

# The Birds of Bastrop County



by Mike Goebel

# HOW MANY BIRDS CAN I SEE

- It is estimated that the world has 10,500 species of birds
- The ABA\* checklist (US, Canada and Hawaii) recognizes 1116 bird species\*\*
- The Texas Bird Record Committee now accepts 664 species
- Cornell Labs eBird data base shows 358 species for Bastrop County

**Yellow Grosbeak**



**Black Turnstone**



\* (American Birding Association)

\*\* (33 species are code 6-extinct/extirpated)

# Where Do I Find Birds in Bastrop County

- Your yard/property
- Your neighborhood
- Any quiet country road
- Fisherman's Park
- Bastrop & Buescher State Parks
- Bob Bryant Park
- Lake Bastrop North or South Shore
- Old Sayres Road
- McKinney Roughs Nature Park
- Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory (not Bastrop but close)



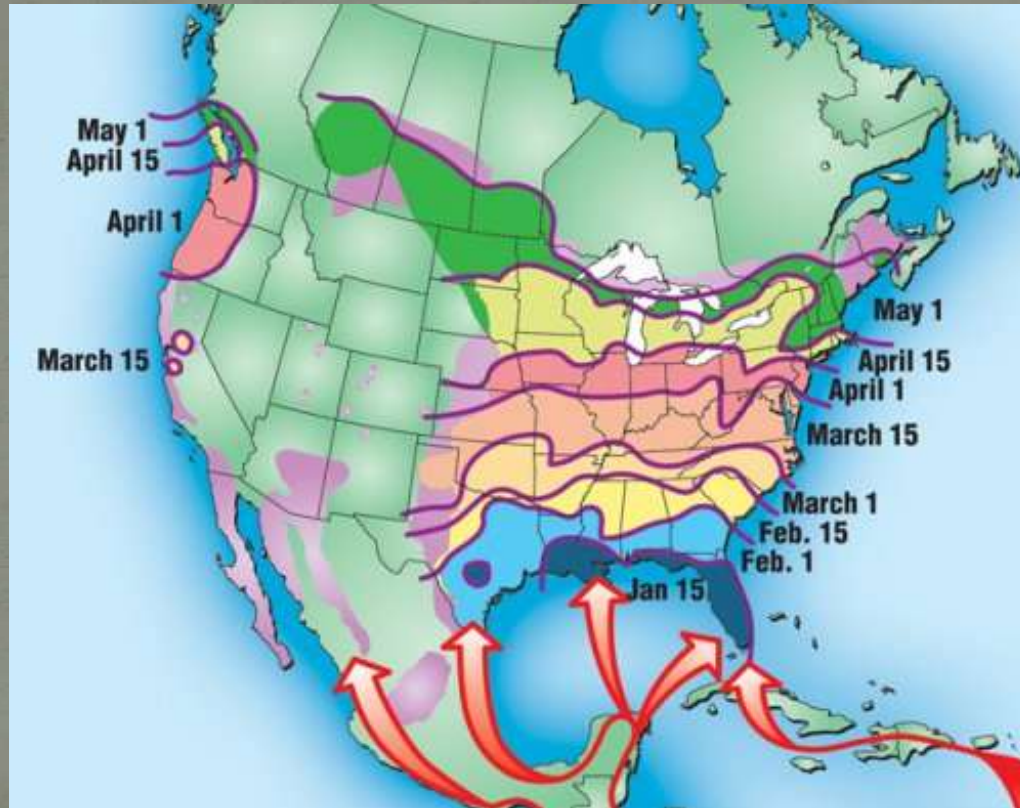
**Indigo Bunting**



# What Do I Need To Go Birding



# Purple Martins Are Here!



First 2020  
sighting Corpus  
Jan 19th

# Birding Resources

- National Audubon Society (free bird app)
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology (free app Merlin)
- eBird (bird database)
- American Birding Association
- What Bird (\$ phone app iBird)
- SORA (avian research)
- Texas Ornithological Society
- Searchable Ornithological Archive
- Xeno Canto (bird songs)
- Field guides and resource books

[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

[www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu)

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird>

[www.aba.org](http://www.aba.org)

<http://www.whatbird.com>

<https://sora.unm.edu>

[www.texasbirds.org](http://www.texasbirds.org)

[www.sora.unm.edu/node](http://www.sora.unm.edu/node)

[www.xeno-canto.org](http://www.xeno-canto.org)

[www.bastropcountyaudubon.org](http://www.bastropcountyaudubon.org)





# *The Birds of Bastrop County*



*Yard Birds*

*Birds of Prey*

*Ducks*

*Hummingbirds*

*Cuckoos*

*Doves*

*Woodpeckers*

*Sparrows*

*Owls*

*Field Birds*

*Hérons &  
Egrets*

*Warblers*



# Some Common Yard Birds





# Northern Mockingbird

*Mimus polyglottos*



**Adult – 10"**

- Medium gray or brownish gray above, pale gray below
- Long black tail with white edges
- White patch in wings (striking in flight)



