

Pinecrest Golf Course

Birds on the Course



Red-Tailed Hawk

In North America the Red-tailed Hawk is one of three species colloquially known as the “chicken hawk” or “hen hawk” even though chickens are not a major part of their diet. They were given this name in earlier times, when free-ranging chickens were preyed upon by first-year juveniles. They are also called buzzard hawks or red hawks.

Red-tailed Hawks are easily recognized by their brick-red colored tails, from which its common name was derived. In the wild, they are expected to live for 10 -21 years. They reach reproductive maturity when they are about 3 years old.

The Red-tailed Hawks is a bird of prey found in North and Central America, and in the West Indies. Throughout their range, they typically live in forests near open country or - depending on their range - in swamps, taigas and deserts.

This species is legally protected in Canada, Mexico and the United States by the international Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In the United States, they are also protected by state, provincial and federal bird protection laws, making it illegal to keep hawks (without a permit) in captivity, or to hunt them; disturb nests or eggs; even collecting their feathers is against the law.

Sharp-Shinned Hawk



The sharp-shinned hawk is small with blue-gray upper parts and rufous bars on white under parts. Its legs and feet, thin and exposed, are yellow. This is where it gets its common name. Flight consists of rapid wing beats followed by a short glide. Often soars on thermals.

Breeds throughout the U.S. as far north as Canada. Spends winters from northern U. Adult Sharp-shinned Hawks pass food to their young in mid-air. They will hover briefly and kick the prey outward just as the fledgling arrives.

Red-Shouldered Hawk

The Red-shouldered Hawk is a medium-sized Hawk. A common forest-dwelling hawk of the East and California, the Red-shouldered Hawk favors woodlands near water. It is perhaps the most vocal American hawk.





Egret

Egret is the common name for several species of herons belonging to the family Ardeidae. Before they were protected by law the birds were nearly exterminated by hunters seeking their beautiful, white, silky plumage called aigrettes, used in millinery. These feathers develop during the breeding season. In the American egret the plumes are straight, about 21 in. long, growing on the back. The smaller snowy egret, or snowy heron, the most beautiful and most hunted, has curved plumes on the back, head, and breast. The reddish egret is white part of the year, changing to grayish with brown head and neck. The greater and lesser egrets are European species.

Egrets are classified in the phylum Chordate, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Herodiones, family Ardeidae.



Osprey

The osprey is one of the largest birds of prey in North America.

It eats almost exclusively fish. It is one of the most widespread birds in the world, found on all continents except Antarctica. In South America it occurs only as a non-breeding migrant.

The Osprey will tolerate a wide variety of habitats, nesting in any location near a body of water that will provide an adequate food supply.

Cardinal



The Cardinal, also commonly referred to as a redbird is a North American songbird of the finch family). In the eastern cardinal, *Richmondia cardinalis*, the male is bright scarlet with black throat and face; the female is brown with patches of red. Both sexes have crests and red bills.

Cup-shaped nests are built by male and female, and the male helps rear the young. Cardinals are essentially monogamous, and are not very gregarious.

They are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Passeriformes, family Fringillidae.

Canada Goose



Branta canadensis is the common Canada goose. It can be found from Alaska south to Labrador and down to California and Great Lakes. The Canada goose has a black head with a white band above the throat. The plumage is brownish with a whitish area around the abdomen. Feet and legs are black colored. The males and the females are similar with a size of about 43 inches. Although the Canada geese are not able to fly when molting, they can dive very fast in order to escape danger. When migrating they fly in flocks in a V-shaped formation, which is rather fascinating. These birds are highly adaptable therefore their population has increased especially in Europe. They generally inhabit areas that are close to the water. Their nest is made of vegetation on the ground. They are vegetarian. The females lay up to seven eggs.



Blue Jay

Jay – the common name for a number of birds of the family Corvidae, found in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. The best-known representatives in America are the blue jay, and the Canada jay. The Canada jay is gray, about 12 in. (30 cm) long, with a white throat and forehead and black nape; it has no crest. Found in northern coniferous forests and swamps, it is known for its habit of stealing bright objects, and is called locally camp robber, whisky jack, and moose bird. The female lays from five to seven eggs per clutch, and the male helps incubate them. Jays are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Passeriformes, family Corvidae.



