

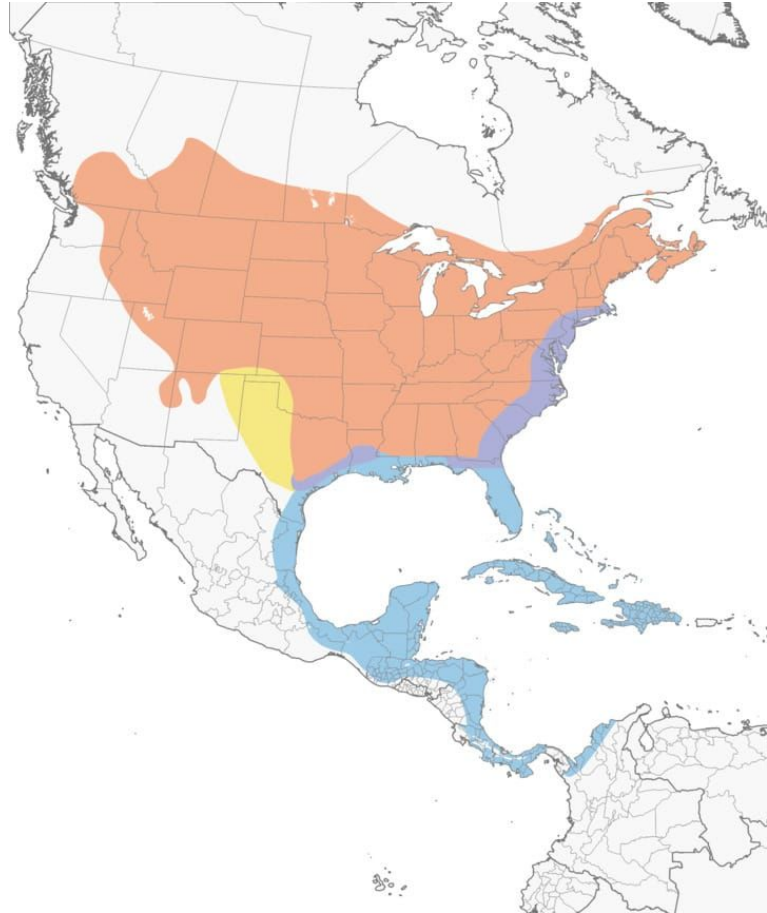
Bird Photos and Facts



Created by the
2026 Summer Internship Program

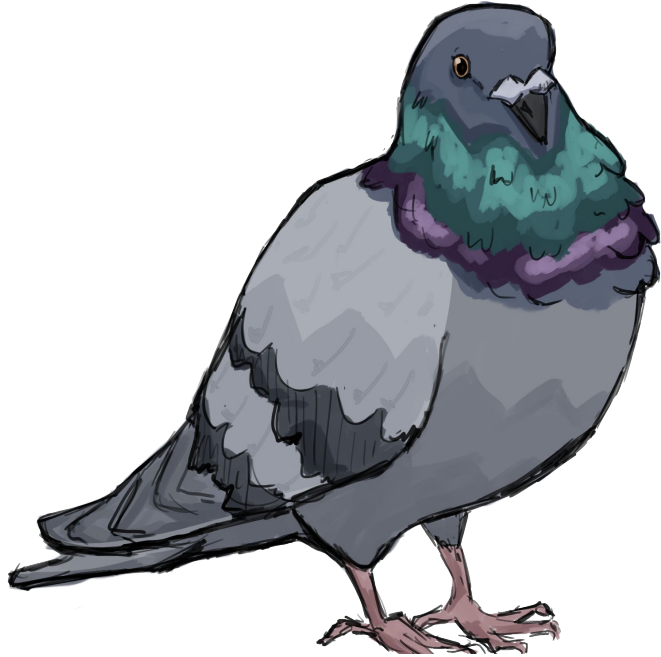
Range Map

orange=summer
blue=winter
purple=year round
yellow=migrating through



Rock Pigeon

Artist: Aiva



- Pigeons are incredible navigators who use earth's magnetic fields to find their homes
- Pigeons were domesticated over 5000 years ago
- Before phones, pigeons used to be messenger birds, especially during the wartime and have saved countless lives because of their efforts. Such bravery!
- Pigeons are not the best at building nests because they originate from the rocky mountains of Europe where they would lay their eggs within cavities of caves, keeping their eggs safe and surrounded.

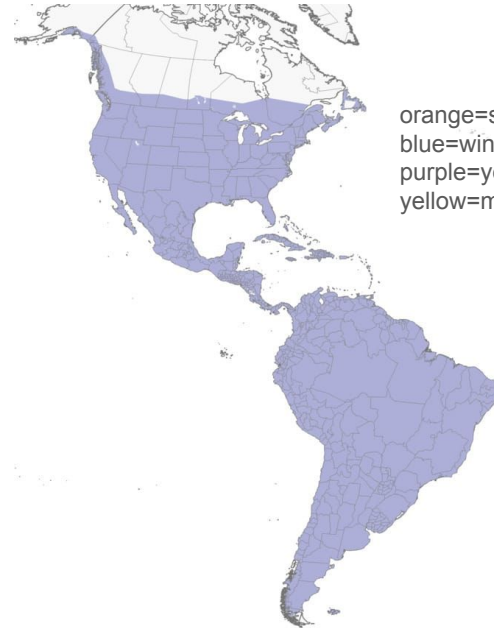
Rock Pigeon



Lifespan: 10 years

Pigeons were tamed over 5000 years ago to be messenger pigeons because they are great navigators. They aren't good at making nests because they originally lived on mountains.

