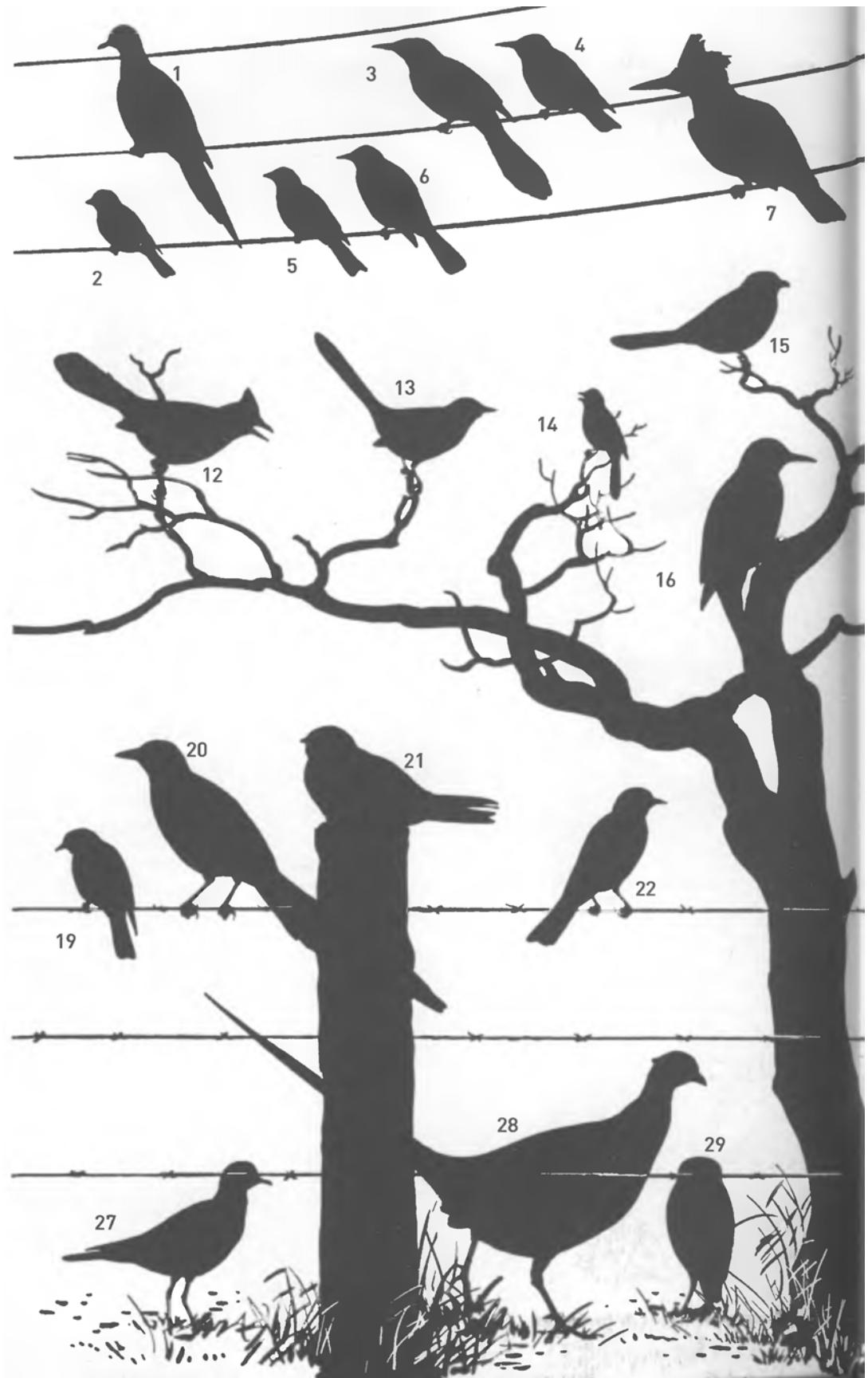


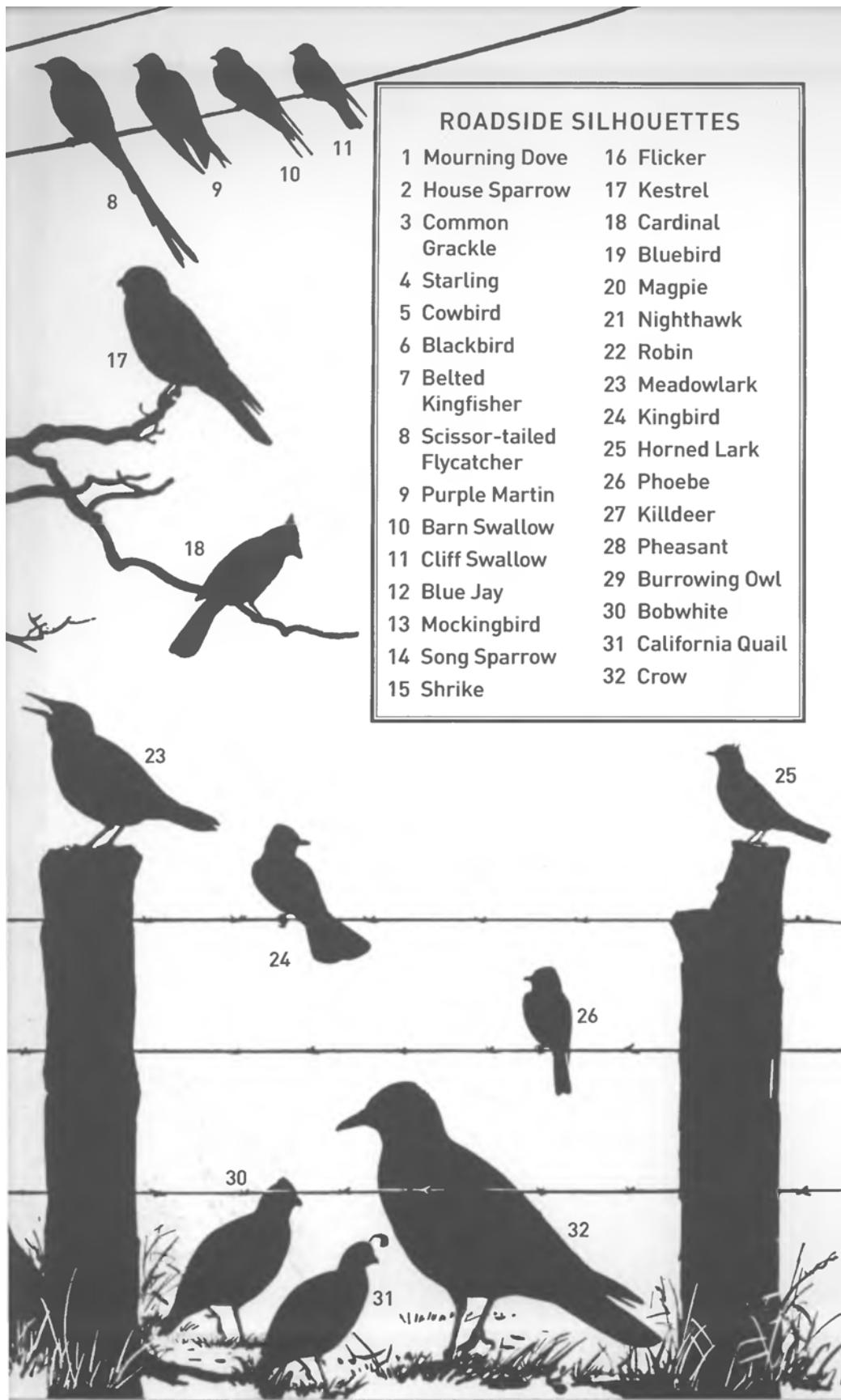


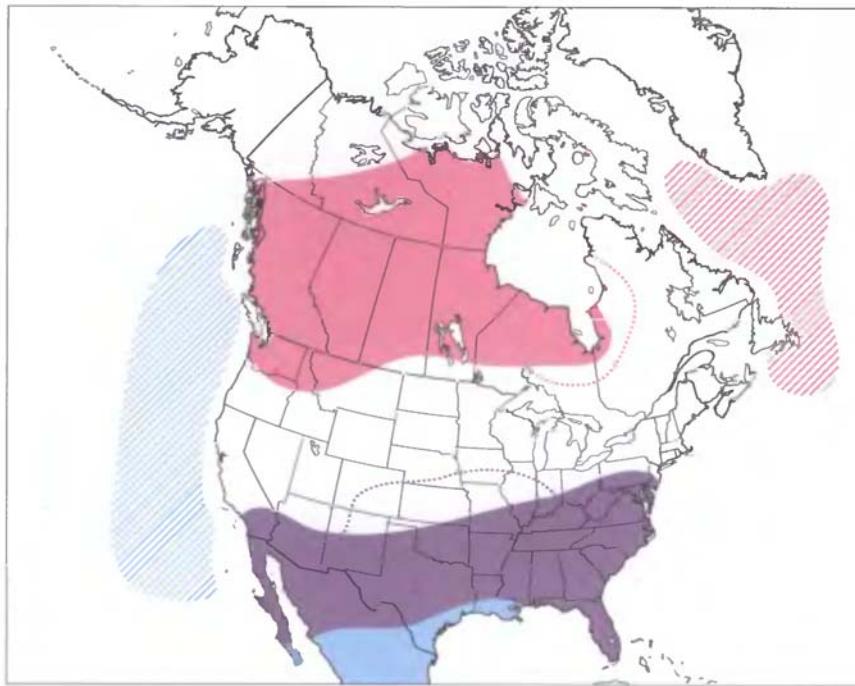


FLIGHT SILHOUETTES

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Barn Swallow | 14 Flicker |
| 2 Cliff Swallow | 15 Mourning Dove |
| 3 Purple Martin | 16 Meadowlark |
| 4 Chimney Swift | 17 Bobwhite |
| 5 Starling | 18 Ruffed Grouse |
| 6 Common
