

Guide to Common Birds of the UCLA Campus

2006



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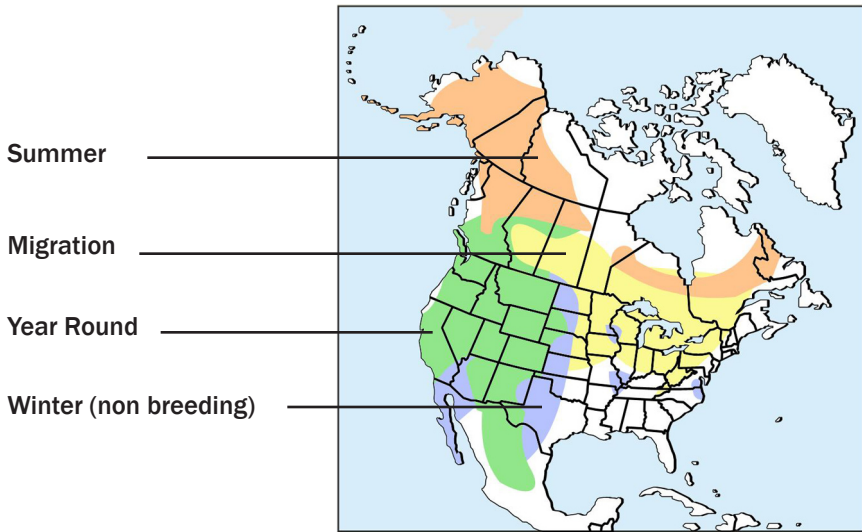
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How to Use This Book

Range Maps: The Range maps are color coded to show where and when to expect each bird to occur. The maps cover ranges of birds living in North America, including the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Each map shows four ranges: orange for summer, blue for winter, yellow for migration, and green for year round. Because birds do not stay strictly inside these boundaries, you may find them wandering far from ranges assigned in this guide, particularly during migration. In some cases, a bird may be so rare that its sightings appear as small dots on the map; a bird may be seen in a certain area, and then disappear shortly after it has been spotted. When a bird is so rare that its range cannot be drawn, the map area will read “No Map Available”.



Definitions and Conventions

Common Name: Birds are organized by common name, sex or seasonal or age variation, such as Abert's Towhee Breeding Male, American Robin Female California Gull 1st Winter. The Latin species name, Order, and Family name are located under the common name, for example: Abert's Towhee Breeding Male *Pipilo aberti* Order: PASSERIFORMES Family: Sparrows (Emberizidae)

Family Name and Color: The top of every page has a unique color bar associated with each family name.)

General: The general heading gives an overview of basic identification details. It describes the coloring of the body, any distinctive marks found in the head, tail, and underparts and the coloring differences between sexes and juveniles. Example: American Kestrel is the smallest North American hawk. Dainty falcon with two distinct black facial stripes and rust-brown tail and back. Male has slate-blue wings and black-spotted underparts. Female has rust-brown wings, narrow tail bands, and rust-streaked underparts.

Foraging and Feeding: Describes what the bird eats during different seasons. Example: In the summer, American Kestrels hunt in the early morning and evening, eating large insects like grasshoppers. During winter months, they hunt throughout daylight hours and eat small mammals such as mice, sandpiper chicks, lizards, scorpions, and amphibians.

Breeding and Nesting: Describes breeding, nesting, egg-laying, and incubation. Example: American Kestrel: For up to six weeks before egg laying, females are promiscuous, mating with two or three males. Once a female settles with one mate, the pair mates frequently until eggs are laid. Typically, three to seven white or light pink eggs are laid. Incubation is carried out primarily by the female, and lasts approximately 29-30 days; however, the male will occasionally take over the duties.

Similar Species: Distinguishes birds that closely resemble the bird in question. Example: American Kestrel: The Sharp-shinned Hawk is similar in size, but has rounded wings and is patterned differently. The Merlin is larger with broader-based wings, lacks rust tones on back and wing coverts, has a single mustache mark, and is strongly checkered under wings.

Flight Pattern: How the bird flies. For example: “American Kestrel: Soars on thermals. Several rapid wing beats followed by a glide. Often hovers on rapidly beating wings”

Song: Describes the bird’s vocalization in a mnemonic form. Example: American Kestrel alarm call is a loud, quick klee-klee-klee or killy, killy, killy.

Range and Habitat: Describes where the bird breeds, residence and migration patterns, and preferred habitats such as chaparral, brushy oak, woodlands, and so on. Example: American Kestrel breeds from Alaska and the Northwest Territories east through the Maritime Provinces and south throughout the continent. It winters north to British Columbia, Great Lakes, and New England. Preferred habitat includes towns and cities, parks, farmlands, and open country.

Info Box: Contains basic physical parameters including body length, wingspan, weight, coloring, and patterns. Units are given in metric and English..

All information contained in this field guide is derived from the WhatBird database found at <http://www.whatbird.com>. This database includes a state of the art parametric search engine that allows identification of any one of over 800 bird species or variations found in North America with just a few clicks. There is also a bird forum where our ornithologists will help you identify birds that you cannot find with the search engine.

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ROCK PIGEON

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

General: Rock Pigeon: Large, highly variable dove with wild form having gray body, dark blue-gray head, neck and breast, and white rump. Wings are gray with two black bars. Tail is gray and rounded with a dark terminal band. Sexes are similar.

Foraging and Feeding: Rock Dove: Rock Doves feed in the early morning and in the mid-afternoon on the open ground. They eat mainly seeds. Depending upon the location, their diet may consist of corn, oats, cherry, knotweed, elm, poison ivy, and barley. In cities, pigeons also eat popcorn, cake, peanuts, bread, and currants.



Breeding and Nesting: Rock Dove: Two white eggs are laid in a crude nest lined with sticks and debris, placed on a window ledge, building, bridge, or cliff. Incubation ranges from 16 to 19 days and is carried out by both sexes. **Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats.

Range and Habitat: Rock Pigeon: This bird is native to the Old World and introduced and established in most of North America from central Canada southward. Wild Rock Pigeons nest in crevices along rocky seaside cliffs, close to agriculture or open shrub vegetation. Feral bird live in old farm buildings in rural areas. In cities, the skyscrapers tend to take the place of their natural cliff surroundings.



