

Common Birds of Olympic National Park



CEDAR WAXWINGS

Ernest Smith

By EUGENE J. WILHELM, JR.



The Kingfisher is frequently seen along the rivers in Olympic National Park.

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COMMON BIRDS

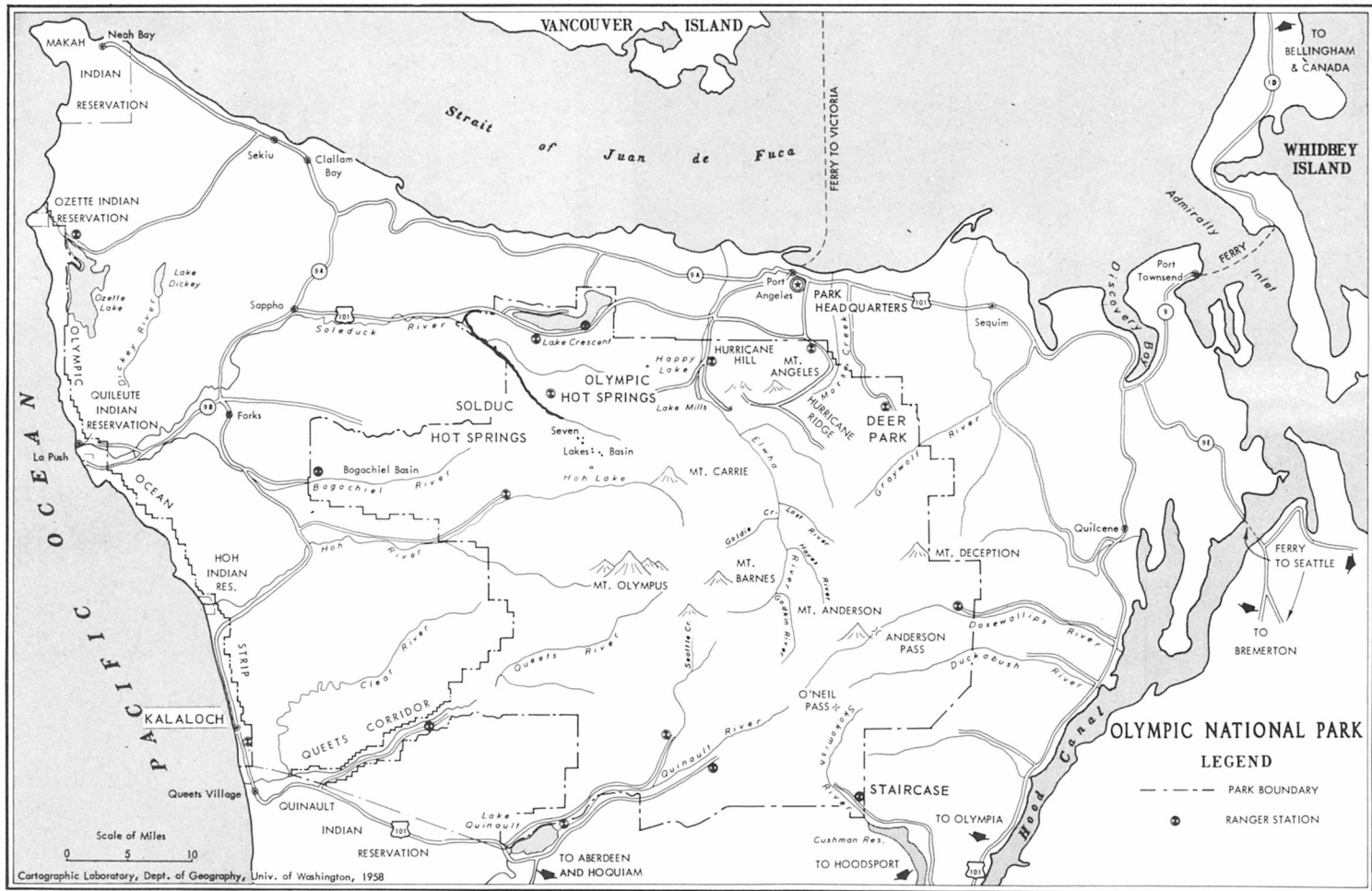
OF OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

By EUGENE J. WILHELM, JR.



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Preface

Olympic National Park, located on the Olympic Peninsula in northwest Washington, is a unique wilderness of rugged mountains, coniferous rain forests, glaciers, streams, lakes, seascapes, and wildlife. Within Park boundaries are 1,400 square miles of this wilderness, providing favorable environments for a variety of birds.

Anyone interested in the living world about us will be stimulated by observing or studying birds here. Within one day's travel you can observe the large concentrations and varieties of seabirds along the Olympic Ocean Strip; move inland to discover the many colorful woodland birds in the rain forest; and at day's end, record those few birds that have adapted themselves to the high, cool environment of the snow-capped Olympic Mountains.

This guide has been prepared to introduce the birds most common in Olympic National Park. A total of 116 species have been chosen from a composite list of 261 species which have been recorded for the Olympic Peninsula. Both scientific and common names are included. All species follow the appropriate taxonomical order of the fifth edition of the *Check-list of North American Birds*, published by the American Ornithologists' Union.

Nine easily accessible areas of the Park are described. When looking for a particular kind of bird, scan the list of birds given for the area where you are, or where you plan to visit. All birds are mentioned in connection with areas of the Park where they are frequently seen, so it is possible to determine where the best chances of seeing the bird are, and what to expect by way of terrain and vegetation.

Illustrations are included with notes on field marks to help identification. A descriptive bird guide such as Roger Tory Peterson's is helpful for more positive identification. Binoculars, a notebook, and the wish to learn about bird life are the only other companions needed.

The Scene. The Pacific Ocean makes Olympic National Park a thriving wilderness. The mountains on the western side of the peninsula stand as a natural barrier against the moisture-laden winds passing over the sea. These winds, eventually rising, cooling, and condensing on the western slopes, deposit as much as 160 inches of rain and snow on the valleys and mountains annually. The greatest precipitation in the United States, outside of Alaska and Hawaii, occurs here. This mild, humid climate is unusually favorable for a rich forest growth.

The Park has a wide range of elevation, varying from sea-level, along the Ocean Strip, to the highest summit in the Park, the perpetually snow-covered Mount Olympus, 7,976 feet. Such extreme variance in elevation drastically affects the Olympic scene. In summer, the low areas at sea level and the adjoining valleys are usually mild and clear, while in the neighboring high country, a winter scene of snow and ice may still prevail. When summer does arrive atop the high peaks it is of short duration. In winter, the low elevations of western Washington are characteristically mild, much more so than any other section of the continent in the same latitude. The warming influence of the ocean in winter, and the protection provided by the Cascade Mountains against cold continental air are the factors responsible. Heavy snowfall and high winds occur on the mountain tops, but winter temperatures are not severe.

The difference in elevation is important for another reason: life zones. For convenient reference, scientists have divided the surface of the earth into a series of belts, each represented by its own distinctive plants, insects, mammals, birds, and other animals in association with one another. Each belt has its own climatic conditions. These factors vary with changes in elevation much as they do with changes in latitude—a 1,000-foot increase in elevation is roughly the same as a 200-mile increase in latitude. There are distinguishable belts of vegetation on a mountain although they blend gradually from one to another. These belts are called life

zones and have names associated with zones lying between the equator and the poles. Four life zones occur in the Olympics: Transition, Canadian, Hudsonian, and Arctic-Alpine. Traveling through these life zones in Olympic National Park is comparable to taking a 2,000-mile sojourn from north-central United States, through the great taiga forest belt of central Canada, past Hudson Bay with its smaller and less dense forest, and terminating on the tundra, the treeless, windswept area adjoining the Arctic Ocean.

The lowest life zone in Olympic National Park is the Transition, named because of its intermediate position between southern and northern vegetation, and between warmer and cooler temperatures. Within this zone in the Park are the extensive rain forests on the western side of the Peninsula, the Olympic Ocean Strip, and the main river valleys on the northern and southern extremities. Dominant trees include Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western red-cedar, Sitka spruce, red alder, and both vine and bigleaf maples.

The Canadian Life Zone is the next highest, varying between 1,500 and 3,000 feet in elevation. In many localities of the Park it is difficult to distinguish because of a gradual merging with the Transition Zone. Douglas-fir, Pacific silver fir, western white pine and western hemlock are the characteristic trees. The forest floor under this dense canopy of conifers is mostly bare, in contrast to the lush green carpet found in the Transition Zone.

The highest zone having forest vegetation is called the Hudsonian life zone, between 3,500 and 5,000 feet. The common trees of this zone are alpine fir, western white pine, mountain hemlock, Alaska yellow-cedar, and Pacific silver fir. Most abundant is the alpine fir. As you move upward in elevation through this zone the forest thins out into open ridges and meadows where wildflowers grow profusely during the short summer season. Other habitats at this elevation include shale slopes, glacial lakes, marshes, and swift rocky streams. Deer Park and Hurricane Ridge are two localities within this zone which are accessible by car.

