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Knowing Our Birds – Leader/Teacher Guide  
Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service  
4-H Club Bulletin  
R. D. VanDeusen, Kellogg Bird Sanctuary; Dr. Robert W. George, Conservation Education  
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# KNOWING OUR BIRDS

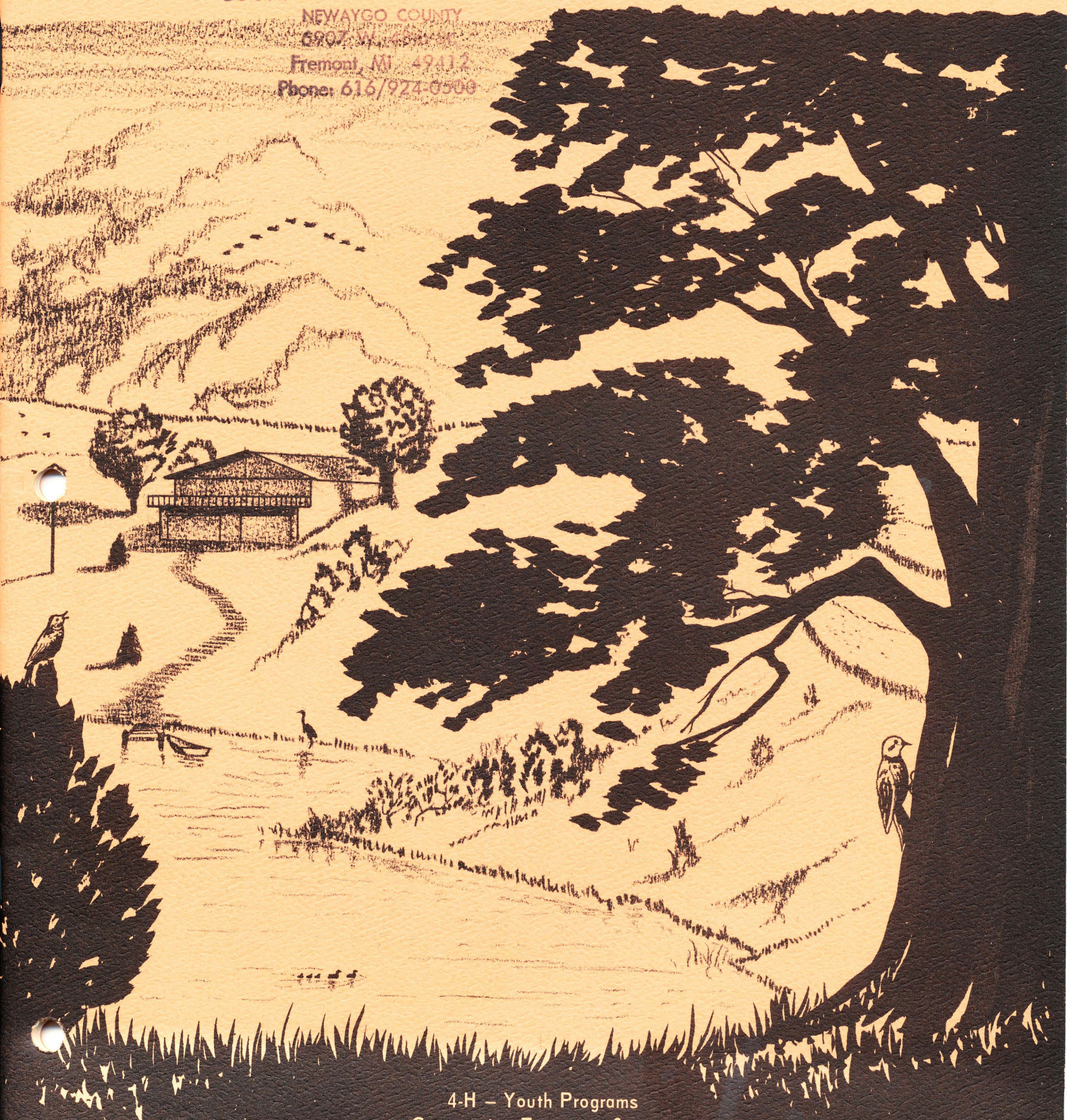
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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4-H – Youth Programs  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Michigan State University

## KNOWING OUR BIRDS

by

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Kellogg Bird Sanctuary\*  
in cooperation with  
Dr. Robert W. George, Project Leader  
Extension Conservation Education

### A TEACHING AID

Designed for leaders and teachers working with youth--for classroom units or club projects and activities. Eighteen "Avian Groups" are recognized, with each group shown on a separate page. The birds of any one group are characterized by similar feeding habits, and their "ecological niche in the natural 'community.'"

Basic to the suggested learning experiences and exploring activities listed with each avian group is the development of an understanding of the science involved in wildlife conservation.

The Avian Chart, prepared to supplement this guide, can help to relate one group to another, as well as show the interrelation of wildlife resources to other natural resources.

Reference to the suggested projects or teaching units, with activity guidelines added, can aid the student or 4-H member in gaining understanding in Wildlife Conservation - Birds.

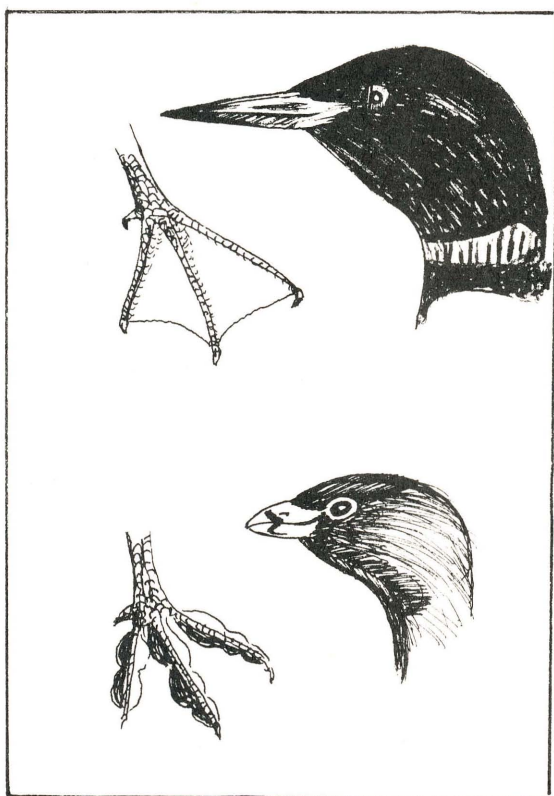
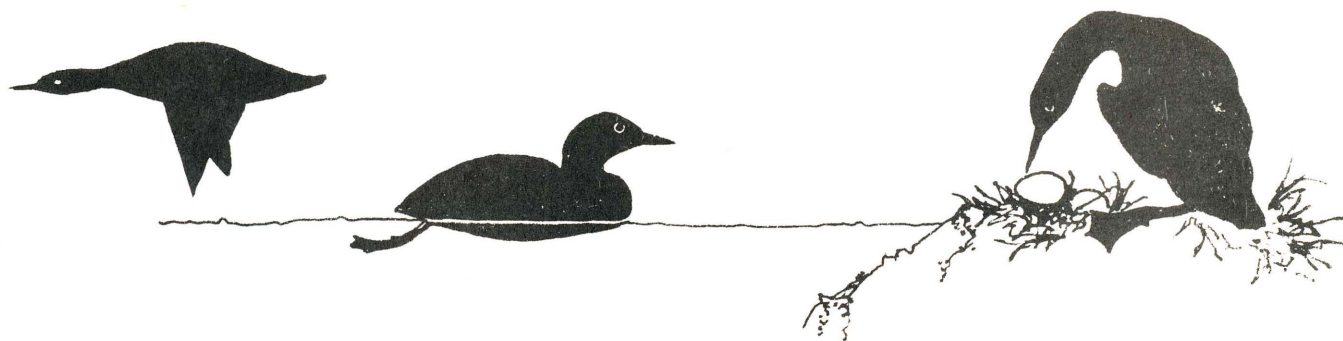
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\*The staff of Kellogg Bird Sanctuary contributed greatly to this publication. Special thanks to W. S. Johnson for his assistance with the text. Cover art work by David Mohrhardt and bird silhouettes by Larry Babcock.

