



**Field Guide
to the
BIRDS
of
Engelhorn
Pond**

Kiana Rose

Copyright © 2020 by Kiana Rose

Contents

Acknowledgements	iii
About Engelhorn Pond	iv
About the Project	v
About the Guide	vi
Ducks, Geese, and Swans	2
New World Quail	8
Pigeons and Doves	10
Hummingbirds	14
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots	17
Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies	19
Bitterns, Herons, and Allies	21
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies	23
Kingfishers	27
Woodpeckers and Allies	29
Caracaras and Falcons	32
Tyrant Flycatchers	36
Vireos	38
Jays and Crows	40
Swallows	45
Chickadees and Titmice	50
Nuthatches	52
Kinglets	54
Thrushes	57
Starlings	63
Waxwings	65
Old World Sparrows	67
Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies	69
Towhees and Sparrows	75
Blackbirds	81
Wood-Warblers	86
Cardinals, Piranga Tanagers and Allies	93
References	96

Acknowledgements

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank Dr. Alison Scoville, my committee chair, for her valuable support during the course of this project. I greatly appreciate her assistance. In addition, I would like to thank Jerry Scoville for his ornithological assistance during this project.

I would also like to thank the Kittitas Audubon Society for providing me with the 2019-2020 Research and Tuition Scholarship. This scholarship allowed me to continue my project and my college education free of debt.

In addition, I would like to thank the IACUC for approving my project.

I would also like to thank the CWU College of the Sciences for providing an Undergraduate Research Grant for the full funding of this guide.

In addition, I would like to thank Dr. Paul James, Jonathan Betz, and Mark Young from the CWU Biology Department for kindly allowing me to visit the pond and survey the birds there.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Reichert and Dr. Allyson Rogan-Klyve for their continued support throughout the course of this Douglas Honors College capstone project.

About Engelhorn Pond

Engelhorn Pond was acquired by the CWU Biology Department in 1976 (Matarrese 2015). It is located next to University Police and Public Safety.

The pond is composed of approximately 1.97 acres of jurisdictional wetland (SA 1996a). Plants like cattails, willows, and cherry trees are a common sight (SA 1996b). Near the entrance of the pond is the Native Plant Garden. This garden has an area of about 7,000 square feet (SA 1996a). Sagebrush, bitterbrush, and other native plants abound throughout this garden (SA 1996a). Clearly, the pond contains important wildlife habitat.

Engelhorn Pond is often visited by elementary, middle school, high school, and college students (SA 1996b). It is also utilized in many CWU biology classes (SA 1996a).

Birds are by far the most abundant and conspicuous organisms at the pond. The CWU Biology Department has a short list of the pond's avifauna, but it is incomplete (SA 1996b).

This lack of data, coupled with the pond's importance to the CWU community, inspired me to create this comprehensive guide.

About the Project

To survey the birds of Engelhorn Pond, I used point counts. Point counts are often utilized by ornithologists to estimate species abundance.

During point counts, a researcher stands at a specific point and surveys the birds there. Each point is at the center of a circular plot with a defined radius. The researcher records the avian species they both see and hear from that point.



I had two main sites at the pond where I conducted my surveys: Site A and Site B. Site A was in the Native Plant Garden and Site B was at the back of the pond.

I made 29 visits to the pond – 13 visits to do surveys and 16 visits to take photos and set up my survey sites. I visited the pond from April 2019 to March 2020. Each time I did surveys, I arrived just before sunrise. This helped me to discover an abundance of bird species – 67 to be exact.

About the Guide

Creating this guide was a difficult, but also very exciting process. I captured thousands of photos and made dozens of sketches over the course of this project.

I organized this guide taxonomically using the newest ABA Checklist. For each species, I used photos to illustrate common plumage patterns. When there were strong differences between the sexes, I used photos to distinguish them. I used a male or female symbol to do this.

Most of the photographs in this guide were taken at the pond during the project period. However, some of these photos were less than ideal. In those instances, I used photographs that I had captured at other locations.

Despite this, there were still a few species that I could not find photo records of. For these species, I created a drawing using *The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America* as a reference. I also created sketches for each species.

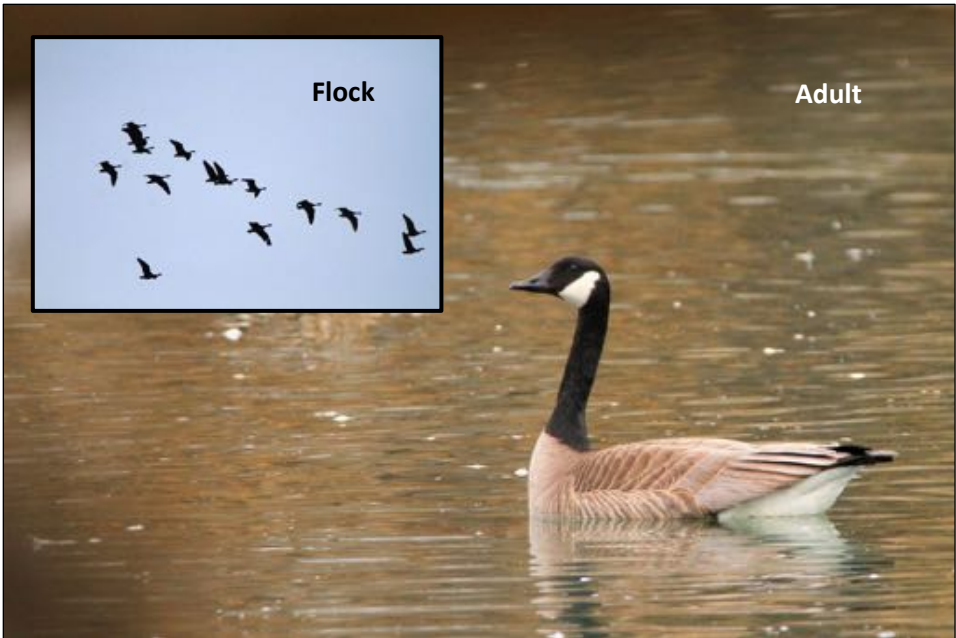
In each species profile, I explained the characteristic plumage patterns and vocalizations. I used *The Sibley Guide to Birds, Second Edition* as a reference for the length, wingspan, and vocalization of each species.

Each species was marked with seasonal symbols: a snowflake (winter), a flower (spring), a sun (summer), and a leaf (fall). I used the astronomical definition for these seasons. When I detected a species during a season, I used a black symbol. When I did not detect that species, I used a gray symbol. A detection was defined as at least one visual or auditory record of a species during my surveys or other observation periods.

The Guide

Ducks, Geese, and Swans (Anatidae)





Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

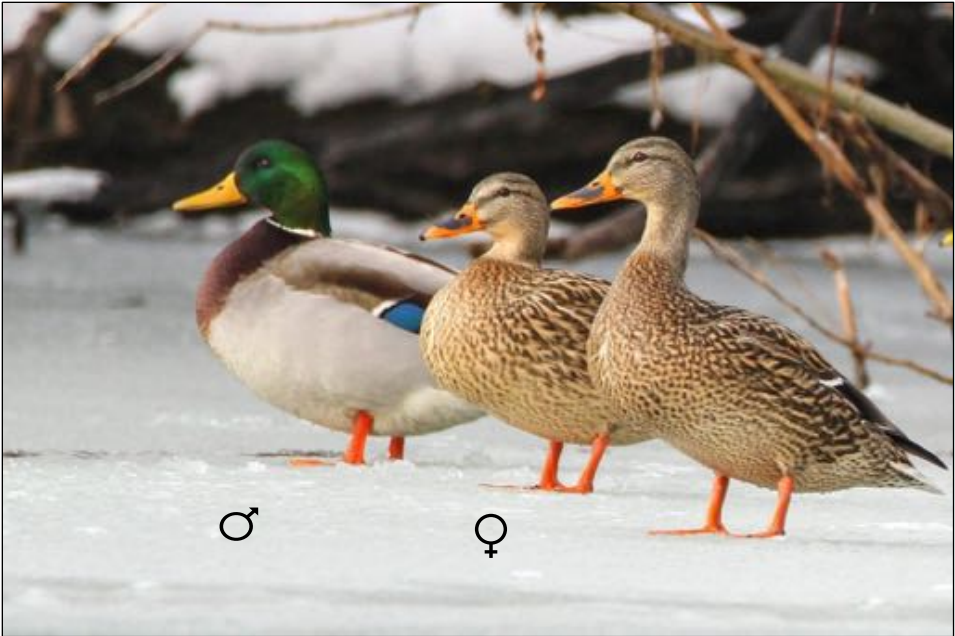
Length: 45" Wingspan: 60"

This is a big, conspicuous, widespread goose. Several large flocks pass over the pond throughout the year. The honks of dozens of geese flying in formation are unmistakable.