Species: *Columba livia*

Length Range: 33 - 36 cm (13 - 14 in)

Weight: 369 g (13 oz)

Wingspan Range: 61 - 64 cm (24 - 25 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous

Breeding Population: Common

Color: Blue, White, Black, Gray

Underparts: Blue Gray

Upperparts: Blue Gray

Back Pattern: Solid

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

MOURNING DOVE

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

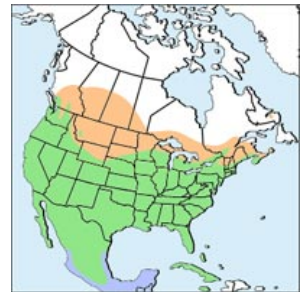
General: Mourning Dove: Medium-sized dove with gray-brown upperparts and buff-brown underparts. Eyes are dark with a small, black spot beneath. Bill is dark. Wings are gray-brown with black spots and dark primaries. Tail is long and pointed with black-edged white tips on outer feathers. Sexes are similar.

Foraging and Feeding: Mourning Dove: Mourning Doves eat a wide variety of seeds, waste grain, fruit and insects. They prefer seeds that rest on the ground. Occasionally, they eat in trees and bushes when the ground foods have become scarce. On rare occasions, these doves will prey on grasshoppers, ants, beetles, and snails.



Breeding and Nesting: Mourning Dove: Two white eggs are laid in a loosely made nest of sticks and twigs placed in low bushes and tall trees, more rarely on the ground. Incubation takes approximately 14 days and is carried out by both sexes. **Flight Pattern:** Swift strong direct flight.

Range and Habitat: Mourning Dove: This dove breeds from southeastern Alaska, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick southward to Mexico and Panama. It winters north to the northern United States. Favorite habitats include open fields, parks, and lawns with many trees and shrubs.



Species: *Zenaida macroura*

Length Range: 30 cm (12 in)

Weight: 122 g (4.3 oz)

Wingspan Range: 43 - 48 cm (17 - 19 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous

Breeding Population: Increasing, Common

Color: Pink, Brown, Black, Gray, Buff

Underparts: Pink Gray

Upperparts: Gray

Back Pattern: Solid

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)

General: Anna's Hummingbird: Medium-sized hummingbird with bronze-green upperparts and dull gray underparts. Its hood is iridescent red that is most visible in bright light while its metallic green tail is white-tipped. Female is duller, but sometimes shows metallic red or purple patches on throat. **Foraging and Feeding:** Anna's Hummingbird: This bird has a long, narrow bill and a body that is adapted to hover over flowers. These two features allow them to easily extract nectar. These birds are most attracted to long, tubular flowers, with a red, orange, or violet hue. Aside from flowers, this hummingbird finds food in the air by capturing flying insects or eating insects trapped in spider webs. It also uses holes in trees to extract sap.



Breeding and Nesting: Anna's Hummingbird: Two white eggs are laid in a tiny woven cup of small twigs and lichen fastened onto a sheltered horizontal limb. Incubation ranges from 14 to 19 days and is carried out by the female. **Flight Pattern:** Swift darting direct flight.

Range and Habitat: Anna's Hummingbird: This bird is resident from northern California southward and winters regularly from British Columbia south to Arizona. Preferred habitats include chaparral, brushy oak woodlands, and gardens.



Species: *Calypte anna*

Length Range: 9 - 10 cm (3.5 - 4 in)

Weight: 3 g (0.1 oz)

Wingspan Range: 12 cm (4.75 in)

Breeding Type: Polygamous. Solitary nester

Breeding Population: Increasing, Abundant

Color: Green, Pink, White

Underparts: White

Upperparts: Green

Back Pattern: Solid

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD

Hummingbirds (Trochillidae)

General: Allen's Hummingbird: Small, compact hummingbird with glittering green crown and back, white breast, and rufous sides, rump and tail. Throat (gorget) is iridescent copper-red. Female has bronze-green upperparts, white underparts, rust-tinged flanks, and dark-flecked throat; very similar to female Rufous Hummingbird. **Foraging and Feeding:** Allen's Hummingbird: This bird has a long narrow bill and long tongue, which allows it to obtain nectar from flowers. They feed every ten to fifteen minutes and visit approximately 1,000 flowers a day. Nectar is their main source of energy, but they also obtain protein from small insects like flies, ants, small beetles, tiny wasps, and other small insects. Because the hovering flight used by these birds to gather nectar requires phenomenal amounts of energy, the Allen's Hummingbird has to consume over twice its weight of nectar each day.



Breeding and Nesting: Allen's Hummingbird: Two white eggs are laid in a tiny, tightly woven cup placed on a sheltered branch. Incubation ranges from 15 to 22 days and is carried out by the female. **Flight Pattern:** Hovers when feeding. Swift darting direct flight.

Range and Habitat: Allen's Hummingbird: This hummingbird breeds along the coast from southern Oregon to southern California. It is resident in southern California and also winters in Mexico. Preferred habitats include coastal chaparral, brushland, and the edges of redwood forests.



Species: *Selasphorus sasin*

Length Range: 10 cm (3.75 in)

Weight: 3 g (0.1 oz)

Wingspan Range: 12 cm (4.75 in)

Breeding Type: Solitary nester. Semicolonial.
Promiscuous

Breeding Population: Common to fairly common

Color: Green, White, Brown, Rufous or Rust

Underparts: White

Upperparts: Green

Back Pattern: Solid

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD FEMALE

Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)

General: Allen's Hummingbird Female: Small, compact hummingbird with bronze-green upperparts, rufous-buff underparts, rust-tinged flanks, and white throat with brown dots. Base of the tail feathers is brown. **Foraging and Feeding:** Allen's Hummingbird Female: This bird has a long narrow bill and long tongue, which allows it to obtain nectar from flowers. They feed every ten to fifteen minutes and visit approximately 1,000 flowers a day. Nectar is their main source of energy, but they also obtain protein from small insects like flies, ants, small beetles, tiny wasps, and other small insects. Because the hovering flight used by these birds to gather nectar requires phenomenal amounts of energy, the Allen's Hummingbird Female has to consume over twice its weight of nectar each day.



Breeding and Nesting: Allen's Hummingbird Female: Two white eggs are laid in a tiny, tightly woven cup placed on a sheltered branch. Incubation ranges from 15 to 22 days and is carried out by the female. **Flight Pattern:** Hovers when feeding. Swift darting direct flight.

Range and Habitat: Allen's Hummingbird Female: This hummingbird breeds along the coast from southern Oregon to southern California. It is resident in southern California and also winters in Mexico. Preferred habitats include coastal chaparral, brushland, and the edges of redwood forests.



