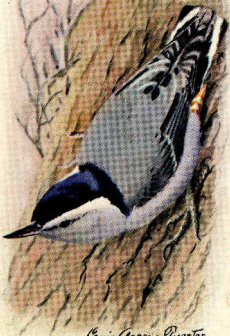


15 White-breasted Nuthatch



Louis Agassiz Quarter

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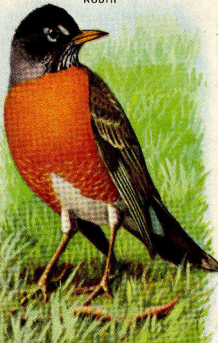
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

(*Sitta carolinensis*)

In the winter months the White-breasted Nuthatch is easily enticed from his diet of insects and larvae to partake of the suet placed out by man. Like his smaller relative, the Red-breasted Nuthatch, he is often called "the up-side-down bird," for he goes down a tree trunk "head-first" as easily as he can go up. He is also easily identified by his nasal, "hank, hank." The nest, which is composed of leaves and feathers, is placed in a hollow limb or old Woodpecker hole. Five to eight white eggs with reddish-brown spots are laid. Range: Eastern United States.

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Robin



Erithacus rubecula

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ROBIN

(*Turdus migratorius*)

The one bird known by everyone. His friendliness to man has in turn won him man's friendship. His markedly cheerful song, heard most frequently at dawn and dusk is one of spring's earliest signs. He usually nests near human habitations in trees of orchard, lawn and thin woodland. His building materials are of a wide variety, including grasses, roots, leaves, string and paper for the outside, and an inner wall of mud lined with fine grasses. Eggs are bluish-green and three to five in number. Man need not begrudge him the small amount of fruit he eats, for that damage is abundantly offset by the large number of insects and worms which he destroys. His range is North America, from the treeline to the Mexican tableland.

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Bobolink

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BOBOLINK

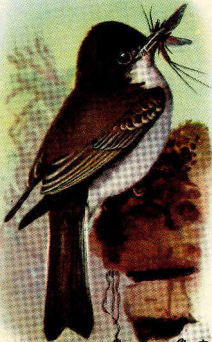
(*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

Shot by the thousands as "reed birds" and "rice birds" on his southward migration, this bird, beloved by the farmers of the northern states, decreased greatly in numbers. Only recently has protection by law been accorded the Bobolink, so valuable to the farmer for his diet of caterpillars, cutworms, and other insects. On his breeding grounds, the hayfields and meadows, he is often seen and heard as he pours forth his bubbling song, which is uttered on the wing. Deep down in the grass he constructs his well-concealed nest. Four to seven ashy-blue or pearl-gray eggs, blotched with brown and purple, are laid. In the United States, he is found in the Eastern and Central States.

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3.

Phoebe



Abner Eggen Puerto

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**PHOEBE**

(*Sayornis phoebe*)

Almost before the first green of spring appears, the Phoebe returns to his summer home, and we again see him sitting on some fence post or on a branch overhanging a stream uttering his simple "pewit phoebe." Suddenly from his perch he darts off in pursuit of some winged insect, only to return almost immediately to his look out. Under a bridge on a girder, in the cow shed, or under the roof of the piazza, wherever a few inches of shelf room is afforded, one may look for his nest, constructed of mosses and mud and lined with hair or grasses. The four or five eggs are white, rather sparsely spotted on the larger end with cinnamon brown. Range: Eastern United States.

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Redstart



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REDSTART

(*Setophaga rutidilla*)

Easiest of all our Warblers to identify is this little bird. The plumage of the male is sharply contrasting black and reds, and the female has yellow for the red and ashy-green for the black of the male. Very trim and smart does this bird appear as he hops from limb to limb with tail and wings outspread. In addition to picking the insects from the leaves, he seems to be also a good flycatcher and frequently takes his prey on the wing. The nest is composed of fine strips of bark and grasses and is located in forks or crotches of trees, rarely more than twenty feet high. The four or five eggs are grayish-white, spotted with brown. Range: North America.

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2.

Northern Yellow-throat



Roué Agassiz Puertés

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NORTHERN YELLOW-THROAT

(*Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*)

Like a tiny black-masked highwayman, this little warbler appears as we come upon him in the underbrush of the roadside or in the thickets and bushes of fields. In song he seems to say "whichity, whichity." Like most of the Warbler family, he performs a great service to man in his consumption of harmful insects. The female wears no mask. The nest is usually on or near the ground and is constructed of grasses, bark, and dead leaves and is lined with finer materials. The three to five white eggs are lightly spotted on the larger end with rufous and umber. This bird is found in eastern United States north of Pennsylvania. Very similar subspecies are found in southern United States.

