

semite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Rob

Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins
none

Table of Contents

<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	1
<u>About the Authors</u>	4
<u>Bibliographical Information</u>	6
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park</u>	7
<u>Contents</u>	7
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	10
<u>Preface</u>	10
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	12
<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	12
<u>HOW TO USE THIS BOOK</u>	12
<u>HOW TO STUDY BIRDS</u>	13
<u>SOME BIRD GROUPS</u>	14
<u>CONSERVATION OF BIRDS</u>	15
<u>MIGRATION OF BIRDS</u>	16
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	18
<u>DISTRIBUTION OF BIRDS IN YOSEMITE</u>	18
<u>ALTITUDES OF LIFE ZONES IN THE YOSEMITE REGION WITH PLANT AND</u> <u>BIRD INDICATORS</u>	19
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	22
<u>BIRD DESCRIPTIONS AND ILLUSTRATIONS</u>	22
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	26
<u>GREBES: Order Podicipediformes</u>	26
<u>GREBES: Family Podicipedidae</u>	26
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	29
<u>PELICAN-LIKE BIRDS: Order Pelecaniformes</u>	29
<u>PELICANS: Family Pelecanidae</u>	29
<u>CORMORANTS: Family Phalacrocoracidae</u>	29
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	32
<u>STORK-LIKE BIRDS: Order Ciconiiformes</u>	32
<u>HERONS AND BITTERNS: Family Ardeidae</u>	32
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	35
<u>GOOSE-LIKE BIRDS: Order Anseriformes</u>	35
<u>DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Family Anatidae</u>	35
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	45
<u>HAWK-LIKE BIRDS: Order Falconiformes</u>	45
<u>AMERICAN VULTURES: Family Cathartidae</u>	45
<u>KITES, HAWKS, AND EAGLES: Family Accipitridae</u>	45
<u>OSPREYS: Family Pandionidae</u>	48
<u>FALCONS: Family Falconidae</u>	49

Table of Contents

<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins.....</u>	53
<u>FOWL-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Galliformesr.....</u>	53
<u>r GROUSE: Family Tetraonidaer.....</u>	53
<u>r QUAIL AND PHEASANTS:r Family Phasianidaer.....</u>	54
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins.....</u>	57
<u>CRANE-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Gruiformesr.....</u>	57
<u>r RAILS: Family Rallidaer.....</u>	57
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins.....</u>	60
<u>PLOVER-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Charadriiformesr.....</u>	60
<u>r PLOVERS: Family Charadriidaer.....</u>	60
<u>r SNIPE, SANDPIPERS, ETC.:r Family Scolopacidaer.....</u>	61
<u>r AVOCETS AND STILTS:r Family Recurvirostridaer.....</u>	62
<u>r PHALAROPES:r Family Phalaropodidaer.....</u>	62
<u>r GULLS AND TERNS:r Family Laridaer.....</u>	63
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins.....</u>	66
<u>PIGEON-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Columbiformesr.....</u>	66
<u>r PIGEONS AND DOVES:r Family Columbidaer.....</u>	66
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins.....</u>	68
<u>CUCKOO-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Cuculiformesr.....</u>	68
<u>r CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS,r ETC.: Family Cuculidaer.....</u>	68
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins.....</u>	70
<u>OWLS:r Order Strigiformes.....</u>	70
<u>r TYPICAL OWLS:r Family Strigidaer.....</u>	70
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins.....</u>	75
<u>GOATSUCKER-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Caprimulgiformesr.....</u>	75
<u>r GOATSUCKERS:r Family Caprimulgidaer.....</u>	75
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins.....</u>	78
<u>SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS:r Order Apodiformesr.....</u>	78
<u>r SWIFTS: Family Apodidaer.....</u>	78
<u>r HUMMINGBIRDS:r Family Trochilidaer.....</u>	79
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins.....</u>	83
<u>ROLLER-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Coraciiformesr.....</u>	83
<u>r KINGFISHERS: Family Alcedinidaer.....</u>	83
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins.....</u>	85
<u>WOODPECKER-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Piciformesr.....</u>	85
<u>r WOODPECKERS: Family Picidaer.....</u>	85

Table of Contents

<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	92
<u>PERCHING BIRDS: Order Passeriformes</u>	92
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	95
<u>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Family Tyrannidae</u>	95
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	101
<u>LARKS: Family Alaudidae</u>	101
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	103
<u>SWALLOWS: Family Hirundinidae</u>	103
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	106
<u>JAYS, MAGPIES, AND CROWS</u>	106
<u>r JAYS, MAGPIES, AND CROWS: Family Corvidae</u>	106
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	110
<u>TITS: Family Paridae</u>	110
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	113
<u>NUTHATCHES</u>	113
<u>r NUTHATCHES: Family Sittidae</u>	113
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	116
<u>CREEPERS: Family Certhiidae</u>	116
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	118
<u>WRENTITS: Family Chamaeidae</u>	118
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	120
<u>DIPPERS: Family Cinclidae</u>	120
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	122
<u>WRENS: Family Troglodytidae</u>	122
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	126
<u>MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Family Mimidae</u>	126
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	129
<u>THRUSHES: Family Turdidae</u>	129
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	134
<u>GNATCATCHERS, KINGLETS, AND OLD-WORLD WARBLERS: Family Sylviidae</u>	134
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	137
<u>WAGTAILS: Family Motacillidae</u>	137

Table of Contents

<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	139
<u>WAXWINGS: Family Bombycillidae</u>	139
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	141
<u>SILKY FLYCATCHERS: Family Ptilonotidae</u>	141
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	143
<u>SHRIKES: Family Laniidae</u>	143
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	145
<u>VIREOS: Family Vireonidae</u>	145
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	148
<u>WOOD WARBLERS: Family Parulidae</u>	148
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	154
<u>WEAVER FINCHES: Family Ploceidae</u>	154
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	156
<u>ORIOLES and BLACKBIRDS: Family Icteridae</u>	156
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	160
<u>TANAGERS: Family Thraupidae</u>	160
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	162
<u>FINCHES, SPARROWS, ETC.: Family Fringillidae</u>	162
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	174
<u>SPECIES RECORDED IN THE YOSEMITE REGION r r BUT OF INFREQUENT OCCURRENCE</u>	174
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	176
<u>SOURCES OF INFORMATION</u>	176
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	178
<u>APPENDIX I: FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS OF BIRDS</u>	178
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	186
<u>APPENDIX II: KEY TO THE YOSEMITE BIRDS</u>	186
<u>I. CATEGORIES BASED ON COLOR (INCLUDING BLACK AND WHITE)</u>	186
<u>II. CATEGORIES BASED ON CHARACTERISTICS OTHER THAN COLOR</u>	186
<u>I. CATEGORIES BASED ON COLOR (INCLUDING BLACK AND WHITE)</u>	187
<u>II. CATEGORIES BASED ON CHARACTERISTICS OTHER THAN COLOR</u>	195
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	206
<u>INDEX AND CHECK LIST</u>	206
<u>ABBREVIATIONS FOR LIFE ZONES</u>	212
<u>ABBREVIATIONS FOR STATUS</u>	212

Table of Contents

<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	215
<u>Back Cover</u>	215
<u>Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins</u>	217
<u>About the Authors</u>	220
<u>Bibliographical Information</u>	222

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r

r r Cover: watercolor of Male Western Tanager
r (by Bob Stebbins)r r

r r

r
• Table of Contents

r
• Preface

r
• Introduction

r
• Distribution of Birds in Yosemite

r
• Bird Descriptions and Illustrationsr r

r
♦ Grebes, Order Podicipediformes

r
♦ Pelican-like Birds, Order Pelecaniformes

r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

◆ Stork-like Birds, Order Ciconiiformes

r

◆ Goose-like Birds, Order Anseriformes

r

◆ Hawk-like Birds, Order Falconiformes

r

◆ Fowl-like Birds, Order Galliformes

r

◆ Crane-like Birds, Order Gruiformes

r

◆ Plover-like Birds, Order Charadriiformes

r

◆ Pigeon-like Birds, Order Columbiformes

r

◆ Cuckoo-like Birds, Order Cuculiformes

r

◆ Owls, Order Strigiformes

r

◆ Goatsucker-like Birds, Order Caprimulgiformes

r

◆ Swifts and Hummingbirds, Order Apodiformes

r

◆ Roller-like Birds, Order Coraciiformes

r

◆ Woodpecker-like Birds, Order Piciformes

r

◆ Perching Birds, Order Passeriformes r

r

◇ Tyrant Flycatchers, Family Tyrannidae

r

◇ Larks, Family Alaudidae

r

◇ Swallows, Family Hirundinidae

r

◇ Jays, Magpies, and Crows, Family Corvidae

r
◇ Tits, Family Paridae

r
◇ Nuthatches, Family Sittidae

r
◇ Creepers, Family Certhiidae

r
◇ Wrentits, Family Chamaeidae

r
◇ Dippers, Family Cincilidae

r
◇ Wrens, Family Troglodytidae

r
◇ Mockingbirds and Thrashers, Family Mimidae

r
◇ Thrushes, Family Turdidae

r
◇ Gnatcatchers, Kinglets, and Old-world Warblers, Family Sylviidae

r
◇ Wagtails, Family Motacillidae

r
◇ Waxwings, Family Bombycillidae

r
◇ Silky Flycatchers, Family Ptilonotidae

r
◇ Shrikes, Family Laniidae

r
◇ Vireos, Family Vireonidae

r
◇ Wood Warblers, Family Parulidae

r
◇ Weaver Finches, Family Ploceidae

r
◇ Orioles and Blackbirds, Family Icteridae

r
◇ Tanagers, Family Thraupidae

r
◇ Finches, Sparrows, etc., Family Fringillidae

rr

rr

r r

- Species Recorded in the Yosemite Region But of Infrequent Occurrence

r

- Sources of Information

r

- Appendix I: Family Characteristics of Birds

r

- Appendix II: Key to the Yosemite Birds

r

- Index and Check List

r

- Back Cover

rr r r

r

r r

About the Authors

r r

r I r
r *Bob Stebbins, 1951* r
r (*MVZ, UCB*)r r

r r

r Cyril Adelbert Stebbins was born June 20, 1878 in Harrisville, Wisconsin. r He married Louise Beck. r He was Instructor with the Department of Agricultural Education at University of California. r His interests were agriculture, r particularly elementary school gardens for teaching, r and birds. r He died Feb. 26, 1953 in Los Angeles, California. r

r r

r Robert C. "Bob" (Robert Cyril) Stebbins, r son of Cyril Stebbins, was born in Chino, California October 25, 1915. r He grew up in Los Angeles and became interested in Salamanders while wandering the foothills of the area. r He married Anna-rose Cooper June 8, 1941 and had 1 son and 2 daughters. r He received his AB, MA, and Ph.D. from UCLA (1940, 1942, and 1943). r His original interest was in birds, with his father. r He served as a Ranger Naturalist at Lassen Volcanic National Park in 1941 and 1942. r He joined the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ), University of California in 1944, where he became Curator and Professor. r Bob became a Guggenheim Fellow in 1949. r He produced two films for the Sierra Club in the 1960s: r *Nature Next Door* and *No Room for Wilderness?* r

r r

r Bob is a leading expert in herpetology, particularly salamanders. r His special interest is in the ecological and behavioral significance of the pineal gland and the parietal eye in reptiles. r He also has an interest in landscape and wildlife painting. r He retired in 1978 as Professor Emeritus, and is still active in herpetology fieldwork. r He wrote over a dozen books, including various Peterson field guides, r and over 70 scientific papers. r Two Salamanders are named in his honor, r *Ambystoma mavortiumv stebbinsi* r and *Batrachoseps stebbinsi*. r Bob feels that "education is the only way to solve environmental and population problems" r (quote from *Zoology* 131 (UC Press, 2003)). r He lived in Kensington, California, just north of Berkeley, r and in retirement, Gardena, California. r Dr. Stebbins died Dec. 18, 2000. r

r

r

- For more information see Louis Sahagun, "Robert Stebbins; Art and Science Illuminate a Naturalist's Path," Los Angeles *Times* April 4, 2005, p. B-2. r

rr r
r

rr

Bibliographical Information

rr

r Cyril A. (Cyril Adelbert) Stebbins (1878-1953)r andr Robert C. (Robert Cyril) Stebbins (1915-2000),r *Birds of Yosemite National Park*. (1963).r Illustrated by Robert C. Stebbins.r 76+4 pp. Illustrated with 142 black & white drawings.r 24 cm.r First published in *Yosemite Nature Notes* 33(8) (August 1954).r Revised 1963.r Paper wrapper illustrated with a watercolor.r Saddle stitched.r California State Library call number: QL684.C2 S8.r

r

r Although not credited, two illustrations, on ther title pager andr p. 79,r appear to be by Jane J. Gyer.r The shading and prespective reflect her style.r Jane Gyer illustrated the cover for the revised 1974 editionr of *Birds of Yosemite*.r

rr

r Digitized by Dan Anderson, April 2005,r from a personal copy.r These files may be used for any non-commercial purpose,r provided this notice is left intact.r

r —Dan Anderson, www.yosemite.ca.usr

rrrr

rrrrr

r

rr

r

rr

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/r

rrrrrrrrrrrr

r

rr

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) >r [Birds of Yosemite](#) >r Contents >r

rr

r

r r r

r Next: Prefacer • r Contentsr

r r r r

r r r r

r r
r r r

r

Birdsr r ofr r Yosemite National Park

r r
r r

Contents

r r

r CYRIL A. STEBBINSr
r andr
r ROBERT C. STEBBINSr
r (Illustrated by the junior author)r

r r

<u>Preface</u>	iii
<u>Introduction</u>	
<u>How To Use This Book</u>	1
<u>How To Study Birds</u>	2
<u>Some Bird Groups</u>	2

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

<u>Conservation of Birds</u>	3
<u>Migration of Birds</u>	3
<u>Distribution of Birds in Yosemite</u>	4
<u>Bird Descriptions and Illustrations</u>	6
<u>Species Recorded in the Yosemite Region But of Infrequent Occurrence</u>	63
<u>Sources of Information</u>	63
<u>Appendix I: Family Characteristics of Birds</u>	64
<u>Appendix II: Key to the Yosemite Birds</u>	70
<u>Index and Check List</u>	75

r r

r r r r

r r r

r r r

r

r The Yosemite Natural History Association

r is a non-profit organization cooperating
r with the National Park Service in the
r interpretation and management of
r Yosemite National Park.

r r

r Association activities, such as the production
r of BIRDS OF YOSEMITE, are made possible
r with contributions from persons supporting the
r national park idea. Donations are tax exempt.

r

r r

r This booklet is one of a series explaining the history and natural history of Yosemite National Park. For prices of this and other publications about Yosemite, write: Yosemite Natural History Association, Box 545, Yosemite National Park, California.

r r

r First published August, 1954 as
r Volume 33, Number 8, of Yosemite Nature Notes.

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r Revised 1963r

r r

r **Yosemite Natural History Association**

r r

r THE COVER — Male Western Tanager

r from a watercolor by

r Robert C. Stebbinsr

r r r r

r r

r Next: Prefacer •r Contentsr

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/contents.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Birds of Yosemite >r Preface >r

r r

r

r r r

r Next: Introduction •r Contents •r Previous: Table of Contentsr

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r r

r r
r r

r r

r

Preface

r r r

r Even before you have finished establishing your camp in one of the many pleasant campgrounds of Yosemite National Park, you may be visited by a bird accustomed to finding people friendly and ready to share their food. In the face of such confidence one cannot be intolerant of the behavior of the colorful western tanager (see cover) when he alights on the camp table and helps himself to the butter, nor can one feel harshly toward the raucous Steller's jay as he boldly snatches a piece of bread and eats it out of reach but in full view of camp.

r r

r As with many of the animals in Yosemite, birds have come to regard man as a relatively harmless feature of their environment and therefore go about seeking their food, building nests and rearing their young with a minimum of diversion due to his presence. This results in a most favorable situation for one who would study the birds, for it often allows close approach and detailed observation of birds with little alteration of their behavior. Indeed, in Yosemite the birds will force your attention upon them whether you are a bird lover or not, for who can fail to be interested in the bird that joins the family circle at mealtime or feeds its young within a few feet of one's tent?

r r r r r

r r

r [Next: Introduction](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Table of Contents](#)

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/preface.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Introduction](#) >

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Distribution](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Preface](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

INTRODUCTION

r r r r r

r r
r r r

r r

r

r r

r PARTS OF A BIRD r

r

r r r r r

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

r r

r *Illustrations* r have been designed to emphasize the more conspicuous field marks r which serve as clues to recognition. An effort has been made to place the birds in r characteristic poses, and a suggestion of habitat has been included. The figures after r the name of the bird in each description are a measure of total length—beak to tail r—in inches. r

r r

Descriptions are in semi-scientific terms with distinctive features emphasized in *italic* type. The diagram opposite showing the parts of a bird will help to clarify certain of these terms. Statements in the descriptions that have bearing on the range or habitat of a species apply to the Yosemite region or the Sierra Nevada and are not to be applied more broadly.

r r

Key to the Yosemite Birds will be found on pages 70-74. The birds are segregated, first, on the basis of some conspicuous color or other characteristic and, second, on the basis of size, comparing with certain well-known birds. Hawks, eagles, owls, and hummingbirds are not included since most people recognize these birds as a group. The many pictures including the plate (see page 17) showing the hawks, vultures, and eagles in flight should suffice for identification.

r r

Seasonal status.—Throughout the descriptive accounts the status of each species is given for the Yosemite region. Status refers to the time and duration of occupancy of an area—whether the bird is present throughout the year (R.—resident), during the winter period only (W.V.—winter visitant), during the summer only (S.V.—summer visitant), or sporadically for brief periods (C.V.—casual visitant). In the latter category are birds that pass through the area only in fall and spring migration or enter it during postbreeding upmountain movements (M.—migrant). To shorten the text the abbreviations have been used.

r r

Area covered.—The Yosemite region, as referred to in this book, is the area of Yosemite National Park, the foothills immediately west of the park, and the slope from the Sierran crest to the shores of Mono Lake east of the park. At the present time 221 species have been reported within the park boundaries. Most of these have been described in the following pages. Species not described are those that have been seen only once or but a few times or about which there is doubt as to accuracy of identification. These undescribed forms are listed on page 63. The California thrasher, seen at lower elevations outside the park but not recorded within the park boundaries, is also described.

r r r r

HOW TO STUDY BIRDS

r r

r First learn this quotation: “A bird in the hand is worth more than a hundred in a notebook.” Second, learn to observe. Third, learn to listen. Fourth, learn to see accurately.

r r

r To study birds most successfully, proceed with your notebook and, if possible, a good pair of binoculars, with six- or eight-power magnification, to a place frequented by birds. Choose bright mornings or late afternoons for your study. Sit quietly and patiently and you may be rewarded. When a bird comes into view take a detailed description, noting size, colors, type of beak, and other characteristics. Walk slowly and quietly through the region selected for field study, stopping now and then. Birds are frightened by quick movements. Try imitating the call of a bird in distress by sucking the back of your wrist. Birds may appear.

r r

r One of the greatest pleasures the birds may offer you is through their songs; learn to listen and to recognize the birds' voices, whether bird hunting or not. Whenever a new note is heard, if possible, trace it to its maker. Accurate recognition is often dependent upon the bird's song or call.

r r

r Learn to see correctly and to interpret wisely.

r r

SOME BIRD GROUPS

r r

r Characteristics of some of the bird groups may aid identification. These are pictured on pages 64-69 and briefly described below:

r r

r Hawks, eagles, and owls are usually of large size, have powerful hooked bills, usually stout legs, and long talons. Some hawks soar when foraging, others dart through thickets to pounce on their prey.

r r

r Owls are large-headed birds with broad, rounded wings; they usually forage at night.

r r

r Thrushes are brown above, sometimes spotted below. They are trim, timid birds that forage near the ground.

r r

r Vireos are small, active birds frequently with short, slender bills. There is a predominance of gray in the plumage.

r r

r Flycatchers range in size from 5 1/2 to 9 inches. They may be dull or bright in plumage, sometimes have wing-bars, an eye-ring, or white outer tail feathers. They have a marked habit of taking flight from a perch to return to the starting point on capturing an insect in the air. This act is often repeated. Raised feathers on the head often give the effect of a crest.

r r

r Wrens, with few exceptions, are small, brown birds usually with dark bars on tail and wings and in some species a whitish line over the eye. As a rule, wrens, when foraging, hold the tail upward at a sharp angle to the body. They forage near the ground.

r r

r Woodpeckers have stout, chisel-like bills, two toes in front and two behind (one exception), and stiff, pointed tail feathers. Black, white, and red are dominant colors. These birds forage around trunks and large branches of trees, bracing themselves with the tail as food is sought.

r r

r Sparrows are generally grayish or brownish with rather short, conical bills and they forage close to the ground.

r r

r Warblers, as a rule, are small, active, brightly colored birds with short, slender bills. The line over the eye, characteristic of vireos, usually is wanting on warblers; their relatively bright colors aid one in distinguishing them from vireos.

r r r r

CONSERVATION OF BIRDS

r r

r Why birds are protected—Ignorance of the value of our birds is common. Inaccurate observation condemns many birds unjustly. The farmer sees the meadowlark gather a few grains during the time of planting but fails to see the same bird eat grasshopper after grasshopper at other seasons and so the birds are hunted. The selfish eye of a fruit grower may see a woodpecker peck a hole in the barn but fails to see the bird eat harmful insects in the orchard.

r r

r Bird authorities of Massachusetts estimate one day's work by the birds in that state to be the destruction of at least 20,000 bushels of insects. In every state, millions of insects are destroyed each day. While great numbers are destroyed through other natural agencies, just think, for a moment, of the number of insects the birds in the whole United States destroy in one day and in one year.

r r

r Hawks and owls have an undeserved bad reputation, due largely to the fact that the hawks are known as flesh eaters and the owls are abroad at night. Owls generally are beneficial, and the great horned owl is a destroyer of such pests as jackrabbits, cottontails, and pocket gophers. Analyses of the stomachs of hawks and owls has given evidence that they eat a variety of ground squirrels, rabbits, and mice.

r r

r Some bird laws—Federal laws prohibit the importation of the English sparrow and other injurious birds and make it illegal to hunt or kill any wildlife in the national parks. Among many other birds protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act are blackbirds, house finches, and shrikes.

r r

r California state law provides that all wild birds, excepting the house sparrow, r crow, yellow-billed and black-billed magpie, scrub jay, Steller's jay and starling, are protected. Similar laws protect the birds in other states. Where a species is not protected by state law but is protected by federal law, federal law holds. r

r r

r Game birds which are hunted for food and sport may be killed only during their open season established by law. Of course, in national parks, birds and other animals are protected from hunting. r

r r

MIGRATION OF BIRDS

r r

r With seasonal changes, many birds move southward or northward, mountainward or valleyward as the case may be. They travel singly or in small or large groups. r

r r

r During migration, birds take certain general directions to their destinations, r guided by celestial cues and topographical features. Much remains to be learned regarding the forces which guide them in their migratory flight. r

r r

r During migrations many birds die or are killed. Thousands of weaklings drop from exhaustion when long flights are taken without a stop. Storms often carry great flocks out of their courses. High buildings take their toll. Dead birds are found often at the base of the Washington Monument. Thus, in a way, migration strengthens the race of birds. The weak die. The strong survive. It is a form of natural selection. r

r r

r At least nineteen species of shore birds breed near the Arctic Circle and visit South America in the winter. More than a hundred species leave the United States to spend the winter from Mexico to South America. r

r r r r

r r

r [Next: Distribution](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Preface](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/introduction.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Distribution of Birds in Yosemite](#) >

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Descriptions](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Introduction](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

DISTRIBUTION OF BIRDS IN YOSEMITE

r r r

r Habitats.r —Birds have adapted themselves to many different environments, usuallyr called habitats. This helps alleviate the competition between different species for foodr and nesting sites. To cite a few examples—ducks feed in open water and nest inr marshes, swifts feed in the air and nest on the cliffs, kingfishers dive for fish in streamsr and nest in the banks, sandpipers feed on the shores and nest on the ground, woodpeckersr frequent forests and feed on wood-inhabiting insects and nest in tree trunks,r kinglets feed and nest among the boughs of coniferous trees, and rock wrens feed andr nest among the rocks. Knowing the habitats frequented by birds often helps to corroborater an identification, for you learn to look for certain species of birds in particularr habitats.r

r r

r Life zones r —The variety of living conditions available to birds in the Yosemite region is reflected in the richness of its birdlife. In an airline distance of 70 miles,r between the western edge of the foothills and the Sierran crest, changes in kinds ofr plants and animals occur that are similar to those found over the vast area betweenr southern United States and the Arctic tundra, a distance of about 2,000 miles. Withr changes in either altitude or latitude, from regions of high to those of low temperature,r the character of the native plant and animal life varies. For convenience inr biological study, characteristic forms of life have been grouped into belts calledr life zones, in accordance with changes in climate. In California, made possible byr its varied topography and climate, there are six such zones—the Lower Sonoran,r Upper Sonoran, Transition, Canadian, Hudsonian, and Arctic-alpine. In this bookr the last three are sometimes jointly referred to as the Boreal zone. The intermediater region, the Transition life zone, often contains considerable numbers of plants andr animals from the adjacent zones and is thus appropriately named. Except for thisr zone, each zone has been named for a latitudinal region with a characteristic type ofr vegetation and animal life. For example, the Canadian life zone, in a latitudinal sense,r consists of a broad strip of coniferous forest with its associated fauna, that extendsr across much of southern Canada.r

r r

r The visitor to Yosemite, coming to the park from the Great Valley of California,r starts his journey in the Lower Sonoran life zone and can go by automobile to Tiogar Pass in the Hudsonian zone having passed through the Upper Sonoran, Transition,r and Canadian life zones enroute. By walking up the slope of Mount Dana, less thanr 2 miles by trail from the pass, he reaches the coldest zone, the Arctic-alpine whichr encompasses the summits of the highest peaks in the park. There, above timberliner is to be found the dwarf willow, short dense grasses and sedges, lichens and other lowr growth, like that of the Arctic tundra. Thus within an airline distance of 50-70r miles, one can traverse all 6 life zones in the western United States.r

r r

To aid in the search for birds and in developing an understanding of their occurrence, the life zone range is given for all species except those frequenting Yosemite only casually. Determination of the zone depends upon recognition of certain "indicator" species of plants and animals. Trees, where present, are the most conspicuous indicators of a zone. The best "indicators" are confined to the zone in question, or in the case of animals, are those chiefly resident (especially as breeding) within it and which therefore serve as good landmarks. It must be kept in mind, however, that the lines between zones are seldom sharp and that local effects of slope exposure, air currents, precipitation, etc. may modify the local temperature and consequently the details of the zonal picture. Furthermore, animals (especially birds and certain mammals) that have good powers of locomotion—and even those regarded as good indicators—may sometimes transgress zonal boundaries. Keeping in mind the foregoing reservations, we may list indicators for the life zones beginning with the Lower Sonoran zone of the Great Valley and extending to the Arctic-alpine zone of the Sierran crest, an altitudinal range from 200 to over 13,000 feet. Altitudes given are for the western slope of the Sierra and are approximate. All zones tend to be higher on the east side of the Sierra.

r r r

r r

r LIFE ZONES OF THE YOSEMITE REGIONr

r

r r r

r ALTITUDES OF LIFE ZONES IN THE YOSEMITE REGIONr r WITH PLANT AND BIRD INDICATORSr

r r

r LOWER SONORAN — Sea level to 500 feet. Grassland with scattered valley oaks; otherwise largely treeless except along streams. Confined to the lowlands of the Great Valley. Birds—Red-tailed hawk, barn owl, burrowing owl, common nighthawk, horned lark, brown-headed cowbird, American goldfinch, blue grosbeak, least vireo, yellowthroat, mockingbird.

r r

r UPPER SONORAN — 500 to 3,000-4,000 feet. Digger pine, blue oak, interior live oak, scrub oak, mountain mahogany, toyon and other chaparral plants. The brushland or chaparral zone of the foothills. Birds—Nuttall's woodpecker, scrub jay, sage sparrow, brown towhee, Hutton's vireo, California thrasher, Bewick's wren, plain titmouse, wrentit, western bluebird.

r r

r TRANSITION — 3,000-4,000 to 6,000-7,000 feet. Ponderosa pine, sugar pine, incense-cedar, white fir, Douglas-fir, black oak, canyon live oak, bigleaf maple, dogwood. Birds—Pygmy owl, band-tailed pigeon,

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

California purple finch, solitary vireo, Nashville warbler, black-throated gray warbler, Macgillivray's warbler, winter wren.

r r

r CANADIAN — 6,000-7,000 to 8,000-9,000 feet. Red fir, Jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine, white pine, quaking aspen, chinquapin. Birds—Blue grouse, goshawk, calliope hummingbird, Williamson's sapsucker, Hammond's flycatcher, Cassin's purple finch, Townsend's solitaire, Lincoln's sparrow

r r

r HUDSONIAN — 8,000-9,000 to 11,000-11,500 feet. Whitebark pine, mountain hemlock. Birds—Black-backed three-toed woodpecker, mountain bluebird, pine grosbeak, Clark's nutcracker, white-crowned sparrow.