Voice

Call is a loud, deep "hronk".





Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Length: 23" Wingspan: 35"

This is the most common duck at the pond. Hundreds of individuals noisily fly away from the pond as the sun rises. The birds utter loud quacks as they take to the sky.

Voice

Male call is soft, raspy “rab, rab, rab”. Male also gives a wheezy whistle.
Female call is a classic, loud “quackquackquackquackquackquackquack”.





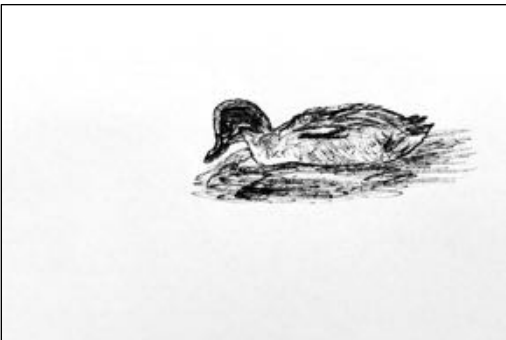
Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Length: 14" Wingspan: 23"

This duck is mysterious and shy. Individuals skulk under the branches that hang over the pond. This species can often only be detected by its loud call.

Voice

Male call is a clear, sweet "peep". Female call is a shrill "skee".





Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*)

Length: 17" Wingspan: 25"

This is a shy diving duck that takes up residence at the pond during the winter. The bright white "spur" on the male's side is visible from a great distance.

Voice

Male call is a low "queeee". Female call is a harsh, grating "grrrat".





Hooded Merganser *(Lophodytes cucullatus)*

Length: 18" Wingspan: 24"

This small diving duck skirts around the edges of the pond and tries to stay well-hidden. The male's black-and-white crest, which can be spread like a sail, is a spectacular sight.

Voice

Male call is a deep, croaking "brrrrrroggg". Female call is a grating, quacking "crrrak".



New World Quail (Odontophoridae)





California Quail (*Callipepla californica*)

Length: 10" Wingspan: 14"

This quail hangs out in the Native Plant Garden during warmer months. The many sagebrush and bitterbrush plants provide plenty of hiding spots.

Voice

Song is a loud, clear "chi-cah-go". Call is a loud "cah" or a soft, low "unh".



Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)





Rock Pigeon *(Columba livia)*

Length: 12.5" Wingspan: 28"

Small flocks of this species commonly wheel out over the pond at random intervals. The birds perform aerial acrobatics in skilled unison.

Voice

Call is an extremely deep, throaty "coo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oo". Wings often clap loudly in flight.





Eurasian Collared-Dove *(Streptopelia decaocto)*

Length: 13" Wingspan: 22"

This dove often flaps over the pond like a silent ghost. As its name suggests, this dove is a non-native species. It has spread widely since it came to North America.

Voice

Song is a low, hooting coo: "who-who, whoo, who-who, whoo". Call is a harsh "hrrraarn".





Mourning Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Length: 12" Wingspan: 18"

This dove can be seen passing over Engelhorn Pond like a swift arrow. This bird's mournful song is very distinctive.

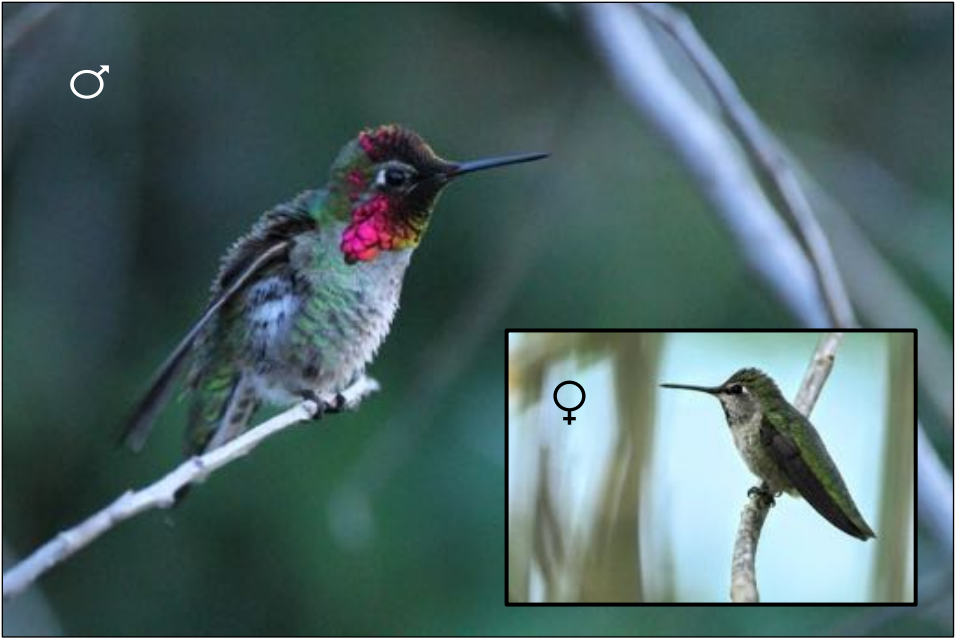
Voice

Song is a mournful, cooing "coooo-ooo, coo, coo, coo". Wings whistle in flight with a ghost-like "hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo".



Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)





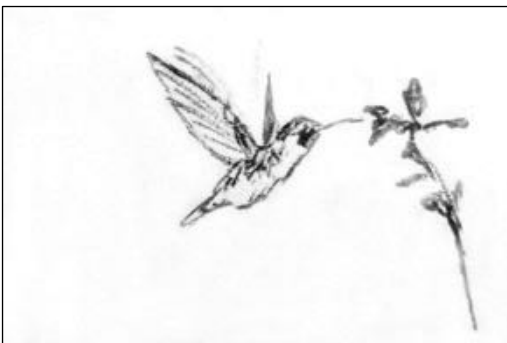
Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

Length: 4" Wingspan: 5.25"

This is a hardy hummer that can withstand a variety of weather conditions. It is comfortable in extreme cold or extreme heat.

Voice

Song is a buzzy, mushy, insect-like "ki-zee, ki-zee, ki-zee, ki-zee, ki-zee, ki-zee, gerrt, gzeeoh, gzeeoh, gzeeoh". Call is a soft "tip" or a rapid "zrrrr-jikajikajika".





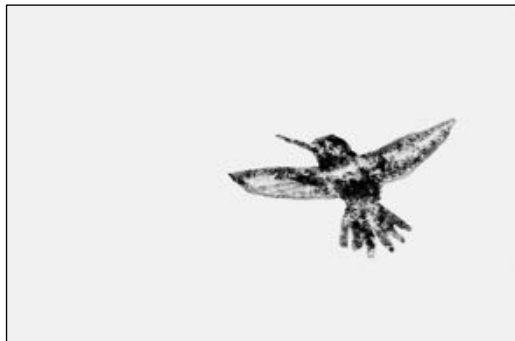
Rufous Hummingbird *(Selasphorus rufus)*

Length: 3.75" Wingspan: 4.5"

This hummingbird is tiny and extremely green. The male’s song, which is uttered in flight, has an impressive volume.

Voice

Song begins with a buzz and ends with galloping notes caused by air rushing through tail feathers: “zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz, uh-oo-oo-oo-ooch”. Call is a soft “tiup” or a buzzy “zeel, zeel, zeel, chzupy-chzupychup”.



Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (Rallidae)





American Coot (*Fulica americana*)

Length: 15.5" Wingspan: 24"

This bird looks like a cross between a chicken and a duck. It bobs its head as it swims along in the water. This species is highly aggressive and can often be found engaged in a high-speed chase.

Voice

Call is a loud, harsh, grating "prrruk" or a softer "pi-duk".



Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies (Scolopacidae)





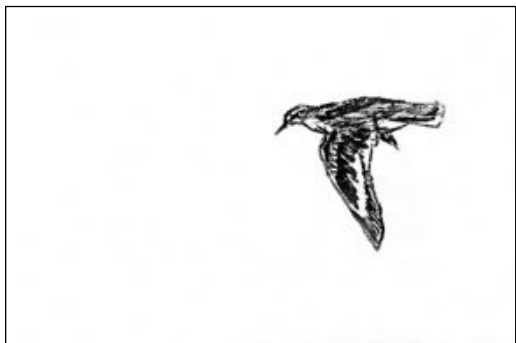
Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)

Length: 7.5" Wingspan: 15"

This bird can be identified by its fluttery, jerky flight style. It also bobs its tail while walking. This sandpiper's call is very distinctive as well.

