

A Visual Summary of “What Birds Can You Expect to See at Medford Leas in Winter?”

Originally intended to be part of a
Medford Leas Birders presentation
February 2024

Featuring Joe Costanza's ***Checklist of Birds at the
Medford Leas Communities***

and bird photos by Joe Costanza and Robert Koch
(and several from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

Some Medford Campus Habitats

“The Farm”



lawns near homes and forest edges



water features – SW Branch of Rancocas Creek



water features – canoe dock area, Sharps Run near Rt. 70



meadow and edges



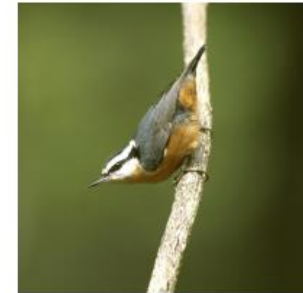
wooded paths and thickets



What birds can we expect to see regularly at Medford Leas each winter?

We are very lucky to have the **Checklist of Birds of the Medford Leas Communities**, last updated by Joe Costanza in 2014.

Checklist of Birds of the Medford Leas Communities Medford and Lumberton, NJ Campuses



Medford Leas is a Continuing Care Retirement Community with over 600 residents located in Medford and Lumberton, New Jersey.

There are over 250 acres of varied habitats including the Lewis W.

Barton Arboretum and nature preserve, wooded tracks, marshes, meadows, the Rancocas Creek, and tributary streams.

September 2014

NAME	s	S	F	W
Wrens				
___ Carolina Wren	c	c	c	c
___ House Wren	c	c	r	r
___ Marsh Wren	r			
___ Winter Wren	r		r	r
Kinglets/Gnatcatchers				
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	r			
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet			r	r
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	r	r	o	r
Warblers				
___ American Redstart	o	o	r	
___ Blackpoll Warbler	r			
___ Black and White Warbler	u	r	r	
___ Black-throated Blue	u	r	r	
___ Blue-winged Warbler			r	
___ Cerulean Warbler	r			
___ Common Yellowthroat	c		r	
___ Golden-winged Warbler			r	
___ Magnolia Warbler	r			
___ Mourning Warbler	r		r	
___ Northern Parula	r			
___ Northern Waterthrush			r	
___ Ovenbird	r	r	r	
___ Palm Warbler	o		r	
___ Pine Warbler	r	r	r	
___ Prairie Warbler	r			
___ Prothonotary Warbler	r	r		
___ Yellow Warbler		r		
___ Yellow-breasted Chat		r		
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	r	c	o

NAME	s	S	F	W
Mimics				
___ Brown Thrasher	u	o	o	
___ Gray Catbird	a	c	r	r
___ Northern Mockingbird	c	c	c	c
Blackbirds/Starlings				
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	r	u
___ Common Grackle	a	a	a	a
___ Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	o	u
___ Rusty Blackbird				r
___ European Starling	a	a	a	a
Orioles				
___ Baltimore Oriole	c	c	o	r
___ Orchard Oriole	o	o	r	
Tanagers				
___ Scarlet Tanager	o	o		
___ Summer Tanager	r	r		
Grosbeaks and Finches				
___ American Goldfinch	a	a	a	a
___ Bunting, Indigo	u	o		
___ Bunting, Snow				r
___ Common Redpoll				r
___ Finch, House	a	a	a	a
___ Finch, Purple			o	o
___ Grosbeak, Evening	r	r		r
___ Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	u	r	r	
___ Grosbeak, Pine				r
___ Northern Cardinal	a	a	a	a
___ Pine Siskin			r	r

NAME	s	S	F	W
Meadow Birds				
___ Bobolink	r			
___ Eastern Meadowlark	r	r	r	r
Sparrows and Allies				
___ Eastern Towhee	u	u	r	r
___ American Tree Sparrow	r		r	o
___ Chipping Sparrow	c	u	o	r
___ Field Sparrow	u	r	r	r
___ Fox Sparrow	r		o	o
___ House Sparrow	a	a	a	a
___ Savannah Sparrow	r	o		r
___ Song Sparrow	c	c	c	c
___ Swamp Sparrow	r		r	
___ White-crowned Sparrow	r		r	r
___ White-throated Sparrow	c	r	c	c
___ Dark-eyed Junco	o		a	a

Most of the birds seen here are migratory. Their seasonal occurrence is coded as follows:

s=Spring S=Summer F=Fall W=Winter

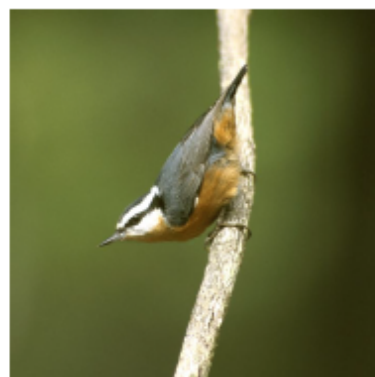
Relative Abundance

Codes indicate how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat and appropriate season.