Great Blue Heron



Green Crested Heron

Heron is the common name for members of large wading birds including the bittern and the egret, found in most temperate regions but most numerous in tropical and subtropical areas. Unlike the remotely related cranes and ibises, which fly with their heads extended straight forward, herons fly with their necks folded back on their shoulders. Their plumage is soft and drooping and, especially at breeding time, there may be long, showy plumes on the head, breast, and back. Herons are usually solitary feeders, patiently stalking their prey (small fish and other aquatic animals) in streams and marshes and then stabbing them with their sharp, serrated bills. Most herons roost and nest in large colonies called heronries; others are gregarious only at breeding time; and some are entirely solitary. The nests vary from a sketchy platform of twigs high in a tree to a bulky mass of weeds and rushes built on the ground among the marsh reeds. American herons include the great and little blue herons, the green heron, the yellow-crowned and the black-crowned night herons, and the Louisiana heron, called by Audubon "the lady of the waters." The great white heron of Florida, a little larger than the great blue, is a striking bird sometimes confused with the American egret. Herons are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Ciconiiformes, family Ardeidae.



Cedar Waxwing

The Waxwing - any of three species of perching songbirds of the Northern Hemisphere. Waxwings have crests (raised only in alarm) and sleek brownish-gray plumage with flecks of red pigment resembling sealing wax on the wings and a yellow band on the tail tip.

The cedar waxwing, called cherry bird and cedar bird, breeds throughout most of Canada and the United States.

The Bohemian, or greater, waxwing is more northern in distribution, ranging into the United States only rarely in winter. It is found in N Europe and Asia as well as in N North America.

The third species, the Japanese waxwing, is found only in NE Asia.

Waxwings are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Passeriformes, family Bombycillidae, genus *Bombycilla*.

Hummingbird is a common name for members of the family Trochilidae, small birds, related to the swifts, and found chiefly in the mountains of South America. Hummingbirds vary in size from a 2 1/4 -inch fairy hummingbird of Cuba (the smallest of all birds) to an 8 1/2inch giant hummer of the Andes, *Patagona gigas*.

Their colors are brilliant and jewel like; the feathers have a prismatic construction that iridescens in changing light. Hummingbirds feed on insects and the nectar of flowers, for which their long, slender bills are especially adapted. They are usually seen hovering or darting (at speeds of up to 60 mph) in the air as they feed in flight; their weak feet cannot support them on flat surfaces.

Their wing beats are so rapid (50-75 beats per sec) that the wings appear blurred. The enormous amount of energy expended on this continuous movement is supported by constant feeding; at night they lapse into a state of torpor like that of animals in hibernation. The nests vary but are usually tiny cups of soft vegetation fastened to the top of a branch. Several species are found in the W and SW United States. The only species found in the NE United States is the ruby-throated hummingbird. The male is metallic green above and whitish below, with an iridescent ruby-red throat; the female is dull-colored.

Hummingbirds are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Apodiformes, family Trochilidae.



Cowbird

The cowbird is a bird of the blackbird and oriole family. The male eastern, or common, cowbird is glossy black, about 8 in. (20 cm) long, with a brown head and breast; the female is gray. Most cowbirds lay their eggs in the nests of smaller bird species, victimizing especially vireos, sparrows, and flycatchers. Sometimes the alien egg is ejected or buried under a new nest floor or the nest is abandoned, but usually the host bird incubates the egg and feeds the voracious intruder while its smaller offspring are starved or crowded out. Cowbirds eat seeds but feed chiefly on insects, following behind grazing cattle in order to capture the insects stirred up in this way—hence the name *cowbird* and the earlier name *buffalo bird*.

Cowbirds are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Passeriformes, family Icteridae.



**Ruby-throated
Hummingbird**

Finch

Finch is a common name for members of the Fringillidae, the largest family of birds (including over half the known species), found in most parts of the world except Australia. True finches are characterized by their stout, conical bills, used to crack open the seeds that form the bulk of their diet. They are valued as destroyers of weed seeds; many also eat harmful insects. Since seeds, unlike insects, are not influenced by weather, many finches are year-round residents in colder areas.

