

# Common Birds of the Palouse



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## American Crow



Photo (c) Joe McKenna, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)

The American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) is a large passerine bird species of the family Corvidae. It is a common bird found throughout much of North America. American crows are the new world counterpart to the carrion crow and the hooded crow. Although the American crow and the hooded crow are very similar in size, structure and behavior, their calls are different. The American crow nevertheless occupies the same role the hooded crow does in Eurasia.

## American Goldfinch



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The American goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) is a small North American bird in the finch family. It is migratory, ranging from mid-Alberta to North Carolina during the breeding season, and from just south of the Canada–United States border to Mexico during the winter.

## American Kestrel



Photo (c) Jonathan Eisen, some rights reserved (CC BY)

The American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) is the smallest and most common falcon in North America. It has a roughly two-to-one range in size over subspecies and sex, varying in size from about the weight of a blue jay to a mourning dove. It also ranges to South America, and is a well-established species that has evolved seventeen subspecies adapted to different environments and habitats throughout the Americas.

## American Robin



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The American robin (*Turdus migratorius*) is a migratory songbird of the true thrush genus and Turdidae, the wider thrush family. It is named after the European robin because of its reddish-orange breast, though the two species are not closely related, with the European robin belonging to the Old World flycatcher family. The American robin is widely distributed throughout North America, wintering from southern Canada to central Mexico and along the Pacific Coast.

## American Tree Sparrow



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The American tree sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*), also known as the winter sparrow, is a medium-sized sparrow.

## Bewick's Wren



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The Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) is a wren native to North America. At about 14 cm (5.5 in) long, it is grey-brown above, white below, with a long white eyebrow. While similar in appearance to the Carolina wren, it has a long tail that is tipped in white. The song is loud and melodious, much like the song of other wrens. It lives in thickets, brush piles and hedgerows, open woodlands and scrubby areas, often near streams.

## Black-billed Magpie



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The black-billed magpie (*Pica hudsonia*), also known as the American magpie, is a bird in the crow family that inhabits the western half of North America, from Colorado, to southern coastal Alaska to northern California, northern Nevada, northern Arizona, northern New Mexico, central Kansas, and Nebraska. It is black and white, with black areas on the wings and tail showing iridescent hints of blue or blue-green.

## Black-capped Chickadee



Photo (c) Heather Pickard, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)

The black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) is a small, nonmigratory, North American songbird that lives in deciduous and mixed forests. It is a passerine bird in the tit family Paridae. It is the state bird of both Maine and Massachusetts in the United States, and the provincial bird of New Brunswick in Canada. It is well known for its capacity to lower its body temperature during cold winter nights as well as its good spatial memory.

## Blue Jay



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The blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) is a passerine bird in the family Corvidae, native to North America. It is resident through most of eastern and central United States, although western populations may be migratory. Resident populations are also found in Newfoundland, Canada, while breeding populations can be found in southern Canada. It breeds in both deciduous and coniferous forests, and is common near and in residential areas.

## Brown Creeper



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The brown creeper (*Certhia americana*), also known as the American tree creeper, is a small songbird, the only North American member of the tree creeper family Certhiidae.

## California Quail



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The California quail (*Callipepla californica*), also known as the California valley quail or valley quail, is a small ground-dwelling bird in the New World quail family. These birds have a curving crest or plume, made of six feathers, that droops forward: black in males and brown in females; the flanks are brown with white streaks.

## Dark-eyed Junco



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The dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*) is a species of the juncos, a genus of small grayish American sparrows. This bird is common across much of temperate North America and in summer ranges far into the Arctic.

## Downy Woodpecker



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The downy woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*) is a species of woodpecker, the smallest in North America.

## Eurasian Collared Dove



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The Eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), most often simply called the collared dove, also sometimes hyphenated as Eurasian collared-dove, is a species of dove native to warm temperate and subtropical Asia, and introduced in North America in the 1980s. In the latter half of the 20th century the species' native range vastly expanded, and it can now be found from Southeast Asia through to Western Europe.

## European Starling



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The common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), also known as the European starling, or in the British Isles just the starling, is a medium-sized passerine bird in the starling family, Sturnidae. It is about 20 cm (8 in) long and has glossy black plumage with a metallic sheen, which is speckled with white at some times of year. The legs are pink and the bill is black in winter and yellow in summer.

