



# IN YOUR BACK YARD

A guide to spotting common (and some uncommon)  
birds in your neighborhood and beyond.

SWCA



BIRDS  
OF THE  
PACIFIC  
NORTH  
WEST

# COMMON SPECIES

MOST LIKELY FOUND IN YOUR BACKYARD AND NEIGHBORHOOD

## MOURNING DOVE

Mourning Doves are common visitors to yards and bird feeders in urban and rural areas. These doves typically forage on the ground for seeds singly, in pairs, or in small flocks. Mourning Doves are identified by their long, pointed tail and wings; overall brown-gray coloration; and black spots on their wings. The species' sad-sounding "coo-oo, coo-oo" song inspired their common name, and their wings make a whistling noise when they take flight.



### HABITAT:

Everywhere except deep woods.

## ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

Anna's Hummingbirds are the most common hummingbird species in urban and suburban areas of the Pacific Northwest and are year-round residents (Rufous Hummingbirds travel through the region on migratory routes). Male Anna's Hummingbirds have an iridescent rose-red throat and crown and emerald-green backs; females have small rose-red spots on the throat, emerald-green backs, and grayish coloration underneath. Anna's will readily come to hummingbird feeders.



### HABITAT:

Yards, gardens, parks, residential streets, streamsides, and open woodland.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In thrilling courtship displays, Anna's Hummingbird males climb up to 130 feet into the air and then swoop to the ground with a curious burst of noise that they produce through their tail feathers.

## THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO GET TO KNOW THE BIRDS THAT VISIT YOUR WINDOW, BACKYARD, AND NEIGHBORHOOD.

Even when we can't venture far from home, birds come to us! Anyone at any age can become an expert backyard birder. To help you get started, SWCA's natural resource experts compiled this guide to birds in your region. We've included various species from common to not so common, so that you can build your bird detective skills over time. Grab your camera or binoculars and start watching.

Check off any species you find, and let us know how you did at [BackyardBirds@swca.com](mailto:BackyardBirds@swca.com)!



CHECK IF SPOTTED!

## DOWNY WOODPECKER

A small black-and-white woodpecker, males have a small red patch on the back of the head. They are usually seen on the trunks and branches of trees, and they use dead trees to do their drumming. The Downy Woodpecker is more common than the larger Hairy Woodpecker, which has a much longer beak. Their calls include a sharp “*pik*” and a whinny that goes down the scale (unlike the Hairy’s whinny, which remains level throughout). Can be a fairly common feeder bird if suet is provided.



### HABITAT:

Wooded neighborhoods, parks, and woodlands.

## STELLER'S JAY

The only western jay with a crest, the Steller’s Jay has a black or charcoal head with a large, pointed crest and iridescent dark blue body, wings, and tail. Often in pairs or small groups, the Steller’s Jay is commonly seen lurking at picnic grounds or visiting bird feeders. Steller’s Jays will eat anything, including seeds, insects, berries, and small reptiles. They often hide seeds for eating later. Like many other jays, its voice is very loud, and it often imitates Red-tailed Hawk calls.



### HABITAT:

Shady forests of western mountains and coast.

## CALIFORNIA SCRUB-JAY

This common “blue jay” of parks, yards, and woodlands is often seen in small groups. This scrub-jay has a white throat bordered by a streaked blue necklace and a gray back that contrasts with its blue head, wings, and tail (lighter blue than the Steller’s Jay). A large and lanky songbird, its tail is long and floppy. This scrub-jay is omnivorous and often hides food for later eating.



### HABITAT:

Open habitats, oak woodlands, backyards, pastures, and orchards.

## NORTHERN FLICKER

The most common woodpecker in the Pacific Northwest, the Northern Flicker is found in urban and rural areas alike and is easily identified by the black crescent on its breast, spotted underparts, and an obvious white rump patch in flight. The western red-shafted form (may appear orange) is far more common than the eastern yellow-shafted form, and they are best distinguished in flight by the respective color of their underwing and tail feathers. Male red-shafteds have a red moustache, whereas male yellow-shafteds have a black moustache. Male Northern Flickers love to use gutters, air vent covers, and chimney flashing to amplify their territorial “drumming” during the spring mating season. Unlike other woodpeckers, Northern Flickers are often seen foraging for ants on the ground. This species is an important ecological lynchpin in that the cavities it excavates for nesting are later used by other bird species that cannot excavate their own nest cavities, like bluebirds, wrens, and small owls.

### HABITAT:

Open forests, wooded riparian areas, towns, and homesteads with shade trees.



## AMERICAN CROW

A large, intelligent black bird known for its “*caw*,” American Crows usually are seen in pairs or small flocks and can occur anywhere where there are at least a few trees. They are omnivorous and are known to consume human garbage and baby birds taken from nests. Crows are good “watchdogs” for other birds, alerting them to hawks and owls, which they chase vigorously.



### HABITAT:

Neighborhoods, parks, woodlands, and farmlands.

## TREE SWALLOW

Tree Swallows are common and widespread in the summer, migrating to Central America for winter. They nest in holes, trees, or in birdhouses. They have an iridescent blue-green back and white underparts; their dark cap extends down over the eye. Their voice is a charming, liquid twittering. These birds are insect feeders and can be seen gliding over waterbodies chasing small insects (including mosquitos); when insects are scarce, they'll feed on berries.

### HABITAT:

Open fields, often near water.



## VAUX'S SWIFT

Very similar to the eastern Chimney Swift, Vaux's (sounds like foxes) Swifts are common in the summer in the northwest. Looking like flying cigars with very rapid wingbeats, they utter high twittering calls as they cruise the skies for small flying insects. As do Chimney Swifts, Vaux's Swifts roost and nest in hollow trees in mature forest and in dormant chimneys. Before migrating to Central America for the winter, they gather in flocks of thousands, roosting together at night in huge hollow trees or in large chimneys.

### HABITAT:

Cities, towns, rural lands, old-growth conifer forests, and wherever suitable nesting and roosting sites are available.



## VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW

Violet-green Swallows are a bit smaller than Tree Swallows, with faster wingbeats and less gliding. They are dark above (glossy violet and green in good light) with white rump patches above the tail; the white on their face circles up above the eye. Like the Tree Swallow, Violet-greens also nest in holes in trees or cliffs, and both Tree and Violet-greens will nest in nest boxes.

### HABITAT:

Common in summer in the west in clearings of evergreen forest, rimrocks, canyons, riversides, and residential areas.



## GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

The Golden-crowned Kinglet has a similar wing pattern to the Ruby-crowned, with black-and-white stripes above the eye instead of an eyering. The center of its crown is orange on the male and yellow on the female. Both species of kinglets flick wings open and shut when foraging for insects, and the two are often in mixed flocks in the winter. The Golden-crowned Kinglet's song is so high pitched that many people cannot hear it.

### HABITAT:

Prefers evergreen forests year-round, but in winter may also be found in deciduous forests, swamps, bottomlands, scrubby habitat, and suburbs.



## BARN SWALLOW

A familiar swallow of open country, the Barn Swallow nests in barns or sheds or porches in cup-shaped mud nests. It has a blue-black back; rusty orange throat; a buffy underside; and a distinctive, long forked tail (a "swallow tail"). Barn Swallows are often seen in groups, and their various calls are given constantly.

### HABITAT:

Grasslands and fields, farmyards, and open water areas, or perched on wires near feeding areas and nesting sites.



## RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

A hyperactive midget, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet is overall olive-green, with one white wingbar (stripe on wing), with a black bar just behind it, and a white eyering. The male's ruby crown patch is raised only in excitement. Its cheerful song is one of the first signs of spring, and after it migrates into the mountains for breeding, it sings a different but also exuberant song. Foraging for insects in dense foliage, it often hovers near leaves or the tips of twigs.

### HABITAT:

Summers high in evergreen forests, and comes down in elevation in the winter where it can be found in a variety of habitats, from forests and thickets to suburban yards.



## BUSHTIT

Long-tailed western birdlets, in flocks of 10 to 40 birds most of the year, Bushtits are plain gray birds with a small bill. Females have pale-yellow eyes and males have dark eyes. Bushtits weave a very unusual hanging nest, shaped like a soft pouch or sock, using moss, spider webs, and grasses or other vegetation. In winter, flocks of Bushtits huddle together at night to conserve warmth, and during the day they often mix with similar small songbirds like chickadees, kinglets, and warblers. Can be a fairly common feeder bird if suet is provided.



### HABITAT:

Oak woods, mixed deciduous forest, and scrubland.

## CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE

Chestnut-backed Chickadees are limited to the Pacific Northwest. They have a rich chestnut back and sides contrasting with gray wings, white cheeks, and a sooty-brown cap. Their song is a series of husky squeaky calls that sound like baby birds, but they never give the classic “*chick-a-dee*” call of other chickadee species. They can excavate a hole for nesting in a very rotten snag, but will readily move into nest boxes instead.



### HABITAT:

Dense, wet evergreen forest, oak woodlands, streamside willows. Found higher in the branches of coastal conifers or lower down in shrubs around yards and park borders.

## BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE



Black-capped Chickadees are small and lively with a pitch-black cap and bib and a white cheek.

Usually seen flitting about trees, chickadees move from branch to branch looking for insects to eat, sometimes even hanging upside down while they inspect a leaf cluster. They are often in family groups and will travel with other small birds, including nuthatches,

kinglets, creepers, vireos, warblers, and small woodpeckers.

Their namesake call is “*chick-a-dee-dee*,” and they make little squeaks. They are popular visitors to bird feeders, dropping in for sunflower seeds or suet, and they nest in holes in trees and in birdhouses.

### HABITAT:

Neighborhoods, parks, and woodlands.

**Did YOU KNOW?**  
Chickadee calls are complex, communicating information on identity and recognition of other flocks as well as predator alarms and contact calls. The more “*dee*” notes in a chickadee-dee-dee call, the higher the threat level.

## WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH



An agile bird, the White-breasted Nuthatch is often seen moving upside down on tree trunks and branches, looking for insects. They will also take advantage of bird feeders, looking for sunflower seeds that they often hide in tree crevices during the fall and winter. They are larger than the Red-breasted Nuthatch and have a narrow black crown stripe, white face and breast (the lower belly and under the tail are often chestnut colored), and black and blue-gray back and wings. Their voice is less nasal and more musical than the Red-breasted.

### HABITAT:

Mixed forests, oak woodlands, suburbs with big trees, parks, and roadsides.

## RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH



This snazzy-looking bird is all business as it works its way down tree trunks looking for insects. Red-breasted Nuthatches are small birds, with a crisp black crown and eye stripe contrasting with a white eyebrow and cheek. The rusty wash to its underparts gives the bird its name, although the female is often creamy buff instead. This species likes suet but will just as happily snatch seeds from a feeder. It has a nasal, yammering call, “*ank, ank, ank*,” that is higher and less musical than the call of the White-breasted Nuthatch.

### HABITAT:

Woodlands, suburbs, and parks.

## BROWN CREEPER

Like a small piece of bark come to life, this brown, long-billed bird creeps its way UP tree trunks and major branches, bracing itself with its stiff tail feathers. Reaching the top of one tree, it flies down to the base of the next tree. It uses its thin, curved bill to probe for insects hidden in crevices and under the bark. Brown Creepers eat mostly insects, but in winter will eat suet and peanut butter, and occasionally sunflower seeds, pine seeds, and grass seeds. Brown Creepers build their hammock-shaped nests behind peeling sections of bark that provide a lean-to shelter from rain.



### HABITAT:

Large, old conifer or deciduous trees.

## BEWICK'S WREN

Jaunty and brash, this small bird is brown with a white eyebrow and a longish tail, which is often flicked about. They are common in parts of the west, but can be very sneaky in hiding from sight. These master vocalists belt out a string of very loud short whistles, warbles, burrs, and trills to attract mates and defend their territory, or scold visitors with raspy calls. Nests in tree cavities, sometimes in bird houses, usually low to the ground. They eat a variety of bugs, beetles, and spiders.

### HABITAT:

Dry woods, thickets, riversides, undergrowth, and low trees.



## AMERICAN ROBIN

At home in a tree or on a lawn, the American Robin is known for its rusty orange breast and pleasant clear, whistling song that sounds like "cheery, cheer-up, cheer-io." They also make a chicken-like "tut, tut, tut" call. They eat worms, bugs, and fruit and so do not usually visit feeders, but will happily build a nest in a sheltered place on a house, like under an eave.

### HABITAT:

Neighborhoods, gardens, parks, and woodlands.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Starlings are great vocal mimics. Individuals can learn the calls of at least 20 different species, including Wood-pewee, Killdeer, Meadowlarks, Red-tailed Hawk, American Robin, Northern Flicker, and even treefrogs and bugling elk.



## EUROPEAN STARLING

Almost always found near people, European Starlings can be seen hunting on lawns or perched on a telephone wire or on a bare branch, frequently in large flocks (sometimes numbering in the thousands in the fall). They are stocky and short-tailed, with black plumage that has an iridescent purple-green sheen and is spangled with white stars (hence the name) in winter. Their bill is spiky and yellow during the nesting season, but dark during the winter. They nest in cavities, whether in a tree, streetlight, birdhouse, or hole in eaves of a house. Starlings take over cavities from other birds, but redeem their reputations by eating large numbers of damaging grasshoppers and other large insects.

### HABITAT:

Cities, towns, and suburbs.





## VARIED THRUSH

Shaped somewhat like a chunky American Robin, the Varied Thrush has a lighter orange throat and belly, a distinctive dark chest band, and orange eyebrow. Much shier and elusive, this thrush's song is a series of long breathy whistles in a minor key, which sounds like humming and whistling at the same time. Varied Thrushes forage for insects in the spring and summer and switch to berries and seeds in the fall and winter. They are often seen flipping wet dead leaves with their bills, searching for millipedes, worms, and spiders. Varied Thrushes nest in forests in the mountains, migrating downhill to spend winters in valley woodlands and suburban yards.

### HABITAT:

Northwest wet forests in trees or undergrowth, sometimes coming out on lawns and roadsides.



## PURPLE FINCH

Purple Finches are fairly common along the Pacific Coast but are usually outnumbered by House Finches. Both finches are similar in appearance, but Purple Finches are chunkier and have a shorter tail. The male is also more uniformly washed with raspberry red on its head and upper back and breast, looking like it was dipped in juice. The female has whitish stripes on its face and dark streaks on its sides, which the male lacks. It feeds mostly up in trees on seeds and berries and also visits bird feeders. Its song is a rich mellow warbling without the rough notes of the House Finch.

### HABITAT:

Coniferous forests and mixed deciduous and coniferous woods; in winter you can find them in a variety of habitats, including shrublands, old fields, forest edges, and backyards.

## CEDAR WAXWING

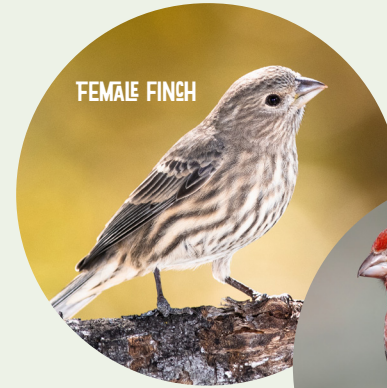
Named for the wax-like red tips on some of its wing feathers, this gregarious species will flock in the dozens to feast on small-fruited trees and shrubs. Males and females look the same, with a prominent crest, peachy brown head that fades to gray on the back, and pale yellow on the belly. Most noticeable may be the black mask and the bright yellow tail tip. Its call is a very soft, high-pitched trilled whistle.