Finches, considered the most highly developed of the birds, are classified into three groups: those with small, triangular bills, such as the canary, sparrow, bunting, towhee, junco, and those birds specifically named finch (e.g., chaffinch, bullfinch, and goldfinch); those with thick, rounded bills, as the grosbeak and cardinal; and the crossbills, rose-colored northern birds whose mandibles, as their name implies, cross over at the tips—an adaptation suited to their diet of conifer seeds.

The sparrows, genus *Passer*, which are field and hedge birds, are inconspicuously colored in dull grays and browns, but among the other, tree-perching finches, the male is often brightly plumaged (although the female is usually duller and sparrow like). Most finches (except the meticulous goldfinch) build sloppy cup-shaped nests for their four to six speckled eggs.

Goldfinches, named for the bright yellow markings of the male, are found in Europe and North America. The common American goldfinch, *A. tristis* (thistle bird, wild canary, or yellow bird), is a year-round resident everywhere on the North American continent except in the far north. Goldfinches are cheerful, musical birds, although the so-called goldfinches commonly kept as cage birds are finch like members of the weaver bird family. The European bullfinch, with blue-gray plumage above and terra-cotta below, is often caged; it can be taught to mimic tunes. The chaffinch, *Fringilla coelebs*, also popular in Europe as a cage bird, is similarly marked but with a chestnut back and wings and tail. In North America the sparrow like eastern purple finch, *Carpodacus purpureus* (actually rose-brown), has been largely driven out by the house sparrow. The redpolls, genus *Aegithus*, are northern finches that winter in the N United States; with the pine siskins, goldfinches, and various other seedeaters they wander around the country in small flocks, often congregating at feeding stations.

Finches are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Passeriformes, family Fringillidae.





Towhee

The Eastern Towhee was considered the same species as the Spotted Towhee until 1995. Where the two forms meet in the Great Plains, hybrids occur. It has red eyes across most of its range, but the towhees in Florida and southern Georgia have straw-colored eyes. Eye color is variable from southern Alabama to southeastern North Carolina. The name "Towhee," an imitation of this bird's call note, was given in 1731 by the naturalist and bird artist Mark Catesby, who encountered it in the Carolinas. A group of towhees are collectively known as a "tangle" and a "teapot" of towhees.



Sparrow

Sparrow is the common name of various small brown-and-gray perching birds. Sparrows are members of the finch family. They were named for their resemblance to the English sparrow and the European tree sparrow, both introduced in the Americas. Members of both groups have stout, conical beaks adapted to seed eating. Among the many sparrows found in the United States are the song sparrow, the white-throated sparrow (or Peabody bird), and the chipping, white-crowned, vesper, Lincoln's, fox, field, tree, and swamp sparrows. Sparrows are valuable to farmers in destroying weed seeds.

Swallow



The swallow is a migratory swift-flying songbird with a forked tail and long pointed wings, feeding on insects in flight. Its numerous species include the widespread barn swallow.

The American Crow is a large, black bird with dark, stout bill, iridescent body and blue-black wings. Eats insects, small invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and mammals, eggs and young of other birds, grains, fruits, refuse, and carrion. The American Crow has been greatly affected by the recent introduction of West Nile virus to North America. An infected bird will die in less than a week. In some areas the loss of crows has been substantial.

Crows are very smart - they have been taught to mimic the human voice, can count and work out solutions to simple problems and are fascinated with and collect shiny objects such as rings, keys and foil.

A group of crows has many collective nouns, including a "cauldron", "congress", "horde", "murder", and "muster" of crows.

The American Crow breeds from British Columbia, to Newfoundland south to California and Florida. Its preferred habitats include woodlands, farms, fields, river groves, shorelines, and towns.

American Crow



Grackle

The grackle is one of several species of stout-billed blackbirds within the genera *Quiscalus* and *Cassidix* of the family Icteridae. Sometimes called crow blackbirds, they have blackish, iridescent plumage.

The common grackle of North America may reach 30cm (12in) in length.

Species of Asian minna birds of the genus *Gracula* are also called grackles.

A shorebird you can see without going to the beach, Killdeer are graceful plovers common to lawns, golf courses, athletic fields, and parking lots. These tawny birds run across the ground in spurts, stopping with a jolt every so often to check their progress, or to see if they've startled up any insect prey. Their voice, a far-carrying, excited *kill-deer*, is a common sound even after dark, often given in flight as the bird circles overhead on slender wings.