The only treeless life zone in Olympic National Park — and the highest — is the Arctic-Alpine. Here the vegetation is low-growing in nature, due to the shallow soil, the high evaporation caused by strong winds and warm summer sun. This zone, lying between 5,000 feet and the tops of the peaks, includes many areas of perpetual snow and ice, rocky mountain summits, and bare

shale ridges. Frost-free days are few, even in summer. During the short growing season plant life must adapt to an environment of freezing temperatures. Obstruction Point and Blue Mountain are areas accessible by car in this zone.

The Park Naturalist will welcome any records of observations you care to submit. Reports should include the date, place, elevation, name, and sex of the bird concerned, any pertinent comments, and the name and address of the observer. Such reports may be left at any Park visitor center, or they may be given to any ranger, who will pass them on to the Park Naturalist.

Always make a point of going to the nearest visitor center in the Park, and inquiring about the various interpretive services. Naturalist conducted field trips and evening programs include discussions on the Park's bird life and other related phases of natural history.

Acknowledgments. I wish to thank Gunnar Fagerlund, former Park Naturalist, for encouraging me to begin this work; Glenn Gallison, Park Naturalist; and the entire interpretive staff, for assisting me in every way possible. To my wife, Diane, I owe appreciation for being a loving and loyal critic.

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Port Angeles is situated on a narrow strip of low land between the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Olympic Mountains.

Area 1 — Park Headquarters

Olympic National Park Headquarters is located on the mountain side of Port Angeles, near Park Avenue on Race Street. The Pioneer Memorial Museum (on Race Street, above Park Avenue) contains interesting exhibits and information on the features of the park. The naturalists present illustrated talks in the evenings throughout the summer.

The forested terrain between the administration building and the museum is ideal for several species of breeding birds. Peabody Creek—at an elevation of 220 feet—winds and cuts midway between the two buildings. Natural brushpiles, running water, and dense vegetation combine to create a bird haven. Breeding birds that may be expected in this small forested section from mid-May through August include:

Ruffed Grouse	Solitary Vireo
California Quail	Warbling Vireo
Band-tailed Pigeon	Orange-crowned Warbler
Common Nighthawk	Yellow Warbler
Vaux's Swift	MacGillivray's Warbler
Rufous Hummingbird	Wilson's Warbler
Red-shafted Flicker	House Sparrow
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Western Tanager
Western Flycatcher	Evening Grosbeak
Violet-green Swallow	Pine Siskin
Steller's Jay	American Goldfinch
Winter Wren	Oregon Junco
Robin	Chipping Sparrow
Swainson's Thrush	White-crowned Sparrow
Cedar Waxwing	Song Sparrow

In the spring and again in the fall thousands of migrating warblers, vireos, and finches travel through the high foliage or along the dim, secretive forest floor. Throughout the winter cross-bills, Pine Siskins, goldfinches, and jays are in the area.



Hurricane Ridge is alpine fir and meadow country, laced-dropped by the snow and ice mantled peaks of the inner Olympic Mountains.

Ranger naturalists lead visitors on the meadow trails where several species of birds can be pointed out.



Area 2 — Heart O' The Hills and Hurricane Ridge

Heart O' The Hills is situated about 5 miles south of Port Angeles, just off the road to Hurricane Ridge. Dense forests, a fresh water lake, brush thickets, and open fields afford opportunity to observe many species of birds throughout the year. Several excellent trails start here and lead into the surrounding high country. While hiking on these trails, watch for Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Several species of birds breed here in the late spring and summer, such as:

Band-tailed Pigeon
Screech Owl
Saw-Whet Owl
Vaux's Swift
Rufous Hummingbird
Red-shafted Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Violet-green Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Gray Jay
Steller's Jay
Common Raven
Common Crow
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Winter Wren
Song Sparrow

Robin
Varied Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Cedar Waxwing
Solitary Vireo
Yellow Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Western Tanager
Evening Grosbeak
Purple Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Red Crossbill
Rufous-sided Towhee
Oregon Junco
Chipping Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow

The snowy Olympic Mountains—a disorganized group of peaks, valleys, and ridges—are not a distinct range. The Park area has been severely glaciated, and even today the high peaks support about 60 active glaciers. Although not as lofty as the Cascades or the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the Olympics are no less majestic, their heights soaring abruptly above the sea.

Hurricane Ridge, 17 miles southwest of Port Angeles, provides a panoramic view of the Olympic Mountains, including Mount Olympus, the highest peak in the Park. The Ridge extends for 12 miles from Hurricane Hill (elevation 5,757 feet) to Obstruction Point (elevation 6,450 feet). In this short distance, many birds may be seen. Some nest and rear their young here. Others appear



The Gray Jay is a bold, friendly bird that will be seen at parking areas and campgrounds throughout the Park.

Young birdwatchers getting some firsthand information.



when certain foods are plentiful. Several species are customarily observed during the summer meadow walks led by naturalists, starting from the Visitor Center.

The appearance of hordes of grasshoppers on Hurricane Ridge is an annual event beginning about the first of August. They are an attraction for the Sparrow Hawk, Common Raven, and Blue Grouse, along with other insect-eating birds.

The following are birds most likely to be seen on Hurricane Ridge from May through September:

Cooper's Hawk	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Red-tailed Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Golden Eagle	Brown Creeper
Bald Eagle	Robin
Marsh Hawk	Varied Thrush
Sparrow Hawk	Hermit Thrush
Blue Grouse	Mountain Bluebird
Band-tailed Pigeon	Townsend's Solitaire
Common Nighthawk	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Black Swift	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Vaux's Swift	Audubon's Warbler
Rufous Hummingbird	Pine Siskin
Red-shafted Flicker	Red Crossbill
Olive-sided Flycatcher	White-winged Crossbill
Horned Lark	Savannah Sparrow
Cliff Swallow	Oregon Junco
Gray Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Common Raven	

The Hurricane Nature Trail, a self-guiding trail on top of Hurricane Hill, and the Alpine Meadow Trail, near the Visitor Center, offer ideal conditions for seeing many of the wildflowers, mammals, and birds found in this area. Look for the Blue Grouse feeding upon the buckwheat, while in the nearby alpine fir groves, the Pine Siskins and kinglets move noisily about. High above the meadows soar the hawks and eagles, and here too, the swifts dart and twist.

Driving from Port Angeles to Hurricane Ridge you will notice changes in the vegetation from dense forest to open meadow. The plant life of Hurricane Ridge, which is in the Hudsonian Life Zone, is similar to that found near Hudson Bay. This is true because growing conditions and temperatures at this altitude resemble



The Obstruction Point road leads across flower filled meadows close to timberline.

Deer Park is a beautiful high country area which can be reached by car.



those of northern latitudes. Groves of alpine fir give way to meadowland, where numerous species of plants bloom together in a medley of floral patterns. Olympic's finest flower show is found in the Hudsonian Life Zone.

Obstruction Point, highest vista atop Hurricane Ridge, is situated in the Arctic-Alpine Life Zone, next above the Hudsonian. In traveling between the Visitor Center and Obstruction Point you climb above tree line. In the Coast Range, only the Olympic Mountains are high enough to reach above tree line, which varies here from 5,500 to 6,300 feet.

At Obstruction Point walk along the Moose Lake Trail to observe the dwarfed vegetation, the lack of trees, the permanent snow fields, and the absence of abundant bird life. The Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, and Horned Lark are the only common species in summer. Sometimes the rare Gray-crowned Rosy Finch is encountered on the snowfields or rocky shale slopes.

Area 3 – Deer Park

Another accessible place for high mountain birds in Olympic National Park is Deer Park (elevation 5,400 feet). It is reached by driving east from Port Angeles on U.S. Highway 101 for 5 miles, to the Deer Park Road. Deer Park and the fire lookout on Blue Mountain (elevation 6,007 feet) are 18 miles south of U.S. 101.

The road passes through second growth forests and the open fields of small farms. Just inside the Park boundary, dense forests parallel the road where the Varied Thrush, Evening Grosbeak, and Oregon Junco are common. Gradually the road becomes steeper, finally entering the Hudsonian Life Zone. Here, in the midst of sub-alpine meadows and fir groves, watch for Clark's Nutcracker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, and Townsend's Solitaire.

In the Arctic-Alpine Life Zone near Blue Mountain you may observe the Marsh Hawk and the Horned Lark in early summer. Later, during July and August, the Golden Eagle visits the area, carefully scanning the terrain for unwary rodents. Because of the relatively dry climate of Deer Park and its position on the northeastern side of the Park, unusual and erratic birds have been



The lower Elwha Valley near the Park boundary has open fields of homesteads.

discovered in all seasons. You may find species not mentioned in this guide.

Common birds recorded from May to September between U.S. Highway 101 and Blue Mountain are:

Found in farmlands and open meadows

Red-tailed Hawk	House Wren
Sparrow Hawk	(burned-over lowlands)
Common Nighthawk	Western Bluebird
Vaux's Swift	Mountain Bluebird
Rufous Hummingbird	(near Blue Mtn.)
Violet-green Swallow	Purple Finch
Barn Swallow	American Goldfinch
Cliff Swallow	Savannah Sparrow

Found in forests and borders

Band-tailed Pigeon	Cedar Waxwing
Red-shafted Flicker	Orange-crowned Warbler
Common Crow	Pine Siskin
Winter Wren	White-crowned Sparrow
Swainson's Thrush	Song Sparrow

In the fall Fox Sparrows are common transients along with warblers, vireos, and other finches.