r r

r ARCTIC-ALPINE—11,000-11,500 feet and above. Dwarf willow, various dwarf or matted flowering plants, and turf-forming grasses and sedges—the area above timberline. Birds—Gray-crowned rosy finch.

r r r r

r r

r [Next: Descriptions](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Introduction](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/distribution.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > Bird Descriptions and Illustrations >

r r

r

r r r

r ALTITUDES OF LIFE ZONES IN THE YOSEMITE REGION WITH PLANT AND BIRD INDICATORS

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r [Next: Grebes](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Distribution](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

BIRD DESCRIPTIONS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

r r r

r (Common and scientific names in accord with *The A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds, 1957.*)r

r r

- r
- r Abbreviations for Life Zones and Statusr

- r
- r Parts of a Birdr

r r r r

- r
- Grebes

- r
- Pelican-like Birds

- r
- Stork-like Birds

- r
- Goose-like Birds

- r
- Hawk-like Birds

- r
- Fowl-like Birds

- r
- Crane-like Birds

- r
- Plover-like Birds

r

- Pigeon-like Birds

r

- Cuckoo-like Birds

r

- Owls

r

- Goatsucker-like Birds

r

- Swifts and Hummingbirds

r

- Roller-like Birds

r

- Woodpecker-like Birds

r

- Perching Birds

r

- ◆ Tyrant Flycatchers, Family Tyrannidae

r

- ◆ Larks, Family Alaudidae

r

- ◆ Swallows, Family Hirundinidae

r

- ◆ Jays, Magpies, and Crows, Family Corvidae

r

- ◆ Tits, Family Paridae

r

- ◆ Nuthatches, Family Sittidae

r

- ◆ Creepers, Family Certhiidae

r

- ◆ Wrentits, Family Chamaeidae

r

- ◆ Dippers, Family Cincilidae

r

- ◆ Wrens, Family Troglodytidae

- r
◆ Mockingbirds and Thrashers, Family Mimidae

- r
◆ Thrushes, Family Turdidae

- r
◆ Gnatcatchers, Kinglets, and Old-world Warblers, Family Sylviidae

- r
◆ Wagtails, Family Motacillidae

- r
◆ Waxwings, Family Bombycillidae

- r
◆ Silky Flycatchers, Family Ptilonotidae

- r
◆ Shrikes, Family Laniidae

- r
◆ Vireos, Family Vireonidae

- r
◆ Wood Warblers, Family Parulidae

- r
◆ Weaver Finches, Family Ploceidae

- r
◆ Orioles and Blackbirds, Family Icteridae

- r
◆ Tanagers, Family Thraupidae

- r
◆ Finches, Sparrows, etc., Family Fringillidae

rr

rrrrr

rr

r [Next: Grebes](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Distribution](#)

rrr

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/descriptions.htmlr

rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Grebes](#) > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Pelican-like Birds](#) r • [Contents](#) r • [Previous: Descriptions](#) r

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

GREBES:r Order Podicipediformes

r r r

GREBES: Family Podicipedidae

r r

r r

r r

r EARED GREBEr

r

r r r *EARED GREBE (Podiceps caspicus)*:r r 12-14 in. In summer *head, slender neck, r upper breast, and crest, black*;r tufts ofr fan-shaped yellowish feathers extendr back from eye; rest of upper parts blackish;r *sides brownish-red*; under partsr white; bill slender; iris red. Adult in winter:r Cheek whitish; front and sides ofr neck gray; under parts white; top ofr head, back of neck, and back black.r Immature: More brown in back.r r r

r Breeds in summer on bodies of freshr water. East of the Sierra breeds southr to Mono Lake. W.V. along the coastr and on inland bodies of water. Widelyr distributed in the fall. R. in some areas.r C.V. to lakes in Yosemite region. Occasionallyr on Mirror Lake in Yosemite Valley but more frequent on higherr lakes up to 12,000 feet.r

r r

r r

PIED_BILLED GREBE

PIED-BILLED GREBE (Podilymbus podiceps): 12-15 in. Upper parts brown, darker on top of head, back of neck and upper back; under parts whitish, marked with brown; bill short, light-colored, and crossed by black band; throat black; white under very short tail. Adult in winter and immature: Generally brown; throat patch absent or faint; band on bill absent. Hatchlings blackish with whitish streaks on head, neck, and back. When frightened may dive or sink beneath the surface with little rippling of water.

Widely R. on bays and estuaries along the coast and on inland ponds, sloughs, and lakes. The principal breeding area is the Great Valley of California. Widely distributed in winter. In the Yosemite region most likely to be seen in winter along the lower course of the Merced River below Yosemite Valley.

rrr
rr

rr

Next: Pelican-like Birds • Contents • Previous: Descriptions

rrr

r

rr

r

rr

http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/grebes.html

rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

r

rr

Yosemite > Library > Birds of Yosemite > Pelican-like Birds >

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Stork-like Birds](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Grebes](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

PELICAN-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Pelecaniformes

r r r

r PELICANS: Family Pelecanidaer

r r

r r *WHITE PELICAN (Pelecanus erythrorhynchos):* r r 55-70 in. *Plumage generally white, except for brownish-whiter primaries and tuft of yellowish feathers at top of head; pouch largely yellow, orange at base; bill and feet orange; protuberance on upper mandible and yellow on head absent in winter. Immature: Bill yellow; top of head brownish-gray.* r Flies with head back on shoulders and long bill resting on neck. Flockr flies in “follow-the-leader” fashion in r column or V, each bird, in turn, doing same maneuvers as leader.r

r r

r Breeds principally on interior freshwaterr lakes, especially those with islets.r In winter, ranges widely over southernr and west central parts reaching baysr along the coast. May be seen flying atr considerable height almost anywhere during migration. C.V. to Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r CORMORANTS: Family Phalacrocoracidaer

r r

r r

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auritus*): 30-36 in. Black with greenish iridescence on head and neck; throat, pouch, and lores yellowish-orange; delicate white feathers, which are soon lost, above and behind eye during late winter and early spring; sides of bill yellow; bill usually elevated at a slight angle when neck held erect and bird resting or swimming. Immature: Uniformly dark brown above; whitish on belly. Usually nests in colonies on islets or in tall trees near lakes or reservoirs.

R. and breeding along the coast as well as on larger inland bodies of water. C.V. to the Yosemite region.

rrr
rr

rr

[Next: Stork-like Birds](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Grebes](#)

rrr

r

rr

r

rr

http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/pelicans.html

rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

r

rr

[Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > Stork-like Birds >

rr

r

r r r

r [Next: Goose-like Birds](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Pelican-like Birds](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r r

STORK-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Ciconiiformes

r r r

r HERONS AND BITTERNs:r Family Ardeidae

r r

r r

r r GREAT BLUE HERON r

r r *GREAT BLUE HERON (Ardea herodias):* r r 42-52 in. Above slaty blue; tips of wings darker; top of head white (black in immatures); sides of head black, with several long black feathers during breeding season; long, loose feathers (not on immature) on sides of neck and upper back; below black-and-white-streaked; long legs and neck. In flight legs extended backward, long neck kinked. Voice a low-pitched, hoarse walk. Commonly nests in colonies in tall trees, cliffs, and in both salt and freshwater marshes. r r

r Frequents sloughs, marshes, meadows, lake margins, and tideflats. Widespread R. In the Yosemite region occasionally seen along the lower Tuolumne River, Merced River in Yosemite Valley and below, and at Merced Lake, Glen Aulin, and Tuolumne Meadows. r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r

r GREEN HERONr

r

r r *GREEN HERON (Butorides virescens)*:r r 16-18 in. *Back and sides of neckr and face chestnut*; dark wings with bluish cast; *top of head black, tingedr with green, with feathers long and loose*;r below brownish-gray; legs greenish-yellow.r Flight somewhat crow-like. Voicer a hoarse squawk. A solitary nester.r Favors willow-bordered bodies ofr fresh water. Summer R.; M. widely. C.V.r in the Yosemite region. Recorded at Merced Lake and Yosemite Valley.r r

r

r r

r r

r COMMON EGRETr

r

r r *COMMON EGRET (Casmerodius albus)*:r r 37-42 in. *Plumage entirely white*;r long plumes extend from upper back to beyond tail in breeding season; longr black legs and feet; long *yellow bill*r (yellow reduced in immatures). Oftenr nests in large trees.r r

r Frequents marshes, wet meadows, laker margins, and tideflats. Wanders extensively.r C.V. in Yosemite region; occasionallyr seen in Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r r *SNOWY EGRET (Leucophoyx Chula)*:r r 20-27 in. Similar to common egret exceptr smaller; *plumes on back recurved*;r legs and bill black; webs of feet yellow.r Nests in dense tules.r

r r

r C.V. in Yosemite region.r

r r r
r r

r r

r [Next: Goose-like Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Pelican-like Birds](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/storks.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > r [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r [Goose-like Birds](#) > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Hawk-like Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Stork-like Birds](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

GOOSE-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Anseriformesr

r r r

r r

r DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS:r Family Anatidaer

r r

r r

r r

r CANADA GOOSEr

r

r r r *CANADA GOOSE (Branta canadensis):* r r 23-42 in. Plumage generallyr brownish-gray above; belly and flanksr gray to chocolate (western Canadar goose); under tail coverts and rumpr white; *head and neck black; white bibr extends well up on sides of head; partialr white collar sometimes present near baser of black neck.* The four sub-species showr a considerable range in size — honkerr Canada goose, 35-42 in.; western C. g.,r 35 in.; lesser C. g., 25-34 in.; and cacklingr C. g., 23-25 in.r r r

r Frequentr lakes, reservoirs, quiet waterr of larger streams, marshes, and wetr grassland. C.V. to Yosemite region. Hasr been seen on Mirror Lake and the Mercedr River.r

r r

r

r r

r r

r MALLARDr

r

r r *MALLARD* (*Anas platyrhynchos*):r r 20-28 in. *Head and upper neck glossy,r dark green; fore-neck and breast ruddy;r narrow white collar, incomplete behind;r speculum—the wing patch, a pigmentedr area of the wing involving the secondaryr feathers—blue, bordered on each side byr white; tail white with black center;r flanks gray; bill yellowish; feet reddish-orange.r Female: Above generally mottledr brown; dark line through eye borderedr above with buffy; top of head and backr of neck dark brown; below light brown;r bluish wing-patch bordered on each sider by white. In flight, comparatively slowr wingstrokes with downward sweep reachingr little below level of body; under sider of wings silvery white. Voice of femaler a loud, frequently repeated quack; thatr of male weaker. Often seeks its food withr head under water and tail in the air.r r r r r*

r Frequentr tule - bordered freshwaterr ponds, rivers, and marshes. Has beenr noted as a C.V. on the Merced Riverr in Yosemite Valley and in little Yosemite Valley. Recorded nesting to an elevationr of about 7,500 feet.r

r r

r r *CINNAMON TEAL* (*Anas cyanoptera*):r r 15 1/2-17 in. *Head and neck darkr cinnamon; brown wings with large arear of blue; green speculum, bordered byr white; upper back chestnut, grading intor brown; under surface of wings white;r under parts cinnamon changing to blackr on belly; iris red. Female: Above darkr brown, marked with gray; below grayish;r breast spotted with brown; large bluer patch on forepart of wing.r*

r r

r S.V. on freshwater lakes and ponds.r Widespread in spring and fall migration.r C.V. to Yosemite region, most likely tor be seen in spring.r

r r

r r *BLUE-WINGED TEAL* (*Anas discors*):r r 14-16 in. *Head gray with a largerr white crescent between eye and bill; larger blue patch in wing which may appear whitish; below dark gray, spotted withr black; bill black; feet yellowish. Female:r Mottled brown with blue patch on forepartr of wing; not as rusty or as coarselyr mottled as female cinnamon teal.r*

r r

r Frequentr freshwater ponds and slowlyr moving streams. C.V. to Yosemite region.r Has been observed in Yosemite Valley.r

r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r *GREEN-WINGED TEAL (Anas carolinensis)*: r r 12 1/2-15 in. Generally r gray; head brown with iridescent green patch showing in bright sunlight on side of head; conspicuous *white mark in front of wing*; speculum green; *upper breast reddish-brown, spotted with black*; r remaining under parts white; under tail coverts black with creamy areas laterally; r bill lead-colored; feet bluish-gray. r Female: No white in wing; speculum green. r

r r

r C.V. to the Yosemite region. r

r r

r r *PINTAIL (Anas acute)*: r r 26-30 in. r Head and portion of fore-neck dark brown; hind-neck dark; rest of neck, r breast, and belly white; white line on side of neck extending well up on side of head; *long, black, middle tail feathers*; area under tail black, bordered laterally by white. Female: Head, neck, r and back generally brown; back streaked with buff and black; no blue speculum; r below whitish; bill blue-gray; white border on rear of wings, seen in flight. r Usually nests on dry ground near ponds or lakes. r

r r

r C. V. to the Yosemite region. r

r r r r r

r r

r r
r AMERICAN WIDGEON r

r r *AMERICAN WIDGEON (Mareca americana)*: r r 18-22 in. *Forehead and crown white*; sides of head dark, with greenish iridescence; breast and sides brownish tinged with pink; area under tail black; *white on flanks posteriorly*; r *broad white area near wing-bend seen in flight*, reduced in female, not present in immature; remaining under parts white; r bill bluish with black tip. Female: Flanks ruddy - brown; head and neck gray; r small white area near bend of wing, r seen in flight. r r

r W.V. or M. throughout California, r chiefly on freshwater marshes, lakes, r and streams. C.V. on lakes and slower streams of Yosemite region. r

r r

r DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: r Family Anatidae r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r *SHOVELER (Spatula clypeata)*: r r 17-20 in. Head and upper neck greenishblack; r back whitish with dark area downr middle; wing grayish-blue at bend; whiter of breast and flanks separated by *reddish-brownr on sides*; black region under tail; r *belly chestnut*; *long shovel-shaped blackr bill*, wider at tip than at base, givingr bird front-heavy appearance in flight; r sits low in water. Female: Plumage generallyr brown, mottled; large blue wingpatchr and large bill as in male.r

r

r Chiefly on fresh water but also frequentsr brackish water. Occasionally ar few breed in the park. On open streamsr and lakes in Yosemite region at almostr any time of year, but rarely seen.r r r r r

r r

r r

r *WOOD DUCK*r

r

r r *WOOD DUCK (Aix sponsa)*: r r 17-20 in. *Feathers on top of head green; extendingr into crest of violet*; sides of headr black with two white lines, one above,r other behind eye; *throat white*; wingsr mottled with black, white, and purple; r fan-shaped tail; breast chestnut; underr parts generally white; reddish area acrossr base of bill. Female: Top of head dark; r face brownish; *white ring around eyer extending backward*; *throat and bellyr white*; breast brownish; mottled withr lighter; rear edge of wing in region ofr secondary feathers white, as in male.r Faltering, often noisy in flight; takesr wing abruptly; may move head aboutr while flying. Commonly feeds on acorns.r Nests in tree cavities.r r

r Frequents slowly flowing rivers,r sloughs, and ponds of fresh water, especiallyr where bordered by deciduousr woods. R. principally in Sacramentor and San Joaquin Valleys. C.V. in Yosemite region. Seen at all months inr Yosemite Valley, occasionally nestingr there.r

r r

r

r r

r r

r CANVASBACKr

r

r r *CANVASBACK* (*Aythya valisineria*): r r 20-24 in. Back and sides nearly white; r head and upper portion of neck reddish-brown; r *long dark bill forming with head a gently sloping profile*; tail and rear of back black; breast black; remaining r under parts white. Female: Back and r sides largely light gray; head and neck r light brown; obscure light-colored streak r back of eye; throat whitish; breast dark r brown; remaining under parts whitish. r After taking off slowly, leaving water behind, travels with great speed. Long r bill and neck give bird front-heavy r aspect. An expert diver. r r

r Common W.V., chiefly along the coast r but also to larger inland bodies of water. r C.V. in Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r

r r

r r

r RING-NECKED DUCKr

r

r r *RING-NECKED DUCK* (*Aythya collaris*): r r 16-18 in. *Head and upper neck purplish-black*; back and breast blackish; r gray of sides and black breast separated r by curving white band extending some distance upward; belly white; black area r under tail; narrow band of white at base of slate-colored bill with wider whiter band with bluish tinge adjacent to black r of tip; narrow chestnut ring on neck r sometimes visible; broad gray stripe in r wing, seen in flight. Female: Generally r brown; *white eyering*; small area of r white about base of bill; bill similar to r male but duller; broad gray wing-stripe. r r

r C.V. to Merced River and Mirror r Lake in Yosemite Valley, December to r March. r

r r

r

r DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: r Family Anatidaer

r r

r r

r LESSER SCAUPr

r

r r LESSER SCAUP (*Aythya affinis*):r r 15-18 in. *Head, neck, breast, and anteriorr back black; head with purplishr reflections in bright light; central regionr of back white with faint, wavyr black lines; belly and sides white; blackr area under tail; white stripe along posteriorr portion of wing essentially confindr to secondary feathers; bill bluishr with black tip; iris yellow. Female:r Head, neck, and breast brown; whiter area about base of bill; below dull white;r wing-stripe as in male.r r r*

r On fresh or salt water, chiefly alongr the coast in winter. C.V. to Yosemite region.r

r r

r r BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephalar islandica*):r r 21-23 in. *Head glossyr black with purplish iridescence; whiter triangular or crescent-shaped spot betweenr eye and bill; back of neck white;r middle of back and tail black; larger amount of white in wing seen both whenr wing extended and closed; white ofr closed wing crossed by black bar; rowr of white spots on black scapulars; belowr r r r white; bill blackish; iris yellow. Female:r Head brown; white collar; remainingr upper parts generally gray; white patchr in wing.r*

r r

r Frequents small lakes in timberedr areas of higher mountains in summer;r in winter chiefly in coastal waters. S.V.r to Sierra. In Yosemite region recordedr as nesting at Smedberg Lake, 9,223 feet,r and at Table Lake, 7,000 feet; oner record for Pleasant Valley.r

r r

r r

r r

r RUDDY DUCKr

r r *RUDDY DUCK (Oxyura jamaicensis)*:r r 14-17 in. *Predominantly rusty redr in summer*; top of head black; cheeks and chin white; bluish, shovel-shapedr bill; *tail feathers stiff and pointed*, oftenr held erect; white area under tail; underr parts silvery with dusky markings. Female:r Above, grayish-brown; belowr whitish; top of head dark brown, sidesr of head whitish broken by brown liner from bill through eye; bill dusky. Male in winter: Similar to female but withr blue bill and white cheek-patch. In flightr small, with thick neck and flat head.r Dives frequently.r r

r Occurs principally on fresh water.r C.V. to Yosemite region.r

r r

r r *HARLEQUIN DUCK (Histrionicus histrionicus)*:r r 15-17 in. General colorationr dark with slaty blue, appears nearlyr black at a distance; *conspicuous whiter markings on head and neck*; long whiter crescent in front of eye, extending wellr back over eye; several white marks onr side of face; narrow white neck-ring;r white bar in front of bend of wing;r *flanks reddish-brown*. Female: Darkr brown with two or three white patchesr on side of head, one or two in frontr of eye, and one in ear region; no whiter patch in wing.r

r r

r Frequents swift-flowing streams inr summer and rough water of the exposedr coast in winter. Uncommon R. Breedsr on the western slope of the centralr Sierra. Breeding record for the Mercedr River in Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r r

r r

r BUFFLEHEADr

r

r r *BUFFLEHEAD* (*Bucephala albeola*):r r 13-15 in. Fluffy, black head crossed just r back of eye by *large white patch reaching r from eye to eye over crown*; upper r neck and under parts white; extensive r white patch in wing; bill bluish-gray.r Female: Upper parts dark gray including r head; *an elongate, white area on side of r head; white patch in open wing*. In flight r may give deep guttural notes; wings r vibrate rapidly; appears stocky with r large head; takes off heavily, leaving r wake behind. Nests in tree cavities.r r r

r Frequent r bays and saltwater sloughs r and, interiorly, fresh and alkaline lakes r and ponds. C.V. to Yosemite region.r

r r r r r

r r *HOODED MERGANSER* (*Lophodytes cucullatus*):r r 16-19 in. Head, neck,r and anterior part of back black; *broadr white bar from behind eye to near rear r margin of head*; white patch extends r into fan-shaped area when crest elevated;r breast white; two black bars in r front of wing; *flanks reddish-brown*;r wings with white area, barred with r black; iris yellow. Female: Dark head r and neck; pale reddish - brown crest;r white patch in wing. Entire body held r level in flight. Nests in tree hollows.r

r r

r Frequent r ponds and slowly flowing r streams bordered by willows; occurs r on sloughs in marshlands. Several winter r and spring records for Yosemite.r

r r

r r

r r r COMMON MERGANSER r

r r COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*):r r 22-27 in. Head and upperr neck greenish-black; hind-neck inconspicuouslyr crested; upper back black;r lower back and tail gray; neck and underr parts white, latter tinged with salmon;r long, narrow, red, serrated, hookedr bill; feet and iris red. Female and immature:r Crest usually conspicuous;r throat white; head and upper neckr orange-brown; back and tail gray; whiter patch in black wing; below whit=r. Inr flight entire body held horizontally.r r

r W.V. coastwise and interiorly. Breedsr on forest-bordered lakes and streams inr the Sierra Nevada. In Yosemite breedingr records for Hetch Hetchy Reservoirr and Yosemite Valley; C.V. in winter.r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Hawk-like Birds](#) r •r [Contents](#) r •r [Previous: Stork-like Birds](#) r

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/geese.html r

r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Hawk-like Birds](#) > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Fowl-like Birds](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Goose-like Birds](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

HAWK-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Falconiformesr

r r r r r

r AMERICAN VULTURES:r Family Cathartidaer

r r

r r *TURKEY VULTURE (Cathartes aura):* r r 2-2 1/2 ft. Upper parts blackish;r *under parts blackish-brown; under sider of wings in area of primary and secondary feathers ash-gray;* red, bare head;r bill whitish; feet flesh-colored. Voice ar low hiss, seldom uttered. Carrion feeder.r Nests in cavities in cliffs or in hollowr trees.r

r r

r Uncommon R. in the Sierra Nevada,r moving to foothills in winter. Has beenr observed as high as 10,000 feet on Mountr Dana but more commonly seen at lowerr elevations.r

r r

r KITES, HAWKS, AND EAGLES:r Family Accipitridaer

r r

r r *GOSHAWK (Accipiter gentilis):* r r 20-26r in. Above bluish-gray; top of headr blackish; white line over eye; belowr white, streaked and waved with dusky;r at a distance *under parts appear lightr gray;* black bars across tail; tip of tailr edged with white. Female: Larger thanr male. Immature: Above brown; belowr streaked with brown on whitish; tailr with dark crossbars and broadly tippedr with white.r

r r

r Nests from 5,000 to 9,000 feet inr well-forested mountains. In summer associatedr with coniferous forests butr when in the lowlands usually frequentsr broken woodland. R, in the Sierrta Nevadar but often moves to lower elevationsr in winter. Recorded as nesting nearr Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r *SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (Accipiterr striatus):* 10-15 in. Resembles Cooper'sr hawk but tail *square-tipped,* notr rounded as in Cooper's hawk. Female:r Larger than male, resembling in size ar male Cooper's hawk from which it isr distinguished with difficulty. Feedsr largely on other birds.r

r r

r Frequents deciduous or coniferous woodland in summer. Widespread W.V. at lower elevations. R. in Yosemite region, occasionally nesting in Yosemite Valley. r r r

r r

r r

r COOPER'S HAWK r

r r COOPER'S HAWK (*Accipiter cooperii*): r r 14-20 in. Above gray or soft brown, darker on crown and nape; whiter on nape feathers obscured by brown unless hawk bends head downward or raises feathers; long rounded tail with crossbars of dark brown; tail feathers tipped with white; wings relatively short and broad; under parts white with closely set crossbars of reddish-brown and longitudinal black streaks. Female: Resembles male but is larger. Immature: Above brown; below white coarsely streaked with brown. Feeds on small mammals and birds. r r

r Frequents wooded streams and canyons both in mountains and lowlands. Permanent R. Nests in Yosemite region, including Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r r SWAINSON'S HAWK (*Buteo swainsoni*): r r 19-22 in, Light phase: Above dark brown; chin and throat whitish; breast often with broad band of reddish-brown; belly white; under parts of wings buff anteriorly; from above, tail gray, often with whitish base. Dark phase: General coloration dark brown, almost black, lighter on flight feathers and some reddish-brown on under parts; no rust in tail as in adult black phase of red tail. Female: Larger than male. In spring and fall migration may be seen in flocks, differing thus from most other hawks. r

r r

r Frequents dry plains and woodland of foothills and valleys; occasionally in high mountains. An occasional S. V. to high elevations in Yosemite region. r

r r

r r

r r RED-TAILED HAWK r

r r *RED-TAILED HAWK (Buteo jamaicensis)*: r r 19-24 in. Upper parts dark brown; throat heavily streaked with brown; breast whitish with indistinct brownish band; belly tawny, marked with dark brown; under parts of wings without light area anteriorly, differing in this respect from Swainson's hawk; *tail rusty*. Female: Larger than male. r Immature: Similar to adult but tail brownish-gray and barred with dusky. r Often seen soaring. Feeds largely on gophers, ground squirrels, and other small mammals. r r

r Widespread R. occurring from the lowlands to the mountains. Most common large soaring hawk in the Yosemite region; observed as high as 12,000 feet, r at the summit of Parsons Peak. r

r r r r r
r

r r

r r MARSH HAWK (Female) r

r r *MARSH HAWK (Circus cyaneus)*: r r 18-24 in. Above, bluish-gray; *rump white*; tail long, crossed by black bars; r tips of wings black; below white with scattered small reddish-brown spots; neck and breast light bluish-gray. Female: r Larger than male; above, dark brown; rump white; below tawny; neck and breast streaked; tail barred; legs and toes orange-yellow. Immature: Similar to female but darker; rich dark brown above and on sides of neck and cheeks; below dark cinnamon-rufous, streaked on breast. r Nests on the ground. r r

r Frequents salt and freshwater marshes and grassland from the lowlands to the Canadian life zone; chiefly W. V. and C. r V. to Yosemite region. r

r r

r r *BALD EAGLE (Haliaeetus leucocephalus):* r r 30-36 in. *Head and tail white; r remaining plumage dark brown.* Immaturer entirely dusky brown except sometimesr for touches of whitish on wingr lining (not at bases of primaries as inr immature golden eagle) and, when approachngr adult plumage, whitish at baser of tail feathers; no well-defined darkr band at tip of tail. To a considerabler extent scavenging in habit, feeding onr carrion and dead fish but also capturesr rabbits and rodents. Occasionally frightensr the osprey into dropping its fish prey which is then taken by the eagle.r

r r

r Frequents ocean shores, lake margins,r and rivers for foraging and nesting butr ranges widely over diverse terrain. Most likely to be seen at lower elevations inr the Yosemite region. Reported as nestingr at Bower Cave, Mariposa County.r

r r

r r *GOLDEN EAGLE (Aquila chrysaetos):* r r 30-40 in. Largest land bird ofr Yosemite region. Generally dark brown;r head and neck tinged with, golden brown;r when seen in flight from below, nearlyr uniformly dark brown; white at base ofr tail; tarsi fully feathered; feet greenish-yellow;r bill bluish. Female: Larger thanr male. Immature: Ash-gray patch towardr wingtip; tail white with tip broadlyr bordered with black. Feeds commonly onr ground squirrels and rabbits.r

r r

r R. throughout the Sierra Nevada.r Commonly breeds in the Upper Sonoranr and Transition life zones butr occasionally to above timberline. Oftenr seen soaring near rim of Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r **OSPREYS: Family Pandionidaer**

r r

r r

r r

r OSPREYr

r

r r *OSPREY (Pandion haliaetus):* r r 21-24 in. *Entirely dark brown above; belowr generally white; white over eye and onr chin; from distance head may appearr predominantly white; white of upperr throat and breast broken by brownr streaks; underside of wing largely whitishr with dusky patch near front edge towardr tip; legs long, covered with white feathersr for much of their length; wings longr and slender. Female: Larger than*

male. Frequents bodies of water. Captures fish by diving feet first to the surface of the water, often from considerable heights. Nest of sticks on ground or a dead tree.

Summer R., principally along the coast and on larger lakes. C. V. to Yosemite region; most likely to be seen at Hetchy Hetchy and Lake Eleanor.

r r r r r

r FALCONS: Family Falconidae

r r r

r

r r

r r

r PRAIRIE FALCON

r

r PRAIRIE FALCON (Falco mexicanus): 17-20 in. Above, grayish-brown; inconspicuous white line over eye; below, white with streaks and spots of brown; dark line on check; throat white; dark patch at base of wing contrasting with generally light-colored under parts, seen in flight. Female: Larger than male. Immature: Generally gray.