# Northern Cardinal

*Cardinalis cardinalis*



**Adult male - 8.75"**

- Bright red overall, red crest
- Black mask and throat
- Large, thick red bill



**Adult female - 8.75"**

- Dull brown overall, reddish crest
- Dull red wings and tail
- Bright red bill



# Tufted Titmouse

## *Baleolophus bicolor*

**Tufted**



**Hybrid**



**Black-crested**



**Adult - 6.5"**

- Gray upperparts and crest, black forehead (Tufted only)
- Pale/white under parts & face, orange or buff flanks
- Short, stout black bill





# Chipping Sparrow

*Spizella passerina*

**Adult – 5.5”**



- Bright rufous cap
- Black stripe through eye
- Gray face, white throat and eyebrow
- Clear gray breast
- Brown wings, back and tail
- Two white wingbars

# Carolina Chickadee

*Poecile carolinensis*



**Adult - 4.75"**

- Black cap and throat, gray back and wings
- White cheek with pale grayish nape
- Pale gray/white below (may be buffy on sides)



# Mourning Dove

*Zenaida macroura*

**Adult - 12"**



- Brownish gray
- Our most slender dove
- Iridescent blush on breast
- Dark spotted wings
- Pale bluish orbital ring
- Tapered tail tipped in white
- Pink feet



# Carolina Wren

## *Thryothorus ludovicianus*



**Adult - 5.5"**

- Stocky and large-headed with pointed bill
- Warm brown above and buffy orange below
- Tail barred with fine black markings
- Prominent white eyebrow



# Ruby-crowned Kinglet

*Regulus calendula*



**Adult - 4.25"**

- Drab grayish green bird
- Broken white eye arcs, white wingbars
- Buffy breast, white undertail coverts
- Black wings and tail
- Red crown raised when agitated

# Blue Jay

*Cyanocitta cristata*



**Adult - 11"**

- Blue head, back and wings
- Gray and white under parts
- Black collar
- Long barred tail with white corners





# Ruby-throated Hummingbird

*Archilochus colubris*



**Adult male – 3.75"**

- Iridescent red throat, gray-green vest
- Black wings project beyond tail
- Long, straight, thin bill



**Female/ immature type – 3.75"**

- Green back, averages brighter than BCHU
- Black mask with white behind eye
- White under-parts

# House Finch

## *Haemorhous mexicanus*



**Adult male - 5.7"**

- Bright red on forehead, throat, and breast
- Brown back and wings
- Thick brown streaking on flanks
- Thick grayish bill



**Adult female - 5.7"**

- Brown and white streaked overall
- Plain face
- Thick grayish bill

# Eastern Phoebe

*Sayornis phoebe*



**Adult – 7”**

- Stocky and long-tailed with thin, flattened bill
- Cream-colored breast and belly
- Dark head and paler gray back and wings



# American Goldfinch

*Spinus tristis*



**Adult male breeding - 5"**

- Bright yellow overall
- Black wings with white edging
- Black cap and forehead
- Pinkish orange, pointed, conical bill



**Adult female breeding - 5"**

- Dull yellow overall
- Dark, blackish wings with pale wing bars

# Eastern Bluebird

*Sialia sialis*



**Adult male - 7"**

- Reddish orange breast and throat
- White belly and undertail
- Body held upright
- White eye ring



**Adult female - 7"**

- Head pale blue to gray brown
- Subdued orange-brown breast
- White belly
- Slight white eye ring

# Summer Tanager

*Piranga rubra*



**Adult male - 7.75"**

- Stocky and heavy-billed
- Very large, pale bill
- Bright red overall
- Slight crested appearance



**Adult female - 7.75"**

- Stocky, heavy-billed tanager
- Dull yellow-green overall
- Bill appears "inflated"
- Green on underside of tail





# Red-bellied Woodpecker

*Melanerpes carolinus*



**Adult male – 9.25"**

- Red forehead, cap, and nape
- Black and white barred back
- Gray/white face and under-parts



**Adult female – 9.25"**

- Red nape, reddish around base of bill
- Black and white barred back
- Gray face, crown, and under parts



# Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

*Tyrannus forficatus*



**Adult – 10"**

- Medium-sized, pale gray flycatcher
- Slender-bodied
- Orange/pink wash on lower belly and flanks
- Darker wings contrast with paler body
- Will chase hawks and owls in breeding season



# Yellow-rumped Warbler

*Septophaga coronata*



**Adult male (Myrtle) – 5.5"**

- Gray upperparts with dark streaking
- Black and yellow patch on sides of breast
- Black mask with thin white eyebrow
- Bright yellow crown and rump