Species: *Selasphorus sasin*

Length Range: 10 cm (3.75 in)

Weight: 3 g (0.1 oz)

Wingspan Range: 12 cm (4.75 in)

Breeding Type: Solitary nester. Semicolonial.
Promiscuous

Breeding Population: Common to fairly common

Color: Green, White, Brown, Rufous or Rust

Underparts: White

Upperparts: Green

Back Pattern: Solid

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Spotted

BLACK PHOEBE

Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)

General: Black Phoebe: Medium-sized flycatcher with mostly slate-black body and white belly. Outer tail feathers and undertail coverts are white. Sexes are similar. Juvenile has subtle brown scalloping on back.

Foraging and Feeding: Black Phoebe: This bird often hunts for food from a low, shaded perch where it watches for insects and swoops down to catch them in midair. They occasionally catch food from the water's surface, ground, or vegetation. It coughs up indigestible insect parts in the form of pellets. They also eat small fish caught at the water's surface.



Breeding and Nesting: Black Phoebe: Three to six white eggs, with a few faint speckles, are laid in a mud, moss, and grass nest lined with soft material, often feathers or cow hair, built under a bridge, on a sheltered ledge, in a crevice in an old building, or among hanging roots near the top of an embankment close to water. Incubation ranges from 15 to 17 days and is carried out by the female. **Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flight with shallow wing beats.

Range and Habitat: Black Phoebe: This bird is resident from northern California south and east to western Texas and also in tropics. Preferred habitats include shady areas near water, streams, pond and lake banks, while in the winter, these birds occur in city parks and open chaparral.



Species: *Sayornis nigricans*

Length Range: 15 - 18 cm (6 - 7 in)

Weight: 20 g (0.7 oz)

Wingspan Range: 27 - 28 cm (10.5 - 11 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous. Solitary nester

Breeding Population: Common near water

Color: White, Black

Underparts: White

Upperparts: Black

Back Pattern: Solid

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

WESTERN SCRUB JAY

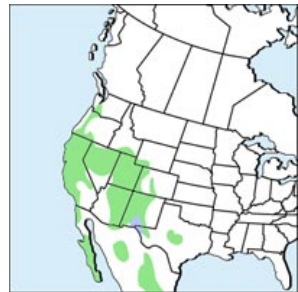
Crows and Jays (Corvidae)

General: Western Scrub Jay: Medium-sized, crestless jay with blue head, wings and tail, gray mask and back, and light gray underparts. Dark-streaked, white throat is bordered by a dark necklace. Sexes are similar. Juvenile is grayer. **Foraging and Feeding:** Coastal Western Scrub Jay: This jay forages for food on the ground and in trees. Its diet consists of insects, various grains, small lizards, frogs, various fruits and eggs and young of other birds.



Breeding and Nesting: Coastal Western Scrub Jay: Three to six eggs, spotted on darker, greenish or reddish base, are laid in a twiggy nest well hidden in a tree or dense shrub. Incubation ranges from 15 to 17 days and is carried out by female. Male feeds female during the incubation period. **Flight Pattern:** Steady buoyant wing beats.

Range and Habitat: Coastal Western Scrub Jay: This jay is resident from Washington, Wyoming, and Colorado south to Texas and also in Mexico. Preferred habitat includes scrub oak, woodlands, and chaparral. This bird does not breed in low scrub because it needs watch posts. Also has been known to inhabit suburban gardens.



Species: *Aphelocoma californica*

Length Range: 28 cm (11 in)

Weight: 79 g (2.8 oz)

Wingspan Range: 41 cm (16 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous. Solitary nester

Breeding Population: Fairly common to common

Color: Blue, White, Brown, Gray

Underparts: Gray White

Upperparts: Dark Blue

Back Pattern: Solid

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Striped or streaked

AMERICAN CROW

Crows and Jays (Corvidae)

General: American Crow: Large black bird with dark, stout bill. Body has iridescent violet gloss while wings tend toward blue-black. Tail is fan-shaped in flight. Sexes are similar. Distinguishable from other North American crows by larger size and distinct caw.

Foraging and Feeding: American Crow: This crow is omnivorous. Its diet includes wild fruit, snail, salamanders, grain, small birds, mice, eggs, toads, corn, large quantities of insects and carrion. Around coastal areas, crows display behavior similar to that of gulls, taking clams and mussels and dropping them from heights to crack open the shells. They then swoop down to ingest the soft contents.



Breeding and Nesting: American Crow: Four to six dull green eggs, spotted with dark brown, are laid in a large mass of twigs and sticks lined with feathers, grass, plant material and rootlets. Nest is placed in a fork of a tree or shrub, up to 100 feet above ground. Sometimes birds use cross arms of utility poles as a nest site. In prairie, nests can be built on the ground. Nest is built by both sexes sometimes with the help of extra birds. Incubation lasts for 18 days and is carried out by both sexes. Young stay in nest 4-5 weeks and being fed by the female. **Flight Pattern:** Slow steady deliberate direct flight with deep wing beats. Glides with slight dihedral from altitude to perch or ground, between perches, and from perch to ground.

Range and Habitat: American Crow: This crow breeds from British Columbia, central interior Canada, and Newfoundland south to southern California, Gulf Coast, and Florida. It winters north to southern Canada. This common crow is found throughout North America except in deserts, deep thickets, and on mountain tops. Its most common habitats are woodlands, farms, fields, river groves, shores and towns.



Species: *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Length Range: 44 cm (17.5 in)

Weight: 454 g (16 oz)

Wingspan Range: 84 - 102 cm (33 - 40 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous. Solitary nester

Breeding Population: Abundant

Color: Black

Underparts: Black

Upperparts: Black

Back Pattern: Solid

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

COMMON RAVEN

Crows and Jays (Corvidae)

General: Common Raven: Large raven with all-black body, large, stout bill, and wedge-shaped tail. Sexes are similar. **Foraging and Feeding:** Common Raven: Most food is taken from ground. This raven eats carrion and the insects that feed on it such as maggots and beetles. This raven will eat the afterbirth of ewes and other large mammals, small mammals, reptiles, frogs, young or wounded birds, and some invertebrates. Vegetable foods include grains, acorns, and cherries.



Breeding and Nesting: Common Raven: Four to seven dull green eggs, spotted with brown, are laid in a large mass of sticks containing a cup lined with fur, moss, and lichens, and placed on a cliff or in the top of a conifer. Incubation lasts from 18 to 21 days and is carried out by the female. **Flight Pattern:** Strong flight. Soars on thermals and updrafts.