Widely distributed but nowhere common. Frequents dry, open terrain and rocky ledges. Nests at lower elevations but wanders to above timberline in summer. C. V. to Yosemite region; observed at Yosemite Valley and in the high Sierra.

r r

r

r r

r r
r PEREGRINE FALCONr

r r *PEREGRINE FALCON (Falco peregrinus)*:r r 15-20 in. Head dark above andr at sides; throat white or buffy borderedr on each side with black bar; remainingr upper parts slaty blue to brownish-black;r rest of under parts buffy orr whitish crossed with narrow black bars.r Female: Larger than male; under partsr strongly marked with dark brown barsr on light brown. Immature: Below profuselyr streaked with black on buff. Feedsr on other birds caught in flight.r r

r Frequents cliffs. Widespread R. exceptr in southeastern deserts. C. V. in Yosemite region. Sometimes seen near brink ofr Upper Yosemite Fall.r

r r

r

r r

r r
r SPARROW HAWKr

r r *SPARROW HAWK (Falco sparverius)*:r r 9-12 in. Top of head and backr reddish-brown; back crossbarred withr black; tail rusty with broad black bandr at tip; tip of tail edged with buffy;r forward part of wings (when folded)r and band bordering top of head bluish-gray;r two vertical black bars on side ofr face; below buffy with black spots onr sides and belly. Female: Resembles maler except larger, no slate on wings, andr under parts streaked heavily with darkr r r r brown; rump and tail crossed by blackr bars. Immature: Resembles female. Mayr be seen poised in the air on rapidly beatingr wings. Feeds on small rodents andr insects which it catches on the ground.r r

r Frequents open country such as plains,r deserts, fields, and unforested hillsides.r Uses dead trees, rocks, fence posts, telephoner poles and wires as perches. R. atr lower elevations; often ranges higher inr mountains in summer. R. in Yosemite region where in summer it ranges as highr as the Hudsonian life zone. To be seenr

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins
about meadows in Yosemite Valley.r

r r r r r
r r

r VULTURES, HAWKS and EAGLESr

r r

r

r FALCONS: Family Falconidaer

r r
r r

r r

r [Next: Fowl-like Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Goose-like Birds](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/hawks.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > r [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Fowl-like Birds > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Crane-like Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Hawk-like Birds](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

FOWL-LIKE BIRDS: r Order Galliformes

r r r

r GROUSE: Family Tetraonidae

r r

r r

r r

r BLUE GROUSE

r

r r *BLUE GROUSE (Dendragapus obscurus)*: r r 16-19 in. Generally dark gray; r wings relatively short and broad; under parts gray; *tail blackish, tipped with light gray band*; bare skin above and below eye yellow to orange; *legs feathered*. r Female: Above brown mottled with black and buff; breast brown, barred with buff; belly whitish. Song a low-pitched series of a half-dozen hoots, becoming fainter toward the end. A single note like *broop* or *boont*, of ventriloquial quality. Whirring sound produced in flight. Feeds largely on fir needles. Nests on ground. r r

r R. in coniferous forests (chiefly of Douglas-fir and white and red firs) of the Sierra up to an elevation of 11,000 feet. Fairly common R. in Yosemite region in Canadian and upper Transition life zones; ranges into the Hudsonian zone in late summer. r

r r

r r *SAGE GROUSE (Centrocercus urophasianus)*: r r 22-30 in. Above variegated brown, black, gray, and buff; below whitish, marked on throat and breast with black; *belly black; tail long with stiff, pointed feathers*; bill and feet blackish. Female: Smaller, with shorter tail. Resembles small turkey. Whirring sound produced in flight. r

r r

r Inhabits sagebrush flats, dependingr upon this plant for food. C. V. to Yosemite region east of Sierran crest. Reportedr from near Granite Lake andr Mount Conness.r

r r r

r QUAIL AND PHEASANTS:r Family Phasianidaer

r r

r r

r r r MOUNTAIN QUAILr r

r r *MOUNTAIN QUAIL (Oreortyx pictus)*r r 10 1/2-11 3/4 in. Above brownish-grayr tending toward slaty anteriorly;r throat chestnut, bordered on sides ofr neck with white; breast slaty; *sidesr reddish-brown broken by white and blackr patches; plume long and slender*, tippingr toward back or held erect. Immature:r Chiefly brown; sides of throatr black; plume short. Call a single, strong,r r r mellow, whistled *woork*, given atr intervals.r r r

r R. on mountain slopes covered withr brush (manzanita, chinquapin, snowbush,r etc.) and broken forest. In higherr mountains migrates on foot to lowerr elevation in winter. In Yosemite R. inr the Canadian and Transition life zones.r Occurs with the California quail in ther lower Transition zone, as in Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r

r r

r r
r CALIFORNIA QUAILr

r r CALIFORNIA QUAIL (*Lophortyx californicus*): r r 9 1/2-11 in. Above grayish-brown; forehead tawny; top of head brown; feathers of belly edged with black giving scaled appearance; belly buff, with rusty patch in middle; sides brown, with whitish streaks; bib of black with white border; plume black tipping forward toward bill. Female: Lacks black bib and is generally duller; plume smaller. r California state bird. As with mountain quail, birds gather in coveys. r r

r Favors brushland broken by tracts of grass or weedy ground. Found at lower elevations in the Yosemite region, in the Upper Sonoran life zone and occasionally in the lower Transition life zone, as in Yosemite Valley. r

r r
r r



r r

r [Next: Crane-like Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Hawk-like Birds](#) r

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/fowl.html r

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > r [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Crane-like Birds > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Plover-like Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Fowl-like Birds](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

CRANE-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Gruiformesr

r r r r r

r RAILS: Family Rallidaer

r r r

r r

r r

r VIRGINIA RAILr

r

r r *VIRGINIA RAIL (Rallus limicola):*r r 9-10 1/2 in. Above dark brown; sides ofr head gray; *white line over eye reachesr bill; breast cinnamon*; posterior portionr of belly black crossed by lines of white;r wings short; bill long, slightly curvedr near tip, brownish. Immature: Dull blackr above; chin and throat white; remainingr under parts black and white. When walkingr jerks head and neck. Secretive.r r r

r Frequentr freshwater marshes andr sometimes salt marshes. C. V. to Yosemite region in summer. Has been seenr in Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r

r r

r l

r AMERICAN COOTr

r

r r AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*):r r 13-16 in. (Ill. p. 20.) Head andr neck black, setting off whitish bill; billr with dark spots at tip; most of rest ofr body slate-gray; white area under tail;r iris red; feet greenish with lobed toes.r Immature; Below whitish; no dark spotsr on bill; iris brown. Very young birdsr black with orange-red bill and orange onr throat, head, and back. Moves head backr and forth when swimming.rr r

r R. on lakes and marshes. In winter withdraws from higher altitudes to lowlands.r C. V. to Yosemite region; onr Merced River, Mirror Lake, and highr Sierran lakes.r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Plover-like Birds](#) •r [Contents](#) •r [Previous: Fowl-like Birds](#)r

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/cranes.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) >r [Birds of Yosemite](#) >r Plover-like Birds >r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Pigeon-like Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Crane-like Birds](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

PLOVER-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Charadriiformesr

r r r r

r PLOVERS: Family Charadriidae

r r

r r

r r

r KILLDEERr

r

r r *KILLDEER (Charadrius vociferus):*r r 9-11 in. Above brown; rump and baser of tail feathers rusty; below white; *twor black bands on chest; white band aroundr neck*; white thumb-marks on tail feathersr diminishing in size toward center. Runsr along the ground as though balancing ar package on its head. Immature: Generallyr duller with more rust above. Voicer a shrill, high-pitched *kill-dee, kill-dee,*r accent on last syllable; may be heardr calling late at night. Eggs often laid onr bare ground in gravelly or sandy placer where difficult to see because of theirr resemblance to the background.r r

r Frequents meadows, cultivated lands,r and shores of lakes, ponds, and streams.r Widespread, abundant R., withdrawingr from higher elevations and more northerlyr areas in winter. S.V. to wet meadowsr in Yosemite region such as Tuolumner Meadows and parts of Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r

r SNIPE, SANDPIPERS, ETC.:r Family Scolopacidaer

r r

r r

r r r SPOTTED SANDPIPERr r

r r *SPOTTED SANDPIPER (Actitis macularia)*:r r 7-8 in. Above brown; faint white line over eye; line of white spotsr in wing when extended; tail short,r brown, outer feathers barred with brownr and white; *below white with round dusky spots*; spots absent in immature birdsr and in adults in winter; bill orange-yellow,r slightly curved downward. Bobsr and teeters. In flight wings curve downwardr in shallow arc and wingtips vibrate.r Voice *peet weet*, the first note the higher.r Eggs often found laid on bare gravellyr or sandy ground.r r

r Frequents rocky ocean shores in winter.r Summers in mountains, frequentingr sand- and gravelbars along streams andr lake shores. S. V. to Yosemite region.r Seen along the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (where it nests) or in Tuolumner Meadows.r

r r r r

r

r r

r r r COMMON SNIPERr r

r r *COMMON SNIPE (Capella gallinago)*:r r 10 1/2-11 1/2 in. Plumage generallyr brown; *crown crossed by*

black and whiter stripes; brown line from bill to eye; long, slender, straight bill; tail reddish-brown with black bars and whitish tip; belly whitish; breast light brown marked with darker brown spots. Seldom seen away from cover, where it is well concealed.

Breeds chiefly east of the Sierra and to the north. C. V. to Yosemite region, having been observed in Yosemite Valley and on the Tuolumne River at 9,000 feet.

r r
r

r AVOCETS AND STILTS: Family Recurvirostridae

r r

r r

r r

r AMERICAN AVOCET

r AMERICAN AVOCET (Recurvirostra americana): 16-20 in. Head, neck, and breast washed with light cinnamon-brown; eye-ring and base of bill white; white patch down middle of back bordered on each side with black, black areas in turn bordered with broad whiter stripes; belly white; bill long, upturned; iris red. Adult in winter and immature: Head, neck, and chest grayish.

Frequents expanses of shallow water as in marshes or grazing lands; inhabits coastal shores. C. V. to Yosemite region. A single record for Yosemite Valley, several for Tenaya Lake and Tuolumne meadows. Often seen at Mono Lake in summer.

r r r
r

r PHALAROPES: Family Phalaropodidae

r r

r WILSON'S PHALAROPE (Steganopus tricolor): 8 1/2-10 in. Female: Top of head, stripe down back of neck, and upper back ash-gray; black stripe back of eye extends down side of neck and blends with rich chestnut on lower neck; base of tail and under parts white; feet black; no light-colored wing stripe. Male: Similar to female but duller; top of head, wings, and back brown; sides of neck dull reddish-brown. Adult and immature in fall: Above ash-gray; white line over eye; under parts white; line back of eye, dusky.

r r

r The phalaropes show a reversal of their usual situation among birds. The female is the brighter and is the aggressor in courtship. The male incubates the eggs and cares for the young.

r r

r Frequents marshes and wet meadows where there is open shallow water. C. V. to Yosemite region where it has been observed in Yosemite Valley. Common S. V. on Mono Lake.

r r r r r

r r

r r

r NORTHERN PHALAROPE

r r *NORTHERN PHALAROPE (Lobipes lobatus)*: r r 7-8 in. Female: Back, hind-neck, and head slaty or lead-colored; back streaked with rusty; sides of neck and upper breast rufous; eyelids, chin, throat, and remaining under parts white; white bar in extended wing. Male: Resembles female but less reddish-brown and back marked with more black and white. Adults in winter and immature: Upper parts streaked with black and white; top of head and behind eye dusky; white line over eye.

r Often seen in flocks. Head is moved back and forth when swimming. As with other phalaropes, a whirling motion of the body is often employed in feeding. This may stir up small aquatic animals that are common in their diet.

r r

r Most common along the coast but also on sloughs and ponds inland. C. V. to Yosemite region; observed in Yosemite Valley. Large numbers in spring and later summer on Mono Lake.

r r

r GULLS AND TERNS: Family Laridae

r r

r r

r PHALAROPES: Family Phalaropodidae

r r CALIFORNIA GULL r

r r CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*):r r 20-23 in. Head, neck, tail, andr under parts white; back gray; primariesr black, tipped with white; a large whiter spot inside tip of second primary andr sometimes also first; *bill pale yellow withr red spot preceded by black spot near endr of lower mandible*; feet greenish-gray;r iris dark brown. In a flock of gulls, manyr may be seen that are mottled with grayish-brownr and whitish, with, blackishr primaries and black at the tip of ther flesh-colored bill; others approach morer nearly the plumage of the adults. Suchr birds are immatures, 1 to 3 years old.r r

r Along the coast and about inlandr bodies of water. C. V. to the Yosemite region. Observed on Tenaya Lake (8,141r feet) and Young Lake (10,000 feet) andr on other lakes of the high Sierra. Abundantr at Mono Lake.r

r r
r

r r

r r RING-BILLED GULL r

r r RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*):r r 18-20 in. Resembles Californiar gull, but *bill yellow encircled byr black band near tip*, back lighter gray,r feet yellow, and *iris light yellow*. Immature:r Differs from California gull inr having narrower and better defined darkr band at tip of tail.r r

r C. V. on interior bodies of water.r Occasionally seen in Yosemite Valley.r

r r r
r r

r r

r [Next: Pigeon-like Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Crane-like Birds](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/plovers.html

r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > Pigeon-like Birds >

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Cuckoo-like Birds](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Plover-like Birds](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

PIGEON-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Columbiformesr

r r r r r

r PIGEONS AND DOVES:r Family Columbidaer

r r

r r

r r

r BAND-TAILED PIGEONr

r r *BAND-TAILED PIGEON (Columba fasciata)*:r r 15-20 in. Above bluish-gray;r back of neck has dark green area, marginedr anteriorly with white band; lowerr abdomen whitish; breast and upper abdomenr pinkish-brown; *dusky band acrossr tail; resembles domestic pigeon in sizer and shape*. Clapping sound made byr wings when bird takes flight. Travels inr flocks. Voice a deep, mellow too whoo.r Feeds on acorns, berries, etc.r r

r Frequents oak woods, often wherer mixed with conifers. Permanent R.r largely west of the Sierran divides. Considerabler shifting about of flocks inr winter. Occurs in mountains (Transitionr life zone) in summer and in or nearr foothills (Upper Sonoran life zone) inr winter. S. V. to the Yosemite region butr some birds to be seen in Yosemite Valleyr almost any season.r

r r

r r *MOURNING DOVE (Zenaidura macroura)*:r r 11-13 in. Above soft olive-brown;r wings marked with oval blackr spots; top of head gray; below pinkish-brown;r central tail feathers long, outerr ones tipped with white; *tail long andr pointed*. Whistling noise made by wingsr when bird takes flight. Voice a plaintive,r mellow *coo-ah, coo, coo*, the secondr syllable higher than the rest.r

r r

r Frequent chiefly open deciduous woodland or grassland and chaparral but also ranges onto the open ground of plains and deserts. R. in the Sierran foothills and San Joaquin Valley. C. V. for Yosemite region, in Yosemite Valley and at higher elevations to 10,300 feet, as near Vogelsang Lake.

r r r
r r



r r

r [Next: Cuckoo-like Birds](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Plover-like Birds](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/pigeons.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > Cuckoo-like Birds >

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Owls](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Pigeon-like Birds](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

CUCKOO-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Cuculiformes

r r r r r

r CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS,r ETC.: Family Cuculidaer

r r

r r

r r

r ROADRUNNERr

r

r r ROADRUNNER (*Geococcyx californianus*):r r 20-24 in. Above dusky brown,r streaked with tawny and rusty; crested;r long tail with outer feathers tipped withr white; in flight white crescent seen inr short rounded wings; two toes in frontr and two behind producing X-shapedr footprint. *Usually runs rather than flies.*r Song resembles the whining of a dog;r alarm note a guttural, rattling *brrrr*.rr r

r Found chiefly in the Lower and Upperr Sonoran life zones, most commonlyr in the former. Frequents open groundr interspersed with brush and scatteredr larger bushes or small trees. Sparse R.r in foothills near western edge of park.r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Owls](#)r • [Contents](#)r • [Previous: Pigeon-like Birds](#)r

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r

rr

r

rr

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/cuckoos.htmlr

rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

r

rr

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > r [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Owls > r

rr

r

rrr

r [Next: Goatsucker-like Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Cuckoo-like Birds](#)

rrr

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

OWLS:r Order Strigiformes

r r r r r

r TYPICAL OWLS:r Family Strigidae

r r

r r

r r

r SCREECH OWLr

r

r r SCREECH OWL (*Otus asio*):r r 8-10 in. Above gray, finely streaked with black; below lighter, streaked and barred with black; "ear" tufts at sides of head,r wanting in immature in summer; larger yellow eyes. Song a low-pitched whistler with notes near one pitch; notes staccato,r beginning slowly, accelerating,r and dropping slightly in pitch. Nests inr tree cavities, often those dug by larger woodpeckers.r r

r Frequents oak woodland, broken coniferousr forest, and willow and cottonwoodr stream-borders. R. below aboutr 5,000 feet elevation in the western part of the Yosemite region. Found in Yosemite Valley, especially among canyonr live oaks.r

r r

r

r r

r r GREAT HORNED OWL r

r r GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*): r r 18-25 in. Above mottled with gray and brown; throat white; rest of under parts with narrow wavy black bars on whitish; horn-like "ear" tufts; large yellow eyes. Voice a deep, resonant, low-pitched *who whoo whoo whoo*, all essentially on one pitch. The female has a higher pitched voice of more variable pattern. r r

r R. in a variety of habitats from wooded areas to desert cliffs, occurring from sea level to timberline. Widely distributed in the Yosemite region, largely below the Hudsonian life zone but occasionally in this zone. Observed at Ten Lakes and at 10,700 feet on the Lyell Fork. r

r r
r

r r

r r PYGMY OWL r

r r PYGMY OWL (*Glaucidium gnoma*): r r 7-7 1/2 in. Above dark, brownish-gray with whitish spots, most abundant on head; throat white; below white, streaked with fine black lines; tail long for owl, barred with white; projecting back at angle when bird is perched; no "ear" tufts; eyes yellow. Voice a slow series of mellow whistled notes often on one pitch, occasionally interrupted with a rapid series—*whoot, whoot, cahoot, tootoo-too-too-too-too*, *whoot, whoot*, etc. May be heard in the daytime. Often nests in woodpecker holes. Most active in early morning, later afternoon, and at dusk. Smallest owl in Yosemite. r r

r Frequent open coniferous and deciduous woods chiefly in the Transition and occasionally in the Canadian life zone in the mountains where it is a permanent R. Common in the Yosemite region. r

r TYPICAL OWLS: r Family Strigidae

r r
r

r r

r r LONG-EARED OWL r

r r *LONG-EARED OWL (Asio otus)*: r r 13-16 in. Above mottled dark brown, r buffy, and gray; below yellowish-brown r and white with streaks and bars of dark r brown; catlike face; brown patch on r tawny lining of wing near tip seen in r flight; long “ear” tufts immediately over r eyes. Song a low, pidgeon-like *whooo*, r given singly, often with lengthy intervals. r Cat-like meowing notes may be r heard if the birds are disturbed at their nest. Often uses abandoned crow or r magpie nests for nesting. r r

r Frequents thick foliage, particularly r willow thickets, groves of aspen or cottonwoods, r or dense stands of young r conifers. R. in the Yosemite region below r the Canadian life zone. Observed in Yosemite r Valley and at Swamp Lake. r

r r

r r *GREAT GRAY OWL (Strix nebulosa)*: r r 24-33 in. Large, light gray facial r discs marked faintly with dusky concentric r rings; eyes yellow; no “ear” tufts; r above dark brown with light grayish r mottling; under parts light gray streaked r lengthwise with dark brown. Voice a r deep reverberating *who* given at its regular intervals. Yosemite nesting records r near Glacier Point and at Craner Flat. Largest owl in Yosemite region. r

r r

r R. with some wandering in winter. r Chiefly in coniferous forests of the Sierra r Nevada from Madera County northward. r Probably permanent R. in Yosemite region r where it has been observed in fir and pine woods in the Canadian zone. r

r r

r r

r r SHORT-EARED OWL r

r r *SHORT-EARED OWL (Asio flammeus)*: r r 13-17 in. Above mottled yellowish-brown and dark brown, streaked on head and neck; below buffy streaked with dark brown, conspicuously so on chin and breast; buffy patches on upper surface of wings; under surfaces of wings buffy with dark mark toward tip; facial discs dark around eyes, fading into gray; inconspicuous "ear" tufts. Forages in the daytime. r r

r Usually occurs in marshy land and open fields. Rare C. V. to Yosemite region. Has been seen at 11,000 feet on Mount Clark. r

r r r r r

r r *SPOTTED OWL (Stria occidentalis)*: r r 18-19 in. Upper parts rich brown, spotted with white; eye discs light brown, tinged with yellow, bordered with dark brown; no "ear" tufts; under parts yellow brown, heavily barred and spotted with white; tail barred and tipped with whitish; eyes dark. Call resembles the barking of a dog. r

r r

r R. in dense forests of the Transition life zone of the Sierra to about 7,000 feet. Has been observed in Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r r *SAW-WHET OWL (Aegolius acadicus)*: r r 7-8 in. Above brown, spotted with white; "ear" tufts. absent; top of head and neck with fine white streaks on brown; white over eyes; under parts with strong, reddish-brown bars on whitish; white spots on wing; tail inconspicuous, with white bars. Immature: Chocolate brown above; tawny below, with dark streaks; sooty face with whiter "eyebrows." Call a long series of staccato notes, near one pitch but varying in volume. r

r r

r Frequents woodland and coniferous forests of the Transition and Canadian life zones. Sparse R. in Yosemite region. r Recorded as nesting in Yosemite Valley. r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Goatsucker-like Birds](#) •r [Contents](#) •r [Previous: Cuckoo-like Birds](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/owls.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Goatsucker-like Birds](#) > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Swifts & Hummingbirds](#) •r [Contents](#) •r [Previous: Owls](#) r

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

GOATSUCKER-LIKE BIRDS:r Order Caprimulgiformesr

r r r r

r GOATSUCKERS:r Family Caprimulgidaer

r r

r r

r r r r r COMMON NIGHTHAWK r

r r *COMMON NIGHTHAWK (Chordeiles minor):r r 8 1/2-10 in. Above black,r marked with gray and brown; tailr forked; white band crosses outer tailr feathers near tip, wanting in female;r white across throat, bulky in female;r white band midway between tip andr bend in long, slender wings; under partsr gray, cross-barred with dusky. Forages inr the air usually at dusk, catching insectsr with its large, widely opened mouth.r Flight erratic. Voice a harsh raspingr *speeink*. May dive toward the groundr with extended, fixed wings. At the bottomr of the swoop the wings are bentr suddenly downward and a startlingr sound, “whoof,” is produced by the rushr of air through the primary feathers.r Eggs laid on bare ground.r r*

r Frequentr open coniferous forestsr ofr high mountains in summer, usuallyr where there is open rocky ground forr nesting. S. V. in the Transition, Canadian,r and Hudsonian life zones in ther Yosemite region. Seen chiefly in highr mountain areas such as Tuolumne Meadows,r at Merced and Vogelsang Lakes,r and occasionally in Yosemite Valley.r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r
r POOR-WILLr

r r *POOR-WILL (Phalacroptilus nuttallii)*: r r 7-8 in. Grayish-brown, marked r with black and silvery gray; darker below; r *white band on throat bordered with black; white tips on outer tail feathers*; r tail short, cut straight across; *no white wing-bars* seen in flight as in nighthawks; r mouth large, bristled. Forages r later and at a lower elevation than the booming nighthawk. Song a plaintive whistle, *poor-will*, the second note slurred, longer and lower than first. r r

r Frequent rocky, gravelly terrain or bare soil, grown scattering to bushes r and trees. Frequent the Lower Sonoran to the Transition life zone, from San Joaquin Valley to Yosemite Valley. S. V. r at lower elevations in Yosemite. r

r r r
r r

r r

r [Next: Swifts & Hummingbirds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Owls](#) r

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/goatsuckers.html r

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Swifts and Hummingbirds > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Roller-like Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Goatsucker-like Birds](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS:r Order Apodiformesr

r r r r r

r SWIFTS: Family Apodidaer

r r r r r

r r

r r

r VAUX'S SWIFTr

r

r r VAUX'S SWIFT (*Chaetura vauxi*):r r 4 1/2 in. Above dark brown, lighter onr rump and tail; throat and breast lighter gray; rest of under parts sooty; tailr short, not forked. Flight strong, swift,r erratic, consisting of glides with wingsr extended stiffly from body and distinctlyr bowed downward, alternating with rapidr wingbeats. Nests in burned-out, hollowr tree trunks, mostly redwoods.r r

r In summer found along the coast fromr Santa Cruz Co. northward and occasionallyr in the Sierra. M. throughout, includingr Sierra. C. V. to Yosemite region.r Recorded in Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r r BLACK SWIFT (*Cypseloides niger*):r r 7 in. General coloration black; at closer range small amount of white may ber seen about face; undersides of wings mayr appear silvery at certain angles; slenderr curving wings; tail slightly forked. Voicer a high-pitched twitter. Nests in cliffsr near waterfalls or in sea-bluffs.r

r r

r S. V., breeding in the Transition lifer zone of the central coast of California,r and the central and southern Sierrar Nevada. Seen in Yosemite Valley andr found nesting in Tenaya Canyon.r r r

r

r r

r r WHITE-THROATED SWIFT r

r r *WHITE-THROATED SWIFT (Aeronautes saxatalis)*: r r 6 1/2-7 in. *Chin, throat, breast, middle line of belly, and patches on flanks white*; flank patches show from above; rest of plumage essentially black; tail slightly forked; wings long and slender. In flight, one sees flashes of white on breast and rump. Song, a twittering series of descending notes resembling song of a canyon wren. A remarkably fast flier. r r

r Frequents the vicinity of cliffs (often of granite) where it roosts and nests. r Breeds chiefly in the Lower and Upper Sonoran life zones and into the Transition zone. S. V. in the Yosemite region, usually near sheer cliffs. Common about Yosemite Valley. r

r r r r r

r

r HUMMINGBIRDS: Family Trochilidae

r r

r r

r r BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD r

r r *BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD (Archilochus alexandri)*: r r 3-1/3-4 in. Above green with bronze iridescence; *chin black*, bordered by iridescent violet band which, in turn, is bordered by white collar; below ash-gray, tinged chiefly on sides with dull green. r Female: White thumb-marks on outer tail feathers;

r SWIFTS: Family Apodidae

under parts, including throat, chiefly white; throat with faint dark flecks.