**Adult female (Myrtle) – 5.5"**

- Brown or gray above with dark streaking
- White throat



# Inca Dove

## *Columbina inca*



### **Adult - 8"**

- Small slender dove, long tailed with white sides
- Light brownish gray overall
- Feathers are dark edged creating a scaly pattern
- Under-wing primary & covert feathers are rufous
- Dark reddish eye, pale eye-ring
- Pink feet

# Pileated Woodpecker

*Dryocopus pileatus*

**Adult - 16.5"**

- Very large woodpecker with thick, chisel-like bill
- Bright red crest
- Solid black back and under-parts
- Black stripe through eye



# Cedar Waxwing

*Bombycilla cedrorum*



**Adult – 7.25”**

- Black mask lined with white on cheek & forehead
- Brown crest, nape, breast and wing coverts
- Tail black with yellow tips; gray rump
- Red wax tips on un-patterned wing feathers





# Chuck-will's-widow

*Caprimulgus carolinensis*



**Adult – 12”**

- Gray body with black and tan markings
- Long pointed wings
- Brown tail barred with black
- Dark streaking on gray crown
- Large black eyes



# Painted Bunting

*Passerina ciris*



**Male - 5.5"**

- Unmistakable, with rainbow plumage
- Short, conical silver/gray bill
- Narrow red eye-ring



**Adult female - 5.5"**

- Small bunting with gray conical bill
- Distinctive lime green plumage overall
- Narrow white eye-ring

# Yellow-billed Cuckoo

*Coccyzus americanus*

**Both Sexes, Adult – 12"**



- Slender, long-tailed songbird
- Inconspicuous, often foraging for caterpillars in dense foliage
- Brown/gray above, white below with decurved yellow bill
- Bold white spots on underside of tail





# Blackburnian Warbler

*Setophaga fusca*



**Breeding male – 5"**

- Slim warbler with flaming orange throat
- Dark cheek, streaky yellow breast
- White wing panel and tail coverts



**Female – 5"**

- Dark cheek, yellow face
- Partial yellow eyering
- Dark streak through eye



# Hummingbirds



# Ruby-throated Hummingbird

*Archilochus colubris*



**Adult male – 3.75"**

- Iridescent red throat, gray-green vest
- Black wings project beyond tail
- Long, straight, thin bill



**Female/ immature type – 3.75"**

- Green back, averages brighter than BCHU
- Black mask with white behind eye
- White under-parts



# Black-chinned Hummingbird

*Archilochus colubris*



©Alan Murphy

**Adult male – 3.75"**

- Iridescent purple throat , can look black
- Grayish green vest
- Long, straight, thin bill, longer than RTHU



**Female/ immature type – 3.75"**

- Green back and head, pumps tail while hovering
- Black mask with white behind eye
- White under-parts, tail slightly longer than wing tips

# Rufous Hummingbird

*Selasphorus rufus*



**Adult male - 3.75"**

- Red-gold iridescent throat and chin
- Rufous face and sides, white eye spot
- Green forehead (may be mostly rufous)
- Rufous nape and back



**Adult female or immature – 3.75"**

- Rufous sides
- Greenish gold crown and back
- White spot behind eye



# Wrens





# Carolina Wren

## *Thryothorus ludovicianus*



**Adult - 5.5"**

- Stocky and large-headed with pointed bill
- Warm brown above and buffy orange below
- Tail barred with fine black markings
- Prominent white eyebrow



# Bewick's Wren

*Thryomanes bewickii*



**Adult - 5.25"**

- Stocky grayish-brown wren
- Bold white eyebrow, black down-curved bill
- Flanks plain gray, breast variable white to gray
- Tail barred with fine black markings

# House Wren

*Troglodytes aedon*



**Adult – 4.75"**

- Small gray-brown wren
- White eye ring
- Eyebrow ranges from weak to none
- Under parts pale, with lightly barred flanks
- Short barred tail