Michigan 4-H - Youth educational programs and all other Cooperative Extension Service programs are available to all without regard to race, color, or national origin. • Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Gordon E. Guyer, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824

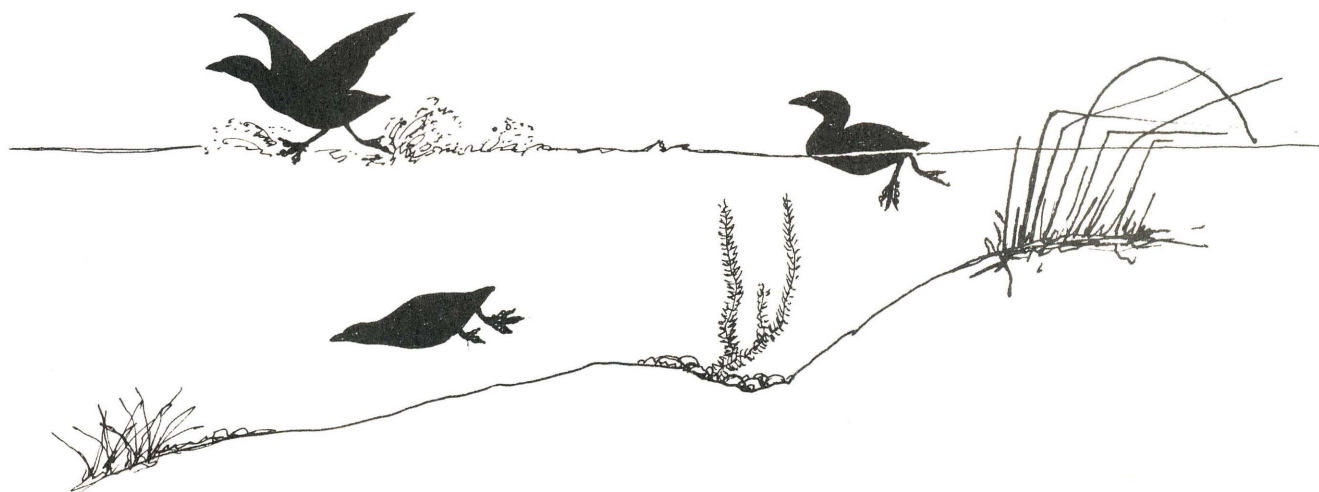
3P-3M-4/76-UP - Fifty cents

## DIVING FISHERS



LOON - Larger than a duck, black with back speckled with white; sexes alike. Feed primarily on fish. Known to nest throughout Michigan. Summer residents.

GREBE - Smaller than a duck, brownish in color; sexes alike; dive when alarmed. Feed primarily on fish and aquatic insects. Seldom seen in flight. Nest throughout Michigan. Summer residents.



## SPECIES OF DIVING FISHERS FOUND IN MICHIGAN

## LOONS

Common Loon Sr

## GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe	Sr
Horned Grebe	UTr

Code: Tr - Transient                      Sr - Summer Resident                      U - Uncommon  
         Wr - Winter Resident              Pr - Permanent Resident

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Loon and Pied-billed Grebe are two common diving fishers found in Michigan. The feet of the Loon are webbed, whereas the Grebes have lobed toes. The legs are flattened and located posteriorly, making swimming easy and walking on land difficult. For this reason, their nests are located on or near water.

## THINGS TO LEARN

1. Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature,  
seasonal changes  
Field Markings - size, color, shape, activity
2. Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten                      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained                      type of nest  
Where foods found
3. Distribution: Summer areas              Flyways  
Winter areas              Effects of habitat on distribution
4. Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
5. Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds  
To other organisms
6. Management: Economic aspects

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Birds of America; Pearson, T.G.; Garden City Books.

Birds of North America; Robbins, Bruun, Zim; Golden Press.

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Field Guide to the Birds; Peterson, R.T.; Houghton Mifflin Co.

## WADING FISHERS



GREAT BLUE HERON: Large grayish-blue herons of lake shores and marshes. Sexes are alike. Normally nest in trees; colonial nesting common in this species. In flight the neck is held in an "S" curve.

SANDHILL CRANE: Large red-gray birds of marshes and open fields. Sexes alike. Normally build nest in shallow marsh areas. In flight the neck is held straight forward.



## SPECIES OF WADING FISHERS COMMON IN MICHIGAN

Green Heron CSr

Common Egret UV

Least Bittern USr

Sandhill Crane USr

Sr - Summer Resident

C - Common

Wr - Winter Resident

Pr - Permanent Resident

U - Uncommon

V - Visitor

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The members of this group have long, stilt-like legs and spear-shaped bills. Their diet consists mainly of fish, amphibians, and other aquatic organisms. The Sandhill Crane often feeds on waste grain in fields.

## THINGS TO LEARN

1. Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Adult and Immature  
Field markings - size, color, shape, activity
2. Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten                      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained                      type of nest  
Where foods found
3. Distribution: Summer areas              Flyways  
Winter areas              Effects of habitat on distribution
4. Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
5. Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds  
To other organisms
6. Management: Conservation of; economic aspects

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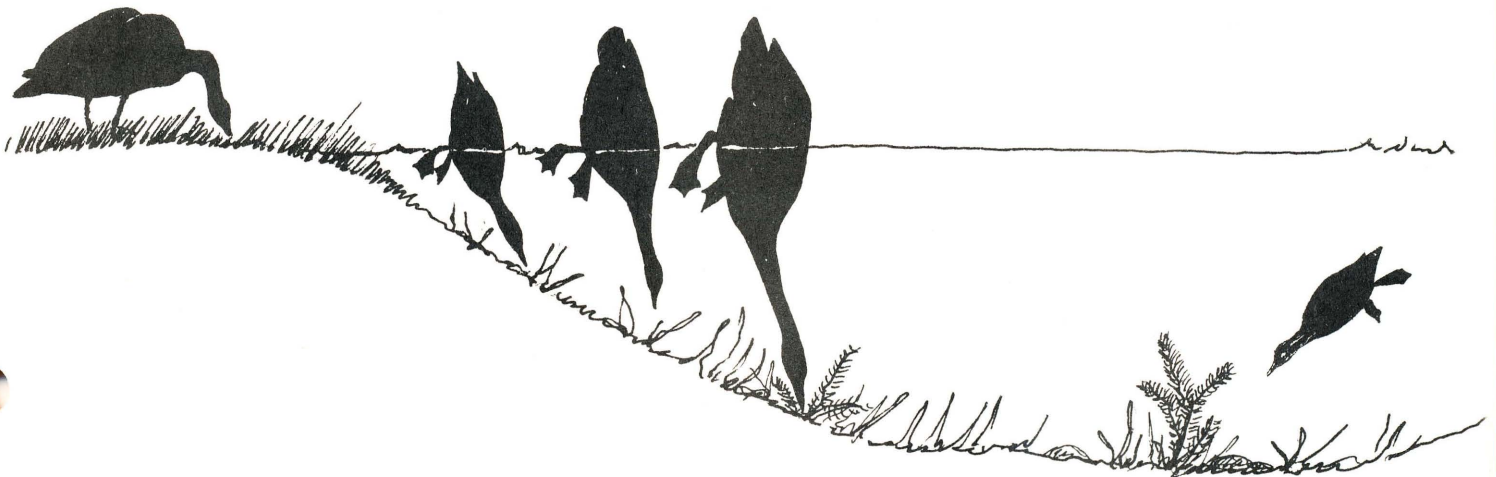
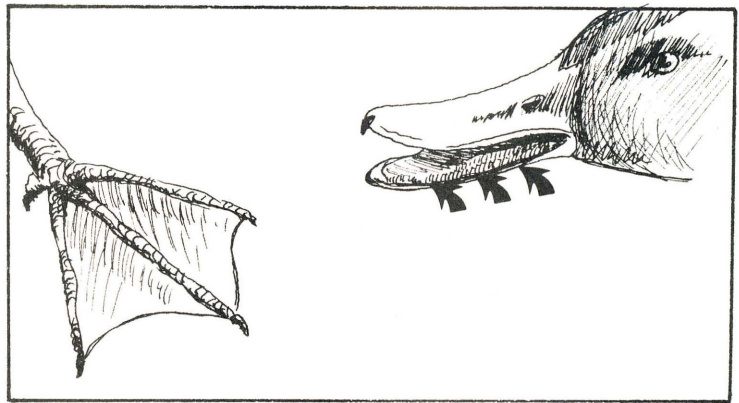
## WATERFOWL



SWAN: Largest waterfowl, all white plumage. Seen in Michigan only during spring and fall migration. Transient

GEESE: The Canada Goose is the most common; brown body with black neck and white cheek patch. Nest in many areas of Michigan. Common transient.

DUCKS: Many species found in Michigan. The Mallard, with green head and gray body, is the most common. Some species nest in Michigan, while others are only seen as transient migrants.



# SPECIES OF WATERFOWL COMMON TO MICHIGAN

<u>SWANS</u>		<u>GEESE</u>		<u>DABBLERS</u>		<u>DUCKS</u>	<u>DIVERS</u>
Whistling	Tr	Canada	Tr, Pr	Mallard	Pr	Scaup	Tr
Mute	Tr	Snow	Tr	Black Duck	Pr	Redhead	Tr
		Blue	Tr	Wood Duck	Sr	Canvasback	Tr
				Pintail	Tr	Bufflehead	Tr
				Teal	Tr	Goldeneye	Wr
				Baldpate	Sr	Ringneck	Sr, Tr
				Gadwall	Sr	Hooded Merganser	Sr, Tr
				Shoveler	Sr	Common Merganser	Sr, Tr
						Red-breasted Merganser	Sr, Tr

Code: Tr - Transient

Wr - Winter Resident

Sr - Summer Resident Pr - Permanent Resident

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Ducks are divided into two groups, as seen above. Divers are those ducks that dive underwater to feed; usually found on deep waters; often called "Bay ducks". Dabblers are those ducks that feed by tipping up to reach the bottom; they inhabit shallow water areas; often called "Puddle ducks".