Inhabits mountains, foothills, canyons, and gardens in lowlands during the summer. Nests chiefly in deciduous trees along stream bottoms in the Upper Sonoran life zone. In Yosemite region, S. V. at lower elevations, higher in later summer. Observed at El Portal, Yosemite Valley, and Mono Lake.

r r r

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD (Selasphorus sasin): 3 1/2 in. Back metallic green; tail reddish-brown; throat coppery red; below rich brown except white on breast. Female: Essentially like female rufous hummingbird. S. V. in Transition and Canadian life zones of Sierra during post breeding southward migration, when it ranges widely. C. V. to Yosemite region. Has been observed in Yosemite Valley and up to Badger Pass and Gin Flat.

r r

r r

r r ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD r

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD (Calypte anna): 4 in. Above greenish; forehead and throat iridescent crimson; throat with elongated feathers on each side; under parts dusky with green tinge. Female: Throat usually flecked with crimson; white thumb-marks on tips of outer tail feathers. *Largest hummingbird of the region.*

Frequents broken chaparral and woodland. Breeds chiefly in the Upper Sonoran life zone but widely distributed when not breeding. In the Yosemite region R. in the foothills and a S. V. to the Transition life zone.

r r

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD (Selasphorus rufus): 3 1/2-4 in. Above rufous with faint greenish tinge to head and sometimes back; throat iridescent coppery red or brilliant crimson bordered below with white band; below rich brown; rufous on sides. Female: Above green, tinged with rufous; throat sometimes with some red; faint rufous on sides; white thumb-marks on outer tail feathers.

r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

M. chiefly in lowlands and foothills when moving north, and along the mountains when returning south. M. in the Yosemite region. Most likely to be seen at higher elevations in July and August when in southbound migration. Seen above 12,000 feet, Parsons Peak.

r r r r r

r

r r

r r
r CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD r

r r CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (*Stellar calliope*): r r 2 3/4-3 1/2 in. Above metallic green; below white; sides greenish-brown; r iridescent throat patch of reddish-purple feathers which, especially when bird is excited, radiate like spread fingers of one's hand. Female: Head and back green, r washed with bronze; white throat, flecked r with dusky; under parts washed with reddish-brown; tail feathers tipped with white. *Smallest hummingbird in the United States.* r r

r S. V. in the Transition and Canadian life zones in the Yosemite region. Seen from March to September in Yosemite Valley where it breeds. r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Roller-like Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Goatsucker-like Birds](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/swifts_hummingbirds.html r

r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r HUMMINGBIRDS: r Family Trochilidae r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Roller-like Birds > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Woodpecker-like Birds](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Swifts & Hummingbirds](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

ROLLER-LIKE BIRDS: r Order Coraciiformes

r r r r r

r KINGFISHERS: Family Alcedinidae

r r

r r

r r

r BELTED KINGFISHER

r

r r *BELTED KINGFISHER (Megasceryle alcyon)*: r r 11-14 in. Above slaty blue; r *white band around neck; brownish-blue band across breast; prominent slaty blue crest*; bill long and strong; below white; r sides with gray and, sparingly, brown. r Female: Similar to male, but with additional r band (rusty) across belly and r chestnut on sides. Call loud, harsh, r rattling sound, often heard in flight. r Nests in holes in earthen banks near water. r r r

r Attracted to both salt and fresh water r where it feeds on small fishes. Frequent r lakes, ponds, larger streams, and the seacoast. r Widespread R. chiefly west of the deserts. Frequently seen along streams in the Yosemite region to an elevation of r about 8,600 feet in Tuolumne Meadows. r Nests in the banks of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley. r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Woodpecker-like Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Swifts & Hummingbirds](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/rollers.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Woodpecker-like Birds > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Perching Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Roller-like Birds](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

WOODPECKER-LIKE BIRDS: Order Piciformes

r r r r

r WOODPECKERS: Family Picidae

r r

r r *PILEATED WOODPECKER (Dryocopus pileatus)*: r r 17-18 in. Top of head including crest and bar on cheek bright red; red on head reduced and red cheek absent in female; white line above and below eye; long, wide stripe of white on neck; otherwise generally black except white patches in wings, more extensive on under side. Immature: Crest salmon. Feeds on beetle larvae, ants, and occasionally plant materials. Nests in dead conifers and large aspens.

r r

r r Inhabits coniferous forests, especially of white and red firs and Douglas-fir. R. in the Yosemite region in the Transition and Canadian life zones. To be seen in Yosemite Valley at all seasons of the year.

r r r r r

r r

r r
r RED-SHAFTED FLICKER r

r r *RED-SHAFTED FLICKER (Colaptes cafer)*: r r 13-14 in. Crown brownish; back barred with black; throat bluish-gray; lining of wings and tail reddish-orange; large, black crescent on spotted breast; white spot on rump; male has red stripe on side of head. Omnivorous, feeding on insects, berries, and plant materials. Often seen on the ground searching for ants, grasshoppers, etc. Nests in self-made cavities in cottonwoods, willows, oaks, and conifers.

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r Widespread R. in Yosemite region. Inr late summer and fall may be seen nearlyr to timberline. Observed at 10,200 feetr near Parsons Peak.r

r r

r

r r

r r
r ACORN WOODPECKER (Female)r

r r *ACORN WOODPECKER (Melanerpes formicivorus)*:r r 9 1/2 in. Foreheadr white; *crown red*; sides of head andr upper parts black; *rump and wingr patches white*; breast with black bandr from which black streaks run down onr belly. In flight, one sees flashes of blackr and white—white band in wings andr white patch on rump. Female: Resemblesr male except has black area betweenr white on forehead and red on head.r r r

r Frequents woodland areas chiefly inr the Upper Sonoran life zone but also inr the Transition life zone. Attracted to oakr trees upon which it depends to a larger extent for food and sites for nestingr holes. Often stores acorns in dead trees,r the bark of trees, fence posts, etc. Widespreadr common R. largely west of ther Sierran divides, as at lower elevations inr the Yosemite region. A conspicuous birdr on the floor of Yosemite Valley where itr is found associated with the black andr canyon live oaks. Sometimes seen flyr atching.r

r r

r r

r r
r LEWIS' WOODPECKERr

r r *LEWIS' WOODPECKER (Asyndesmus lewis)*:r r 10 1/2-11 1/2 in. Above black,r tinged with green; no white in wings;r breast gray, approaching *rose color onr belly*; *gray collar on nape*; *dark red onr forehead*,

sides of head, and chin. In flight resembles a crow. r r

r Erratic occurrence as R. from year to year. Frequents broken deciduous woodland or coniferous forest. Breeds chiefly in the Upper Sonoran and Transition life zones. Likely to be seen almost anywhere in the Yosemite region except in the denser forests. Has been seen at 9,500 feet above Ten Lakes. r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r
r YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER r

r r *YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (Sphyrapicus (varius):* r r 8-9 in. Red-naped sapsucker, subspecies *nuchalis*: Top of head bright red, encircled by narrow black line which separates crimson line across nape from red on crown; back and wings black, boldly marked with white; black tail with white markings down middle; throat crimson, red color reduced in female; black patch on breast, solid on male, flecked with gray in female; under parts whitish, tinged with yellow; sides flecked or streaked with blackish; white patch at wing bend. r r

r Red-breasted sapsucker, subspecies *daggetti*: *Head, neck, and breast dark red*; back black, mottled with white; r distinctive *white stripe along bend of wing*, prominent even on immature birds which lack reddish of head and breast; r white stripe from bill to under eyes. r

r r

r Sapsuckers circle trunks and larger branches of trees with small holes when foraging for sap and the tender growth layer (cambium) beneath the bark. They are especially fond of willows. r

r r

r The red-naped sapsucker breeds in the northeastern part of California and winters in the south. Occasional W. V. to the Yosemite region. The red-breasted sapsucker breeds in northern California south through the Cascade-Sierran mountain system to certain of the higher mountains of southern California, dispersing in winter to lower elevations. It is R. in the Transition and Canadian life zones in the Yosemite region. Seen in Yosemite Valley all year. r

r r

r r

r r
r WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER r

r r WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*): r r 8-9 1/2 in. Top of r head, back, and tail black; large white patch at wing bend; red streak on chin and throat; yellow area on belly below black chest; sides and under tail feathers r with black marks on whitish; white streak under and one above eye; rump r white. Female: Much different from r male, at one time considered a different r species. Wings, back, and sides streaked r with whitish and black; head brown; r throat streaked; black band on chest; r belly yellow; rump white. Feeds principally r on sap and cambium, obtained by r drilling rows of small holes. r r

r Breeds chiefly in the coniferous forests r of the Canadian life zone. Often associated r with lodgepole pine and red fir. Inhabits r high mountains in summer and r and slightly lower levels in winter. R. in r the Canadian and Hudsonian life zones r in the Yosemite region; occasional on the floor of Yosemite Valley in winter. r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r
r HAIRY WOODPECKER r

r r HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos villosus*): r r 8 1/2-10 1/2 in. Upper parts r black with broad white patch down r middle of back; white line above and r one below eye; outer tail feathers white, r without bars; nape with red stripe or r crescent, red missing in female; feathers r sometimes appear shaggy or roughened; r resembles downy woodpecker but larger, r and outer tail feathers unmarked. r r

r Frequents broken or open mixed deciduous r and coniferous forest, especially r where there are dead snags. R. in foothills r and mountains. Breeds chiefly in the Transition and Canadian life zones. Widespread r R. in the Yosemite region except in the Lower Sonoran life zone and above timberline. r

r r
r

r r

r r
r NUTTALL'S WOODPECKERr

r r NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos nuttallii*):r r 7 in. Nape and sometimesr crown feathers red; back black,r crossbarred with narrow white stripesr (“convict” stripes or “ladder” back);r under parts solid white; sides spottedr with black; no red on head in female.r Voice a series of staccato notes givenr rapidly and largely on one pitch.rr r

r Often associated with oaks. R. chiefly in the Upper Sonoran life zone. Frequentr foothills and canyons west of ther Sierran crest. C. V. to lower elevationsr in the Yosemite region. Occasionallyr seen in Yosemite Valley.r

r r
r

r r

r r
r WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKERr

r r WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKERr (*Dendrocopos albolarvatus*):r r 9 in. Whiter head and upper breast; scarlet nape, absentr in female; white patch in blackr wing; rest of body black. Nests in deadr stubs, Forages to a large extent on insectsr infesting the bark of living coniferousr trees.rr r

r R. in coniferous forests, chiefly in ther Transition and lower Canadian life zones.r Present in considerable numbers in ther Yosemite region in the zones mentioned;r common at Mariposa Grove, Glacierr Point, and in

Yosemite Valley.r

r r r r r

r r *BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOEDr WOODPECKER (Picoides arcticus):*r r 9-10 in. Above black, except golden yellowr on crown, wanting in female; wingsr barred with white spots; outer tail feathersr white; black stripe from bill alongr side of head, bordered above by white liner that passes below eye; under parts largelyr white; sides barred strongly with black;r two toes in front, one behind (two toesr behind in other woodpeckers in Yosemite region).r

r r

r Usually associated with red fir, lodgepole pine, or hemlock. Found chiefly inr the Canadian and Hudsonian life zones.r Sparse R. in the Yosemite region. Observedr near Mono Meadow, Siesta Lake,r Tenaya Lake, Tuolumne Meadows, andr McGee Lake at an altitude of 8,600 feet.r

r r

r r *DOWNY WOODPECKER (Dendrocopos pubescens):*r r 6-7 in. Resembles hairyr woodpecker but much smaller and whiter outer tail feathers barred inconspicuouslyr with black.r

r r

r Frequents chiefly stream-border growthr of willows, cottonwoods, and alders. Inr the Sierra Nevada it breeds most commonlyr in the Upper Sonoran and Transitionr life zones. R. in the Yosemite regionr up to an elevation of 5,750 feet, as onr the Yosemite Falls Trail.r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Perching Birds](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Roller-like Birds](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/woodpeckers.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > r [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Perching Birds > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Tyrant Flycatchers](#) r • r [Contents](#) r • r [Previous: Woodpecker-like Birds](#) r

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

PERCHING BIRDS:r Order Passeriformesr

r r r

- r
 - Tyrant Flycatchers, Family Tyrannidae

- r
 - Larks, Family Alaudidae

- r
 - Swallows, Family Hirundinidae

- r
 - Jays, Magpies, and Crows, Family Corvidae

- r
 - Tits, Family Paridae

- r
 - Nuthatches, Family Sittidae

- r
 - Creepers, Family Certhiidae

- r
 - Wrentits, Family Chamaeidae

- r
 - Dippers, Family Cincilidae

- r
 - Wrens, Family Troglodytidae

- r
 - Mockingbirds and Thrashers, Familyr Mimidae

- r
 - Thrushes, Family Turdidae

r

- Gnatcatchers, Kinglets, and Old-world Warblers, Family Sylviidae

r

- Wagtails, Family Motacillidae

r

- Waxwings, Family Bombycillidae

r

- Silky Flycatchers, Family Ptilonotidae

r

- Shrikes, Family Laniidae

r

- Vireos, Family Vireonidae

r

- Wood Warblers, Family Parulidae

r

- Weaver Finches, Family Ploceidae

r

- Orioles and Blackbirds, Family Icteridae

r

- Tanagers, Family Thraupidae

r

- Finches, Sparrows, etc., Family Fringillidae

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Tyrant Flycatchers](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Woodpecker-like Birds](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/perching_birds.html

rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

r

rr

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > r [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Tyrant Flycatchers > r

rr

r

rrr

r [Next: Larks](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Perching Birds](#)

rrr

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Family Tyrannidae

r r r r r

r r

r r
r WESTERN KINGBIRD r

r r *WESTERN KINGBIRD (Tyrannus verticalis)*: r r 8-9 1/2 in. Head and nape ash-gray; r throat whitish, grading gradually r to darker on breast, running to *yellow r on belly* and under tail; upper parts dark gray; crown patch in male scarlet, often r concealed; *outer web of outer tail feather r white*; *tail black*, straight across. Sometimes r flies after other birds. Often perches r on wires and telephone poles. In feeding r commonly flies out from perch and r returns. r r

r r Frequent s dry open terrain usually r with few widely spaced trees. Breeds r chiefly in the Lower and Upper Sonoran r life zones. Found usually below 5,000 r feet in the Yosemite region. Occasionally r seen in Yosemite Valley in the summer r and fall, and at Mono Lake. r

r r

r

r r

r r
r ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHERr

r r *ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER* (*Myiarchus cinerascens*): r r 8 - 8 1/2 in. r Upper parts grayish-brown; top of head r brown; wings with two whitish bars; r throat whitish grading on breast to ashgray; r belly tinged with pale yellow; r *crown feathers long, often raised, giving appearance of crest*; outer edges of primaries and *under side of tail rufous*. r Nests in abandoned woodpecker holes or other cavities in trees. r r

r S. V. in brushlands, usually where there are a few trees. Breeds in the Lower and Upper Sonoran life zones. C. V. at lower elevations in the Yosemite region. r Occasionally seen in Yosemite Valley. r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r
r BLACK PHOEBER

r r *BLACK PHOEBE* (*Sayornis nigricans*): r r 6 1/2 in. *Head, breast, and upper parts black; belly and under tail coverts white*; weakly crested. Immature: Head and neck dark brown. Flies after insects and returns to perch. Nest of mixed mud and grass placed on sides of buildings, bridges, cliffs, etc. over or near water. r r

r Closely associated with water, running or quiet, often where there are trees, cliffs, or high banks. Widespread. r breeding chiefly in the Upper Sonoran life zone. S. V. to lower elevations in the Yosemite region; breeds in Yosemite Valley, along Merced River. r

r r

r r *TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER* (*Empidonax traillii*): r r 5-6 in. Above gray-brown or olive-gray; head slaty;

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

under parts light gray, tinged with yellow posteriorly; two light-colored, inconspicuous wing-bars; eye-ring whitish. Song *psit-tweerr* given repeatedly; also a soft staccato *whit* given two or three times.

r r

r In the breeding season, closely restricted to willows. Widespread S. V. ranging from the Lower Sonoran to the Canadian life zone. Widespread at lower elevations in winter. Common S. V. for Yosemite region; present in Yosemite Valley.

r r

r

r r

r r

r SAY'S PHOEBE

r

r r SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*): r r 7-8 in. Above grayish-brown; tail blackish; straight across when open, slightly emarginate at rest; belly and region under tail rust-brown. Plaintive call, *pee-er*. r r

r Frequents open arid terrain. Breeds chiefly in the Lower and Upper Sonoran life zones. C. V. at low elevations in the Yosemite region. Observed in Yosemite Valley.

r r

r r HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax hammondi*): r r 5 in. Above brownish- or olive-gray, darker on head; two whitish wing-bars; breast dark gray, otherwise under parts pale yellowish. Song, *see-wit*, *pseet*, *swerz*, etc., the three notes emphatic and often repeated. Call a weak *pit*.

r r

r Summers in the Sierra Nevada, breeding in the Canadian life zone where it is frequently found high (often 20 to over 100 feet) in coniferous trees, particularly red firs and dense stands of lodgepole pine. In migration far less restricted, frequenting deciduous woods, chaparral, and conifers. Has been seen as high as 10,500 feet on Mount Clark in the Yosemite region.

r r r r r

r r DUSKY FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax oberholseri*): r r S' 4-6 in. Resembles Hammond's flycatcher but lighter and with broader bill. The two flycatchers are distinguished with difficulty. Song a group of three or more lisping notes, *se-peet*, *wurt'zel*, *see'-pit*, the middle note not as low or monosyllabic as the

Hammond's. The song is generally more vigorous and varied than the latter's. Call note *pit* or *see'pit*.

r r

r Frequent mixed brushland (manzanita, snow-brush, etc.) and deciduous or coniferous trees. Forages and nests in low growth. Breeds chiefly in the Canadian life zone where S. V. in Yosemite region. M. through lowlands in spring and fall.

r r

r r

r r
r WESTERN FLYCATCHER r

r r WESTERN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax difficilis*): r r S'4-6 in. Above brownish or olive-gray; throat yellowish; breast yellowish, tinged with brown; belly yellow; wings with two whitish bars; eye-ring whitish; upper mandible black; lower mandible pinkish or yellow. Call a bright lisping *swee'ip* with rising inflection. Song three-parted, *see'rip, sip, see'rip*, repeated at intervals. r r

r Frequent shaded stream and lake borders. Partial to wooded canyon bottoms. Breeds chiefly west of the main Sierran axis in the Upper Sonoran and Transition life zones. S. V. in Yosemite region; present in Yosemite Valley.

r r

r

r r

r r
r WESTERN WOOD PEWEE r

r r WESTERN WOOD PEWEE (*Contopus sordidulus*): r r 6-6 1/2 in. Above dark gray-brown; under parts

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

grayish, lighter on throat and abdomen with dark wash on each side; no eye-ring; inconspicuous crest and wing-bars; bill dark above and light below. Sits in an upright, straight-backed position on the lower limbs of trees; commonly holds tail on line with back. Often perches and nests on a dead limb.

Frequents broken deciduous or coniferous woods or a mixture of the two. Tends to avoid densely foliated trees. S. V. from the Upper Sonoran to the Hudsonian life zone. Widespread during migration, reaching desert areas. Common species in the Yosemite region. Its monotonous *pee-ur* may be heard throughout Yosemite Valley in summer.

r r r r r

r

r r

r OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER r

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Nuttallornis borealis*): 7 1/4-8 in. (Ill., p. 35) Above sooty-brown except patch of white on each side of rump; whiter patches sometimes hidden; *dark sides separated by whitish streak that extends from white of throat to yellowish-whiter of belly; large head with partial crest;* tail short. One of the larger flycatchers. Song a clear, strong *wher, whee, whew*, the second note the highest, the third with a slurring drop in pitch. Song also suggests *What peeves you?* Call a short *tip-tip* or *tit, tit, tip*, on one pitch and often repeated.

Breeds in broken coniferous forests, chiefly in the Transition and Canadian life zones. Seeks high perches, often dead stubs of coniferous trees. S. V. to Yosemite region. Present but not common in Yosemite Valley.

r r r

r r

r r

[Next: Larks](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Perching Birds](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/flycatchers.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Larks](#) >

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Swallows](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Tyrant Flycatchers](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

LARKS: Family Alaudidae

r r r r r

r r

r r

r HORNED LARKr

r

r r *HORNED LARK (Eremophila alpestris)*: r r 7-8 in. Upper parts mottled with gray and pinkish-brown; forehead yellowish; r black bar on each side of crown continuing back to include two hornlike tufts of feathers, one on each side of head, inconspicuous or wanting in winter; r tail black with narrow edge of whiter on outer tail feathers; throat yellow; r black crescent on breast; black bars on face. Female: Similar but smaller and colors duller. r r

r Frequent open level or gently rolling country where there may be few or no trees, such as short-grass prairies, desert flats, mountain meadows, and fallow fields. R. in the Lower and Upper Sonoran life zones. In the Yosemite region may be seen at lower elevations to the west and in summer on high mountain meadows. Occasionally seen in Yosemite Valley. Seen on fenceposts in the foothill grasslands along State Highway 140. r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Swallows](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Tyrant Flycatchers](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/larks.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Swallows](#) > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Jays, Magpies, & Crows](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Larks](#) r

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

SWALLOWS: Family Hirundinidae

r r r r

r r

r r
r ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWr

r r ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWr (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*):r r 5 - 5 3/4 in.r Upper parts brown; *chin, throat, and breast grayish-brown*; belly and under tail coverts white; no iridescent colors.r Nests in crevices or holes in bank, oftenr those dug by rodents or kingfishers.r r

r Frequents low earthen banks alongr slowly flowing streams or even along dryr gullies. Breeds chiefly in the Lower andr Upper Sonoran life zones. Of local occurrencer as S. V. in the lower, western part of the Yosemite region. Occasional inr Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r

r r

r r
r CLIFF SWALLOWr

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r *CLIFF SWALLOW* (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*): r r 5-6 in. Forehead creamy white; crown and back blue-black; nape gray; wings and tail dark brown; throat and side of head reddish-brown; spot of blue on throat; rump pale rust or tan; tail tip nearly straight; belly light gray. The light under parts and forehead and the tan rump aid in identifying the bird in flight. Often produces a grating noise in flight. Nest gourd-shaped, composed of mud pellets, often attached to a niche in a cliff or beneath the eaves of a building. Of San Juan Capistrano fame. r r r

r Attracted to cliffs, high banks, and the walls of buildings, usually not far from a source of mud for nest building and quiet water for drinking. Nests chiefly from the Lower Sonoran to the Transition life zone. S. V. to the western part of the Yosemite region. Has been observed in the Hetch Hetchy area. r

r r

r r *TREE SWALLOW* (*Iridoprocne bicolor*): r r 5-6 in. Above bluish tinged with green, or black with steel-blue iridescence; below white. Nests in abandoned woodpecker holes in trees near water. r

r r

r Frequents streams, sloughs, ponds, lakes, and wet meadows where it forages chiefly above water. Breeds chiefly in the Upper Sonoran and Transition life zones. C. V. to lower elevations in the Yosemite region. Has nested in Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r r

r r r VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW r

r r *VIOLET - GREEN SWALLOW* (*Tachycineta thalassina*): r r 5 1/2 in. Above greenish with purplish cast; top of head dark brownish-green with bronze tinge; wings and tail dusky; rump purplish tending to blue-green over tail; below white; sides of head white; sides of rump white, showing plainly in flight. r r r

r Frequents the vicinity of cliffs and rocky canyon walls and broken woods and forest margins. Breeds chiefly in the Upper Sonoran and Transition life zones. S. V. in the Yosemite region in the zones mentioned; most common swallow in Yosemite Valley. r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Jays, Magpies, & Crows](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Larks](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/swallows.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > r [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Jays, Magpies, and Crows > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Tits](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Swallows](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

JAYS, MAGPIES, AND CROWS

r r r r r

r JAYS, MAGPIES, AND CROWS:r Family Corvidae

r r

r r

r r

r STELLER'S JAYr

r

r r *STELLER'S JAY (Cyanocitta stelleri)*:r r 12-13 1/2 in. (Ill., p. 38) Forepart of body black; *head strongly crested*;r often some light blue streaks on foreheadr which may extend to crest; under parts light blue; wings and tail deep blue crossbarred with black. Capable of ar great variety of sounds, suggesting thatr it has a well-developed "language."rr r

r Inhabits chiefly coniferous forests ofr the Transition and Canadian life zones,r occasionally invading the lowlands inr winter. Essentially R. with some down-mountainr movement in winter. Abundantr in the Yosemite region. One of ther boldest and most conspicuous birds ofr the floor of Yosemite Valley.r

r r r r r

r r *PIÑON JAY (Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus)*:r r 10-12 in. *Whole body dullr blue*, more vivid on head; streaks ofr whitish on throat; tail relatively short;r bill long and slender. Crow-like in flight.r Often seen in flocks. Omnivorous butr feeds to a considerable extent on piñonr nuts.r

r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r Frequently associated with piñon and juniper but ranges into grasslands and open forests of other types. Breeds in the arid Upper Sonoran and Transition life zones. R. east of the Cascade-Sierra divides, but in fall and winter may wander far to the west. C. V. to Yosemite region where occasionally seen in Tuolumne Meadows and above the rim of Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r

r r

r r

r SCRUB JAYr

r

r r *SCRUB JAY (Aphelocoma coerulescens)*:r r 11 1/2-12 in. Head without crest;r upper parts blue except middle of back grayish-brown; under parts grayish,r lightest on throat; blue-black band (often not complete) on breast; white line over eye; sides of face blackish.rr r

r Frequents chiefly the broken woodland and chaparral of the Upper Sonoran life zone. Widespread R. in the western foothills of the Sierra, including the Yosemite region, but absent from higher elevations. Occasional in Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r

r r

r r

r YELLOW-BILLED MAGPIEr

r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

YELLOW-BILLED MAGPIE (Pica nuttalli): 16-18 in. Head, throat, breast, back, and rump black; large bar of white on shoulder; belly white; larger white patches toward tips of outspread wings; bill yellow; long central tail feathers. Omnivorous. Builds a bulky nest of sticks and mud.

Frequents broad expanses of open ground where there is a scattering of oaks, sycamores, cottonwoods, or other trees. Found in the Lower and Upper Sonoran life zones, usually near water. R. in the Great Valley and western foothills of the Sierra as in the western part of the Yosemite region. Rarely observed in Yosemite Valley.

r r r r r r

r

r r

r r CLARK'S NUTCRACKER r

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER (Nucifraga columbiana): 12-13 in. Body light gray; black wings with white-tipped secondary feathers forming conspicuous white patch at rear edge of wing; most outer tail feathers white, central tail feathers black. Harsh call. Omnivorous but feeds to a large extent on pine nuts.

R. chiefly in the Canadian and Hudsonian life zones in areas usually characterized by meadows, rocky slopes, and trees of relatively small stature. Frequents most of the higher mountain masses, generally from 8,000 feet up to timberline. In the Yosemite region common in the Hudsonian zone but may be seen at lower elevations as at Glacier Point and at other localities on the rim of Yosemite Valley, especially in late summer and fall.

r r

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE (Pica pica): 17-22 in. Bill black, otherwise resembles yellow-billed magpie, but is slightly larger.

r r

Frequents chiefly open terrain with clumps of willows, aspens, cottonwoods, or other trees with nesting sites and shelter. Water in the form of a stream, wet meadow, or lake is often not far removed. Breeds in the Upper Sonoran and Transition life zones. R. east of the Cascade-Sierran divide south to the upper part of the Owens Valley. Occasionally enters the eastern part of the Yosemite region. Has been seen in Lyell Canyon.

r r

COMMON CROW (Corvus brachyrhynchos): 17-21 in. Whole bird glossy black; tip of tail rounded

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

when spread. Often seen in flocks. Call, familiar *caw, r caw*. Omnivorous.

r r

r Frequents areas with a broad expanse of open ground, in valleys and in rolling hills, but trees are requisite for nesting and roosting. Breeds in the Lower Sonoran to the Transition life zones. R. throughout the Great Valley. Absent on C. V. in heavily forested or mountainous country and in the deserts. Occasional at lower elevations in the western part of the Yosemite region. C. V. to Yosemite Valley.