Range and Habitat: Common Raven: This raven is resident from the Aleutians, northern Alaska and northern Canada south throughout the western United States and to Minnesota, the Great Lakes, and northern New England; and in the Appalachians to northwestern Georgia. Preferred habitats include coniferous forests and rocky coasts. In the West, these ravens are also found in deserts and arid mountains.



Species: *Corvus corax*

Length Range: 61 - 66 cm (24 - 26 in)

Weight: 1225 g (43.2 oz)

Wingspan Range: 117 - 142 cm (46 - 56 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous. Solitary nester

Breeding Population: Common

Color: Black

Underparts: Black

Upperparts: Black

Back Pattern: Solid

Belly Pattern: Solid

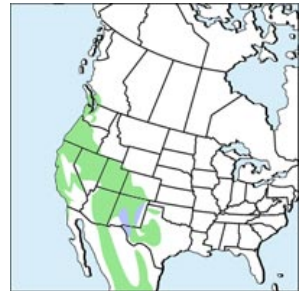
Breast Pattern: Solid

General: Bushtit: Tiny, acrobatic perching bird with gray-brown upperparts and lighter underparts. Eyes are dark brown, bill is tiny and tail is long. Pacific coast race has brown crown. Rocky Mountain race has gray cap and brown ear patch. South New Mexico/Texas race has black mask and ear patch. Female has less distinct markings and pale yellow eyes. **Foraging and Feeding:** Bushtit: The Bushtit feeds on insects and spiders that live in surrounding shrubs and trees in its habitat. It also feeds on small seeds from fruits.



Breeding and Nesting: Bushtit: Five to 15 white eggs are laid in a hanging gourd-shaped nest with a side entrance near the top. Made of soft plant wool and lichens, the nest is suspended in a bush or tree. Incubation is approximately 12 days and is carried out by both sexes. **Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flights of short duration.

Range and Habitat: Bushtit: This bird is resident from extreme southwestern British Columbia, southern Idaho, southwestern Wyoming, and the Oklahoma panhandle southward. The Bushtit's habitat is varied. It can be found in deciduous growth and in the coastal forest among second-growth alder thickets or in edges of coniferous forests composed of maple, dogwood, and birch.



Species: *Psaltriparus minimus*

Length Range: 11 cm (4.5 in)

Weight: 6 g (0.2 oz)

Wingspan Range: 18 cm (7 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous. Solitary nester

Breeding Population: Common

Color: Brown, Gray

Underparts: Whitish Gray

Upperparts: Gray

Back Pattern: Solid

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

Kinglets (Regulidae)

General: Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Medium-sized kinglet with olive-green upperparts and gray-washed, light yellow underparts. Head has inconspicuous tuft of red crown feathers and white spectacles. Wings are dark with two white bars. Tail is slightly notched and with white edges. Female lacks red crown. **Foraging and Feeding:** Ruby-Crowned Kinglet: This bird picks food off of tree trunks, branches, and dense foliage. Diet consists of insects, their eggs, and larvae. Also feeds on fruits and seeds.



Breeding and Nesting: Ruby-Crowned Kinglet: Ruby-crowned Kinglets typically build their nests close to the trunk high in a conifer. Five to 11 creamy white to muddy cream eggs, splotted with brown or gray are laid in a nest that is suspended from twigs below a sheltering and concealing horizontal branch. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female. **Flight Pattern:** Weak fluttering flight with shallow wing beats.

Range and Habitat: Ruby-Crowned Kinglet: This bird breeds from Alaska east across Canada to Newfoundland, south to southern California and New Mexico in the West, and to the Great Lakes region and northern New England in the East. It winters south from southern British Columbia and California across the southern tier of states to southern England. During summer, this bird is found in coniferous forests and in winter, it can also be found in deciduous forests and thickets.



Species: *Regulus calendula*

Length Range: 11 cm (4.25 in)

Weight: 6 g (0.2 oz)

Wingspan Range: 17 - 19 cm (6.75 - 7.5 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous. Solitary nester

Breeding Population: Widespread, Common

Color: Red, Gray, Olive, Buff

Underparts: Whitish Gray

Upperparts: Olive Green

Back Pattern: Solid

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD

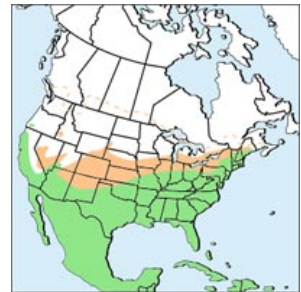
Mockingbirds and Thrashers (Mimidae)

General: Northern Mockingbird: Medium-sized mockingbird (mimid) with gray upperparts, gray-white underparts and thin black mask. Wings are gray with two white bars and large white patches visible when spread. Tail is long, gray, and edged with white. Sexes are similar. Juvenile has faint streaks on underparts. The Northern Mockingbird is active and noisy. **Foraging and Feeding:** Northern Mockingbird: Diet consists of insects, fruit, crustaceans and small vertebrates. These birds typically do not visit feeders.



Breeding and Nesting: Northern Mockingbird: Three to five blue-green eggs, spotted with brown, are laid in a bulky cup of sticks and weed stems in a bush or low tree. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female. **Flight Pattern:** Several quick wing strokes alternated with wings pulled to the sides.

Range and Habitat: Northern Mockingbird: This bird breeds from northern California, eastern Nebraska, southern Ontario, and Maritime Canada southward. It winters in the southern part of its range. Residential areas, city parks, farmlands, open country with thickets, and desert brush are favorite habitats of this mockingbird.



Species: *Mimus polyglottus*

Length Range: 25 cm (10 in)

Weight: 48 g (1.7 oz)

Wingspan Range: 33 - 38 cm (13 - 15 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous. Solitary nester

Breeding Population: Common

Color: White, Gray

Underparts: Gray White

Upperparts: Gray

Back Pattern: Solid

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

EUROPEAN STARLING ADULT FALL

Starling (Sturnidae)

General: European Starling: Chunky, white-flecked iridescent black bird with long, pointed yellow bill and short tail. Sexes are similar. Winter adult is black with dark bill. Juvenile is uniform dull gray with dark bill. Introduced from Europe. **Foraging and Feeding:** European Starling: This bird is omnivorous and can adapt to numerous kinds of food. It uses a "prying" and "open-bill probing" technique to allow them access to foods that are protected by tough skins or shells. The birds insert their bill into the food, pry it open by widening their beaks, and expose the nourishment that is found inside. Foods eaten include seeds, insects, vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, and fruits. The most common animals eaten by the starling are centipedes, spiders, moths, and earthworms.



