

COMMON BIRDS IN THE GARDEN



GREAT BLUE HERON

Look for this expert hunter standing motionless on the edges of Cypress Pond. The heron snaps up fish with its bright yellow beak, taking its prey by surprise. It's long, spindly legs and beautiful chest and neck plumes are great identification features.



SPOTTED TOWHEE

If you spot a bush trembling, it may actually be this noisy year-round resident hopping about. Spotted towhees spend most of their time on the ground, scratching in leaf litter in search of food. Red eyes are a distinguishing feature.



CANADA GOOSE

These large geese are not shy, and can be spotted strutting around the Garden lawns. The parents are very protective of their fuzzy yellow goslings, which you may see in the spring.



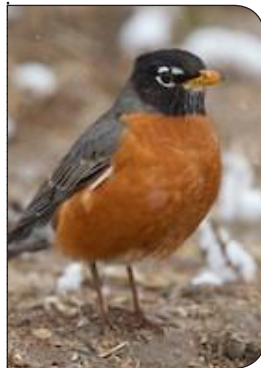
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

Search for a flock of these busy birds in a shrub or tree. Can you hear any calling out, "chick-a-dee-dee-dee"? Observe how social and curious these little birds are.



ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

Listen for high-pitched clicks before males soar high into the air in a fabulous courtship display. Males have a beautiful bright pink throat patch. These Ping-Pong ball sized birds are attracted to red flowers, and can often be seen visiting the Garden's hummingbird feeders.



AMERICAN ROBIN

Keep your eyes open for these plump birds running across the Garden lawns and tugging earthworms out of the ground. True "early birds", their bright and pleasant calls are often heard at sunrise.



MALLARD DUCK

A familiar sight in lakes and ponds, handsome males are decorated with emerald green feathers on their heads, and bright yellow bills. Females are brown, with a indigo wing patch. These water fowl are dabblers, which means they tip headfirst into the water to sift out vegetation and insects.



NORTHERN FLICKER

Flickers don't act like typical woodpeckers, as they often forage for insects on the ground. Look for a bright flash of orange as these birds take flight and reveal their colorful wing and tail feathers. When at home, listen for loud "drumming" created by males as they rap on metal to establish territory.



DARK-EYED JUNCO

You can find these dark-headed birds year-round. Territorial juncos hop about in search of seeds and bugs, using their short beaks to crack open hard shells. Look for a flash of outer white tail feathers as they take off.



BUSHTIT

These tiny grey birds can be found in large and lively family groups. Listen for excitable chirps as they hang upside down on branches, munching on seeds. Masters of construction, they build suspended “sock nests” out of moss, lichen and spider webs.



BARRED OWL

These owls are tricky to spot because of their muted plumage and ability to fly silently. But if you hear a distinct “hoo, hoo too-HOO”, you will know where to search! Look up into tree branches for a dark silhouette with a round head and blunt tail.



HOUSE SPARROW

This introduced species thrives in urban environments. As one of the most common songbirds in North America, you have probably seen it searching for food anywhere from a city street to a local park. Their call is a simple and cheery “cheep”.



SONG SPARROW

Though they may look like plain brown birds, these sparrows are quite the vocalists. These sparrows favour shrub and edge habitat, and are regularly seen at feeders. Their round bodies and “streaked” chest feathers are easy to spot.



STELLER'S JAY

You will likely hear the loud, harsh call of a jay before you see it! Keep your eyes open for their deep blue body and expressive black crest as they explore forest canopies in search of food.

CROW VS. RAVEN



NORTHWESTERN CROW COMMON RAVEN



It can be tricky to tell the difference between a Northwest crow and a common raven. If you see either species in the Garden, look for the following characteristics to narrow down who it is!

NORTHWESTERN CROW	COMMON RAVEN
straight beak	slight point on beak
fan-shaped tail	wedge-shaped tail
call: short “caw”	call: deep “croak”
smaller body	generally larger
consistently flaps wings when flying	soars through the air

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