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Tits](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Swallows](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/crows.html

r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Tits](#) >

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Nuthatches](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Jays, Magpies, & Crows](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

TITS: Family Paridae

r r r r r

r r

r r r MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE r

r r *MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE (Parus gambeli)*: r r 5-5 3/4 in. Upper parts gray, r tinged with brown; *top of head and r throat black; white line over eye; black r line through eye; cheeks and belly white, r sides tinged with brown. Call a lispin g chick-a-dee-dee or a sweet, clear, high-pitched, r plaintive song, ph ee-dee-dee, the r first note considerably higher than the r last two. Characteristic of chickadees is r the habit of clinging with head downward r as they forage at the tips of r branches. Nests in natural tree cavities r or abandoned woodpecker holes. r r*

r Frequent s chiefly open coniferous forest s or the margins of dense stands, in r the high Upper Sonoran to the Hudsonian r life zones. R. chiefly in the Canadian r and Hudsonian life zones in the Yosemite r region but also in the Transition r zone. Seen in Yosemite Valley and occasionally r nests there. r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r PLAIN TITMOUSE r

r r *PLAIN TITMOUSE (Parus inornatus)*: r r 5-5 1/2 in. Upper parts olive or brownish-gray; under parts lighter; r *crested*; conspicuous dark eye. Wheezy chickadee-like call. Nests in abandoned woodpecker holes or in natural cavities in trees. r r

r Frequent open woodland, chiefly of oaks or piñon and juniper. R. largely in the Upper Sonoran life zone. Occurs at low elevation in the western part of the Yosemite region. Rare in Yosemite Valley. r

r r
r

r r

r r COMMON BUSH TIT r

r r *COMMON BUSH TIT (Psaltriparus minimus)*: r r 4-4 1/2 in. Back light grayish-brown; r top of head brown; under parts paler; *long, slender tail*. Call a chattering *tst, tst*, as it slips through the brush. r Often hangs head downward as it forages at the tips of branches. Usually the birds travel in small flocks. Nest long and pendant with a small opening at one side near the place of attachment. r r

r Frequent areas of chaparral or mixed brush and small trees chiefly in the Upper Sonoran life zone. Widespread R. but absent from higher mountains, deserts. r R. at lower elevations in the western part of the Yosemite region. Has been seen near Glacier Point and commonly in Yosemite Valley. r

r r r
r r

r r

r [Next: Nuthatches](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Jays, Magpies, & Crows](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/tits.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Nuthatches](#) >

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Creepers](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Tits](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

NUTHATCHES

r r r r

r NUTHATCHES: Family Sittidaer

r r

r r

r r
r WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHr

r r *WHITE - BREASTED NUTHATCH*r (*Sitta carolinensis*):r r 5-6 in. *Top of headr and nape black*; back blue-gray; tailr short; under tail coverts reddish-brown;r outer tail feathers black with whiter spots; breast and sides of head whitish;r relatively *long, slender bill*. Call a somewhatr nasal *hank, hank*. Creeps both upr and down tree trunks and branches.r Does not use tail as support in climbingr as do woodpeckers. Nests in abandonedr woodpecker holes or constructs its ownr nesting chamber.r r

r Frequents chiefly rough-barked treesr such as oaks and conifers. R. from ther Upper Sonoran to the Hudsonian lifer zone, concentrating in the lower zonesr in winter. Occasionally seen in Yosemite Valley.r

r r r r r r

r

r r

r r RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH r

r r RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*): r r 4 1/2 in. Top of head r and line through eye black; white stripe over eye; upper parts bluish-gray; tail dark with white spots on outer feathers; r below buff or reddish-brown, lighter in r immature and in female. Carries tail on r line with back when foraging. Call, a nasal *gna gna*. r r

r r Frequent chiefly conifers in the Canadian r life zone. It especially favors fir r in which it often forages at considerable heights. Partially R., many individuals r descending in winter to lower levels and r to the south. In the Yosemite region r common in summer in the Canadian r zone but also found in the Transition r and Hudsonian zones. To be seen in Yosemite Valley almost all year. r

r r

r r PYGMY NUTHATCH (*Sitta pygmaea*): r r 4-4 1/2 in. Above light bluish-gray; r head darker or brownish with dark r line through eye; white on nape inconspicuous; r under parts white or buffy; r tail short, outer tail feathers with black r and white. Inhabits the trunks and main r branches of trees. Often seen feeding in pine-needle clusters. Usually travels in r small flocks. r

r r

r r Frequent pine trees and other conifers r in the Transition life zone, often foraging r at high levels in trees. Uncommon R. in the Yosemite region in the Transition r and Canadian life zones. Occasionally r seen in late summer and fall around r the rim of Yosemite Valley. Rare in r Yosemite Valley. r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Creepers](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Tits](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/nuthatches.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Creepers](#) > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Wrentits](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Nuthatches](#)r

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

CREEPERS: Family Certhiidae

r r r

r r

r r

r BROWN CREEPERr

r

r r *BROWN CREEPER (Certhia familiaris)*:r r 5-5 3/4 in. Head and upper partsr brown, becoming brighter on rump;r *long, curved bill*; under parts whitish;r buffy bar in wing seen in flight. *Climbsr upward* in series of jerking movementsr often in a spiral about trunks andr branches. Tail feathers stiff and pointed,r aiding in creeping on vertical surfaces.r Call a dainty, wiry, high-pitched *see',r see', se-teetle-te, see'*, the first two notesr and the last higher than the rest. Nestsr in crevices beneath loose bark.r r r

r Frequents trunks and larger branchesr chiefly of coniferous trees, usually wherer in dense mature stands. Redwoods, incense-cedars,r and pines are frequented.r R. in the Transition and Canadian lifer zones, dispersing irregularly to lowerr elevations in winter. Common in Yosemite Valley, especially in dense standsr of incense-cedar and ponderosa pine.r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Wrentitsr](#) •r [Contentsr](#) •r [Previous: Nuthatchesr](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/creepers.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library > Birds of Yosemite > r Wrentits > r

r r

r

r r r

r Next: Dippers • Contents • Previous: Creepers

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

WRENTITS: Family Chamaeidae

r r r r

r r

r r

r WRENTITr

r

r r *WRENTIT (Chamaea fasciata)*:r r 6 1/2 in. Above brown, darker on head; belowr bully, tinged with pink; long slenderr tail; iris white; ruffled appearance ofr feathers gives bird a chubby shape. Song,r *phu-phu-phu-phu-phu-phu*, the firstr two to four notes given deliberately, ther others following in quick succession allr essentially on the same the same pitch.r Sometimes guttural scolding notes arer heard as the birds “float” through ther brush.r r

r Seeks broken or continuous tracts ofr brush where it is more often heard thanr seen. Usually travels in pairs. An inhabitant of the Upper Sonoran and Transitionr life zones west of the Sierran divide.r In the Yosemite region to be found chieflyr at low elevation in the western part butr in late summer and fall ranges up intor Yosemite Valley.r

r r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Dippers](#) •r [Contents](#) •r [Previous: Creepers](#)

r r r

r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/wrentits.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Dippers](#) >

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Wrensr](#) • [Contentsr](#) • [Previous: Wrentitsr](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

DIPPERS: Family Cinclidae

r r r r r

r r

r r

r DIPPERr

r

r r *DIPPER (Cinclus mexicanus)*:r r Also known as water ouzel, 7-8 1/2 in. *Body slate-gray, tinged with brown above;r short, stubby tail.* Upon alighting on a rock in a stream, it usually *bobs up and down*. It frequently dives into the water,r and walks along the bottom, the wings assisting. Such excursions are to procure small aquatic animals for food. Nest of moss, with opening at the side.r r

r Frequents cool, shaded, clear, swift-flowing mountain streams, especially where there are rock walls or cliffs that provide nesting sites. Sometimes places nest behind a waterfall. R. in the Transition to the Hudsonian life zone. May be seen in Yosemite Valley, where it is one of the most interesting and best loved birds.r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Wrens](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Wrentits](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/dippers.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Wrens](#) > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Mockingbirds & Thrashers](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Dippers](#)r

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

WRENS: Family Troglodytidae

r r r r

r r

r r

r HOUSE WRENr

r r *HOUSE WREN (Troglodytes aedon)*:r r 4 1/2-5 1/4 in. Above grayish-brown; belowr gray, tinged with brown; *wing and tailr with wavy dusky bars*; no conspicuousr eye-stripe or white in tail; *tail short*, frequently held at an abrupt angle withr body. Call, a scolding *kerr*. Nests inr abandoned woodpecker holes or otherr cavities.r r

r Frequentr bushes, chaparral, andr chiefly deciduous trees, the latter especiallyr for nesting. S. V. largely in ther Upper Sonoran to the Transition lifer zone. Upmountain movement afterr breeding carries some birds to high elevationr as to 9,200 feet at the head ofr Lyell Canyon in the Yosemite region.r

r r

r r *WINTER WREN (Troglodytes troglodytes)*:r r 4 in. Resembles house wren butr is darker, smaller, and has shorter tail;r inconspicuous line over eye; *belly brownishr and heavily barred*. *Bobs when excited*.r *Our smallest wren*. Song a prolongedr series of thin high notes suggestiver of a squeaky wheel. Often nests inr cavities in or beneath logs.r

r r

r Frequentr the damp, shady forest floorr where there are tangles of roots, ferns,r and matted vegetation (often includingr moss) chiefly in the Transition and Canadianr life zones. Of local occurrence inr summer in the Yosemite region as at ther Merced Grove of Big Trees, foot ofr Vernal Fall, and near Happy Isles, butr chiefly a W. V.r

r r
r

r r

r r

r BELWICK'S WRENr

r r *BELWICK'S WREN* (*Thryomanes bewickii*):r r 5-5 1/4 in. Above dark brown;r below grayish-white becoming white onr throat; *outer tail feathers black, tippedr with white*; central feathers gray-brownr barred with dusky; *white line over eye*.r r

r Frequents continuous or broken chaparralr and tracts of woodland with brushr clumps, chiefly in the Upper Sonoranr life zone. There is shifting or some birdsr up- or downmountain, depending uponr locality, in late summer, fall, and winter.r R. at lower elevations in the extremer western part of the Yosemite region.r C. V. to Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r r *ROCK WREN* (*Salpinctes obsoletts*):r r 5-6 in. Above with often indistinctr sprinkling of dusky and white on light brown; tail tipped with buffy; outer tailr feathers black near tip; body and headr somewhat flattened; *bill long and slender*;r toes long. Bobs.r

r r

r Found especially in rugged, rocky locations,r where it forages in crevices orr in the open; also may enter fissures inr logs and holes in the ground. More independentr of water than the canyon wren.r Found chiefly in the Lower and Upperr Sonoran life zones but also on up to ther Hudsonian zone. R. at lower elevationsr and S. V. in the higher mountains.r Widespread in the Yosemite regionr having been seen at 10,500 feet inr Mono Pass.r

r r

r r *LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN* (*Telmatodytes palustris*):r r 4 1/2-5 1/2 in.r Above brownish; *patch of black onr back crossed by longitudinal white lines*;r *white line over eye*; rump brown; belowr whitish, brownish on sides; tail feathersr brown, barred with dusky.r

r r

r Frequents marshlands, especially wherer tules grow. Usually nests over water.r Ranges from the Lower Sonoran to ther Transition life zone. Sparse C. V. andr W. V. to lower elevations in westernr part of Yosemite

region. Has been seen in Yosemite Valley.

rrrrr

rr

rr CANYON WRENr

rr CANYON WREN (*Catherpes mexicanus*): rr 5 1/2-5 3/4 in. Above brown, with fine black and white spots; throat and breast white, contrast in colors marked; sides and belly rich rufous; very narrow black bars on bright reddish-brown tail; long, slender, slightly curved bill. Call a series of clear, whistled notes on a descending scale. Sometimes bobs.

rr Frequent rocky, often shaded areas in canyons. R. chiefly in the Upper Sonoran life zone but also in the Lower Sonoran and Transition zones. Largely in the western part of the Yosemite region in the zones mentioned but has been observed as far east as Merced Lake: Often heard and sometimes seen about sheer cliffs and talus slopes of Yosemite Valley.

rrrr
rr



rr

[Next: Mockingbirds & Thrashers](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Dippers](#)

rrr

r

rr

r

rr

http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/wrens.html

rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > Mockingbirds and Thrashers >

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Thrushes](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Wrens](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Family Mimidae

r r r r r

r r *CALIFORNIA THRASHER (Toxostoma redivivum)*: r r 11 1/2-13 in. Above brown; throat grayish-white; breast light brown grading to buff on belly; r tail long, rusty beneath at its base; long, r curved bill; relatively short wings. r

r r

r Frequent chaparral, staying in or near cover and foraging on the ground in the leaf litter and soft earth where plant food, insects, and spiders are found by digging with the bill. Also forages in the upper story of plant growth for fruits and berries. R. in the Lower and Upper Sonoran life zones on the lower brushy slopes in the western part of the Yosemite region to El Portal. r

r r

r r *SAGE THRASHER (Orcoscoptes montanus)*: r r 8 - 9 in. Above grayish-brown; r below whitish faintly tinged with buff, streaked with rows of dark brown wedge-shaped spots; outer tail feathers edged and tipped with white; r straight, slender bill shorter than head; r iris yellow. When perched frequently jerks its tail. r

r r

r Frequent flats and gentle slopes covered with sagebrush and in winter other types of brushland. S. V. chiefly in the sagebrush country east of the Sierra. r W. V. in the San Joaquin Valley. C. V. r to Yosemite region. Frequent area near Mono Lake. r

r r

r r

r l r

r MOCKINGBIRD r

r r *MOCKINGBIRD (Mimus polyglottos)*: r r 10-11 in. Dark gray above; whitish r below; *large white patch in wing*; r long dusky tail with *outer tail feathers r white*; flashes of white in wings and r tail in flight; eye pale yellow. Song r greatly varied, including imitations of r other birds. r r

r Frequents nearly level terrain and r foothills where there are scattered bushes r and small trees. R. chiefly in the Lower r and Upper Sonoran life zones. To be seen at lower elevations in the western r part of the Yosemite region. C. V. to r Yosemite Valley. r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Thrushes](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Wrens](#) r

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/mockingbirds_thrashers.html r

r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > r [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r [Thrushes](#) > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Gnatcatchers & Kinglets](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Mockingbirds & Thrashers](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

THRUSHES: Family Turdidae

r r r r

r r

r r

r ROBINr

r

r r *ROBIN (Turdus migratorius)*: r r 8 1/2-10 1/2 in. Back gray; head and tail blackish; r below reddish-brown, "red-breast"; r throat white, streaked with blackish; r eyelids and spots in front of eye white; r bill yellowish. Female: Breast, head, and r tail colors paler. Immature; Under parts r and back speckled, suggesting the relationship r to the thrush family. Nest r bulky, of grasses, twigs, pine needles, r weed stems, etc., well plastered with r mud. r r

r Frequent r meadows, stream borders, r and lawns where there are scattered r trees. Common S. V. in the Transition r life zone but also in the Canadian and r Hudsonian life zones. Common at lower r levels in winter. Abundant in Yosemite Valley where it nests. May be sparsely r present there in winter but more common at lower elevations. r

r r

r

r r

r r
r VARIED THRUSHr

r r *VARIED THRUSH (Ixoreus naevius)*:r r 9-10 in. Resembles robin; above dark slate; head darker; orange stripe over and extending behind eye; orange-brown bars and patch in dusky wing;r *black collar on orange breast*. Female:r Breast band duller. Immature: Collar incomplete or absent; breast speckled.r r

r r Frequent dense growth of conifers oaks, or high chaparral, often in canyons.r Prefers shaded locations. In the Transition and Canadian zones in summer and ranges into the Upper Sonoran zone in winter. W. V. to the western slope of the Yosemite region below the level of the heavy snows. Occurs in Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r

r r

r r
r HERMIT THRUSHr

r r *HERMIT THRUSH (Hylocichla guttata)*:r r 6 1/2-7 1/2 in. Above soft brown;r tail reddish-brown, which it raises slowly on alighting or depresses and raises often when at rest; below whitish; *throat and breast dotted with blackish-brown*. A timid, trim bird with slender legs and beak. Stands rather high from the ground in contrast to the squat-like position of the fox sparrow to which it bears some resemblance. Often jerks its wings nervously.r Call in breeding season clear and flute-like; pause between each of 3 or 4 notes on different pitch levels.r r r r

r r Frequent chiefly dense well-shaded forests where the ground is leaf-littered but largely unobstructed by close growth of bushes. S. V. in the Sierra chiefly in the Transition and Canadian life zones,r but also in the lower Hudsonian life zone. W. V. below the level of heavy snows. Occasionally nests on the floor of Yosemite Valley but more common at higher elevations as at Mariposa Grove, Glacier Point, and Tuolumne Meadows.r

r r r
r

r r

r r WESTERN BLUEBIRD r

r r WESTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia mexicana*): r r 6 1/2-7 in. Above dark blue except sometimes for rust area in middle of back; breast rusty grading into gray on belly; tail slightly forked. Female: r Above gray or brownish, tinged with blue; wings blue, with light bars; breast faintly rusty. Nests in abandoned woodpecker holes or other cavities. Feeds on mistletoe and other berries and on insects. r r

r Frequent broken well-spaced timber, open woodland, or brushland. When breeding found chiefly in the Upper Sonoran and Transition life zones but enters adjacent zones. Spreads to lowlands in winter. Likely to be seen at any time of the year in the western foothills in the Yosemite region. In fall seen at higher altitudes as in Yosemite Valley and in higher locations. r

r r

r r MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia currucoides*): r r 6 1/2-7 3/4 in. Almost entirely blue, lighter below, grading to whitish on belly; tail forked. Female: r Soft gray-brown above, tinged with blue; rump, tail, and wings bluish. r

r r

r Frequent chiefly open terrain of short grass or turf where rocks, scattered bushes, or small trees provide perches. r In the Sierra, S. V. in high Transition to the Hudsonian life zone, especially the latter. Of irregular occurrence in the lowlands in winter. In Yosemite region, frequent in high Sierra, occasional in Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r r

r r
r TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE r

r r *TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE* (*Myadestes townsendi*): r r 8-9 1/2 in. Above dull r gray; lighter below; wings and tail r darker than rest of upper parts; *edges and tip of outer tail feathers white; r white eye-ring*. In flight, one sees whiter in tail and narrow *buffy bar in wing*. r Nests on or near the ground in a hollow r at the base of a tree, stump, cliff, or r elsewhere. r r r

r r Frequent mountain slopes where at r least partly forested, often with pine or r fir. Of irregular occurrence in the lowlands r in winter. In the Sierra S. V. or R. r in the high Transition to the Hudsonian r life zone. In Yosemite Valley occasionally r seen in winter and may nest r there in spring. r

r r r r r

r r *SWAINSON'S THRUSH* (*Hylocichla ustulata*): r r 6 1/2-7 1/2 in. Above gray or r olive-brown; wings and tail somewhat r darker; *no rust in tail*; belly white; sides r tinged with brown; *upper breast light r buff spotted with wedge-shaped marks; r eye-ring and cheeks buffy*. r

r r

r r Frequent willows, aspens, alders, and r other dense growth along streams and r about damp meadows. Enters the damp r understory vegetation of dense forests. r Chiefly in the Upper Sonoran, Transition, r and Canadian life zones. Common r S. V. largely throughout, west of the desert divides. Widespread M. S. V. r chiefly in the Transition zone in the Yosemite region. Has nested in Yosemite Valley; often seen near Mirror Lake. r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Gnatcatchers & Kinglets](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Mockingbirds & Thrashers](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/thrushes.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Gnatcatchers & Kinglets](#) >

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Wagtails](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Thrushes](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

GNATCATCHERS, KINGLETS, AND OLD-WORLD WARBLERS: Family Sylviidae

r r r r

r r

r r r BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER r

r r *BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (Poliioptilar caerulea)*: r r 4 1/2-5 in. Upper parts r bluish-gray; indistinct white eye-ring; r blackish forehead, wanting in winter and r in female; *long blackish tail; outer tail feathers white* for most of their length; r *bill slender*. Call often a single, wheezy *c-h-e-e*, like escaping steam. Active, nervous r movements. r r

r Frequents brush and oak-covered r slopes. Common S. V. in the Lower and r Upper Sonoran life zones. Breeds in the foothills of the Sierra. Winters in the lowlands. In the Yosemite region in the Upper Sonoran zone and after the nesting r season at higher elevations, including r Yosemite Valley and Glacier Point. r

r r

r r *GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET* r (*Regulus satrapa*): r r 3 1/2 - 4 in. Upper parts olive-gray to olive-green; *conspicuous orange crown bordered by yellow and black*, wholly yellow in female; r under parts whitish, tinged with brown r especially on sides; *white line over eye*. r Forages out on small branches and r among needles chiefly in coniferous trees. r Often travels in small groups. r

r r

r S. V. largely in the Canadian and r Transition life zones. W. V. to lowlands r west of the Sierra. In the Yosemite region r present in summer chiefly in the Canadian zone. Recorded to 8,700 feet r elevation on the

slopes of Mount Hoffmann. Usually in Yosemite Valley throughout the year.

rr

rr

rr

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus calendula*): 3 3/4-4 1/2 in. Upper parts grayish-olive; red crown-patch (often concealed); white ring around dark eye; under parts gray; tinged with yellow; two whitish bars on wing. Jerks wings nervously as it flits about among the branches. Commonly solitary.

In summer frequents continuous or broken stands of coniferous forest chiefly in the Canadian life zone; less restricted in winter. Disperses widely to the lowlands in winter. In the Yosemite region during the breeding season, altitudes of occurrence are chiefly between 5,500 and 9,000 feet. Passes through Yosemite Valley, occasionally nesting there.

rrr

rr

rr

[Next: Wagtails](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Thrushes](#)

rrr

r

rr

r

rr

http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/gnatcatchers_kinglets.html

rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Wagtails](#) > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Waxwings](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Gnatcatchers & Kinglets](#) r

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

rrrrr

rrr

WAGTAILS: Family Motacillidae

rrrr

rr

r l

r WATER PIPITr

r

r r *WATER PIPIT (Anthus spinoletta)*: r r 6-7 in. Above grayish-brown; buffy liner over eye; outer tail feathers largely r white; below buffy; breast and sides withr dusky streaks; slender bill. *Has habit ofr wagging its tail upon alighting.* Fore-and-aftr movements of the head mayr occur as the bird walks. Often seen inr flocks.rr r

r Frequents fields, beaches, or other open ground. Common W. V. at lowr elevations in the western part of ther Yosemite region. Has been observed inr the fall on Mount Lyell at an elevationr of 12,000 feet.r

rrr

rr

rr

r [Next: Waxwings](#) r • [Contents](#) r • [Previous: Gnatcatchers & Kinglets](#) r

rrr

r

rr

r

rr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Waxwings](#) > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Silky Flycatchers](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Wagtails](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

WAXWINGS: Family Bombycillidae

r r r r

r r

r r

r CEDAR WAXWINGr

r r CEDAR WAXWING (*Bombycilla cedrorum*): r r 6 1/2-8 in. Back brown; rump and tail grayish; throat and eye-stripe black; *tail tipped with yellow*; secondary wing feathers often marked with red "sealing-wax" spots; *belly yellowish*; *r crested*. Usually seen in flocks. Call a high-pitched *keep keep*. Feeds on berries and other fruits, buds, flower parts, and insects. r r

r When breeding frequents willows, r alders, and other streamside growth or r cutover forests in the Transition life zone of the humid coast. An irregular M. and widespread W. V. Occasional r in fall, winter, and spring at lower elevations r in the Yosemite region. Flocks r have been seen in Yosemite Valley in r some years. r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Silky Flycatchers](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Wagtails](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/waxwings.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Silky Flycatchers](#) > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Shrikes](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Waxwings](#)r

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

SILKY FLYCATCHERS: Family Ptilogonatidae

r r r r

r r PHAINOPEPLA (*Phainopepla nitens*):r r 7-7 3/4 in. *Slender, glossy, blackr bird with conspicuous white wing-patches*;r r prominent loose crest. Femaler dark gray; patches in wings light gray.r Feeds on mistletoe berries and otherr fruits and occasionally engages in flycatching,r at which it is expert in allr seasons. When bird alights, the tail isr jerked.r

r r

r Most likely to be seen in summer inr the blue oak belt of the western partr of the Yosemite region where it is especiallyr attracted to trees with mistletoer clumps. Inhabits the Lower andr Upper Sonoran life zones.r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Shrikes](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Waxwings](#)r

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/silky_flycatchers.htmlr

r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > r [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r [Shrikes](#) > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Vireos](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Silky Flycatchers](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

SHRIKES: Family Laniidae

r r r r

r r

r r LOGGERHEAD SHRIKER r

r r *LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (Lanius ludovicianus)*: r r 8-10 in. Upper parts r gray; rump and upper tail covers paler; r wings and tail black, marked with white; black mask from bill to well behind eye; bill hooked; under parts whitish. r Known as the butcherbird because of habit in feeding of dismembered insects or other prey which it impales on thorns or other sharp objects. r r

r Frequents terrain providing areas of bare ground or that grown sparsely to grass or other low growth, where visibility is good and where nest sites and perches are provided by scattered trees or large bushes. Not uncommon about human habitations. Inhabits chiefly the Lower and Upper Sonoran life zones. r Some wandering. Several records for Yosemite Valley. Often seen at lower elevations in the Yosemite region, as in the western foothills. r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Vireos](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Silky Flycatchers](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/shrikes.html

rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Vireos](#) > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Wood Warblers](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Shrikes](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

VIREOS: Family Vireonidae

r r r r r

r r

r r r r r HUTTON'S VIREO r

r r *HUTTON'S VIREO (Vireo huttoni)*: r r 4 1/4-4 3/4 in. Above olive-gray; r below yellowish; *two whitish wing-bars*; r head color lightens between eye and bill; r *whitish eye-ring, interrupted above. Does not jerk wings like ruby-crowned kinglet.* r r

r Frequents chiefly non-deciduous oaks r in the Upper Sonoran and Transition r life zones. R. on the western slope of the Sierra. Has been observed in the Yosemite region up to 5,800 feet. r

r r

r

r r

r r r r r SOLITARY VIREO r

r r *SOLITARY VIREO (Vireo solitarius)*: r r 5-6 in. Above gray, tinged with olive; below white; sides tinged with yellowish; *white lores and ring around eye*; whitish wing-bars. Song: *Jimmyr —come here! Hurry up!* r r

Frequents oak and coniferous forests chiefly in the Transition life zone but also in adjacent zones. S. V. in the Sierra; in lower, warmer areas in winter. In the Yosemite region has been recorded as far east as Indian Canyon and Merced Lake. Fairly common on the floor of Yosemite Valley.

rrrrr

r

rr

WARBLING VIREO

WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*): 5-6 in. Above olive-gray; below white; tinge of yellow on sides; white line over eye. Song a series of warbled notes, often repeated. Usually solitary.

Frequents deciduous trees such as willows, cottonwoods, and alders. Seeks higher levels in trees than the other vireos. In the Sierra S. V. chiefly in the Upper Sonoran to the Canadian life zone. Found on both slopes of the Yosemite region but most common on the western slope.

rrr

rr

rr

[Next: Wood Warblers](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Shrikes](#)

rrr

r

rr

r

rr

http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/vireos.html

rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

r

rr

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > r [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Wood Warblers > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Weaver Finches](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Vireos](#) r

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

WOOD WARBLERS: Family Parulidae

r r r r

r r *ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER* (*Vermivora celata*): r r 4 1/4-5 in. *Top of head with orange, usually obscure; indistinct yellowish line over eye to bill; upper parts olive-green, brightest on rump; wings darker, without bars; under parts dull yellow to whitish.*

r r

r Frequent underbrush in areas of mixed woodland; in summer chiefly in the Upper Sonoran to the Canadian life zone. More widely distributed during migration. In the Yosemite region S. V. on both slopes of the Sierra. Not common in Yosemite Valley. Upmountain movements may occur after breeding. Individuals have been seen at 10,500 feet on Mount Clark.

r r

r r *NASHVILLE WARBLER* (*Vermivora ruficapilla*): r r 4-4 3/4 in. *Top and sides of head ash-gray with indistinct chestnut patch on crown; back olive-green; white eye-ring; below yellow; lower belly whitish. Female: All plumage reduced in color.*

r r

r Frequent open forests with an understory of bushes. Forages well up in trees but nests on or near the ground. S. V. chiefly in the Transition and lower Canadian life zones along the west slope of the Sierra. Widespread M. In the Yosemite region, as at Yosemite Valley, to be found among the black oaks and maples.