Area 4 – Elwha River – Olympic Hot Springs

Nine miles west of Port Angeles, on U.S. Highway 101, is one of the beautiful glacier-fed rivers characteristic of the Olympic Peninsula—the Elwha River. Beginning far to the south near Low Divide, the Elwha cuts north through a deep valley, eventually pouring into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. An artificial lake, Lake Mills, is located 5 miles from the Park boundary along the spur road that leads to Olympic Hot Springs (12 miles from U.S. Highway 101).

Three automobile campgrounds are situated along this improved road. Both the Elwha Campground, 3 miles from U.S. 101, and the Altaire Campground, 1 mile further, offer attractive forest settings of alder, maple, cottonwood, and fir. Campfire programs are conducted nightly in summer at the Elwha Campfire Circle. The setting of Olympic Hot Springs Campground differs somewhat. Here stately Douglas-firs and western red-cedars tower above the campsites and the lush green undergrowth of the lower elevations is absent.



Lake Crescent has a high mountain setting at a low elevation.



*Using the Marymere
Falls Nature Trail.*

Many of the birds regularly frequenting coniferous forests of lower slopes and the thickets and open areas of valley floors are found along the Elwha River Road. Even more may be seen by following one of the trails into a remote valley. One suggestion is the Elwha River Trail which starts at Whiskey Bend. This point is reached by driving five miles from the Elwha Ranger Station on the old access road to Hurricane Ridge. This road now terminates at Whiskey Bend. The trail follows the Elwha River into the heart of the Park.

Birds that may be observed along the river and trail include the following:

Great Blue Heron	Dipper
Harlequin Duck	Winter Wren
Blue Grouse	Robin
Ruffed Grouse	Varied Thrush
Spotted Sandpiper	Swainson's Thrush
Band-tailed Pigeon	Warbling Vireo
Common Nighthawk	MacGillivray's Warbler
Black Swift	Wilson's Warbler
Vaux's Swift	Western Tanager
Rufous Hummingbird	Black-headed Grosbeak
Red-shafted Flicker	Pine Siskin
Western Flycatcher	American Goldfinch
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Chipping Sparrow
Violet-green Swallow	White-crowned Sparrow
Barn Swallow	Song Sparrow
Cliff Swallow	

Area 5 – Lake Crescent – Sol Duc Hot Springs

Lake Crescent, the largest lake in the Park, is 17 miles west of Port Angeles on U.S. Highway 101. Dense forests and high rocky summits surround it. On the south side of the lake, on U.S. 101, is a National Park Service visitor center with a relief model of the Park and other displays. This is also the starting point of the Marymere Falls Nature Trail—a 1-mile walk through dense lowland forest. Many birds inhabit this forest, but you are more likely to hear them than to see them. Species most easily seen, due to their ground dwelling habits or special adaptations, include the Pileated Woodpecker—often observed tapping at a forest snag—the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker,



This dense stand of Douglas-fir and western hemlock is typical of the Soleduck Valley area.

Swainson's Thrush, and Winter Wren. During the summer, continuous song flows from the high tree tops where several species of warblers breed.

Camping at Lake Crescent offers the opportunity to observe or hear many species of birds. In the early morning, and again in the late evening, listen for the throaty calls of the Common Raven and Steller's Jay. On the higher slopes, the colorful Varied Thrush utters its song—a quavering whistle of escaping steam. Along the shoreline of the lake watch for the Dipper and the Spotted Sandpiper. The deep blue waters support Harlequin Ducks and Glaucous-winged Gulls, but other water birds are rare in summer.

Birds found in the vicinity of Lake Crescent include:

Blue Grouse	Solitary Vireo
Ruffed Grouse	Warbling Vireo
Glaucous-winged Gull	Orange-crowned Warbler
Band-tailed Pigeon	Townsend's Warbler
Common Nighthawk	Hermit Warbler
Vaux's Swift	Wilson's Warbler
Rufous Hummingbird	Evening Grosbeak
Red-shafted Flicker	Purple Finch
Western Tanager	Oregon Junco
Western Flycatcher	White-crowned Sparrow
Cedar Waxwing	Song Sparrow
Hutton's Vireo	

Sol Duc Hot Springs is located west of Lake Crescent and 12 miles south of U.S. 101. The Soleduck River, one of the longest on the Olympic Peninsula, offers favorable habitats for several species of birds. Woodpeckers and warblers are common and swallows and jays often breed here. In the early morning, Ruffed Grouse frequently stride through the campground area near the resort. In some years Purple Finch and Evening Grosbeak are abundant. Other species recorded in this area are:

Band-tailed Pigeon	Winter Wren
Saw-Whet Owl	Robin
Common Nighthawk	Swainson's Thrush
Vaux's Swift	Warbling Vireo
Rufous Hummingbird	Orange-crowned Warbler
Western Flycatcher	Townsend's Warbler
Violet-green Swallow	Oregon Junco
Barn Swallow	White-crowned Sparrow



Gulls wheeling over the surf are a part of the constantly changing scene along the beach near Kalaloch.

The offshore rocks of "The Giants Graveyard" add interest to the scene looking south along the Olympic Ocean Strip.



Area 6 – Olympic Ocean Strip

Olympic National Park includes a mile-wide strip of land bordering the Pacific Ocean for 50 miles, from the Ozette River on the north to Kalaloch on the south. Rocky headlands separate wide sandy beaches, and small islands rise off shore. Few roads penetrate this wilderness coastline, which leaves it ideal for birds and other wildlife. Several species of seabirds nest on the offshore islands, and other species pause there to feed and rest during spring and fall migrations. Seabirds, gulls, shorebirds, and hawks are always present along the shore. Many woodland birds, such as thrushes, vireos, warblers, and finches, live in the dense forests and thickets that border the ocean.

Lake Ozette. In the northern end of the Olympic Ocean Strip four trails lead from Lake Ozette to the Pacific. The Sand Point Trail and the Indian Village Trail, each 3 miles long, approach the beach through a dense forest of moss-covered trees and tall understory shrubs. Cape Alava, at the ocean end of the Indian Village Trail, has the distinction of being the western-most point in the continental United States outside of Alaska. At low tide it is possible to walk from Cape Alava to Indian Island, which is also called Cannonball Island because of the large weathered-out sandstone concretions strewn on its north side. Black Oystercatchers and several other species of shorebirds are residents of the rocky coastline from Cape Alava north to the Ozette River. In late summer and early fall, flocks of alcids—penguin-like seabirds—migrate close to shore.

La Push, an Indian settlement on the Olympic Ocean Strip, is reached by driving west and south on U.S. 101 to within 1 mile of Forks, then turning right on State Route 9-B. It is 75 miles from Port Angeles. In the La Push area, including Rialto Beach to the north, there is a great variety of bird habitats: coniferous forests with their brushy borders, open fields, broad beaches, mud flats, the quiet water at the mouth of the Quileute River, the ocean, and the jagged rocks and islands lying off shore. Bird finding is excellent at any time of the year.

Birds that may be expected from April through August along the river and ocean include: Common Loon, Sooty Shearwater, the cormorants, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Black Oystercatch-



Rain forests are on the west side of the Park along the Bogachiel, Hoh, Queets, and Quinault rivers.

er, Glaucous-winged Gull, Cliff Swallow, and White-crowned Sparrow. In July, August, and September, several species of shorebirds swell the list. These include Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Sanderling. Alcids, such as the Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Cassin's Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Tufted Puffin, nest on the offshore islands in company with the cormorants and gulls. On any of the three beach trails, the Steller's Jay, Winter Wren, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, White-crowned Sparrow, and Song Sparrow can be encountered during the summer.

The Kalaloch Area, on the southern end of the Olympic Ocean Strip, is noted for its wide sandy beaches accessible from the road by short trails. During the summer ranger naturalists conduct walks along the beach at low tide and in the coastal forest at high tide. Campfire programs in the evening are another part of the interpretive program. Kalaloch is particularly known for its seabird life. Alcids—Common Murres and Tufted Puffins, in particular—and shearwaters, migrate past this area by the thousands in early spring and in the fall. During the summer season scoter ducks are abundant, often seen swimming in large rafts near the shore. In August and September shorebirds swarm over the beaches to feed on insects and marine organisms.

Area 7 – Rain Forests

Some of the finest virgin forest remaining in the United States is found in Olympic National Park, particularly on the Pacific side of the mountains where the climate is mild and humid. Here is the temperate rain forest, the most luxuriant part of the coastal forest that parallels the Pacific Ocean from Central California to the Panhandle of Alaska. The world's largest specimens of Douglas-fir, Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and western red-cedar grow in the Park rain forest with an understory of vine maple and deciduous shrubs so luxuriant as to suggest a tropical jungle.

This type of forest provides suitable habitats for many species of birds. Some of them are colorful yet difficult to observe because they live in the lofty tree tops. Warblers—the colorful mites of the bird kingdom—are often heard but seldom seen. Ruffed Grouse, Steller's Jay, Winter Wren, Black-throated Gray

Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Oregon Junco, and Song Sparrow breed within the forest itself. Other birds prefer the river edges and grassy openings in the dense forest.