Voice

Call is a loud, high "peet-weet, peet-weet, peet-weet".



Bitterns, Herons, and Allies (Ardeidae)





Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)

Length: 54" Wingspan: 72"

This bird can be spotted flying slowly and majestically over the pond like a modern-day pterodactyl. When seen from a distance, this bird can often be mistaken for an eagle, due to its enormous size.

Voice

Call is a loud, angry, honking "fraawnk".



Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies (Accipitridae)





Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)

Length: 11" Wingspan: 23"

This bird is swift, but deadly. It lies in wait, then suddenly chases after its feathered prey. Like all hawks, the female is larger than the male. This species can be distinguished from the Cooper's Hawk by its small head and square tail.

Voice

Call is a high, rapid "kiwkiwkiwkiwkiwkiw".





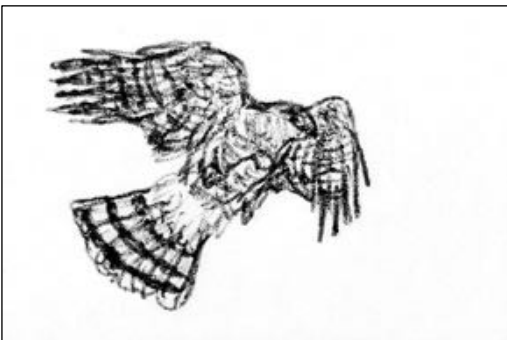
Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)

Length: 16.5" Wingspan: 31"

This bird is a powerful predator. Like the Sharp-shinned Hawk, it also uses ambushing techniques in its hunting. The Cooper's Hawk has a larger head and a more rounded tail than the Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Voice

Call is a low, urgent "pekpekpekpekpekpekpek".



Adult



Juvenile



Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Length: 19" Wingspan: 49"

This is the most widespread hawk in North America. Its bright reddish tail is a tell-tale field mark. This bird's loud, heartrending scream is also one of its most conspicuous characteristics.

Voice

Call is a classic, harsh, screaming "keee-aarrrrrr" or a high, squealing "chwee, chwee".



Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)





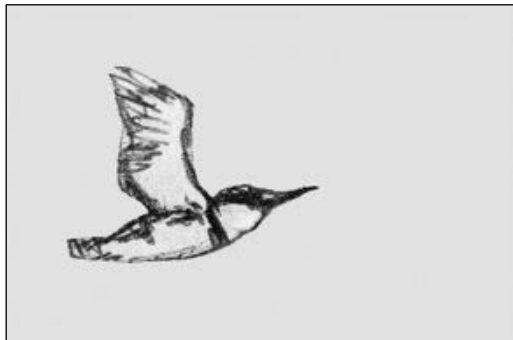
Belted Kingfisher *(Megasceryle alcyon)*

Length: 13" Wingspan: 20"

This bird has a distinctive hovering flight. It flutters over the water, then dives down headfirst to grab a fish. Its spiky crest is similar to a king's crown.

Voice

Call is a loud, hard rattle: "kikkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk".



Woodpeckers and Allies (Picidae)





Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*)

Length: 6.75" Wingspan: 12"

This small woodpecker inhabits a variety of habitats. It seems to enjoy foraging along the many willows at the pond.

Voice

Song is soft whinny: "kikikiki-ki-ki-i-i-i-ir". Call is a soft "peek" or a squeaky "tweek". Drum is a soft, rapid "ddddddrrrr".





Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)

Length: 12.5" Wingspan: 20"

This large woodpecker appears rather plain when perched. However, when it takes flight, its wings flash a bright yellowish orange. This can be seen even from a distance.

Voice

Song is a series of even notes: "wikwikwikwikwikwik". Call is a piercing "kleer", a gurgly "brrroogg", or the namesake "flick-a, flick-a, flick-a". Drum is a hard "d-d-drrrrrrrr".



Caracaras and Falcons (Falconidae)





American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

Length: 9" Wingspan: 22"

This falcon is extremely colorful, unlike many of the other falcons in North America. When hunting, this bird hovers in place like a large hummingbird.

Voice

Call is a high, rapid "kleekleekleekleekleeklee".





Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

Length: 10" Wingspan: 24"

This falcon is a quick and agile hunter. It will chase its winged prey tirelessly. Incredibly, this raptor can even capture dragonflies on the wing.

Voice

Call is a high, rapid, frantic "ree, ree, ree, ree-reereereereew".



Juvenile



Adult



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Length: 16"

Wingspan: 41"

This large falcon is known for its high-speed dive. When it spots its prey, this bird tucks in its wings and falls toward the earth at up to 270 miles per hour.

Voice

Call is a harsh, chanting "raahk, raahk, raahk, raahk, raahk, raahk".



Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)



Adult



Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*)

Length: 5.75" Wingspan: 8.25"

This flycatcher is very dull and inconspicuous. It perches on a branch, waits for insects to fly by, then flutters out and snaps them up.

Voice

Song is a dry series of short, plain notes: "sibip, grwere-ee, pee-seet". Call is a chipping "tip".



Vireos (Vireonidae)





Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*)

Length: 5.5" Wingspan: 8.5"

This dull bird skulks around in the trees at the pond during the spring. It is often mistaken for a warbler due to its small size and horizontal posture.

Voice

Song is a bright, rapid warble: "when I see you I will seize you and I'll squeeze you till you squirt". Call is a nasal, cat-like, mewing "meersh" or a hard "git".



Jays and Crows (Corvidae)





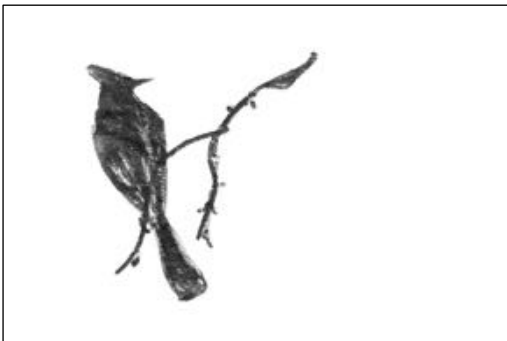
Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)

Length: 11.5" Wingspan: 19"

This jay is loud and boisterous. It announces its presence by harsh calls. The Steller's Jay will commonly consume the eggs and nestlings of other birds.

Voice

Calls are variable and raspy: a harsh "wakwakwakwakwak"; a raspy "rasch"; a honking "shongshong"; or a mechanical, rattling "rrrrrrrrrak". Also commonly imitates Red-tailed Hawk scream.





Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*)

Length: 19" Wingspan: 25"

This bird is loud and conspicuous. It has a beautiful, iridescent sheen on its wings and tail that can be seen in bright light.

Voice

Call is a high, questioning "rite?" or "rite-rite-rite-rite-rite".





American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

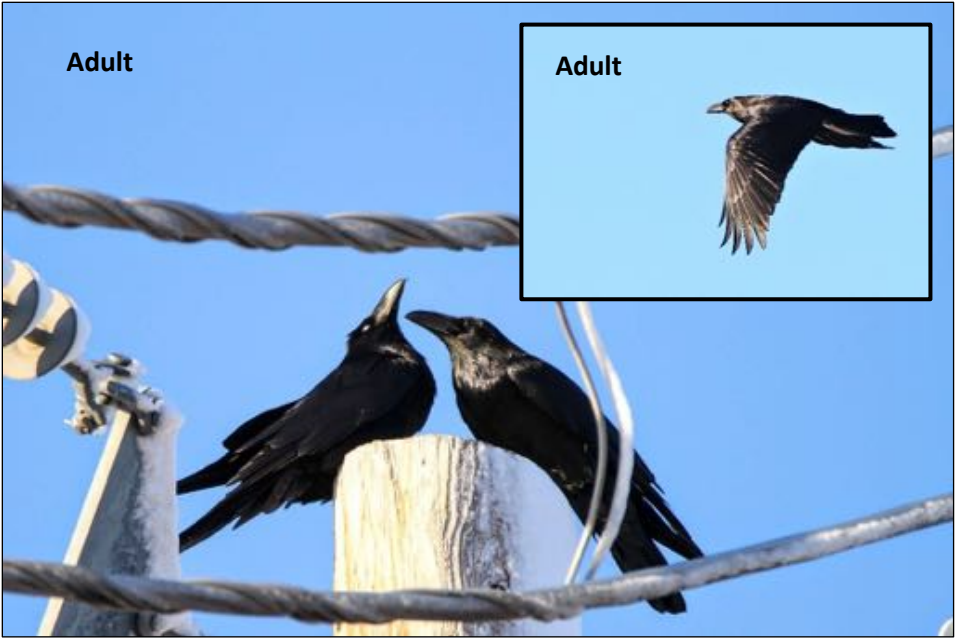
Length: 17.5" Wingspan: 39"

This is the most widespread corvid in North America. It is highly adaptable and can survive in a wide variety of environments. This species is often chased by Red-winged Blackbirds during the spring at the pond.