Killdeer inhabit open areas such as sandbars, mudflats, and grazed fields. They are probably most familiar around towns, where they live on lawns, driveways, athletic fields, parking lots, airports, and golf courses. Generally the vegetation in fields inhabited by Killdeer is no taller than one inch. You can find Killdeer near water, but unlike many other shorebirds, they are also common in dry areas.

The killdeer is classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Charadriiformes, family Charadriidae.



Killdeer



Brown Thrasher

The thrasher is a thrush-like American songbird of the mockingbird family, with mainly brown or gray plumage, a long tail, and a down-curved bill.



Catbird

The Gray Catbird, a member of the mockingbird family, is a common breeding species over most of the US except the far west and southwest. Known for its ability to mimic the calls of other birds, it also makes a cat-like meowing sound that gives it its name. Its preferred habitats are thickets and brushy forest and roadside edges, especially near water. During winter months, it withdraws southward from its breeding range to the extreme southern US, Central America and northern South America. Its diet of caterpillars, cankerworms, gypsy moths, Japanese Beetles, June Beetles, grasshoppers, aphids, termites, and other insect pests, makes the Gray Catbird an economically important species. Fruits and berries are also included in its diet.



Northern Mockingbird

The mockingbird is a long-tailed thrush like songbird with grayish plumage, found mainly in tropical America and noted for its mimicry of the calls and songs of other birds. There are several species including the North American northern mockingbird. The mockingbird family (Mimidae) also includes the catbirds, thrashers, and tremblers.

WREN



Wrens are small, plump perching songbirds of the family Troglodytidae. There are about 60 wren species, and all except one are restricted to the New World. The plumage is usually brown or reddish above and white, gray, or buff, often streaked, below. Wrens are similar to sparrows but have longer, slender bills and usually perch with their tails cocked straight up. They are valuable insect destroyers. Among the best singers are the canyon, Carolina, and winter wrens. Most wrens nest in natural holes and cavities; house wrens, which range over most of the United States and southern Canada, will nest in boxes built for them and in crannies about dwellings. Also found in North America are the cactus, rock, and marsh wrens.

Wrens are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Passeriformes.

Belted Kingfisher



Kingfisher is the common name for members of the family Alcedinidae, essentially tropical and subtropical land birds. Kingfishers have chunky bodies, short necks and tails, large heads with erectile crests, and strong, long beaks. Most kingfishers are carnivorous. The family is divided into two subfamilies, the fishing and the forest kingfishers, the American species being in the former category.

The common eastern American belted kingfisher, *Megaceryle alcyon*, perches above the banks of freshwater streams and dives for small fish, crustaceans, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic insects, returning to its perch to eat. It is 12 to 14 inches long, blue-gray above and white beneath; the female has chestnut breast markings.

Fishing kingfishers nest in deep burrows dug out along streams. The burrows may extend up to 10 feet vertically, and from five to eight eggs are laid in the chamber rounded out at the end of the tunnel. Both male and female share the incubation duties. Many forest kingfishers nest in the same fashion as the fishing kingfishers, but some, e.g., the kookaburra, never go near the water and nest in trees.

Kingfishers are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Coraciiformes, family Alcedinidae.



Pigeon

Pigeon is the common name for members of the large family of land birds characterized by stout bodies, short necks, small heads, and thick, heavy plumage. The names dove and pigeon are used interchangeably, though dove generally refers to smaller members of the family.

All pigeons have soft swellings at the base of the nostrils, feed their young with "pigeon's milk" regurgitated from the crops of the parents, and have specialized bills through which they can suck up water steadily, unlike other birds. They eat chiefly fruits and seeds. From ancient times, pigeons—especially homing pigeons, which are also used as racing birds—have been used for carrying messages. Although electronics has largely replaced them as messengers, they are still of experimental importance. It is thought that they may navigate by the sun. Monogamous and amorous, pigeons are known for their soft cooing calls.

The most common American wild pigeon is the small, gray-brown mourning dove *Zenaidura macroura* (sometimes called turtledove), similar to the once abundant passenger pigeon, which was slaughtered indiscriminately and became extinct in 1914. Other wild American species are the band-tailed, red-billed, and white-crowned pigeons, all of the genus *Columba*, and the reddish brown ground-doves (genus *Columbina*).