Common breeders here include:

Harlequin Duck	Western Flycatcher
Cooper's Hawk	Bank Swallow
Sparrow Hawk	Rough-winged Swallow
Blue Grouse	Common Crow
Spotted Sandpiper	Robin
Band-tailed Pigeon	Varied Thrush
Vaux's Swift	Swainson's Thrush
Rufous Hummingbird	Cedar Waxwing
Belted Kingfisher	Warbling Vireo
Red-shafted Flicker	Yellow Warbler
Pileated Woodpecker	MacGillivray's Warbler
Hairy Woodpecker	Wilson's Warbler
Downy Woodpecker	Song Sparrow

The Hoh. Some of the best of the rain forest may be reached by continuing south on U.S. 101 from Forks for 13 miles, then taking the Hoh River Road for 19 miles to the Hoh Ranger Station. Here are enormous moss-draped Sitka spruce, Douglas-fir, and western hemlock. Along the nature trails that begin at the Visitor Center, a remarkable stillness and green hue prevails regardless of season. The Hoh River Trail starts here and winds upriver through one of the finest examples of rain forest anywhere in the Park. Understories of vine maple, bigleaf maple, and ferns flourish at the base of towering Sitka spruce and Douglas-fir. The Hoh River Trail provides the easiest route to Mount Olympus—18 miles from the road end at the Visitor Center. The elusive and uncommon Gray-crowned Rosy Finch nests near the many snow fields and glaciers in the Mount Olympus region.

Ranger naturalists are on duty during the summer season at the Visitor Center and conducted walks and evening campfire programs are presented during July and August.

The Queets Valley is similar to the Hoh Valley in many respects. In a few places Mount Olympus is visible from the road. Open fields encircle several abandoned homesteads, enabling field

birds to dwell in the midst of an otherwise green coniferous forest. The Western Meadowlark and Savannah Sparrow are two breeding examples. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawks are nearly always observed soaring over the fields in search of rodents.

The East Fork of the Quinault River is another accessible locality within the rain forest belt. Twelve miles northeast of the town of Quinault, past the Bunch Creek Bridge across the Quinault River, the east fork road passes through some of the finest rain forest in the Park. From its end a beautiful trail leads into Enchanted Valley—10 miles distant, where numerous waterfalls pour from the sheer canyon walls. The Dipper, or Water Ouzel, and the swallows are fond of this area and the Bald Eagle is occasionally seen.

Area 8 — Lake Quinault

The Park boundary follows the north shore of Lake Quinault, in the Quinault Indian Reservation. Bird-finding around this lake is at its best in the fall and winter months when several species of water birds settle on the calm water for the winter. Such birds include the Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Harlequin Duck, the scoter ducks, Ruddy Duck, the mergansers, Glaucous-winged Gull, Killdeer, and Belted Kingfisher. Woodland birds, which reach their peak both in numbers and species in the spring and fall migrations, live in the heavy forest along the shoreline of Lake Quinault.

Prominent among its breeding birds are:

Cooper's Hawk	Barn Swallow
Sparrow Hawk	Cliff Swallow
Blue Grouse	Gray Jay
Ruffed Grouse	Steller's Jay
Band-tailed Pigeon	Common Raven
Rufous Hummingbird	Common Crow
Pileated Woodpecker	Winter Wren
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Song Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	Varied Thrush
Downy Woodpecker	Swainson's Thrush
Western Flycatcher	Western Bluebird
Violet-green Swallow	Cedar Waxwing

Hutton's Vireo
Solitary Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Orange-crowned Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Redwinged Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird

Western Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak
Evening Grosbeak
Purple Finch
American Goldfinch
Oregon Junco
White-crowned Sparrow

Area 9 – East Side

On the east side of the Park including the Staircase and Dosewallips River areas, coniferous trees predominate on the higher slopes, and thick growths of deciduous shrubs and trees cover the lower elevations. Along the Hood Canal, which is outside Park boundaries, watch for water birds. Species to be expected on this large arm of Puget Sound in the late fall and winter are Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Glaucous-winged Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Surf and White-winged Scoters.

Staircase. This area can be reached by branching off U.S. 101 at Hoodspport, Washington, and traveling west along the northeast shore of Lake Cushman to the ranger station inside the Park boundary. Cutover forest lands outside the Park contrast with the undisturbed forests within. Several trails lead into the high country from this point. Along the Skokomish River the rapids offer a favorable habitat for the Dipper which often walks into the swift stream in search of food. Overhead, the Violet-green Swallow and Cliff Swallow dart back and forth. Other birds recorded throughout the spring and summer are:

Sparrow Hawk
Blue Grouse
Ruffed Grouse
Band-tailed Pigeon
Saw-Whet Owl
Common Nighthawk
Vaux's Swift
Rufous Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Red-shafted Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker

Western Flycatcher
Gray Jay
Steller's Jay
Common Raven
Common Crow
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Winter Wren
Varied Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Cedar Waxwing
Orange-crowned Warbler

Evening Grosbeak
Purple Finch
Pine Siskin

Oregon Junco
White-crowned Sparrow
Song Sparrow

The Dosewallips River Road is similar to the Staircase area as it passes through virgin forest and along the beautiful cascades of the Dosewallips River. The same species of birds are found here as at Staircase, with certain exceptions. Dosewallips is one of the few areas of the Park in which you can be fairly sure of seeing the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Clark's Nutcracker. Muscott Flat automobile campground is the starting point of the main Dosewallips River Trail, from which branch trails lead into the high country wilderness.

MIGRATION DATES

Olympic National Park is strategically located on the Pacific Flyway, a main avenue of flight in bird migration. The passage of birds along the Olympic Ocean Strip is equally heavy spring and fall, and follows the same pattern except that the birds fly north in the spring, south in fall. Migratory flights of waterfowl (geese and ducks), and seabirds (gulls, terns, cormorants, and alcids) usually reach their peaks within the following dates: spring, March 15 - May 15; fall, September 30 - November 1. Shorebirds are found in greater numbers in the fall. Dates: spring, April 30 - June 1; fall, August 1 - September 15.

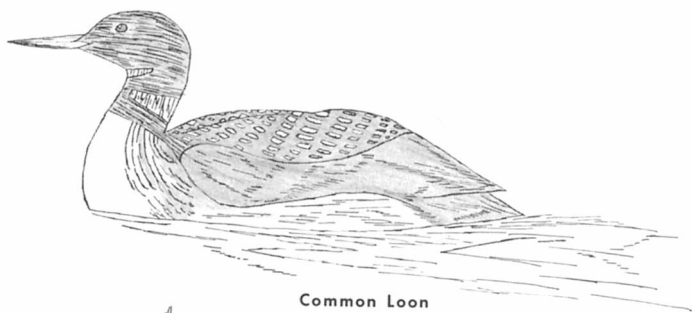
Landbirds are more difficult to date accurately due to the varying factors of elevation, climate, and habitat. Usually, however, landbird spring migrations hit Olympic National Park in early April and continue through late May. In the fall, the vireos, warblers, and finches move south through the Park beginning in late August, and continuing to trickle through until October 1.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

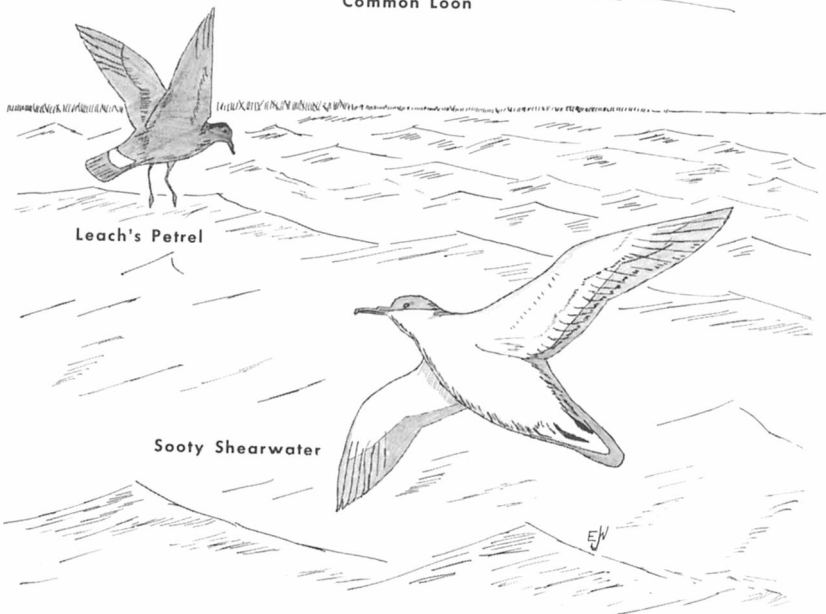
<i>Status</i>	<i>Symbol</i>	
Rare	r	Species restricted to particular localities within the Park and in few numbers. e.g. Clark's Nutcracker
Irregular	i	Species found in most suitable localities but in few numbers; sometimes missed by visitors. e.g. Dipper
Common	c	Species occurring in all suitable localities and relatively common in numbers; usually easily seen by the visitor. e.g. Oregon Junco
Resident	R	Species that occur in the Park during all four seasons. Such species breed in the Park and may migrate, but their representatives are continuously seen. e.g. Gray Jay
Breeder	B	Species that breed within the Park in summer, but spend the cooler months farther south. e.g. Hermit Thrush
Transient	T	Species that pass through the Park in the spring and/or fall. Usually such species breed farther to the north, and winter farther to the south. e.g. Dunlin
Visitant	V	Species that visit the Park during particular seasons only, but do not breed within the Park. e.g. Heermann's Gull
Summer	Sum	
Winter	Win	
Page	p.	
Area No.	A.	
Illustration	Illus.	
Inches.	"	(Refers to size of bird)



Hart Lake, on the east side of the Park, is typical of the glacier carved alpine lakes of Olympic National Park.