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| 7 Blackbird | 20 Nighthawk |
| 8 Bluebird | 21 Crow |
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| 10 Goldfinch | 23 Kestrel |
| 11 House Sparrow | 24 Killdeer |
| 12 Belted
Kingfisher | 25 Wilson's Snipe |
| 13 Blue Jay | 26 Woodcock |





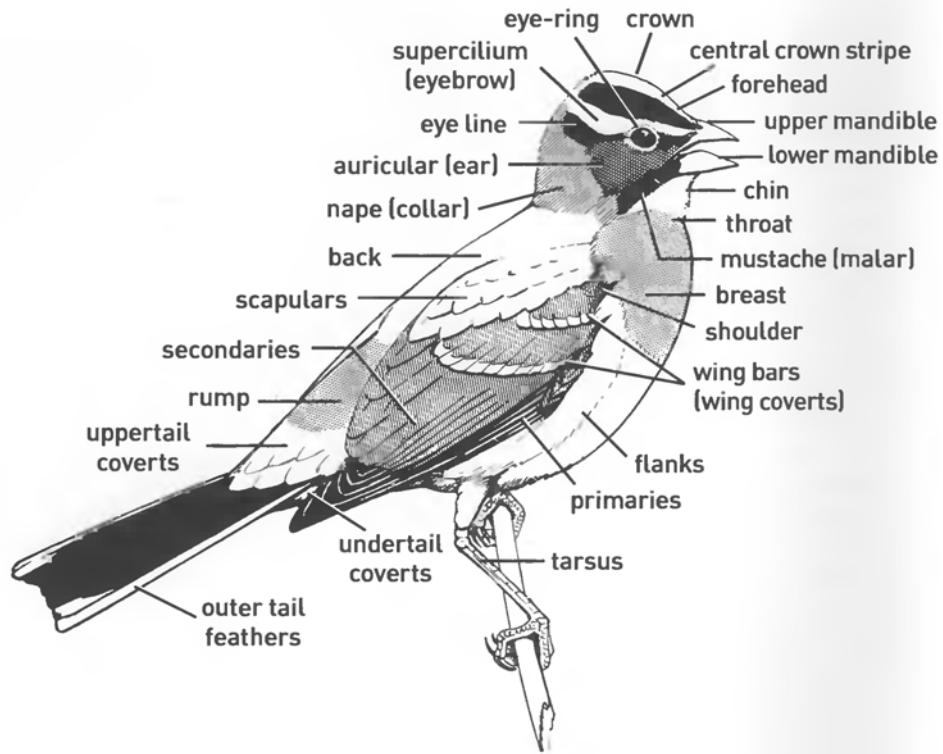


Many maps include comments on population increases and declines, extralimital occurrences, and regular winter or summer ranges outside North America. Migration routes are not depicted in these maps, but side notes sometimes include information on migration. Maps are likewise not filled in with solid color if the species is considered rare, very rare, casual, accidental, and/or a vagrant. Migrants can often be found in suitable habitat in those areas that lie between summering/breeding areas and wintering/nonbreeding areas.