Favorite Foods: Seeds and Fruits



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House Sparrow

Artist: Dani



- In the 1800s, European settlers felt homesick. Wanting birds similar to the ones they see back home, releasing the now invasive House Sparrow into New York.
- The oldest House Sparrow that we know of lived to almost 16 years
- Unlike larger birds, House Sparrows mostly hop around instead of walking to conserve energy.
- House Sparrows can battle other birds for their nesting areas, taking it for themselves.

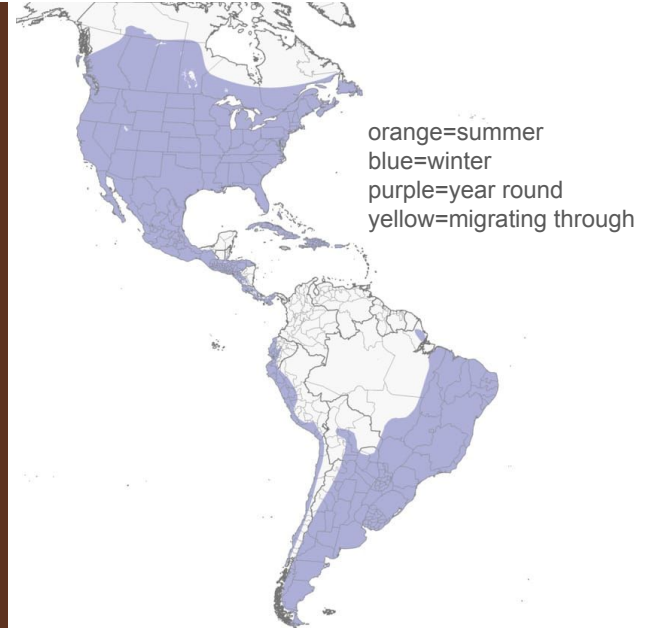
House Sparrow



Lifespan: 3 years

House Sparrows usually hop around instead of walking to conserve energy. They will take over other species nests to use for themselves.

Favorite Food: Native Plant Seeds



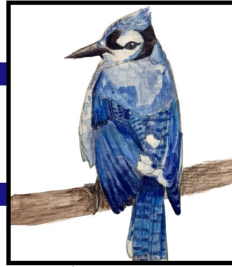
Blue Jay

Artist: Aiva



- Blue jays are apart of the Corvid family, the same family that Crows are in making them extremely smart birds that remember faces.
- They have confusing migration patterns that Ornithologists have still not completely figured out yet. Some Blue Jays migrate one year, but will stay put next year.
- Blue Jays often mimic the sounds of Red Shouldered Hawks to scare other birds away, or warn members of their flock about nearby danger.
- If you want to attract these beautiful blue birds to your backyard, fill your feeder up with peanuts, their favorite food!
- The oldest Blue Jay has lived to be at least 26 years old

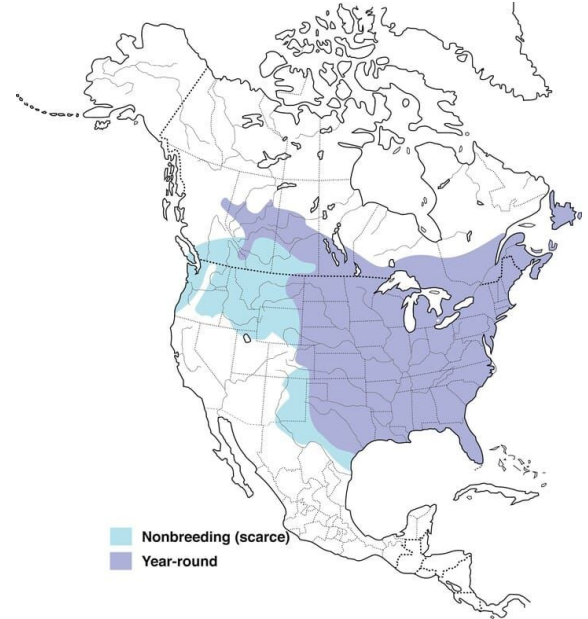
Blue Jay



Lifespan: 7 years

Blue Jays will mimic the sounds of hawks to scare away other birds. Even bird scientists haven't been able to understand their migration patterns! Blue Jays are apart of the Corvid family, the same one crows are in.

