

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Conserve Migratory Birds



**Length**  
20 to 28"

**Weight**  
2 to 3 lbs.



**Mallard**

**Nest:** Built on dry or marshy ground among grasses, leaves and reeds near water.

**Voice:** Female—*quack, quack*; male—*raeb, raeb* and *low kwek*.

**Attracted to:** Shallow, fresh water. Eats insects, roots and tender parts of aquatic plants.

**Length**  
10½"

**Weight**  
4 oz.



**American Kestrel**

**Nest:** Does not build a nest, but uses old woodpecker holes, tree hollows, and niches on buildings.

**Voice:** Call is a shrill *killy-killy-killy* or *klee-klee-klee*.

**Attracted to:** Insects, bats, mice, small snakes and frogs in varied habitats.

**Length**  
7 to 9"

**Weight**  
2 oz.



**Red-Winged Blackbird**

**Nest:** Loosely woven cup of leaves, lined with fine grasses and bound to stems of cattails, rushes, or other plants often in marshes and over water.

**Voice:** Common call of loud chack notes when flying in flocks. Song is a repeated, fluid *konk-la-reee* or *o-ka-leee*.

**Attracted to:** Weed seeds in open fields, and birdseed and cracked corn at feeders. Eats some insects and berries.

Length  
10"

Weight  
2½ oz.



**American Robin**

**Nest:** Cup of mud and grass built in forks of trees.

**Voice:** Common call is *tut-tut*. Song is loud *cheer-up, cheer-up, cheer-up*.

**Attracted to:** Favors earthworms and fruit from trees, including mulberry, sumac and cherry. Also, sunflower seeds, apples and bread from feeders.

Length  
10"

Weight  
3 oz.



**Killdeer**

**Nest:** Just a scrape on open gravelly ground, such as roads and drives, railroad tracks and gravelled and tarred roofs. Camouflaged eggs and chicks are nearly invisible.

**Voice:** A loud piercing call *kill-dee, dee-dee-dee*.

**Attracted to:** A diet of insects plucked from fields, riverbanks, and lawns including beetles, grasshoppers, ticks, and snails.

Length  
6¾"

Weight  
1 oz.



**Downy Woodpecker**

**Nest:** Cavity excavated in dead trees, using wood chips to line the bottom.

**Voice:** Short flat picks and unusual horse-like whinnying calls.

**Attracted to:** Fruit of serviceberry and wild strawberry plants, and also berries of dogwood, mountain ash, and Virginia creeper. Eats beetles, gypsy moths, tent caterpillars.

**Length**  
8"

**Weight**  
1½ oz.



**Baltimore Oriole**

**Nest:** A woven pouch of plant fibers, yarn, string and hair, lined with fine grasses; suspended 25–30' above ground from large trees.

**Voice:** Loud, clear, flute-like varied whistle.

**Attracted to:** Tall deciduous trees. Diet is of mainly insects, also, wild fruits, flower nectars, and halved oranges and apples provided at feeders.

**Length**  
42 to 52"

**Weight**  
5 lbs.



**Great Blue Heron**

**Nest:** Large platform of sticks lined with twigs, mosses, marsh grasses and leaves. Built in tops of tall trees, but also on ground and rock ledges, located near water.

**Voice:** Usually silent, but occasionally make squawking noises.

**Attracted to:** Watercourses including wet meadows, suburban ponds, pools and lakes. Feeds on fish, frogs, snakes, crabs and insects.

**Length**  
13"

**Weight**  
5 oz.



**Belted Kingfisher**

**Nest:** A burrow dug in bank of a river, lake, or pond, or far from water in a gravel or sand pit, or railroad cut.

**Voice:** Call is a loud, dry rattling *rickety, crick, crick, crick*.

**Attracted to:** Shallow ponds or wetlands with fish. Prefers small fish, but will also eat insects, tadpoles, amphibians, small reptiles and mammals.

**Length**  
5¼"

**Weight**  
⅓ oz.



**Black-capped Chickadee**

**Nest:** A hole excavated in a rotted tree branch, or old woodpecker hole, filled with leaves, hair, and feathers.

**Voice:** Named after its call note of *chicka-dee-dee-dee*, and song is a whistling *fee-bee*.

**Attracted to:** Insects found among twigs and foliage, also berries and tree seeds.

**Length**  
25 to 45"

**Weight**  
7 to 12 lbs.



**Canada Goose**

**Nest:** Large pile of vegetation usually near water and often close to other Canada Geese.

**Voice:** Call is a deep musical *honk-a-lonk*.

**Attracted to:** Mainly eat grasses—sprouting grain crops and lawn grasses.

**Length**  
9½"

**Weight**  
3 oz.



**Meadowlark\***

**Nest:** Domed and lined with dried grasses and pine needles, built in shallow depressions in meadows or pastures.

**Voice:** Western song is series of flutelike notes, also a whistled wheet; Eastern song is *see-you see-yeeer*.

**Attracted to:** Grassy or weed-grown fields where it forages for insects and weed seeds.

\**Eastern and Western types exist.*

## Bird Words

**Avian:** of or relating to birds.

**Binoculars:** a focusing device used for birdwatching.

**Clutch:** a nest of eggs or brood of chicks.

**Flyways:** routes of travel used by birds during migration. Four major flyways: Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific.

**Habitat:** place where a bird makes its home and satisfies its survival needs—food, water, and shelter.

**Migration:** movement of species from one place to another, often corresponding to a change of seasons.

**Neotropical:** the area of the Americas that lies between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

**Ornithologist:** one who scientifically studies birds.

**Range:** the entire geographic area within which a bird species can be found.

**Raptor:** a bird of prey. **Shorebird:** a bird that frequents coastal or inland shorelines and wetlands.

**Songbird:** a bird that utters a succession of musical tones.

**Waterbird:** a swimming or wading bird.

**Waterfowl:** swimming birds—usually game or hunted birds.

## We Want to Hear From You!

To receive a packet on birds, bird feeding, gardening for birds, and other related information, cut out this card, fill in the reply information on the back, and send it to:

### Feathered Friends

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Office of Migratory Bird Management**

**4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBO 4107**

**Arlington, Virginia 22203**



## For More Information

*Complete card, cut out and  
send to address on back.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ *(this will help us determine the type of information to send)*

What is your favorite migratory bird? \_\_\_\_\_

## Just by Taking These Simple Actions You Too Can Help Conserve Migratory Birds!

- Keep Your Cat Indoors.
- Use Pesticides Wisely or Use Alternative Pest Control Methods.
- Plant Only Native Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers.
- Volunteer with a Conservation Organization or Help with Bird Counts in Your Area.
- Tell Others How They Can Make a Difference.

There are more than 800 species of birds found in the United States. Many are declining due to loss of habitat. You can help make a difference. It doesn't matter how much land you have. Birds need food, water, cover and a place to nest. By enhancing your yard, garden, or even your apartment balcony with plants, trees or flowers, you can provide habitat and ensure the return of birds and their songs each season.

This guide represents just a small portion of birds that you may see passing through or nesting in your backyard or community. Help welcome these and other avian visitors this spring and summer and make their stay a safe one.

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**703/358 2318 [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)**