Common Loon



Leach's Petrel

Sooty Shearwater

EN



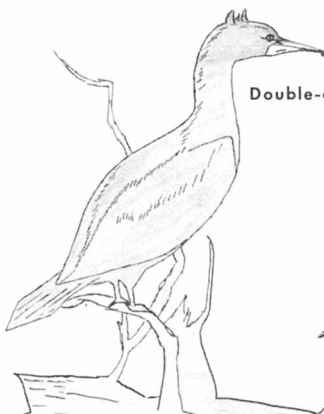
White-winged Scoter



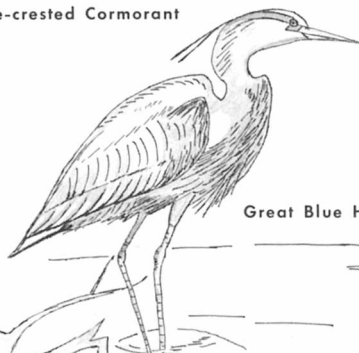
Surf Scoter



Common Scoter

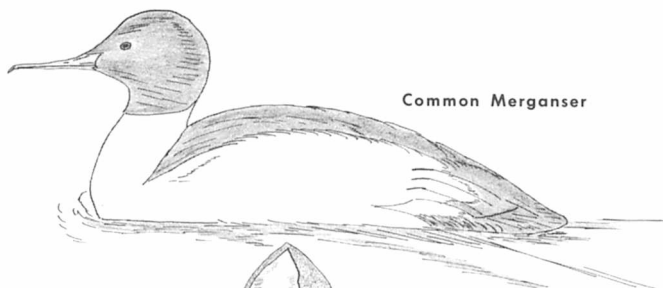


Double-crested Cormorant



Great Blue Heron

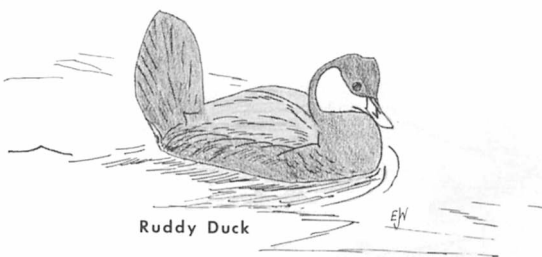




Common Merganser



Hooded Merganser



Ruddy Duck

FIELD IDENTIFICATION HELPS

COMMON LOON: *Gavia immer*. (Illus. p. 24) 30-36"; A. 6. iV sum and win. In breeding plumage this large diver has a dark head and a checkered back. In winter a dark gray back, light breast & sides. In flight the characteristic hunchback is noteworthy.

SOOTY SHEARWATER: *Puffinus griseus*. (Illus. p. 24) 16-18"; A. 6. V sum. All shearwaters have a stiff-winged flight; the Sooty looks black from a distance, but a closer view shows a uniform brown.

LEACH'S PETREL: *Oceanodroma lechorhoa*. (Illus. p. 24) 8"; A. 6. cR. A small black seabird about the size of a Purple Martin. This petrel has a characteristic white rump. Observed at night.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: *Phalacrocorax auritus*. (Illus. p. 25) 30-36"; A. 6 and 8. cR. A large, dark water bird with reptilian features. Cormorants swim low in the water with head held at an angle. Flocks of cormorants fly in a straight line or wedge formation. This species has a bright yellow throat pouch.

BRANDT'S CORMORANT: *Phalacrocorax penicillatus*. 32"; A. 6. cR. This species can be distinguished from the other two species by its blue throat pouch and the buffy area to the rear of the pouch.

PELAGIC CORMORANT: *Phalacrocorax pelagicus*. 25"; A. 6. cR. Much smaller and more slender than the other two species. A dull red throat pouch can be seen at close range.

GREAT BLUE HERON: *Ardea herodias*. (Illus. p. 25) 45"; A. 4, 5, 6, and 8. cR. A tall blue and gray bird with long legs and large spear-like bill. In flight it folds its long neck into an S on its shoulders; feet and legs trail behind.

HARLEQUIN DUCK: *Histrionicus histrionicus*. 15-17"; A. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. cR. A small dark gray duck; male has white patches and dots on sides mixed with brown; female is a drab gray.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: *Melanitta deglandi*. (Illus. p. 25) 23"; A. 6 and 8. cR. Male, black with white wing-patches seen easily in flight or on the water. Female, a dull brown duck with conspicuous white wing-patches and white on sides of head. Both sexes large and chunky.

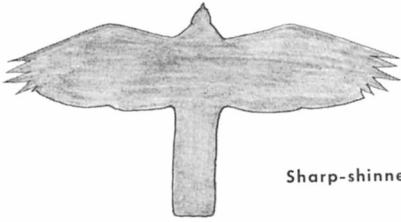
SURF SCOTER: *Melanitta perspicillata*. (Illus. p. 25) 20"; A. 6 and 8. cR. Male, all black except for two white patches on top of head. Female, dull brown with two white patches on head.

COMMON SCOTER: *Oidemia nigra*. (Illus. p. 25) 18"; A. 6 and 8. iR. Male, all black plumage with an orange base to bill. Female, dull brown with a dark crown and light cheeks.

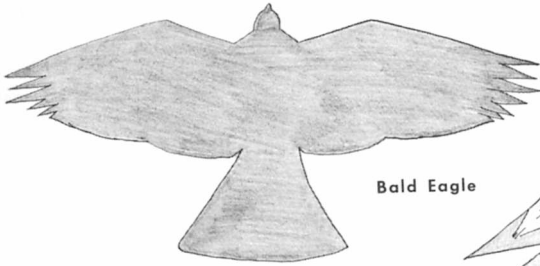
RUDDY DUCK: *Oxyura jamaicensis*. (Illus. p. 26) 15"; A. 5, 6, 7, and 8. iR and cV win. Male, in breeding plumage the rusty upper parts contrast with white cheeks and blue bill; even in winter the spiked tail is visible. Female, duller than the male in any season. A rapid flier.

HOODED MERGANSER: *Lophodytes cucullatus*. (Illus. p. 26) 18"; A. 6 and 8. iR. Male, white and black with white crest on head; two dark bars located in front of wings; rusty sides. Female, small brown duck with slender lines; buffy crest, dark head and neck. All mergansers fly in a sleek profile with head, wings, and body held in a horizontal line.

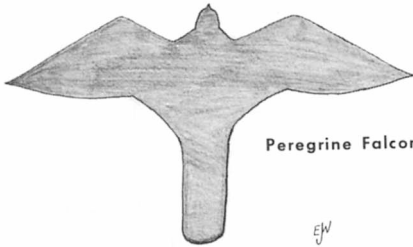
COMMON MERGANSER: *Mergus merganser*. (Illus. p. 26) 25"; A. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. iR and cV win. Male, a long slender duck with a thin saw-toothed bill; dark head and back; remainder of body white. Female, gray with a rufous head; two crests on head; red bill; the white patch in the wing not always visible.



Sharp-shinned Hawk



Bald Eagle



Peregrine Falcon



EW

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: *Accipiter striatus*. (Illus. p. 29) 12"; A. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. iR. A small hawk with short rounded wings, and a long square tail. Commonly known as "Blue Darter"; very quick in flight. Rarely soars; is fond of the deep woods.

COOPER'S HAWK: *Accipiter cooperii*. 18"; A. 1 through 9. cR. Another short, rounded-winged hawk with a fairly long tail that is round, not square. Roughly the size of a Crow. Swift moving; often soars over open areas.

RED-TAILED HAWK: *Buteo jamaicensis*. 22"; A. 1 through 9. cR. A large, chunky-bodied hawk, with large rounded wings, and a wide, short tail. This is the common hawk seen soaring above the meadows in the higher sections of the Park.