Voice

Call is extremely variable: a harsh "caw"; a dry, rattling "crrrrrr"; or a honking "crok". Calls are higher and clearer than Common Raven.





Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)

Length: 24" Wingspan: 53"

This large corvid gives distinctive, deep, croaking calls. It can be distinguished from the American Crow by its large size, bristly throat, and diamond-shaped tail.

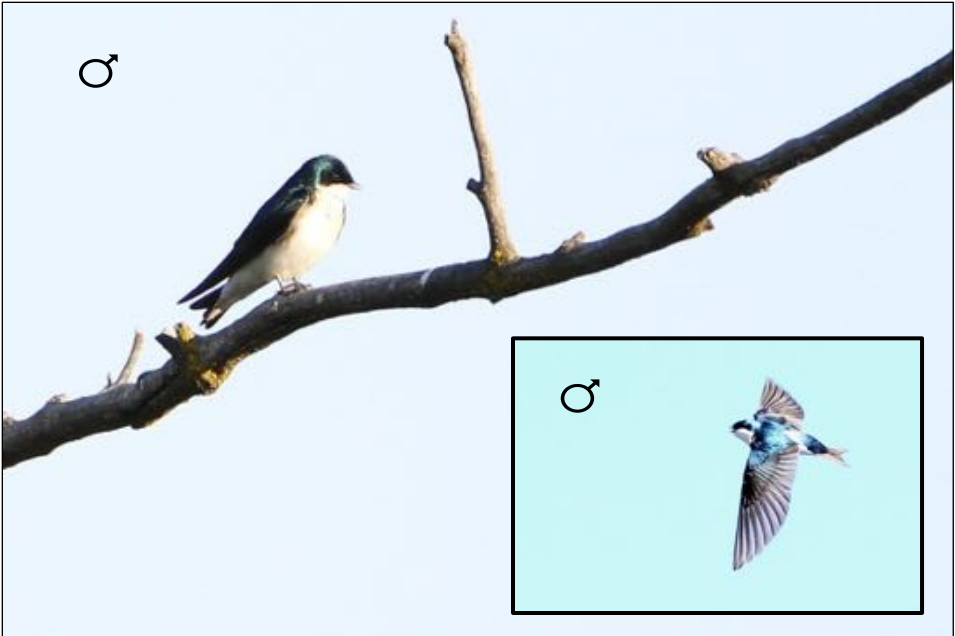
Voice

Call is extremely variable: a harsh, croaking "crraw"; a bell-like "ha-ah"; a hard "crok"; or a deep, rattling "broc-oc-oc-oc-oc". Calls are deeper, harsher, and louder than American Crow.



Swallows (Hirundinidae)





Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

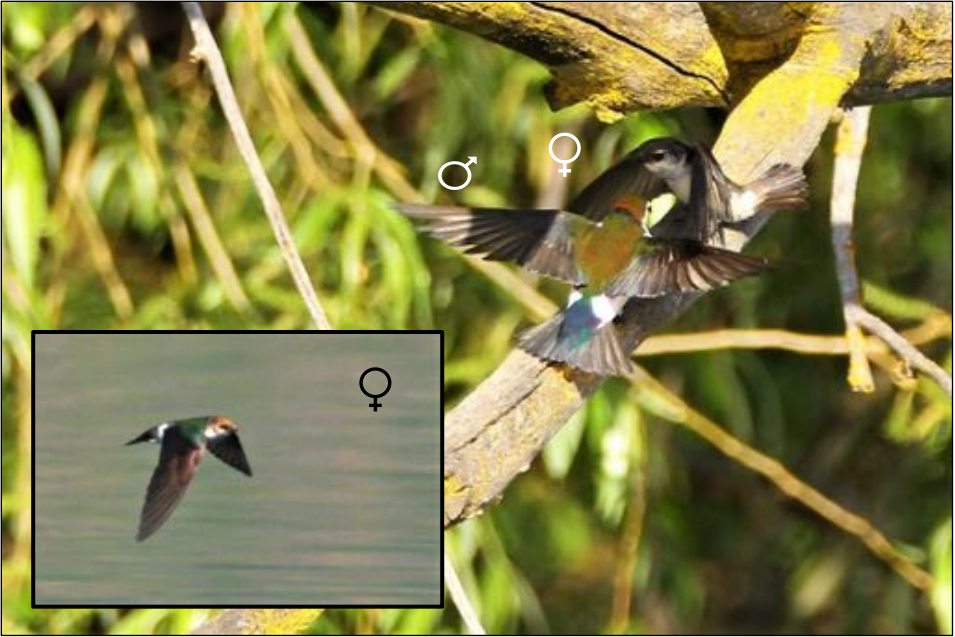
Length: 5.75" Wingspan: 14.5"

This is a beautiful blue swallow that is abundant at the pond during the spring and summer. The male is a vibrant turquoise, while the female is a duller bluish gray.

Voice

Song is high series of sweet, liquidy notes: "tweet-weet, tweet-weet, tweet-weet". Call is a sweet, soft "tsuwee"; "tweet"; or "tweet-weet".





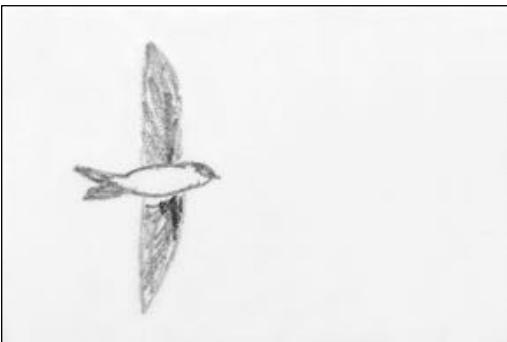
Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*)

Length: 5.25" Wingspan: 13.5"

This is the most common swallow at Engelhorn Pond. The male is a brilliant violet-green, while the female is duller and browner overall.

Voice

Song is a high series of notes: "cher-chee, chew-chew, chee, cher-chee, cher-chew". Call is a high, sharp "chee" or "chee-chew".





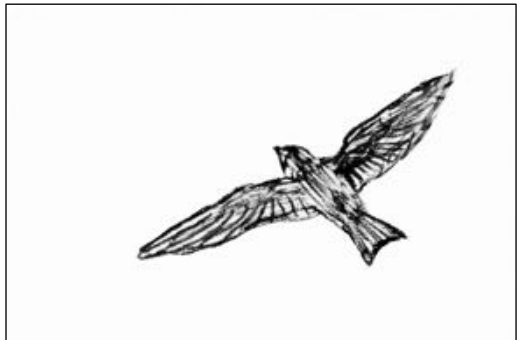
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

Length: 5.5" Wingspan: 14"

This is a very dull, brown swallow. Unlike many swallows, both the male and female look the same.

Voice

Call is a dull, buzzy "frggit".





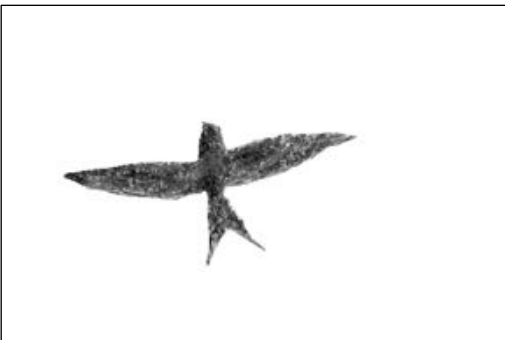
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Length: 6.75" Wingspan: 15"

This is one of the world's most abundant swallows. It is easily distinguished from other swallows by its long, forked tail. The male has a bright orange belly and a long tail. The female has a yellowish belly and a shorter tail

Voice

Song is a rapid series of squeaky notes: "ree-ee-rye-ee-rye-ee-rye-ee-rye-oo-oo-oo-oo-veet". Call is a high, squeaky "veet" or "vit".



Chickadees and Titmice (Paridae)





Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*)

Length: 5.25" Wingspan: 8"

This is one of the most common songbirds at the pond. This species is extremely curious and bold. It often came within a few feet of the researcher.