Favorite Foods: Seeds, Bugs, and Berries



Northern Cardinal

Artist: Aiva



- Cardinals do not migrate, so keep an eye out for them during the winter foraging for food in forests!
- Female cardinals are one of the few female North American birds that sing
- Keep an eye out for the rare Yellow Northern Cardinal, which is a genetic mutation that affects around 1/1000000 Northern Cardinals!
- Northern Cardinals molt their head feathers once a year during the late spring, and may look bald for a few days before new feathers grow in
- The Northern Cardinal is the state bird for Illinois!
- Cardinals stay with their partner for life

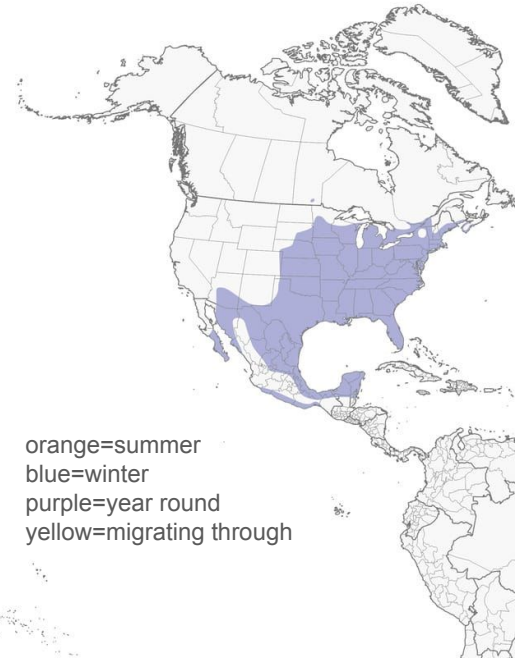
Northern Cardinal



Lifespan: 3 years

Northern Cardinals are the Illinois state bird. 1 in 1 million cardinals are yellow. They do not migrate so you can see them year-round!

Favorite Foods: Seeds, Insects, and Berries



orange=summer
blue=winter
purple=year round
yellow=migrating through

Bald Eagle

Artist: Aiva



- Bald Eagles have been seen playing with bottles and other objects
- Sometimes, Bald Eagles will team up and hunt together, sharing the food that they hunted
- The oldest known Bald Eagle lived to be 38 years old
- These once endangered birds now have a stable population that keeps increasing!
- Bald Eagles are our country's bird. They appear a lot in hollywood movies, but the screech you may hear isn't actually theirs, but rather the Red Tailed Hawks!

Bald Eagle

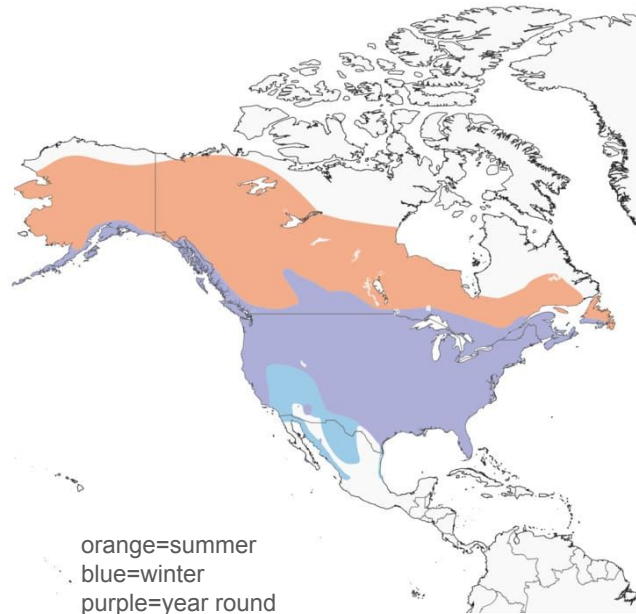


Lifespan: 30 years

Bald Eagles are the national bird of the United States. They will sometimes team up to hunt prey.

In movies, their screech is actually from Red-Tailed Hawks.

Favorite Foods: Fish, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals



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yellow=migrating through

American Crow

Artist: Dani



- Domesticated crows can live to be 59 years old
- Crows are one of the few birds that are known to use tools in the wild
- Crows have the same intelligence as chimpanzees, making them extremely smart animals
- Crows hold grudges for generations, dive bombing anyone who they perceive to be a threat so make sure to always be friendly to them!

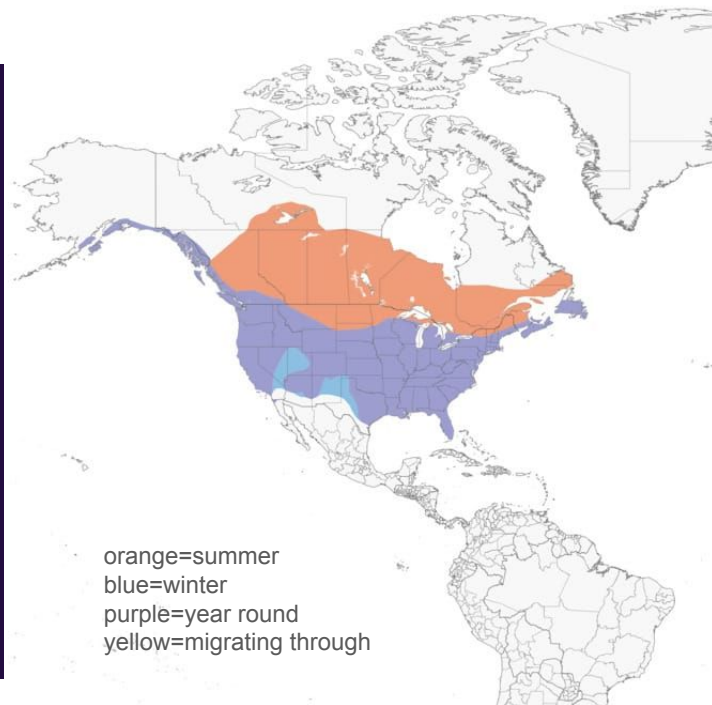
American Crow



Lifespan: 10 years

Crows are one of the smartest birds. They are able to remember faces and can hold grudges for generations. Crows are one of the few birds who are known to make tools in the wild