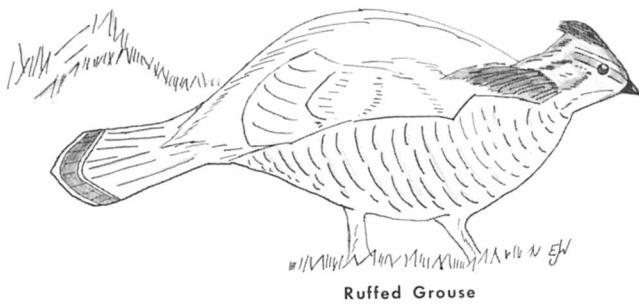
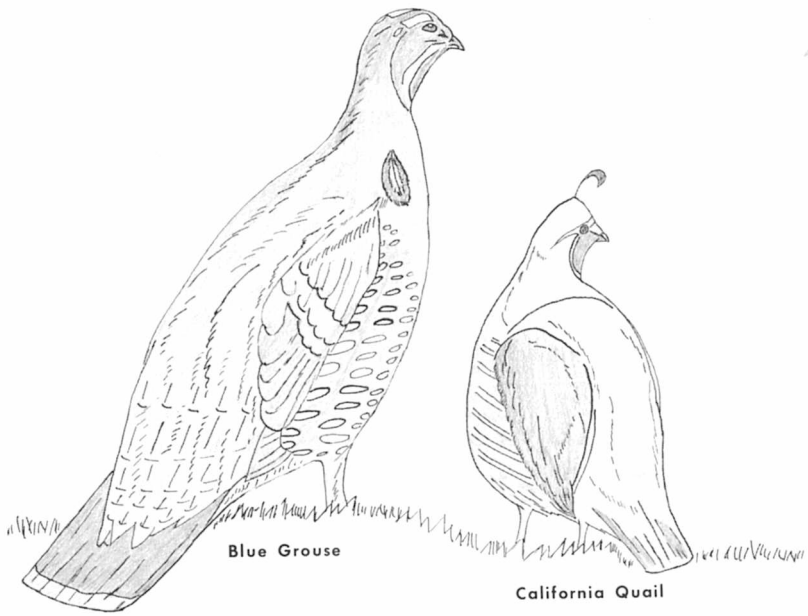
GOLDEN EAGLE: *Aquila chrysaetos*. 38"; A. 2, 3, and 9. iR. A very large buteo, with a keen ability to soar. Wings are shorter and wider than the Bald Eagle; white at the base of the tail with a dark terminal band. Immature birds have white spots in the wings near the tips, commonly referred to as 'windows'.

BALD EAGLE: *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. (Illus. p. 29) 33"; A. 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8. cR. The Bald Eagle is our National Bird; well known with its white head and tail (adults). Immature birds are a dull gray and lack the white head and tail of the adults.

MARSH HAWK: *Circus cyaneus*. 23"; A. 2, 3, and 9. iR. Male, gray; female, brown. Both sexes have a white rump. This hawk is fond of meadows and open fields; a slim bird with long wings and tail.

PEREGRINE FALCON: *Faco Peregrinus*. (Illus. p. 29) 18"; A. 6 and 8. iR. Falcons are hawks with long, narrow wings and fairly long tails. Very swift fliers, rarely soaring. This species has characteristic sideburns on the face; size of a crow. Often seen chasing shorebirds.

SPARROW HAWK: *Falco sparverius*. 10"; A. 1 through 9. cR. The common hawk of the Park, and the smallest. Adults are colorful with rusty tail and back; immatures are mottled brown.



Commonly feeds on locusts in the high meadow areas of the Park; watch for it hovering.

BLUE GROUSE: *Dendragapus obscurus*. (Illus. p. 31) Male: 18"; female: 20". A. 1 through 9. cR. A large chicken-like bird found at all elevations of the Park, but most common at higher elevations where no similar bird exists. A dark gray grouse with a light band at the tip of the tail.

RUFFED GROUSE: *Bonasa umbellus*. (Illus. p. 31) 18"; A. 1 through 9. cR. A rusty colored chicken-like bird of forested areas at lower elevations; fan-tail with a broad black band near the tip.

CALIFORNIA QUAIL: *Lophortyx californicus*. (Illus. p. 31) 8"; A. 1 and 4. iR. A small plump bird found in lowland wooded or brushy areas; recognized by its long plume that curves forward from the crown.

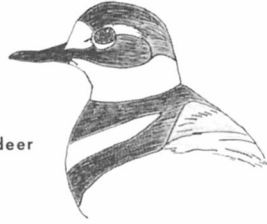
AMERICAN COOT: *Fulica americana*. 15"; A. 4, 5, 6, and 8. iR and cV win. An all black duck-like bird except for a white bill. Pumps head and neck when swimming; paddles on water when taking flight.

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER: *Haematopus bachmani*. 18"; A. 6. cR. A large black shorebird with a dark red bill and fleshy legs; frequents rocky beaches.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: *Charadrius semipalmatus*. (Illus. p. 33) 6"; A. 6. cT and V sum. A single ringed plover; this shorebird has brownish upper parts and white under parts; single band across breast.

KILLDEER: *Charadrius vociferus*. (Illus. p. 33) 10"; A. 4, 5, 6, and 8. cR. A double breast-banded plover with a rusty tail and a red eye; very noisy. Frequents shorelines of the sea, lakes, and rivers.

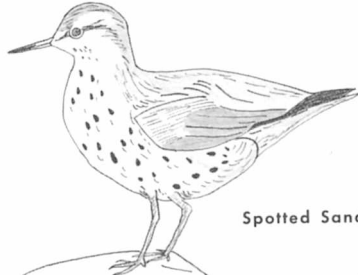
COMMON SNIBE: *Capella gallinago*. 10"; A. 4, 5, 6, and 8. cT. A shorebird with a long, slender bill; brown with striped back and head. Typical zigzag flight; prefers marshy areas.



Killdeer



Semipalmated Plover



Spotted Sandpiper

EW

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: *Actitis macularia*. (Illus. p. 33) 7"; A. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. cB. The common breeding shorebird within the Park; look for this species along any of the major rivers or streams. Sand colored back with several dark dots on breast and belly except in fall. Continuously teeters.

LEAST SANDPIPER: *Erolia minutilla*. 5"; A. 6. cT and cV sum. A very small sandpiper; usually observed in large flocks. The smallest of the "peeps" (small, brown streaked sandpipers); yellowish legs.

DUNLIN: *Erolia alpina*. 8"; A. 6. cT and cV sum. A rusty-backed shorebird with a black patch on the belly. Long bill, slightly curved down at the tip is the major identification point. Lacks the black patch in fall.

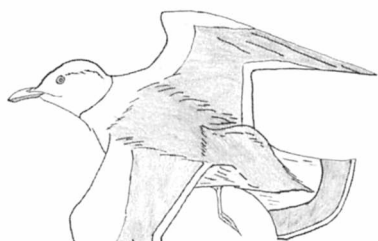
SANDERLING: *Crocethia alba*. 7"; A. 6. cT and cV sum. A shorebird with black bill and legs; buffy colored back in spring, white in fall; the whitest of the shorebirds in the fall.

RED PHALAROPE: *Phalaropus fulicarius*. 8"; A. 6. cT win. A peculiar shorebird in that it spends its time on the sea itself; has the characteristic of spinning in circles while in the water and bobbing its head. White face and reddish under parts; female more colorful than the male.

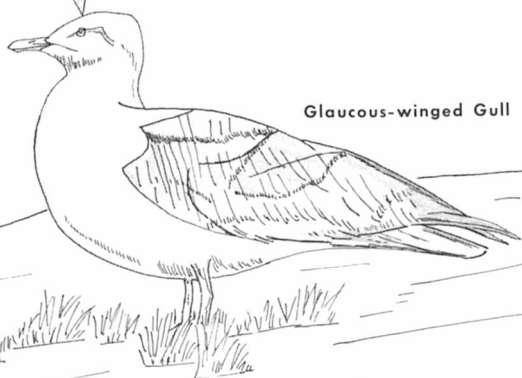
GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL: *Larus glaucescens*. (Illus. p. 35) 24"; A. 5, 6, and 8. cR. A gull with a pale gray mantle and gray markings near tips of wings; yellow bill with a red spot near the end in adult birds; immature birds mottled brown to gray, depending upon age.

HEERMAN'S GULL: *Larus heermanni*. (Illus. p. 35) 18"; A. 6. cV sum. An easy gull to identify, having white head and dark tail; smaller than the Glaucous-winged Gull.

COMMON MURRE: *Uria aalge*. (Illus. p. 37) 16"; A. 6. cR. Something like a penguin with white breast and belly, black back; slender pointed bill. Observed perching on rocky islands off shore; seldom seen close to shore.



Heermann's Gull



Glaucous-winged Gull

EW

PIGEON GUILLEMOT: *Cephus columba*. (Illus. p. 37) 14"; A. 6. cR. An all black seabird, except for a white patch in the wings; slender pointed bill. Pale in winter.

CASSIN'S AUKLET: *Ptychoramphus aleutica*. 8"; A. 6. cR. Small grayish seabird with a stubby bill; smallest of the common alcids in the Park. Prefers to swim near rocky islands.

RHINOCEROS AUKLET: *Cerorhinca monocerata*. (Illus. p. 37) 15"; A. 6. cR. A dark seabird smaller than the Murre. In summer two white plumes occur on the sides of the head; in winter the plumage is a dull gray.

TUFTED PUFFIN: *Lunda cirrhata*. (Illus. p. 37) 15"; A. 6. cR. A chunky alcid with a large thick red bill, red in summer and winter. Black back; white cheeks and yellow ear tufts that extend down the sides of the face. Commonly called "Sea Parrot".