Voice

Song is a sweet, high whistle: "hee-sweetie". Call is a chattering "chickadeedeede", a high "chee", or a gurgly "see-eeclaw". Alarm is an extremely high, rapid "seeseeseeseeseeseese".



Nuthatches (Sittidae)





Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*)

Length: 4.5" Wingspan: 8.5"

This is a small, rather shy songbird. The male has a black crown and bright orange belly. The female has a gray crown and a yellowish belly.

Voice

Song is a series of horn-like, nasal notes: "haa, haa, haa, haa, haa". Call is a nasal "haa", a soft "hee", or an angry, raspy "hack-ack".



Kinglets (Regulidae)





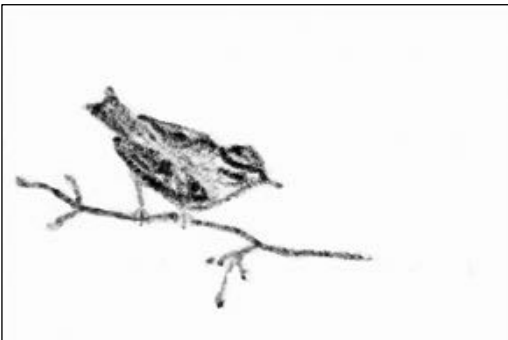
Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*)

Length: 4" Wingspan: 7"

This is one of the smallest birds at the pond. It often travels in mixed flocks with Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Black-capped Chickadees. The male has an orange stripe through his crown, which the female lacks.

Voice

Song is an extremely high series of rapid notes: "tzee-tzee-tzee-tzee, chee-ee-ee-ee-ee-ee-chi-bi-bich-bich". Call is a high, buzzy "tzee" or "tzee-tzee".





Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*)

Length: 4.25" Wingspan: 7.5"

Although tiny, this bird is very loud. It can often be heard uttering chattering calls while fluttering madly through the trees. The male has a red crown, which the female lacks.

Voice

Song is a galloping series of high, chortling notes: “ree-che, ree-che, reereereere, dewdewdew – dididididi – whoocheewoocheewoocheeweeet”. Call is an abrupt “ji-dit”.



Thrushes (Turdidae)



Adult



Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*)

Length: 7" Wingspan: 12"

This bird is quite shy but is very beautiful. Its song is very loud and mysterious.

Voice

Song is a descending series of sweet notes that are the bird's namesake: "ree-veerveerveer". Call is a slightly buzzy "veer".



Adult



Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)

Length: 7"

Wingspan: 12"

This thrush is a common resident in the Pacific Northwest. Its olive-brown coloration allows it to blend in with its surroundings.

Voice

Song is an ethereal series of sweet, spiraling notes: "who-who, why-oh, see-why-oh, seewheehwheehwheeh". Call is a high, questioning "rhee?" or a chattering "whee-achach".



Adult



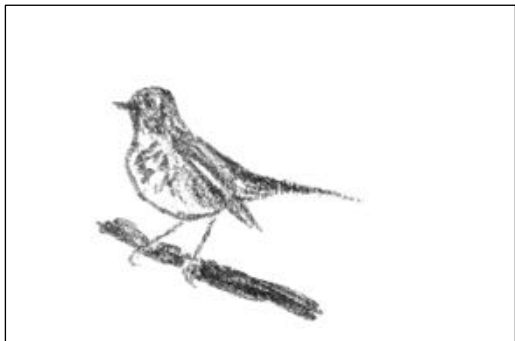
Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*)

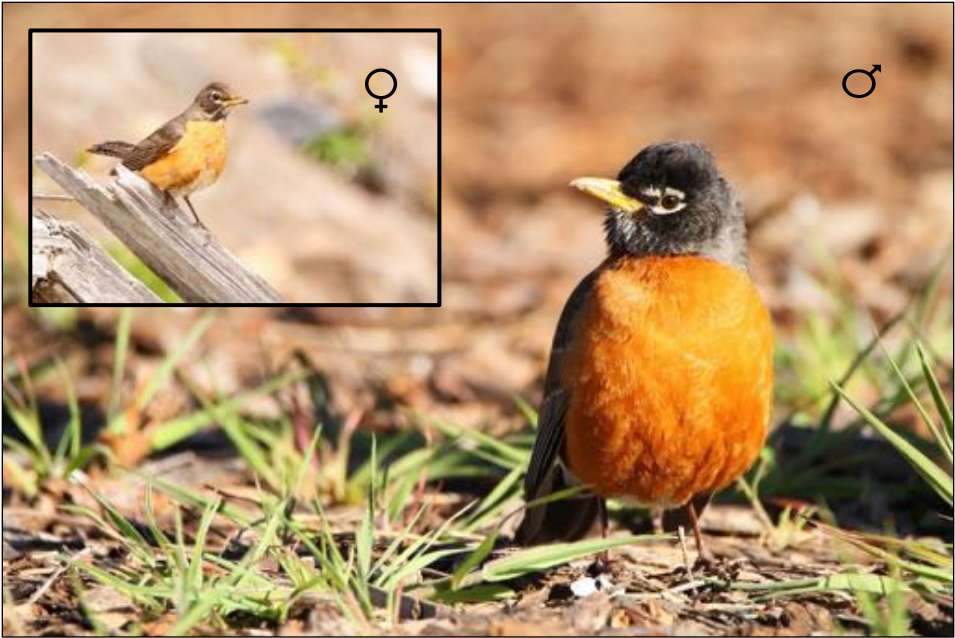
Length: 6.75" Wingspan: 11.5"

This species looks very similar to the Swainson's Thrush. However, it has an orange tail and bolder, darker spots on its breast.

Voice

Song is a mysterious series of sweet, clear notes "see, uh-wheeoh, kleeekleeeklee, seee, puritypurity". Call is a hard "chup".





American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

Length: 10" Wingspan: 17"

This is one of the most common birds in North America. This bird is commonly seen flying over the pond uttering thin calls.

Voice

Song is a sweet, measured whistle: "cheerily, cheereo, cheerily, cheereo". Call is a soft "up", a rapid "twee-twee", or a high "seep". Alarm is a high, sharp "peek" or a drawn-out "seeeeeeee".





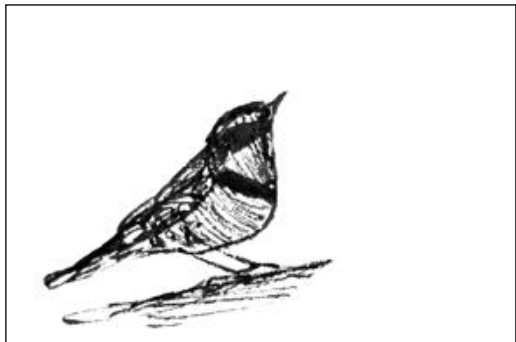
Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

Length: 9.5" Wingspan: 16"

This thrush is a common winter resident in the Pacific Northwest. Its unique coloration makes it easy to distinguish from the other thrushes.

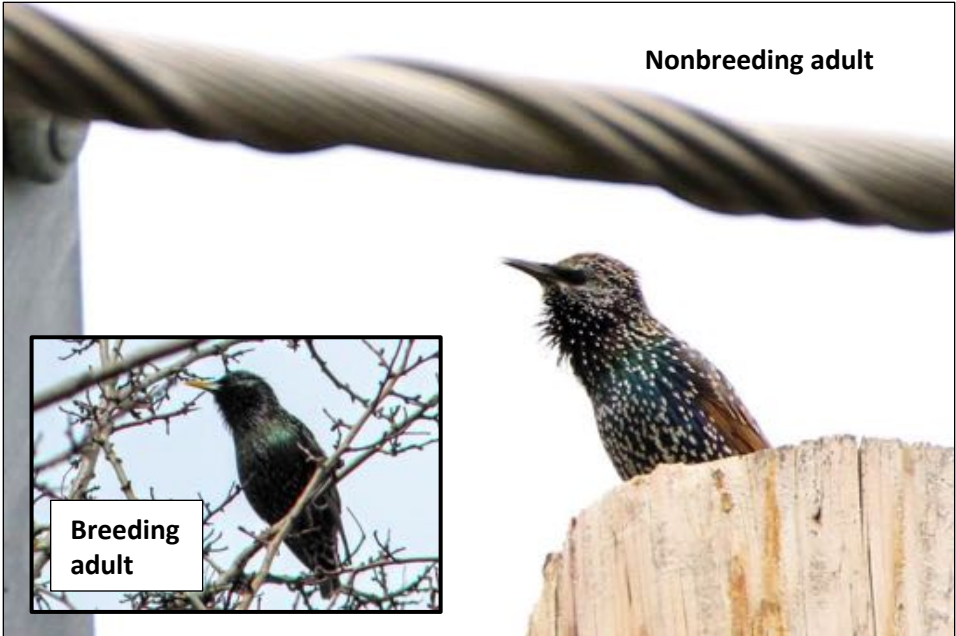
Voice

Song is an eerie, buzzing, drawn-out “hrreeeeeeeeeeeeeeee”. Call is a soft “chiup” or a high “heee”.