Favorite Foods: Grains, Seeds, and
Insects



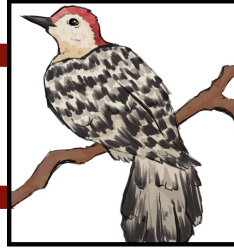
Red-bellied Woodpecker

Artist: Aiva

- Red Bellied Woodpeckers use the sharp spears on their tongues to find bugs hiding in the trees
- The oldest known Red Bellied Woodpecker was 12 years old
- Unlike many other larger species of woodpeckers, Red Bellied Woodpeckers love to visit feeders, often defending these feeders from other birds when they stop by.
- Red Bellied Woodpeckers lay 2-6 eggs per brood. They brood once in the north, and 2-3 times in the south.



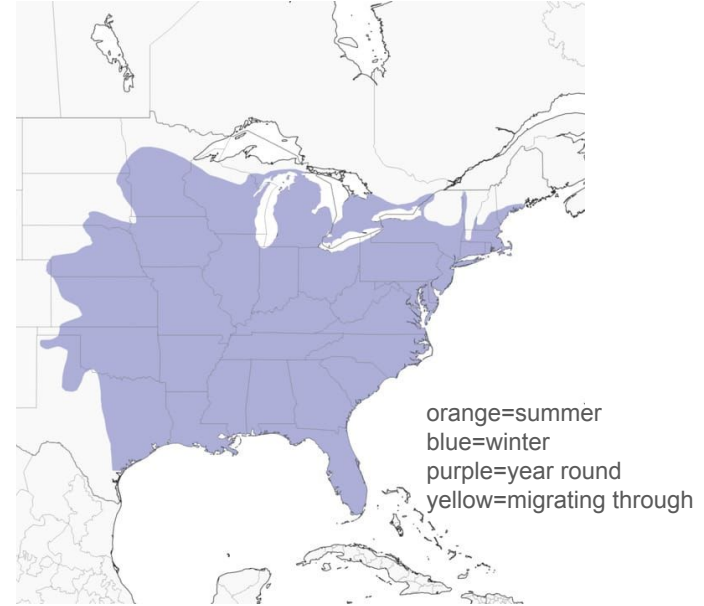
Red-Bellied Woodpecker



Lifespan: 12 years

Red-Bellied Woodpeckers use the sharp spears on their tongues to find bugs hiding in trees. Unlike larger species of woodpeckers, Red-Bellied Woodpeckers love to visit feeders.

Favorite Foods: Insects, Nuts, and Seeds



Seagull

Artist: Dani



- Seagulls are able to drink seawater because they have glands in their eyes that filter out the salt from the sea water
- Younger Seagulls tend to migrate more than older ones
- The oldest American Herring Gull lived to be at least 29 years
- Contrary to popular belief, Seagulls are actually highly intelligent and social birds who can easily adapt to different changes

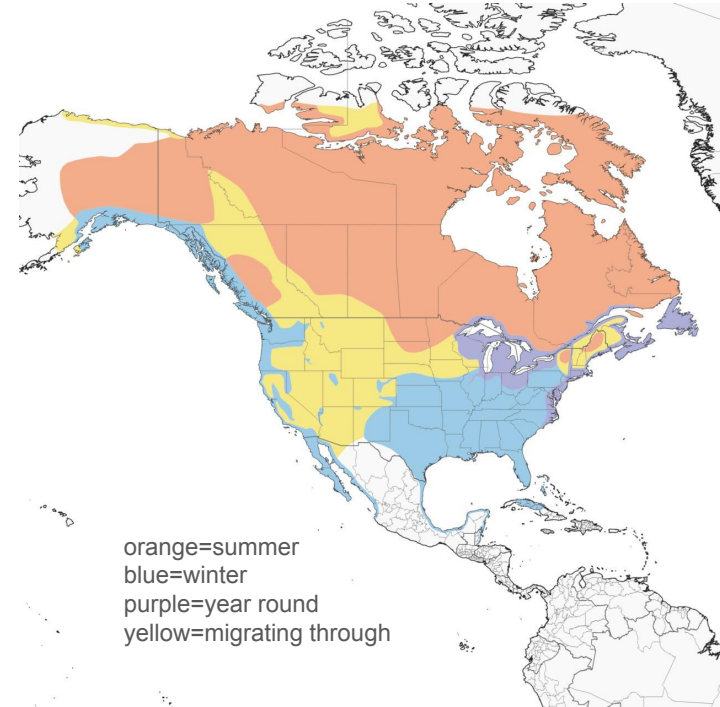
Seagull



Lifespan: 15 years

Seagulls are highly intelligent and social. They are able to drink sea water because they have special glands that filter out salt. There are around 50 species of Seagulls. Young Seagulls migrate more than older ones.