## THINGS TO LEARN

- Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature  
Field markings - size, color, shape, activity
- Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained      type of nest  
Where foods found
- Distribution: Summer areas      Flyways  
Winter areas      Effects of habitat on distribution
- Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
- Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds  
To other organisms
- Management: Economic aspects

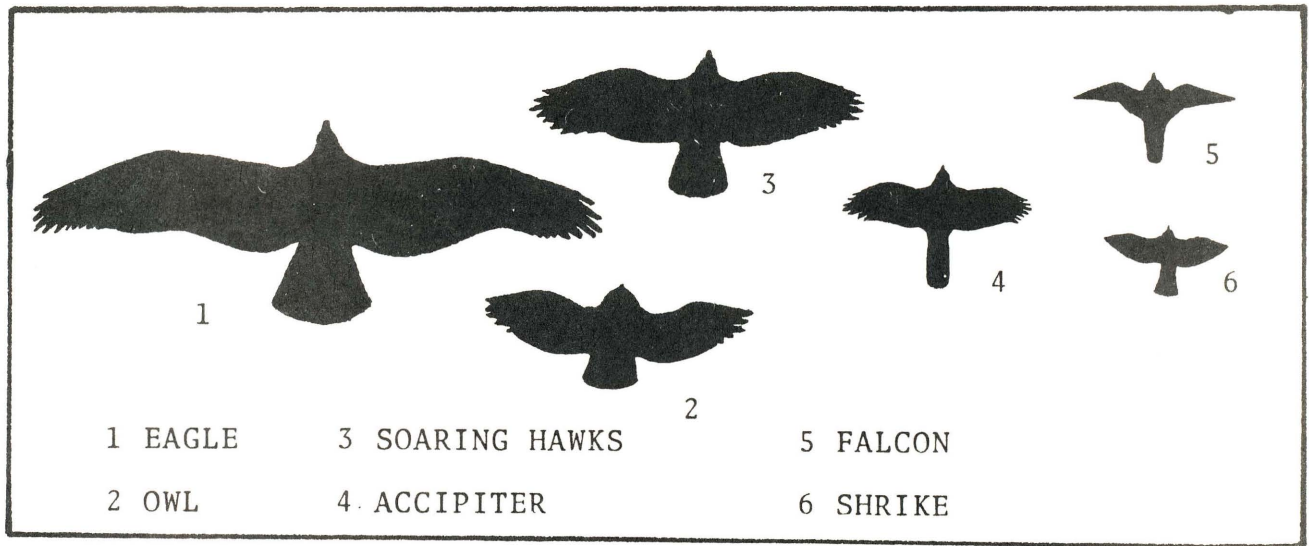
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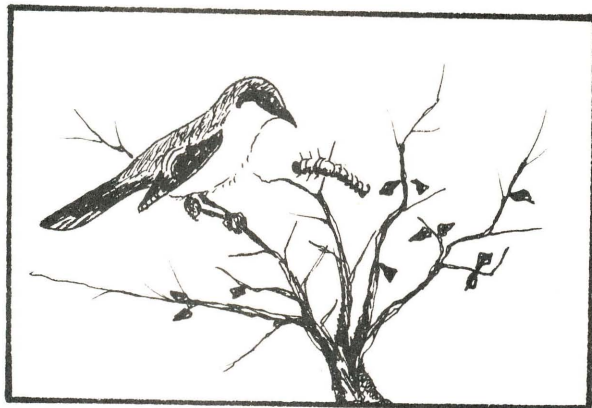
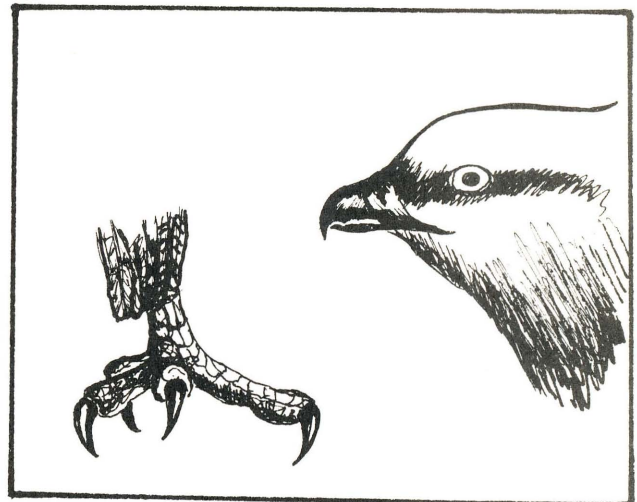
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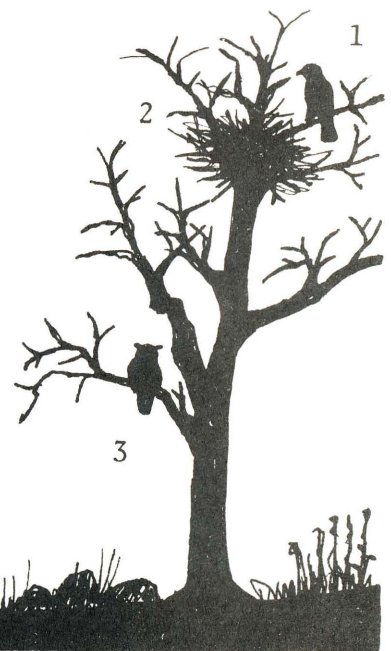


BIRDS OF PREY: Habitat varies. They feed on varied diet of animal life - mammals, birds, insects, fish, amphibians, snakes.

Characteristic features are: a strong bill, strong feet with curved talons, excellent vision and hearing abilities.



- 1 HAWK
- 2 NEST
- 3 OWL



## SPECIES OF BIRDS OF PREY FOUND IN MICHIGAN

### OWLS

Screech Owl CPr  
Long-eared Owl UPr  
Short-eared Owl USr  
Great Horned Owl CPr  
Barn Owl UPr  
Barred Owl UPr  
Snowy Owl UWr  
Great Gray Owl UV  
Saw-whet Owl USr

### SOARING HAWKS

Red-tailed Hawk CSr  
Red-shouldered USr  
Broad-winged Hawk Tr  
Rough-legged Hawk CWr  
Harrier (Marsh) CSr

### ACCIPITERS

Cooper's Hawk Sr  
Sharp-shinned Sr  
Goshawk USr

### FALCONS

Kestrel Sr  
Merlin USr  
Peregrine USr

### SHRIKES

Common Shrike Sr  
Loggerhead Shrike Sr

### EAGLE

Bald Eagle USr

### OSPREY

Osprey CSr

Code: Tr - Transient Sr - Summer Resident C - Common  
Wr - Winter Resident Pr - Permanent Resident U - Uncommon  
V - Visitor

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Members of this group are predators, with a varied diet of animal life - insects, mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles. This group is characterized by a strong, hooked bill and strong feet with sharp curved talons (except Shrikes). Excellent vision and hearing abilities.

### THINGS TO LEARN

- Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature, seasonal changes  
Field Markings - size, color, shape, activity
- Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained type of nest  
Where foods found
- Distribution: Summer areas Flyways  
Winter areas Effects of habitat on distribution
- Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
- Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds To other organisms

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## UPLAND GAME BIRDS

BOB-WHITE: Smallest of game birds; sexes are similar; male has white throat and stripe over eye; female with yellow chin and eye stripe; general coloration rusty-red. Normally found in agricultural areas.

PRAIRIE CHICKEN: Large brown hen-like bird; undersides with brown bars. Tail short and round. Sexes similar. Found in prairie grassland.

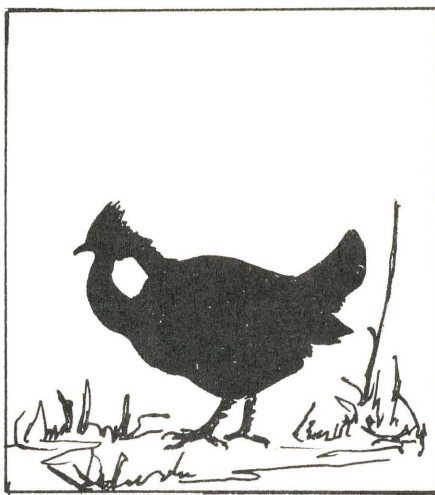
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE: Sexes similar; brownish in color with V-shaped marking on undersides; tail short and pointed. Found in prairie brushlands.

RUFFED GROUSE: Sexes similar; reddish-brown or gray-brown in color; fan-shaped tail with black band near tip. Found in brushy woodlands.

WILD TURKEY: Largest of game birds; male larger, but colors of both sexes similar. In general, brownish-black in color with bronze iridescence throughout plumage. Found in woodland areas.



BOB-WHITE



PRAIRIE CHICKEN

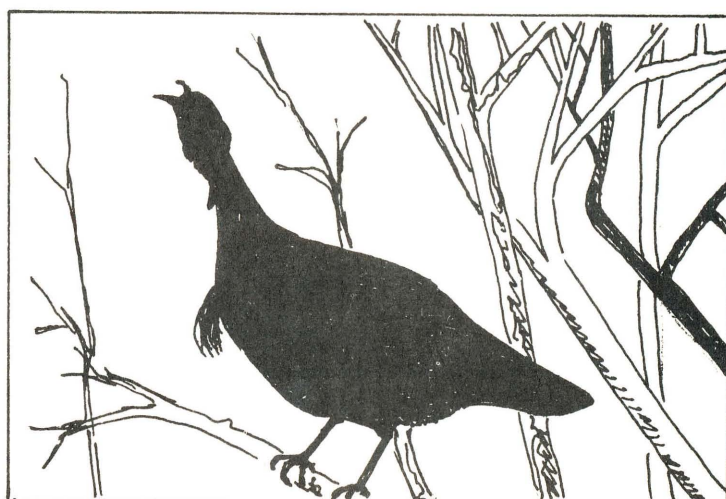


SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

RUFFED GROUSE



WILD TURKEY



## SPECIES OF UPLAND GAME BIRDS FOUND IN MICHIGAN

Bob-white Quail	CPr	Prairie Chicken	RPr
Ruffed Grouse	CPr	Spruce Grouse	RPr
Sharp-tailed Grouse	RPr	Wild Turkey	CPr

Code: Pr - Permanent Resident  
C - Common  
R - Rare

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Upland game birds are chicken-like birds, with bills and feet similar to those of the chicken. They vary in size from as small as robins to as large as turkeys. They feed primarily on insects, seeds, grain, and berries.