- a Abundant Very numerous in suitable habitat.
- c Common Likely to be seen or heard in a suitable habitat.
- u Uncommon Usually present but not certain to be seen.
- o Occasional Seen only a few times during the season.
- r Rare May be present in small numbers; not necessarily every year.
- L Observed at Lumberton Campus only.

Based on sighting by Medford Leas Birders club members from 1991 through 2013. Compiled and updated through 2002 by E. W. Marshall and from 2003 to 2014 by J. Costanza.

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September 2014

NAME	s	S	F	W
Waterfowl & Swimmers				
__Brant			r	
__Goose, Canada	a	a	a	a
__Goose, Snow	r		r	o
__Grebe, Pied-billed		r	o	u ^L
__Loon, Common	r		r	r
__Swan, Mute	r		r	o ^L
__Swan, Tundra	r			o
__Double-crested Cormorant			r ^L	
Ducks/Ducklike				
__Bufflehead			r ^L	r ^L
__Canvasback	r ^L			
__Coot, American	r		r	o ^L
__Duck, American Black	r	r	r	o
__Duck, Ring-necked	r ^L		r ^L	o ^L
__Duck, Ruddy		r	r ^L	o ^L
__Duck, Wood	u	u	u ^L	o
__Mallard	c	c	c	c
__Merganser, Common			r	o ^L
__Merganser, Red-breasted			r ^L	r ^L
__Merganser, Hooded	r			o ^L
__Pintail, Northern			r	o
__Redhead			r ^L	
__Scaup, Lesser			r	
__Shoveler, Northern				r ^L
__Teal, Blue-winged				r ^L
__Teal, Green-Winged				r ^L
__Wigeon, American				r ^L
Gulls				
__Great Black-backed Gull		r		
__Herring Gull	r	o	r	o
__Laughing Gull	c	o		r
__Ring-billed Gull	o	r	r	o

NAME	s	S	F	W
Wading Birds				
__Bittern, American				r
__Egret, Great		r	o	r
__Heron, Black-crowned Night	r ^L			
__Heron, Great Blue	c	c	c	c
__Heron, Green		r		
Plovers and Sandpipers				
__Killdeer	c	u	u	o
__Sandpiper, Spotted	r ^L			
__Woodcock, American	r	r		r
__Yellowlegs, Greater	r			
__Yellowlegs, Lesser	r			
Game Birds				
__Bobwhite, Northern	r	r	r	r
__Grouse, Ruffed			r	
__Pheasant, Ring-necked			r	o
__Turkey, Wild	c	c	c	o
Eagles/Hawks/Falcons				
__Eagle, Bald	c	c	c	c
__Kestrel, American	u	o	o	u
__Harrier, Northern	u	o	o	c
__Hawk, Cooper's	u	u	c	c
__Hawk, Broad-winged	r			
__Hawk, Red-shouldered	r	o	u	u
__Hawk, Red-tailed	c	c	c	c
__Hawk, Sharp-shinned	u	u	c	c
__Merlin	r		r	r
__Northern Goshawk				r ^L
__Osprey	o	u	u	r
Vultures				
__Black Vulture	o	o	u	u
__Turkey Vulture	a	a	a	a

NAME	s	S	F	W
Owls				
__Barn Owl		r	r	
__Barred Owl			r	
__Great Horned Owl	u	c	c	c
__Screech Owl	r	r	o	r
Pigeons and Doves				
__Mourning Dove	a	a	a	a
__Rock Pigeon	c	c	c	c
Cuckoos				
__Black-billed Cuckoo	r	r	r	
__Yellow-billed Cuckoo	r	r		
Goatsuckers				
__Common Nighthawk	o	r		
__Whip-poor-will	r		r	
Hummingbirds				
__Ruby-throated	c	c	o	
Kingfishers				
__Belted Kingfisher	o	o	c	o
Woodpeckers				
__Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
__Downy Woodpecker	a	c	c	a
__Hairy Woodpecker	c	u	c	c
__Red-bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
__Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		r		r
Flycatchers				
__Alder Flycatcher	r	r		
__Eastern Kingbird	u	o	r	
__Eastern Phoebe	c	u	c	r
__Eastern Wood-Pewee	o	o	r	
__Great Crested Flycatcher	c	u	r	r