# Winter Wren

## *Troglodytes hiemalis*

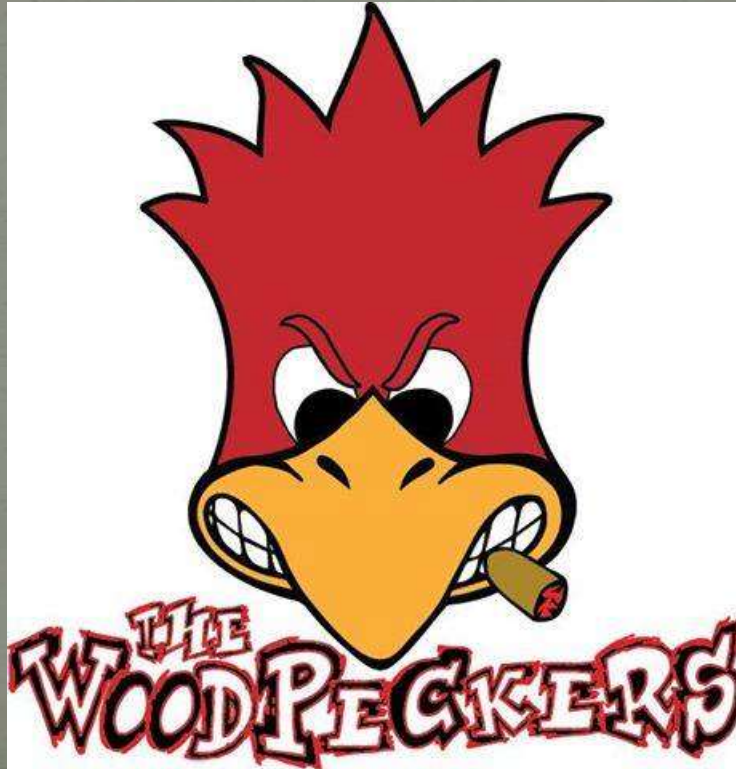


**Adult - 4"**

- The smallest and darkest wren
- Medium brown overall, with darker brown belly
- Short pale eyebrow, pale throat
- Short brown tail, usually held vertically



# Bastrop Is Blessed With Woodpeckers



# Pileated Woodpecker

*Dryocopus pileatus*

**Adult - 16.5"**

- Very large woodpecker with thick, chisel-like bill
- Bright red crest
- Solid black back and under-parts
- Black stripe through eye





# Red-headed Woodpecker

## *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

**Adult - 9.25"**



- Boldly-patterned, medium-sized woodpecker
- Scarlet red head
- Bright white underparts
- Solid black back with large white patch on wings
- One of only 4 NA woodpeckers known to store food
- AKA shirt tail bird, flag bird, and flying checkerboard



# Red-bellied Woodpecker

*Melanerpes carolinus*



**Adult male – 9.25"**

- Red forehead, cap, and nape
- Black and white barred back
- Gray/white face and under-parts



**Adult female – 9.25"**

- Red nape, reddish around base of bill
- Black and white barred back
- Gray face, crown, and under parts



# Downy Woodpecker

*Picoides pubescens*



**Adult male – 6.75"**

- Black above, white below; wings spotted white
- Black-and-white face, short chisel-like bill
- Red patch on back of head



**Adult female – 6.75"**

- Black and white striped head
- White patch in middle of back
- Short, pointed bill





# Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

*Sphyrapicus varius*



**Adult male – 8.5"**

- Stocky woodpecker, chisel-like bill
- Boldly marked head with red crown & throat
- Black bib, pale yellow wash on breast
- Large white stripe along wing



**Adult female – 8.5"**

- Medium-sized, stocky woodpecker
- White stripe along wing
- Black bib
- Female has red crown and pale, not red, throat

# Northern Flicker

*Colaptes auratus*



Yellow –shafted- 12”



Red-shafted – 12”



# A Few Field Birds

◊ THE STRAY BIRDS ◊



BEST MEDICINE



# Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

*Tyrannus forficatus*



**Adult – 10"**

- Medium-sized, pale gray flycatcher
- Slender-bodied
- Orange/pink wash on lower belly and flanks
- Darker wings contrast with paler body
- Will chase hawks and owls in breeding season



# Eastern Phoebe

*Sayornis phoebe*



**Adult – 7”**

- Stocky and long-tailed with thin, flattened bill
- Cream-colored breast and belly
- Dark head and paler gray back and wings

# Western Kingbird

*Tyrannus verticalis*



**Adult - 8.75"**

- Gray head with faint eyeline
- Grayish-white throat & breast
- Bright yellow belly and flanks
- Brown wings
- Black tail edged white



# Eastern Kingbird

*Tyrannus tyrannus*



**Adult - 8.5"**

- Black head, back, wings & tail
- White throat, belly & flanks
- Light gray breast
- Tail is tipped in white

# Loggerhead Shrike

*Lanius ludovicianus*



**Adult – 9”**

- Often perches prominently on signs or fence-lines
- Large-headed with stout, hooked black bill
- Silvery-gray above, whiter below
- Black mask

# Killdeer

## *Charadrius vociferus*



**Adult – 10.5”**

- Two black breast bands
- Brown above, white below, orange rump
- Long wings
- Red eye-ring





# Upland Sandpiper

*Bartramia longicauda*



**Adult – 12”**

- Large grassland sandpiper
- Brown feathers have white edging
- Neck and flanks barred brown
- Belly & under-tail are white
- White eye-ring
- Short yellow bill, yellow legs

# Red-winged Blackbird

*Agelaius phoeniceus*



**Adult male – 8.75"**

- Black overall, dark eye and bill
- Red shoulder with yellow border
- Sharply pointed conical bill