### THINGS TO LEARN

1. Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature  
Field markings - size, color, shape, activity
2. Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten                      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained                      type of nest  
Where foods found
3. Distribution: Effects of habitat on distribution
4. Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
5. Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds  
To other organisms
6. Management: Conservation of; economic aspects.

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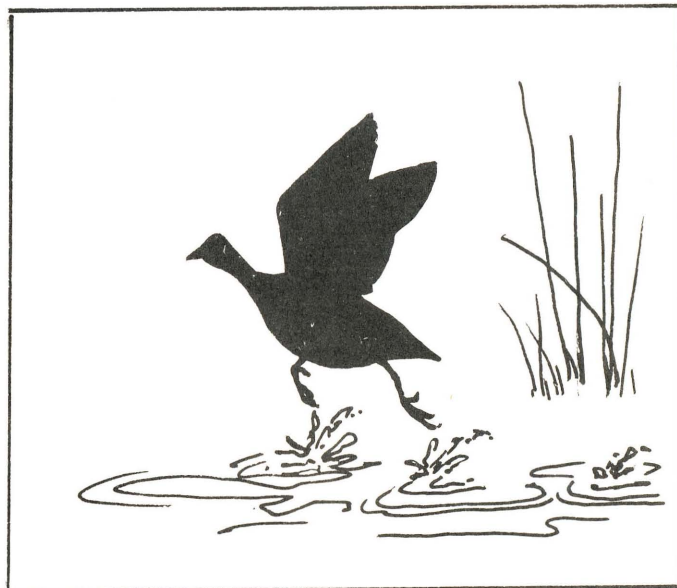
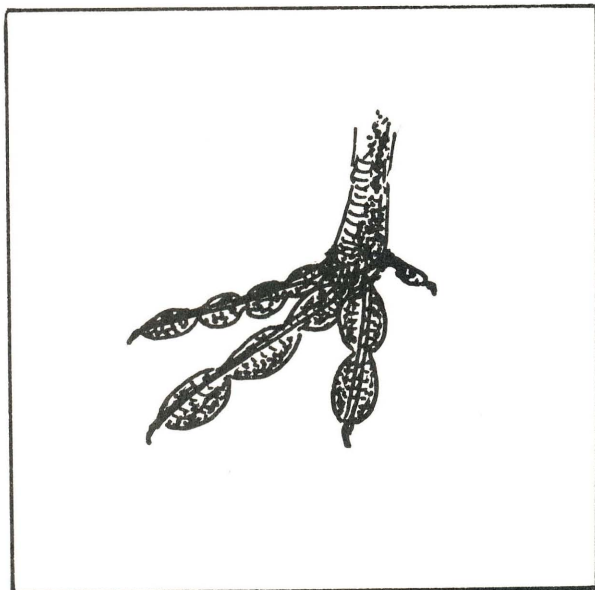
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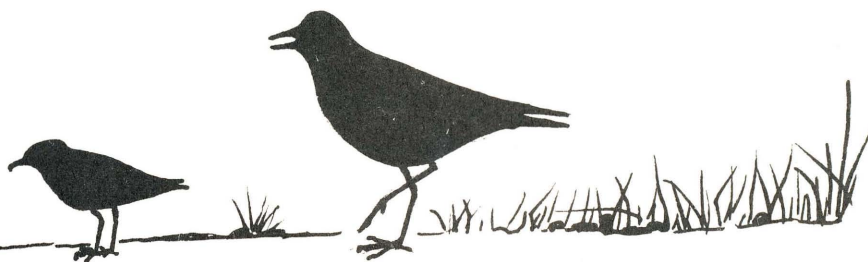
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Conservation Department

## WADING AND SWIMMING INSECTIVORES

COOTS AND GALLINULES: These are the largest of this avian group. Quite chicken-like in appearance, with short conical white (Coot) or red bill (Gallinule). The Coot is often seen swimming in large rafts during the fall. Both species must run a considerable distance over the water before they become airborne. The Coot has lobed toes.



RAILS, SANDPIPERS, AND PLOVERS: Normally found in more dense cover than Coots and Gallinules. Vary in size from that of a large pigeon to as small as a sparrow. Not easily observed, as they are extremely secretive forms. Nests may be located in marsh vegetation (Rails) or on the rocky and sandy shoreline of water areas (Sandpipers and Plovers).



## SPECIES OF WADING & SWIMMING INSECTIVORES FOUND IN MICHIGAN

Sora Rail	CSr	Florida Gallinule	CSr	Woodcock	CSr
Virginia Rail	CSr	Semipalmated Sandpiper	CTr	Wilson's Snipe	CTr
King Rail	UV	Black-bellied Plover	UTr	Upland Plover	RSr
Dunlin	CTr	Semipalmated Plover	UTr	Lesser Yellow-legs	CTr
Dowitcher	UTr	Spotted Sandpiper	CSr	Pectoral Sandpiper	CTr
Killdeer	CSr	Solitary Sandpiper	CTr	Least Sandpiper	CTr
Common Coot	CSr	Greater Yellow-legs	CTr	Stilt Sandpiper	UTr
				Northern Phalarope	UTr

Code: Tr - Transient      C - Common      V - Visitor  
Sr - Summer Resident      U - Uncommon      R - Rare

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The members of this group are among some of the most difficult birds to identify. They are easily recognized as shorebirds by their long legs; slender bill varies in length. Many species are similar in appearance. Through characteristic calls and field markings, they can be identified. Their diet consists mainly of aquatic insects and other small aquatic organisms.

### THINGS TO LEARN

- Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature, seasonal changes  
Field markings - size, shape, color, activity
- Habits:    Feeding: Foods eaten      Nesting: type of habitat  
                              How foods obtained      type of nest  
                              Where foods found
- Distribution: Summer areas      Flyways  
                              Winter areas      Effects of habitat on distribution
- Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
- Relationships: To habitat  
                              To other birds  
                              To other organisms
- Management: Economic aspects

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## FLYING FISHERS

BELTED KINGFISHER: Only Kingfisher in Michigan; larger than a robin. Blue-gray above with white undersides. Sexes similar, but female has red band across chest and down flanks. Normally seen over lake and stream areas; may locate nest great distances from water.



BELTED KINGFISHER

RING-BILLED GULL: Common sea gull of the Great Lakes area. Sexes similar in color; gray back and white undersides. The wing tips are black. Like most gulls, the tip of the bill has a slight hook. Black ring on bill is conspicuous.



RING-BILLED GULL

COMMON TERN: Terns are small, more streamlined gull-like birds with forked tails. The Common Tern has a gray back with white undersides. The top of head is black and the tail is deeply forked. The bill is narrow and straight.



COMMON TERN

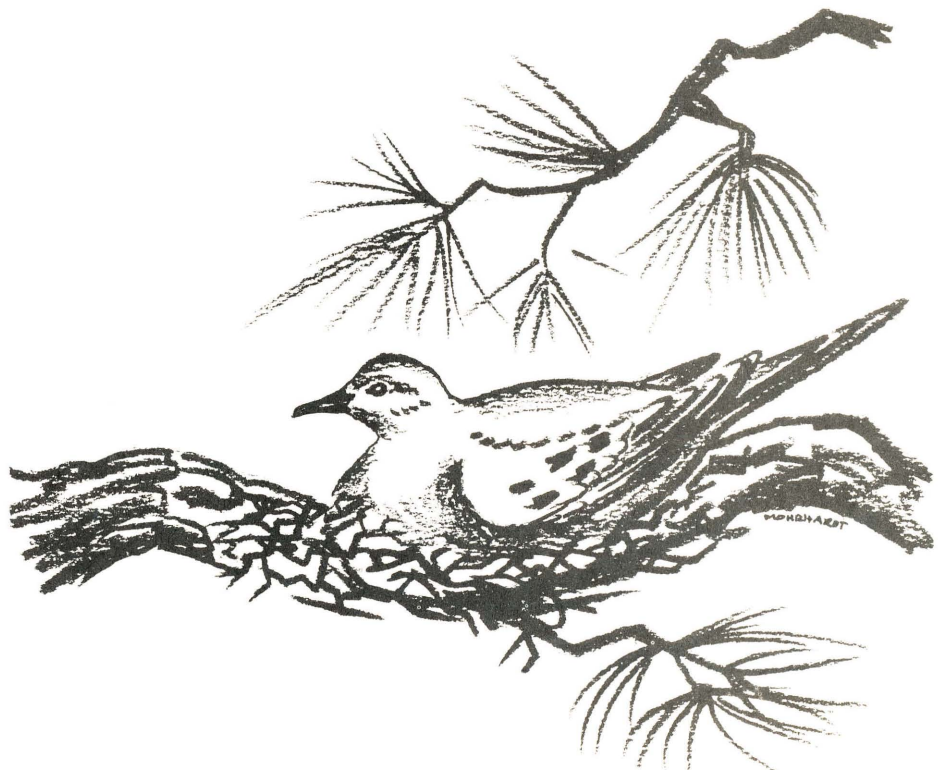
Belted Kingfisher	CSr	Common Tern	CSr
Herring Gull	CSr	Black Tern	CSr
Ringbill Gull	CSr	Caspian Tern	USr Tr
Bonaparte's Gull	UTr	Royal Tern	UTr
Franklin's Gull	UTr		

Field Guide to the Birds; Peterson, R.T.; Houghton Mifflin Co.