### HABITAT:

Woodlands, suburban parks, and other open areas with abundant berry-producing shrubs and trees.



### FEMALE FINCH



## HOUSE FINCH

An abundant and familiar bird of backyards and cities, male House Finches are identified by their bright red (sometimes orange to yellow) head and chest, brown back, and brown-and-white streaked belly. The female is similar, brownish and streaked, with a plain face. House Finches will readily come to almost any kind of seed feeder and the large finch bill is used for cracking open seeds. Its song is a warbling of short phrases and buzzy notes.

### HABITAT:

Cities, towns, suburbs, deserts, canyons, grasslands, open woods, and coniferous forests.



### MALE FINCH

## PINE SISKIN

Pine Siskins are tiny brown streaky finches that show a flash of yellow in their wings and tails in flight. Slightly smaller than goldfinches, Pine Siskins also give a distinctive rising "zreeeeet" call that is different from the clear whistles of goldfinches. They are often found in small gregarious flocks, frequently mixed with American and Lesser Goldfinches. Like goldfinches, they love Nyjer (black thistle) seeds and hulled sunflower seeds and will sometimes eat suet. Over much of the continent, Pine Siskins can be abundant one winter and gone the next.

### HABITAT:

Coniferous forest, suburbs, and parks.



## AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

Breeding males are a beautiful brilliant yellow with mostly black wings and a black forehead like a beret. The breeding females are duller and have an overall brownish-olive green on their backs. When not breeding the male and females will both look drab and brown. They are often found in flocks and fly in an up-and-down swooping pattern while giving a distinctive flight song. They are common at bird feeders and love Nyjer (black thistle) seed.

### HABITAT:

Open woods, roadsides, and fields with thistle and weeds.

## LESSER GOLDFINCH

Jabbering clouds of yellow, green, and black, Lesser Goldfinches gather in scrubby oak, cottonwood, and willow habitats, or visit suburban yards for seeds and water. The all-black cap on the Lesser Goldfinch is a good clue to distinguishing it among mixed goldfinch flocks. The male's long twittering song is punctuated by plaintive downward notes and occasional imitations of other birds. Lesser Goldfinches primarily eat seeds of plants in the sunflower family, and they will readily come to thistle seed feeders.

### HABITAT:

Look for Lesser Goldfinches among large flocks of birds at feeder stations, near the tops of taller trees in scrubby habitats, or in weedy fields and roadsides.

## SPOTTED TOWHEE

The Spotted Towhee is a large, striking sparrow of brushy thickets of the west. When you catch sight of one, they are gleaming black above (females are charcoal), spotted and striped with brilliant white, and have ruby red eyes. Their warm rufous flanks match the dry leaves they spend their time hopping around in. Beginning birdwatchers might think their first Spotted Towhee is a more-slender American Robin. If your feeders are near a vegetated edge, towhees may venture out to eat fallen seed or suet.

### HABITAT:

Edges of forests, thickets, and overgrown fields.

## WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

White-crowned Sparrows are winter residents of the Pacific Northwest, with some year-round residents along the coast. The White-crowned Sparrow has a black-and-white striped crown; gray underparts; brown wings and tail; long pink legs; and a small pink, orange, or yellow bill. Song includes clear whistles and sometimes buzzy or trilled notes.

### HABITAT:

Thickets and woodland edges.

## GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW

Like the White-crowned, Golden-crowned Sparrows are winter residents of the Pacific Northwest and display duller winter crown patterns, with brown stripes instead of black, and a less obvious yellow crown. Unlike White-crowned Sparrow, the bill is mostly dark. These sparrows hop around on the ground while scratching through leaf litter, perching to eat seeds in weedy vegetation, sometimes singing even in winter. Song is of clear whistles, descending "oh, dear, me, me, me".