Domesticated varieties developed by selective breeding include the fantail, with numerous erectile tail feathers; the Jacobin, with a hood like ruff; the tumbler, which turns backward somersaults in flight; the pouter, with an enormous crop; and the quarrelsome carrier, with rosettelike eyes and nose wattles.

Many species are valued as game birds; their close relationship to the pheasants and turkeys is illustrated by the sand grouse, an Old World pigeon named for its resemblance to the grouse. In religion and art the dove symbolizes peace and gentleness, and in Greek mythology it was sacred to Aphrodite. The long-extinct dodo and solitary birds were also members of this order.

Pigeons are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Columbiformes, family Columbidae.



Dove



Robin

The American Robin has a rust colored breast and is a member of the thrush family. The robin is typically thought to be the harbinger of spring.



Oriole

Oriole is the common name for various perching birds of the Old and New Worlds. The European orioles are related to the crows, while the American orioles belong to the blackbird and meadowlark family. Orioles are swift fliers. They have clear calls and some are very good mimics.

In the male Baltimore Oriole of eastern North America the head, throat, shoulders, wings, and tail are black and the rest of the plumage is orange. Its nest, a deep, woven bag, is suspended from the tip of a high branch.

Orioles feed chiefly on insects and fruit. Orioles lay four to six eggs per clutch and both sexes incubate the eggs.

Orioles are classified in the phylum Chordata,, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Passeriformes, families Icteridae (New World orioles) and Oriolidae (Old World orioles).



Red-winged Blackbird

The male Red-Winged Blackbird has glossy black feathers with red shoulder patches edged in dark yellow, a thick bill, a stocky body, rounded wings, and fairly short tail. The female resembles a large sparrow - dark brown with streaked underparts and a yellow tinge on her face and throat.

The Red-Winged Blackbird is found in the thick vegetation and reeds of marshy habitats and wet meadows. They are also found in brushy fields, dry pastures, orchards and woodlands across most of North America where they gather together in enormous flocks with other blackbirds in the fall and winter. They can be found year round in most states.

The red patch on the male is usually hidden except when he displays to advertise his nesting territory, and then he will flash his shoulder patch. He will also display his patch during singing. Their song is a flute sounding, gurgling "o-ka-lay" Another common sound is a "chack" note. Males are usually in the open but females tend to stay hidden. Both walk and hop on the ground while eating insects, seeds with some fruits and berries. In fall and winter they flock with cowbirds, grackles, starlings and other blackbirds forming huge flocks.



Tufted Titmouse

Titmouse is the common name for members of the Paridae, a family of passerine birds, which includes the tits, titmice, and chickadees. They are small, active birds with short, pointed bills and strong legs. Their soft, thick plumage is colored in grays and browns, occasionally highlighted by black and white or blue and yellow. Titmice are found chiefly in the Northern Hemisphere but also in Asia and Africa. They are adaptable and can be taught to perform tricks. In the wild, titmice travel in mixed flocks with nuthatches, creepers, kinglets, and woodpeckers, feeding mostly on small insects but also on seeds, fruits, and berries. The tufted titmouse, *Lophophanes bicolor*, is a mouse-gray bird with rust side patches common in the eastern United States. These titmice nest in tree cavities.

Titmice are classified in the phylum Chordata,, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Passeriformes, family Paridae.

Chickadee

The chickadee is a small North American bird of the titmouse family. The black-capped chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*), lively and gregarious, is a permanent resident over most of its range in the East. Both sexes have black caps, gray backs and wings, and fluffy white to buff under parts. They often swing upside down from branch tips, searching for the insects that form more than half their diet. Their call note gives the bird its name. Other species are the Carolina, the boreal, or brown-capped (of the Northeast), and the western chestnut-backed chickadees.

Chickadees are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Passeriformes, family Paridae.