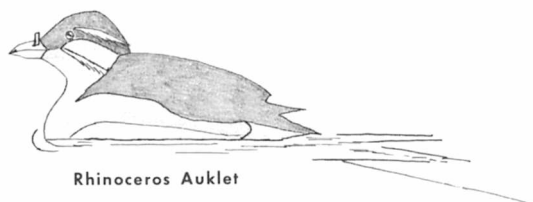
BAND-TAILED PIGEON: *Columba fasciata*. 15"; A. 1 through 9. cB. The only common pigeon observed in the wild. Has a broad tailband; light to dark gray bird.

SCREECH OWL: *Otus asio*. 8"; A. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8. iR. A small red or gray owl with bright yellow eyes and small ear tufts. The common owl of the cities and suburbs.

SHORT-EARED OWL: *Asio flammeus*. 15"; A. 2, 3, and 9. iR. A medium sized owl with an oval face, yellow eyes, and no ear tufts. Very light under parts; buffy colored upper parts. A diurnal species; has a moth-like flight.

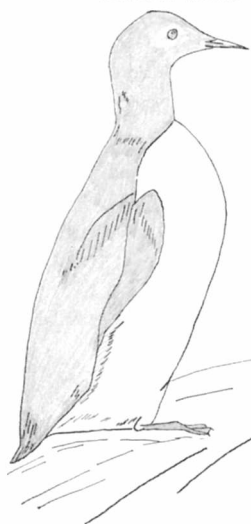
SAW-WHET OWL: *Aegolius acadicus*. 7"; A. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 9. cR. A small owl of the open woods. Bright yellow eyes; no ear tufts; soft brown to gray stripes on the under parts.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK: *Chordeiles minor*. 8"; A. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9. cB. An erratic flier with slender thin wings; white patches on the wings and tail. Commonly nests in open fields; often swoop-dives during the daylight hours (courting); nocturnal otherwise.



Rhinoceros Auklet

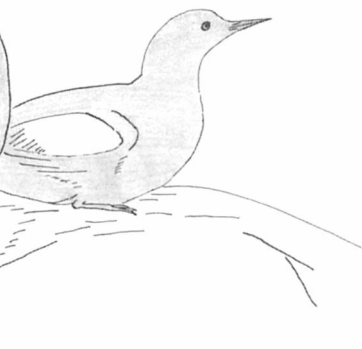
Common Murre



Tufted Puffin



Pigeon Guillemot



BLACK SWIFT: *Cypseloides niger*. 7"; A. 2, 3, 4, and 9. iB. A large black swift with long sleek lines and, as is true of all swifts, curved thin wings. The only all black swift in this area; very rapid flier; fond of the high country.

VAUX'S SWIFT: *Chaetura vauxi*. 4"; A. 1 through 9. cB. The smallest of the swifts; comparable to the Chimney Swift of the east. Light gray under parts; dark gray to black upper parts; stubby tail, long narrow wings; looks like a "cigar on wings."

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: *Selasphorus rufus*. 3"; A. 1 through 9. cB. Male, throat bright red to ruby colored, cinnamon back, dark wings. Female, green back, cinnamon sides, white breast. The Park's only hummingbird.

BELTED KINGFISHER: *Megaceryle alcyon*. Illus. p. i) 11"; A. 4, 5, 6, and 8. cR. Female, thick bill, white throat, blue head and back, one blue and one brown bar across the chest. Male, thick pointed bill, ragged crest (female too), only one blue to gray breast-band, blue head and back. Very noisy, having a loud rattling sound.

RED-SHAFTED FLICKER: *Colaptes cafer*. (Illus. p. 41) 13"; A. 1 through 9. cR. The only brown woodpecker in the Park; white rump, reddish primaries and outer tail feathers. Undulating flight; feeds most often on the ground.

PILEATED WOODPECKER: *Dryocopus pileatus*. (Illus. p. 41) 18"; A. 1 through 9. cR. The largest of the woodpeckers, about the size of a crow; adults have bright red crest; immatures black. In flight shows a white stripe in the wings; fond of deep woods. Call similar to the flicker's.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: *Sphyrapicus varius*. 8-9"; A. 1 through 9. cR. The male has a bright red head and breast, and a characteristic white patch in the wings; yellowish belly. The female is duller.

HAIRY WOODPECKER: *Dendrocopos villosus*. 8"; A. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. cR. A white-backed woodpecker; larger bill and

body size than the Downy; white breast and under parts. Male has a red spot on crown, which the female and immature birds lack.

DOWNY WOODPECKER: *Dendrocopos pubescens*. (Illus. p. 41) 6"; A. 1 through 9. cR. A small white-backed woodpecker; resembles a miniature Hairy in all respects except for the smaller bill and less white in the tail.

WESTERN FLYCATCHER: *Empidonax difficilis*. 5"; A. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. cB. All empidonax flycatchers have two white wingbars, an eye-ring, a general olive to gray color; small size. Fond of streams.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: *Nuttallornis borealis*. 7"; A. 2, 3, 4, 6, and 9. cB. Dark head, back, and sides with white throat and belly; often a white tuft is visible in the wing. Found more readily in the upper sections of the Park than at lower elevations; perches on dead limbs.

HORNED LARK: *Eremophila alpestris*. 7"; A. 2, 3, 6, and 9. cR. A small ground dwelling bird known by its black mask and small black ear tufts (horns); brown back, light under parts. Frequents the open subalpine meadows in summer, and moves down in elevation in the fall.

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW: *Tachycineta thalassina*. (Illus. p. 43) 5"; A. 1 through 9. cB. All swallows are graceful fliers with long slim wings; most are small (except Purple Martin) and dwell near water; congregate into large flocks in fall. This species has a blue-green back with white under parts; immatures brown-backed, also with white under parts.

BANK SWALLOW: *Riparia riparia*. (Illus. p. 43) 5"; A. 1 through 9. rB. This brown-backed swallow is rare, but may be more common than generally believed; look for it along creeks and rivers throughout the lower elevations of the Park where it is known to breed. Differs from the other brown-backed swallows (Rough-winged and immature Violet-green) in that this species has a characteristic brown band across the white breast even when immature.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*. (Illus. p. 43) 5"; A. 1 through 9. cB. The common brown-backed swallow of the Park; seen along the rivers throughout the Park. Lacks the brown stripe across the breast of the Bank Swallow, but instead has a buff throat and white under parts.

BARN SWALLOW: *Hirundo rustica*. (Illus. p. 43) 6"; A. 1 through 9. cB. The only swallow with a deeply forked tail; colorful with cinnamon breast and under parts; blue-black back and reddish face. Builds a mud platform nest under bridges or on buildings.

CLIFF SWALLOW: *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*. (Illus. p. 43) 5½"; A. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. cB. This swallow has a square tail, cream rump, dark back, and light-brown under parts; a cream-buffy forehead and dark throat.

GRAY JAY: *Perisoreus canadensis*. (Illus. p. 4) A. 1 through 9. cR. A large gray bird with a white crown, and a dark patch on the back of the head; under parts gray. Common name of this bird is "Camp Robber"; look for it around campgrounds throughout the Park.

STELLER'S JAY: *Cyanocitta stelleri*. 12"; A. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. cR. The dark blue jay of the Park, easily identified by its crest and vivid color. Common in campground areas of the Park.

COMMON RAVEN: *Corvus corax*. 23"; A. 2 through 9. cR. A large black crow-like bird; large tail. In flight, stiff flat wings; often soars like a buteo hawk.

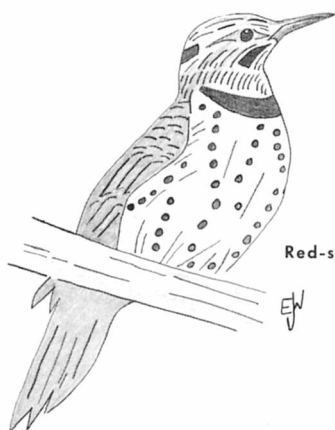
COMMON CROW: *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. 18"; A. 1 through 9. cR. Smaller than the Raven. In flight, wings are upturned at tips; rarely soars.

CLARK'S NUTCRAKER: *Nucifraga columbiana*. (Illus. p. 45) 13"; A. 3 and 9. rR. A rare species within the Park. No other bird found in the high country has black wings and tail with conspicuous white patches; long pointed bill. Sometimes called Clark's Crow due to its build and traits.



Pileated Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker



Red-shafted Flicker

EW

CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE: *Parus rufescens*. 4"; A. 1 through 9. cR. The rufous sides and back identify this species from other chickadees; black bib, cap, and white cheeks characteristic of all chickadees. It has the ability to hang upside down from branches or twigs. Call a "chick-a-dee-dee-dee".

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: *Sitta canadensis*. (Illus. p. 45) 4"; A. 1 through 9. cR. A tree-climbing species with a small thin bill, small tail, and a black line through the eye; buffy to rusty breast. Often called the "upside-down bird" because of its ability to go down a tree head first. Call sounds like "enk, enk", with high squeaks.