### HABITAT:

Flock in undergrowth thickets, shrublands, and weedy fields, often with White-crowned Sparrows.

## SONG SPARROW

In all but the worst weather, the well-named Song Sparrow enlivens backyards throughout the northwest with its cheerful singing. This sparrow is russet brown and grey with bold streaks down its breast and a gray eyebrow stripe. The streaks on the breast often come together to make a central spot. This species shows great variation in its plumage from one region to another. Song Sparrows can often be found at feeders or on the ground looking for seeds. In brushy fields and grasslands, it can be very skulky, but will sing from a prominent perch, moving around its territory.

### HABITAT:

Thickets, brush, marshes, backyards, gardens, and parks.







## DARK-EYED JUNCO

Dark-eyed Juncos are commonly seen in flocks at feeders during the winter. Come spring, these birds move further north (or up in elevation), breeding here in the Pacific Northwest and in Canada. Plumages vary greatly across the country. In general, Dark-eyed Juncos are dark gray or brown birds brightened up by a pink bill and white outer tail feathers that periodically flash open, particularly in flight. Here in the Pacific Northwest, Dark-eyed Juncos typically have a dark hood, brown back, and rufous flanks. They are ground-feeding birds that often scratch for seeds. They nest on the ground under shrubs or sword ferns, or in strange spots like hanging flower baskets or a cup left on an open garage shelf. Pairs can raise three or even four broods of two to four babies in a season.

### HABITAT:

Mixed woods, open areas, backyards, and fields. One of the most abundant forest birds of North America, you'll see juncos on woodland walks as well as in flocks at your feeders or on the ground beneath them.

## BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

Black-headed Grosbeaks have powerful, thick beaks that are used to crack seeds, hard-bodied insects, and even snails. Males have black heads and black wings, large white patches that contrast with an orange body, and a sliver of yellow on the belly. Females have stripy orange-tan bodies and brown heads with a white eyebrow and moustache and can look like giant sparrows. The male's song is like an American Robin that is very excited and never stops singing.



### HABITAT:

Maybe easiest to spot at sunflower seed feeders, but you may catch a glimpse of it in a variety of habitats, especially those with a few large trees and complex understory.

## YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

These beautiful birds have a bold yellow rump patch visible when it flies. Their back is a mix of blue-gray and black and they either have a yellow throat (Audubon's subspecies, more common in the west) or a white throat (Myrtle subspecies, more common in the east), with yellow also on their sides. These birds feed on insects and berries.



### HABITAT:

Open woods, thickets, gardens, and backyards.

## WILSON'S WARBLER

Common in the west, the Wilson Warbler is a small warbler with bright yellow below, yellowish-olive above, and a diagnostic black cap. Its song is a "che-che-che-cheh" that speeds up and gets louder at the end.

### HABITAT:

Flits about actively in willow groves, alder thickets, and woodland edges; often near water.



## COOPER'S HAWK

Twisting the meaning of bird feeder, Cooper's Hawks are known to hunt backyard feeders for larger birds like pigeons, doves, and jays and smaller birds like chickadees, Bushtits, and Lesser Goldfinches. Along with the Red-tailed Hawk, this species has adapted well to suburban environments, even nesting in neighborhood trees and park settings. Cooper's Hawks have long tails and short round wings, making them fast and agile when flying in woodlands. Young birds are mostly brown with streaky underparts and yellow eyes until about 3 years of age when they attain the adult's gray and rusty coloration and red eyes.

### HABITAT:

Wooded habitats from deep forests to leafy subdivisions and backyards.





# BEYOND YOUR BACKYARD

LOOK FOR THESE BIRDS WHEN YOU'RE AT YOUR LOCAL PARK, WETLANDS, OR FORESTED NATURAL AREA

## WESTERN Tanager

The male Western Tanager's orange-red head and yellow body can bring a tropical feel to any yard. Along with its black back and black wings with a white stripe, the male is aesthetically unlike any other bird in the Pacific Northwest. Females are a dimmer yellowish green and lack a red head. Western Tanagers do not eat seeds but will visit bird feeders with freshly cut oranges and other fruit.



### HABITAT:

Western conifer forests, riparian woodlands, and suburban yards and parks with large trees.

## RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Red-winged Blackbirds are bold birds that will attack hawks and crows that enter their nesting areas, which are cattail marshes and wet areas. The male is black with a red and yellow wing patch, whereas the female is streaked-brown (and often mistaken for a sparrow); both have a sharply pointed bill. You will often hear the distinct "conk-a-ree" song and you can see them perching on cattails. They will take advantage of a feeding station, especially if you provide cracked corn.

### HABITAT:

Marshes, wet areas, pond edges, and standing water with vegetation.



## RED-TAILED HAWK

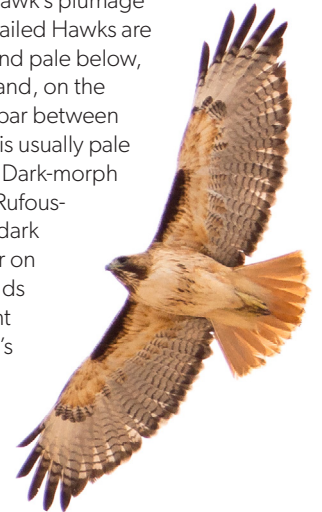
This common raptor can often be seen perched along roadsides, fields, and telephone poles, or soaring in wide circles over fields and road edges hunting for mice and other small rodents.

The Red-tailed Hawk's plumage varies; most Red-tailed Hawks are rich brown above and pale below, with a streaked belly and, on the wing underside, a dark bar between shoulder and wrist. The tail is usually pale below and cinnamon-red above. Dark-morph

birds are all chocolate-brown with a warm, red tail. Rufous-morph birds are reddish-brown on the chest with a dark belly. Light-morph western birds tend to be streakier on the underparts than eastern Red-tails. This hawk builds a nest of sticks usually high in a tree. It is an important predator of rodents, but is not above raiding a crow's nest, so it is often mobbed and harassed by crows.

### HABITAT:

Open fields, farmland, and roadside open areas.



## GREAT HORNED OWL

The Great Horned Owl is a strong and fierce predator. It can take rabbits, snakes, other owls, and even skunks as prey. It is adapted to many habitats and will start nesting in late winter. The Great Horned is a large owl and easily recognized by the feather tufts on its head. It is less often seen than heard, and its nighttime "hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo" is familiar to many people.

### HABITAT:

Forests, woodlots, and open areas. Often found nesting in old Great Blue Heron stick nests.



## QUESTIONS ON THOSE FEATHERED FRIENDS?

Contact us at  
[BACKYARDBIRDS@SWCA.COM](mailto:BACKYARDBIRDS@SWCA.COM)

**Note:** Many more species of birds can occur in your neighborhood, especially during spring and fall migration.

## ADDITIONAL BIRDING RESOURCES

### ONLINE FIELD GUIDES FOR BIRD IDENTIFICATION

- [Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds](#)
- [Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) (app)
- [Thayer Birding Software](#) (free)
- [National Audubon Society](#)
- [Song Sleuth](#) - Song Sleuth is a fun and easy way to learn birding by ear.

### BOOKS

- [The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America](#), by David Allen Sibley
- [Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America](#), by Ken Kaufman
- [Birds in Nest Boxes: How to Help, Study, and Enjoy Birds When Snags Are Scarce](#), by Charlotte C. Corkran

### CITIZEN SCIENCE APPS

- [eBird](#) by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- [iNaturalist](#) - Contribute to science!

### DIY BIRD FEEDERS

- [Make a DIY Bird Feeder From Recycled Materials](#)

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**Online Reference Sources:** [The Cornell Lab-All About Birds](#), [National Audubon Bird Guide](#), [eBird species descriptions](#).