**Adult female – 8.75"**

- Brown and streaky overall
- Thick dark streaks on breast
- Buff or orangish throat

# Brown-headed Cowbird

*Molothrus ater*



**Adult male – 7.5"**



**Adult female – 7.5"**



# Brewer's Blackbird

*Euphagus cyanocephalus*



Adult male – 9"



Adult female – 9"

# Yellow-headed Blackbird

## *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*



**Adult male – 9.5"**

- Stocky blackbird with bright yellow head & chest
- Solid black body
- White wing patch just barely visible
- Black at base of bill and around eye



**Adult female – 9.5"**

- Large, stocky blackbird with heavy, pointed bill
- Mostly dark overall with yellow on face and breast
- Relatively short tail

# Western/Eastern Meadowlark

*Sturnella neglecta/magna*

**Adult – 9.5"**



- Chunky songbird with long, sharp bill
- Long pink legs
- Bright yellow breast with black, "V"-shaped breast band
- Upperparts streaked tan and white
- WEME yellow malar stripe, EAME has white malar
- Reliably ID in the field by song only, esp. in Winter





# Ruby-crowned Kinglet

*Regulus calendula*



**Adult - 4.25"**

- Drab grayish green bird
- Broken white eye arcs, white wingbars
- Buffy breast, white undertail coverts
- Black wings and tail
- Red crown raised when agitated

# Hermit Thrush

*Catharus guttatus*



**Adult - 7"**

- Brown face and back, white eye-ring
- White throat, breast & belly, darkly spotted
- Buffy breast, white undertail coverts
- Primary wing feathers & tail rufous red
- Under-tail coverts are white

# Dickcissel

*Spiza americana*



**Breeding Male – 6.25"**



**Female – 6.25"**





# Indigo Bunting

*Passerina cyanea*



**Breeding male - 5.5"**

- Small, stocky songbird
- Conical, silvery-gray bill
- Mostly bright blue
- Some black edging on wings



**Female - 5.5"**

- Stocky songbird with short, conical bill
- Warm brown above, paler below
- Contrasting whitish throat
- Faint streaks on breast



# Birds of Prey



# Red-shouldered Hawk

*Buteo lineatus*



**Adult (Eastern) – 17"**

- Stocky, compact Buteo
- Reddish-orange barring on breast and shoulders
- Bold black and white markings on wings and tail
- Long yellow legs





# Red-tailed Hawk

*Buteo jamaicensis*



**Adult – 19"**

- Long, broad, rounded wings and variable belly band of streaks and splotches
- The most highly varied plumage of any hawk, with subspecies such as Harlan's and Krider's
- Tail pale reddish from below
- Dusky trailing edge to wings



# Sharp-shinned & Cooper's Hawk

*Accipiter striatus/cooperii*



Sharp-shinned Hawk – 11"



Cooper's Hawk – 16"

# Northern Harrier

*Circus cyaneus*



## **The Gray Ghost – 18"**

- Gray overall, primaries and tail tipped black
- White rump visible in flight
- Male clean white below, female barred & streaked
- Glides over fields a few feet off the ground hunting



# American Kestrel

*Falco sparverius*



**Adult male – 9"**

- Very small falcon
- Reddish orange back with black markings
- Blue/gray wings
- Black and white facial pattern



**Adult female – 9"**

- Very small with rounded head
- Long wings and tail
- Black and white facial pattern
- Tan wings with black markings

# Crested Caracara

*Caracara cheriway*



**Adult – 23"**

- White neck, tail, and wingtips
- A crested black cap, with red face and base of beak
- Black body and wings
- Frequently found with Vultures

# Bald Eagle

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*



**Adult – 31"**

- Very large and heavy-bodied raptor
- Mostly dark brown to black
- White head and tail
- Heavy yellow bill





# Ferruginous Hawk

*Buteo regalis*

## The King of Hawks – 23"



- Our largest buteo
- Mostly dark brown to black, red shoulders
- Snowy white underparts, light rufous streaks
- Rufous leggings (tibial feathers)
- Top of tail washed lightly in red
- Easy to confuse with both RTHA & RSHA
- Rare, but recent Bastrop sighting



# Cuckoos

THE CUCKOOS



# Yellow-billed Cuckoo

*Coccyzus americanus*

**Both Sexes – 12"**



- Slender, long-tailed songbird
- Inconspicuous, often foraging for caterpillars in dense foliage
- Brown/gray above, white below with decurved yellow bill
- Bold white spots on underside of tail





# Greater Roadrunner

*Geococcyx californianus*



**Both sexes – 23"**

- Usually found on ground or low perch
- Large and slender-bodied
- Very long tail often cocked above back
- Short, shaggy crest
- Can fly short distances, nests in trees