## Golden-crowned Kinglet



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The golden-crowned kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) is a very small songbird.

## House Finch



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The house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) is a bird in the finch family Fringillidae. It is native to western North America, and has been introduced to the eastern half of the continent and Hawaii. This species and the other "American rosefinches" are placed in the genus *Haemorhous*.

## House Sparrow



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The house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is a bird of the sparrow family Passeridae, found in most parts of the world. A small bird, it has a typical length of 16 cm (6.3 in) and a mass of 24–39.5 g (0.85–1.39 oz). Females and young birds are coloured pale brown and grey, and males have brighter black, white, and brown markings.

## Lesser Goldfinch



Photo (c) Robert Shea, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)

The lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*) is a very small songbird of the Americas. Together with its relatives the American goldfinch and Lawrence's goldfinch, it forms the American goldfinches clade in the genus *Spinus sensu stricto*.

## Mourning Dove



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The mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) is a member of the dove family, Columbidae. The bird is also known as the American mourning dove or the rain dove, and erroneously as the turtle dove, and was once known as the Carolina pigeon or Carolina turtledove. It is one of the most abundant and widespread of all North American birds.

## Northern Flicker



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The northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) is a medium-sized bird of the woodpecker family. It is native to most of North America, parts of Central America, Cuba, and the Cayman Islands, and is one of the few woodpecker species that migrate. Over 100 common names for the northern flicker are known, including yellowhammer (not to be confused with the Eurasian yellowhammer), clape, gaffer woodpecker, harry-wicket, heigh-ho, wake-up, or walk-up.

## Northern Raven



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The common raven (*Corvus corax*), also known as the northern raven, is a large all-black passerine bird. Found across the Northern Hemisphere, it is the most widely distributed of all corvids. There are at least eight subspecies with little variation in appearance, although recent research has demonstrated significant genetic differences among populations from various regions.

## Red-breasted Nuthatch



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The red-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) is a small songbird. The adult has blue-grey upperparts with cinnamon underparts, a white throat and face with a black stripe through the eyes, a straight grey bill and a black crown. Its call, which has been likened to a tin trumpet, is high-pitched and nasal. It breeds in coniferous forests across Canada, Alaska and the northeastern and western United States.

## Red-tailed Hawk



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The red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) is a bird of prey that breeds throughout most of North America, from the interior of Alaska and northern Canada to as far south as Panama and the West Indies. It is one of the most common members within the genus of *Buteo* in North America or worldwide. The red-tailed hawk is one of three species also known in the United States as the "chickenhawk".

## Ruby-crowned Kinglet



Photo (c) Charlotte Bill, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)

The ruby-crowned kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) is a very small passerine bird found throughout North America. It is a member of the kinglet family. The bird has olive-green plumage with two white wing bars and a white eye-ring. Males have a red crown patch, which is usually concealed. The sexes are identical (apart from the crown), and juveniles are similar in plumage to adults. It is one of the smallest songbirds in North America.

## Song Sparrow



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The song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) is a medium-sized American sparrow. Among the native sparrows in North America, it is easily one of the most abundant, variable and adaptable species.

## Spotted Towhee



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The spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) is a large New World sparrow. The taxonomy of the towhees has been debated in recent decades, and until 1995 this bird and the eastern towhee were considered a single species, the Rufous-sided Towhee.

## Townsend's Solitaire



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Townsend's solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) is a medium-sized thrush, the only solitaire native to America north of Mexico.

## Varied Thrush



Varied Thrush, February 1991-Ohio Plumage

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The varied thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) is a member of the thrush family, Turdidae.

## White-breasted Nuthatch



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The white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) is a small songbird of the nuthatch family which breeds in old-growth woodland across much of temperate North America. It is a stocky bird, with a large head, short tail, powerful bill, and strong feet. The upperparts are pale blue-gray, and the face and underparts are white. It has a black cap and a chestnut lower belly. The nine subspecies differ mainly in the color of the body plumage.

## White-crowned Sparrow



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The white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) is a medium-sized sparrow native to North America.