r r

r r

r r
r YELLOW WARBLER r

r r *YELLOW WARBLER (Dendroica petechia)*: r r 4-5 in. *Body brilliant yellow below, with scattered rufous streaks on chest and belly, faint or absent in female; above greenish-yellow; wings and tail dusky; yellow spots in tail. A descending, high-pitched, twittering song.* r r

r Frequents canyons and streambanks especially where grown to broadleaf trees such as willows, cottonwoods, aspens, alders, etc. S. V. in the Lower Sonoran to the Transition life zone on both slopes of the Sierra. Common in Yosemite Valley. r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r
r BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER r

r r *BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (Dendroica nigrescens)*: r r 4 1/2-5 in. *Head largely black; two whiter bands on side of head, one below, other above eye, joining to encircle black cheek-patch; yellow spot in front of eye; back bluish-gray, marked with black spots; white under parts; sides with black lines; white wing-bars; whiter outer tail feathers. Female: Gray streaks on head; black collar bordering whiter throat.* r r

r In many areas attracted to oaks, especially canyon live oaks, but also frequents conifers and chaparral. S. V. on the lower western slopes of the Sierra, in the Upper Sonoran and Transition life zones. To be found among the canyon live oaks of the talus slopes along the base of the north and south walls of Yosemite Valley. r

r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r *HERMIT WARBLER (Dendroica occidentalis)*: r r 4 1/2-5 in. *Head brilliant yellow; throat black; back gray with black streaks; few or no streaks on whiter under parts; white wing-bars; whiter outer tail feathers.* Female: Head dull yellow, mottled on top with blackish; r throat with dusky spots on white. Commonly forages and nests 20 feet or more above the ground. r

r r

r Frequent conifers. S. V. in the Sierra, r chiefly in the Transition and Canadian life zones. Widespread M. Seen in the Mariposa Grove, along the Pohono Trail, r and commonly in Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r r *TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (Dendroica townsendi)*: r r 4 1/2-5 in. Above olive-green marked with black; whiter wing-bars; top of head and *throat black with ring of yellow around black cheek-patch; r breast and sides yellow; belly white; sides streaked with black; whiter in tail.* Female: Throat largely yellow. r

r r

r Frequent upper foliage of live oaks, r laurels, and conifers. M. along the west slope and eastern base of the Sierra. C. V. r to the Yosemite region. Has been seen frequently in Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r r

r r r *AUDUBON'S WARBLER* r

r r *AUDUBON'S WARBLER (Dendroica auduboni)*: r r 4 3/4-5 1/4 in. Upper parts bluish-gray; streaked with black; wings with broad white patch; white marks on tail feathers; patch on *crown; each side near wing-bend, throat, and rump yellow; r breast blackish; black of breast obscure and yellow markings paler in female; immature birds, as a rule, show conspicuously only yellow rump-patch and white in tail.* Forages well up in the trees. r r

r In summer frequent chiefly conifers in the Transition to the Hudsonian life zone but habitat more varied in winter. r Widespread in summer in the Yosemite region in the zones mentioned. In winter common visitant to the Upper Sonoran zone. Often to be seen throughout the year in Yosemite Valley. r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r
r MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER r

r r *MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER* (*Oporornis tolmiei*): r r 4 3/4-5 1/2 in. *Head, neck, and upper breast slaty*, deepening on breast and in front of eye; *under parts yellow*; upper parts olive-green; eyelids white. Often jerks tail nervously. r Female: Top of head brownish; throat and breast pale gray. Nest of grasses constructed near ground. r r

r Frequents thickets, "soft" chaparral, and heavy understory usually near streams or damp places chiefly in the Transition and lower Canadian life zones. S. V. in the Yosemite region in the zones mentioned and as M. along both the east and west sides of the Sierra. To be found in thickets of thimbleberry, ceanothus, and ferns on the floor of Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r

r r

r r
r WILSON'S WARBLER r

r r *WILSON'S WARBLER* (*Wilsonia pusilla*): r r 4 1/2-5 in. *Black "cap" on head*, less evident or missing on female; forehead yellow; *below bright yellow*; back and wings greenish-yellow; prominent black eyes; no wing-bars or belly-streaks. r r

r Frequents low, often shaded plant growth in -moist areas. Breeds in the mountains and foothills; widespread during migration. S. V. to the Sierra from the Upper Sonoran through the Canadian life zone, chiefly in Transition and Canadian. In Yosemite region frequents boggy meadows bordered by willow and dogwood. Also found in spring along the eastern base of the Sierra and as M. in the western foothills. r

r r
r

r r

r r r
r YELLOWTHROATr

r r *YELLOWTHROAT (Geothlypis trichas)*:r r 4 1/2-5 in. *Black mask* borderedr with ashy above; back olive-green orr yellowish-brown; *throat and breast yellow*.r Female: No black mask; bellyr whitish. Song, *whit-tsit-tsee, whit-tsit-tsee*,r often repeated many times in ar lively, rolling phrase. Nest on or nearr the ground, often over water.r r r

r When breeding frequents thick tanglesr of plant growth such as tules, sedges,r blackberry vines, and willow thicketsr near fresh or brackish water, chiefly ofr marshes and sloughs. Widespread S. V.r largely in the Lower and Upper Sonoranr life zones. Widespread common M. C. V.r to the Yosemite region. Has been recordedr in Yosemite Valley.r

r r r r r

r r *YELLOW BREASTED CHAT (Icteria virens)*:r r 6 1/2-7 1/2 in. Upper partsr olive-brown; head darker with whiter eye-ring and line between eye and bill;r *throat, breast, and upper belly yellow*;r *tail long*; lower belly white. Song highlyr varied, suggestive of a mockingbird orr thrasher rather than a warbler.r

r r

r Frequents willow clumps and otherr dense growth chiefly in the Lower Sonoranr to the lower Transition life zone.r S. V. in the lowlands to the west of ther Yosemite region. C. V. to the Yosemite region.r

r r r
r r

r r

r [Next: Weaver Finches](#) •r [Contents](#) •r [Previous: Vireos](#)

r r r

r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

WEAVER FINCHES: Family Ploceidae

r r r r r

r r *HOUSE SPARROW (Passer domesticus):* r r 5 1/2-6 1/4 in. *Throat and upperr breast black; crown gray; band behindr eye and on nape brown; under partsr dirty white; back, wings, and rumpr chestnut-brown, streaked with dusky.* r Female: Upper parts and sides brown,r chestnut wanting; back, tail, and wingsr blackish; breast not streaked; nor throat-patch.r

r r

r Widespread introduced exotic, commonr on streets and near buildings inr most towns and about farms. Highlyr adaptable with respect to environmenr and foraging method, but prefers associationr with civilization. Occasionallyr wanders into Yosemite region in summer.r Has been observed at El Portal and Yosemite Valley in vicinity of buildings.r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Orioles & Blackbirds](#) •r [Contents](#) •r [Previous: Wood Warblers](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/weaver_finches.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

[r Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [r Birds of Yosemite](#) > [r Orioles & Blackbirds](#) > [r](#)

r r

r

r r r

[r Next: Tanagers](#) • [r Contents](#) • [r Previous: Weaver Finches](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

ORIOLES and BLACKBIRDS: Family Icteridae

r r r r

r r *YELLOW - HEADED BLACKBIRD* (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*): r r 8-11 in. *Head, neck, and breast yellow; rest of plumage black except large white patch on black wing. Female: Smaller than male; grayish-brown, faintly streaked below; throat, upper chest, and line over eye yellowish; no wing-patch.* r
Frequents tule marshes and adjacent meadows or cultivated ground chiefly in the Lower Sonoran to the Transition life zone. C. V. to the Yosemite region. r Has been recorded occasionally in Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r r

r r r WESTERN MEADOWLARK r

r r *WESTERN MEADOWLARK* (*Sturnella neglecta*): r r 8-10 in. Upper parts brown, marked with dusky and buff; r *under parts yellow with black crescent on breast; buffy line through crown; r yellow or buffy line over eye; outer tail feathers white; short tail.* r r

r R. in open grasslands, breeding in the Lower Sonoran to the Transition life zone. Seen in the San Joaquin Valley into the Sierran foothills. In the Yosemite region after the breeding season may be found to high altitudes as on top of Half Dome and near Ten Lakes, 9,700 feet. Occasionally seen in Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r

r r

r r REDWINGED BLACKBIRD r

r r REDWINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelaius phoeniceus*): r r 7-9 1/2 in. (Ill. p. 54) r Entire *plumage black*; *wing-bend patch scarlet, bordered by buffy or orange* in all r except one subspecies; feathers of back r edged with rusty in winter. Female: r Crown dark brown with bulky streaks; r buffy stripe over eye; back brown; under parts streaked with dark brown, r tinged with buffy in winter. r r

r Frequents marshes, moist fields, and r margins of ponds, lakes, and slowly r r r flowing streams where grown to tules, r sedges, and willows. Inhabits the Lowerr Sonoran to the Transition life zone duringr the breeding season. Found locallyr in the Yosemite region below the Canadianr life zone. Common in open wetr meadows of Yosemite Valley in springr and early summer, where they nest, ther males to be seen conspicuously guardinr the nests. r

r r
r

r r

r r BULLOCK'S ORIOLE r

r r BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (*Icterus bullockii*): r r 7 1/2-8 1/2 in. *Forehead, line overr eye, cheeks, and most of under partsr orange* running to yellowish on bellyr and outer tail feathers; rump yellowish; r *top of head, upper back, much of wings, r and central area in tail black*; wingr marked with broad patch of white; blackr stripe on throat extends down from bill; r black line runs from bill through eyer to occiput. Female: Upper parts gray, r washed on head with yellow; tail yellowish-brown; r wings brown with whitishr bars; sides of throat and breast yellowish, r remaining under parts whitish exceptr yellow beneath tail. r r

r Frequentr streamside and oak woodlandr in the Lower Sonoran to the Transitionr life zone. Common S. V. at lowerr elevations on the west side of the Sierra.r C. V. to Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r

r r

r r

r BREWER'S BLACKBIRD

r

r r BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*):r r 8-9 1/2 in. Wholer plumage glossy black; iris white. Female:r Head and neck grayish-brown; remainderr of plumage dark brown to blackish;r iris brown. Usually seen in flocks.r r

r Frequentr grasslands meadows, streamr and lake borders, lawns, and cultivatedr fields, usually where there are scatteredr trees for roosting and nesting. Inhabitsr the Lower Sonoran to the Canadian lifer zone. In the Yosemite region nests asr high as the floor of Yosemite Valley andr in summer and fall ranges upward nearlyr to timberline. Migrates to lowlands inr winter. One of the most abundant birdsr in Yosemite Valley in spring andr summer.r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r

r BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD

r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (Molothrus ater): 7-8 in. Whole body glossy black except head, neck, and breast chestnut-brown; eye dark; short conical bill; feet black. Female: Smaller than male; grayish-brown; throat and sides of head lighter; faintly streaked. Has habit of frequently pointing its beak directly upward. Lays its eggs in the nests of other birds.

Frequents lowlands where meadows and pastures are situated near tracts of willows and cottonwoods. Inhabits chiefly the Lower and Upper Sonoran life zones but occasionally enters the Transition zone. C. V. to the Yosemite region. Commonly seen in Yosemite Valley.

r r r
r r

r r

[Next: Tanagers](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Weaver Finches](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/orioles_blackbirds.html

r r

r

r r

[Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > [Tanagers](#) >

r r

r

r r r

[Next: Finches, Sparrows, etc.](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Orioles & Blackbirds](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

TANAGERS: Family Thraupidae

r r r r r

r r

r r WESTERN TANAGER r

r r *WESTERN TANAGER (Piranga ludoviciana)*: r r 6 1/4-7 in. *Most of head scarlet; r wings black with yellowish bars; r upper back and tail black; rest of bodyr yellow. Female: Above olive-green orr brownish-gray, tinged with yellow; belowr dull yellow; wings and tail brownishr rather than black; whitish wingbars; r hint of scarlet on head and throat. r Metallic call tuweet tuweet or prit-it, often given repeatedly. rr r*

r Frequents fairly open coniferous forestsr with associated broad-leaved trees. r Principally in the Transition and Canadianr life zones in summer. Widespreadr M. S. V. in the Yosemite region, observedr as far east as Merced Lake. Commonr on the floor of Yosemite Valleyr and at Mariposa Grove. r ([See cover.](#))r

r r r

r r

r r

r [Next: Finches, Sparrows, etc.](#) r • [Contents](#) r • [Previous: Orioles & Blackbirds](#) r

r r r

r

r r

r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/tanagers.html

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Finches, Sparrows, etc. > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Infrequent Species](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Tanagers](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

FINCHES, SPARROWS, ETC.: Family Fringillidae

r r r r

r r

r r
r BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK r

r r **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*): r r 6 1/2-7 3/4 in. *Head black; neck, rump, breast, and sides brownish-orange* running to yellow on belly; *wings with white patch* and two white wing-bars; white marks in outer tail feathers; large, stubby bill. r Female and immature: Head dark brown with whitish stripe over each eye and similar or orange band through center r r r of crown; colors less intense. An elaborate song, similar in many respects to that of the robin. r r r

r Frequent chiefly oak woodland, willow-cottonwood association, and open coniferous forests, often near a stream. r Inhabits the Lower Sonoran to the Transition life zone in summer. Common S. V. in the Yosemite region. Often seen about habitations in Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r r **LAZULI BUNTING** (*Passerina amoena*): r r 5-5 1/2 in. *Head, neck, lower back, and rump bright blue*; blue of upper back tinged with brown; black line extends from eye to bill; wings and tail dusky; tail with bluish cast; *white wing-bar*; *r breast rusty*; remainder of under parts whitish. Female: Upper parts brown; under parts lighter; two buff wing-bars. r

r r

r Frequent areas with scattered clumps of brush, weed thickets, or other low vegetation on hillsides, often near streams. r S. V. in the Lower Sonoran to the Transition life zone. On both slopes of the Sierra in the Yosemite region. On the west slope ranges as high as Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r r *PURPLE FINCH* (*Carpodacus purpureus*): r r 5 1/4-6 in. *Rosy red on head, r nape, throat, upper belly, and rump; r lower belly whitish with vague dark r streaking; brown wings and tail; tail r quite deeply forked.* Female: Grayish-brown, r streaked; *brown patch back of r eye* bordered above and below by broad r pale stripes. Song resembles that of the house finch, lively and rollicking, not abruptly ended after a few notes as in r Cassin's finch. r

r r

r In summer in the high Upper Sonoran and Transition life zones, frequenting oak woodland and coniferous forest. r Favors rather moist, shaded localities. r In the Yosemite region in the zones r mentioned. Occasional in Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r r

r r r EVENING GROSBEAK r

r r *EVENING GROSBEAK* (*Hesperiphona vespertina*): r r 7 1/2-8 in. *Generally r brownish-yellow* except black wings, r crown, and tail; *large white wing-patch; r forehead and line over eye yellow; head r and breast sooty brown; short, thick bill.* Female: Plumage generally brownish-gray; r head darker; neck and lower back tinged with yellow; wings and tail generally r black but with white markings. r r

r Breeds in coniferous forests of the Transition and Canadian life zones, especially where there are firs. S. V. r throughout the Sierra. Occasional in Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r r *CASSIN'S FINCH* (*Carpodacus cassinii*): r r 6-6 1/2 in. Resembles purple finch but *distinct crimson crown clearly set off from brown of neck and back* and r less intense red on breast. Female: Above olive-gray, streaked with sooty or brown; r below whitish narrowly streaked with r dusky; faint light streak over eye. Song, r similar to that of the house finch but r abruptly terminated after a few rollicking notes. r

r r

r Frequents open semiarid coniferous forests, chiefly of the Canadian and Hudsonian r life zones but also in the Transition r zone and occasionally lower. Sparingly r to lowlands in winter. In the Yosemite region R. in forested areas r mostly between 6,000 and 10,000 feet. r Occasionally observed in Yosemite Valley. r

r r r r r

r r

r r

r HOUSE FINCHr

r

r r *HOUSE FINCH (Carpodacus mexicanus)*: r r 5 1/2 in. Upper parts r grayish-brown and faintly streaked; r *head, throat, breast, wing-bend, and rump red; belly light gray, with narrow r dark stripes*, especially on sides; bill short r and stout; tail forked. Female: Red absent; r upper parts grayish-brown; below r whitish with streaks of brown. Often r seen in flocks. Commonly nests near r dwellings. Song a prolonged rollicking r series of notes varying in pitch and r often ending with a rising inflection. r r r

r Frequent r a great variety of situations r chiefly in the Lower and Upper Sonoran r life zones. Inhabits woodland, forest r and chaparral borders, deserts, and cultivated r lands. R. at lower elevations in r the Yosemite region. C. V. to Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r r *PINE GROSBEAK (Pinicola enucleator)*: r r 8-9 1/2 in. *Head, neck, breast, and rump rose-red*; back gray tinged with r rosy; wings dark brown with two whiter wing-bars; large beak; forked tail. Female: r Plumage generally gray with hin r of red on head and rump. Feeds on berries r and needle buds and seeds of coniferous trees. r

r r

r Frequent r chiefly broken coniferous r forest often near meadows or a stream r in the high Canadian and Hudsonian r life zones. Sparse R. in the high Sierra Nevada. In the Yosemite region has been r observed at elevations from 8,500 feet r up to timberline. r

r r

r r *GRAY-CROWNED ROSY FINCH (Leucosticte tephrocotis)*: r r 5 1/2-6 1/2 in. r Black head-cap, bordered with ash-gray; r above grayish-brown; *middle area of r wings, rump, and belly with varying amounts of rose-red*; throat and breast r rich brown, darkest on chin; bill and r feet black; bill yellow in fall and winter, r in male. Female: Resembles male, r but colors duller, less rosy; bill lighter. r Feeds on insects frozen in the snow or r taken on the wing; also eats the seeds r of sedges and other plants. r

r r

r Closely restricted to the Arctic-alpine r and high Hudsonian life zones where it r frequents alpine turf, snowfields, talus, r and cliffs. R. and breeding in the high Sierra, including the Yosemite region. r

r r

r r *PINE SISKIN* (*Spinus pinus*): r r 4 1/2-5 in. Above grayish-brown, streaked withr dusky; below lighter, streaked; *yellowr area in wing and at base of tail; tailr short, emarginate*. Often seen in flocks,r flying in jerky, undulating fashion. Foragesr for seeds and buds in conifers andr other trees and in flower heads aboutr meadows.r

r r

r Frequents chiefly coniferous trees inr the Transition to the Hudsonian lifer zone. R. in the Yosemite region; seenr in Yosemite Valley in summer.r

r r

r r *RED CROSSBILL* (*Loxia curvirostra*): r r 5 1/2-6 1/2 in. *Body generally brickr red*, brightest on head and rump; wingsr and tail dusky; *tips of bill crossed*; tailr forked. Immature males often withr orange, instead of red, and patches ofr olive and gray. Female: Dull olive-grayr with yellowish on under parts and rump;r wings and tail dusky. May be seen inr small groups high in trees. Beak adaptedr for prying apart scales of pine and firr cones to obtain seeds.r

r r

r Frequents coniferous forests of ther Transition to the Hudsonian life zone.r In the Yosemite region, R. in the Canadianr and especially the Hudsonian lifer zones. Reported as nesting in Tuolumner Meadows.r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r

r LESSER GOLDFINCHr

r

r r *LESSER GOLDFINCH* (*Spines psaltria*): r r 4 in. Above dull *olive-green*;r *below yellow*; *top of head, wings, andr tail black*; *wings with white area*; whiter patches in middle of outer tail feathers.r Female: Lacks black cap; less yellow.r Often associated with thistles. Twitteringr call as it flies, often in an indirect,r undulating manner. Feeds in weedr clumps and bushes on seed-heads ofr composites and other plants.r r r

r Frequents open terrain with scatteredr trees and bushes. R. in the Lower Sonoranr to the Transition life zone. C. V.r to Yosemite Valley.r

r r
r

r r

r r
r GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE r

r r *GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE (Chlorura chlorura)*: r r 6 1/4-7 in. Above olive-green; r tail yellowish-green; forehead dark gray; crown reddish-brown; white liner from bill to eye and also in malar region; r throat and belly white, separated by olive-gray breast; edge of wing yellow. Immature: r Lacks reddish-brown crown. Call a cat-like *mew, mew*. r r

r Inhabits chiefly chaparral growth of the Transition, Canadian, and Hudsonian life zones. Scattered trees may be present but forests are largely avoided. Thickets of ceanothus, manzanita, and sagebrush are frequented. S. V. in the Yosemite region; often seen in the Mariposa Grove, r along the Pohono Trail, and occasionally in Yosemite Valley. r

r r
r

r r

r r
r RUFOS-SIDED TOWHEE r

r r *RUFOS-SIDED TOWHEE (Pipilo erythrophthalmus)*: r r 7-8 1/4 in. Head and throat black; wings black, spotted and barred with white; tail black with white thumb-marks on outer tail feathers; r sides rusty-brown; belly white; eyes red. r Call a nasal, inquiring *yeah* with rising inflection. Often forages in ground cover of dead leaves and twigs; jumps and scratches with both feet at once. r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r Frequents chaparral, streamside thickets, r and understory brush of open forests. r In summer inhabits chiefly the Upper Sonoran and Transition life zones. r In Yosemite region has been recorded as high as 7,700 feet, at Glen Aulin. R. in Yosemite Valley and western foothills. r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r

r BROWN TOWHEE r

r r *BROWN TOWHEE (Pipilo fuscus)*: r r 8 1/4-9 1/2 in. *Body generally brown; eyelids, r throat, and under tail feathers reddish-brown; r chin lightly streaked with r dusky; tail long.* r r

r Frequents open brushland, mixed r woodland and underbrush, streamside r growth, hedges, and shrubbery about r homes. Inhabits the Lower and Upper r Sonoran life zones, and sparingly enters r the Transition zone. R. in the western r foothills. C. V. at lower elevations of r the park as at El Portal. r

r r

r

r r

r r

r VESPER SPARROW r

r r *VESPER SPARROW (Pooecetes gramineus)*: r r 5 1/2-6 1/4 in. Above light grayish-brown, r streaked with dusky; below r soiled white with brown streaks on r breast and flanks; suggestion of chestnut r on bend of wing; *obscure, dark spot r on breast; two outer tail feathers white.* r r

r Frequents open grassland or areas with r low annuals and scattered low bushes. r In summer inhabits chiefly the Upper r Sonoran and Transition life zones but r locally enters the Canadian life zone. r S. V. on the east side of the Sierra. W. V. r to the western part of the Yosemite region. r Several records for Yosemite r Valley. r

r r

r

r r

r r SAVANNAH SPARROW r

r r SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*): r r 4 3/4-6 in. Above brown with streaks of dusky; below narrowly streaked with brown except on throat and belly; line over eye whitish to yellowish; *white stripe through crown*; dark spot on breast; legs light pink; tail slightly forked. r r

r Frequent sagebrush, grassland, and marshes. In winter may be seen in cultivated or fallow fields. S. V. in the Lower Sonoran to the Transition life zone. Ranges sporadically into the Yosemite region, largely from the east side, r in later summer and fall. Has been recorded at 9,700 feet above Ten Lakes and in Yosemite Valley. r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r LARK SPARROW r

r r LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*): r r 5 1/2-6 1/4 in. Upper parts brownish-gray streaked with black; *top of head rich brown with white stripe through center*; *white streak over eye* and another in malar region setting off chestnut patch on side of head; white throat marked at sides with black, setting off white malar band; under parts whitish; black spot on breast; tail rounded, with all but central feathers black, broadly tipped with white. Female with head markings duller and immature with streaked breast and without dark breast-spot. r r

r Frequent open woodland, broken brushland, orchards, or other open terrain with scattered trees or bushes, r chiefly in the Lower and Upper Sonoran life zones. R. in the western foothills in the Yosemite region. C. V. to Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r

r r

r r
r RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROWr

r r *RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW* (*Aimophila ruficeps*): r r 5-5 3/4 in. *Rufious red cap*; throat white with *black malar stripe*; belly gray or buffy, unstreaked; r back grayish-brown, streaked with rusty; r buffy line over eye. Immature: Lacks r reddish-brown crown and has streaked r breast. r r

r Frequents sparse low brush of grassy r hillsides in the Upper Sonoran life zone. r Especially attracted to sagebrush. R. in r the western foothills of the Yosemite region. C. V. to Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r

r r

r r
r SAGE SPARROWr

r r *SAGE SPARROW* (*Amphispiza belli*): r r 5-6 1/4 in. Head gray, with whiter spot in front of eye; white eye-ring; r throat white with narrow to broad black r malar stripe, solid or broken, setting off r white patch between it and dark cheekpatch; r breast and belly whitish, streaked r on sides; dark spot on breast; back grayish-brown, streaked. r r

r Frequents arid to semiarid lowlands r with chaparral or sagebrush and other r bushes of desert type. Inhabits chiefly r the Upper Sonoran life zone. Frequents r the foothills of the Yosemite region on r the east and west sides of the Sierra. r C. V. to Yosemite Valley. r

r r

r r *SLATE-COLORED JUNCO* (*Junco hyemalis*): r r 5 1/2-6 1/2 in. Head, breast, r and back slate-gray, contrasting with white belly; two outer tail feathers completely r white, third partly so; no reddish r or brown coloration in adult male. Female: r Browner above; below pale. Immature: r Often with faint brownish or r buff on sides. r

r r

r Frequents a great variety of habitats r but often found where there is forest or r brush cover of open type. Rare M. and r W. V. throughout California except the r Colorado Desert. Regular W. V. in the Yosemite region. Has been observed in r Yosemite Valley. r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r
r OREGON JUNCO r

r r OREGON JUNCO (*Junco oreganus*): r r 5-6 in. Head, neck, and breast black, r brownish or slaty in female and immatures; r back light brown to reddish-brown; r under parts white, tinged with r brownish or pinkish on sides; outer tail feathers white; bill whitish. Song suggests r tinkle of bells; call a metallic tck. r Nests on the ground or in trees. r r

r Frequents a wide variety of habitats r in the mountains but seems to prefer fairly moist woodland or forests with a broken understory. Abundant S. V. r in the Yosemite region from the Transition r zone to timberline. In winter descends r to the foothills. Some remain in r Yosemite Valley in winter. r

r r
r

r r

r r
r CHIPPING SPARROW r

r r CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*): r r 5-5 1/2 in. Above brown, streaked r with black; crown chestnut; whitish r line over eye and black line extending r from bill through eye; under parts light r gray, unstreaked; relatively long, notched r tail. Immatures: Streaked below and r crown may be divided by pale line. Call r a whirring series of short notes near r one pitch. r r

r Frequents open woodland or coniferous r forests with little understory vege-tation. r Inhabits the Lower Sonoran up r through the Hudsonian life zone in summer. r S. V. in the Yosemite region, most r commonly in the Upper Sonoran and r Transition life zones. To be seen in r Yosemite Valley. r

r r
r

r r

^r ^r
r WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWr

r r *WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW*r (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*):r r 5 3/4-7 in. Headr with black and white stripes; whiter stripe from above bill through middler of crown; white stripe over eye stoppingr short of or reaching bill; upper backr gray-brown, streaked; rump lighterr brown, unstreaked; under parts whitish,r darker on breast and sides. Immature:r Head stripes chestnut-brown and gray;r gray of under parts tinged with brownish.r Song is sweet and plaintive.rr r

r Frequents grassy areas with scatteredr bushes and trees. In the Sierra seems tor favor willow thickets in mountain meadows.r In winter in shrubbery, brokenr tracts of chaparral, etc. In the Sierra, S.r V. in the Transition to the Hudsonian lifer zone. Widespread in the lowlands in winter.r In the Yosemite region nests chieflyr in the Hudsonian zone but a few nestingr records for Yosemite. Common in Tuolumner Meadows area. Fall and winterr visitant to Yosemite Valley.r

r r r r r r

r

r r

^r ^r
r GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWr

r r *GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW*r (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*):r r 6-7 in. Crownr yellow bordered by black; back brown,r streaked with black; two white wingbars;r under parts light grayish-brown.r Immature: Yellow of crown faint andr largely confined to forehead. Often givesr plaintive call *Oh, come here*, on a descendingr scale.rr r

r Frequents broken brushland and tractsr of grassy or weedy ground where therer is a scattering of bushes and trees. W. V.r to western foothills. In the fall in ther Yosemite region from the lowlands upr through the Canadian life zone. C. V.r to Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r

r r

^r ^r
r FOX SPARROWr

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r FOX SPARROW (*Passerella iliaca*): r r 6 1/4-7 1/4 in. Above varying from soft, r rich, reddish-brown to grayish; sides andr breast irregularly streaked with heavyr arrow-like black to rufous spots; rump and tail reddish-brown; bill heavy, grayishr to yellowish. Compare with hermitr thrush. Excellent singer, first two notesr loud and clear followed by trills. Foragesr in thickets and on the ground, in areasr where there is abundant leaf litter, r scratching with both feet at the samer time. r r

r Frequents chaparral, streamside tangles, r and underbrush of woodland andr forest. In the Yosemite region S. V. tor the Canadian life zone on both slopes ofr the Sierra. Seen along the rim of Yosemite Valley and in the upper part ofr Mariposa Grove. Some subspecies M. andr W. V. chiefly in the Upper Sonoran zone. r

r r

r

r r

r r
r LINCOLN'S SPARROW r

r r LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*Melospiza lincolni*): r r 5-6 in. Above brownish-gray, r more or less irregularly streaked; breastr buffy, narrowly streaked with black, r sometimes with dark spot in middle; r belly whitish, largely unstreaked; sidesr grayish with narrow black streaks; narrow eye-ring. r r

r Seeks damp meadows and stream bordersr in mountains in summer, chiefly inr the Canadian life zone but also in adjacentr zones. In the Yosemite region inr summer in the zones mentioned to 9,000r feet at the head of Lyell Canyon. Nestsr regularly in meadows of the upper Mariposar Grove. In winter and fall at lowerr elevations, occasionally including Yosemite Valley. r

r r r r r

r

r r

r r
r SONG SPARROW r

r r SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia*): r r 5-6 3/4 in. Above varying fromr brownish-gray to rusty with darkerr streaks; tail dark brown to rusty; belowr light gray streaked with dark brown orr r rusty, most profusely on breast; brownr or rusty spots radiate from larger breastr spot; breast spot may be poorly definedr or absent in young; indistinct whitishr stripe over eye with black one on sider of throat, setting off white malar stripe. r Many subspecies differing in color andr size. r r

r Frequents tangles of brush, weeds, and other low growth, usually near water or over damp ground. Often becomes established in shrubbery about dwellings. Breeds over a wide zonal range from the Lower Sonoran to the Hudsonian life zone. R. at lower elevations in the Yosemite region, sparingly including Yosemite Valley and Wawona. W. V. largely below 4,500 feet on the west slope of the Sierra. In the fall stragglers may reach 9,000 feet on the east slope.

r r r
r r

r r

r [Next: Infrequent Species](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Tanagers](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/finches_sparrows.html

r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > r [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Species Recorded in the Yosemite Region But of Infrequent Occurrence > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Sources of Information](#) • r [Contents](#) • r [Previous: Finches, Sparrows, etc.](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r

r r

SPECIES RECORDED IN THE YOSEMITE REGION r BUT OF INFREQUENT OCCURRENCE

r r

r r	r r phalarope, redr
r *chickadee, chestnut-backedr	r raven, commonr
r flycatcher, grayr	r redheadr
r kiskadeer	r sandpiper, Baird'sr
r goldeneye, commonr	r leastr
r *goldfinch, Americanr	r solitaryr
r Lawrence'sr	r sapsucker, red-breastedr
r *grebe, westernr	r shrike, northernr
r grosbeak, bluer	r sorar
r gull, Bonaparte'sr	r sparrow, Brewer'sr
r herringr	r Harris'r
r *hawk, ferruginousr	r white-throatedr
r *pigeonr	r stilt, black-neckedr swallow, barnr
r heron, black-crowned nightr	r tattler, wanderingr
r jaeger, parasiticr	r *warbler, myrtler
r kite, white-tailedr	r waxwing, bohemianr
r loon, Arcticr	r willetr
r *martin, purplerr	r woodpecker red-headedr
r owl, barnr	r yellowlegs, lesserr r
r *flamulatedr	
r r	

r r r

r _____r

r *Of more common occurrence than the remainder of the birds in this list.r

r r r r

r r

r [Next: Sources of Information](#)r •r [Contents](#)r •r [Previous: Finches, Sparrows, etc.](#)r