Favorite Foods: Fish and Insects



American Goldfinch

Artist: Aiva

- Goldfinches molt their feathers twice for two seasons, having brighter feathers during the summer and darker feathers during the winter. Males have a more distinct change
- Goldfinches nest in the late summer which is much later than when most North American birds nest.
- The oldest Goldfinch lived to be over 10 years old
- Goldfinches feed on an entirely vegetarian diet, with no exceptions. This means absolutely no insects. Just seeds and plants.



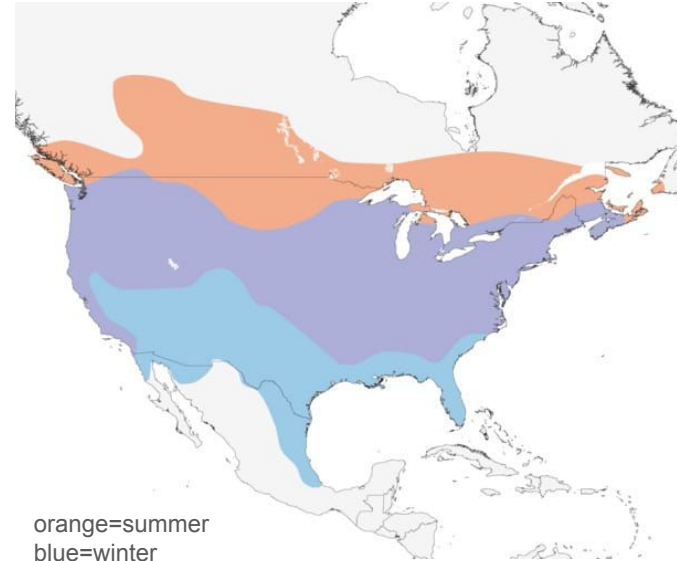
American Goldfinch



Lifespan: 6 years

Goldfinches have brighter feathers in the summer and darker feathers in the winter. They are vegetarians, eating just seeds and plants.

Favorite Food: Seeds



orange=summer
blue=winter
purple=year round
yellow=migrating through

Red tailed hawk

Artist: Dani

- Don't be fooled, the “Bald Eagle” screech that you may hear in movies is actually a Red Tailed Hawk!
- The oldest known Red Tailed Hawk was known to be over 30 years old
- Red Tailed Hawks hunt with their partners to increase their chances of catching their prey
- Red Tailed Hawks are one of the largest birds found in North America
- Other birds often imitate their screech to scare away or warn others about potential threats



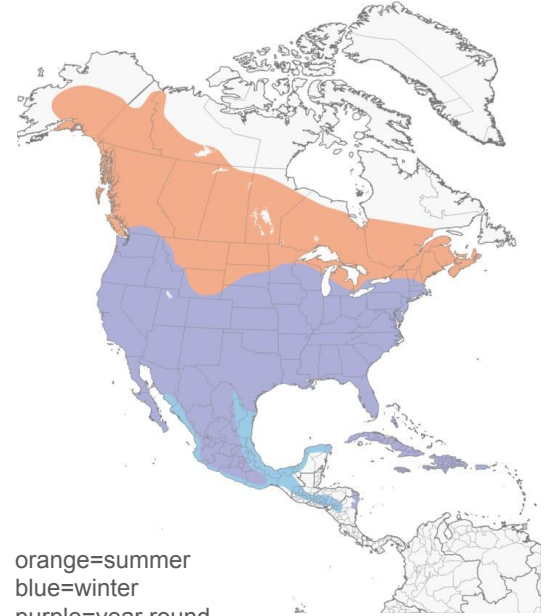
Red-Tailed Hawk



Lifespan: 20 years

Red-Tailed Hawks are one of the largest birds found in North America. Their screech is used instead of Bald Eagles in movies!

Favorite Foods: Small mammals like rabbits, squirrels, and mice.



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Black Capped Chickadee

Artist: Aiva

- Black Capped Chickadees hide food in various places during the fall and return to collect it later in the winter time, when food is scarce. They have a great sense of direction and remember almost all of their hiding spots.
- The well known “Chicka-de-de-de” call is not only recognized amongst chickadees, but other birds as well making their call super useful for smaller birds.
- Chickadees inform each other of the threat level through their alarm calls. The more “de’s” they add in their call, the higher the threat level.
- Many birds follow Chickadees around, because Chickadees frequently visit food sources.
- In the winter, Chickadees travel together in huge flocks that contain many different bird species to increase chances of survival.



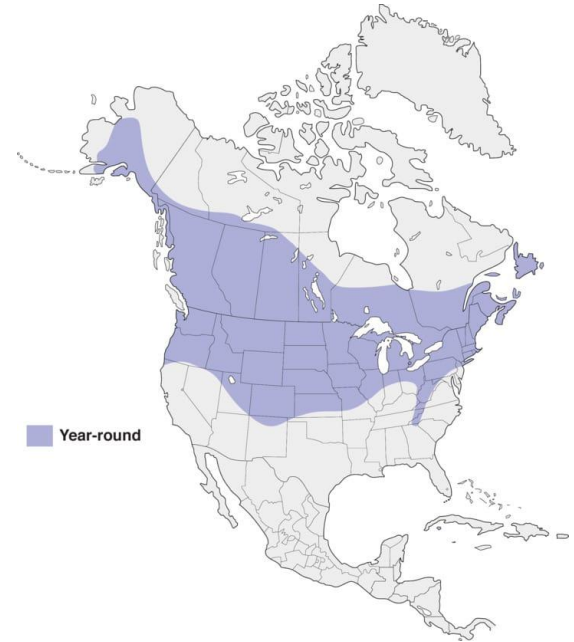
Black-Capped Chickadee



Lifespan: 3 years

Black-Capped Chickadees hide food in the fall to eat during the winter. In the winter, Chickadees travel together in huge flocks with many different bird species to increase chances of survival.

