

BIRDS OF NOVA SCOTIA

ST. MARY'S RIVER ASSOCIATION

2016

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

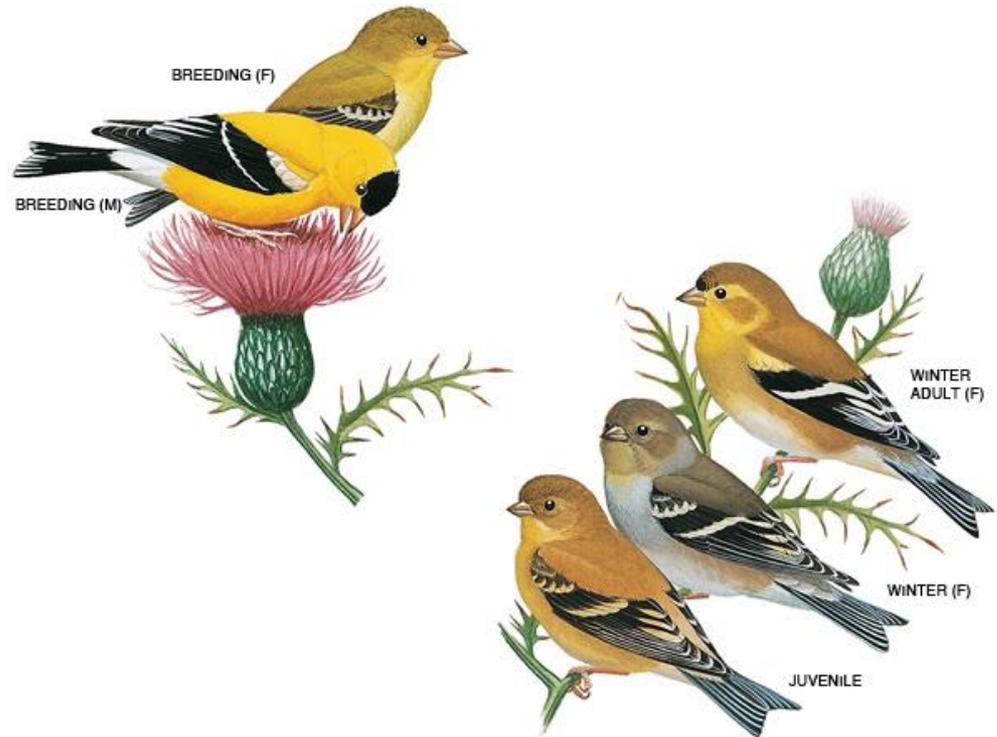
Goldfinches are common and widespread in orchards, hedgerows and fields. They are almost always feeding on tree buds, weed seeds (especially thistles) and some insects.

In late summer the male loses his brilliant yellow color and, until early spring it resembles his drab mate. They have a black tail and wings and a black spot on their head

The common name for this bird is a “wild canary”.

The goldfinches call is a vocal “per - chick-o-ree”

Goldfinches are the latest birds to nest due to their diet of thistle seed that matures at that time.



AMERICAN ROBIN

Robins are one of North America's most familiar birds. They nest in any open woodland habitat from spruce, pine or deciduous forest to suburban neighborhoods.

They are often seen foraging on lawns and fields searching for earthworms. They gather in large flocks during the winter months. Their winter diet is mainly berries.

Robins song are series of low whistled phrases, usually several phrases followed by a pause.

A member of the thrush family they sing in early morning and late afternoon.



BELTED KINGFISHER

Belted Kingfishers are fish eating birds found near water.

They are often seen perching in a lookout tree or electric wires near water.

They are solitary and nest in holes excavated in dirt banks.



AMERICAN TREE SPARROW

American Tree Sparrows nest in trees in open shrubby vegetation. They form flocks and they winter in brushy or weedy habitat, often near trees.

Their chests are white with a center black spot.

Their song is a warble with a descending trend.



BLACK CAPPED CHICKADEE

Black Capped Chickadees are common in wooded habitat where they associate with other woodland species.

They feed on seeds, insects and spiders. They often come to a feeder, take one seed and fly to a tree to eat it.

They have black cap, throat and white cheeks. They usually fly short distances between trees.

Song a simple, high, clear whistled fee-bee or chickadee-dee-dee.



BLUE JAY

Blue Jays are common in woods where they travel from tree to tree in small groups.

They feed on a variety of insects, seeds and acorns.

Blue Jays flight is steady, with rowing wingbeats and short, swooping glides.

They are unmistakable with bright blue wings and tail, flashing white patches, blue crest and a dark necklace.

Shrill, harsh, descending call, jay, jay, jay.



BROWN CREEPER

Brown Creepers seem to prefer woodland areas where they feed on insects and spiders found in the bark of trees.

This slender bird with a mottled brown back blends in well with the bark of the tree, making it difficult to see. They start at the bottom of the tree and work upward, always going around the tree like a spiral staircase.

Song a very shrill sree.



CEDAR WAXWING

Cedar Waxwings are common but irregular birds of any habitat where fruit, tree buds, flowers and insects are available.

They nest in brushy areas such as old fields and stream edges.

They are almost always in small flocks, except when nesting.

Cedar Waxwings are a silky brown color and gold breast and a yellow-tipped tail. They also have a black mask and red spots on their wings.

Their call is a a high, thin, clear or slightly trilled sreee.



DARK EYED JUNCO

Dark Eyed Juncos are found in relatively open coniferous or mixed woods with patches of open ground and brush.

They have plain gray head and white breast contrasting with pale pinkish-white bill and a unstreaked gray back. Their tail is gray with white outer feathers that flash in flight.

The Junco's song is a short, musical trill. Call is a very high stip.



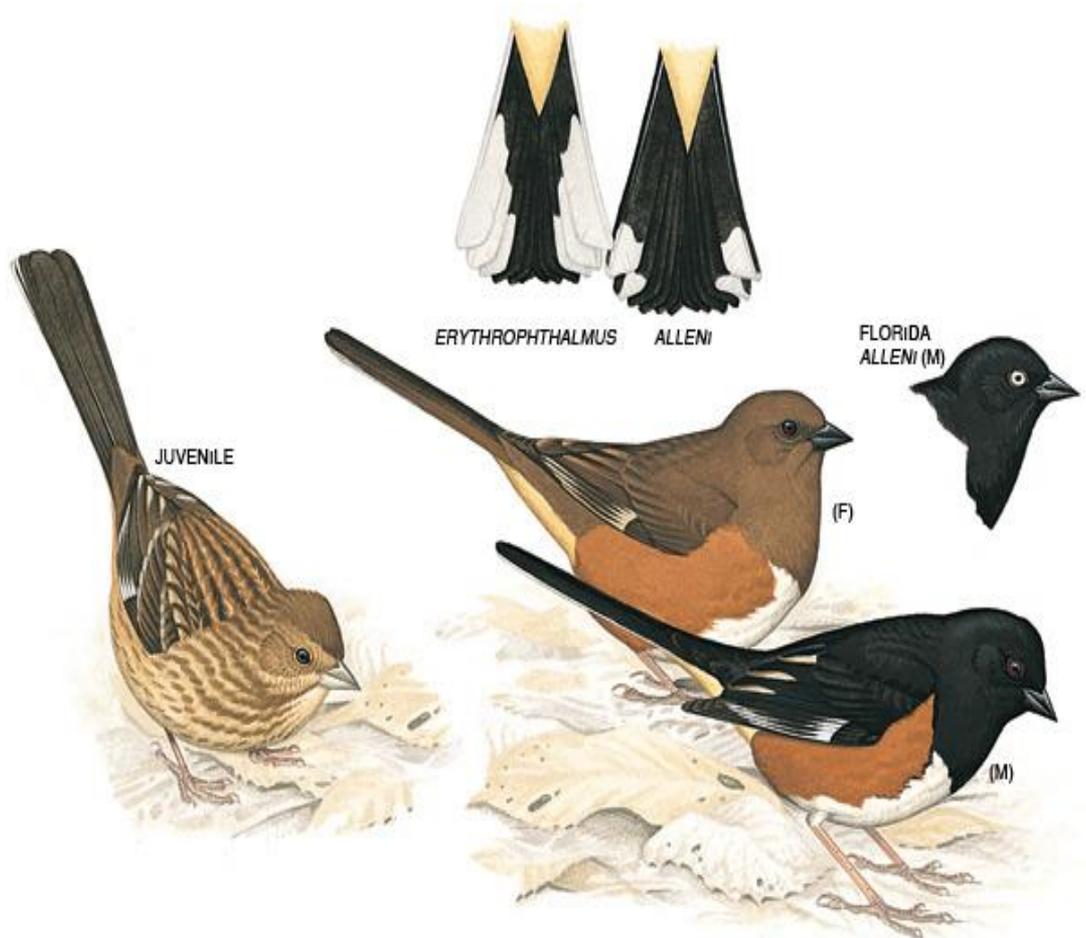
EASTERN TOWHEE

Eastern Towhee's are common in brushy habitats, sunny clearings and shrub lands or brushy undergrowth within open forests.

They forage on the ground by scratching the leaf litter for seeds and insects.

Towhees have a black or brown throat, head and wings. Their wings have a white patch. They have orange flanks on their breasts.

Their song is usually one to three short husky notes followed by a slow musical trill sounding like drink your tea.



EUROPEAN STARLING

The European Starling is a medium size songbird with dark silky plumage and short triangular wings typical of members of this European species introduced to New York in the late 1800s They are now found throughout North America and one of the most common birds wherever human settlement occurs.

They nest in birdhouses, crevices in buildings and tree cavities.

They forage on the ground for grubs, worms, insect, seeds or in trees for fruit.

They are a blackish color with distinctive white dots. Song is a mushy, gurgling hissing chatter w-high whistles.

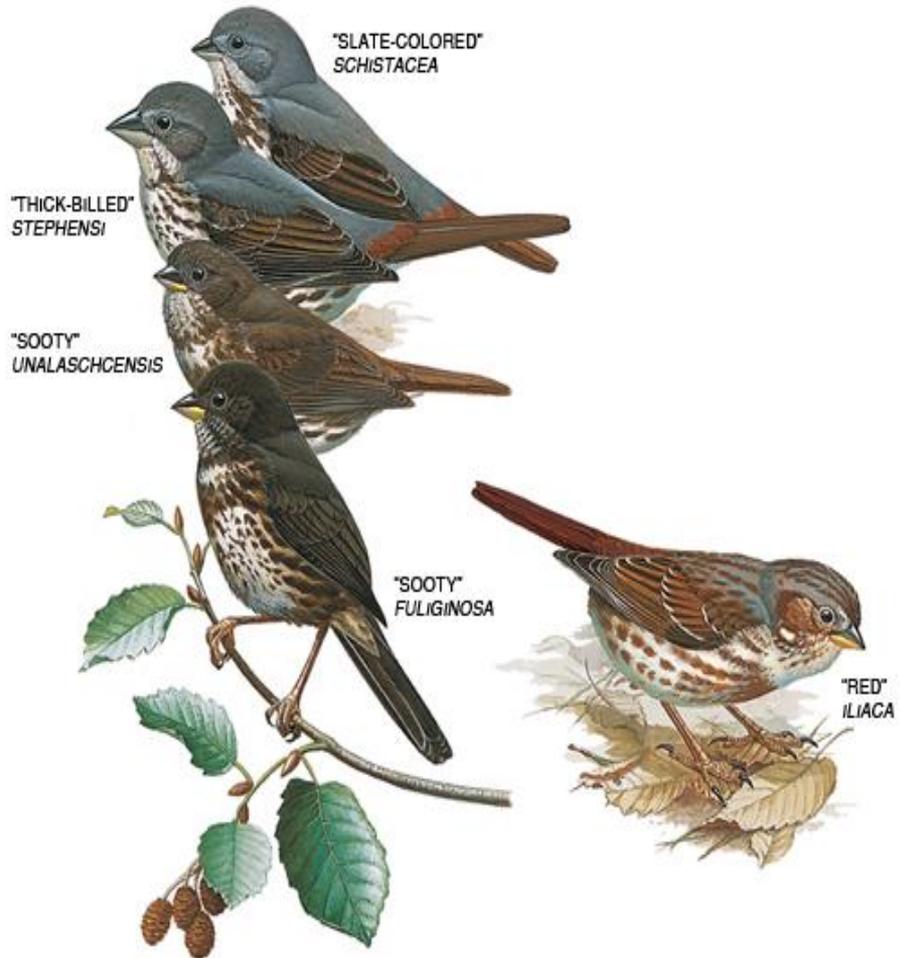


FOX SPARROW

Fox Sparrows Nest in dense deciduous thickets or patches of young conifers in boreal forests. They are often seen digging through leaf litter.

One of the largest sparrows. Note the unique bright reddish-brown plumage, gray face and white underparts with distinct reddish brown streaks.

Song a low warble You are sweet but I am sweet - er



CHIPPING SPARROW

Chipping Sparrows nest in open woodland edges with grassy understory such as parks and lawns.

A small sparrow with a long thin tail and a unstreaked whitish underside. The Chipping Sparrow has a distinct dark eyeline extending to the bill and a reddish-brown cap on top of their head.

Song is a simple mechanical long trill.

Call is a tsip.



DOWNY WOODPECKER

Downy Woodpeckers are common in any wooded habitat, especially deciduous woods with patches of smaller trees or brush.

Downy Woodpeckers are black and white with a red spot on the back of their head. It has black wings with white spots and a short black and white tail.

There call is a short, gentle, flat pik. Rattle call slow, squeaky and descending. Drumming is relatively short and slow, repeated infrequently, fewer than 10 times per minute.

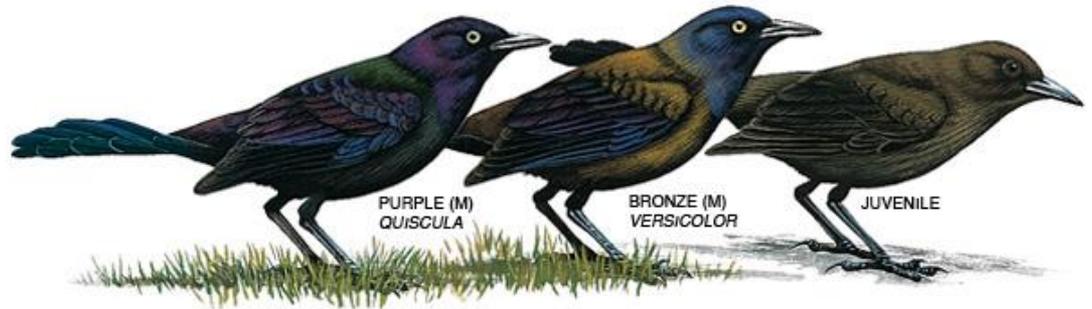


COMMON GRACKLE

Common Grackles nest in trees, especially dense evergreens.

They forage for seed and invertebrates on the ground in open areas near trees or within open woods, often in large flocks.

Grackle songs are unmusical harsh, wheezy notes.



EVENING GROSBEAK

Evening Grosbeaks are common in mixed forests.

They are almost always seen perched in treetops or at bird feeders. Large and short-tailed, with massive head and bill.

Grosbeaks are yellow with a dark head with yellow eyebrows, their wings are white with black feathers on the edge. They have yellow belly.

Their song is a regular repetition of call notes. Call a high, sharp, ringing trill kleerr.



HAIRY WOODPECKER

Hairy Woodpeckers are restricted to mature trees, where they forage on trunks and major limbs.

Larger than a downy woodpecker.

Call a peek or peech, sharper, stronger, and higher than Downy. Rattle call sharp and high.



HOUSE SPARROW

The House Sparrow is a bird of city and town that was introduced from Europe in the mid-1800s.

It nests in any sheltered cavity from birdhouses to streetlights to crevices in buildings.

Almost always in small flocks.

House Sparrows feed on seeds, insects and any food scraps they can find.

House Sparrows are stocky, short-tailed brown birds with black throat and lores.



MOURNING DOVE

Mourning Doves are found in suburban and agricultural habitats with a mix of open ground and brushy cover. Usually in small groups.

They forage mainly of the ground for seeds.

Mourning Doves are a warm brown with buffy highlights and black spots on the wings.

Their song is a mournful hooting ooaah coo coo. When they takeoff their wings produce a light airy whistle.



NORTHERN FLICKER

Northern Flickers are common and widespread in wooded areas with openings.

This member of the woodpecker family is the only species that feeds on the ground. It feeds on ants.

The flicker has a brownish back with black barring, spotted belly and a black breast-band. It has a white rump that is easily seen when flying.

Its call is a high piercing keew. Song is a strong series of kwik's continuing up to 15 seconds. Drum is variable.



NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD

Northern Mockingbirds are common in suburban habitats and brushy fields. It is highly territorial and nearly is always seen singly.

It feeds on insects and fruit; Mockingbirds often defend fruiting trees and shrubs from other birds.

The mockingbird is very long tailed gray and back body with conspicuous white side on tail and white bars on wings.

Its song is a regimented series of varied phrases, with each phrase repeated two to six times; many phrases are imitations of other bird calls.



NORTHERN CARDINAL

Northern Cardinals are common in brushy habitat within or at the edges of woods, often in suburban settings.

The male is red with red bill and a black face. The female is gold with reddish wings and tail with a blackish face and red bill.

Their song is a series of high, clear, mostly slurred whistles include the following: *woit, woit, chew, chew* *Pichew tiw* or *twik* with many variations.



PILEATED WOODPECKER

This woodpecker is a bird of mature hardwood forest.

There favorite food is carpenter ants which it finds in dead trees or fallen logs.

They nest in trees where they create distinctive oval or rectangular holes.

There call is a distinctive, single, loud, deep wek or kuk. Also a higher more rapid series kuk, kuk, keekee call.

Drumming is slow, powerful, accelerating and trailing off at the end.



PINE SISKIN

Pine Siskin numbers vary from year to year. It is found in open forests where it feeds on seeds of birches, alders, pines and other trees.

Almost always in flocks, sometimes with goldfinches.

Brown with darker streaking it has yellow wing markings on its wings.

The siskin's call is a rough rising buzz Zhreeee. Its flight call is a high sharp kdeew and a dull bid, bid.



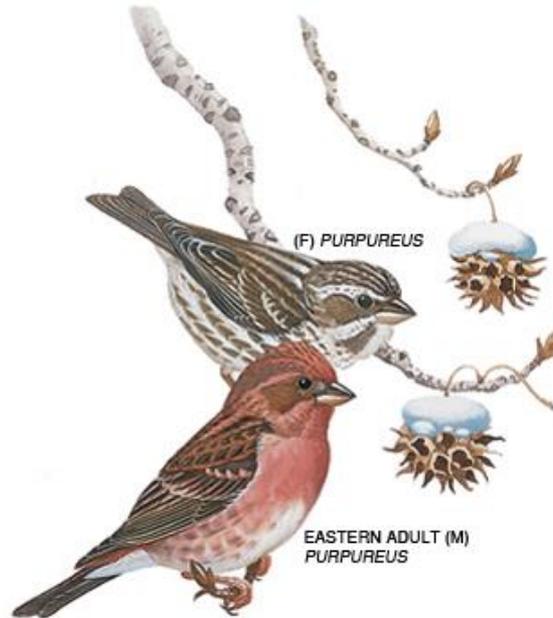
PURPLE FINCH

A finch found in wooded and brushy areas. Usually in small flocks.

They forage for seeds, fruit, and some insects. They will also visit feeders.

The female is brown and has a bold head pattern with whitish belly with dark streaks. The male has a rosy red throat and head.

There song is a bright, rapid, slightly hoarse warble, usually slightly rising but ending with a descending trill cheerrr. There call is a short whistled phrase tweeyoo.



RED BELLIED WOODPECKER

Uncommon in Nova Scotia woods.

It has a uniformly barred back, with a red nape and a splash of red on its white belly.

Call a loud rich quirr, in flight a single low chug. Also a harsh chig-chig.

Drum is medium speed and length; sometimes begins with one or several taps.



RED BREASTED NUTHATCH

Common but sometimes irregular in coniferous and mixed woods. Usually solitary, but may join mixed flocks of mixed songbirds. It is smaller than the White-breasted nuthatch. It has a dark “eyeline” and a white “eyebrow”.

Feeds on insects and seeds.

Its song is a series of nasal rising calls repeated slowly een, een. Call is a nasal ink, shorted and more nasal than a White-breasted.

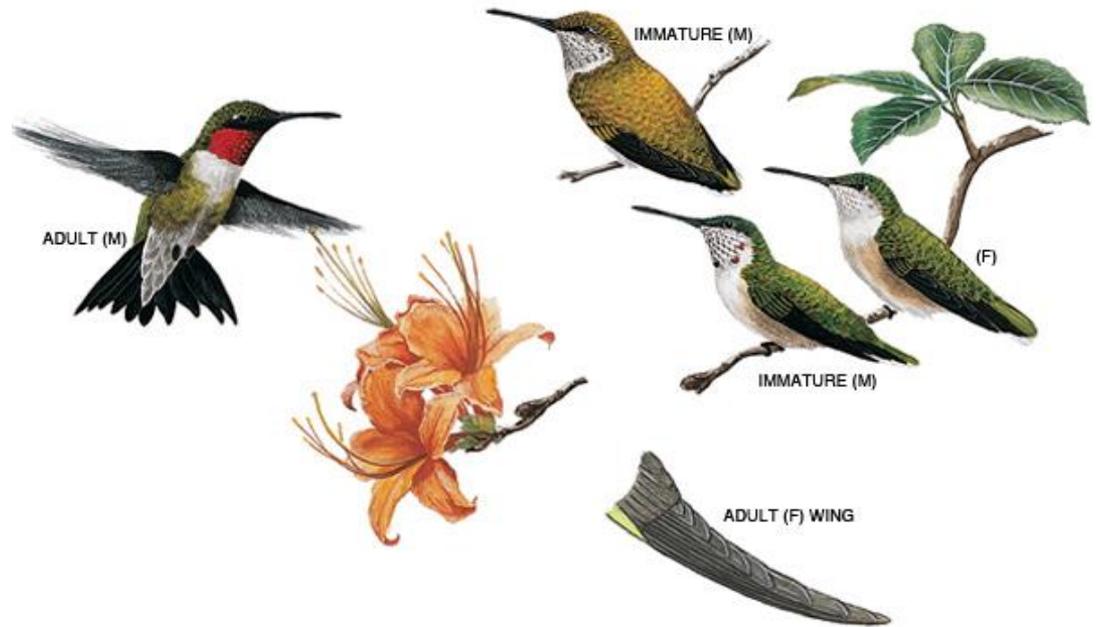


RUBY THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Common in wooded areas and edges of woods, especially at flowers or hummingbird feeder. Often nests near water.

Rudy throated Hummingbirds are golden green on top with a green crown. The male's has a red throat and the female has a white throat. The male flashes the red throat when threatened.

Call a soft husky tiiv or tipip. There chase call is sharp and sputtering. Male display also includes high rattling notes.

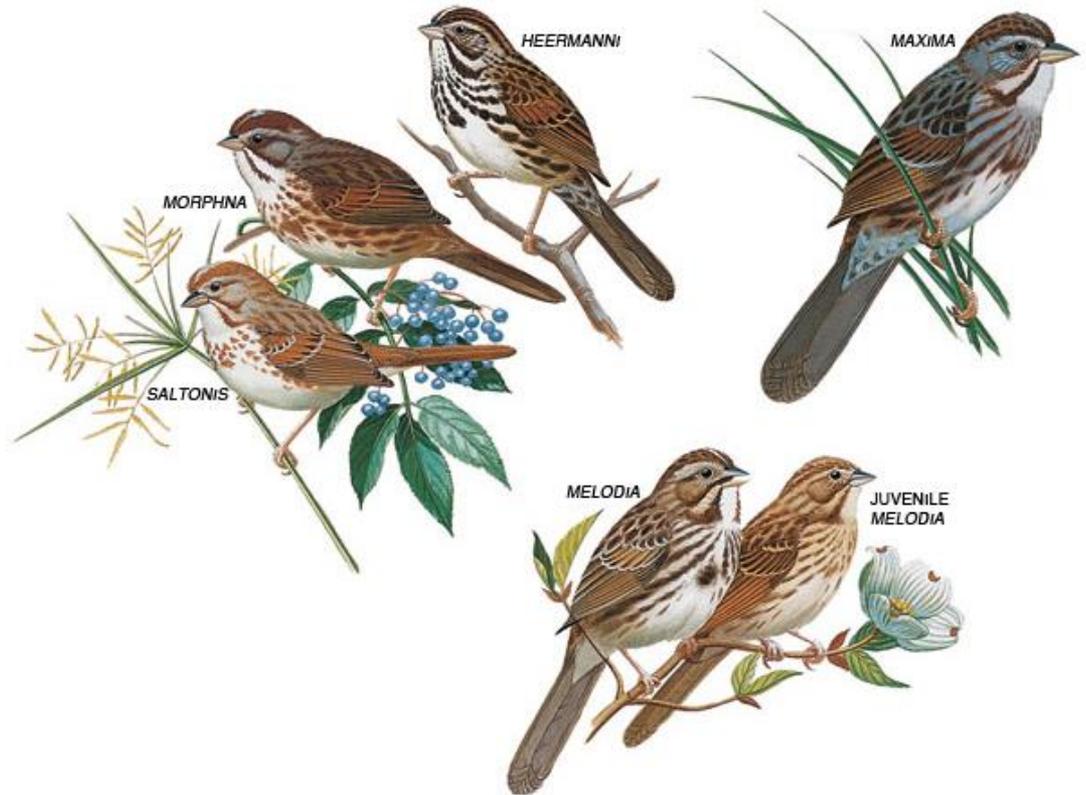


SONG SPARROW

Song Sparrows are common and widespread, in most areas. It is the most frequently seen streaked sparrow. It is found in open brushy areas and edges, such as gardens and hedgerows. It hops around on grass and fields or sings from the top of a bush. They are usually solitary but may form loose groups.

This stocky, long tailed sparrow has bold coarse streaks above and below and has a spot on their chest.

Its song is a variable series of trills and clear notes.



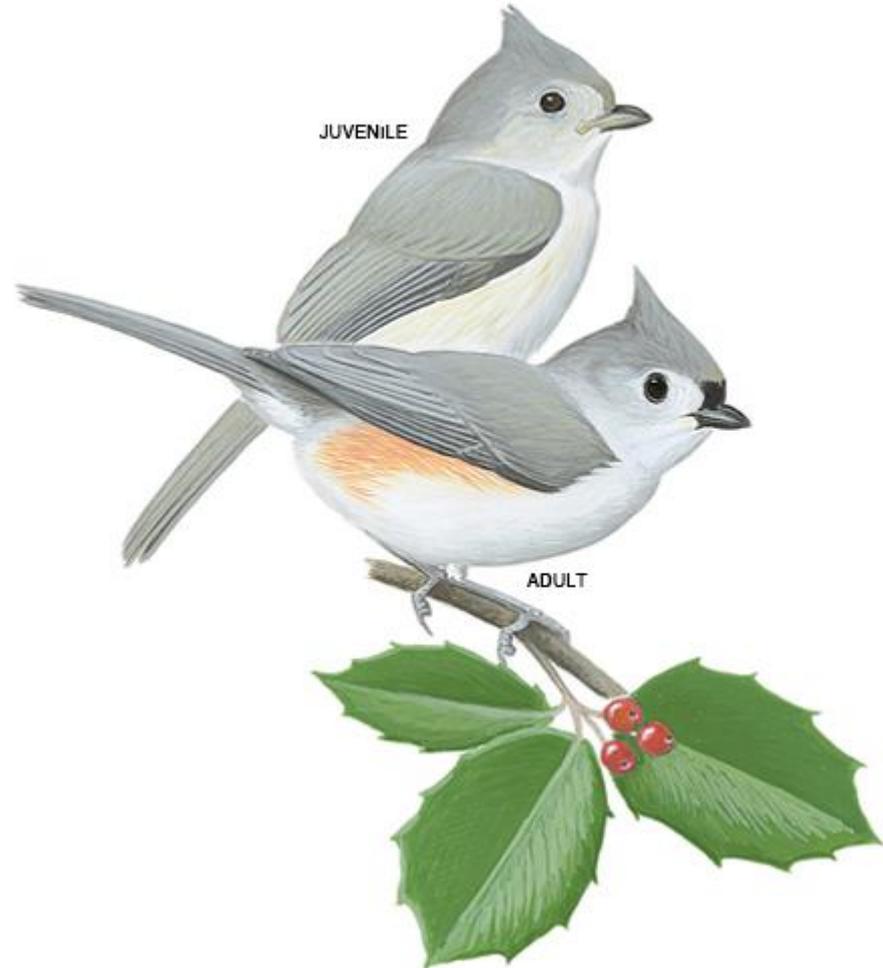
TUFTED TITMOUSE

Tufted Titmice are common and widespread in mature deciduous woods, in pairs or small groups.

It feeds on insects and seeds.

Titmice are pale gray overall white belly with orange flanks.

Their song is a low, clear, whistled peter, peter, peter. Call is a series of angry, nasal, rising note. Often preceded by a very high, thin notes: ti, ti, ti, si, si, si or zhree, zhree, zhree.



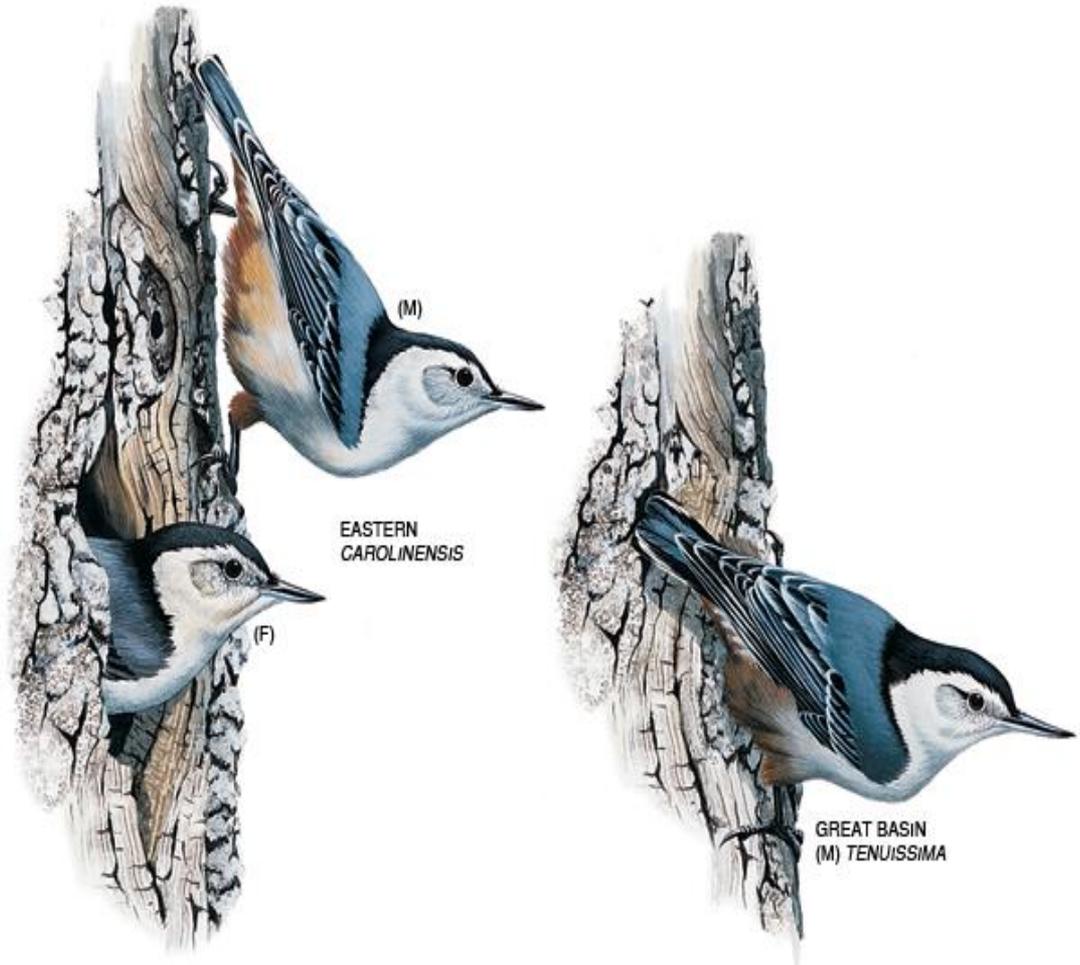
WHITE BREASTED NUTHATCH

White Breasted Nuthatches are common in mature deciduous and mixed woods. They are usually solitary.

Our largest nuthatch it has a white head with narrow dark crown-stripe and a long bill.

It feed mainly of insects and seeds.

Song a series of soft, nasal, whistled notes whi-whi-whi-whi-whi-whi,whi on one pitch. Call a nasal, slightly descending yenk.



WHITE THROATED SPARROW

White Throated Sparrows are common in brushy patches in or near openings in mixed woods. They winter in flocks in hedgerows, thickets and woodland edges.

These sparrows are rather stocky with dark reddish brown with unstreaked breasts, with white throats and a black and white striped head. They also have a yellow patch between the bill and their eyes.

Their song is a series of high clear whistles given in a rhythmic pattern that sounds like "o sweet canada canada canada".

