

The Christmas Bird Count provides a wealth of information to researchers studying bird populations across North America.

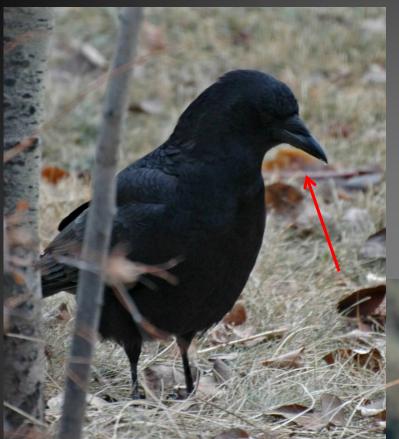
This slide show was developed to help CBC participants identify the birds likely to be seen in the Jackson Hole circle.



Our 15-mile count circle has been active since 1970.

112 species have been recorded during this time.

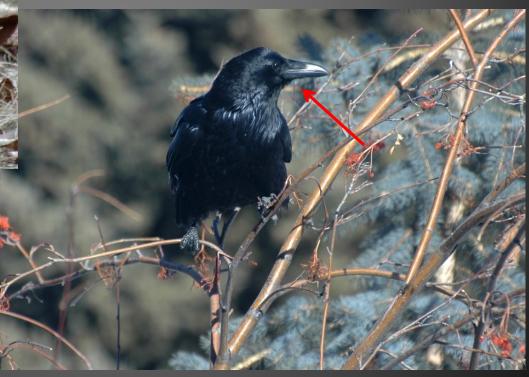














Clark's Nutcracker



Steller's Jay Black-billed Magpie



Adult eagles
Bald (R)
Golden (below)





--golden head and neck can appear very light

Eagles – how to distinguish youngsters



Bald Eagle (also at right)



Eagles with splotchy color patterns are immature Bald Eagles. They may appear brownish as well.

Immature Golden Eagles have symmetrical patterns on their undersides.

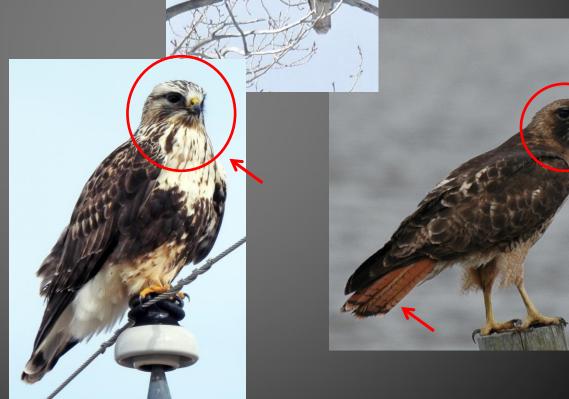


Buteos: bulky looking with short tails relative to body length.

Red-tailed Hawks may spend most of the winter here.

Red tail is not present in juveniles but dark head is.

Rough-legged Hawks arrive in November and may leave the valley for places with less snow.



Rough-legged Hawk





In flight: look for dark "cummer bund" on Rough-leg and large dark patch at wrist.

Red-tails, even the immature ones without a red tail, lack the distinctive cummer bund though may have reddish streaks. Dark patch on wing is closer to the neck (on the patagium) and smaller than in a Rough-leg.

Accipiters: long tails and short wings.



Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks have red-barred undersides.

The American Goshawk is gray below and is much larger than the robin-sized Sharp-shinned. Cooper's Hawks are somewhat larger than Sharp-shinned, and the base of their tail is scalloped, whereas the Sharp-shinned Hawk has a square tail base.





LARGE WINTER OWLS

Great horned

Long-eared





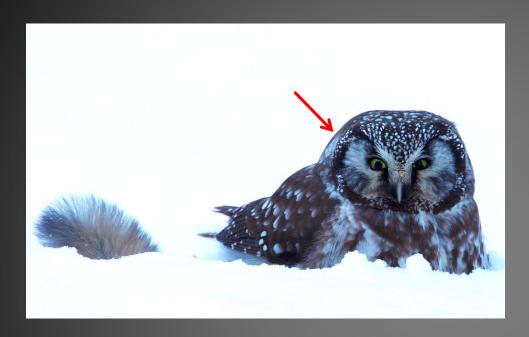


Great Gray Owl

Large round facial disk, our largest owl. Often stays on ground to eat prey.

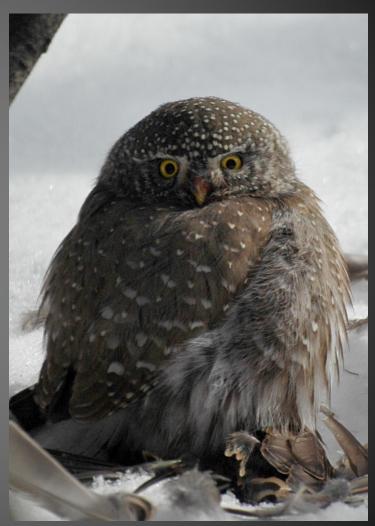


SMALL WINTER OWLS



Boreal Owl (L) wing-like white patches on facial disk. Has captured a red squirrel.