Breeding and Nesting: European Starling: Four to six pale blue eggs are laid in a mass of twigs, grass, forbs, straw, and trash. Nest is lined with finer plant material and feathers, and placed in a natural hollow of tree, bird box, crevice in man-made structure, or abandoned woodpecker hole, 10-25 feet above ground. Incubation takes 12 to 14 days and is carried out by both sexes. Young stay in the nest up to 3 weeks and are being fed by both sexes. These birds have 2-3 broods per year. **Flight Pattern:** Swift direct flight with rapid wing beats. Flight is straight and direct, with rapid wing beats alternating with short glides. Flocks maneuver skillfully, appearing to move as a single unit with impressive precision, especially when mobbing or avoiding avian predators.

Range and Habitat: European Starling: This bird occurs from Alaska and Quebec south throughout the continent to the Gulf Coast and northern Mexico. It is native to Eurasia and was widely introduced around the world. Common habitats of this starling include cities, suburban areas, farmlands, and ranches. They forage in open country on short, mown, or grazed fields.



Species: *Sturnus vulgaris*

Length Range: 22 cm (8.5 in)

Weight: 85 g (3 oz)

Wingspan Range: 39 cm (15.5 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous. Loose colonies

Breeding Population: Common

Color: White, Black

Underparts: Black

Upperparts: Black

Back Pattern: Spotted or speckled

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

Wood Warblers (Parulidae)

General: Yellow-rumped Warbler: Medium-sized warbler with dark-streaked blue gray upperparts and bright yellow rump. Throat and belly are white and breast is black. Black head has yellow crown, white eye rings and faint eye stripes. Wings are dark with yellow shoulder patches and two white bars. Tail is dark with white corners. Female is duller and has streaked sides and flanks. Juvenile resembles female but lacks yellow crown, shoulder patches, and tail markings. **Foraging and Feeding:** Yellow-rumped Warbler: The Yellow-rumped Warbler feeds mainly on insects in the summer and on berries and fruit in the winter. Yellow-rumped Warblers are capable of assimilating 80 % of wax-coated berries such as bayberries. They have developed unique gastrointestinal traits to allow them to subsist on this unusual food source.



Breeding and Nesting: Yellow-rumped Warbler: Four to five white eggs, spotted and blotched with brown, are laid in a bulky nest of twigs, rootlets, and grass, lined with hair and feathers and placed in a conifer. Incubation ranges from 12 to 13 days and is carried out by the female. **Flight Pattern:** Rapid flight with quick wing strokes.

Range and Habitat: Yellow-rumped Warbler: This bird breeds from northern Alaska, northern Manitoba, central Quebec, and Newfoundland south in West to northern Mexico and in East to Michigan, northern New York, Massachusetts, and Maine. It winters from the southern part of its breeding range southward into the tropics. A highly adaptable bird, the Yellow-rumped Warbler can be found in a variety of habitats including coniferous forest, mixed woodlands, deciduous forest, pine plantation, bogs, forest edges, and openings. In the winter it is often found in brushy thickets of bayberry and wax myrtle.



Species: *Dendroica coronata*

Length Range: 14 cm (5.5 in)

Weight: 14 g (0.5 oz)

Wingspan Range: 22 cm (8.5 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous. Solitary nester

Breeding Population: Abundant

Color: Black, Gray, Yellow

Underparts: Dark Gray

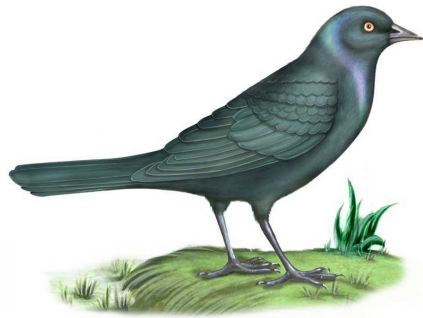
Upperparts: Gray

Back Pattern: Striped or streaked

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

General: Brewer's Blackbird: Medium-sized blackbird with purple gloss on head and neck, and green gloss on body and wings. Eyes are yellow. Female is entirely dark gray-brown with darker wings and tail, and dark eyes. **Foraging and Feeding:** Brewer's Blackbird (Male): The bird forms large foraging flocks during migration and winter. Forages on the ground and eats insects, caterpillars, fruit, seeds, and grains.



Breeding and Nesting: Brewer's Blackbird (Male): Three to five gray eggs, with dark brown spots, are laid in a nest of coarse grass and twigs reinforced with mud and lined with fine grass and hair, placed on the ground or in a tree. These birds nest in loose colonies of up to 30 pairs. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female. **Flight Pattern:** Strong direct flight with powerful rapid wing beats.

Range and Habitat: Brewer's Blackbird (Male): This blackbird breeds from British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario south to southern California, New Mexico, and Texas. It winters north to British Columbia and the Carolinas. Habitat consists of prairies, fields, and farmyards.



Species: <i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Color: Black
Length Range: 22 - 26 cm (8.75 - 10.25 in)	Underparts: Black
Weight: 68 g (2.4 oz)	Upperparts: Black
Wingspan Range: 36 - 41 cm (14 - 16 in)	Back Pattern: Solid
Breeding Type: Monogamous. May be polygamous	Belly Pattern: Solid
Breeding Population: Common	Breast Pattern: Solid

HOUSE FINCH

Finches (Fringillidae)

General: House Finch: Medium-sized finch with brown-streaked back and wings, and streaked white underparts. Head, throat and rump are pink-red. Tail is relatively long and weakly notched. Female has overall gray-streaked brown appearance. **Foraging and Feeding:** House Finch: Unlike other finches, this finch will forage on the ground. Feeding in open spaces off the ground will occur where perching sites with cover are available nearby. This bird eats vegetation almost exclusively. Seeds, including those from thistle, dandelion, sunflower, and mistletoe, as well as buds, are consumed. In addition, fruits such as cherries and mulberries are favored.



Breeding and Nesting: House Finch: Three to five bluish, lightly streaked or spotted eggs are laid in a tightly woven, compact nest set in a bush, thicket, natural cavity, or on a building. Nest is built by the female and is made of twigs, grass, leaves, rootlets, bits of debris, and feathers. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female. **Flight Pattern:** Swift bounding flight. Alternates several rapid wing beats with brief periods of wings pulled to sides.