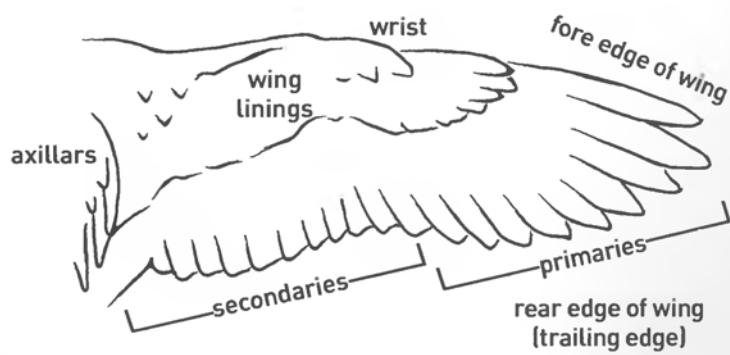
Key to Range Maps

- Red: summer range
- Blue: winter range
- Purple: year-round range
- Red dash line: approximate limits of irregular summer range and/or post-breeding dispersal
- Blue dash line: approximate limits of irregular winter range
- Purple dash line: approximate limits of irregular year-round range
- Striped area: pelagic range

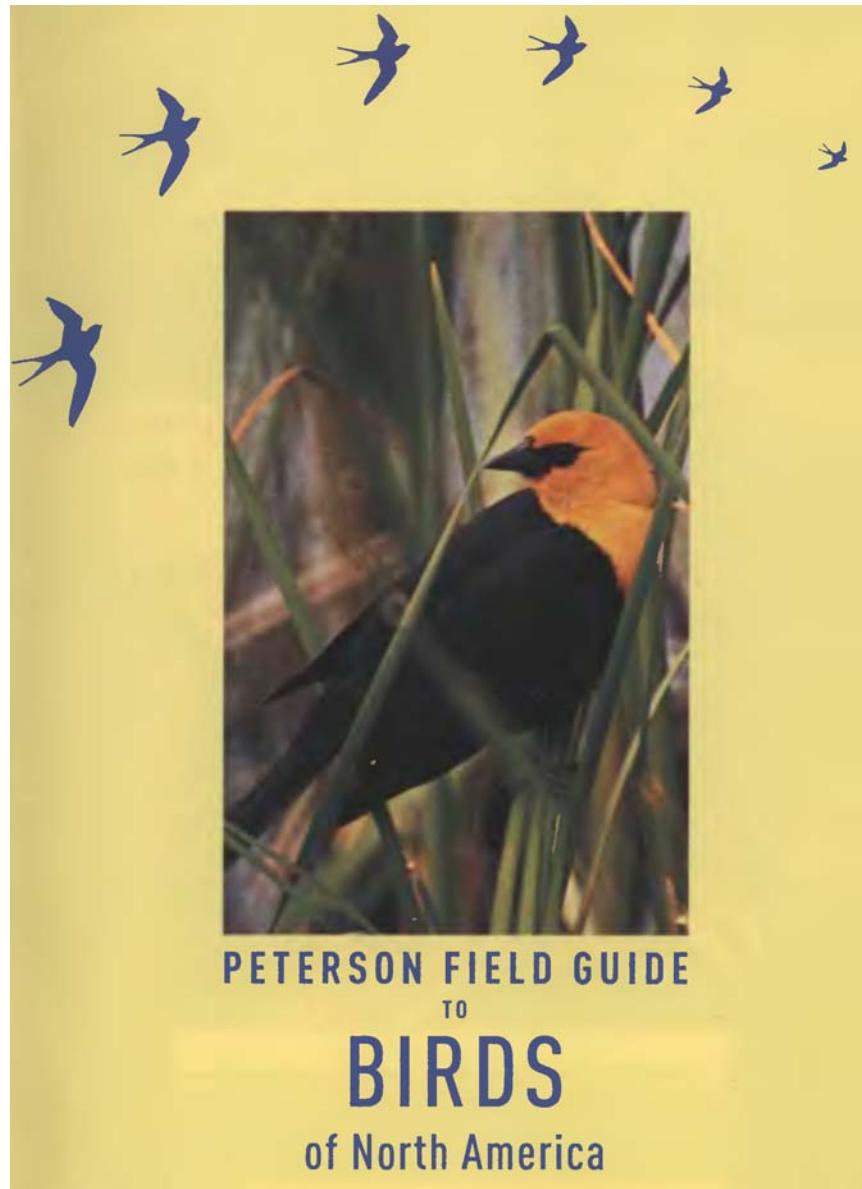
Topography of a bird

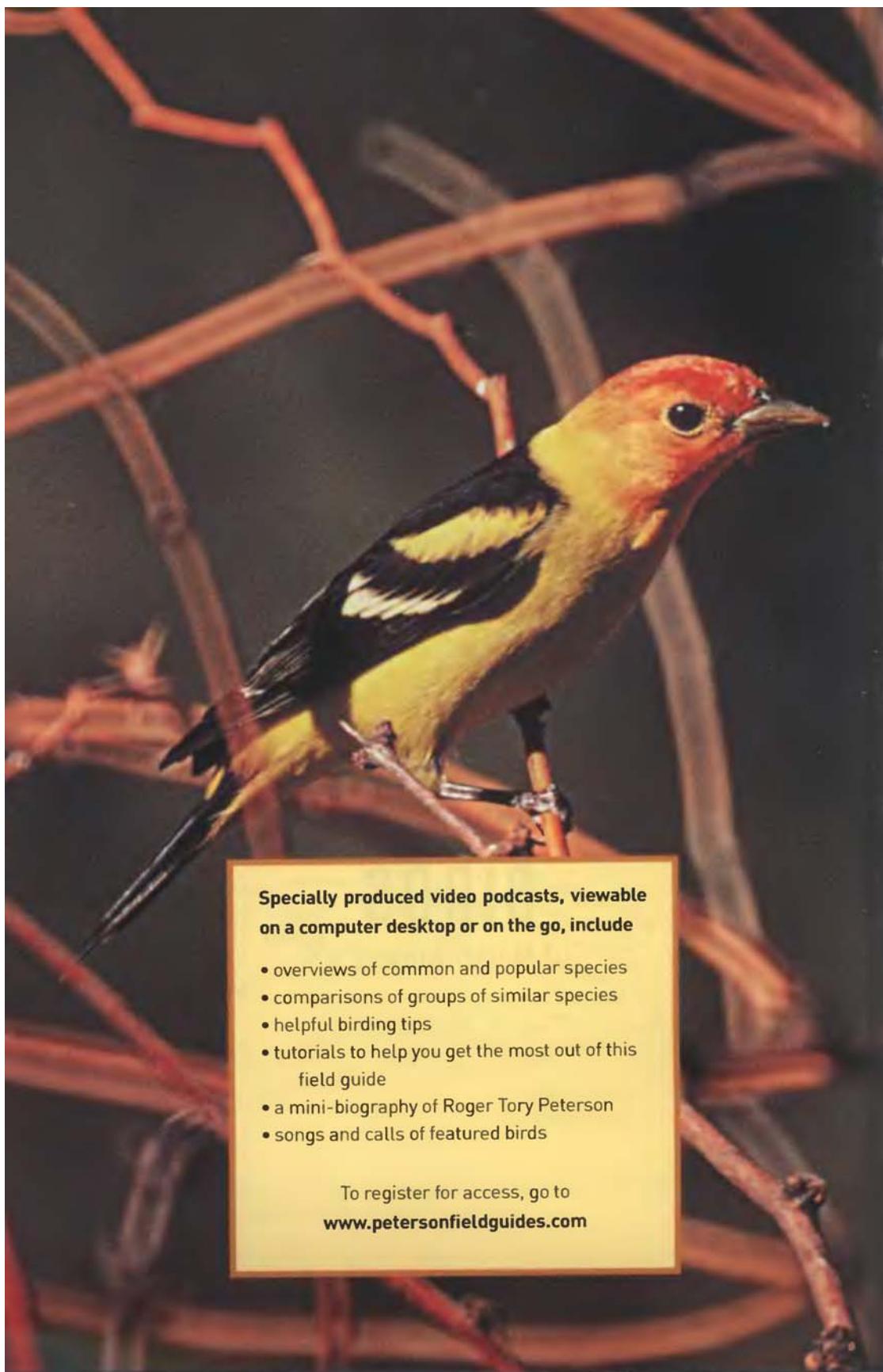


Undersurface of wing



On the upper surface of the secondaries, some waterfowl have a bright-colored patch, called a *speculum*.