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BLUEBIRD

(*Sialia sialis sialis*)

Harbinger of spring and beloved by all for his soft sweet song and friendly nature, the Bluebird returns to his summer home before the winter is over. Orchards, the edges of fields, and country roads are his favorite haunts. And there, early in March, he and his mate, who wears a dress less brilliant of blue and reddish brown, seek old holes in decaying trees for a nesting site. Very readily will these beautiful birds choose a bird box for their home. Grasses line the nest in which from four to six bluish-white, or occasionally plain white, eggs are laid. In the spring and summer they feed on insects, worms and small caterpillars, and in the fall, as they move southward, many kinds of berries. They are found in eastern North America and winter from New York southward.

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Red-breasted Grosbeak



Agelaius phoeniceus

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RED-BREASTED GROSBEAK

(*Hedymeles ludovicianus*)

From the throat of this beautifully plumed bird is poured forth in the lush of the May morning so sweet a song that lucky is he who hears it. He frequents the second growth and thickets of small trees and bushes in overgrown fields. Of inestimable value is his service to man, for he consumes large numbers of tent-caterpillars, gypsy and brown-tail moths, canker worms, potato beetles, and many other harmful insects. The nest is in low trees and bushes and is made of twigs and lined with fine rootlets. The eggs, which number four or five, are pale blue and heavily blotched with brown. The bird is found breeding in northern United States and in southern Canada.

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Red-breasted Grosbeak



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5. Red-eyed Vireo



How's My Vireo?

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RED-EYED VIREO

(*Vireo olivaceus*)

On hot summer days in the deep shade trees of our lawns and woodlands this commonest of our Vireos utters his warbling song so incessantly and uninterruptedly that he has been called the "preacher bird." From branch to branch he flits, searching over and under the leaves for insects. What would our trees suffer without these guardians! From the fork of some slender branch, from five to forty feet up, hangs the tightly-woven, cuplike nest. Strips of bark, paper, and the down of plants are used in the construction, and the inside is lined with finer materials. In this hanging basket are laid three or four white eggs, with brownish-black markings on the larger end. Found breeding in the United States in the northwestern states and in the east from southern Canada to Florida.

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6. Black and White Warbler



Louis Agassiz Puertes

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BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER

(*Mniotilta varia*)

Commonly called the "Black and White Creeper," this handsome little warbler is seen in spring "creeping" and climbing up and around tree trunks, limbs, and fallen logs in search of insects and their eggs. He does not tarry on one tree as long as the Brown Creeper but after a short visit flits away to a new hunting ground. Of the Warblers, the Black and White is among the earliest to arrive in the spring. The nest, which is found on the ground at the foot of a tree trunk, is constructed of grasses and bark and lined with hair or rootlets. Four or five eggs, white with brown speckles, are laid. The range is eastern North America.

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SONG SPARROW

(*Melospiza melodia*)

Most generally distributed is our Song Sparrow, for he is found in every state east of the Rocky Mountains. Even in winter months his happy song may be heard. He shuns not the haunts of man but is friendly and sociable and may be seen in the garden and in thickly settled communities. In summer he destroys great numbers of insects and in winter like other Sparrows, weed seeds. He is easily identified by the blackish spots on the sides of the throat and a dark spot on the breast. The nest, which is constructed of grasses, rootlets, and bark and lined with grasses and sometimes hair, is usually found on the ground and occasionally in bushes. The Song Sparrow lays four or five eggs, which are white or bluish-white, heavily marked with rufous-brown.

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KINGBIRD

(*Tyrannus tyrannus*)

Fearless in his dislike of Crows and Hawks, the Kingbird is often seen attacking these larger birds. The Latin name of "tyrannus (tyrant)" suits him well, for he fears no bird and with characteristic aggressiveness drives off the feathered intruder upon his nesting territory. From his perch upon a fence post, stick, or tree wood, he swoops up at or down upon insects which fly near. The orchards and open woodlands are the favorite haunt of the Kingbird. Upon some tree limb, from fifteen to twenty-five feet up, is found the well-formed nest of weed-stalks, grasses, and moss, lined with fine rootlets and grasses. The eggs, three to five in number, are white, spotted with reddish-brown. In summer the Kingbird is found throughout the United States and southern Canada.

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Roxie Agassiz Puertes

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DOWNY WOODPECKER

(*Dryobates pubescens medianus*)

A lively little all-the-year-round resident of North America. He makes an excellent customer at feeding stations and suet chunks, but the bulk of his diet is made up of harmful insects which he searches out of cracks in the bark by the incessant hammering of his sharp bill. Farmers recognize in him a valuable friend. His staccato note of "peek peek" closely resembles that of the Hairy Woodpecker. From four to six white eggs are laid in May, usually in a hole in a dead tree.

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