Favorite Foods: Seeds, Berries, and
Insects



European Starling

Artist: Dani

- European Starlings are stellar at mimicking other birds, pet starlings are often able to perfectly replicate human language
- Starlings can fly up to 48 miles per hour
- The oldest Starling lived to be over 15 years old
- They are crowned the highway birds, whenever you see a huge flock of birds while driving, it may be them.
- European starlings forage for food by stabbing their beaks into a surface, and opening their mouths to move parts of the surface around



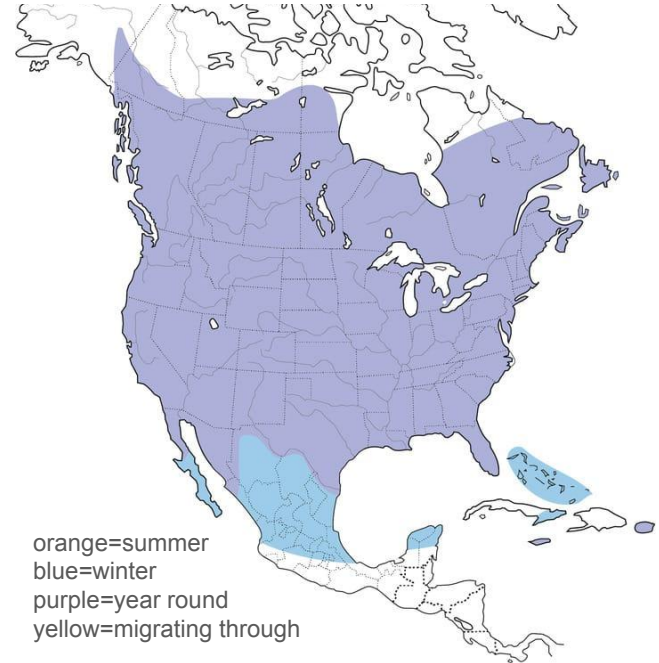
European Starling



Lifespan: 15 years

European Starlings are great at mimicking other birds, pet Starlings are often able to perfectly replicate human language. Starlings can fly up to 48 miles per hour.

Favorite Foods: Insects and Fruit



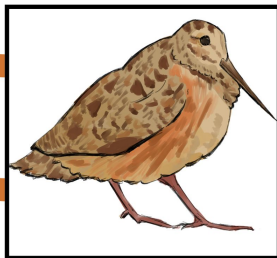
Timberdoodle

Artist: Aiva

- Timberdoodles swing their bodies back and forth while walking on dirt to help them find food. They send vibrations to the soil to make earthworms dig to the surface.
- During the springtime's evenings, male timberdoodles perform a "sky dance" to attract a partner. They soar in the sky, making a distinct buzzing noise.
- The oldest Timberdoodle lived to be over 11 years old
- Unlike many birds that require to stay in the nest for days, timberdoodles leave the nest just a couple hours after hatching.

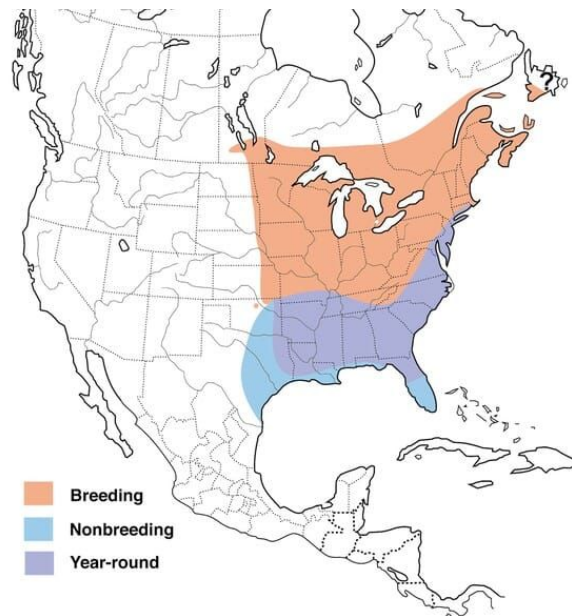


Timberdoodle



Lifespan: 7 years

Timberdoodles swing their bodies back and forth while walking on dirt to help them find food. They send vibrations to the soil to make worms dig to the surface. Timberdoodles leave the nest just a couple hours after hatching.
Favorite Foods: Worms and Insects



Mourning Dove

Artist: Dani



- Mourning Doves don't eat their food right away, but rather swallow what they forage, store it in a pouch in their throats called a crop, and then eat it later in a location they deem safe.
- The oldest Mourning Dove lived to be over 30 years old
- Mourning Doves stay with their partners for life, so if you spot one, try looking for the other!
- Male Mourning Doves have iridescent feathers on their necks that shimmer in the sun