NAME	s	S	F	W
Swallows and Swifts				
__Chimney Swift	u	c		
__Purple Martin	o	o		
__Bank Swallow		r		
__Barn Swallow	c	c	u	
__Cliff Swallow	r			
__Tree Swallow	c	c	r	r
Crows and Jays				
__Crow American	a	a	a	a
__Crow, Fish	o	o	o	
__Jay, Blue	a	a	a	a
Chickadees and Titmice				
__Chickadee, Black-capped				r
__Chickadee, Carolina	a	a	a	a
__Tufted Titmouse	a	a	a	a
Creepers and Nuthatches				
__Brown Creeper	o	r	a	c
__Nuthatch, Red-breasted	o	r	o	u
__Nuthatch, White-breasted	c	c	c	c
Bluebirds and Thrushes				
__Eastern Bluebird	c	c	c	c
__American Robin	a	a	a	a
__Thrush, Hermit	o		o	r
__Thrush, Swainson's	r	r	r	
__Thrush, Wood	c	u	r	
__Veery	r		r	
Waxwings and Vireos				
__Cedar Waxwing	c	u	c	u
__Vireo, Blue-headed	r			
__Vireo, Red-eyed	o	r		

NAME	s	S	F	W
Meadow Birds				
___ Bobolink		r		
___ Eastern Meadowlark	r	r	r	r
Sparrows and Allies				
___ Eastern Towhee	u	u	r	r
___ American Tree Sparrow	r		r	o
___ Chipping Sparrow	c	u	o	r
___ Field Sparrow	u	r	r	r
___ Fox Sparrow	r		o	o
___ House Sparrow	a	a	a	a
___ Savannah Sparrow	r	o		r
___ Song Sparrow	c	c	c	c
___ Swamp Sparrow	r		r	
___ White-crowned Sparrow	r		r	r
___ White-throated Sparrow	c	r	c	c
___ Dark-eyed Junco	o		a	a

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September 2014

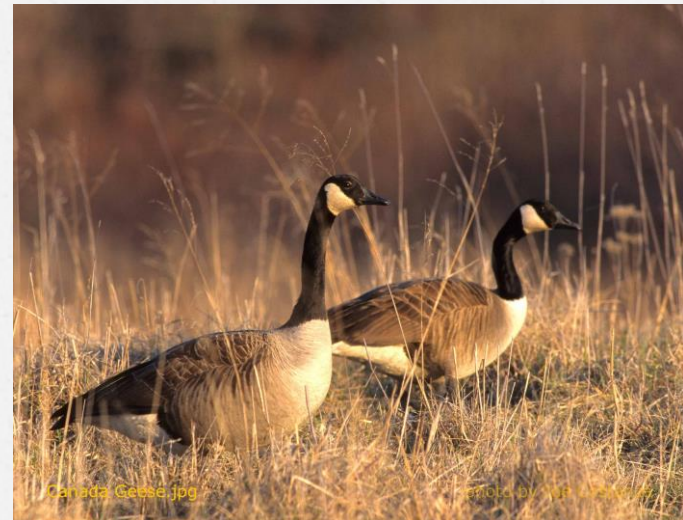
Abundant in Winter at Medford Leas

Checklist code "a"

Abundant = **Very** numerous in suitable habitat

- ☐ Goose, Canada
- ☐ Turkey Vulture
- ☐ Mourning Dove
- ☐ Downy Woodpecker
- ☐ Crow American
- ☐ Jay, Blue
- ☐ Chickadee, Carolina
- ☐ Tufted Titmouse
- ☐ American Robin
- ☐ Common Grackle
- ☐ European Starling
- ☐ American Goldfinch
- ☐ Finch, House
- ☐ Northern Cardinal
- ☐ House Sparrow
- ☐ Dark-eyed Junco

Canada Goose



Turkey Vulture



Turkey Vulture.jpg

photo by Joe Costanza

Mourning Dove





Adult

Gray above with large black spots on the wing coverts and pale peach-colored below, with a long, thin tail. Note the thin, black bill and pinkish legs.

© Ryan Schain | Macaulay Library
Massachusetts, April 08, 2014



Adult

In flight shows a long, fan-shaped tail with large white tips. Its wings make a distinctive high-pitched whistle in flight.