## DOVES



MOORNING DOVE: Only wild dove found in the eastern United States. Sexes similar - brown in color, with pointed tails. Outer tail feathers have white tips. Smaller and more streamlined than Rock Dove (Pigeon).



## SPECIES OF DOVES COMMON IN MICHIGAN

Mourning Dove CSr UWr

Code: Wr - Winter Resident  
Sr - Summer Resident  
C - Common  
U - Uncommon

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

There is only one species of dove found in Michigan. Another dove, the Passenger Pigeon, was once common in Michigan, but has been extinct for more than a half century. The Mourning Dove feeds primarily on weed seeds, insects, and waste grain. The doves are popular game birds in many states.

### THINGS TO LEARN

1. Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature  
Field markings - size, color, shape, activity
2. Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten                      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained                                      type of nest  
Where foods found
3. Distribution: Summer areas              Flyways  
Winter areas              Effects of habitat on distribution
4. Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
5. Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds  
To other organisms
6. Management: In Michigan - a song bird or a game bird?  
What happened to the Passenger Pigeon?  
Economic aspects

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Birds of America; Pearson, T.G.; Garden City Books

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NIGHTHAWK



CLIFF SWALLOW



BARN SWALLOW

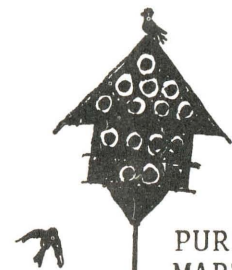


NIGHTHAWK: Sexes alike, brownish in color; wings narrow, with large white patch on underside. Common in larger cities and open field areas.

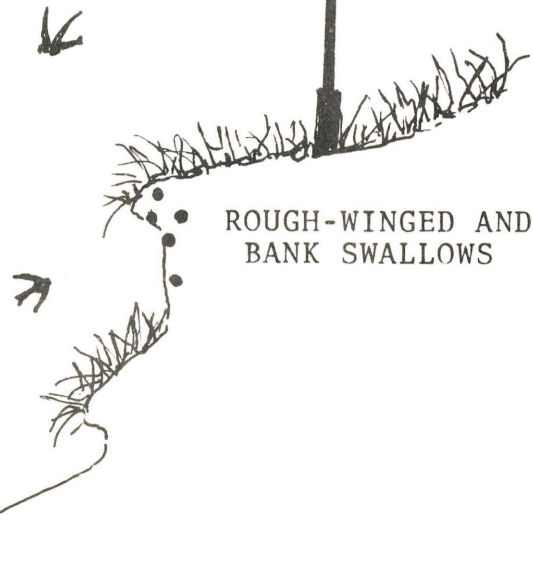
SWALLOWS: The Cliff and Barn Swallow have purple backs and buff undersides; both species build mud nests. The long, forked tail of the Barn Swallow easily separates the two species in the field. Bank and Rough-winged Swallows are brown above, with white undersides. The Bank Swallow has a distinct brown bar on the breast. Both species nest in tunnels burrowed in sand pits and clay banks. Purple Martins are the largest of the swallows. The male is entirely purple; the female is grayish-brown. Normally nest in "Martin houses" provided by man.

CHIMNEY SWIFT: Smallest form in this group. Entirely dark brown in color. Wings long and narrow; tail short. Flight is extremely rapid. Common in larger cities.

PURPLE MARTIN



ROUGH-WINGED AND BANK SWALLOWS



Purple Martin	CSr	Cliff Swallow	USr
Barn Swallow	CSr	Chimney Swift	CSr
Bank Swallow	CSr	Nighthawk	CSr
Tree Swallow	CSr	Whip-poor-will	USr
Rough-winged Swallow	CSr		

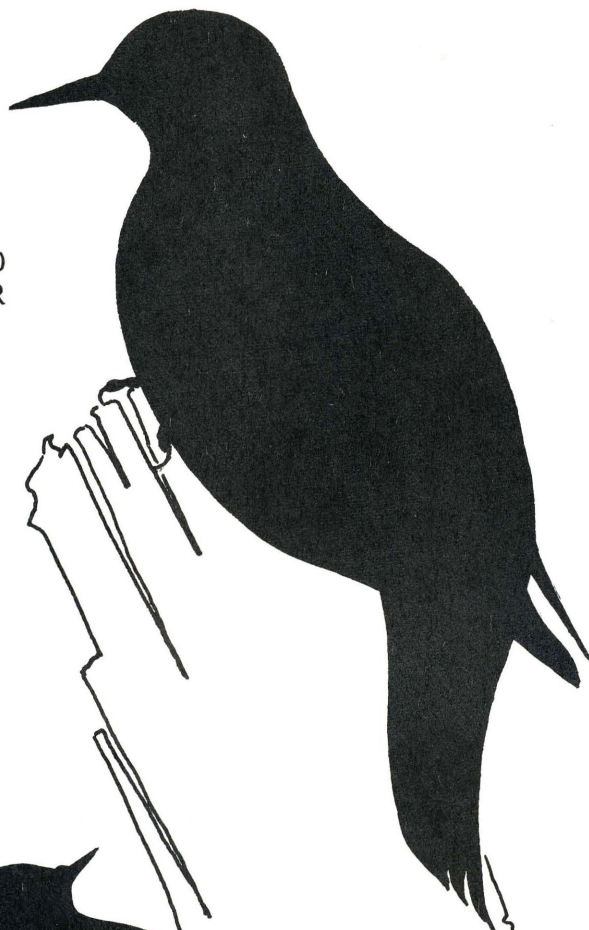
### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

## THINGS TO LEARN

- ## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Field Guide to the Birds; Peterson, R.T.; Houghton Mifflin Co.

## TREE TRUNK GLEANERS

RED-HEADED  
WOODPECKERRED-HEADED WOODPECKER:

Blue-black wings with large white area. White undersides and red head separates this form from others. Sexes are alike in color

DOWNY WOODPECKER: Smallest of the woodpeckers. General coloration is black and white; sexes similar; male has red bar on back of head. Hairy Woodpecker is similar in coloration, but is larger and has a longer bill.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Blueish-gray on top, with white undersides and black cap. Sexes alike in color. Only nuthatches can travel down a tree trunk head first.



DOWNY WOODPECKER

WHITE-BREASTED  
NUTHATCH

## SPECIES OF TREE TRUNK GLEANERS FOUND IN MICHIGAN

Yellow-shafted Flicker	Sr	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	CTr USr
Hairy Woodpecker	Pr	Pileated Woodpecker	USr
Downy Woodpecker	Pr	Brown Creeper	USr
Red-bellied Woodpecker	CSr UWr	Red-breasted Nuthatch	UPr
Red-headed Woodpecker	CSr	White-breasted Nuthatch	CPr

Code: Pr - Permanent Resident      C - Common  
Tr - Transient                      U - Uncommon  
Sr - Summer Resident

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The members of this group range in size from slightly smaller than a Crow to smaller than a House Sparrow. Their bills are long, slender, and pointed. In most forms the tail feathers are stiff, giving support while perched on the sides of trees and limbs. The foods eaten by this group consist mainly of adult and immature forms of insects found on and under the bark of trees.

### THINGS TO LEARN

- Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature,  
seasonal change  
Field markings - size, color, shape, activity
- Habits:    Feeding: Foods eaten                      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained                      type of nest  
Where foods found
- Distribution: Summer areas              Flyways  
Winter areas              Effects of habitat on distribution
- Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
- Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds - Role of holes provided by  
these forms  
To other organisms
- Management: Economic aspects

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Field Guide to the Birds; Peterson, R.T.; Houghton Mifflin Co.



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS: Metallic green back, with white undersides; the male has an iridescent red throat. The wing beats are so rapid that they appear blurred. The nest is normally placed on a horizontal branch and constructed of lichens, moss, spider webs, and fine grasses. Usually only two eggs are laid per nest.

## SPECIES OF HUMMERS COMMON IN MICHIGAN

### Ruby-throated Hummingbird CSr

Code: Sr - Summer Resident  
C - Common

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the only species found in Michigan. It is the smallest bird found in the state. With the presence of the proper flowering plants and/or artificial feeders, Hummingbirds can be attracted to your area.