# Sparrows



# Chipping Sparrow

*Spizella passerina*

**Adult – 5.5”**



- Bright rufous cap
- Black stripe through eye
- Gray face, white throat and eyebrow
- Clear gray breast
- Brown wings, back and tail
- Two white wingbars



# Savannah Sparrow

*Passerculus sandwichensis*



**Adult – 5.5”**

- Small-headed and short-tailed sparrow
- Brown head stripes, wings, back and tail
- Yellow patch between eye and bill (supraloral)
- Slight crest at rear of crown
- Thin white eyering
- Crisp markings overall, streaked breast & flanks
- White throat, breast and belly

# Vesper Sparrow

*Pooecetes gramineus*



**Adult – 6.25”**

- Gray-brown and streaked
- Complete white eyering
- Slight crest at rear of crown, sometimes
- Pale malar stripe surrounds cheek, like fish hook
- Outer tail feathers white

# Song Sparrow

*Melospiza melodia*

**Adult – 6.25”**



Song Sparrow  
12/10/06, Denman Wildlife Area, Ore.  
Photo by Dave Davidson

- Presents as brown above, white below
- Broad brown crown stripes
- Heavy brown streaks on breast and flanks
- Gray face with brown eyeline
- Slight crest at rear of crown
- Sometimes a central chest spot, not always
- Less crisp markings than SASP and VESP



# Lincoln's Sparrow

*Melospiza lincolnii*



**Adult – 5.75"**

- Like song sparrow, but smaller
- Brown crown stripes, gray eyebrow
- Buffy eyering and malar stripe, black eyeline
- Wings and tail brown, nape and back more gray
- Throat and belly white, with buffy chest & flanks
- Breast and flanks finely streaked with black

# Field Sparrow

*Spizella pusilla*

©Robert Royse



**Adult – 5.75”**

- A rather buffy sparrow with rufous highlights
- Rufous crown & eyeline, sometimes malar stripe
- Clean white eyering
- Gray face, throat and breast
- Buffy flanks
- Brown wings, back and tail
- Faint white wingbars

# White-crowned Sparrow

*Zonotrichia leucophrys*



**Adult – 7"**

- Bold black and white head stripes
- Clean gray throat and breast
- Gray face and nape
- Pink or orangish bill





# White-throated Sparrow

*Zonotrichia albicollis*



**Adult – 6.75”**

- Bold black and white head stripes
- Bright yellow supralorals, white supercilium
- Clean white throat, black eyeline
- Gray face, breast and belly
- Brown wings, back and tail



# Harris's Sparrow

*Zonotrichia querula*



**Adult – 7.5"**

- Our largest sparrow
- Adults black crown, face and throat
- White cheeks, neck, breast and belly
- Medium brown wings, back and tail
- Brown wings, back and tail
- Flanks buffy and streaked in black

# Fox Sparrow

*Passerella iliaca*



**Adult – 7”**

- Four subspecies, ours is Red (Taiga)
- A rufous & gray sparrow
- White breast, belly and flanks streaked rufous
- Gray head and neck, with white eyering
- Rufous wings, back and tail
- Gray rump in flight



# Lark Sparrow

*Emberiza rustica*



**Adult – 6.5”**

- Harlequin face pattern
- Whitish breast with bold central spot
- Large, long necked and long tailed

# House Sparrow

*Passer domesticus*



**Adult male breeding – 6.25"**

- Black bill, mask, throat, and breast
- Gray cap, rufous nape
- Back and wings reddish with black streaks
- White stripe on shoulder



**Adult female – 6.25"**

- Under-parts grayish, upperparts brownish
- Back and wings brown with dark streaks
- Bill thick and yellowish



# Spotted Towhee

*Pipilo maculatus*



**Adult male – 8.5"**

- Black hood and white belly
- Red eye
- Rufous flanks and undertail
- Prominent white spots & streaks on wings & back



**Adult female – 8.5"**

- Brownish hood and white belly
- Rufous flanks and undertail
- Fewer white spots & streaks on wings & back
- Black tail with white near tip





# Herons and Egrets

NIGHT HERONS



with  
THE LOOSE

record  
release  
party!

and  
MAXIMUM  
POLTERGEIST

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH**  
**IVY ROOM**  
860 San Pablo Ave, Albany  
doors 7p, listening party 8p, Night Herons 9pm  
\$7 cover / 21&over

# Great Blue Heron

*Ardea herodias*

**Adult – 54"**

- Large, graceful heron with long neck and legs
- Stout yellow and gray bill
- Crown striped with black and white
- Blue-gray body