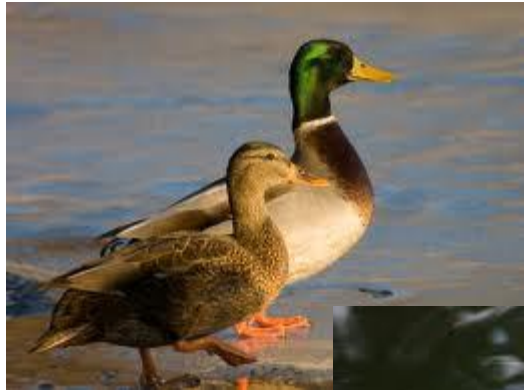


COOT



Coot is the common name for a migratory marsh bird related to rails and gallinules and found in North America and Europe. The American coot (*Fulica americana*), or mud hen, is slate gray with a white bill, black head and neck, and white wing edgings and tail patch. It has lobed toes and is a skillful swimmer and diver but takes flight awkwardly, pattering the water to gain impetus. It eats aquatic plants and insects. Gregarious except during breeding, the male broods eggs and chicks at night.

Coots are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Gruiformes, family Rallidae.



**Mallard
Duck**



Wood Duck

DUCK

Ducks are wild and domestic waterfowl of the family Anatidae, which also includes geese and swans. Strictly speaking, duck refers to the female and drake to the male. Ducks are usually divided into three groups: the surface-feeding ducks—such as the mallard, wood duck, black duck, and teal—which frequent ponds, marshes, and other quiet waters; the diving ducks—such as the canvasback, scaup, scoter, eider, and redhead—found on bays, rivers, and lakes; and the fish-eating ducks, the mergansers, with slender, serrated bills, which also prefer open water. The surface feeders take wing straight up, while the divers patter along the water's surface in taking off. Ducks make long migratory flights. At the time of the postnuptial molt, the power of flight is temporarily lost, and most of the Northern Hemisphere drakes assume "eclipse" plumage similar to that of the female.

In the mallard drake a white ring separates the bright-green head and neck from the chestnut breast, the back is grayish brown, the tail white, and the wings have blue patches. The wood duck, *Aix sponsa*, smaller than the mallard, nests in hollow trees; the drake is a varicolored, iridescent ornament to lakes and ponds. Ducks are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Anseriformes, family Anatidae.

Woodpecker

Red-headed Woodpecker



Woodpecker is the common name for members of the Picidae, a large family of climbing birds found in most parts of the world. Woodpeckers typically have sharp, chisel like bills for pecking holes in tree trunks, and long, barbed, extensible tongues with which they impale their insect prey. Their tail feathers act as a prop in climbing, resting, and drilling. Usually the male has a red or orange patch on its head and barred and spotted black or brown plumage with light under parts. Among the North American woodpeckers are the red-crested pileated woodpecker, or logcock; the redheaded and three-toed woodpeckers.

The flickers, genus *Melanerpes*, the only brown-backed woodpeckers, sometimes capture insects on the ground. The yellow-shafted flicker is known by many local names (e.g., high hole and yellowhammer) and interbreeds with the red-shafted flicker.

Woodpeckers are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Piciformes, family Picidae.



Common Flicker



Pileated Woodpecker

Eastern Kingbird (Flycatcher)

Flycatcher is the common name for various insectivorous songbirds including the kingbirds, phoebes, and pewees. Flycatchers vary in color from drab to brilliant, as in the crested monarch and paradise flycatchers of Asia and Africa. Flycatchers have large heads, broad shoulders, flattish bills, pointed wings, and small, weak legs and feet. Generally the tails are rounded or shallowly forked. Flycatchers characteristically feed by darting after insects from an advantageous perch; the name reflects their pugnacity toward crows, hawks, and other large birds, which they harass with great determination. Their crown feathers are more or less erectile. Many flycatchers are found near water.

The eastern kingbird is typical of the kingbird group; it has a dark back, white breast, and white-tipped tail. Kingbirds are also called bee martins, though they actually prefer other insects. The nesting habits of flycatchers vary; the typical nest is an open cup in a tree, but some nest on buildings and in concealed places.

Flycatchers are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Passeres, families Muscicapidae and Tyrannidae.



Nuthatch is common name applied to a number of species of small birds of the genus *Sitta*, related to the titmouse and the creeper. The name refers to its habit of wedging nuts into crevices in trees and pecking them open. Nuthatches are unique in that they climb down tree trunks headfirst in their search for insects and spiders. Unlike creepers, nuthatches have straight bills and do not use their short tail feathers as a prop.

Nuthatches are classified in the phylum Chordata, subphylum Vertebrata, class Aves, order Passeriformes, family Sittidae.

White-breasted Nuthatch