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PETERSON FIELD GUIDE
TO
BIRDS
of North America

FIRST EDITION

ROGER TORY PETERSON



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
BOSTON NEW YORK 2008

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM

Michael DiGiorgio
Jeffrey A. Gordon
Paul Lehman
Michael O'Brien
Larry Rosche
Bill Thompson III

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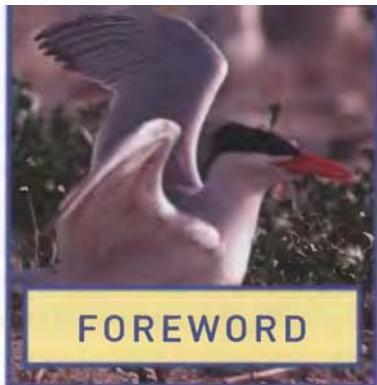
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Sometime in my early teens, or just before, I became intensely interested in bird watching. This is not to say that I had not previously spent significant time learning about and watching birds—not surprising, given the household in which I was raised. It is just that it then became a very focused pursuit. I spent countless hours wandering the woods and slogging through the salt marshes near our home in Old Lyme, Connecticut, in search of new birds. In the process, I managed to wear out several copies of the Peterson Field Guide—and had a great time. I also acquired a much deeper understanding of my surroundings.

This period did not last more than a year or so, and eventually I shifted emphasis to other interests—first geology and then botany. The fallout, however, has lasted a lifetime. Birds and their identification became my window into the natural world. In this I am not alone. I think most people get their start in natural history this way. In fact, I can remember someone assuring me that at one time virtually 100 percent of the heads of environmental organizations in this country got their start with a Peterson Field Guide in hand.

Being able to recognize and identify the birds we see is a crucial key to understanding the world around us. My father used the comings and goings of birds as both a biological clock of sorts and a litmus test for the condition of the environment. The arrival and departure of migrating birds signaled to him changes in weather or climatic conditions. The increase or decrease in the population of certain species gave him insight into the overall health of the environment—changes for good or ill. As his friend Bob Lewin once noted, “Roger was always interested in numbers.” Whether it was counting the number of moths on our screen door or the number of flamingos on a lake in Africa, the results were equally significant.

Dad always likened writing a field guide to serving a prison sentence. The projects are always lengthy and the spatial and visual constraints pronounced. The writing is not stream of consciousness but more akin to

writing a telegram—fitting the maximum amount of information into the minimum amount of space. The illustration can never be free and loose but always tightly controlled, showing the essence of the bird in question. In both these endeavors, Dad excelled. Someone once confided to me that Dad's rendition of a robin was not just any old robin, but the perfect robin. Somehow, he was able to convey a bird not at a specific moment in time, awkwardly posed with feathers in disarray, but rather, as the mind saw it, the robin idealized, with feathers neatly patterned and plump. His results were all the more remarkable when one watched how they were achieved. He worked mostly from memory, using only a dry, beat-up specimen of the bird for details of anatomy and occasionally a photograph or two. And he was able to piece together an image of the bird as it should have been. Not just any robin, but all robins.

Dad's innovative approach was the product of a rich variety of influences. He was born in Jamestown, a small town in upstate New York known primarily for farming and light manufacture. His first foray into art was with the encouragement of his seventh-grade schoolteacher, and much of what he learned about birds was self-taught or picked up from the people around him. His family could not afford to send him to college, so he put himself through art school in New York City instead. This was fortuitous, as his time in New York shaped much of what was to come. There he found inspiration from such luminaries in the birding world as Louis Agassiz Fuertes and Ludlow Griscom, and he fell in with a group of avid young birders who called themselves the Bronx County Bird Club, many of whom went on to prominent careers in the biological sciences.

In 1929, Bill Vogt, the editor of *Audubon* magazine's precursor, *Bird-Lore*, suggested that Dad combine his expertise in art and bird identification to create an identification guide. This was at a time when definitive identification was made more often than not with a shotgun and a dissecting knife. The Peterson system of identification, which uses arrows to point out differences in similar-looking species, seems both simple and obvious in hindsight, but at the time, it was an enormous innovation. Suddenly the average person could confidently identify the birds around him with just a pair of binoculars and one small book. Birding went from being the slightly odd pursuit of an eccentric few to being one of the largest spectator sports in America today. The repercussions have been enormous.