© Nancy Christensen | Macaulay Library
California, March 11, 2017

Downy Woodpecker



Downy Woodpecker f.jpg

photo by Robert Koch

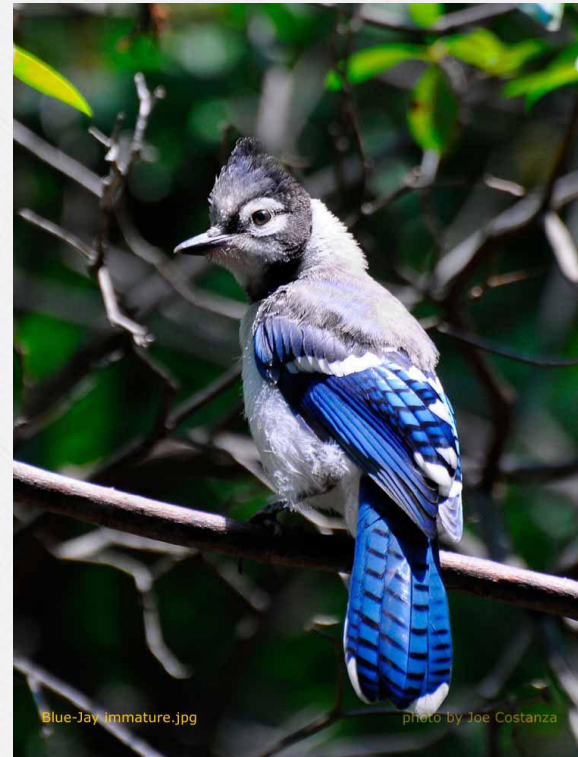
American Crow

(with a Great Horned Owl)