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/infrequent_species.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > Sources of Information > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Appendix I: Characteristics](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Infrequent Species](#)r

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

r r r

r American Ornithologists' Union, *Check-List of North American Birds*, Fifth Edition. The Lord Baltimore Press, Inc., Boston, 1957.

r r

r Hoffman, Ralph, *Birds of the Pacific States*. Houghton-Mifflin, Boston, 1927.

r r

r Grinnell, Joseph, and Alden H. Miller, "The Distribution of the Birds of California." *Pacific Coast Avifauna*, Vol. 27 (1944).

r r

r _____, and Tracy I. Storer, *Animal Life in the Yosemite*. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1924.

r r

r Peterson, Roger Tory, *A Field Guide to Western Birds*. Houghton-Mifflin, Boston, 1961.

r r r r

r r

r [Next: Appendix I: Characteristics](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Infrequent Species](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

APPENDIX I: FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS OF BIRDS

r r r

r The character of the bill and feet of a bird often may serve as ar guide to its habits and an indication of its relationship to other birds.r For example, seed-eating species have short stout bills that are used inr cracking seeds, woodpeckers have long chisel-like bills for drilling inr wood, and owls have hooked beaks for tearing apart animals theyr capture with their long curved talons. Often all the members of a birdr family have similar beak and foot structure but this is not invariablyr true because the members of a family may have become adapted to differentr modes of life.r

r r

r The illustrations (pages 65-69, figures 1-45) depict variation in beak and footr structure. The families shown with the species representing them are as follows:r

r r

r r Grebes: Order Podicipediformes

r 1. Grebes: Family Podicipedidae—Western Greber

r r

r r Pelican-like birds: Order Pelecaniformes

r 2. Pelicans: Family Pelecanidae—White pelican (Foot as in figure 3)r

r 3. Cormorants: Family Phalacrocoracidae—Double-crested cormorantr

r r

r r Stork-like birds: Order Ciconiiformes

r 4. Herons and Bitterns: Family Ardeidae— Green heron (note comb onr middle toenail)r

r r

r r Goose-like birds: Order Anseriformes

r 5. Ducks, Geese, and Swans: Family Anatidae—Buffleheadr

r r

r r Hawk-like birds: Order Falconiformes

r 6. American Vultures: Family Cathartidae—Turkey vulturer

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r 7. Kites, Hawks, and Eagles: Family Accipitridae—Red-tailed hawk

r r

r r Fowl-like birds: Order Galliformes

r 8. Quail and Pheasants: Family Phasianidae—Gambel'S quail

r r

r r Crane-like birds: Order Gruiformes

r 9. Rails: Family Rallidae—American cootr

r r

r r Plover-like birds: Order Charadriiformes

r 10. Plovers: Family Charadriidae—Killdeerr

r 11. Snipe, Sandpipers, etc.: Family Scolopacidae—Least sandpiperr

r 12. Avocets and Stilts: Family Recurvirostiudae—American avocetr

r 13. Phalaropes: Family Phalaropodidae—Northern phalaroper

r 14. Gulls and Terns: Family Laridae—Ring-billed gull (immature)r

r r

r r Pigeon-like birds: Order Columbiformes

r 15. Pigeons and Doves: Family Columbidae—Mourning dove

r r r r r

r r r r r r r r r r r

r r Cuckoo-like birds: Order Cuculiformes

r 16. Cuckoos, Roadrunners, etc.: Family Cuculidae—Roadrunners

r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r Owls: Order Strigiformes

r 17. Barn Owls: Family Tytonidae—Barn owl (Note comb on front toenail)r

r 18. Typical Owls: Family Strigidae—Screech owl (Foot similar to Tytonidaer but no comb on nail)r

r r

r r Goatsucker-like birds: Order Caprimulgiformes

r 19. Goatsuckers: Family Caprimulgidae—Common nighthawk (Note comb onr middle toenail)r

r r

r r Swifts and Hummingbirds: Order Apodiformes

r 20. Swifts: Family Apodidae—Vaux's swift (Note bare spine-like shafts of tipsr of tail feathers)r

21. Hummingbirds: Family Trochilidae—Allen's Hummingbird (female)r

r r

r r Roller-like birds: Order Coraciiformes

r 22. Kingfishers: Family Alcedinidae—Belted kingfisherr

r r

r r Woodpecker-like birds: Order Piciformes

r 23. Woodpeckers: Family Picidae—Yellow-bellied sapsuckerr (Note the *zygodactyl* foot—two toes in front, two behind)r

r r

r r Perching birds: Order Passeriformes

r *24.r Tyrant Flycatchers: Family Tyrannidae—Say's phoeber

r 25.r Larks: Family Alaudidae—Horned larkr

r 26.r Swallows: Family Hirundinidae—Violet-green swallowr

r 27.r Jays, Magpies, and Crows: Family Corvidae—Scrub jayr

r r

r _____r

r *The species representing these families have a foot structure similar to that shown in figure 27.r

r r r r r r r

rrrrrr r

r

- r r
- r r r
- r Perching birds: Order Passeriformes (*Cont'd.*)r
- r *28.r Tits: Family Paridae—Plain titmouser
 - r *29.r Nuthatches: Family Sittidae—White-breasted nuthatchr
 - r *30.r Creepers: Family Certhidae—Brown creeper (The tail feathers are stiffenedr and pointed)r
 - r *31.r Wrentits: Family Chamaeidae—Wrentitr
 - r *32.r r Dippers: Family Cinclidae—Dipperr
 - r *33.r r Wrens: Family Troglodytidae—Bewick's wrenr
 - r *34.r r Mockingbirds and Thrashers: Family Mimidae—California thrasherr
 - r 35.r r Thrushes: Family Turdidae—Hermit thrushr
 - r *36.r r Old-World Warblers, Gnatcatchers.r Kinglets: Family Sylviidae—Golden-crownedr kingletr
 - r 37.r r Wagtails: Family Motacillidae—Water pipitr
 - r *38.r r Waxwings: Family Bombycillidae—Cedar waxwingr
 - r r r [-. Silky Flycatchers:r Family Ptilogonatidae]r
 - r r *39.r r Shrikes: Family Laniidae—Loggerhead shriker
 - r *40.r r Vireos: Family Vireonidae—Solitary vireor
 - r *41.r r Wood Warblers: Family Parulidae—Yellow-throatr
 - r *42.r r Weaver Finches: Family Ploceidae—House sparrowr
 - r *43.r r Orioles and Blackbirds: Family Icteridae—Scott's orioler
 - r *44.r r Tanagers: Family Thraupidae—Western tanagerr
 - r *45.r r Finches, Sparrows, etc.: Family Fringillidae—White-crowned sparrowr

r r

r _____r
 r *r The species representing these families have a foot structure similar to that shown in figure 35.r

r r r r r

r r
r r r r r

r

r r

r [Next: Appendix II: Key](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Sources of Information](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/characteristics.htmlr

r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Appendix II: Key to the Yosemite Birds > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Next: Check List](#) r • r [Contents](#) r • r [Previous: Appendix I: Characteristics](#) r

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r

APPENDIX II: KEY TO THE YOSEMITE BIRDS

r r r

I. CATEGORIES BASED ON COLOR (INCLUDING BLACK AND WHITE)

r

- r (1) BIRDS WITH CONSPICUOUS REDDISH OR SCARLET MARKINGSr
- r (2) BIRDS WITH CONSPICUOUS ORANGE, CHESTNUT, OR RUSTY MARKINGSr
- r (3) BIRDS WITH CONSPICUOUS YELLOW OR GREENISH-YELLOW MARKINGSr
- r (4) BIRDS WITH CONSPICUOUS BLUE MARKINGSr
- r (5) BIRDS WITH CONSPICUOUS BLACK MARKINGSr
- r (6) BIRDS WITH CONSPICUOUS WHITE IN TAIL, WINGS, OR BOTHr

r r

II. CATEGORIES BASED ON CHARACTERISTICS OTHER THAN COLOR

r r

- r (7) BIRDS WITH LINE OVER, UNDER, THROUGH, OR NEAR THE EYEr
- r (8) BIRDS WITH COLLAR-BAND OR BREAST-PATCHr
- r (9) BIRDS WITH EYE-RINGr
- r (10) BIRDS WITH FORKED TAILr
- r (11) BIRDS WITH CREST OR PLUMEr
- r (12) WOODPECKERS AND OTHER CLIMBERSr
- r (13) BIRDS THAT HOLD THE TAIL ERECTr
- r (14) BIRDS THAT BOB OR TEETERr
- r (15) DUCKS AND DUCK-LIKE BIRDSr

r r

r

r **HOW TO USE THE KEY:**r The bird seen should be placed under the most appropriate of these headings. Ar decision as to size is the next step. The size of the bird is compared with the length of a junco, about 6 inches,r Brewer's blackbird, about 10 inches, or crow, about 18 inches. Descriptions are of male birds in breeding plumager unless otherwise noted.r

r r

r Since it is often difficult to determine size (length from tip of bill to tip of tail) of the bird in the field, the observer may need to check the identification in two or more size groups.r

r r

r Birds not easily identified or that fit readily into a number of categories are sometimes described in two or more,r categories. Birds easily identified are described but once. Descriptions of birds in the key are not complete. As a check on identification refer to the page indicated for the more detailed description in the text.r

r r

r *Hummingbirds, hawks, and owls* do not appear in the key.r Those birds are easily recognized as to group, hence reference can be made directly to the descriptions of species (see index) and each account read until identification is made. Certain of the rare Yosemite species have been omitted from the key.r

r

r r

I. CATEGORIES BASED ON COLOR (INCLUDING BLACK AND WHITE)

r r r

r r (1) BIRDS WITH CONSPICUOUS REDDISH OR SCARLET MARKINGSr

r r

r r *About size of Junco (6 in.) or smaller* r

r r

r Body reddish; tail slightly forked; tips of bill crossed; chunky—r RED CROSSBILLr (p. 57)r

r Head, rump, breast red; tail forked—r PURPLEr (p. 56),r HOUSEr (p. 57), orr CASSIN'S FINCHr (p. 56)r

r Body dark brown; back of head light gray; wings and rump pinkish; high Sierra—r GRAY CROWNED ROSY FINCHr (p. 57)r

r r

r r *Intermediate between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)* r r

r r

r Head reddish; body yellow; wings and tail black—r WESTERN TANAGERr (p. 55)r

r Head, throat, breast reds woodpecker—r YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERr (p. 31)r

r Red patch on wing-bend, otherwise black—r REDWINGED BLACKBIRDr (pp. 53, 54)r

r Foreparts and rump rose-red; white wing-bars; tail forked; high Sierra—r PINE GROSBEAKr (p. 57)r

r r r

r r (2) BIRDS WITH CONSPICUOUS ORANGE, CHESTNUT, OR RUSTY MARKINGSr

r r

r r *About size of Junco (6 in.)* r r

r r

r Crown rusty; black line through eye; breast not streaked—r CHIPPING SPARROWr (p. 61)r

r Tail rusty; long, slender, slightly curved bill; white breast—r CANYON WRENr (p. 44)r

r Tail rusty; slender legs and beak; nervous twitching of wings; breast spotted—r HERMIT THRUSHr (p. 45)r

r r

r r *Intermediate between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)* r r

r r

r Crown reddish-brown; tail yellowish-green; throat and belly white—r GREEN-TAILED TOWHEEr (p. 58)r

r Under parts orange except yellow belly; head black; white in black wings and tail; bill thick—r BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKr (p. 55)r

r Sides reddish-brown; head black; below white; eye orange—r RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEEr (p. 58)r

r Tail rusty; bill thick; breast spotted—r FOX SPARROWr (p. 62)r

r r

r r *About size of Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)* r r

r r

r Chestnut patch in middle of belly; plume tipped forward—r CALIFORNIA QUAILr (p. 19)r

r Throat and sides with chestnut; long, slender plume tipped backward or upright; mountains—r MOUNTAIN QUAILr (p. 18)r

r Rusty toward base of tail; white tips to tail feathers; white in slender wings; vociferous—r KILLDEERr (p. 20)r

r Tail orange-brown; wings bluish in malty; black lines on face—r SPARROW HAWKr (p. 16)r

r Breast orange; above dark brown; bill yellow—r ROBINr (p. 45)r

r Breast brownish-orange with black band—r VARIED THRUSHr (p. 45)r

r r

r r *Intermediate between Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.) and Crow (18 In.)* r r

r r

- r Lining of wings and under -surface of tail orange; rump white—r RED-SHAFTED FLICKERr (p. 30)r
- r Tail rusty; soaring flight—r RED-TAILED HAWKr (p. 14)r

r r r r r r

r r (3) BIRDS WITH CONSPICUOUS YELLOW OR GREENISH-YELLOW MARKINGSr

r r

r r *Smaller than Junco (6 in.)*r r

r r

r r A. *With Conspicuous Black Markings*r r r

- r Head-cap black; no white in wings and tail; generally yellow—r WILSON'S WARBLERr (p. 52)r
- r Throat black; head yellow; belly white; wing-bars—r HERMIT WARBLERr (p. 51)r
- r Crown black; back grayish-green; below yellow—r LESSER GOLDFINCHr (p. 58)r
- r Yellow spot on rump, head, sides; gray above, streaked with black; white thumb-marks on tail—r AUDUBON'S WARBLERr (p. 51)r

r r

r r B. *Without Black Markings*r r

r r

- r Above yellowish-green; under parts bright yellow; conspicuous black eyes; very active; spreads tail—r IMMATURE or FEMALE WILSON'S WARBLERr (p. 52)r
- r Almost entirely yellow; wings and tail dusky—r YELLOW WARBLERr (p. 50)r
- r Rusty crown-patch; head gray; eye-ring; below yellow—r NASHVILLE WARBLERr (p. 50)r
- r Below greenish-yellow; above olive-green; obscure orange patch on crown—r ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERr (p. 50)r
- r Head and neck slaty; below yellow—r MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLERr (p. 52)r
- r Below faint yellow; above olive or gray; eye-ring—r HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHERr (p. 34)r

r

r r

r r *Intermediate between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r Crown golden; generally brown above and light below—r GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWr (p. 62)r

r Above greenish-yellow; below yellow; wings and tail dusky—r FEMALE WESTERN TANAGERr (p. 55)r

r Forehead and line over eye yellow; white patch on black wing; thick bill—r EVENING GROSBEAKr (p. 56)r

r Belly yellow; tail black with white outer feathers—r WESTERN KINGBIRDr (p. 33)r

r r

r r *About size of Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r Below yellow; black crescent on breast; white outer tail feathers—r WESTERN MEADOWLARKr (p. 53)r

r r r

r r (4) BIRDS WITH CONSPICUOUS BLUE MARKINGSr

r r

r r *About size of Junco (6 in.) or smaller*r r

r r

r Head, neck, and back blue; white wing-bar; breast chestnut—r LAZULI BUNTINGr (p. 56)r

r r

r r *Intermediate between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r Generally blue; tail forked—r MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDr (p. 46)r

r Above blue; breast rusty—r WESTERN BLUEBIRDr (p. 46)r

r r

r r *Intermediate between Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.) and Crow (18 in.)*r r

r r

r Generally blue; head and neck black; crested—r STELLER'S JAYr (pp. 36, 37)r

r Generally blue; brown patch on back; not crested—r SCRUB JAYr (p. 38)r

r Above blue; blue band on breast; crested—r BELTED KINGFISHERr (p. 29)r

r Similar to preceding but sides rusty and two bands on breast—r FEMALE BELTED

KINGFISHERr (p. 29)r

r r

r r *Larger than Crow (18 in.)*r r

r r

r Above slaty blue but tips of wings darker; long legs and neck (42-50 in.)—r GREAT BLUE HERONr (p. 7)r

r r r

r r (5) BIRDS WITH CONSPICUOUS BLACK MARKINGSr

r r

r r *About size of Junco (6 in.) or smaller*r r

r r

r Head, neck, and throat black; white outer tail feathers—r JUNCOr (pp. 60, 61)r
r Crown and nape black; under parts white; climber—r WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHr (p. 40)r
r Head black with two white stripes, one above, other below eye; black cheeks—r BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERr (p. 51)r
r Throat and head black; cheeks white—r MOUNTAIN CHICKADEEr (p. 39)r

r r

r r *Intermediate between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r Conspicuous white stripe along bend of wing; back and wing black with white spotting; head, neck,r and breast red—r YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERr (p. 31)r
r Wings with large white patch; red streak on chin and throat; rump white; belly yellow—r WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKERr (p. 31)r
r White bars across black back; nape red—r NUTTALL'S WOODPECKERr (p. 32)r
r Similar to above but without red—r FEMALE NUTTALL'S WOODPECKERr (p. 32)r
r Body black; head white; white on wings; nape red—r WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKERr (p. 32)r
r White patch down black back; white outer tail feathers with black markings—r DOWNY WOODPECKERr (p. 33)r
r Head and breast black; below white; inconspicuous crest—r BLACK PHOEBEr (p. 34)r
r Head, neck, throat black; white thumb-marks on tips of outer tail feathers; sides reddish-brown—r RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEEr (p. 58)r

r r

r r *About size of Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r Back, wings, and tail black; rump and patch in wing white; crown red; throat, forehead, and sides of head white—r ACORN WOODPECKERr (p. 30)r

r Entirely iridescent black; iris white; gregarious—r MALE BREWER'S BLACKBIRDr (p. 54)r

r Body blackish; eye dark brown; head and neck brownish—r FEMALE BREWER'S BLACKBIRDr (p. 54)r

r Wings black with white patch; slack bar through eye; hooked beak—r SHRIKER (pp. 49, 63)r

r r

r r *Intermediate between Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.) and Crow (18 in.)*r r

r r

r Black crescent on breast; red line on side of head; rump white; wing lining orange—r RED-SHAFTED FLICKERr (p. 30)r

r Upper parts black; forehead and side of head dull red; breast gray passing to rose on belly—r LEWIS' WOODPECKERr (p. 30)r

r Wings and tail black, marked with white; rest of body gray—r CLARK'S NUTCRACKERr (p. 39)r

r r

r r *About Size of Crow (18 in.) or Larger*r r

r r

r Entirely iridescent black; often in flocks; cultivated land—r COMMON CROWr (p. 39)r

r Generally black; crest red—r PILEATED WOODPECKERr (p. 29)r

r r r r r r

r r (6) BIRDS WITH CONSPICUOUS WHITE IN TAIL, WINGS, OR BOTHr

r r

r r *WHITE IN BOTH WING AND TAIL*r r

r r

r r

r r *Smaller than Junco (6 in.)*r r

r r

r Crown black; below yellow; above olive-gray—r LESSER GOLDFINCHr (p. 58)r

r Yellowish patch on chin, crown, rump, and on each side; under parts whitish; above bluish-gray—r AUDUBON'S WARBLERr (p. 51)r

r r

r r *Intermediate between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r Head black; bill thick; throat and breast orange—r BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKr (p. 55)r

r Head black; eyes red; sides reddish-brown—r RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEEr (p. 58)r

r Long, slender-winged, erratic flyer, active at dusk—r COMMON NIGHTHAWKr (p. 26)r

r r

r r *About size of Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r Black mask; beak hooked—r SHRIKERr (pp. 49, 63)r

r Body generally gray; wings and tail black—r MOCKINGBIRDr (p. 44)r

r Generally gray; wings and tail with black; high mountains; nasal call—r CLARK'S NUTCRACKERr (p. 39)r

r Wings slender; tail rusty; above dark brown; black bands on breast; below white—r KILLDEERr (p. 20)r

r r

r r *Intermediate between Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.) and Crow (18 in.)*r r

r r

r Upper parts brown; yellow below; black crescent on breast—r WESTERN MEADOWLARKr (p. 53)r

r r

r r

r r *WHITE IN TAIL*r r

r r

r r

r r *Smaller than Junco (6 in.)*r r

r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r Yellow patch on rump; white thumb-marks on tips of tail feathers—r
FEMALE or IMMATURE AUDUBON'S WARBLERr (p. 51)r
r Head, neck, and breast black; back brown; bill yellow—r JUNCOr (pp. 60,
61)r
r Head, neck, and breast gray; back brown; bill yellowish—r FEMALE
JUNCOr (pp. 60, 61)r
r Top of head and nape black; long, slender bill—r WHITE-BREASTED
NUTHATCHr (p. 40)r

r r

r r *Intermediate between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r Tail-wagging habit; breast streaked—r WATER PIPITr (p. 48)r
r Generally gray; buffy bar in wing—r TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIREr (p. 46)r
r Intermediate between Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.) and Crow (18 in.)r
r Central tail feathers long; tail wedge-shaped when spread; pinkish throat
and breast—r MOURNING DOVEr (p. 23)r

r r

r r

r r *WHITE IN WING*r r

r r r

r r

r r *Intermediate Between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r Generally brownish-yellow; bill short, thick; tail forked—r EVENING
GROSBEAKr (p. 56)r
r Wings swallow-like; tail forked; under parts barred—r COMMON
NIGHTHAWKr (p. 26)r
r Head white; nape red (not in female); generally black—r
WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKERr (p. 32)r
r Generally black; rump and belly white; crown red—r ACORN
WOODPECKERr (p. 30)r

r r

r r r

II. CATEGORIES BASED ON CHARACTERISTICS OTHER THAN COLOR

r r r

r r (7) BIRDS WITH LINE OVER, UNDER, THROUGH, OR NEAR THE EYE r

r r

r r *Smaller than Junco (6 in.)* r r

r r

r r

r r A. *One or More Wing-Bars* r r

r r

r Above grayish; white line over eye; crown orange, margined by yellow and black—r GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETr (p. 47)r

r Grayish-brown; white line over eye; yellow tinge on sides—r WARBLING VIREOr (p. 50)r

r Above olive-gray; white line from bill to eye-ring—r SOLITARY VIREOr (p. 49)r

r Above gray; inconspicuous wing-bars and white line over eye; willows, usually—r WARBLING VIREOr (p. 50)r

r Top of head, cheeks, throat black; back slaty gray—r BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERr (p. 51)r

r Throat and cheeks black; yellow stripe above and below eye—r TOWNSEND'S WARBLERr (p. 51)r

r r

r r B. *Without Wing-Bars* r r

r r

r Black line through eye; crown reddish-brown; tail forked—r CHIPPING SPARROWr (p. 61)r

r Throat and head black; cheeks white—r MOUNTAIN CHICKADEEr (p. 39)r

r Above grayish-brown, speckled; tail barred; rocky areas; bobs—r ROCK WRENr (p. 43)r

r Above speckled, reddish-brown, brightest on tail; throat white; abdomen reddish-brown; billr curved—r CANYON WRENr (p. 44)r

r Above brown; tail comparatively long, barred, rounded; tail feathers white-tipped; white liner over eye; slender, slightly curved bill—r BEWICK'S WRENr (p. 43)r

r Above dark brown; tail very short, barred; bill short—r WINTER WRENr (p. 43)r

r Tiny, grayish-brown bird; inconspicuous white nape; short tail—r PYGMY NUTHATCHr (p. 41)r
r Above bluish-gray; below reddish-brown—r RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHr (p. 41)r

r r

r r

r r *About Size of Junco (6 in.)*r r

r r

r r

r Dusky line through eye; broad, buffy breast-band streaked narrowly with black; damp meadowsr —r LINCOLN'S SPARROWr (p. 62)r
r Crown black, broken by three white bands; a white band on each side of head above eye—r WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWr (p. 61)r
r Arrangement of bands similar to preceding but white replaced by grayish-brown and black byr rusty brown—r IMMATURE WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWr (p. 61)r

r r

r r

r r *Intermediate Between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r r

r Head dark brown with white streak over eye; orange line through crown; below pale orange;r white in wings and tail—r FEMALE BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKr (p. 55)r

r r

r r r

r r (8) BIRDS WITH COLLAR-BAND OR BREAST-PATCHr

r r

r r *About size of Junco (6 in.)*r r

r r

r Dark spot on breast; tail held erect; above brown, streaked below—r SONG SPARROWr (p. 63)r

r r

r r *Intermediate Between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)* r r

r r

r Two black breast-bands; above brown; below white—r KILLDEERr (p. 20)r

r r

r r *About size of Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)* r r

r r

r Black collar; above slaty brown; orange stripe behind eye—r VARIED THRUSHr (p. 45)r

r r

r r *Intermediate between Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.) and Crow (18 in.)* r r

r r

r Black crescent on breast; back and wings barred; below whitish with black spots; rump white—r RED-SHAFTED FLICKERr (p. 30)r

r Breast band; crested; below white; above slaty blue—r BELTED KINGFISHERr (p. 29)r

r Similar to preceding but an additional chestnut band across belly—r FEMALE BELTED KINGFISHERr (p. 29)r

r r r r r r

r r (9) BIRDS WITH EYE-RINGr

r r

r r *Smaller than Junco (6 in.)* r r

r r

r Nervous twitching of wings; generally gray, above tinged with green; inconspicuous scarlet patch on top of head; wing-bars—r RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETr (p. 47)r

r Above gray; line from bill to eye-ring; wing-bars; below white—r SOLITARY VIREOr (p. 49)r

r Top and sides of head slaty; faint, chestnut head-cap; above olive-green—r NASHVILLE WARBLERr (p. 50)r

r Eyelids white; foreparts slaty; belly yellow—r MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLERr (p. 52)r

r r

r r *About size of Junco (6 in.)* r r

r r

r Above brown; wing-bars; breast yellowish—r HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHERr (p. 34)r

r r

r r *Larger Than Junco (6 in.)* r r

r r

r Eye-ring buffy; breast speckled; above uniformly gray-brown; below whitish except buffy on breast—r SWAINSON'S THRUSHr (p. 47)r

r Above grayish-brown; below pale orange—r FEMALE ROBINr (p. 45)r

r Breast spotted with black; back brown, speckled with whitish—r IMMATURE ROBINr (p. 45)r

r Narrow buffy bar running length of extended wing; generally gray; white on edge of outer tailr feathers—r TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIREr (p. 46)r

r r r

r r (10) BIRDS WITH FORKED TAILr

r r r

r r *Smaller than Junco (6 in.)* r r

r r

r Black line through eye; crown reddish-brown—r CHIPPING SPARROWr (p. 61)r

r Streaked above and below; yellow in wings and outspread tail—r PINE SISKINr (p. 57)r

r r

r r *About size of Junco (6 in.)* r r

r r

r Above brown; dye-ring; under parts yellowish—r HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHERr (p. 34)r

r Body generally reddish; wings and tail dusky; tips of bill crossed—r RED CROSSBILLr (p. 57)r

r Wings slender and pointed; above dark except white patches on rump; below white—r VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWr (p. 37)r

r Above greenish-blue; below white—r TREE SWALLOWr (p. 37)r

r Above brown; chin, throat, and breast grayish-brown—r ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWr (p. 37)r

r r

r r *Intermediate Between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)* r r

r r

r Above brownish-gray; white rump-tufts—r OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERr (pp. 35, 36)r

r Under parts dull yellow; generally grayish above; wing-bars—r IMMATURE WESTERN TANAGERr (p. 55)r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r Generally brownish-black; throat and stripe along belly white; forages in air—r

WHITE-THROATED SWIFTr (p. 27)r

r Entirely blue, lighter beneath—r MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDr (p. 46)r

r Generally brownish; rump, tail, and wings bluish; below tending toward white—r FEMALE MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDr (p. 46)r

r r

r r *About size of Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r Above mottled; white band midway between tip and bend in long, slender wings—r

COMMON NIGHTHAWKr (p. 26)r

r r r

r r (11) BIRDS WITH CREST OR PLUMER

r r

r r *About size of Junco (6 in.)*r r

r r

r Indefinite crest; sits erect with tail on line with back; above grayish-brown; no eye-ring—r

WOOD PEWEEr (p. 35)r

r Above brownish-gray; eye-ring; whitish wing-bars; tail droops at rest—r HAMMOND'S

FLYCATCHERr (p. 34)r

r Crested; entirely gray—r PLAIN TITMOUSEr (p. 40)r

r r

r r *Intermediate Between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r Inconspicuous crest; head black; belly white; often jerks tail—r BLACK PHOEBEr (p. 34)r

r Generally gray; lighter below; often sits high on coniferous stubs—r OLIVE-SIDED

FLYCATCHERr (pp. 35, 36)r

r Suggestion of crest; under parts white; under side of tail rufous—r ASH-THROATED

FLYCATCHERr (p. 33)r

r r

r r *About Size of Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r Plume tipped forward—r CALIFORNIA QUAILr (p. 19)r

r Long, slender, erect plume; chestnut on face and sides; mountains—r MOUNTAIN QUAILr