Each of Dad's many skills and talents was noteworthy in and of itself, but pieced together, they made him truly unique. His skills as an illustrator were unquestioned. Because of his early training, his first response was

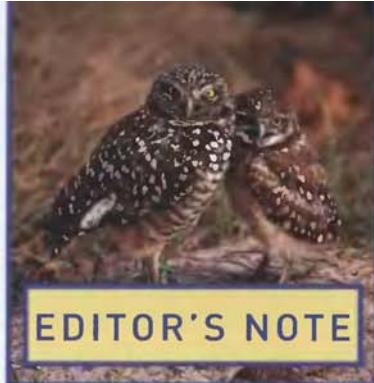
to place things in visual rather than technical terms—an especially useful trait when trying to design an identification guide for the uninitiated. At the same time, he was a lifelong student of birds and had a tremendous reservoir of technical information. His writing style was simple, direct, and entertaining. He had a great ability to reduce complex information to the essential bones without losing a certain lyric quality. He also had a talent for pulling together scattered information and synthesizing it into original observation.

Less frequently mentioned, but well known to his peers, was his extraordinary hearing. Yale University School of Medicine tested his hearing late in his life and found it to be exceptional—well into the 99th percentile of human capability—with Dad registering frequencies far above the norm. Bird walks with him were always a source of wonder. He was forever hearing and identifying distant birds that the rest of us could barely discern. I am still amazed by his uncanny ability to render bird calls into written English in such a way as to make them immediately recognizable. Overlaying all this was his incredible focus. For 70 or more years, his single overriding pleasure was the pursuit and identification of birds, to which he brought an energy, skill, and enthusiasm that were inspirational.

In the foreword to the fifth edition of *A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America*, Robert Bateman referred to Dad's lifework as causing ever-expanding "ripples on a pond." This is very apt. More than anything else, Dad thought of himself as a teacher. His whole life was about communication. His greatest wish was to pass along his love of birds and the outdoors, to imbue the rest of us with the same sense of wonder and responsibility that he had derived from bird watching. His childhood interest had morphed into something larger. While birds remained ever the focus, they became only the most visible aspect of a much greater system. For him, they became the markers, the early warning system for the condition of the overall environment. By opening up the world of birds to us through his field guides, he hoped to shift our relationship to our surroundings from one of exploitation to one of stewardship. In this, he has had more than a little success. With each new field guide owner, our world becomes a little richer, a little more full of promise. It may indeed be as Bateman says: "Roger Tory Peterson's life has been one of the most important lives of the last 100 years."

—LEE ALLEN PETERSON
July 2007





In the past 75 years, ever since Roger Tory Peterson's pioneering *Field Guide to the Birds* changed the way we look at birds and jump-started the environmental movement, many birders have grown up using their Peterson Field Guide, and the book holds a special place in their hearts. Today, however, there are more field guides than ever, and more on the way. The Peterson guide is still set apart by its original concept. The Peterson Identification System is a powerful tool, just as useful and easy to understand today as it was when the first Peterson Field Guide was published. We now honor the centennial of Roger Peterson's birth with this new combined edition that is not simply a commemoration but a useful, up-to-date resource.

Peterson was an innovator. If he were a young bird watcher today, there's a good chance he would be at the forefront of new birding technology. In this book, we've included a URL (www.petersonfieldguides.com) where readers can access a set of video podcasts that are easy to use, educational, and fun. These supplements to the book cover key individual species, popular groupings of birds, and such topics as how to use range maps, identification basics, and bird topography.

Additionally, the book's content has been revised. All of the taxonomy has been updated (to include, for example, splits, such as Canada and Cackling geese, and name changes, such as Oldsquaw to Long-tailed Duck). Birds newly recorded in North America, such as Fea's Petrel, Black-tailed and Yellow-legged gulls, and La Sagra's Flycatcher, are included. The text has been revised to accurately reflect our current knowledge of birds. The range maps are all new. The art has been updated where necessary. New paintings were done for birds that didn't previously occur in North America and for figures that Peterson painted over or discarded as he adapted the plates from one book to another. For some birds, the information we have about them is better than what was available when Peterson was painting, so a few of his paintings have been replaced with new ones; others have been digitally enhanced.