Range and Habitat: House Finch: This finch is resident throughout the West, from southern Canada to southern Mexico, and east to Nebraska. It was introduced and is now widespread in eastern North America. In the East, preferred habitats include cities and residential areas. In the West, preferred habitats consist of Chaparral, deserts, and orchards, as well as coastal valleys that were formerly forested with redwood, cedar, or Douglas fir, but have now become suburban.



Species: *Carpodacus mexicanus*

Length Range: 15 cm (6 in)

Weight: 20 g (0.7 oz)

Wingspan Range: 25 cm (9.75 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous. Solitary nester

Breeding Population: Abundant

Color: Red, White, Brown

Underparts: Brown

Upperparts: Brown

Back Pattern: Striped or streaked

Belly Pattern: Striped or streaked

Breast Pattern: Solid

HOUSE FINCH FEMALE

Finches (Fringillidae)

General: House Finch: Medium-sized finch, gray-streaked brown overall with a plain head and relatively long, weakly notched tail. Male has brown-streaked back and wings, streaked white underparts, and pink-red wash on head, throat and rump. Juvenile resembles female.” **Foraging and Feeding:** House Finch Female: Unlike other finches, this finch will forage on the ground. Feeding in open spaces off the ground will occur where perching sites with cover are available nearby. This bird eats vegetation almost exclusively. Seeds, including those from thistle, dandelion, sunflower, and mistletoe, as well as buds, are consumed. In addition, fruits such as cherries and mulberries are favored.



Breeding and Nesting: House Finch Female: Three to five bluish, lightly streaked or spotted eggs are laid in a tightly woven, compact nest set in a bush, thicket, natural cavity, or on a building. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female. **Flight Pattern:** Swift bounding flight with rapid wing beats.

Range and Habitat: House Finch Female: This finch is resident throughout the West, from southern Canada to southern Mexico, and east to Nebraska. It was introduced and is now widespread in eastern North America. In the East, preferred habitats include cities and residential areas. In the West, preferred habitats consist of Chaparral, deserts, and orchards, as well as coastal valleys that were formerly forested with redwood, cedar, or Douglas fir, but have now become suburban.



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Wingspan Range: 25 cm (9.75 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous. Solitary nester

Breeding Population: Abundant

Color: White, Brown, Gray, Buff

Underparts: Brown

Upperparts: Gray

Back Pattern: Striped or streaked

Belly Pattern: Striped or streaked

Breast Pattern: Striped or streaked

LESSER GOLDFINCH

Finches (Fringillidae)

General: Lesser Goldfinch: Small finch with dark back (black in the East, dark green in the West), black crown and bright yellow underparts. Wings and tail are black with white markings. Winter male is duller. Female is smaller, duller and lacks black cap. Juvenile is similar to female but has greener underparts.

Foraging and Feeding: Lesser Goldfinch: Primary diet consists of eating seeds from weeds, trees, and grasses. The Lesser Goldfinch will come to bird feeders for sunflower and thistle seeds.



Breeding and Nesting: Lesser Goldfinch: Four to five pale blue eggs are laid in a twiggy nest in a bush or low tree. Incubation is approximately 12 days and is carried out by the female. **Flight Pattern:** High bouncy swift flight with rapid wing beats.

Range and Habitat: Lesser Goldfinch: Resident from Washington, Oregon, and northern Nevada east to northern Colorado and Texas, and south to beyond U.S.-Mexico border. While there are two races of this bird, black-backed males are found from northern Colorado southward through Texas and westward to Utah and Arizona. Green-backed birds occur from Utah westward to Columbia River and southward into Mexico. Preferred habitats include oak savannas, woodlands, and suburban gardens.



Species: *Carduelis psaltria*

Length Range: 11 cm (4.5 in)

Weight: 9 g (0.3 oz)

Wingspan Range: 20 cm (8 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous

Breeding Population: Common

Color: Green, White, Black, Yellow, Olive

Underparts: Yellow Green

Upperparts: Olive Green

Back Pattern: Striped or streaked

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

HOUSE SPARROW

Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

General: House Sparrow: Medium-sized, stocky sparrow with black-streaked brown upperparts and pale gray underparts. Wings are brown with single white bar. Cheeks and crown are pale gray, contrasting with black throat, upper breast and bill. Legs are shorter and bill is thicker than native sparrows. Female lacks black and has pale bill. An urban species introduced from Europe. **Foraging and Feeding:** House Sparrow: The House Sparrow forages for food on the ground, in trees and shrubs, and in urban and rural areas. Its diet consists of insects, caterpillars, seeds, grains, and fruits. This bird has also been seen inspecting car grilles for insects.



Breeding and Nesting: House Sparrow: Nests are built by both sexes between February and May. Five or six white eggs, lightly speckled with brown, are laid in a loose mass of grass, feathers, strips of paper, string, and similar debris placed in a man-made or natural cavity. House Sparrows nest in crevices inside and on buildings, and in coniferous and deciduous trees. May also nest in bird boxes. Incubation ranges from 10 to 14 days and is carried out by both sexes by mostly by the female. **Flight Pattern:** Swift bounding flight. Alternates several rapid wing beats with brief periods of wings pulled to sides.

Range and Habitat: House Sparrow: This bird was introduced introduced on all continents, excepting Antarctica, and many islands. It is resident throughout temperate North America. The species is native to and resides from Britain, northern Scandinavia, and northern Siberia to northern Africa, Arabia, India, and Burma. House Sparrows have been introduced into South America, southern Africa, Australia, and New Zealand, in addition to North America. House Sparrows are closely tied to human activity. Preferred habitats include cities, towns, and agricultural areas.



Species: *Passer domesticus*

Length Range: 14 - 17 cm (5.5 - 6.5 in)

Weight: 28 g (1 oz)

Wingspan Range: 24 - 25 cm (9.5 - 10 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous. Some promiscuous

Breeding Population: Widespread, Abundant

Color: White, Brown, Black, Gray, Buff

Underparts: Pale Gray

Upperparts: Black

Back Pattern: Striped or streaked

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

HOUSE SPARROW FEMALE

Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

General: House Sparrow: Medium-sized, stocky sparrow with black-streaked brown upperparts, brown cap, gray face with dark line behind eye, and pale gray underparts. Wings are brown with single white bar. Legs are shorter and pale bill is thicker than native sparrows. Male has distinct black throat, upper breast and bill. Juvenile resembles female but may (males) have dark throat. An urban species introduced from Europe.” **Foraging and Feeding:** House Sparrow Female: The House Sparrow Female forages for food on the ground, in trees and shrubs, and in urban and rural areas. Its diet consists of insects, caterpillars, seeds, grains, and fruits. This bird has also been seen inspecting car grilles for insects.