Starlings (Sturnidae)





European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Length: 8.5" Wingspan: 16"

This bird is a widespread invasive species that displaces many native birds. In the winter and spring, males often sing from the telephone poles in the Native Plant Garden.

Voice

Song is a mushy gurgle of squeaky, scraping, and whistled notes that often contain imitations of other species' vocalizations. Call is a sweet "wheoo", a mushy "wershh", or a sudden "bench".



Waxwings (Bombycillidae)



Adults



Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

Length: 7.25" Wingspan: 12"

This is a unique, stunning songbird. Like robins, this species utters thin calls, but it is nearly always in large flocks.

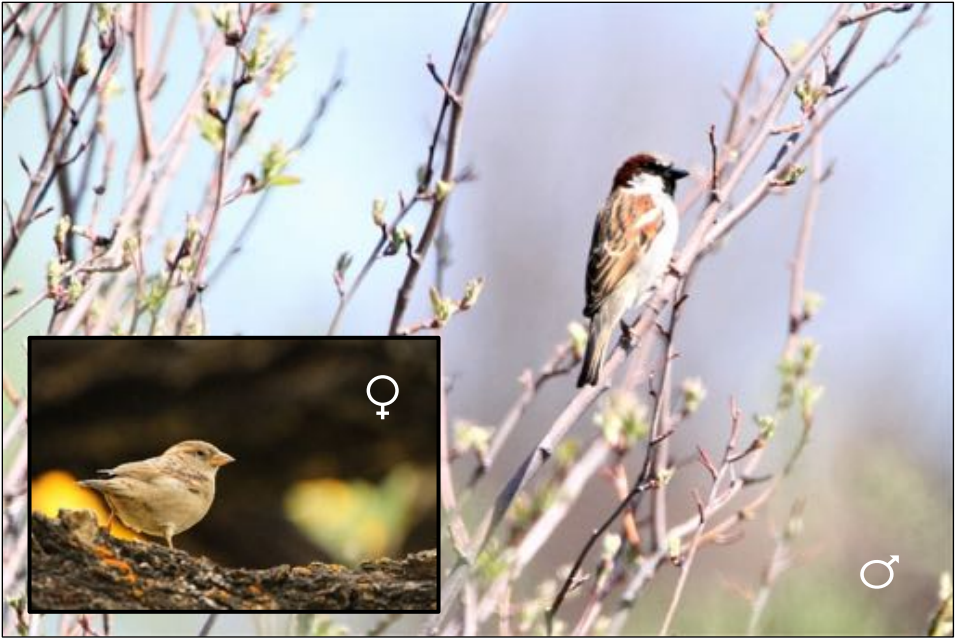
Voice

Call is a soft, high "see" or "see-see-see".



Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)





House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Length: 6.25" Wingspan: 9.5"

This is another invasive species. It is most often found near the entrance gate of the pond, or near the fence at the back of the pond.

Voice

Song is a long series of sweet chirps: "chleelp, chleelp, chleelp, chleelp, chleelp". Call is a sweet "chleelp" or a hard, angry "bowbow".



Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies (Fringillidae)





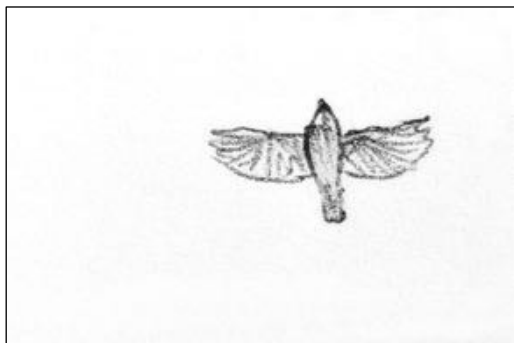
Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)

Length: 8" Wingspan: 14"

This is a beautiful songbird that can be seen flying over the pond. In flight, the markings of this bird are hard to distinguish, but its calls give it away.

Voice

Call is a high, ringing "deee-oo" or a rattling "klerrrr".





House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*)

Length: 5.7" Wingspan: 10"

This is a very common finch. It is often seen bounding over the pond. Males often sing loudly in flight.

Voice

Song is a rollicking series of sweet notes and buzzes: "see-ah, soo-seehooohoo, seehooohoo, seehooohoo-whee-chzzeew". Call is a bright, questioning "white?" or a high "wheet".





Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)

Length: 6.25" Wingspan: 11"

This is another songbird that commonly passes over the pond. Like the Evening Grosbeak, it utters loud calls in flight. Its unique twisted bill allows it to pry open tough cones.

Voice

Song is a jumbly mix of warbles and call notes. Call is a hard, ringing "gyp" or "gyp-gyp".





Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*)

Length: 5" Wingspan: 9"

This finch is tiny, but loud. Males and females look very similar, but males tend to have more yellow on their wings.

Voice

Song is a jumbly mix of sweet and flat notes "bew-uh-uh-bew". Call is a soft "bump", a quick "kdeew", or a drawn-out "beeee-zeeew".





American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*)

Length: 5" Wingspan: 9"

This is a brilliant, lemon yellow finch. It has a unique, rollicking flight that makes it easy to identify, even from a distance.

Voice

Song is a rapid, variable jumble of high, bright notes "see-chew-chew-whee-perchikoree". Call is a sweet "perchikoree", a high "sly-slee", or a rapid "deedeede".



Towhees and Sparrows (Passerellidae)





Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*)

Length: 6.25" Wingspan: 9.25"

This junco is often seen in the Native Plant Garden. Its loud chipping calls often betray its presence. In flight, the bird's bright white outer tail feathers are a key characteristic.

Voice

Song is an even, ringing, musical trill: "didididididididididid". Call is a hard, smacking "tit" or a trilling "ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-tit".





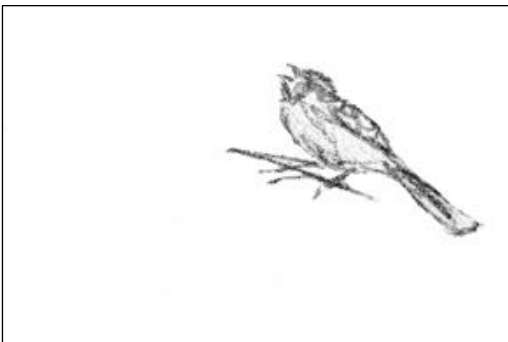
White-crowned Sparrow *(Zonotrichia leucophrys)*

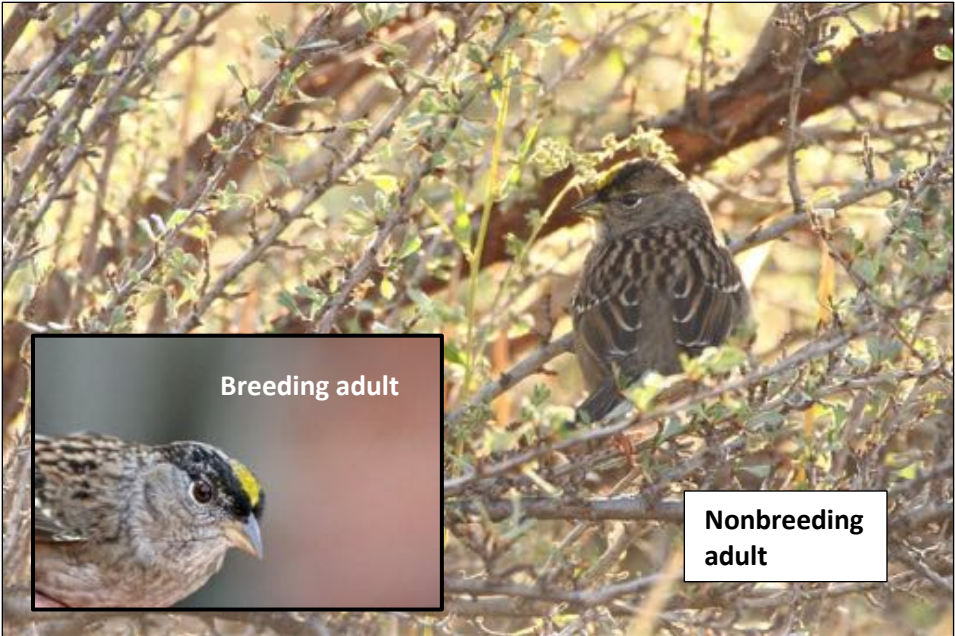
Length: 7" Wingspan: 9.5"

This is a rather shy sparrow. However, it has a very loud song. The stripes on its back allow it to camouflage well in its brushy habitat.