When Roger Tory Peterson died, we lost a uniquely talented artist and naturalist. He had a profound influence on a vast number of young naturalists, however, who have devoted their lives to birds and other animals, the environment, education, art, and other vocations and avocations. The team of expert birders who brought a wealth of knowledge to the creation of this new volume worked diligently to enhance Peterson's legacy while ensuring that all of the content was current and highly useful for today's birder. Paul Lehman and Bill Thompson III revised all the text. Michael O'Brien painted the new species, laid out the plates, directed the digital work, and consulted editorially. Paul Lehman supplied the information for the new range maps, graphic artist Larry Rosche created the maps digitally, and Marshall Iliff reviewed them all. Michael DiGiorgio did the digital enhancements of the art and executed the layout of the plates digitally. Kimball Garrett reviewed and revised some of the voice descriptions. Elizabeth Pierson undertook the enormous job of copyediting the revised text. Barbara Jatkola proofread, and Ned Brinkley reviewed the page proof. At Houghton Mifflin, Shelley Berg, Anne Chalmers, Beth Burleigh Fuller, Teresa Elsey, Clare O'Keeffe, Katrina Kruse, Jill Lazer, and Taryn Roeder all played critical roles in producing this book. Jeffrey Gordon and Bill Thompson III created the video podcasts, which we hope will enhance your enjoyment of birds and bird watching.

At a time when environmental concerns are paramount, it's essential that we as readers revisit the sources that inspired and deepened our appreciation of the natural world. Roger Tory Peterson's voice is for the generations, and it's with tremendous pride that we present it to you, revitalized and as relevant as always.

—LISA A. WHITE

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Why paintings instead of photographs?

Field guides use one of two illustration styles: paintings or photographs. A photograph, while modern looking and colorful, can capture only one moment in time. Lighting and angle limit the detail shown in a photograph, which can lead to misidentifications.

This example shows how a photograph is used as an illustration. The distinguishing field mark on a Rufous Hummingbird is its reddish brown back. In fact, no other North American hummingbird has a rufous back. Yet in this photograph, which is typical of those used in photographic field guides, the mark is not even visible.



By contrast, an artist combines direct experience in the field with photographs and museum specimens to create a composite bird, highlighting the key field marks. On this plate, Peterson painted the Rufous Hummingbird in an ideal position to show its important identifying mark, emphasizing it with an arrow.



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IN CELEBRATION of the centennial of Roger Tory Peterson's birth comes a historic collaboration among renowned birding experts and artists to preserve and enhance the Peterson legacy. This new book combines the *Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Birds* and the *Peterson Field Guide to Western Birds* in one volume, filled with accessible, concise information and including almost three hours of video podcasts to make bird watching even easier.

Among the book's updated features you'll find

- 40 new paintings
- Digital updates to Peterson's original paintings, reflecting the latest knowledge of bird identification
- All new maps for the most up-to-date range information available
- Text rewritten to cover the United States and Canada in one guide
- Larger trim size to accommodate range maps on every spread and showcase Peterson's classic art

Contributors include Michael DiGiorgio, Jeffrey A. Gordon, Paul Lehman, Michael O'Brien, Larry Rosche, and Bill Thompson III.

BORN in Jamestown, New York, in 1908,

Roger Tory Peterson enjoyed a lifelong fascination with birds that began when he was eleven years old. A talented artist, he left home in 1927 to study art in New York City. By the tender age of twenty-six, he had written and illustrated his first field guide. Published in 1934, the 2,000-copy first printing of *A Field Guide to the Birds* sold out in just two weeks. Now in its fifth edition, the book has sold more than 8 million copies.

That first field guide became the cornerstone of a series that would swell to hundreds of titles, helping millions of nature lovers to identify animals and plants and feel a stronger connection to the natural world.

Unquestionably one of the most influential Americans of the twentieth century, Roger Tory Peterson received 22 honorary degrees from American universities. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian award, for his cultural contributions to America. Throughout his lifetime, he received almost every major award in the fields of ornithology, natural history, wildlife conservation, and public service and was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Roger Tory Peterson died at his home in Old Lyme, Connecticut, in 1996, at the age of eighty-seven.

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