Northern Pigmy Owl (R) has caught a starling.





Newly arrived in our area: Barred Owl

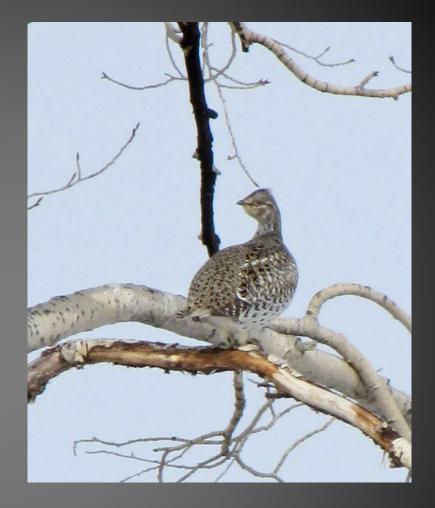




Dusky (blue) grouse (L) and Ruffed grouse (R)

Dusky grouse often stays at higher elevations in winter, ruffed grouse prefers deciduous shrubs and aspen.





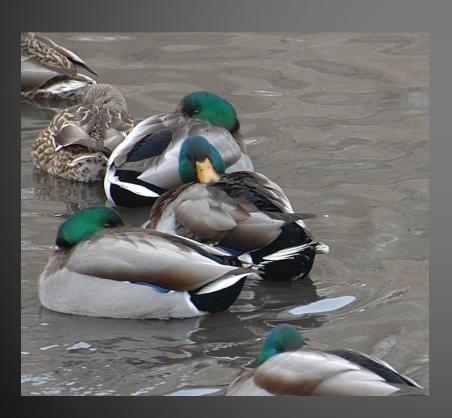
Sage Grouse (L) large bird, may look gray or brownish depending on light.

Sharp-tailed Grouse (R) smaller, can be found in grassy areas.



Dabbling Ducks

Northern Pintail (R) Gadwall (lower R) Mallards (L)









American Widgeon Green-winged teal

Diving ducks

Hooded merganser (R) Common merganser (L)

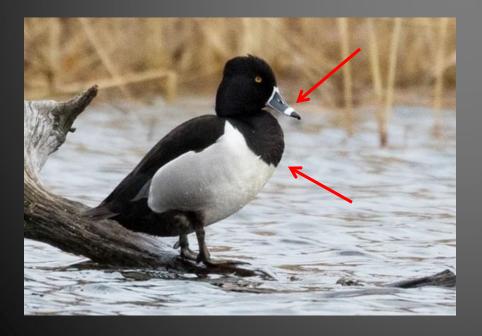


Hooded mergansers prefer still water, small creeks.

Common mergansers can be found in larger ponds and on the river.







Barrow's Goldeneye (L) Common Goldeneye (R)

Note difference in facial spot and head shape.

Ring-necked Duck (L)

Note bill pattern, dark chest.

Swans and geese



Trumpeter Swan (above)
Tundra Swan (right)

Note gap between bill and eye in the Tundra swan, neck held upright, less curved than trumpeter.





Snow goose (above)



Canada goose (below)

Other birds of rivers, creeks and wetlands







Great blue heron (R)
Wilson's snipe (L)
American dipper (below)

More birds of rivers, creeks and wetlands

Killdeer (L)
American coot (R)





Birds that may visit your feeder





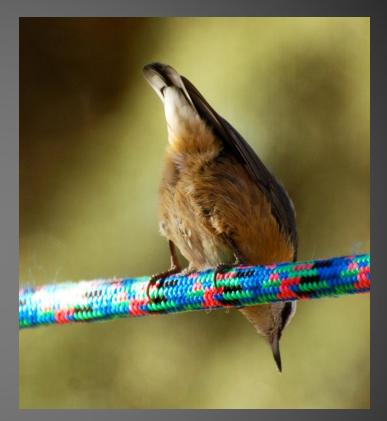
Northern Flicker (Male and female)



Downy and Hairy Woodpecker (male)







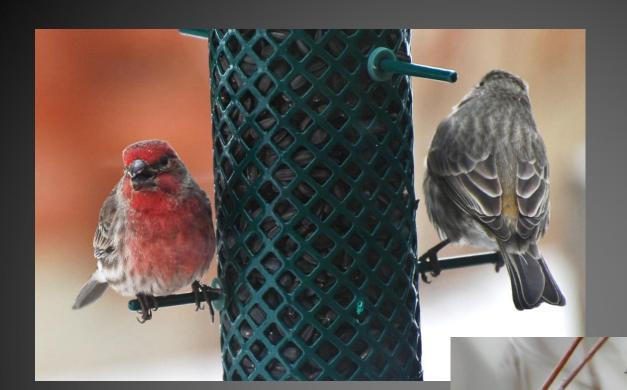
White-breasted Nuthatch Red-breasted Nuthatch



Mountain Chickadee Black-capped Chickadee

Note that these can hybridize so individuals may show marks of either species.