Voice

Song is a bright, upbeat series of high notes often ending with a buzz: "seee, seeahwhee-chee-chzzzeew". Call is a bright, ringing "bink" or a soft "seep".





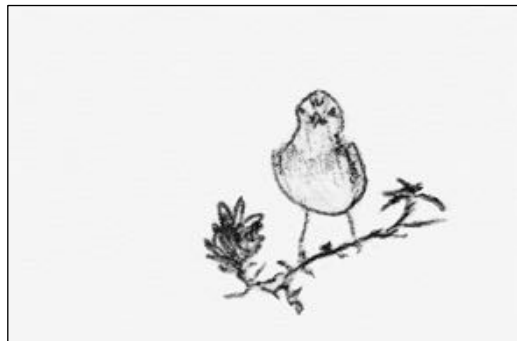
Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

Length: 7.25" Wingspan: 9.5"

This is another rather quiet sparrow. The call of this species can be hard to distinguish from the White-crowned Sparrow, but their songs are easy to tell apart.

Voice

Song is a high, melancholy "seeeeeee-oh-see-see". Call is a soft "seep".





Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)

Length: 6.25" Wingspan: 8.25"

This is one of the most common sparrows at the pond. It can commonly be heard singing around the edges of the pond. It also tends to be easily alarmed and will utter sharp calls.

Voice

Song is a variable series of high, rising notes mixed with buzzy trills: "swee, swee, aah-heeheeheeheehee-ach-heekh". Call is a husky "chimp", a high "seet", or a piercing "tik".





Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

Length: 8.5" Wingspan: 10.5"

This is a colorful bird, but it is rather hard to see. Its song can be mistaken for that of a Dark-eyed Junco, but the towhee's song is more rattling and electric.

Voice

Song is a mechanical, rattling "why-chee-ee-ee-ee". Call is a questioning "eeahh?" or a rising, buzzy "tzzee-eeet".



Blackbirds (Icteridae)





Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

Length: 9" Wingspan: 12"

This is a gorgeous blackbird that spends the warmer months at the pond. The male is a striking orange, black, and white, but the female is more muted and yellow overall.

Voice

Song is a sweet, chattery "cheew-achach-cheew". Call is a chattery "achachachachach".





Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

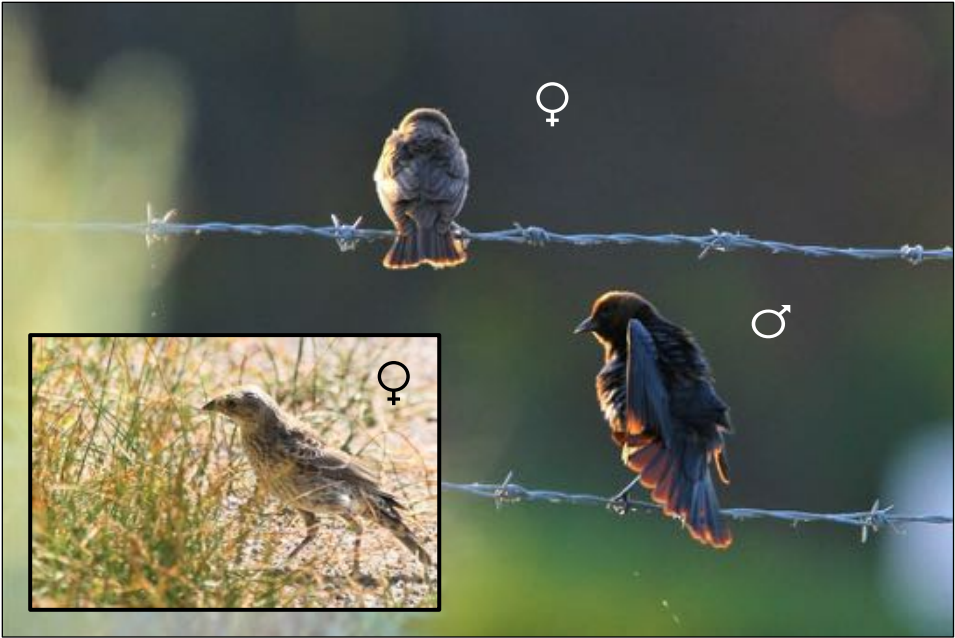
Length: 8.75" Wingspan: 13"

This is a loud, bold, aggressive blackbird. The male will chase anything he deems as a threat – even a passing American Crow.

Voice

Song is a loud, honking “ronkah-laaaaay-oh”. Both sexes give a sharp “kek” call. Alarm call is a piercing “teeee.” Female call is a high, frantic chatter: “cheecheecheecheew”.





Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)

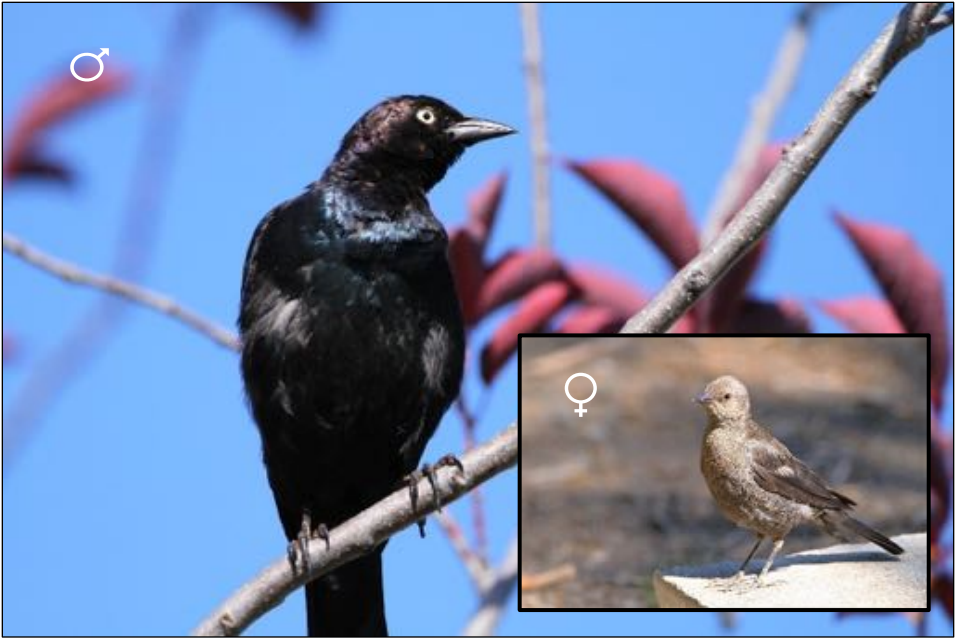
Length: 7.5" Wingspan: 12"

This blackbird can become very loud during the spring and summer. Males will often chase females around; uttering loud, liquidy whistles to court them.

Voice

Song is a squeaky, liquidy "glug-glug-gleeseehh". Female call is a rapid, chattering "bichbichbichbich". Male call is a squeaky whistle: "tsee-tee-tee".





Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

Length: 9" Wingspan: 15.5"

This blackbird is often seen flying over the pond. It can be mistaken for a starling, but its long tail and thin neck distinguish it from the non-native species.

Voice

Song is a squeaky, mechanical "schlee". Call is a hard, nasal "ket".