# Great Egret

## *Ardea alba*

**Adult – 39"**

- Large white egret
- Long, black legs
- Heavy, pointed, yellow-orange bill





# Little Blue Heron

*Egretta caerulea*



**Adult – 24”**

- Adults dark blue-gray
- Greenish legs
- Pale blue bill with dark tip
- Immature first year birds are white
- Immature bill is grayish green or pink with dark tip
- Immature legs are greenish

# Cattle Egret

*Bubulcus ibis*



**Adult – 20"**

- Adult nonbreeding birds are completely white
- Nbr egrets have short yellow bills & black legs
- Immature birds are white with black bill and legs
- Breeding birds sport orange patches
- Bill and legs turn a redish orange
- Immature legs are greenish

# Snowy Egret

*Egretta thula*

**Adult – 24"**



- Adults snow white with feathery plumes
- Bill is black, with yellow lores at the base
- Legs are black with yellow feet “golden slippers”
- Immature legs are greenish



# Green Heron

## *Butorides virescens*



**Adult – 18"**

- Stocky heron with short broad wings
- Bill is black, with yellow lores at the base
- Yellow eye with dark pupil
- Dark crown with rufous cheeks, neck and breast
- Wings, back & tail are greenish blue; varies with the light
- Legs are yellow

# Black-crowned Night-Heron

*Nycticorax nycticorax*



**Adult – 25"**

- Stocky large headed heron
- Crown and back steel blue
- Red eye with dark pupil, dark dagger shaped bill
- Cheeks, neck, breast and flanks pure white
- Wings and tail are gray
- Long white plume, legs are yellow
- Immature birds gray-brown with white streaks/spots

# Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

*Nyctanassa violacea*



**Adult – 24”**

- Longer necked than BCNH
- Crown white with touch of yellow, variable
- Red eye with dark pupil, dark dagger shaped bill
- Bold black and white facial stripes, white plumes
- Body is uniformly light gray
- Wing and back feathers exhibit white edging
- Immature birds gray-brown with white streaks/spots





# Ducks & Friends



# Wood Duck

*Aix sponsa*



Breeding male – 18.5"



Female – 18.5"

# Northern Pintail

*Anas acuta*



Both Sexes - 21"



# Green Winged Teal

*Anas crecca*



Both Sexes – 14"

# Blue-winged Teal

*Spatula discors*



Both Sexes – 16"

# Cinnamon Teal

*Spatula cyanoptera*



Both Sexes – 17"



# Northern Shoveler

*Spatula clypeata*



Both Sexes - 19"

# Redhead

*Aythya americana*



Both Sexes – 19"

# Canvasback

*Dendrocygna autumnalis*



Both Sexes - 21"



# Lesser Scaup

*Aythya affinis*



Both Sexes – 17"

# Ring-necked Duck

*Aythya collaris*



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Both Sexes – 17"

# Black-bellied Whistling Duck

*Dendrocygna autumnalis*



Autumn Tree Swan 17"



# Gadwall

*Mareca strepera*



Both Sexes - 20"

# Bufflehead

*Bucephala albeola*



Both Sexes - 14"



# Mallard

*Anas platyrhynchos*



Both Sexes - 23"



# American Wigeon

*Mareca americana*



Baldpate, both - 20"

# Ruddy Duck

*Oxyura jamaicensis*



Both Sexes – 15"

# American Coot

*Fulica americana*



Both Sexes - 15"



# Pied-billed Grebe

*Podilymbus podiceps*



Both Sexes - 13"

# Double-crested Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax auritus*



Both Sexes - 33"

# Belted Kingfisher

*Megaceryle alcyon*



**Male – 13"**

- Short & stocky with shaggy blue crest, wings/back
- Stout black bill, white underparts
- Male shows single blue breast band



**Female - 13"**

- Heavy, dagger-like black bill, slate blue above
- Slaty blue above with white collar, two chest bands
- Upper band mostly blue, the lower reddish-brown





# Doves



# Mourning Dove

*Zenaida macroura*



## Adult - 12"

- Brownish gray
- Our most slender dove
- Iridescent blush on breast
- Dark spotted wings
- Pale bluish orbital ring
- Tapered tail tipped in white
- Pink feet

# White-winged Dove

*Zenaida asiatica*



**Adult - 11.5"**

- Brownish gray back, gray belly
- Heavier than mourning dove
- White wing patches always visible
- Black flight feathers
- Pale bluish orbital ring, orange-red iris
- Pink feet



# Eurasian Collared-Dove

*Streptopelia decaocto*



## **Adult - 13"**

- Brownish gray back, wings and tail
- Pale gray head, neck, belly and breast
- Partial black collar on neck
- Dark primary wing feathers in flight
- Dark reddish eye, pale eye-ring
- Broad square tail tipped in white

# Inca Dove

## *Columbina inca*



### **Adult - 8"**

- Small slender dove, long tailed with white sides
- Light brownish gray overall
- Feathers are dark edged creating a scaly pattern
- Under-wing primary & covert feathers are rufous
- Dark reddish eye, pale eye-ring
- Pink feet