American Crow and Great H

Blue Jay



Carolina Chickadee



Carolina Chickadee.jpg

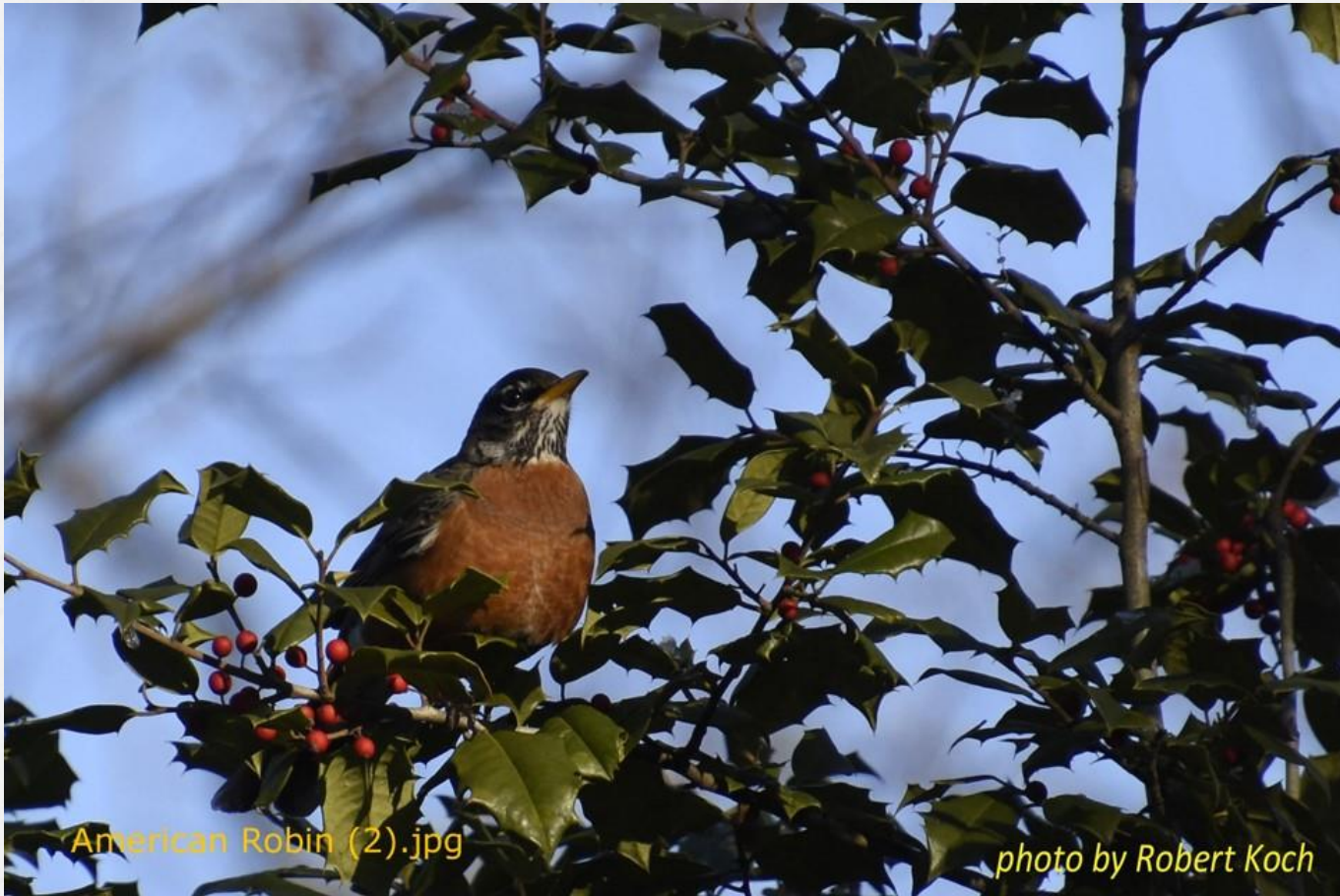
photo by Robert Koch

Tufted Titmouse



Tufted Titmouse by Cynthia Crawford.j

American Robin



American Robin (2).jpg

photo by Robert Koch

Common Grackle



Adult male

Large, lanky blackbirds with long legs, a long tail, and a long and heavy bill. Adult males appear dark overall, but have an iridescent bluish head and bronzy body in good light.

© Jack & Holly Bartholmai | Macaulay Library
Wisconsin, April 06, 2018



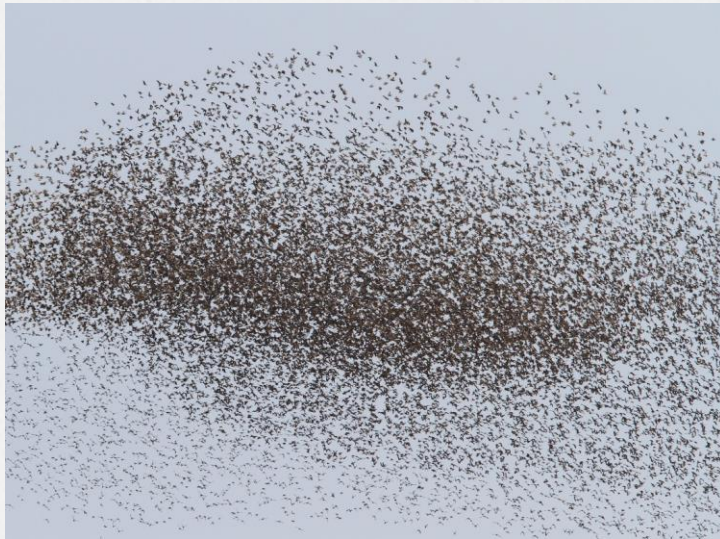
Female

Lanky blackbird with a long tail and heavy, long bill. Females are slightly less glossy than males.

© Evan Lipton | Macaulay Library
Massachusetts, May 29, 2015

European Starling

coordinated winter flock



males in winter plumage



American Goldfinch



House Finch



House Finch and others



Northern Cardinal



House Sparrows male and female



Dark-eyed Junco

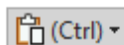


Common in Winter at Medford Leas

Checklist code "c"

Common = *Likely* to be seen or heard in a suitable habitat
(but not necessarily in great numbers)

- ☐ Coot, American only at Lumberton
- ☐ Duck, Ring-necked only at Lumberton
- ☐ Duck, Ruddy only at Lumberton
- ☐ Mallard
- ☐ Heron, Great Blue
- ☐ Eagle, Bald
- ☐ Harrier, Northern
- ☐ Hawk, Cooper's
- ☐ Hawk, Red-tailed
- ☐ Hawk, Sharp-shinned
- ☐ Great Horned Owl
- ☐ Rock Pigeon
- ☐ Northern Flicker
- ☐ Hairy Woodpecker
- ☐ Red-bellied Woodpecker
- ☐ Brown Creeper
- ☐ Nuthatch, White-breasted
- ☐ Eastern Bluebird
- ☐ Carolina Wren
- ☐ Northern Mockingbird
- ☐ Song Sparrow
- ☐ White-throated Sparrow