### THINGS TO LEARN

1. Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature  
Field markings - size, color, shape, activity
2. Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten                      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained    type of nest  
Where foods found
3. Distribution: Summer areas              Flyways  
Winter areas              Effects of habitat on distribution
4. Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
5. Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds  
To other organisms
6. Management: Backyard management  
Economic aspects

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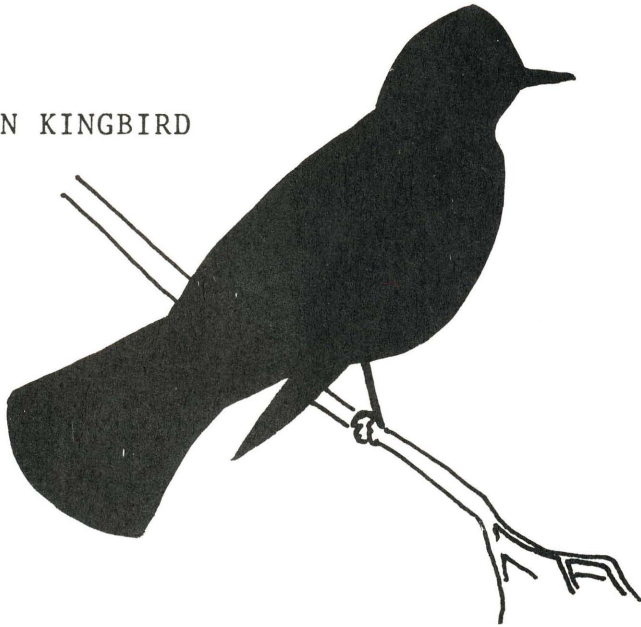
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## FLYING INSECTIVORES

EASTERN KINGBIRD

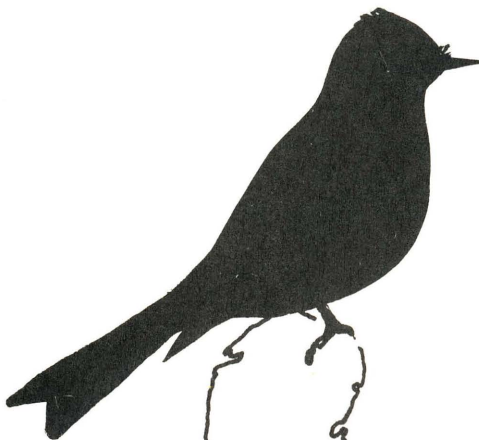
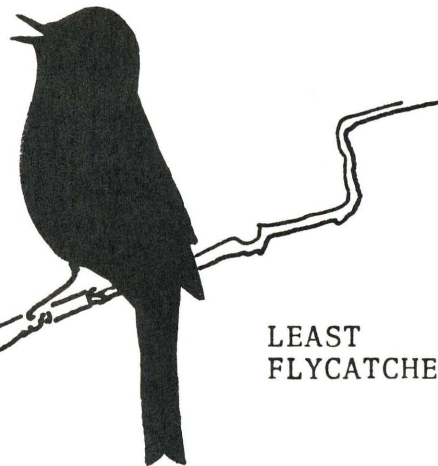


EASTERN KINGBIRD: One of the largest and most aggressive of this group. Undersides white; back, tail, and head are black. White band on tip of tail is conspicuous at rest and in flight. Sexes alike in color.

PHOEBE: Plumage is brownish-gray. Absence of white wing bars and eye ring help to separate this form from all others. Sexes are alike in color.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: General coloration is olive-gray; conspicuous white undersides, eye ring, and wing bars aid in identity. The Acadian and Alder Flycatchers are almost identical to this form. Habitat and voice aid in the separation of these three species.

PHOEBE

LEAST  
FLYCATCHER

## SPECIES OF FLYING INSECTIVORES FOUND IN MICHIGAN

Eastern Kingbird	Sr	Acadian Flycatcher	Sr
Crested Flycatcher	Sr	Alder Flycatcher	Sr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Sr	Wood Pewee	Sr
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Sr	Phoebe	Sr
Least Flycatcher	Sr		

Code: Sr - Summer Resident

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The members of this group vary in size from as small as a robin to smaller than a sparrow. They often perch in an upright position and sit quite motionless. Characteristically, they will fly from a branch to obtain food and then return to the same branch.

### THINGS TO LEARN

1. Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature  
Field markings - size, color, shape, activity
2. Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten                      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained                      type of nest  
Where foods found
3. Distribution: Summer areas              Flyways  
Winter areas              Effects of habitat on distribution
4. Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
5. Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds  
To other organisms
6. Management: Economic aspects

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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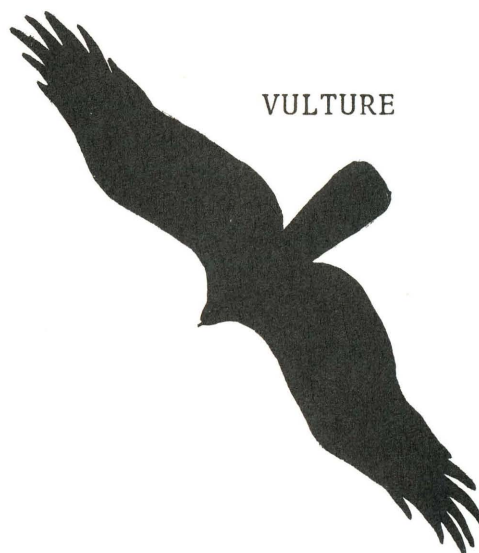
## SCAVENGERS



CROW



BLUEJAY

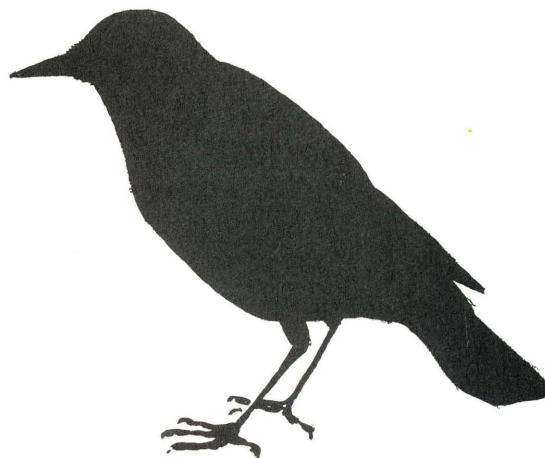
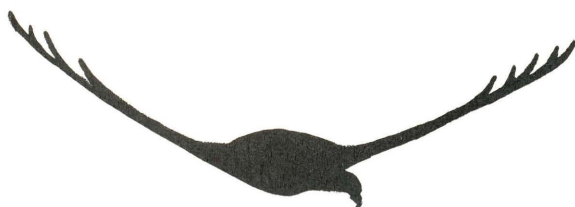
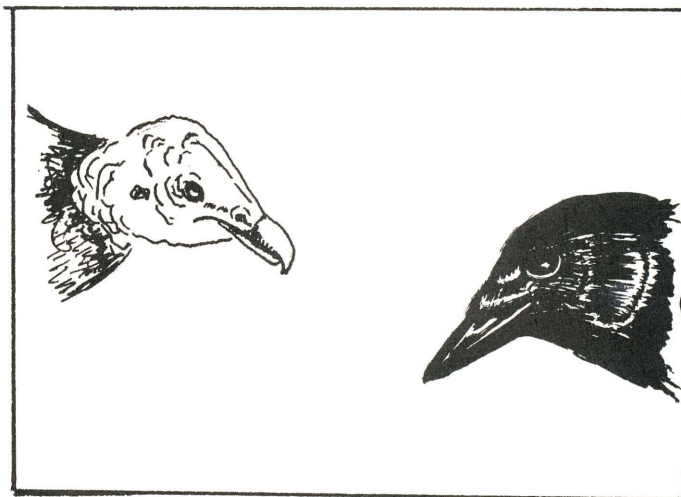


VULTURE

CROWS: Both sexes all black. Common in agricultural and woodland areas.

BLUE JAY: Sexes alike; bright blue in color, with white trim on wings and tail; whiteish-gray undersides. Active and noisy birds of wooded areas. Form part of winter bird flock.

VULTURE: Sexes alike; nearly eagle size. Dark blackish-brown in color; head bare, reddish in color.



## SPECIES OF SCAVENGERS COMMON IN MICHIGAN

Common Crow	CPr	Bluejay	CPr
Common Raven	UPr	Canada Jay	CPr
Turkey Vulture	USr		

Code: Sr - Summer Resident      C - Common  
Pr - Permanent Resident      U - Uncommon

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Scavengers vary greatly in size and morphology. The Vulture is the largest of this group and has long, broad wings and a strong, hooked bill. The feet of these forms are weak, used for walking or perching. The bills of the rest of the group are long and stout. The food that these forms feed on is varied: Vultures feed primarily on carrion - whereas crows, ravens, and jays will feed on insects, young animals, amphibians, and carrion.

### THINGS TO LEARN

1. Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature  
Field markings - size, color, shape, activity
2. Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained      type of nest  
Where foods found
3. Distribution: Summer areas  
Winter areas      Effects of habitat on distribution
4. Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
5. Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds - Predation  
To other organisms
6. Management: Control  
Economic aspects

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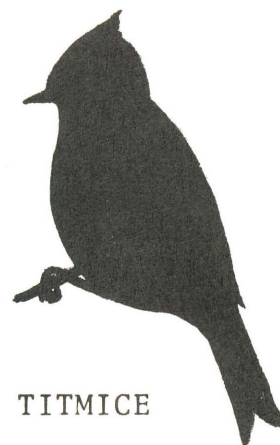
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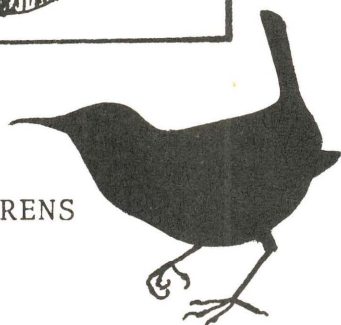


CHICKADEE



TITMICE

WRENS



TITMICE: Both sexes mostly gray; active and noisy birds of woodland areas; form part of winter bird flocks.

CHICKADEE: Both sexes gray with black cap and white cheek; active and friendly birds of woodland areas.

WRENS: Both sexes brownish; very energetic. Usually seen in shrubbery or brush areas.