# Common Ground-Dove

*Columbina passerina*



**Adult - 7"**

- Looks like a miniature Mourning Dove
- Brownish gray overall
- Dark spots on wings
- Head & breast only have a scaled appearance
- Pinkish blush to face and breast
- Under-wing completely rufous, black tipped
- Primaries are rufous above , black tipped
- Pink feet





# Owls & Nightjars



# Great Horned Owl

*Bubo virginianus*



**Adult – 22”**

- Large owl with obvious ear tufts
- Pale brown facial disc
- Coloration variable, but always heavily patterned on back and barred on belly
- Glowing yellow or orange eyes



# Barred Owl

*Strix varia*



**Adult – 21”**

- Large, round-headed owl
- No ear tufts
- Large black eyes
- Brown streaks on belly, brown and white mottling above





# Eastern Screech Owl

*Megascops asio*

**Adult gray morph – 8.5”**



- Small, stocky owl with ear tufts usually visible
- Patterned gray overall
- Heavy, dark barring on underpars



# Chuck-will's-widow

*Caprimulgus carolinensis*



**Adult – 12"**

- Gray body with black and tan markings
- Long pointed wings
- Brown tail barred with black
- Dark streaking on gray crown
- Large black eyes



# A Sampling of Warblers





# Yellow Warbler

*Septophaga petechia*



**Adult male – 5"**

- Short-tailed, stout-bodied warbler
- Bright yellow, faint chestnut streaks on belly
- Yellow-green upperparts



**Adult female – 5"**

- Stout-billed, long-bodied warbler
- Mostly bright yellow overall
- Olive tones on back and crown

# Orange-crowned Warbler

*Vermivora celata*



**Adult - 5"**

- Greenish yellow overall
- Broken eye-ring can be yellow or white
- Faint black eyeline
- Undertail coverts are yellow, usually the brightest
- Sometimes faint streaking on breast, sometimes not

# Northern Parula

*Parula americana*



**Adult - 4.5"**

- Steel blue head, wings and tail
- Broken white eye-ring
- Black lores, and two tone bill
- Back is greenish-yellow
- Yellow throat and breast, white belly & flanks
- Breast has an orange band, males add a black band
- Two short wing-bars



# Prothonotary Warbler

*Protonotaria citrea*



**Adult male – 5.5"**

- Glowing yellow head, breast and belly
- Steel blue wings and tail
- White under-tail coverts



**Adult female – 5.5"**

- Duller colored than the male
- Face and back more greenish-yellow
- White under-tail coverts

# Common Yellowthroat

*Geothlypis trichas*



**Adult male – 5"**

- Black mask, with white forehead
- Back, wings & tail are brown
- Throat, breast and belly are yellow



**Adult female – 5"**

- Duller colored than the male
- No black mask
- Yellow throat & under-tail coverts

# Pine Warbler

*Septophaga pinus*



**Male – 5.5"**

- Stocky, long-tailed warbler
- Males show bright yellow face & breast
- olive-green upperparts, white wing-bars



**Female/juvenile – 5.5"**

- Stocky warbler with thick bill
- Females dull gray-olive overall
- brighter on throat and breast, white wing-bars



# Black-throated Green Warbler

*Septophaga virens*



**Male Breeding – 5"**



**Female – 5"**

# Yellow-rumped Warble

*Septophaga coronata*



**Adult male (Myrtle) – 5.5"**

- Gray upperparts with dark streaking
- Black and yellow patch on sides of breast
- Black mask with thin white eyebrow
- Bright yellow crown and rump



**Adult female (Myrtle) – 5.5"**

- Brown or gray above with dark streaking
- White throat

# American Redstart

*Septophaga ruticilla*



**Adult Male Breeding – 5.25"**



**Adult Female -5.25"**



# Nashville Warbler

*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*



**Adult Male – 4.75"**

- Gray hood and yellow throat
- Complete white eye-ring, red crown
- Yellow under-tail coverts



**Adult Female – 4.75"**

- Gray hood and light throat
- Complete white eyering
- Yellow undertail coverts

# Blackburnian Warbler

*Setophaga fusca*



**Breeding male – 5"**

- Slim warbler with flaming orange throat
- Dark cheek, streaky yellow breast
- White wing panel and tail coverts



**Female – 5"**

- Dark cheek, yellow face
- Partial yellow eyering
- Dark streak through eye





**How many  
birds can  
you find?**

**23rd Annual Great  
Backyard Bird Count**  
February 14-17, 2020  
[birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org)

Northern Cardinal. Photo: Debrahn Difuria/Great Backyard Bird Count



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Tufted Titmouse. Photo: Jocelyn Anderson/Great Backyard Bird Count

Details at [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org)