American Coot



Ring-necked Duck



Ruddy Duck

non-breeding female



non-breeding male



Mallard

non-breeding plumage
male and female



breeding plumage
male and female



Great Blue Heron



Bald Eagle



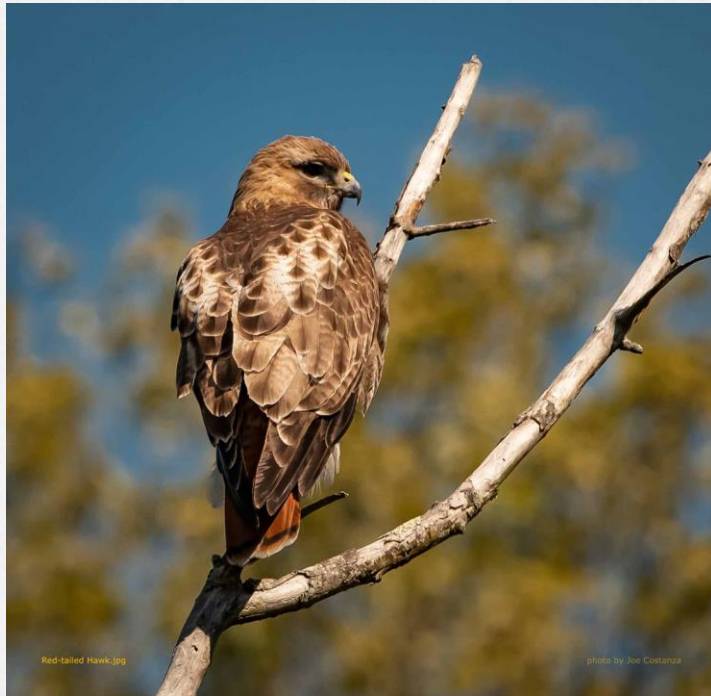
Northern Harrier



Cooper's Hawk



Red-tailed Hawk



Sharp-shinned Hawk



Great Horned Owl



Rock Pigeon



Northern Flicker



Male (Yellow-shafted)

Large woodpecker with a black bib and spotted belly. Males in the East have a red nape, a black whisker, and yellow shafts on the flight and tail feathers.

[Northern Flicker M-y-s.jpg](#)

© Warren Lynn | Macaulay Library



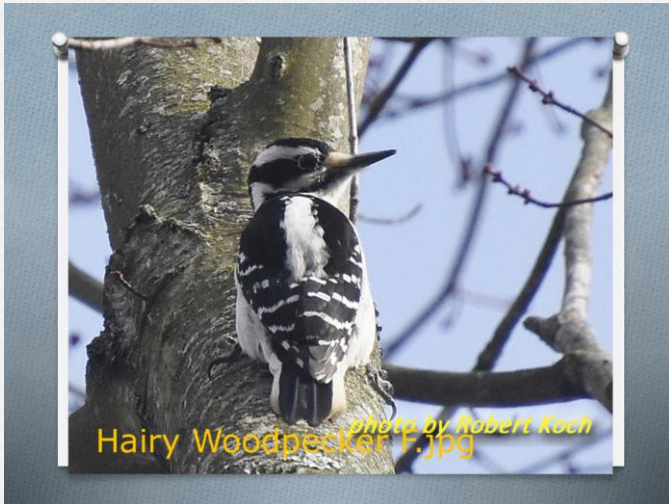
Male (Yellow-shafted)

Shows a bold white rump in flight.

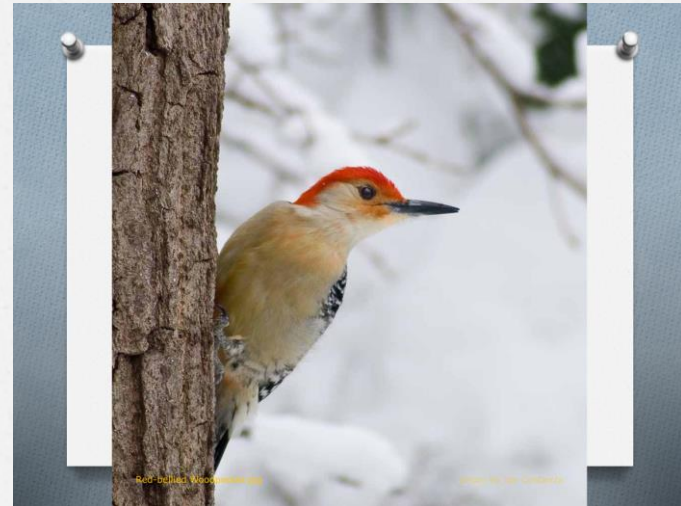
[Northern Flicker M-y-s in flight.jpg](#)