Breeding and Nesting: House Sparrow Female: Nests are built between February and May. Five or six white eggs, lightly speckled with brown, are laid in a loose mass of grass, feathers, strips of paper, string, and similar debris placed in a man-made or natural cavity. House Sparrow Females nest in crevices inside and on buildings, and in coniferous and deciduous trees. **Flight Pattern:** Swift bounding flight with rapid wing beats.

Range and Habitat: House Sparrow Female: This bird was introduced and is resident throughout temperate North America. It is native to Eurasia and North Africa, and introduced on all continents, excepting Antarctica, and many islands. Preferred habitats include cities, towns, and agricultural areas.



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Weight: 28 g (1 oz)

Wingspan Range: 24 - 25 cm (9.5 - 10 in)

Breeding Type: Monogamous. Some promiscuous

Breeding Population: Widespread, Abundant

Color: White, Brown, Black, Gray, Buff

Underparts: Brown Gray

Upperparts: Black

Back Pattern: Striped or streaked

Belly Pattern: Solid

Breast Pattern: Solid

RECOMMENDED BIRD FEEDERS

The feeders in the following pages have been reviewed by the Whatbird staff and are considered "best of breed". They can be ordered from Duncraft:
<http://www.duncraft.com>

Triple Tube Feeder



Overview:

The Triple Tube feeder was designed to make feeding backyard birds easy. It's very simple to load: spin the plastic hood, remove it, and then pour the seed into the three separate tubes. Fill one tube with sunflower seeds, another with wild bird

seed, and the third with large nutmeats to attract the widest variety of birds. Spin the hood back onto the top and you're in business.

The 12 feeding ports (four per vertical tube) and the round fold-down doors are the key features on this feeder. The door hole is large enough for most medium sized birds, such as sparrows or jays, to access the seed when they are open. When the doors are closed, a small hole in the center restricts feeding to small-billed birds, like the nuthatches and wrens, very useful when the local sparrow or starling population discovers your feeder.

Construction and Durability:

The Triple Tube feeder is well constructed, made of acrylic, polystyrene, and metal clad. The polystyrene hood is designed to keep squirrels from raiding the seed – the marauders slide off of it as they try. A small plastic tray at the bottom of the tubes catches most of the discarded seed, but some seed does end up on the ground.

Cleaning:

This feeder is fairly easy to clean. This feeder isn't the easiest unit to clean, but it's not impossible once you snap off the bottom tray and soak it in a 1:10 diluted solution of bleach and water. Remove the cruddy build-up at the bottom of the tubes with a long, stiff wire brush purchased at any hardware store.

Setting Up:

This feeder is easy to assemble, and the top features a large hook that can be attached to a branch with a metal hanger. Assembly consists of snapping on the bottom tray and inserting the small metal pegs (perches) into the holes under the feeder ports. Landing grooves below each port encourage chickadees and nuthatches to feed if you choose to remove the perches.

[Buy this feeder at Duncraft:](#)
[Promotion Code XHC2103](#)

Manufacturer: Opus

Type: Tube

Value: Excellent

Durability: Excellent

Ease of Use: Excellent

Ease of Filling: Excellent

Birds Attracted: Most songbirds, wrens, nuthatches.

Summary: Fill your feeder less frequently with this large-capacity, easy to use tube-style feeder.

The sliding port doors keep out the sparrows, and the hood successfully blocks squirrels.

Capacity: 10 lbs of seed.

Size: 24 inches high, 12 inches diameter.

Pros:

Easy to fill.

Blocks squirrels.

Sliding feeder doors can be used to restrict large birds.

Holds many kinds of seed.

Cons:

Heavy when filled.

Seed may become damp and sprout at the bottom.

Top is plastic, not metal as it looks in the photo.

Vista Dome Feeder



Overview:

Small birds love the Vista Dome Feeder. The adjustable dome has enough curvature to keep out squirrels

and large birds, such as blue jays and black birds, but if you don't mind them visiting, raise the dome to its full height and they are allowed to dine. When you lower the dome, only finches, sparrows, chickadees, and other small birds can enter. The bottom tray has slanted sides, ideal for suet or mealworms. Screw off the seed dish for easy re-filling. The feeder holds up to one pound of seed, and the lid keeps it relatively dry in rainy or snowy conditions. The feeder's overall weight of less than two pounds makes it easy to hang from any branch. You can also purchase a suction cup with an arm so that the feeder can hang on a window.

Construction and Durability:

The resilient and well-built Vista Dome Feeder is made of clear acrylic and metal. Kids love using this feeder because it's easy to refill, but little hands can drop it, so be sure to supervise. My durable feeder has spent winters in Michigan suction-cupped to a window that faces the westerly winds. After many a night of banging against the window and instances of my kids dropping it, I still can't find any wear or cracks on it. The summer sun has not managed to damage it either.

Cleaning:

This feeder can be taken apart and cleaned easily in a water and bleach solution. To prevent rusting, take care in drying the metal rod and screws.

Setting Up:

Hang the Vista Dome Feeder from any branch, hook, or armed window suction cup with an S-hook. Raise and lower the lid with a screw into a plastic stopper that holds the dome in place along the metal rod, which runs through the center to where you'll screw in the base by turning it counter-clockwise over the screw and thread system on the end of the metal rod.

[Buy this feeder at Duncraft:](#)
[Promotion Code XHC2103](#)

Manufacturer: Aspects

Type: Domed Hopper

Value: Good

Durability: Excellent

Ease of Use: Excellent

Ease of Filling: Excellent

Birds Attracted: This feeder attracts small songbirds when the dome is lowered, and allows in medium to large birds when the dome is open.

Summary: The easy-to-adjust Vista Dome Feeder allows small birds to feed, and expands to make room for medium-sized songbirds.

Capacity: 1 lb of seed.

Size: 14" tall when fully expanded by 12" wide.

Pros:

Easy to clean.

Dome lid keeps squirrels out.

Lightweight and able to hang on suction cups on windows.

Screw-on bottom eases refilling.

Holds mealworms or suet.

Cons:

Bird activity may loosen the bottom.