Mourning Dove

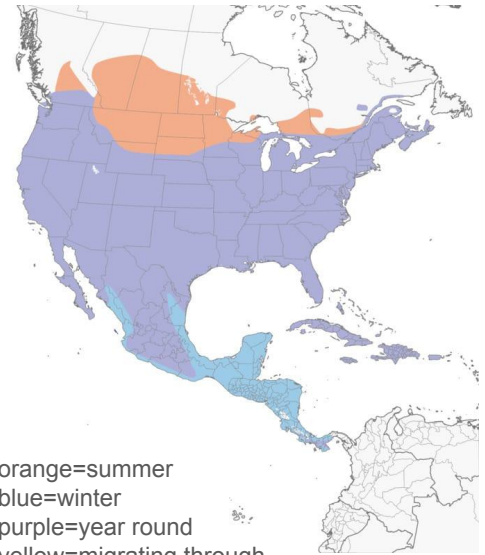


Lifespan: 2 years

Mourning Doves stay with their partners for life, so if you spot one, try looking for the other!

Male Mourning Doves have iridescent feathers on their necks that shimmer in the sun.

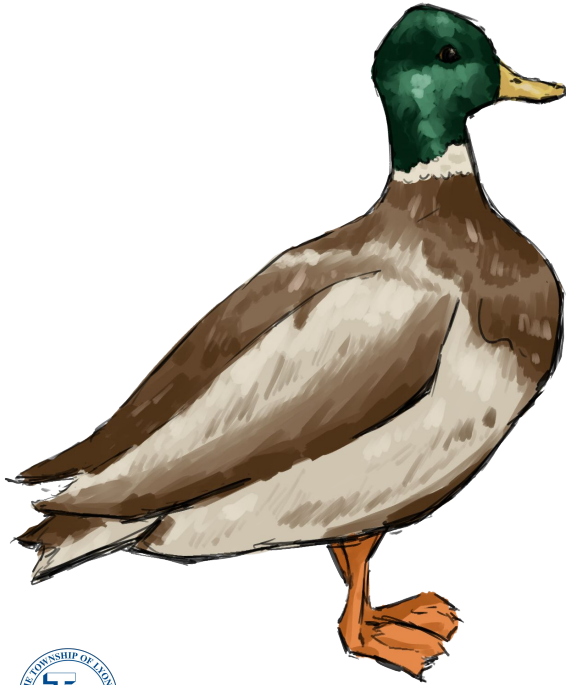
Favorite Food: Seeds



orange=summer
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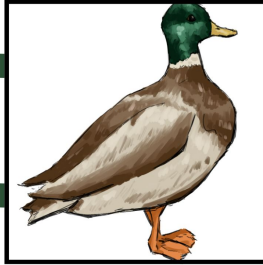
Mallard Duck

Artist: Aiva



- Only female Mallard Ducks incubate and raise ducklings
- Ducks are flightless for 3-4 weeks per year, because they molt their flight feathers.
- The oldest Mallard Duck lived to be over 27 years old
- Mallard Ducks can fly up to 55 miles per hour
- Their feathers are hydrophobic, meaning that they never get soggy!

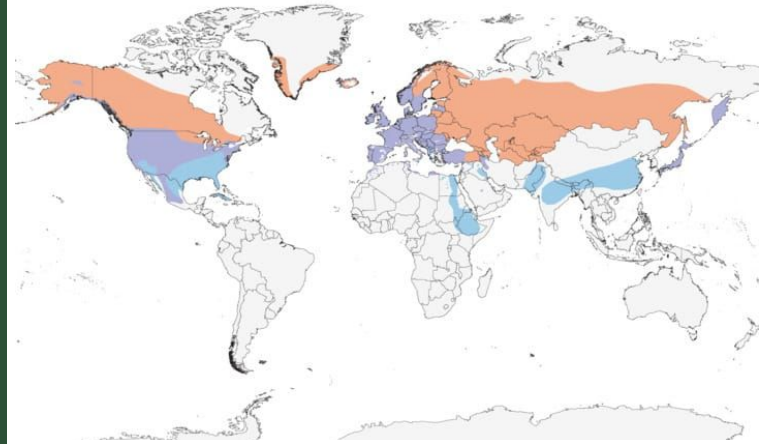
Mallard Duck



Lifespan: 8 years

Mallard Ducks can fly up to 55 miles per hour and swim up to 20 miles per hour. Their feathers are hydrophobic, meaning that they never get wet!

Favorite Foods: Fish, Plants, and Insects



orange=summer
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yellow=migrating through

American Robin

Artist: Dani



- Robins have a favorite breakfast and dinner just like we do-they prefer to hunt for earthworms in the morning, and forage for berries in the evening
- During early spring, Robins will join together in huge flocks to forage for food together, keep an eye out for them in trees and open fields!
- Though called “American **Robins**,” they are actually not Robins at all! They are part of the Thrush family, and are only named Robins because European Settlers believed they looked similar to a bird back at home, the European Robin.
- The oldest Robin lived to be almost 14 years old