© Loryn Beausoleil | Macaulay Library

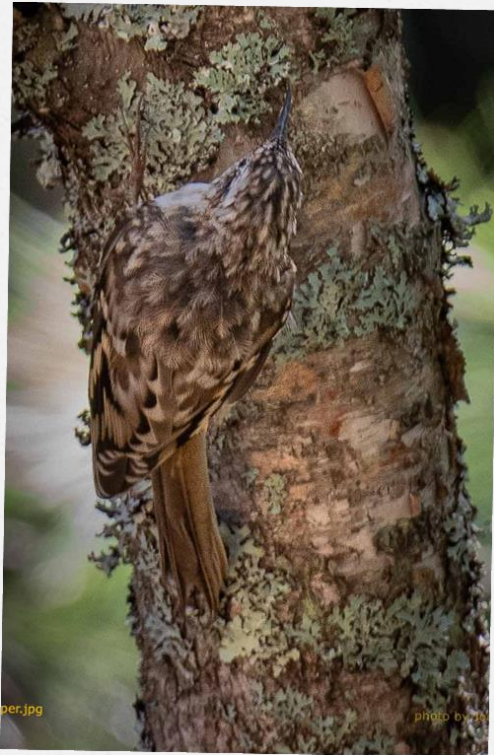
Hairy Woodpecker



Red-bellied Woodpecker



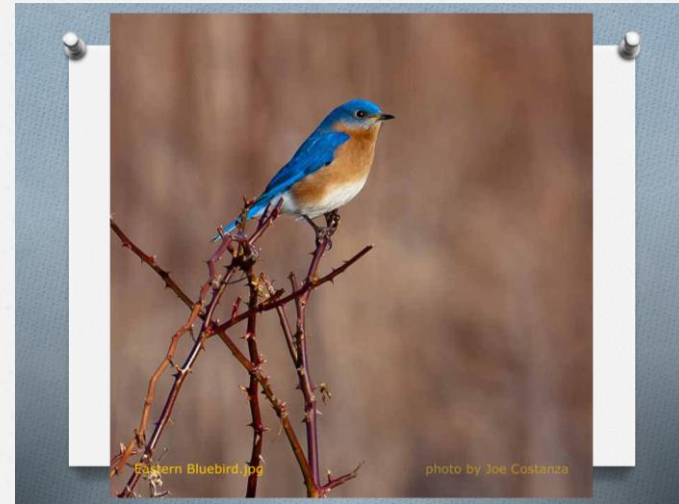
Brown Creeper



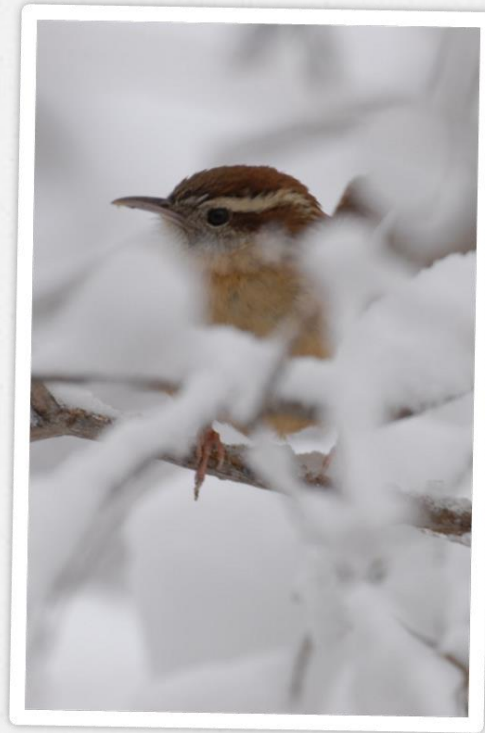
White-breasted Nuthatch



Eastern Bluebird



Carolina Wren



Northern Mockingbird



Northern Mockingbird.jpg Photo by Robert Koch

Song Sparrow



White-Throated Sparrow



Uncommon at Medford Leas in Winter

code “u” **Uncommon** = Usually present
but not certain to be seen.

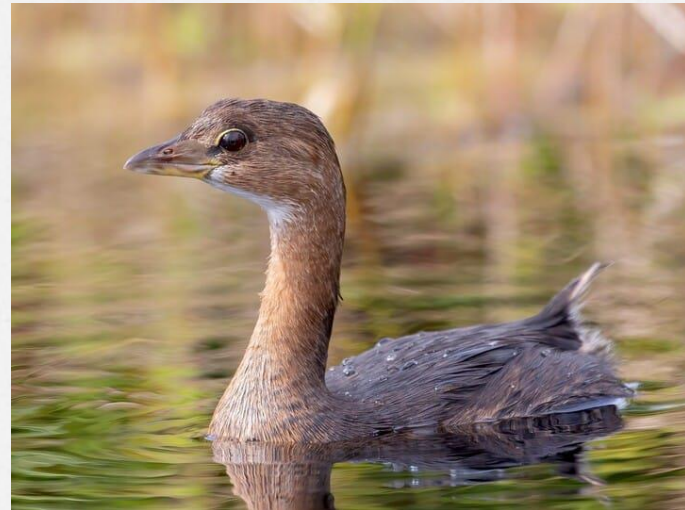
- ☐ Grebe, Pied-billed **only at Lumberton**
- ☐ Kestrel, American
- ☐ Hawk, Red-shouldered
- ☐ Black Vulture
- ☐ Nuthatch, Red-breasted
- ☐ Cedar Waxwing
- ☐ Brown-headed Cowbird
- ☐ Red-winged Blackbird