(p. 18)r

r r r

r r (12) WOODPECKERS AND OTHER CLIMBERSr

r r

r r *Smaller than Junco (6 in.)*r r

r r

r Long, curved bill; creeps upward on tree trunks—r BROWN CREEPERr (p. 41)r
r White line over eye; top of head black; breast rusty—r RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHr (p. 41)r
r Crown and nape black; sides of head white; creeps both up and down—r
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHr (p. 40)r
r Above bluish-gray; black line through eye; tail very short—r PYGMY NUTHATCHr (p. 41)r

r r

r r *About size of Junco (6 in.)*r r

r r

r Broad white stripe down back; crown red; inconspicuous black bars on white outer tail feathers—r DOWNY WOODPECKERr (p. 33)r

r r

r r *Intermediate Between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)*r r

r r

r Head, neck, and breast crimson; white stripe along bend of wing—r YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERr (p. 31)r
r Back barred black and white; crown and nape red, wanting in female—r NUTTALL'S WOODPECKERr (p. 32)r
r Generally black; rump, wing-patch, belly, and about face white; crown red—r ACORN WOODPECKERr (p. 30)r
r Generally black; head white—r WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKERr (p. 32)r

r r

r r *Intermediate Between Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.) and Crow (18 in.)*r r

r r

r Black crescent on breast; white on rump; reddish-orange beneath wings—r RED-SHAFTER FLICKERr (p. 30)r

r r r r r r r

r r (13) BIRDS THAT HOLD THE TAIL ERECTr

r r

r r *About size of Junco (6 in.) or smaller* r r

r r

- r Beak curved; tending generally toward brown; active—r WRENSr (pp. 43, 44)r
- r Brownish on head; eye whitish; relatively long tail; below light gray—r BUSHTITr (p. 40)r
- r Below huffy; above brown; guttural, scolding note; relatively long tail—r WRENTITr (p. 42)r

r r

r r *Larger than Crow (18 in.)* r r

r r

- r Tail relatively short; generally gray; chunky; wings short—r BLUE GROUSEr (p. 18)r

r r r

r r (14) BIRDS THAT BOB OR TEETERr

r r

r r *About size of Junco (6 in.) or smaller* r r

r r

- r Above dark brown; faint line over eye; tail very short—r WINTER WRENr (p. 43)r
- r Tail rich, rusty-brown; throat and breast white; bill slender, curved—r CANYON WRENr (p. 44)r
- r Above grayish-brown, speckled; tail barred; rocky areas—r ROCK WRENr (p. 43)r

r r

r r *Intermediate Between Junco (6 in.) and Brewer's Blackbird (10 in.)* r r

r r

- r Below white, dotted' with round, dusky spots; pebbly shores—r SPOTTED SANDPIPERr (p. 20)r
- r Body slate-gray; tail short; mountain streams—r DIPPERr (p. 42)r

r r r

r r (15) DUCKS AND DUCK-LIKE BIRDSr

r r

r These birds are frequently observed at a distance, making it difficult to estimate size; thusr they have been keyed out chiefly on the basis of the distribution of black, white, etc.r

r r

r r *GENERALLY BLACK OR WITH CONSPICUOUS BLACK OR DARK MARKINGS*r r

r r

r r

r r *A. GENERALLY BLACK (DARK)*r r

r r

r r

r Flanks brownish-red; yellow “ear” tufts at sides of head; slender bill (12-14 in.)—r EARED GREBEr (pp. 6, 7)r

r White of bill contrasting with black of head; moves head back and forth when swimming (13-16 in.)—r AMERICAN COOTr (pp. 19, 20)r

r r

r r

r r *B. NOT GENERALLY BLACK BUT WITH CONSPICUOUS BLACK (DARK) HEAD MARKINGS*r r

r r

r r

r r *a. Head Solid Black (Real Or Apparent)*r r

r r

r White collar; breast chestnut; blue in wing (20-25 in.)—r MALLARDr (pp. 8, 9)r

r Breast pure white; back white with dark area down middle; bill broad at tip (17-21 in.)—r SHOVELERr (p. 10)r

r Bill blue; black head, neck, and upper breast; back whitish (15-16 in.)—r SCAUPr (p. 11)r

r Back and breast black; white mark in front of wing; bill bluish-gray with whitish band at baser and near tip (15-18 in.)—r RING-NECKED DUCKr (pp. 10, 11)r

r Long, slender, hooked, red bill; most of wings and under parts white; upper

back black (21-27r in.)—r COMMON MERGANSERr (p. 13)r

r r

r r *b. With Black (Dark) Markings But Head Not Solid Black* r

r r

r Head and neck black; white bib extending up on cheeks; large bird (23-42 in.)—r CANADA GOOSEr (pp. 8, 9)r

r Head dark brown (may appear black); long, slender neck; long, pointed central tail feathersr (26-30 in.)—r PINTAILr (p. 9)r

r Crested; two narrow white lines on side of head; white bib (18-20 in.)—r WOOD DUCKr (pp. 10, 11)r

r Black on throat; arching neck; narrow, snake-like head; expert diver; bill crossed by black bandr (12-15 in.)—r PIED-BILLED GREBEr (pp. 6, 7)r

r Size small (7-8 in.); top of head and bar back of eye dusky; back streaked with black and whiter —r WINTER PLUMAGED ADULT or IMMATURE NORTHERN PHALAROPEr (p. 22)r

r Size small (8-10 in.); top of head and bar back of eye dusky; upper parts ash-gray—r WINTER-PLUMAGED ADULT or IMMATURE WILSON'S PHALAROPEr (p. 21)r

r r

r r

r r

r r *GENERALLY WHITE OR WITH CONSPICUOUS WHITE (LIGHT) MARKINGS* r r

r r r

r r

r r *A. GENERALLY WHITE (LIGHT)* r r

r r

r Primaries black; large bill with conspicuous yellow pouch, orange at base (5 ft.)—r WHITE PELICANr (p. 6)r

r r

r r *B. NOT GENERALLY WHITE BUT WITH CONSPICUOUS WHITE ON HEAD* r r

r r

r White bib extending up on cheeks; remainder of head and neck black; large bird (23-42 in.)—r CANADA GOOSEr (pp. 8, 9)r

r Broad white crown-patch; white flanks contrasting with black stern (18-22

in.)—r AMERICAN WIDGEONr (p. 10)r

r Broad white crescent in front of eye; large blue area in wing (14-16 in.)—r

BLUE-WINGED TEALr (p. 9)r

r Two narrow white lines on side of head; white bib; upper breast

reddish-brown (18-20 in.)—r WOOD DUCKr (pp. 10, 11)r

r White cheeks; top of head' black; general rusty color (13-16 in.)—r

RUDDY DUCKr (p. 12)r

r r

r r

r r *BIRDS WITH CONSPICUOUS RUSTY, REDDISH-BROWN, OR CINNAMON MARKINGS*r r

r r

r r

r r *A. ENTIRE BIRD CHIEFLY RUSTY OR REDDISH-BROWN*r r

r r

r Bill blue; cheeks white; top of head black; tail often held erect (13-16

in.)—r RUDDY DUCKr (p. 12)r

r Head and neck dark cinnamon; wings brown with large patch of blue (15-17

in.)—r CINNAMON TEALr (p. 9)r

r r

r r *B. NOT GENERALLY RUSTY; REDDISH-BROWN COLOR RESTRICTED TO HEAD, NECK, OR BOTH*r r

r r

r Head and neck reddish-brown; back and sides apparently white; long

sloping foreheadr (20-23 in.)—r CANVASBACKr (pp. 10, 11)r

r Crested; throat white; bill long, slender, hooked (21-27 in.)—r FEMALE or

IMMATURE COMMON MERGANSERr (p. 13)r

r Size small (7-8 in.); whirling habit; head sooty; sides of neck rusty; eye-ring

white—r FEMALE NORTHERN PHALAROPEr (p. 22)r

r Size small (8-10 in.); top of head and stripe down neck ash-gray; rich

chestnut on lower neck;r whirling habit—r FEMALE WILSON'S

PHALAROPEr (p. 21)r

r r r

r r r

r r

r Next: Check Listr • r Contentsr • r Previous: Appendix I: Characteristicsr

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r r r

INDEX AND CHECK LIST

r r r

r (Including summary of occurrence and distribution)r

r r

r The index provides a summary of status and life zone distribution of the birds of Yosemite. The abbreviations for statusr are explained onr page 1,r while the abbreviations for life zonesr are the initials of the zonal names as explained onr pages 4 and 5.r Status is given first. Life zone range is of residentr birds or those spending the summer or winter in the region. Zonal range is not always stated forr casual visitants or transients because it often has little meaning with reference to occurrence inr Yosemite.r

r r

r A space is provided in front of each name to permit checking each species as it is identified. Inr this manner the reader may keep a “life list” for the Yosemite region and may add to it on subsequentr visits. Place a check mark in front of a name only if certain of your identification. Namesr not provided with a check space are synonyms. Numbers indicate pages in this booklet.r

r r

r (Common and scientific names in accord with the 1957 A.O.U. checklistr of North American birds. See bird descriptionsr for scientific names.)r

r r

r

___ AVOCET, American—CV, 21r r

r

___ BLACKBIRD, Brewer’s—SV; LS-C, 54r

___ Redwinged—SV; LS-T, 53, 54r

___ Yellow-headed—CV; LS-T, 53r

___ BLUEBIRD, Mountain—SV; T-H, 46r

___ Western—WV; US-T, 46r

___ BUFFLEHEAD—CV, 12r

___ BUNTING, Lazuli—SV; LS-T, 56r

___ BUSHTIT, Common—R; US, 40r r

r

___ CANVASBACK—CV, 10, 11r

- ___ CHAT, Yellow-breasted—CV; LS-T, 53r
- ___ CHICKADEE, Mountain—R; T-H, 39r
 - ___ Chestnut-backed—CV; T, 63r
- ___ COOT, American—CV, 19, 20r
- ___ CORMORANT, Double-crested—CV, 6,r
- ___ COWBIRD, Brown-headed—CV; LS-T,r
- ___ CREEPER, Brown—R; T-C, 41r
- ___ CROSSBILL, Red—R; C-H, 57r
- ___ CROW, Common—CV; LS-T, 39r
 - ___ Clark's (See Nutcracker)r r
- r
- ___ DIPPER—R; T-H, 42r
- ___ DOVE, Mourning—CV, 23r
- ___ DUCK, Harlequin—CV, 12r
 - ___ Ring-necked—CV, 10, 11r
 - ___ Ruddy—CV, 12r
 - ___ Wood—CV, 10, 11r r
- r
- ___ EAGLE, Bald—R; LS-US, 15r
 - ___ Golden—R; US-T, 15r
- ___ EGRET, Common—CV, 8r
 - ___ Snowy—CV, 8r r
- r
- ___ FALCON, Peregrine—CV, 16r
 - ___ Prairie—CV, 16r
- ___ FINCH, Cassin's—R; T-H, 56r
 - ___ Gray-crowned Rosy—R; H-A, 57r
 - ___ House—R LS-US, 57r
 - ___ Purple—CV; US-T, 56r
- ___ FLICKER, Red-shafted—R; US-C, 30r
- ___ FLYCATCHER, Ash-throated—CV; LS-US, 33r
 - ___ Dusky—SV; C, 35r
 - ___ Gray—CV, 63r
 - ___ Hammond's—SV; C, 34r
 - ___ Kiskadee—63r
 - ___ Olive-sided—SV; T-C, 35, 36r
 - ___ Traill's—SV; LS-C, 34r
 - ___ Western—SV; US-T, 35r r
- r
- ___ GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray—SV; LS-US, 47r
- ___ GOLDENEYE, Barrow's—CV, 11r
 - ___ Common—CV, 63r
- ___ GOLDFINCH, American—CV, 63r
 - ___ Lawrence's—CV, 63r
 - ___ Lesser—CV; LS-T, 58r
- ___ GOOSE, Canada—CV, 8, 9r
- ___ GOSHAWK—R, 13r
- ___ GREBE, Eared—CV, 6, 7r
 - ___ Pied-billed—WV, 6, 7r
 - ___ Western—CV, 63r
- ___ GROSBEAK, Black-headed—SV; LS-T, 55r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

- _____ Blue—CV; LS, 63r
- _____ Evening—SV; T-C, 56r
- _____ Pine,—R; C-H, 57r
- _____ GROUSE, Blue—R; T-H, 18r
- _____ Sage—CV, 18r
- _____ GULL, Bonaparte's—CV, 63r
- _____ California—CV, 22r
- _____ Herring—63r
- _____ Ring-billed—CV, 22r r
- r
- _____ HAWK, Cooper's—R; US-T, 14r
- _____ Ferruginous—CV, 63r
- _____ Marsh—CV; LS-C, 15r
- _____ Pigeon—CV, 63r
- _____ Red-tailed—R; LS-H, 14r
- _____ Sharp-shinned—R; LS-T, 13r
- _____ Sparrow—R; LS-H, 16r
- _____ Swainson's—SV, 14r
- _____ HERON, Black-crowned Night— CV, 63r
- _____ Great Blue—CV, 7r
- _____ Green—CV, 8r
- _____ HUMMINGBIRD, Allen's—CV, 28r
- _____ Anna's—R; US-T, 28r
- _____ Black-chinned—SV; US-T, 28r
- _____ Calliope—CV; T-C, 29r
- _____ Rufous—M; T, 28r r
- r
- _____ JAEGER, Parasitic—CV, 63r
- _____ JAY, Piñon—CV; US-T, 38r
- _____ Scrub—R; US, 38r
- _____ Steller's—R; T-C, 37, 38r
- _____ JUNCO, Oregon—SV; T-H, 61r
- _____ Slate-colored—CV, 60r r
- r
- _____ KILLDEER—SV, 20r
- _____ KINGBIRD, Western—CV; LS-US, 33r
- _____ KINGFISHER, Belted—R; LS-T, 29r
- _____ KINGLET, Golden-crowned—SV; C-T, 47r
- _____ Ruby-crowned—R and WV; C, 47r
- _____ KITE, White-tailed—CV, 63r r r r
- r
- _____ LARK, Horned—CV; LS-US, 36r
- _____ LOON, Arctic, CV, 63r r
- r
- _____ MAGPIE, Black-billed—CV; US-T, 39r
- _____ Yellow-billed—CV; LS-US, 38r
- _____ MALLARD—CV, 8, 9r
- _____ MARTIN, Purple—CV, 63r
- _____ MEADOWLARK, Western—R; LS-T, 53r
- _____ MERGANSER, Common—SV and CV, 13r
- _____ Hooded—CV, 13r

- ___ MOCKINGBIRD—R; LS-US, 44r r
- r
- ___ NIGHTHAWK, Common—SV; T-C, 26r
- ___ NUTCRACKER, Clark's—R; C-H, 39r
- ___ NUTHATCH, Pygmy—R; T-C, 41r
- ___ Red-breasted—R; T-H, 41r
- ___ White-breasted—R; US-H, 40r r
- r
- ___ ORIOLE, Bullock's—CV, 54r
- ___ OSPREY—CV, 15r
- ___ OUZEL (See Dipper)r
- ___ OWL, Barn—CV, 63r
- ___ Flammulated—CV, 63r
- ___ Great Gray—R; C, 25r
- ___ Great Horned—R; LS-H, 24r
- ___ Long-eared—R; US-T, 25r
- ___ Pygmy—R; T-C, 24r
- ___ Saw-whet—R; T-C, 26r
- ___ Screech—R; LS-T, 24r
- ___ Short-eared—CV, 25r
- ___ Spotted—R; T, 26r r
- r
- ___ PELICAN, White—M, 6r
- ___ PEWEE, Western Wood—SV; US-H, 35r
- ___ PHAINOPEPLA—R; LS-US, 48r
- ___ PHALAROPE, Northern—CV, 22r
- ___ Red—CV, 63r
- ___ Wilson's—CV, 21r
- ___ PHOEBE, Black—SV; US, 34r
- ___ Say's—CV; LS-US, 34r
- ___ PIGEON, Band-tailed—SV; US-T, 23r
- ___ PINTAIL—CV, 9r
- ___ PIPIT, Water—WV, 48r
- ___ POORWILL—SV; LS-T, 26, 27r r
- r
- ___ QUAIL, California—R; US-T, 19r
- ___ Mountain—R; T-C, 18r r
- r
- ___ RAIL, Virginia—CV, 19r
- ___ RAVEN, Common—C, 63r
- ___ REDHEAD—CV, 63r
- ___ ROADRUNNER—CV; LS-US, 23r
- ___ ROBIN—SV; T-H, 45r r
- r
- ___ SANDPIPER, Baird's—CV, 63r
- ___ Least—CV, 63r
- ___ Solitary—CV, 63r
- ___ Spotted—SV, 20r
- ___ SAPSUCKER, Red-breasted—63r
- ___ Yellow-bellied—WV or R; T-C, 31r
- ___ Williamson's—R; C-H, 31r

- ___ SCAUP, Lesser—CV, 11r
- ___ SHOVELER—CV, 10r
- ___ SHRIKE, Loggerhead—CV; LS-US, 49r
 - ___ Northern—CV, 63r
- ___ SISKIN, Pine—R; T-H, 57r
- ___ SNIPE, Common—CV, 21r
- ___ SOLITAIRE, Townsend's—SV or R; T-H, 46r
- ___ SORA—CV, 63r
- ___ SPARROW, Brewer's—CV; US-T, 63r
 - ___ Chipping—SV; US-T, 61r
 - ___ Fox—SV and WV; US-C, 62r
 - ___ Golden-crowned—WV; US-C, 62r
 - ___ Harris'—CV, 63r
 - ___ House—CV, 53r
 - ___ Lark—CV; LS-US, 60r
 - ___ Lincoln's—SV; C, 62r
 - ___ Rufous-crowned—CV; US, 60r
 - ___ Sage—CV; US, 60r
 - ___ Savannah—CV; LS-T, 59r
 - ___ Song—R; LS-H, 63r
 - ___ Vesper—CV; US-C, 59r
 - ___ White-crowned—SV and WV; T-H, 61r
 - ___ White-throated—CV, 63r
- ___ STILT, Black-necked—CV, 63r
- ___ SWALLOW, Barn—CV, 63r
 - ___ Cliff—SV; LS-T, 37r
 - ___ Rough-winged—CV; LS-US, 36, 37r
 - ___ Tree—CV; US-T, 37r
 - ___ Violet-green—SV; US-T, 37r
- ___ SWIFT, Black—SV; T, 27r
 - ___ Vaux's—CV, 27r
 - ___ White-throated—SV; LS-T, 27r r
- r
- ___ TANAGER, Western—SV; T-C, 55r
- ___ TATTLER, Wandering—CV, 63r
- ___ TEAL, Blue-winged—CV, 9r
 - ___ Cinnamon—CV, 9r
 - ___ Green-winged—CV, 9r
- ___ THRASHER, California—R; LS-US, 44r
 - ___ Sage—CV, 44r
- ___ THRUSH, Hermit—SV and WV; T-H, 45r
 - ___ Swainson's—SV; US-C, 47r
 - ___ Varied—WV; US-C, 45r
- ___ TITMOUSE, Plain—R; US, 40r
- ___ TOWHEE, Brown—CV; LS-T, 59r
 - ___ Green-tailed—SV; T-H, 58r
 - ___ Rufous-sided—R; US-T, 58r r
- r
- ___ VIREO, Hutton's—R; US-T, 49r
 - ___ Solitary—SV; US-C, 49r
 - ___ Warbling—SV; US-C, 50r

- ___ VULTURE, Turkey—R; LS-H, 13r r
- r
- ___ WARBLER, Audubon's—SV and WV; US-H, 51r
- ___ Black-throated Gray—SV; US-T, 51r
- ___ Hermit—SV; T-C, 51r
- ___ MacGillivray's—SV; T-C, 52r
- ___ Myrtle—CV, 63r
- ___ Nashville—SV; T-C, 50r
- ___ Orange-crowned—SV; US-C, 50r
- ___ Townsend's—CV and T, 51r
- ___ Wilson's—SV; US-C, 52r
- ___ Yellow—SV; LS-T, 50r
- ___ WAXWING, Bohemian—CV, 63r
- ___ Cedar—WV and M, 48r
- ___ WIDGEON, American—CV, 10r
- ___ WILLET—CV, 63r
- ___ WOODPECKER, Acorn—R; US-T, 30r
- ___ Black-backed Three-toed—R; C-H, 33r
- ___ Downy—R; US-T, 33r
- ___ Hairy—R; US-C, 32r
- ___ Lewis'—R; US-T, 30r
- ___ Nuttall's—CV; US, 32r
- ___ Pileated—R; T-C, 29r
- ___ Red-headed—63r
- ___ White-headed—R; T-C, 32r
- ___ WREN, Bewick's—R; US, 42,43r
- ___ Canyon—R; LS-T, 44r
- ___ House—SV; US-T, 43r
- ___ Long-billed Marsh—WV; LS-T, 43r
- ___ Rock—R and SV; LS-H, 43r
- ___ Winter—R and WV; T-C, 43r
- ___ WRENTIT—R; US-T, 42r r
- r
- ___ YELLOWLEGS, Lesser—63r
- ___ YELLOWTHROAT—CV; LS-US, 52r

r r r r

r r r r r r r

r r r

r r

r

ABBREVIATIONS FOR LIFE ZONES

r

r (See pages 4 and 5 for discussion)r

r r

r L.S. — Lower Sonoran (example: Fresno)r

r U.S. Upper Sonoran (example: El Portal, Arch Rock)r

r T. — Transition (example: Yosemite Valley)r

r C. — Canadian (example: Glacier Point)r

r H. — Hudsonian (example: Dana Meadows)r

r A. — Arctic Alpine (example: Mount Lyell)r

r r r

r r

ABBREVIATIONS FOR STATUS

rr

r (See page 1 for discussion)r

r

r R. — Residentr

r W.V. — Winter Visitantr

r S.V. — Summer Visitantr

r C.V. — Casual Visitantr

r M. — Migrantr

r r

r r

r

r r

r

r r r r

r l
r r
r

r

r r r r r

r l
r Published in cooperation with the
r National Park Service r

r r r r r

r r

r [Next: Back Cover](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: Appendix II: Key](#)

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/check_list.html

r r

r

r r

r [Yosemite](#) > [Library](#) > r [Birds of Yosemite](#) > r Back Cover > r

r r

r

r r r

r [Contents](#) r • r [Previous: Check List](#)

r r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r r r

r r

Back Cover

r r r r

r r

r [Mirror Lake, Yosemite Valley]r

r

r r

r to a person uninstructed in natural history,r
r his country or seaside stroll is a walkr
r through a gallery filled with wonderful works of art,r
r nine tenths of which have their faces turned to the wall.r

r r

r —Thomas Henry Huxleyr

r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r CROWN PRINTING & LITHOGRAPHING CO.r
r FRESNO, CALIFORNIAr

r r r

r r

r Contentsr •r Previous: Check Listr

r r r

r

r r

r

r r

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/back_cover.htmlr

r r r r r r r

r r r r r r r

r

r r

r Yosemite > Library >r Birds of Yosemite >r

r r r

r

r r r

r r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

r r r

r r Cover: watercolor of Male Western Tanager
r (by Bob Stebbins)r r

r r

r
• Table of Contents

r
• Preface

r
• Introduction

r
• Distribution of Birds in Yosemite

r
• Bird Descriptions and Illustrationsr r

r
♦ Grebes, Order Podicipediformes

r
♦ Pelican-like Birds, Order Pelecaniformes

r

Birds of Yosemite National Park (1954, 1963) by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins

◆ Stork-like Birds, Order Ciconiiformes

r

◆ Goose-like Birds, Order Anseriformes

r

◆ Hawk-like Birds, Order Falconiformes

r

◆ Fowl-like Birds, Order Galliformes

r

◆ Crane-like Birds, Order Gruiformes

r

◆ Plover-like Birds, Order Charadriiformes

r

◆ Pigeon-like Birds, Order Columbiformes

r

◆ Cuckoo-like Birds, Order Cuculiformes

r

◆ Owls, Order Strigiformes

r

◆ Goatsucker-like Birds, Order Caprimulgiformes

r

◆ Swifts and Hummingbirds, Order Apodiformes

r

◆ Roller-like Birds, Order Coraciiformes

r

◆ Woodpecker-like Birds, Order Piciformes

r

◆ Perching Birds, Order Passeriformes r

r

◇ Tyrant Flycatchers, Family Tyrannidae

r

◇ Larks, Family Alaudidae

r

◇ Swallows, Family Hirundinidae

r

◇ Jays, Magpies, and Crows, Family Corvidae

r
◇ Tits, Family Paridae

r
◇ Nuthatches, Family Sittidae

r
◇ Creepers, Family Certhiidae

r
◇ Wrentits, Family Chamaeidae

r
◇ Dippers, Family Cincilidae

r
◇ Wrens, Family Troglodytidae

r
◇ Mockingbirds and Thrashers, Family Mimidae

r
◇ Thrushes, Family Turdidae

r
◇ Gnatcatchers, Kinglets, and Old-world Warblers, Family Sylviidae

r
◇ Wagtails, Family Motacillidae

r
◇ Waxwings, Family Bombycillidae

r
◇ Silky Flycatchers, Family Ptilonotidae

r
◇ Shrikes, Family Laniidae

r
◇ Vireos, Family Vireonidae

r
◇ Wood Warblers, Family Parulidae

r
◇ Weaver Finches, Family Ploceidae

r
◇ Orioles and Blackbirds, Family Icteridae

r
◇ Tanagers, Family Thraupidae

r
◇ Finches, Sparrows, etc., Family Fringillidae

rr

rr

r r
• Species Recorded in the Yosemite Region But of Infrequent Occurrence

r
• Sources of Information

r
• Appendix I: Family Characteristics of Birds

r
• Appendix II: Key to the Yosemite Birds

r
• Index and Check List

r
• Back Cover

rr r r

r

r r

About the Authors

r r

r I r
r *Bob Stebbins, 1951* r
r (*MVZ, UCB*)r r

r r

r Cyril Adelbert Stebbins was born June 20, 1878 in Harrisville, Wisconsin. r He married Louise Beck. r He was Instructor with the Department of Agricultural Education at University of California. r His interests were agriculture, r particularly elementary school gardens for teaching, r and birds. r He died Feb. 26, 1953 in Los Angeles, California. r

r r

r Robert C. "Bob" (Robert Cyril) Stebbins, r son of Cyril Stebbins, was born in Chino, California October 25, 1915. r He grew up in Los Angeles and became interested in Salamanders while wandering the foothills of the area. r He married Anna-rose Cooper June 8, 1941 and had 1 son and 2 daughters. r He received his AB, MA, and Ph.D. from UCLA (1940, 1942, and 1943). r His original interest was in birds, with his father. r He served as a Ranger Naturalist at Lassen Volcanic National Park in 1941 and 1942. r He joined the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ), University of California in 1944, where he became Curator and Professor. r Bob became a Guggenheim Fellow in 1949. r He produced two films for the Sierra Club in the 1960s: r *Nature Next Door* and *No Room for Wilderness?* r

r r

r Bob is a leading expert in herpetology, particularly salamanders. r His special interest is in the ecological and behavioral significance of the pineal gland and the parietal eye in reptiles. r He also has an interest in landscape and wildlife painting. r He retired in 1978 as Professor Emeritus, and is still active in herpetology fieldwork. r He wrote over a dozen books, including various Peterson field guides, r and over 70 scientific papers. r Two Salamanders are named in his honor, r *Ambystoma mavortiumv stebbinsi* r and *Batrachoseps stebbinsi*. r Bob feels that "education is the only way to solve environmental and population problems" r (quote from *Zoology* 131 (UC Press, 2003)). r He lived in Kensington, California, just north of Berkeley, r and in retirement, Gardena, California. r Dr. Stebbins died Dec. 18, 2000. r

r

r

- For more information see Louis Sahagun, "Robert Stebbins; Art and Science Illuminate a Naturalist's Path," Los Angeles *Times* April 4, 2005, p. B-2. r

rr r
r

rr

Bibliographical Information

rr

r Cyril A. (Cyril Adelbert) Stebbins (1878-1953)r andr Robert C. (Robert Cyril) Stebbins (1915-2000),r *Birds of Yosemite National Park*. (1963).r Illustrated by Robert C. Stebbins.r 76+4 pp. Illustrated with 142 black & white drawings.r 24 cm.r First published in *Yosemite Nature Notes* 33(8) (August 1954).r Revised 1963.r Paper wrapper illustrated with a watercolor.r Saddle stitched.r California State Library call number: QL684.C2 S8.r

r

r Although not credited, two illustrations, on the title page andr p. 79,r appear to be by Jane J. Gyer.r The shading and perspective reflect her style.r Jane Gyer illustrated the cover for the revised 1974 editionr of *Birds of Yosemite*.r

rr

r Digitized by Dan Anderson, April 2005,r from a personal copy.r These files may be used for any non-commercial purpose,r provided this notice is left intact.r

r —Dan Anderson, www.yosemite.ca.usr

rrrr

rrrrr

r

rr

r

rr

r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/birds_of_yosemite/r

rrrr