KINGLETS



KINGLETS: Both sexes olive-gray. Birds of brush areas. Nervously flick wings while feeding.

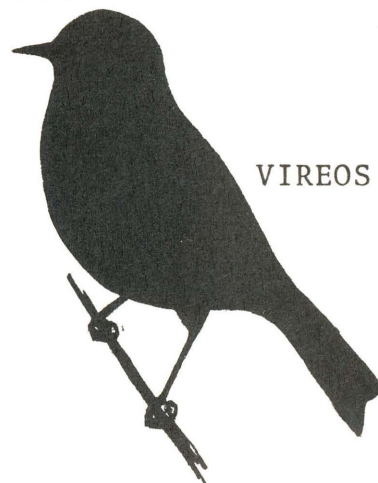
WARBLERS: Blue-gray or olive-green; males usually with patches of bright color. Birds of woods, parks, and brushy areas.

VIREOS: Both sexes olive-green. Active birds of parks, woods, and thickets. More deliberate in movement than warblers, with habit of pausing and ogling about.

WARBLERS



VIREOS



## SPECIES OF SHRUB-FOLIAGE GLEANERS COMMON IN MICHIGAN

Yellow Warbler	Kirtland's Warbler	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Yellow-throat	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Palm Warbler	Black & White Warbler	Red-eyed Vireo
Wilson's Warbler	Golden-winged Warbler	Warbling Vireo
Ovenbird	Blue-winged Warbler	Philadelphia Vireo
Redstart	Blackburnian Warbler	Yellow-throated Vireo
Myrtle Warbler	Cape May Warbler	Black-capped Chickadee
House Wren	Black-throated Green Warb.	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Winter Wren	Tufted Titmouse	Long-billed Marsh Wren
		Short-billed Marsh Wren

Code: Pr - Permanent Resident (Titmice and Chickadees)  
Sr - Summer Resident (all others are Sr only)

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Shrub-Foliage Gleaners are smaller than House Sparrows. Their bills are small, slender, and pointed and are used for removing adult insects and their immature forms from leaves and twigs. Extremely active birds, spending most of the day eating and singing.

### THINGS TO LEARN

- Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature,  
Seasonal changes  
Field markings - size, color, shape, activity
- Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten                      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained                      type of nest  
Where foods found
- Distribution: Summer areas              Flyways  
Winter areas              Effects of habitat on distribution
- Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
- Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds  
To other organisms
- Management: Economic aspects

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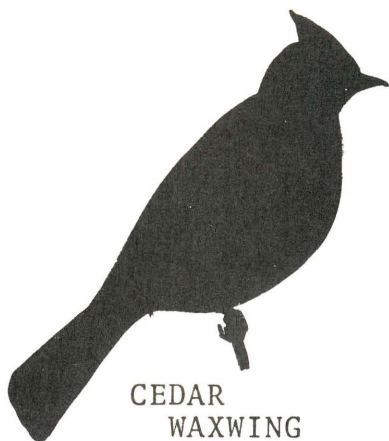
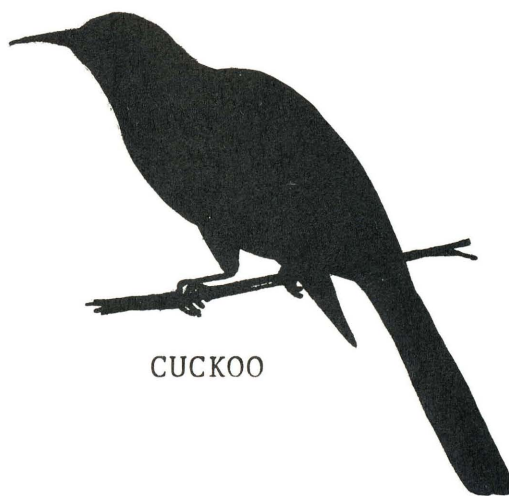
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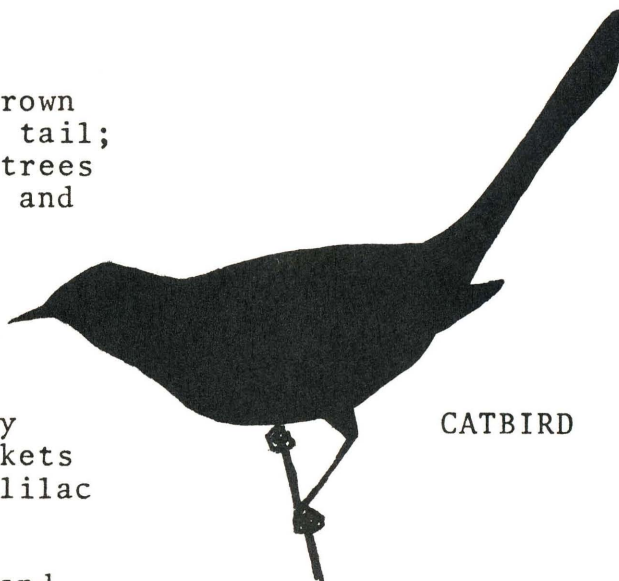
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CEDAR  
WAXWING

CUCKOO

CEDAR WAXWING: Sleek, crested, brown bird, with yellow band on tip of tail; sexes similar. Usually seen in trees and shrubs searching for berries and buds. Uncommon winter visitor.

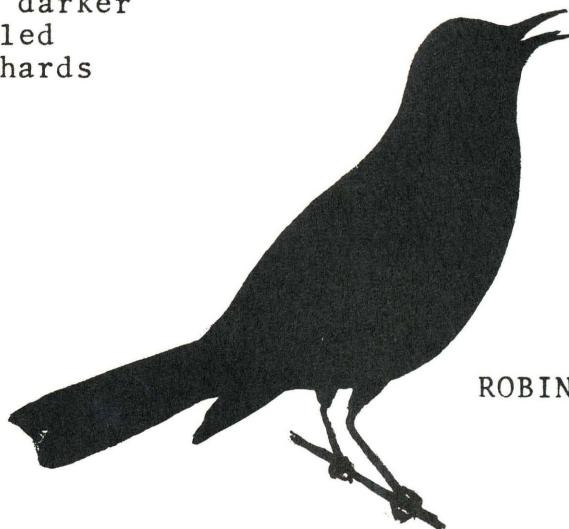
CUCKOO: Long tailed; brown back with white undersides. Found in thickets and shrub areas.



CATBIRD

CATBIRD: Both sexes entirely gray with black crown. Found in thickets and shrub areas. Often nest in lilac bushes in suburban areas.

ROBIN: Sexes similar, gray back and reddish breast. Male somewhat darker than female. Young have speckled breasts. Familiar bird of orchards and backyards.



ROBIN

## SPECIES OF BERRY & GROUND FEEDERS FOUND IN MICHIGAN

Cedar Waxwing	Robin	Swainson's Thrush
Catbird	Veery	Gray-cheeked Thrush
Brown Thrasher	Wood Thrush	Black-billed Cuckoo
Mockingbird	Hermit Thrush	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Bluebird		

All birds in this group are Summer Residents - Sr.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The members of this group are larger than sparrows and smaller than pigeons. Food consists mainly of adult insects - as well as their immature forms - and fruits and berries in season. Some of the species in this group are quite secretive and difficult to observe.

### THINGS TO LEARN

1. Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature,  
seasonal change  
Field markings - size, color, shape, activity
2. Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten                      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained                      type of nest  
Where foods found
3. Distribution: Summer areas              Flyways  
Winter areas              Effects of habitat on distribution
4. Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
5. Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds  
To other organisms
6. Management: Economic aspects

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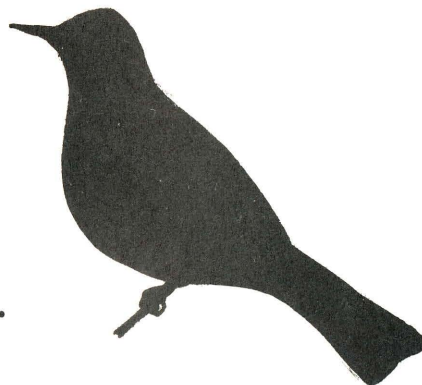
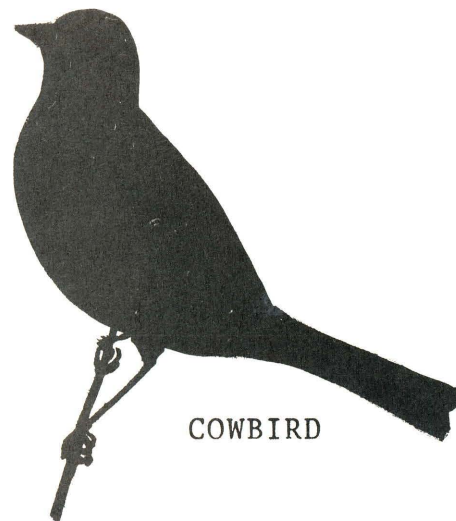
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## BLACKBIRDS

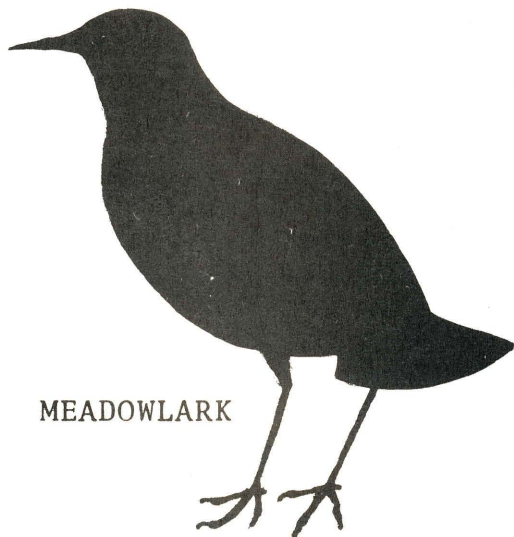
BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Male, orange and black; female and young, olive above and yellow below with two white wing bars.