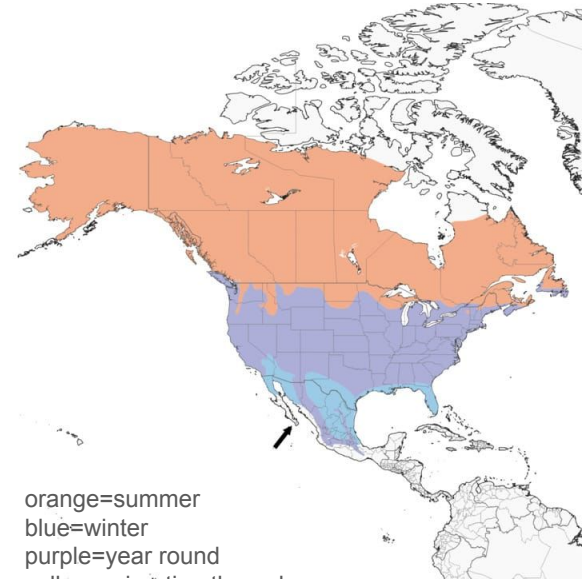
American Robin



Lifespan: 2 years

Robins have a favorite breakfast and dinner, they hunt for earthworms in the morning, and forage for berries in the evening. They are actually part of the Thrush family but settlers thought they looked like European Robins.

Favorite Foods: Bugs, Fruits, and Berries



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Gray Catbird

Artist: Aiva

- The Gray Catbird can sing nonstop for 10 minutes
- If you hear meowing in the forest, don't automatically assume it is someone's lost cat. It might just be the Gray Catbird, a small bird, related to Mockingbirds, that meows!
- Gray Catbirds love fruits, especially native fruits such as elderberries and serviceberries. If you want to see sneaky feathered cat impersonators, try planting some in your backyard!
- Catbirds say more than meow. They also mimic other bird calls, and even other animals' calls such as the tree frogs call.



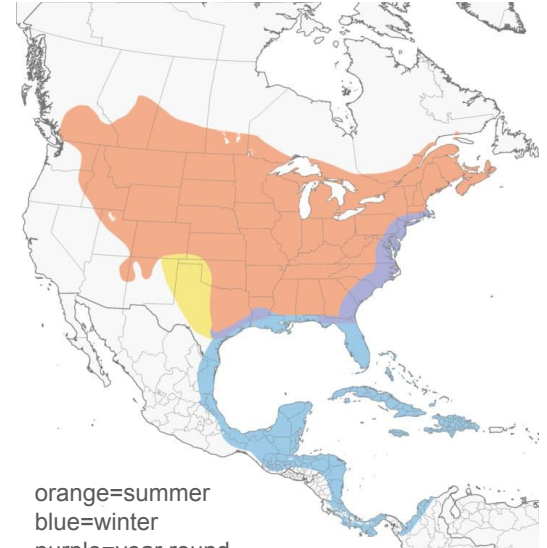
Gray Catbird



Lifespan: 2 years

The Gray Catbird can sing nonstop for 10 minutes. Catbirds chirping sounds like a "meow", but they also mimic other bird calls, and even other species calls such as tree frogs.

Favorite Foods: Insects and Berries



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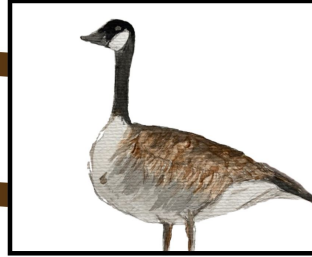
Canada Goose

Artist: Amelia



- During the 1950s, Canada Geese were thought to be an extinct species. Efforts to help the giant subspecies of geese was so successful they became a problem
- Canada Geese do not just attack for no reason. They are extremely territorial during the spring, doing anything they can to protect their children.
- The oldest known Canada Goose has lived to be at least 30 years old.
- These birds have adapted so well alongside humans which is why you may always see them in golf courses or even outdoor walkways. So impressive!

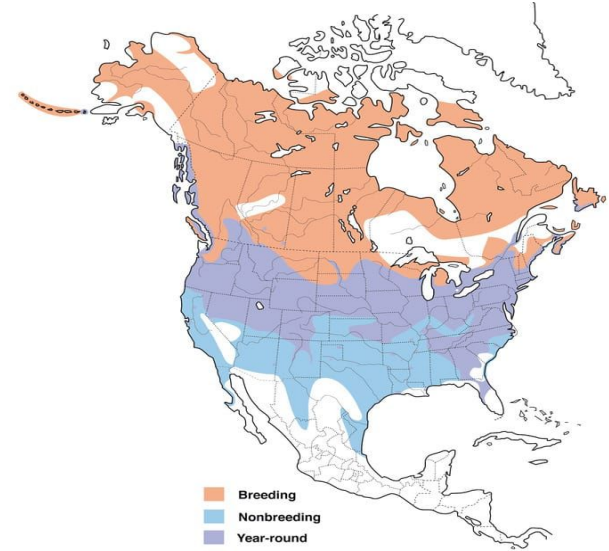
Canadian Goose



Lifespan: 20 years

Canada Geese do not just attack for no reason, they are extremely territorial when they have babies. In the 1950s, Canada Geese were thought to be extinct. Efforts to help the geese were so successful they became a problem

Favorite Food: Plants



Activities

- Make a Bird Feeder with earth-friendly materials
- Coloring Sheets (available below)
- Drawing Activity - I am thinking of a bird that has an orange belly, gray back, and yellow beak, now draw it.
- Bird Bingo (game available to borrow)
- Plant a garden with [Bird Friendly Native Plants](#)



Coloring Sheets



