



**CANADA GOOSE**

*Branta Canadensis*

The most widespread goose. Often seen migrating in V-formations in fall or spring; often year-round residents in many areas. Fluffy yellow goslings grow up into huge brown gees with long black necks, black heads and a white chinstrap.

**VOICE:** Deep musical honking, *ka-ronk* or *ka-lunk*

**HABITAT:** Lakes, ponds, bays, marshes, fields



**MALLARD**

*Anas platyrhynchos*

The world's most widespread duck. While the male is more colorful than the brown mottled female, both have a shiny bluish patch on the wing, called the speculum.

**VOICE:** Male= *yeeb*, Female = loud quacking

**HABITAT:** ponds, lakes, marshes, bays, city parks



**AMERICAN COOT**

*Fulica Americana*

A familiar wetland bird with a distinctive white bill. Aggressive. When swimming, it pumps its head back and forth, and can dive from the surface. The downy chicks have a hairy orange-red head.

**VOICE:** A grating *kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk*; various crackles, croaks

**HABITAT:** ponds, lakes, marshes



**RING-BILLED GULL**

*Larus delawarensis*

This gull was almost eliminated by human encroachment between 1850 and 1920, but has made a dramatic comeback. The gull takes three years to become an adult. The black ring around its bill is its distinctive feature.

**VOICE:** A high pitched *hiyak...hiyah...hyia-hyak*

**HABITAT:** lakes, bays, coasts, piers, dumps (opportunistic feeder)



**GREAT BLUE HERON**

*Ardea herodias*

A lean gray bird that can stand 4 ft. tall. It has long legs, long neck, dagger like bill and flies with its neck pulled in.

**VOICE:** Deep harsh croaks: *frahnk, frahnk, frahnk*

**HABITAT:** Marshes, swamps, shores, tideflats



**GREAT HORNED OWL**

*Bubo virginianus*

North America's largest owl. It has ear tufts and is roughly eagle-sized. This owl eats rabbits, skunks, squirrels, and sometimes smaller owls.

**VOICE:** *Hoo!, hu-hu-hu, Hoo! Hoo!*

**HABITAT:** forests, streamsides, open country



**AMERICAN CROW**

*Corvus brachyrhynchos*

A very common bird in most of the U.S. and Canada. Often gregarious. A large, chunky black bird.

**VOICE:** Loud *caw, caw, caw*

**HABITAT:** woodlands, farms, field, shores, towns, dumps



**BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE**

*Pica pica*

A gregarious jay-like bird of the West. In flight its long greenish black tail streams behind and white patches flash in the wings.

**VOICE:** A harsh rapid *queg queg queg queg*; also a nasal *maag?*

**HABITAT:** rangeland, brushy country, conifers, streamsides, farms



**BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE**

*Parus atricapillus*

A small, plump, small-billed bird. In addition to black cap, it has a white wing patch and rusty sides

**VOICE:** *chick-a-dee-dee-dee*

**HABITAT:** woods, willow thickets, shade trees



**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD**

*Sialia currucoides*

Males colored peacock blue with a paler belly – no orange coloring like the Western Bluebird. Female is dull brownish.

**VOICE:** a low *chur* or *phew*, short subdued warble.

**HABITAT:** open country with some trees



**RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD**

*Agelaius phoeniceus*

One of the first birds to migrate north in early spring. Male is bright, female is drab.

**VOICE:** a loud *check*, high *tee-err*; song is a gurgling *konk-la-ree*

**HABITAT:** marshes, brushy swamps, hayfields, along edges of water



**WESTERN MEADOWLARK**

*Sturnella neglecta*

The Montana state bird. A member of the blackbird family – not larks. Has a distinctive V-shaped bib.

**VOICE:** 7-10 flute-like notes, double-noted

**HABITAT:** meadows, grasslands, prairies



# A Beginning Bird Guide

Resources: Peterson, Roger Tory. Peterson Field Guides. Western Birds. Third Edition. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1990.  
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Martinka, Bob. Photographs of Canada geese, mallard, American coot, ring-billed gull, great horned owl, black-billed magpie, black-capped chickadee, and red-winged blackbird.  
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American Crow photo courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey