

# Birds

Birds, like mammals, are warm-blooded and come in all shapes and sizes. However, they are covered with feathers and have hollow, porous bones which allow all Wisconsin birds—even the heaviest wild turkey—to fly. They also lay eggs, which they must incubate for a period of several weeks to a month. They tend to be more active during the daylight and therefore are fairly easy to observe.

About 400 different kinds of birds have been observed and recorded in Wisconsin. Since birds are very active and have high body temperatures they must keep their internal fires stoked by consuming a lot of food daily. Some consume nearly their body weight in food each day. Many birds eat seeds, some eat fruit. Some insect-eating birds devour about 3,000 insects every 24 hours. Birds of prey consume large quantities of mice, voles and other rodents, large insects, and other birds. Each type of bird has a certain habitat preference. Some tolerate a wide variation in habitat while others are very specific in their habitat needs. For this publication, Wisconsin

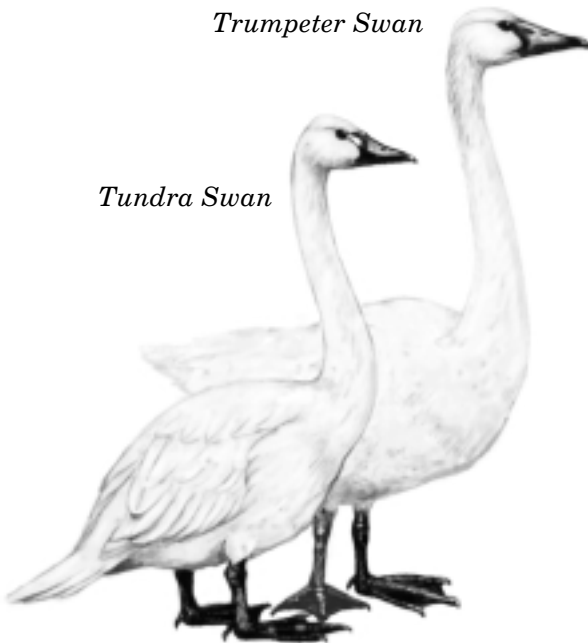
birds are grouped into several categories with only representative examples listed:

- Birds of Prey
- Marsh and Shore Birds
- Waterfowl
- Upland Game Birds
- Migratory Songbirds
- Resident Birds

You can enhance your land for different types of birds. Putting out bird feeders well-stocked with sunflower seeds, thistle seed and suet is one easy way of attracting birds to your property. But don't forget that they need water and shelter, too. So plan on installing a year-round birdbath and either build or purchase a variety of nest boxes. If you have an old field, pasture, or wet meadow you can enhance it for grassland sparrows, ring-necked pheasant, bobwhite quail, eastern bluebird, and such warblers as yellow warbler or yellowthroat. If you live in the southern part of the state and have a woodland, consider planting oaks to encourage wild turkeys. In mature woodlands, leave snags for hawks, owls, woodpeckers, chickadees and many other cavity nesting songbirds. If you own or border a wetland, consider planting a minimum of 5 acres of dense, permanent grass cover to encourage mallard nesting. Also, be sure to leave snags, old oaks and willows as sources of nesting cavities for woodducks.

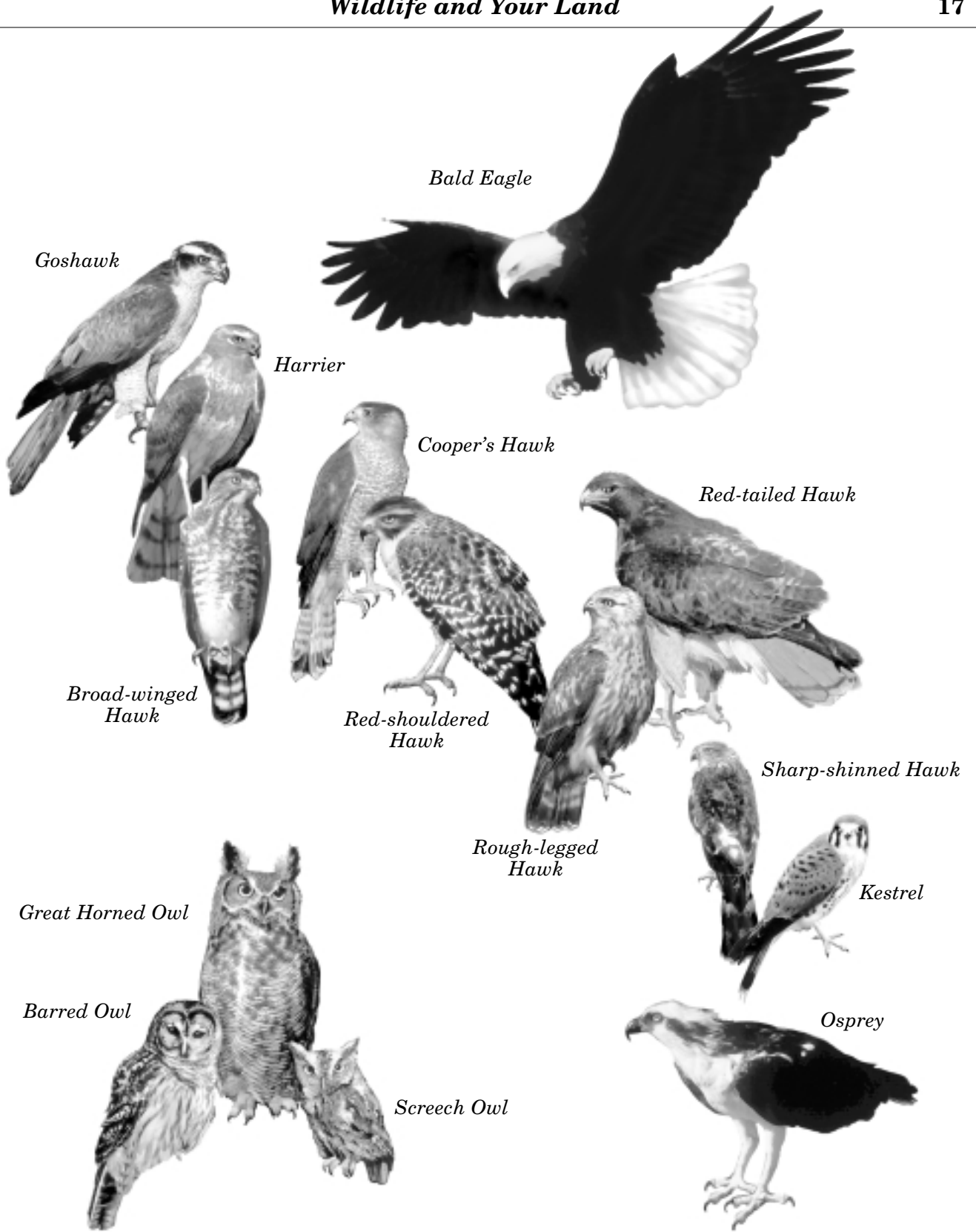
*Trumpeter Swan*

*Tundra Swan*



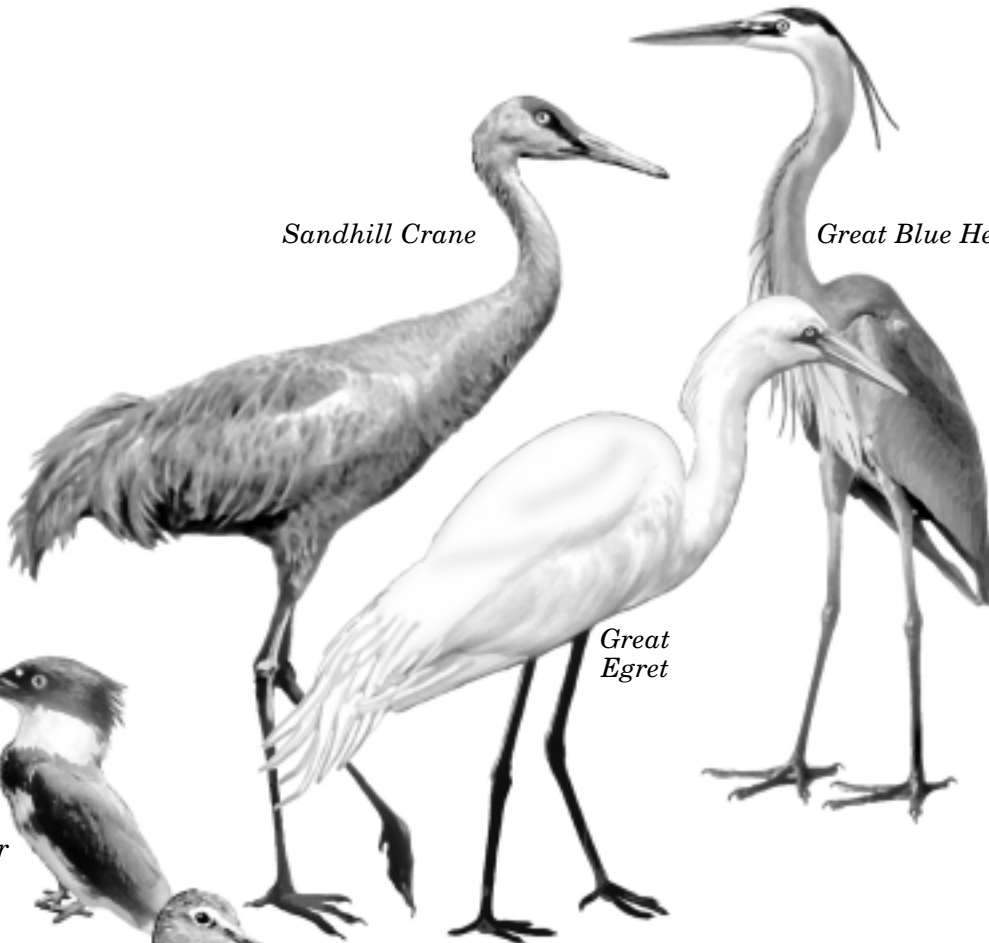
<b>Birds of Prey</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Nest Site</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Bald Eagle	Suckers, northern pike, muskellunge, bullheads, carp; occasionally geese and ducks; carrion such as deer, small livestock, waterfowl, fish during winter	Large rivers, lakes, reservoirs; found in concentration near dams along the Mississippi and Lower Wisconsin rivers	Roost and nests in large trees, often white pine. Nest is 4 feet in diameter and 3 feet deep	Northern one-third in spring and summer; rare in southeast, south central and eastern Wisconsin. Number of occupied territories has increased from 108 in 1973 to 645 in 1997
Northern Goshawk	Ruffed grouse, quail, ducks, chipmunks, red squirrels, snowshoe hare, poultry, mice, weasels, small hawks, owls, crows, doves, blue jays, thrushes, shrews, grasshoppers and caterpillars	Mixed hardwood and coniferous forests	Builds stick nest. Prefers large hardwood trees 30–40 feet above ground; frequently selects birch, aspen, maple, and beech for nesting trees; occasionally selects juniper, pine, spruce and fir. May build on top of old hawk nest	Northern one-fourth, and south into central Wisconsin
Northern Harrier (formerly Marsh Hawk)	Rodents and other small mammals, amphibians, snakes, birds, insects, fish	Wetlands, marshes, open fields, meadows	Nests on the ground in tall grasses in a meadow or swamp near water	Statewide; uncommon winter resident south
Broad-winged Hawk	Small mammals such as young rabbits, red squirrels, chipmunks, mice, moles, shrews; also snakes, frogs, lizards, small fish, larvae of large moths and butterflies, beetles, grasshoppers and crickets, crayfish; hunts from perch in woodlands or while flying over treetops or open meadows	Deciduous woodlands and mixed coniferous hardwoods around lakes, streams and swamps	Builds stick nests in birch, elm, maple, basswood or other deciduous trees, pine, hemlock; from 25–90 feet above ground; occasionally 3–10 feet above ground	Statewide, but uncommon summer resident west and central. Often seen in large numbers during fall migration
Cooper's Hawk	Northern flicker, quail, ring-necked pheasant, ruffed grouse, mourning dove, blue jay, ducks, least bittern, American crow, blackbirds, poultry, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, snakes, mice, grasshoppers, crickets and bats	Mixed, deciduous and sometimes coniferous forests, or along river edges in deciduous woods. Also, pine plantations in southeast Wisconsin	Builds stick nest with "cup" lined with bark flakes, occasionally rimmed with green tree springs in main crotch or on a horizontal limb. Nests 20–60 feet above ground in deciduous or coniferous trees; occasionally uses old crow nests or same nest from previous year, but typically builds a new nest in same area	Statewide but uncommon. Watch for it near birdfeeders in winter in southern third of state
Red-shouldered Hawk	Primarily amphibians, reptiles, fish and crayfish, but also insects, small birds and small mammals	Mature river bottom forests and wooded margins of marshes, often close to cultivated fields	Builds nests of mossy twigs and branches, lined with bark strips, bits of oak leaves and lichens in deciduous trees averaging 80–95 feet tall	Statewide but uncommon summer resident; uncommon winter resident south

<b>Birds of Prey</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Nest Site</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Red-tailed Hawk	Primarily small mammals such as rabbits; also birds, reptiles, and some insects	Woodland edge in variety of open habitats including pasture, field, meadow and swampy areas	Builds nests of sticks in tops of large deciduous trees, usually 35–90 feet above ground	Statewide
Rough-legged Hawk	Primarily small mammals	Grasslands, open marshes and fields	Doesn't nest in Wisconsin but nests primarily on cliffs along river bluffs	Statewide in winter only
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Small birds up to pigeon size; also small mammals, reptiles and insects	Coniferous and deciduous forests, conifer plantations and conifer swamps	Nests primarily in conifers, usually 30–35 feet above ground. Nest is a compact platform of twigs, sometimes lined with smaller twigs or bark strips	Northern half
American Kestrel	Insects such as grasshoppers, crickets and beetles; also mice and other small mammals, birds, lizards, toads, frogs and small snakes; hunts from a perch or while hovering over areas with short grassy cover	Forest openings, marshes, grasslands, farmland, woodland edges. Commonly seen on utility wires	Nests in nest boxes and tree cavities; nest sites are usually along streams, ponds or forest edges, normally 10–35 feet above ground	Statewide
Osprey	Primarily fresh panfish; also frogs, snakes, ducks, crows and small mammals	Lakes, rivers, marshes and reservoirs	Nest site is near or in water atop dead or living trees, power poles, old eagle, gull or great blue heron nests, artificial nesting structure; nest site may be used by same pair year after year	Northern two-thirds in summer
Barred Owl	Variety of birds, mice and other small mammals, fish, frogs, salamanders, snakes, crayfish and large insects	Oak and mixed deciduous and coniferous forests bordering lakes, streams, swamps, marshes or wet meadows	Nests 18–50 feet above ground in tree cavities, hollows in top of broken tree stub or nests of crows and squirrels	Statewide
Great Horned Owl	Rabbit, squirrels, skunk, woodchuck, opossum, gopher, geese, turkey, pheasant, quail, mice, rats, weasels, mink, crow, crayfish, reptiles, amphibians, fish and large insects	Farm woodlots, open coniferous, deciduous or mixed woods, riverbottom forests, marshes, swamps, large city parks and orchards	Nests up to 70 feet high in large trees, usually in the nests of red-tailed hawks, osprey, bald eagles, heron or crow. Sometimes nests in tree cavities	Statewide
Eastern Screech Owl	Mice and other small mammals, grasshoppers, locusts, moths, beetles and other insects, spiders, fish, crayfish, salamanders, reptiles, songbirds	Variety of wooded habitats, especially open woods adjacent to meadows, marshes or fields. Also, orchards and shade trees in towns and cities	Nests 5–35 feet high in tree cavities, abandoned woodpecker holes; also nests in wood duck nest boxes	Statewide, except rare in north





*Turkey Vulture*



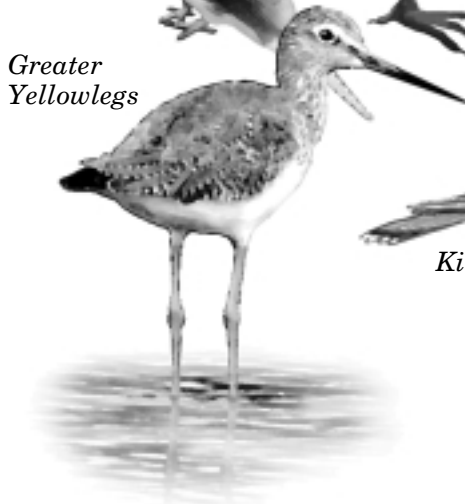
*Sandhill Crane*

*Great Blue Heron*

*Great Egret*



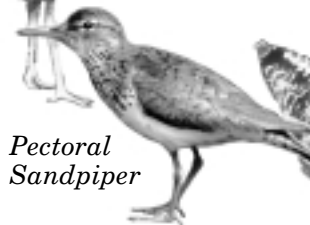
*Belted Kingfisher*



*Greater Yellowlegs*



*Killdeer*



*Pectoral Sandpiper*



*Woodcock*

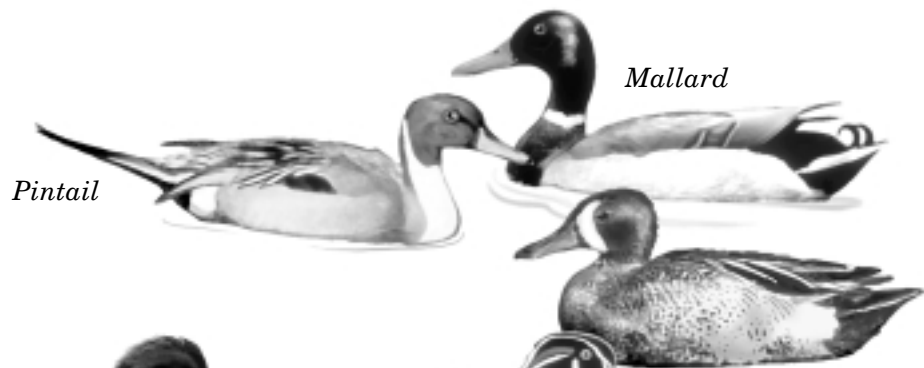
Birds of Prey	Food	Habitat	Nest Site	Distribution
Turkey Vulture	Fresh or decayed carrion, including almost all wild and domestic animals; frogs, snakes, birds and fish	Hilly, forested regions with exposed perches. Shaded nest sites on cliffs and in mature trees	Lays egg directly on the ground beneath fallen trees or tumbled boulders, in piles of discarded brush, logs and/or rocks or in abandoned buildings, in small caves, on rock ledges, in hollow logs and in large hollow trees. Nearly every site is isolated from disturbance by people	Statewide

Marsh and Shore Birds	Food	Habitat	Nest Sites	Distribution
Sandhill Crane	Mice, frogs, insects, roots, shoots of grains, grasses, seeds	Grasslands, sedge meadows, marshes, farmlands, bogs, sloughs, lakes, ponds, river deltas	Nests on mound of emergent vegetation, grass, moss, or mud among rushes, sedges and other tall, dense vegetation	Statewide with heaviest nesting concentrations in central Wisconsin
Great Egret	Fish, insects, frogs, crayfish, salamanders, snakes, snails and small mammals	Marshes, river bottomlands, shallow lakes, bays and streams	Builds large stick nests in trees 1–40 feet above ground	Statewide
Great Blue Heron	Fish, crayfish, frogs, salamanders, snakes, insects, leeches and small mammals	Common in marshes, rivers and streams, bottomlands	Builds large stick nest in trees often above 50 feet	Statewide
Belted Kingfisher	Small fish, frogs, insects, crayfish, mollusks and mice	Edges of lakes, ponds, rivers and streams	Burrows 3–6 feet into a stream bank near water, 1–3 feet from top of bank; builds a nest cavity often lined with disgorged food pellets	Statewide
Sandpipers, Plovers and other shorebirds (Pectoral and Spotted Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Piping and Semi-palmated Plovers, Killdeer, Sanderling)	Small crustacea, aquatic worms and other aquatic invertebrates found in mud, wet sand or floating in water	Muddy and sandy shorelines. Some occur in open fields and meadows	Nest on ground. Most do not build nests. Need isolated areas free from disturbance of humans or pets	Some statewide, others restricted, others only migrate through the state
American Woodcock	Insects, earthworms	Damp woods	Nest on ground, spectacular courtship flights on early spring evenings	Statewide, can be seen in large numbers during fall migration

<b>Waterfowl</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Nest Sites</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Canada Goose	Corn, small grains, alfalfa, seeds, grasses, sedges, berries, crustaceans, small mollusks, large insects	Farmlands, lakes, rivers, marshes; frequent urban areas, especially parks and golf courses	Builds nest of grasses and feathers on ground in marshy areas. Note: Can be a nuisance in agricultural and urban areas	Statewide, especially Horicon Marsh, Grand River Marsh, Pine Island, Crex Meadows, Theresa Marsh
Dabbling Ducks (13 kinds including Pintail, Shoveler, Gadwall)	Seeds, aquatic vegetation, insects, grain, grasses, sedges	Wetlands, shallow, weed-filled waters	Do not commonly nest in Wisconsin, but need protection of marsh vegetation and shallow, open water	Statewide
Blue-winged Teal	Duckweed, grasses, smartweed, sedges, wild rice, corn, invertebrates	Wetlands in farmland	Nests in short grass around edges of wetlands, especially in ungrazed fields, semipermanent shallow potholes surrounded by hayfields or grasslands	Southeast and east-central
Mallard	Pondweeds, smartweeds, bulrushes, millet, wild rice, insects, mollusks	Marshes, ponds, rivers and farmlands	Nests primarily in upland grasses, yet can be found nesting in cattails	Statewide
Wood Duck	Acorns, nuts, water lily seeds, beetles, bugs, spiders	Forested wetlands	Nests in old woodpecker holes in old trees or in wood duck nest boxes set 15 feet above ground, over water	Statewide
Diving Ducks (20 kinds, including Scaup, Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck)	Aquatic plants, insects, crayfish, small fish, mollusks, grasses and sedges	Most prefer larger lakes and rivers; a few prefer small lakes, ponds and sloughs; rarely come to land	Many diving ducks do not nest in Wisconsin	Statewide, especially Lake Michigan, Mississippi River, Lake Winnebago
Redhead	Submerged leaves, seeds and stems of aquatic plants such as sago pondweed, wild celery, algae, and wild rice	Open waters of lakes and rivers	Nests primarily in prairies and parklands of the U.S. and Canada; migrates through Wisconsin in spring and fall; winters in lakes, coastal bays and inland marshes along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico	Statewide
Ring-necked Duck	Submerged leaves, seeds and stems of aquatic plants such as sago pondweed, wild celery, algae, and wild rice	Open water of lakes near woodlands	Nests on the ground by water in clumps of tall plants in shallow water	Northern third
Scaup (Greater or Lesser)	Aquatic plants, insects, crayfish, small fish and mollusks	Large, open water lakes and rivers	Doesn't nest in Wisconsin, most abundant in spring and fall migration	Statewide
Mergansers (3 kinds: Common, Hooded and Red-breasted)	Fish	Wooded lakes and streams, large rivers such as Mississippi	Common and Hooded mergansers nest in tree cavities; Red-breasted nests on the ground	Statewide, common along Mississippi River in March and early April



*Canada Geese*



*Pintail*

*Mallard*



*Goldeneye*



*Wood Ducks  
male, left  
female, right*

*Blue-winged Teal*

*Hooded Merganser*



*Redhead*

*Ring-necked Duck*



*Greater Scaup*





*Wild Turkey*



*Ring-necked Pheasant*



*Bobwhite Quail*



*Greater Prairie Chicken*

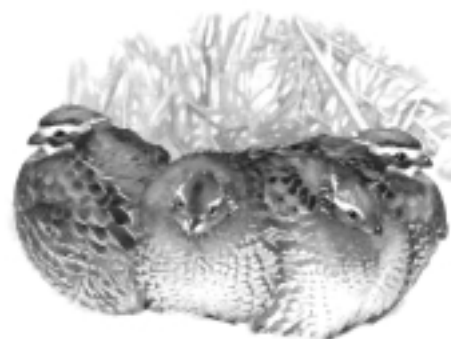


*Ruffed Grouse*



*Sharp-tailed Grouse*

Upland Game Birds	Food	Habitat	Shelter	Distribution
Greater Prairie Chicken	Seeds, berries, insects, grain, buds, leaves, tender vegetation	Large expanses of open grasslands with some shrubs and wet marsh areas	Nests on ground	Only in isolated spots in central Wisconsin
Ruffed Grouse	Aspen buds and catkins, hazelnuts, acorns, catkins, berries, wild grape, clover, insects	Forests with varying ages of aspen and alder thickets	Nests on the ground in thick young aspen stands	Statewide, restricted areas in south
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Seeds, berries, insects, buds, leaves and tender vegetation	Scrub oak, barrens, earliest stages of forest succession with openings and scattered thickets	Nests on ground	Northwest
Ring-necked Pheasant (Non-native)	Corn, grains, weed seeds and insects	Farmland with hayfields, grasslands and wetlands intermixed	Builds nest on ground in tall, dense grasses	Southern half
Bobwhite Quail	Wild grape, bittersweet, sumac, corn, soybeans, grasshoppers, crickets, beetles	Farmlands interspersed with brushy areas, grassy marshes, hedgerows or thickets of hazel, raspberry, grapevines, willow and elderberry	Nests on ground. Live in groups called "coveys"	Southwest
Wild Turkey	Acorns, insects, berries, seeds, alfalfa, corn, leaves, catkins, nuts	Farmland interspersed with oak-hickory woodlands	Nests on ground in dense cover	Southwest, southern counties, some northeast counties, and some northwest counties



<b>Migratory Songbirds</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Nest Sites</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Northern Oriole (Formerly Baltimore Oriole)	Blackberries, blueberries, elderberries, grapes, pears, peas, caterpillars, ants, beetles, spiders, grasshoppers, bugs, wasps; at feeders: orange halves, small trays of grape jelly, mealworms, broken walnuts, apple slices, suet and bread	Open deciduous woods, forest edges, parks, residential areas, farmlands, orchards, river bottoms, upland hardwoods	Weaves an intricate pouch-like nest, which hangs pendulously 25–30 feet at the tip of branches of elm, cottonwood, birch, boxelder, aspen, oak, maples, willows or apple trees; Nest is built with milkweed down, dog hairs, weed fibers, wool and yarn or any other fibrous material	Statewide
Red-winged Blackbird	Ants, beetles, cankerworms, caterpillars, grasshoppers, grubs, weevils, snails and spiders; barley, bristlegrass, canary-grass, corn, millet, oats, peanuts, ragweeds, wheat, crabgrass and sunflowers	Cattail marshes, wet meadows, swamps, pastures, hedgerows, grasslands, field edges, roadside ditches	Weaves nest in cattails, rushes, sedges, reeds or bushes, near or over water, usually no more than 3 feet above ground	Statewide
Eastern Bluebird	Spiders, wasps, caterpillars, worms, beetles, grubs, crickets, grasshoppers, weevils, ants, centipedes, cutworms, snails, sowbugs, blackberries, blueberries, cherries, cotoneaster, Virginia creeper, dogwoods, elderberries, chokeberries, eunonymus, poison ivy, raspberries, service berries; at feeders: dried currants, raisins, peanuts, peanut butter, pecans, bread, cake, pitted dates, dried figs	Woodland edges, orchards, gardens, meadows, cemeteries, golf courses, pastures	Builds nest in bluebird nest boxes, rotten fenceposts, natural tree cavities, old woodpecker holes; most attempt to re-nest and produce a second brood	Statewide, but uncommon south and east
Bobolink	Insects and seeds of weeds and grasses	Hayfields, open grasslands, old fields, pastures, sedge and grass meadows	Builds nests in a slight natural hollow or scrape in the ground in dense stands of alfalfa, clover, timothy, or weeds	Statewide
Indigo Bunting	Insects, seeds of herbs and grasses, elderberries, blueberries, blackberries, strawberries	Forest edges, open brushy fields, roadside thickets	Builds a cup of dried grasses and plant fibers 1–12 feet above ground in crotch of a bush, shrub or low tree, or in a tangle of berry vines	Statewide
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Seeds, grains, insects and small invertebrates	Deciduous or mixed second-growth woods, swamp and stream borders, old orchards, suburban trees, edges of woods and pastures	Builds a flimsy nest of small twigs, weed stems and plant rootlets in the fork of a deciduous tree or shrub at 4–15 feet above ground	Statewide

*Eastern Bluebird*



*Red-winged Blackbird*



*Bobolink*



*Rose-breasted Grosbeak*

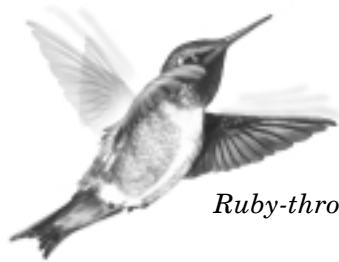


*Baltimore Oriole*



*Indigo Bunting*





*Ruby-throated Hummingbird*



*Eastern Meadowlark*



*Dark-eyed Junco*



*Purple Martin*

Migratory Songbirds	Food	Habitat	Nest Sites	Distribution
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Flower nectar and pollen from: cardinal flower, columbine, coralberry, buckeye, scarlet runner beans, bee balm (monarda), evening primrose, gladiolus, hibiscus, honeysuckle, lilies, butterfly weeds, morning glory, nasturtium, petunia, phlox, snapdragon, thistle, trumpet creeper, weigela, zinnia, hosta, coral bells; hummingbird feeders filled with red-colored sugar water; very small insects attracted to nectar and sometimes flying insects attracted to uneaten prey at hawk nests	Hardwood and mixed hardwood forests, meadows, woodland edges and clearings, orchards, backyard gardens	Builds tiny nest in branches the size of walnut halves, typically 10–20 feet above the ground; often near or sometimes directly over water or near woodland trails on a horizontal branch; Nest is made of spider silk and plant down and covered on outside with lichens	Statewide
Dark-eyed Junco	At feeder: black oil sunflower seeds, white proso millet, cracked corn, corn, grain sorghum, peanuts, peanut butter, old bakery goods such as wheat or corn bread and pie crusts, broken walnuts, wheat, oatmeal, pumpkin seeds; In the wild: amaranth, crabgrass, barnyard grass, bristle grass, canary grass, dropseed, goosefoot, wild hemp, oats, petunia, ragweed, switchgrass, wheat, lamb's quarters, chickweed, purslane, wild sunflower, pine seeds; weevils, beetles, flies, moths, grasshoppers, ants, spiders	Coniferous or mixed forests, and forest edges. In winter at suburban and rural bird feeders	Commonly builds compact nest of grasses, rootlets, and moss on the ground, concealed beneath weeds and grasses; occasionally may place nest up to 8 feet above ground in shrubs or trees Breeds in boreal forest and conifer plantations in northern counties	Statewide in winter
Purple Martin	Flying insects, some ground insects and spiders	Farmlands, parks, suburban yards, preferably near water; also marsh edges, lake shores, meadows near pools and open, cut-over woodlands near water	Nests in colonies in purple martin houses or sets of hanging gourds set 15–20 ft. above ground; sometimes in hollow tree cavities	Statewide, but more numerous in eastern and southeastern Wisconsin
Eastern Meadowlark Western Meadowlark	Mainly insects in summer; seeds of waste grain, weeds and grasses in winter	Open grasslands including hayfields, meadows, pastures, prairies; Eastern prefers pastures	Builds nest in a natural hollow or scrape on the ground. Weaves a loose dome-shaped roof over nest	Statewide

<b>Migratory Songbirds</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Nest Sites</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Nighthawk Whip-poor-will	Flying insects	Nighthawks found in cities on gravel rooftops, railroad right-of-ways, sand dunes; sandy rural areas, plowed fields, plains, remote blacktop areas; whip-poor-wills found in open hardwoods or mixed oak and pine forests	Neither bird builds nests; nighthawks lay eggs on gravel rooftops or on bare ground; whip-poor-wills lay eggs on ground on dead leaves	Statewide
American Robin Thrushes	Earthworms, wild berries and fruit such as crabapples, apples, cherries, elderberries, blackberries, blueberries, cranberries and a variety of insects and spiders	Deciduous or mixed coniferous-deciduous forests, also riverbottom forests; robins very common in suburban yards, parks	Robins build nest of mud and grass in deciduous or coniferous trees or shrubs, on nest platforms in open garages, church ledges or abandoned buildings	Some statewide, a few restricted to northern forests
Grassland Sparrows	Insects, weed seeds, spiders	Habitat types vary among species, but generally include pastures, hayfields, open grasslands, marshes, grassy dunes, wet meadows, prairies	Build nests of grasses low to or on the ground	Statewide
Barn Swallow	Flying insects	Farmsteads with barns and outbuildings, open grasslands, open forests, lakeshores	Builds mud nests on rafters of old barns or buildings; sometimes under bridges or in culverts	Statewide, but leaves state in August
Tree Swallow	Flying insects; wild berries and seeds in cold weather when insects are scarce	Open woodlands and farmlands near ponds, streams and lakes; also river bottomlands, beaver ponds, wooded swamps and marshes where dead trees stand in or near water	Builds nest of grasses in bluebird nest boxes, tree cavities and abandoned woodpecker holes about 3–15 feet above ground	Statewide
Chimney Swift	Flying insects including beetles, flies, ants, bugs; sometimes caterpillars hanging from tree branches	Cities, towns and farms	Builds nest on walls of chimneys, silos, old wells or in little-used garages, barns and shacks; sometimes in tree hollows or stumps	Statewide
Scarlet Tanager	Variety of insects and other small invertebrates; also some wild fruits	Mature oak forests, bottomland hardwood forests, groves, parks, orchards	Builds a small, flimsy cup on horizontal oak, maple or elm limb about 8–15 feet above ground	Statewide
Brown Thrasher Gray Catbird	Insects, spiders, worms, small invertebrates, berries and fruits	Brushy woods, woodland edges and thickets, near suburban or rural homesteads, dry marsh edges, roadside shrubs, abandoned fields and fencerows	Thrashers build bulky nest from 1–3 feet above the ground but sometimes on the ground under tangled thickets. Catbirds build nests 2–10 feet above ground in dense willow and alder thickets, lilac and berry bushes or in small trees bordering streams	Statewide

*Chimney Swift*



*Tree Swallow*



*Barn Swallow*



*Scarlet Tanager*



*Robin*



*Wood Thrush*



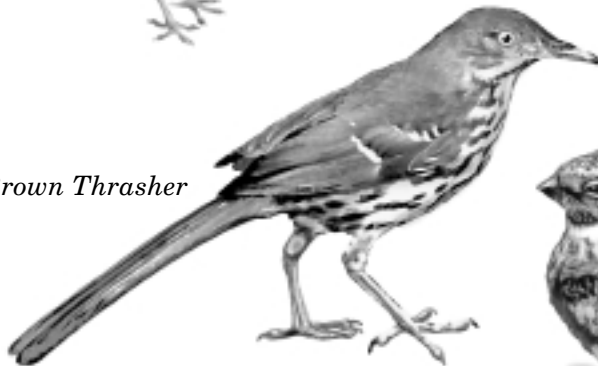
*Savanna Sparrow*



*Catbird*



*Brown Thrasher*

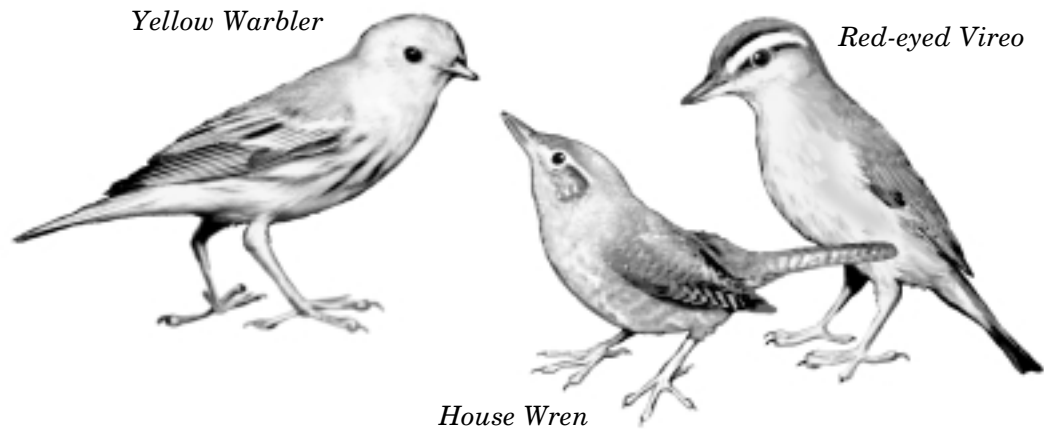


*Nighthawk*



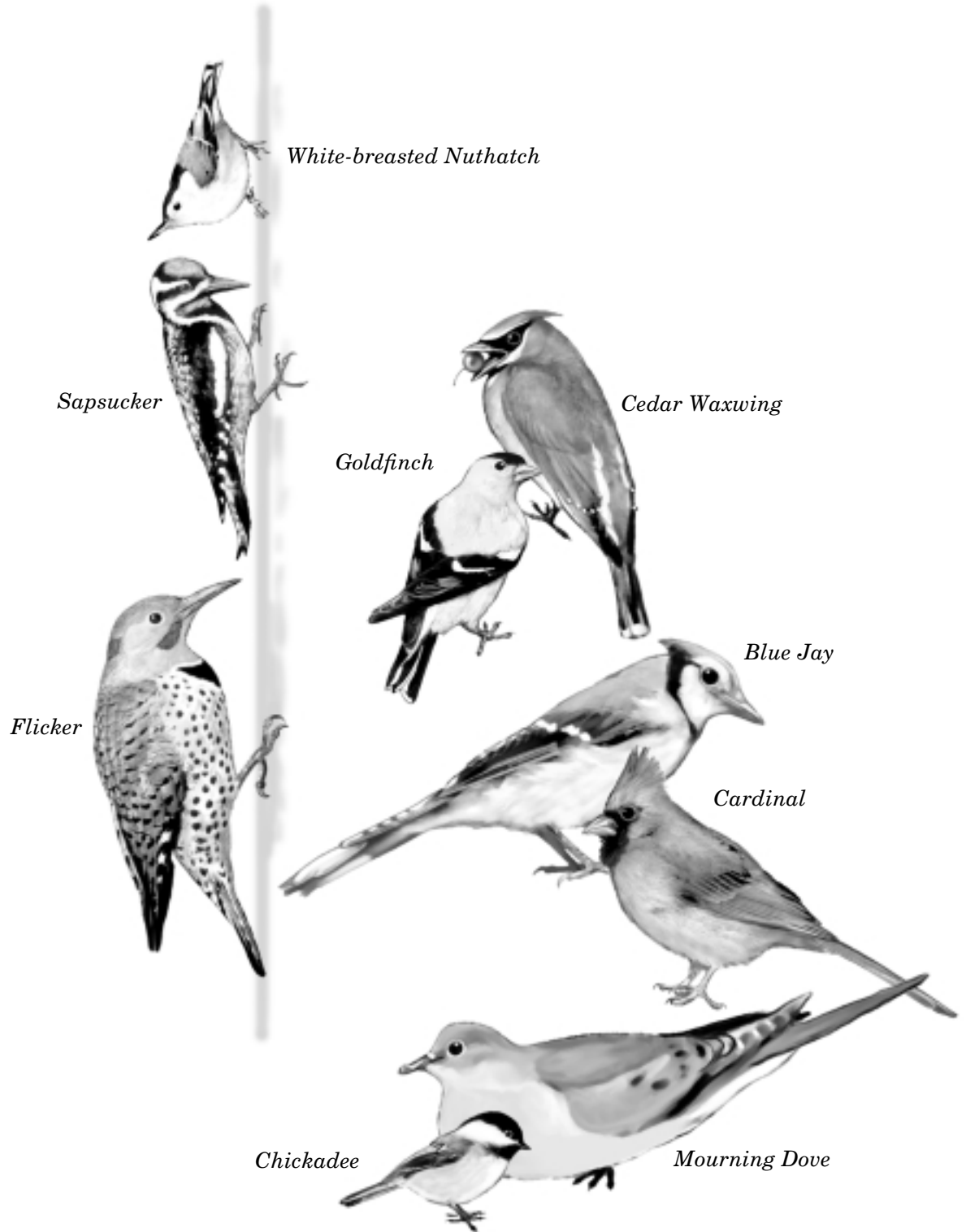


<b>Migratory Songbirds</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Nest Sites</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Vireos (7 kinds, red-eyed vireo typical; a few are rare)	Small insects and caterpillars	Woodlands, deciduous thickets, brambles, undergrowth, open mixed northern hardwood-coniferous forests, mature wet forest, second-growth woods and residential areas	Weaves nests of bark strips, cobwebs, fine grass high in tree tops	Red-eyed Vireo and Warbling Vireo found statewide, others restricted or not as common
Warblers (37 kinds, yellow warbler typical, several are rare)	Small insects, small invertebrates; occasionally may eat seeds and berries particularly during colder seasons when insects are not common	Variety of forest types and river bottomland habitats. Each kind of warbler has its own specific habitat requirements	Weaves small, round, cupped nests of grasses and other plant fibers, placed from ground level to tops of trees, depending on the type of bird	Few statewide, most restricted during nesting season to northern and northeastern counties; some restricted to floodplain forests
House Wren	Insects, small invertebrates	Woody vegetation in suburban and rural areas; frequents woodland edges, open forests and clearings	Wrens build nests in tree cavities, fenceposts, stumps, abandoned woodpecker holes or nestboxes with openings preferably 1 inch in diameter	Statewide



<b>Resident Birds</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Nest Site</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Northern Cardinal	At feeders: gray-stripe and black oil sunflower seeds, safflower seeds, and peanut hearts, bread, cantaloupe seeds, peanut butter, pumpkin seeds, squash seeds, watermelon seeds, dried apples and raisins; In the wild: cedar berries, cherries, blackberries, elderberries, grapes, mulberries, raspberries, plums, strawberries, viburnum, blueberries, barley, bristlegrass, buckwheat, corn, hazelnut, hackberries, millet, oats, ragweed	Thickets, forest edges, groves, suburban gardens, parks, small rural and urban woodlots, farmsteads, urban backyards, open swamps	Builds loose-knit, but bulky, nest of twigs, vines, bark strips, grasses and places it in dense shrubbery of conifer tree or small deciduous tree or vine/briar tangle; generally less than 10 feet high	Statewide
Black-capped Chickadee	At feeders: black oil sunflower seeds, peanuts, peanut butter, pumpkin seeds, suet, old bread and doughnuts; In the wild: insects such as moth eggs, katydids, spiders, caterpillars, beetles, flies, wasps; also blueberries, blackberries, wild cherries and seeds from goldenrod, ragweed, hemlock; fat from dead animals such as white-tailed deer during fall and winter	Deciduous and coniferous forests, rural woodlands, suburban and rural areas with mature trees and orchards; favors edge	Excavates hole about 4–10 feet above ground in very soft, rotting wood of dead tree such as aspen, paper birch, yellow birch, willow, basswood, maple or white ash; or builds nest in fence post; will use existing cavities or bird houses; nest cavities frequently lined with rabbit fur	Statewide
Mourning Dove	Insects, grain, birdseed, snails, fruits, nuts; feeds primarily on weed seeds and winter grains, sunflowers, sorghum, ragweed, millet, barnyard grass, California poppy, canary grass, foxtail, bristlegrass, wild hemp, Japanese millet	Open mixed woods, Christmas tree farms, orchards, suburban areas, farmlands, wood edges, church and cemetery sites	Builds a platform of loosely woven sticks on horizontal branches in shrubs and trees, especially conifers about 10–25 feet above ground	During summer: common in southern and central Wisconsin, uncommon in the north; in winter, common in southern Wisconsin farmlands
Northern Flicker	Primarily ants; also beetles, caterpillars, cockroaches, grasshoppers, crickets, wild berries, red cedar, plums, hawthorn, hackberry seeds, corn, acorns, oats ragweed, rye, wheat; at feeders: suet, peanut butter, raisins and apples	Farm groves, urban backyards, orchards, open deciduous and coniferous forests, parks and savannas	Excavates a nesting cavity in living tree, dead tree, utility pole, fencepost or side of building 2–60 feet above ground	Statewide, but uncommon winter resident in southern Wisconsin; rare winter resident in central Wisconsin

<b>Resident Birds</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Nest Site</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
American Goldfinch	Weed seeds from ragweed, dandelion, goldenrod, chickweed; some insects such as aphids, caterpillars, plant lice; at feeders: thistle (niger) seed, finch mix, black oil sunflower seed, cracked nut meats, millet seeds	Mixed woodlands, meadows, weedy fields, farmland, urban backyards, fencerows, orchards, pastures with scattered trees, edges of forest and swamp	Builds nest of thistle and cattail down late in summer; places nest in upright branches or horizontal limbs of a wide variety of trees and shrubs usually about 5–15 feet above ground	Statewide
Blue Jay	At feeders: gray-stripe sunflower seeds, safflower seeds, peanuts, peanut butter, pumpkin seeds, squash seeds, suet, bread, crackers, raisins, apples; In the wild: blueberries, cherries, elderberries, strawberries, service berries, grapes, mulberries, plums, choke cherries, acorns, sumac seeds, corn, oats, wheat, buckwheat, sorghum, nuts, hazelnuts, pine seeds, insects, animal and plant matter	Variety of wooded habitats, farms, parks, cities and suburbs	Builds bulky nest of twigs, bark, leaves, mosses and plant fibers about 10–25 feet above ground and hidden in crotch of conifer or deciduous tree; also nests occasionally in shrubs	Statewide
White-breasted Nuthatch Red-breasted Nuthatch	At winter feeders: black-oil sunflower seeds, safflower seeds, suet; also eat acorns; red-breasted pries open conifer cone scales and removes seeds for much of its food; In spring and summer: beetles, ants, spiders and other invertebrates; sometimes white-breasted uses nectar feeders that have been placed for Baltimore orioles	White-breasted prefers deciduous and mixed woodlands, urban and rural yards; red-breasted prefers conifer forests	Nests in old woodpecker holes about 5–50 feet above the ground (white-breasted) or about 15 feet above ground (red-breasted), birdhouses (rarely birdhouses for red-breasted)	White-breasted, statewide; Red-breasted, north
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Cambium and tree sap and insects attracted to the sap pits, which it drills in a regular series of pit-like holes in trees; flying insects, acorns; will visit feeders for suet, peanut butter, cracked walnuts, fruits; will also drink at nectar feeders	Deciduous, coniferous and mixed deciduous-coniferous forests, especially with aspen. Can be found during migration in orchards, parks, farmlands, or woodlands	Excavates cavity in live or dead trees from 3–35 feet above ground; especially favor aspen infected with fungus	Statewide, but uncommon during summer in central and southwest Wisconsin; uncommon in winter in southern Wisconsin; rare in central Wisconsin
Cedar Waxwing	Wild fruits and berries, particularly red cedar berries, insects	Open woods, orchards, farmland	Builds nest of loosely woven grasses and fibers placed on horizontal limb of a tree 4–50 ft. above ground	Statewide



*White-breasted Nuthatch*

*Sapsucker*

*Goldfinch*

*Cedar Waxwing*

*Blue Jay*

*Flicker*

*Cardinal*

*Chickadee*

*Mourning Dove*

<b>Resident Birds</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Nest Site</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Downy Woodpecker	Insects including wood-boring beetle larvae and ants; wild berries, sumac seeds, corn; At feeders: sunflower seed, suet, peanuts, peanut butter, meat scraps, cracked pecans, cheese	Urban areas, farmsteads, small woodlots, boreal/hardwood forests, orchards, bottomlands	Excavates hole 8–18 inches deep in living or dead trees, stump, fencepost, or in rotting wood often 10–30 feet above ground	Statewide
Hairy Woodpecker	Beetles, ants, aphids, millipedes, spiders, caterpillars, insect larvae, cherries, apples, mulberries, blackberries, service berries, poison ivy berries, dogwood, choke cherries, acorns, corn, hazelnuts; At feeders: sunflower seed, suet, broken walnuts, peanuts	Farmlands with woodlots, swamps, hardwood and coniferous forests, orchards, urban areas	Excavates nest cavities in dead or living trees with decayed heartwood from 5–30 feet above ground	Statewide
Three-toed Woodpecker	Insects and wood-boring larvae of moths and beetles, fruits, acorns, tree cambium	Northern tamarack-spruce bogs and fir forests, burned areas and swampy forests with dead trees	Excavates cavity from 5–12 feet above ground in live or dead pine, spruce, aspen and cedar	Northern boreal/conifer forests
Pileated Woodpecker	Carpenter ants, wood-boring beetles and other insect larvae, sumac seeds, wild fruit, acorns; At feeders: suet	Mature hardwood forests, groves of large hardwood trees, mature forests near rivers and lakes	Excavates large, deep cavities with oblong entrances in very large trees at least 16 inches in diameter, 25–50 feet above ground	Statewide, but more common in north-central and southwest
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Wood boring beetles, crickets, ants, grasshoppers, insect larvae; several wild fruits, seeds, acorns, hazel and hickory nuts; At feeders: suet, orange halves, apples, peanuts, peanut butter, sunflower seed, shelled corn	Deciduous forests, parks, orchards, gardens, backyards	Excavates nest cavities about 13–40 feet above ground in dead oak, birch, maple, apple and butternut trees; tree stumps, utility poles and wooden buildings	Fairly common in western and southern Wisconsin; uncommon in northern and eastern Wisconsin
Red-headed Woodpecker	Beetles, ants, caterpillars, bugs, honeybees, acorns, beechnuts, apples, corn, berries; At feeders: suet, sunflower seeds	Prefers mature oak woodlots, farmland woodlots, orchards, mixed hardwood forests	Excavates cavities usually about 20–30 feet above ground in trees; sometimes excavates cavities in fence posts	Statewide, but uncommon winter resident in southern and central Wisconsin

*Downy  
Woodpecker*



*Hairy  
Woodpecker*



*Red-headed  
Woodpecker*



*Three-toed Woodpecker*

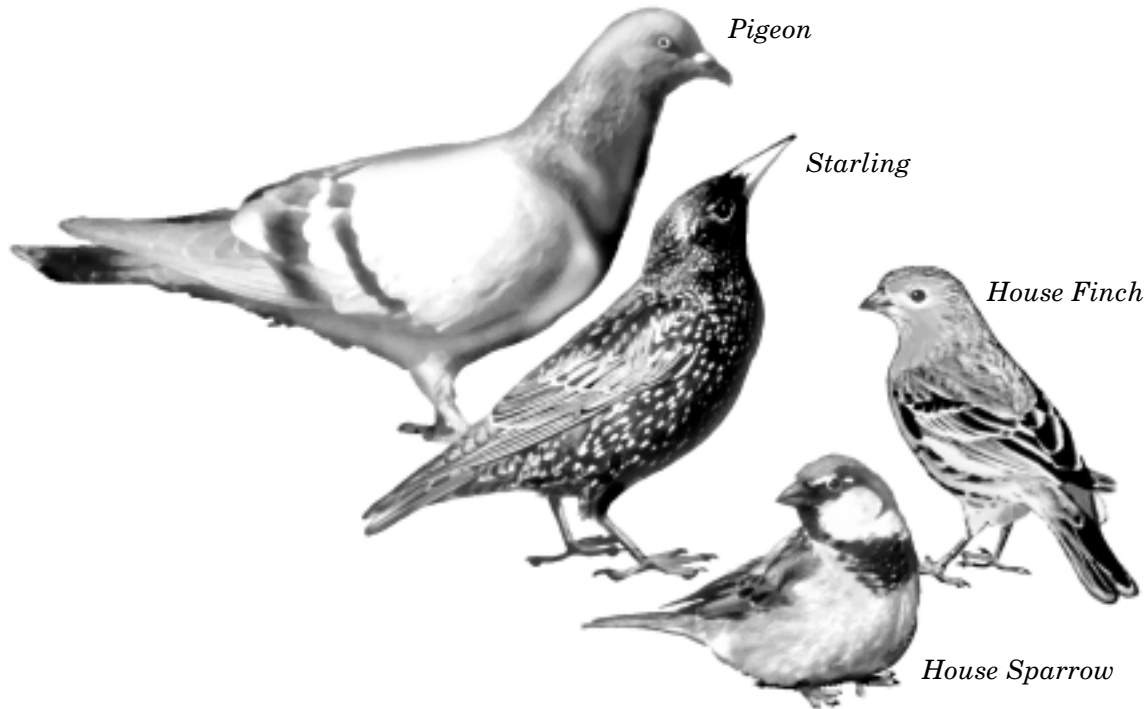


*Red-bellied  
Woodpecker*



*Pileated  
Woodpeckers  
female, above  
male, below*





Non-native Birds	Food	Habitat	Nest Sites	Distribution
House Finch	Weed seeds such as wild mustard, mullein, pigweed, chickweed, aphids, caterpillars, sunflowers, thistle seed and finch mix	Farms, cities, parks, open woods, adapts to human dwellings	Builds nest of twigs, grasses and debris placed in tree cavities, bird boxes and building ledges	Southern half. Native to Southwestern U.S., but were shipped illegally to New York as "Hollywood Finches;" the species has since escaped and spread to new territories
Pigeon (Rock Dove)	Seeds, waste grain, insects, fruit	Farmland, cities	Roosts in old buildings, barns and under bridges or cliffs; Droppings can deface buildings and sidewalks	Statewide. Native to the Old World north of the equator
House Sparrow	Seeds in wild and at bird feeders, insects, bread, old bakery goods	Around human dwellings	Builds ball of grasses, weeds, trash placed in bluebird houses, porch rafters, holes in walls, awnings, behind shutters; competes with bluebirds and tree swallows in nestboxes	Statewide. Native to Eurasia and North Africa
Starling	Insects, grubs and other lawn pests, mulberries and other berries	Around human dwellings, especially in farm country; cities, suburbs, orchards, parks, gardens	Fills cavities in trees or birdhouses with a mass of grasses, corn husks, cloth, feathers; competes with purple martins in birdhouses	Statewide. Native to Eurasia