Pied-billed Grebe

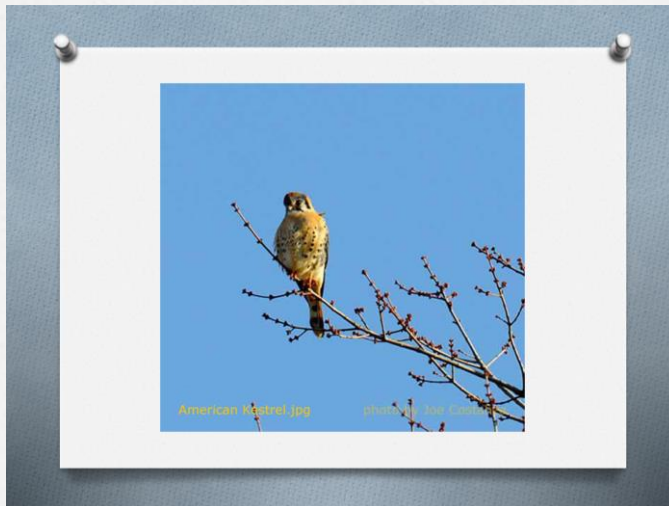
breeding adult



non-breeding adult



American Kestrel



Red-shouldered Hawk



Black Vulture



Red-breasted Nuthatch



Cedar Waxwing



Brown-headed Cowbirds

male and female

Macaulay Library CLO



Red-winged Blackbird



Occasional at Medford Leas in Winter

code “o” **Occasional** = Seen only a few times
during the season.

- Goose, Snow
- Swan, Mute **only at Lumberton**
- Swan, Tundra
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Duck, American Black
- Duck, Wood
- Merganser, Common **only at Lumberton**
- Merganser, Hooded **only at Lumberton**
- Pintail, Northern
- Herring Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- Killdeer
- Ring-necked Pheasant
- Turkey, Wild
- Belted Kingfisher
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Finch, Purple
- American Tree Sparrow



Snow Goose



Mute Swan



photo by Robert Koch

Tundra Swans



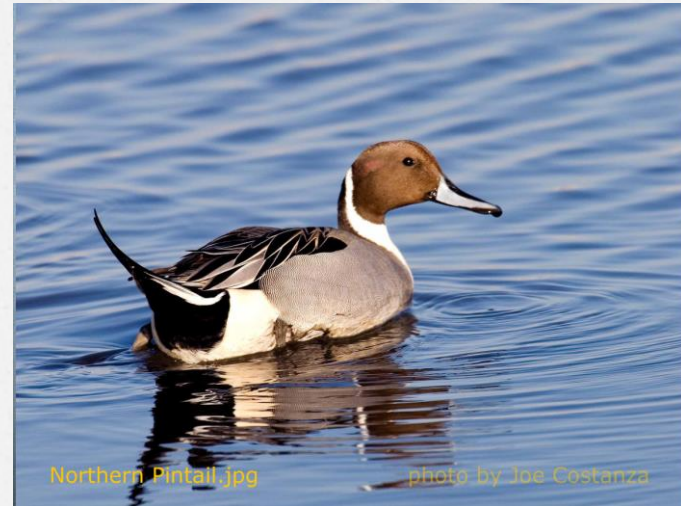
Tundra Swan.jpg

photo by Robert Koch

Wood Duck



Northern Pintail



Herring Gulls and Turkey Vulture



Herring Gulls and Turkey Vulture by Mike Bourdon

Ring-billed Gull



Ring-billed Gull.jpg

photo by Robert Koch

Kildeer



Wild Turkeys



Belted Kingfisher



Common Merganser



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Purple Finch



Additional Resources

Websites:

All About Birds: from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology <http://www.allaboutbirds.org>

eBird (*managed by Cornell Lab*): <https://ebird.org/home>

Merlin (*Cornell Lab*): <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

Project Feeder Watch (*Cornell Lab*): <https://feederwatch.org/>

Macaulay Library (*Cornell Lab*): <https://www.macaulaylibrary.org/>

Joe Costanza Nature Photography: <https://joecostanzaphotography.com>

Unlabeled Photography is from websites of The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

...and your **best** resources are your fellow Medford Leas Birders.