RED-WING BLACKBIRD: Male, black with red shoulder patch; female and young, brown with heavily streaked breast.

COWBIRD: Male, black with dark brown head; female and young, entirely brown.

BALTIMORE  
ORIOLERED-WING  
BLACKBIRD

COWBIRD



MEADOWLARK

COMMON  
GRACKLE

MEADOWLARK: Sexes similar - brownish streaked back and head; yellow undersides with black "V" on breast.

COMMON GRACKLE: Large iridescent Blackbirds; female smaller and less iridescent than male. Young are dark brown with no iridescence.

## SPECIES OF BLACKBIRDS COMMON IN MICHIGAN

Baltimore Oriole	Sr	Eastern Meadowlark	Sr
Orchard Oriole	USr	Western Meadowlark	Sr
Red-winged Blackbird	Sr	Common Grackle	Sr
Bobolink	Sr	Brewer's Blackbird	USr
Brown-headed Cowbird	Sr	Scarlet Tanager	Sr

Code: Sr - Summer Resident  
U - Uncommon

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Members of this group are larger than House Sparrows and smaller than pigeons. Their bills are strong, medium in length, and pointed. They feed mainly on insects and seeds. Some forms are colonial nesters, while most are solitary.

## THINGS TO LEARN

- Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature,  
seasonal change  
Field markings - size, color, shape, activity
- Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten                      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained                                      type of nest  
Where foods found
- Distribution: Summer areas              Flyways  
Winter areas              Effects of habitat on distribution
- Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
- Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds - Parasitism  
To other organisms
- Management: Economic aspects

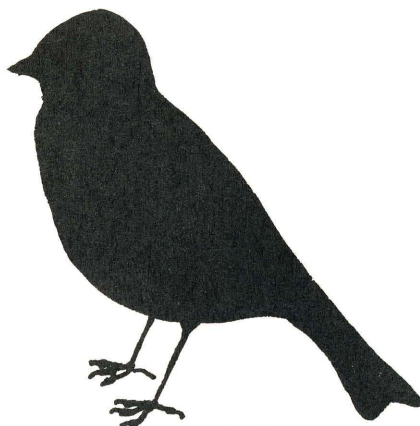
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Bent, A.C.; U.S. Natl. Museum



JUNCO



SONG SPARROW

JUNCO: Smaller than House Sparrow; slate gray with white belly; conspicuous white outer tail feathers.

SONG SPARROW: Mostly brown with heavily streaked breast. Brown spot in center of breast. Sexes similar.

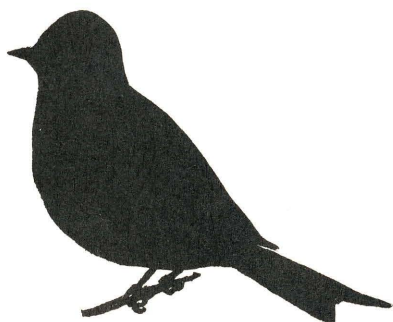
CARDINAL: Male, only all-red bird with crest, larger than sparrows. Female, yellowish-brown with thick red bill.



CARDINAL

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: Male, black back and white underparts with large patch of rose-red on breast. Female, brownish with streaked breast and white line over eye. Thick bill distinguishes this bird from similarly colored sparrows.

COMMON GOLDFINCH: Smaller than House Sparrow. Male, mostly yellow with black wings and crown. Female, olive-yellow with dark wings and two white wing bars.

ROSE-BREASTED  
GROSBEAK

GOLDFINCH

## SPECIES OF SEED EATERS FOUND IN MICHIGAN

Song Sparrow	Sr	Slate-colored Junco	Pr	Savannah Sparrow	Sr
Vesper Sparrow	Sr	Grasshopper Sparrow	Sr	Snow Bunting	Wr
Tree Sparrow	Tr	White-throated Sparrow	Sr	Lapland Longspur	Wr
Swamp Sparrow	Sr	White-crowned Sparrow	Sr	Indigo Bunting	Sr
Field Sparrow	Sr	Chipping Sparrow	Sr	Pine Siskin	Wr
Cardinal	Pr	Clay-colored Sparrow	Sr	Red Crossbill	Tr
Goldfinch	Sr Wr	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Sr	Dickcissal	Sr
Redpoll	Tr Wr	Evening Grosbeak	Wr	Horned Lark	Sr
Towhee	Sr	Pine Grosbeak	Wr	Purple Finch	TrWr
		White-winged Crossbill	Tr		

Code: Tr - Transient                      Sr - Summer Resident  
         Wr - Winter Resident              Pr - Permanent Resident

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Seed Eaters range in size from smaller than House Sparrows to the size of Robins. Bills are characteristically short and thick (conical). These forms feed primarily on seeds, but will also eat insects when available.

## THINGS TO LEARN

1. Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature,  
seasonal changes  
Field markings - size, color, shape, activity
2. Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten                      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained                      type of nest  
Where foods found
3. Distribution: Summer areas              Flyways  
Winter areas              Effects of habitat on distribution
4. Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
5. Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds  
To other organisms
6. Management: Economic aspects

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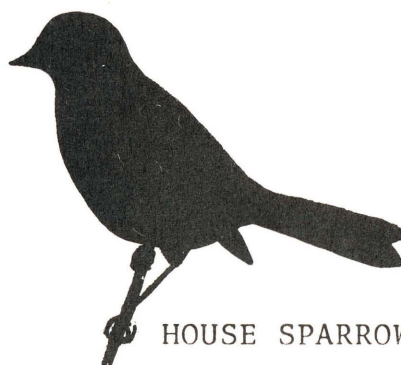
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## INTRODUCED MICHIGAN BIRDS

HOUSE SPARROW: Familiar sparrow of inhabited areas. Brownish color male has black bib and gray chest. Conical, stout bill; feeds on insects and some grain.

STARLING: Near robin size; black with buff or brown flecking. Bill long and straight; tail short. Common in fields, parks, cities. Feeds on insects and some grain.



HOUSE SPARROW



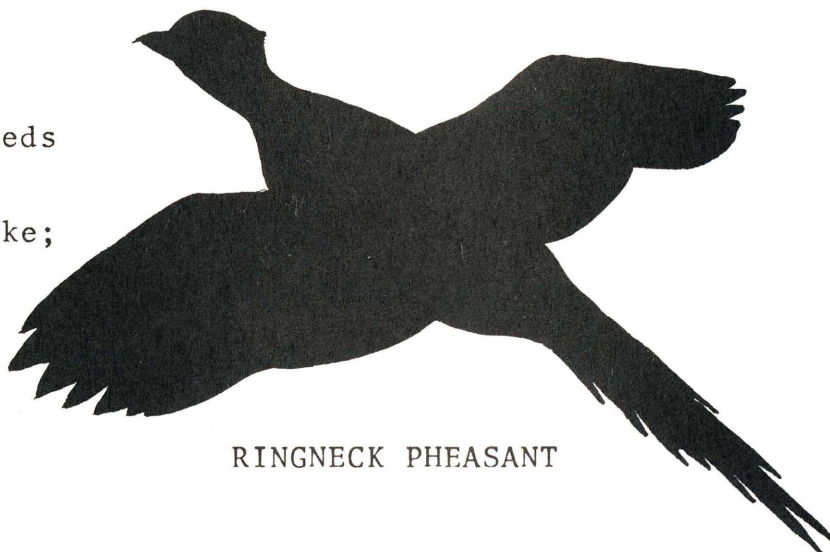
STARLING



ROCK DOVE OR PIGEON

ROCK DOVE: Common Pigeon. Smaller than Crow; varies in color; pointed wings and long square tail. Feed on weed seeds and grain.

RINGNECK PHEASANT: Chicken-like; plump body, long tail, short rounded wings. Male, brightly colored; female, buff with dark brown speckling. Found in agricultural areas. Feed on insects, wild and domestic seed, fruits, and berries.



RINGNECK PHEASANT

## INTRODUCED MICHIGAN BIRDS

House Sparrow	1880's	Pr	Ring-necked Pheasant	1892	Pr
Starling	1886	Sr	Rock Dove (Pigeon)	??	Pr

Code: Sr - Summer Resident  
Pr - Permanent Resident

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

These forms have been successfully introduced into the United States. Since their introduction, they have expanded their range over much of the continent.

## THINGS TO LEARN

1. Identification: Name - Avian Group  
Coloration - Male, Female, Immature,  
seasonal changes  
Field markings - size, color, shape, activity
2. Habits: Feeding: Foods eaten                      Nesting: type of habitat  
How foods obtained                      type of nest  
Where foods found
3. Distribution: Introduction site  
Effects of habitat on distribution
4. Adaptations: Bills, feet, feathers, etc.
5. Relationships: To habitat  
To other birds - Competition  
To other organisms
6. Management: Economic aspects                      Other introduced species  
Reasons for introduction                      Future introductions

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