House Finch (L)
Cassin's Finch (R)

House finch male has more red on beast and a streaked underside. Cassin's finch males are not streaked. Both sexes have a slight crest on the head.





Pine Grosbeak male and female (above)

Common Redpoll (R)

Redpolls are small with a thin and delicate beak, often seen in large flocks.







Pine Siskin (L)
American Goldfinch (R)

Pine siskin has streaked underside, goldfinch does not.



Crossbills – Red and White-winged











Rosy Finches:

Black and Graycrowned





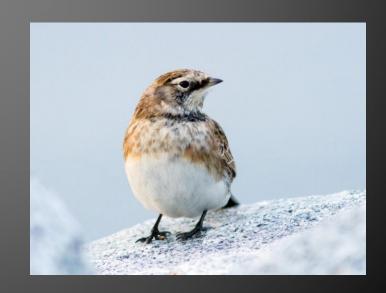


Flocking birds of open country: Snow Bunting (male and female)

Lapland Longspur (L)



Horned Lark (R)



Dark-eyed Junco varieties



Oregon

'Pink-sided' Oregon



All have pinkish bills



Slate-colored

Some winter sparrows



American Tree Sparrow



House Sparrow

Song Sparrows (R) may hang around into winter. Seen 9 years out of 53.

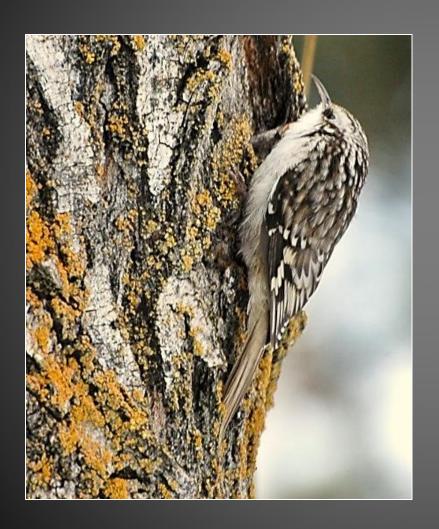


Harris's Sparrow





White-throated Sparrow Brown creeper: a forest bird that often accompanies chickadees and nuthatches. Climbs tree trunks from bottom, facing up.



Tree-bark camo





Winter thrushes:

American Robin

Townsend's Solitaire

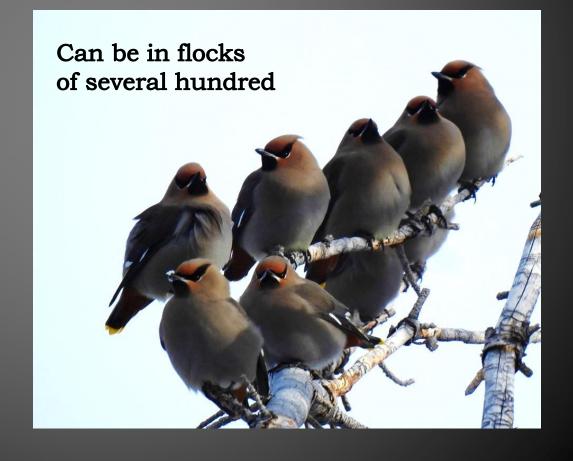




Cedar Waxwing (L) Bohemian waxwing (below)

large flocks, Bohemian slightly larger and have red-brown tail coverts, while cedar waxwings have pale yellow.







European starling

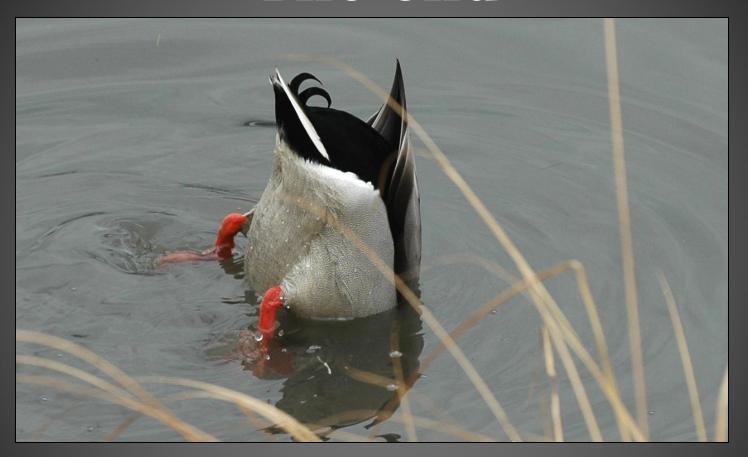


Eurasian Collared Dove (L)

Mourning Dove (below)



The end



Good resources! allaboutbirds.org (Cornell ornithology lab) audubon.org