Wood-Warblers (Parulidae)





Nashville Warbler (*Leiothlypis ruficapilla*)

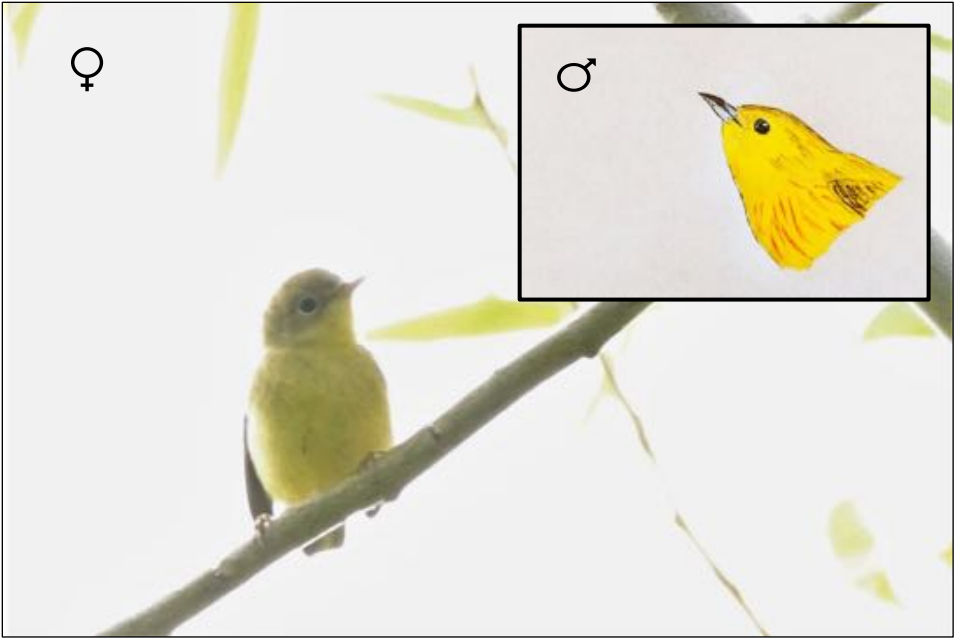
Length: 4.75" Wingspan: 7.5"

This is a beautiful warbler that forages in a variety of habitats at the pond. The male has a dark gray hood and a red crown. The female's hood is a paler gray and she lacks a red crown.

Voice

Song is a sweet "seetaseetaseetaseetapliplipli". Call is a dull "tep".





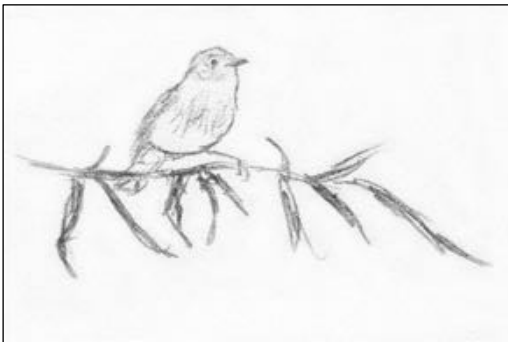
Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*)

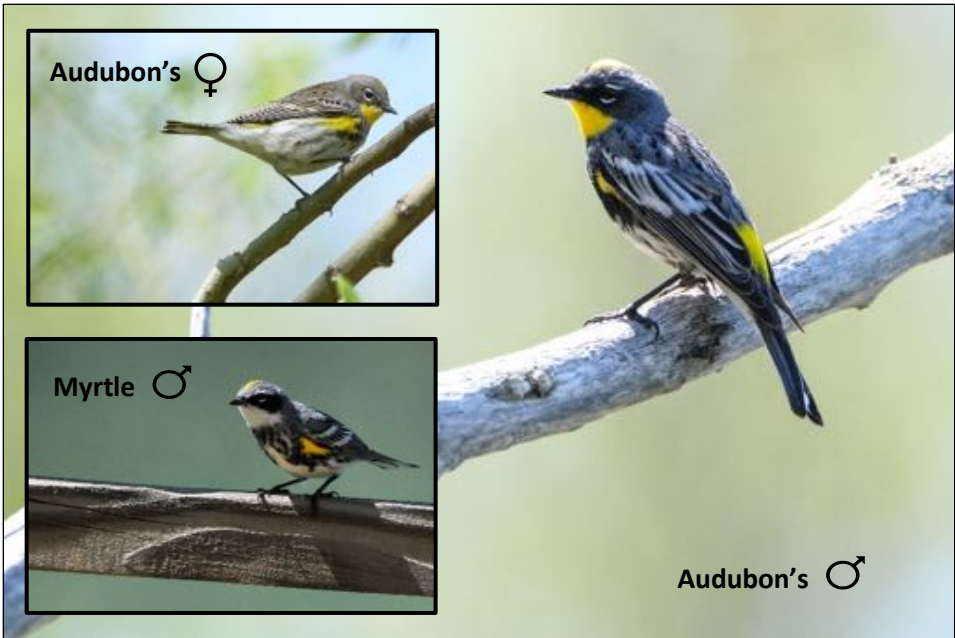
Length: 5" Wingspan: 8"

This bird fits its name very well. This is a beautiful warbler with a distinctive song. The male has bright red stripes on his breast, which the female lacks.

Voice

Song is a sweet "sweetsweetsweet-tootootoo-weet". Call is a ringing "chip".





Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*)

Length: 5.5" Wingspan: 9.25"

Hundreds of Yellow-rumped Warblers fill the skies during the early spring at the pond. This species comes in two distinct populations: Audubon's and Myrtle. Audubon's is more common in the western states than Myrtle.

Voice

Song is a dull, warbling "seedseedseed!". Call is a chipping, ringing, bright "pit", a dull "tep", or a high "seet!"





Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*)

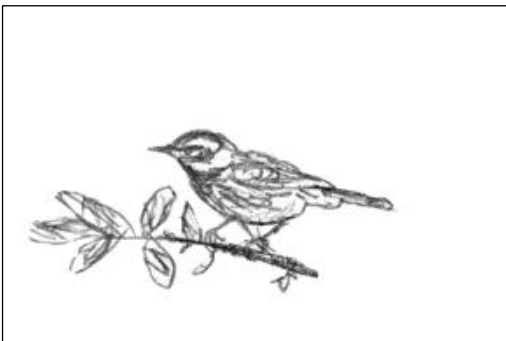
Length: 5"

Wingspan: 8"

This is a shy, retiring warbler. It is very beautiful, however. This species is unique to the Pacific Northwest and is often found in moist, coniferous forests.

Voice

Song is a high, wheezy "weezyweezyweezydee-zee". Call is a dull, flat "tip".





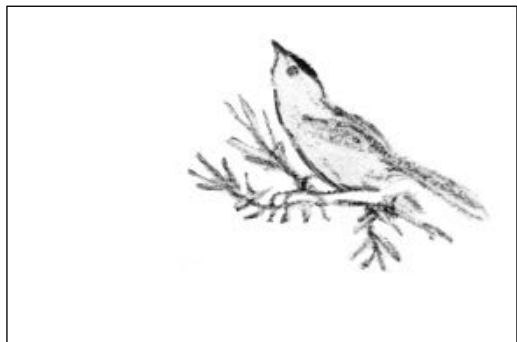
Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*)

Length: 4.75" Wingspan: 7"

This is a very active warbler. Like the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, it often hovers while foraging. The male has a dark black cap, while the female has a less extensive, grayer cap.

Voice

Song is a rapid, chipping "chichichichichichichi". Call is a soft, husky "jip".



Cardinals, Piranga Tanagers and Allies (Cardinalidae)





Western Tanager *(Piranga ludoviciana)*

Length: 7.25" Wingspan: 11.5"

This is a brilliant songbird. The male's bright red head is stunning. The female can often be mistaken for a warbler, but this species is much larger than a warbler.

Voice

Song is a raspy whistle that sounds like a robin with a sore throat. Call is a raspy "pit-er-eek".





Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

Length: 8.25" Wingspan: 12.5"

This is a stunning songbird with a melodious song. The female is very different from the male. She is more streaky, brown, and sparrow-like.

Voice

Song is a sweet, rich, whistling melody that sounds like a robin who has eaten honey: "wheoo-wee, wheeoh-woh, wheoo-wee". Call is a squeaky "piik".



References

[ABA] American Birding Association [Internet]. 2019 Dec 11. Delaware City (DE): ABA Checklist. 22p. [cited 2020 June 10]. Available from https://www.aba.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ABA_Checklist-8.0.6a.pdf

Matarrese A. [Internet]. 2015 Mar 30. Engelhorn Pond used for education, research, habitat. The Daily Record (WA): DailyRecordNews.com; [cited 2020 June 10]. Available from https://www.dailyrecordnews.com/news/engelhorn-pond-used-for-education-research-habitat/article_631ddb50-d722-11e4-b6aa-9f091e27ac53.html

[SA] Springwood Associates. Seattle (WA). (Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA). 1996a. Englehorn pond & native plant garden: ecological properties and current usage. Available from F:\95113\enrprt.bio.

[SA] Springwood Associates. Seattle (WA). (Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA). 1996b. Englehorn pond wetland delineation report. Available from F:\95102a\fnlprpt.doc.

Sibley DA. 2014. The Sibley guide to birds. 2nd ed. New York (NY): Alfred A Knopf, Inc. 624 p.

Stokes DW, Stokes LQ. 2010. The Stokes field guide to the birds of North America. New York (NY): Little, Brown. 791 p.



Engelhorn Pond is home to 67 species of birds, from waterfowl to warblers.

This guide contains over 130 photographs and 70 drawings that illustrate the variety of avifauna at this special preserve.