When refilling seed, bottom hole can become plugged.

Screw can rust.

Small base needs refilling often.

Fruit and Jelly Feeder

[Buy this feeder at Duncraft:](#)
[Promotion Code XHC2103](#)



Overview:
Attract birds that don't visit seed feeders with the Fruit and Jelly feeder. Cut or halve apples, oranges, peaches,

nectarines, grapefruit, and melons and place them on the copper spirals. Use caution when twisting on the fruit because the ends of the spirals are sharp. For that reason, children should not re-fill this feeder. This feeder also should be placed in the shade or away from direct sunlight. The sun dries the fruit and the birds won't eat it. Also, the chance of the fruit rotting or molding goes up as it remains on the feeder, so change the fruit regularly. The dish may be used for live mealworms to attract Bluebirds. The metal parts of the feeder require regular cleaning to get rid of the juice and fruit remnants that attract bugs and ants.

Construction and Durability:

The strands of copper shaped into the two fruit-spear spirals are virtually unbendable. Several strands of copper intertwine to comprise the center, a single unit with a hook for hanging in trees. The durable Pyrex bowl is made of thick glass, but can still shatter in a hard impact. The dish should only be used during mild weather, and brought in each night. The copper components of this feeder will not rust, and will stand up to heavy rain and long winters. The copper color has faded on my unit, but the feeder still holds fruit and attracts birds with no problem. My feeder has blown out of the tree several times, but the fruit has remained attached. I have even had to search my yard a couple of times to locate this feeder, and on both occasions found it against the fence where a raccoon had tried to abscond with it.

Cleaning:

The Fruit and Jelly feeder requires frequent cleaning. Fruit rots quickly in warm areas and the juices and pulp can cling to the feeders. Wash the feeder in a 1:10 bleach-to-water mixture. Use a cloth or brush to get all of the food remnants off of spirals. The Pyrex dish can be washed in the dishwasher after every use.

Setting Up:

The Fruit and Jelly feeder comes in one piece, complete with a hook for hanging. A glass Pyrex dish is easily slipped into place to serve jelly or mealworms. The dish is optional and not required for feeder use.

Manufacturer: Duncraft

Type: Fruit

Value: Good

Durability: Excellent

Ease of Use: Excellent

Ease of Filling: Good

Birds Attracted: Orioles, mockingbirds, bluebirds, purple finches, scarlet tanager, and wrens.

Summary: Offer birds a rare fruit treat from this Fruit and Jelly feeder, which attracts birds you wouldn't normally bring to your yard with a seed feeder. Thick copper spirals hold apples, oranges, peaches, or other fruit chunks securely.

Capacity: Two pounds of fruit and/or jelly.

Size: 7" wide by 9" tall.

Pros:

Holds fruit securely.

Copper will not rust.

Sturdy.

Cons:

Sharp edges of fruit spirals.

Needs cleaning often.

Needs a shady location.

Attracts "critters".

Cardinal Classic Feeder

[Buy this feeder at Duncraft:](#)
[Promotion Code XHC2103](#)



Overview:
The Cardinal Classic Feeder will turn your window into a private viewing

station. Place the lightweight plastic feeder can on any clean window using the three included suction cups and watch the show begin. Birds eat undisturbed as you study them from indoors. This feeder is especially great for families with children, elderly residents, and even indoor cats that need a little extra entertainment. The seed tray is large enough to hold a cardinal and other small songbirds. The roof and small perch make it difficult, if not impossible, for a large bird or squirrel to use. Fill it with sunflowers and safflowers to attract more cardinals and fewer finches.

Construction and Durability:

The one-piece molded plastic construction is convenient and makes for a durable set up. The only added parts are the suction cups, which are also plastic. The problem with one-piece construction is that the entire feeder needs to be taken down for a refill if you don't have a small seed scooper handy. Temperate weather is ideal for this feeder; I had problems during a very cold winter with the suction cups losing their grip on the window. When the suction cups froze and the feeder dropped, it hit the cement of the patio and cracked along the roof line.

Cleaning:

Since the Cardinal Classic Feeder comes in one piece, all of it has to be washed at once. The corners of the bottom tray require a brush to reach into the crevices for a thorough clean. The plastic is safe for soaking in a bleach and water solution.

Setting Up:

The one-piece design requires no set-up – just hang it on a window and you're in business. To hang it, find a window where the feeder will make the most impact, like the kitchen or family room, and make sure the glass is clean on the outside. Position suction cups and make sure that they are sticking securely to the window before hanging the feeder. Hand rubbing the suction cup face a dozen or so times to add human oils to the cups surface will help with proper long term mounting.

Manufacturer: Duncraft

Type: Window Feeder

Value: Excellent

Durability: Good

Ease of Use: Excellent

Ease of Filling: Good

Birds Attracted: Cardinals, chickadees, goldfinches, sparrows, titmice, and other songbirds.

Summary: Watch the birds up close as they dine from this suction-cup window feeder. This small, sturdy feeder is frequented by songbirds and is difficult for squirrels to raid.

Capacity: One pound of seed

Size: 6" long by 5-1/2" wide and sticks out 4" from the window.

Pros:

Only small birds can dine.

Lightweight.

Allows for up-close bird watching

Cons:

Needs refilling often.

Difficult to re-hang when full.

Food remnants fall below the windows.

Suction cups can fail in cold weather, causing the unit to fall.

WAITE CUSTOM GUIDES

FEATURES OF THIS GUIDE

- ◆ Extensive ID information
- ◆ Full page color illustrations
- ◆ Detailed range maps
- ◆ PDF Table of Contents hyperlinks
- ◆ Each bird on one full page



David Lukas has been an avid birder for over 25 years leading hundreds of birding tours and classes. He is the author of *Wild Birds of California*, *Watchable Birds of the Great Basin*, and the newly revised *Sierra Nevada Natural History*.

Unlike most field guides with postage stamp sized photos, WhatBird guides contain full-page color illustrations of each bird along with the most important identification and behavior information. The book also details the bird's behavior, including foraging, breeding, nesting, vocalization, and migration. Organized into families with each family color coded at the top of the page, there are two tables of contents, one arranged by family name, the other by common name.

All information contained in this field guide is derived from the WhatBird database found at <http://www.whatbird.com>. This database includes a state of the art parametric search engine that allows identification of any one of over 800 bird species or variations found in North America with just a few clicks. There is also a bird forum where our ornithologists will help you identify birds that you cannot find with the search engine.



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