BROWN CREEPER: *Certhia familiaris*. 5"; A. 1 through 9. iR. Commonly seen in winter; a small brown tree climber, with a slightly curved thin long bill. This bird has the characteristic of starting at the base of trees and spiraling upward.

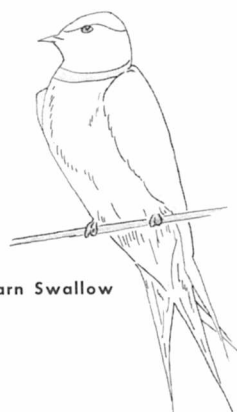
DIPPER: *Cinclus mexicanus*. (Illus. p. 45) 7"; A. 4 through 9. iR. A dark slate-colored bird of swift streams and waterfalls; has the ability to walk under the water in search of food. Bobs often; stubby tail.

HOUSE WREN: *Troglodytes aedon*. 4½"; A. 1, 3, and 8. iB. Small brown bird with a stubby tail, and gray under parts; no facial markings. Usually seen in large burned-over areas.

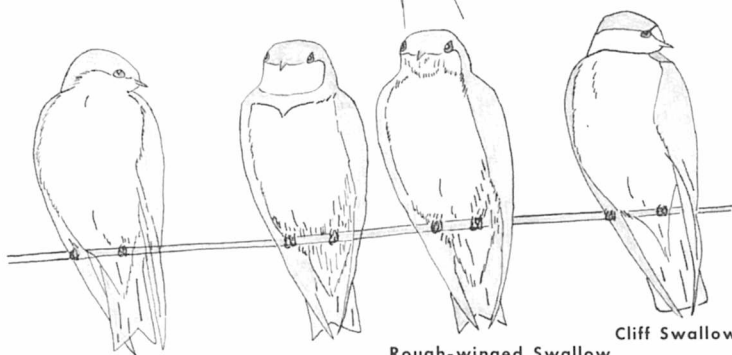
WINTER WREN: *Troglodytes troglodytes*. 3½"; A. 1 through 9. cR. A ground dweller usually seen at lower elevations, but in the late summer will move up into the Hudsonian Life Zone. The smallest and darkest of the wren family; minute tail, barred under tail and along flanks; small bill. Very loud, warbler-like song.

ROBIN: *Turdus migratorius*. 8½"; A. 1 through 9. cR. In winter found along the ocean. Breeds at high elevations and moves into the lowlands in the fall; red-breasted, dark-backed thrush.

VARIED THRUSH: *Ixoreus naevius*. 9"; A. 1 through 9. cR. A thrush similar to the Robin in color, but has a dark V on the breast. The male has orange eye-stripe and wing bars; female duller color.



Barn Swallow



Violet-green Swallow

Bank Swallow

Rough-winged Swallow

Cliff Swallow

HERMIT THRUSH: *Hylocichla guttata*. 6½"; A. 3 and 9. cB. Rusty tailed thrush seen along any of the inland high country trails; the only western thrush with a rusty tail. Rest of body olive-brown (back and head), with light under parts, marked with small spots.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: *Hylocichla ustulata*. 6½"; A. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. cB. Lacks the rusty tail of the Hermit Thrush; olive-backed; several spots on the breast which otherwise is white. This is the common thrush heard throughout the lowlands of the Park.

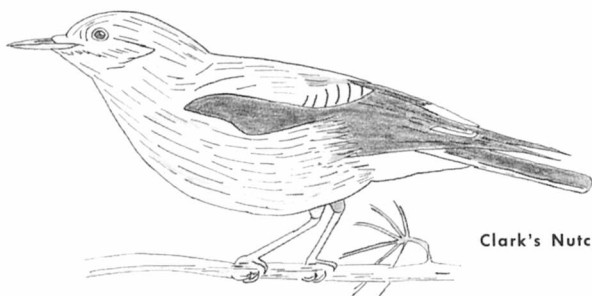
WESTERN BLUEBIRD: *Sialia mexicana*. 6½"; A. 2, 3, 8, and 9. iB. A restricted species within the Park; nowhere common. Dark blue back; reddish-rusty breast; upper portion of wings rusty, lower blue; head dark blue. Perches on telephone wires and fences.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: *Sialia currucoides*. 6½"; A. 2, 3, and 9. cB. The bluebird of the high country. Sky blue; pale blue head, back, and tail; wings somewhat darker; breast blue-gray.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: *Myadestes townsendi*. 8"; A. 2, 3, and 9. cB. A slim gray bird, with a long tail, white eye-ring, and whiter outer tail feathers. In flight, light patches in the wings are displayed.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: *Regulus satrapa*. (Illus. p. 47) 3"; A. 1 through 9. cR. A white stripe over the eye, and either a golden (male) or yellow (female) crown identifies this minute species. Very active; common in higher elevations of the Park during the summer, but moves down into the lowlands in late fall and winter.

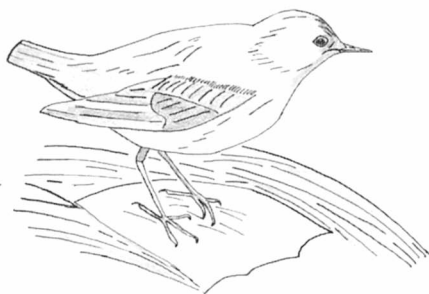
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: *Regulus calendula*. (Illus. p. 47) 3"; A. 1 through 9. iR. This species has a light eye-ring, two light wing-bars, and an olive-green back and head; the male has a ruby crown, most often seen during the breeding season. Not common, but probably of wider distribution in the Park than usually thought.



Clark's Nutcracker



Red-breasted Nuthatch



Dipper

CEDAR WAXWING: *Bombycilla cedrorum*. (Cover Illus.) 7"; A. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. cR. A handsome bird with an olive-green crest, back, and sides; under parts buff; yellow band at tip of tail; black mask.

HUTTON'S VIREO: *Vireo huttoni*. $4\frac{1}{2}$ "; A. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. cR. A bird that looks similar to the Ruby-crowned Kinglet; two white wing-bars; identified particularly by an incomplete eye-ring.

SOLITARY VIREO: *Vireo solitarius*. (Illus. p. 47) 5"; A. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. iB. The vireo with the spectacles (white eye-ring and lore) and white wing-bars; light blue head; olive back.

WARBLING VIREO: *Vireo gilvus*. (Illus. p. 47) 5"; A. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. cB. The most inconspicuous of all the vireos; no wing-bars or eye-ring; head indistinctly striped. Call notes are cat-like.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: *Vermivora celata*. (Illus. p. 49) $4\frac{1}{2}$ "; A. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. cB. Warblers are the colorful mites of the bird world. They differ from the similar vireos in that the bill is thinner, and the body not as plump; more active than vireos. This species is a drab olive-green on head, back, tail, wings, and breast; faint streakings discernable on the breast and crown. Male has a faint orange crown during the breeding season.

YELLOW WARBLER: *Dendroica petechia*. (Illus. p. 49) 5"; A. 1, 4, 5, and 7. cB. Cannot be confused with any other species. Male is bright yellow with cinnamon streakings on breast and sides; female somewhat duller. Inhabits streams with woody banks.

AUDUBON'S WARBLER: *Dendroica auduboni*. (Illus. p. 49) $4\frac{1}{2}$ "; A. 1 through 9. cB. The common warbler in the higher elevations of the Park, often associating with Mountain Bluebirds. Easily identified by its bright yellow rump in any season; in breeding plumage, the adult male has a bright yellow rump, crown, throat, and sides, contrasting with white wing-patches and a black breast.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: *Dendroica nigrescens*. (Illus. p. 49) $4\frac{1}{2}$ "; A. 5 and 7. iB. A warbler with a black



Golden-crowned Kinglet



Ruby-crowned Kinglet



Warbling Vireo *EW*



Solitary Vireo

crown and throat, and a black line going through the eye; two white wing-bars, and black streakings on the sides.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER: *Dendroica townsendi*. (Illus. p. 49) $4\frac{1}{2}$ "; A. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. cB. Male similar to the preceding species in markings, except that where the Black-throated Gray Warbler has white, the Townsend's has yellow. Black throat, crown; two white wing-bars; yellow stripes above and below the eye, and yellow on the breast.

HERMIT WARBLER: *Dendroica occidentalis*. $4\frac{1}{2}$ "; A. 5, 6, 7, and 8. cB. The only male warbler with a yellow head and black throat; also two white wing-bars and faint dark streakings on the sides.

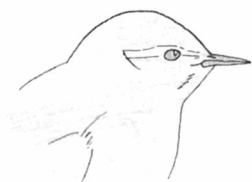
MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER: *Oporornis tolmiei*. 5"; A. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7. iB. A ground dwelling warbler. Male has a dark hood with a white eye-ring; female also has noticeable white eye-ring but has a duller hood and lacks the deep yellow under parts of the male.

WILSON'S WARBLER: *Wilsonia pusilla*. (Illus. p. 49) 4"; A. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. cB. Male has a black crown and a dark eye; rest of body yellow. Female has the dark eye, but lacks the black crown.

HOUSE SPARROW: *Passer domesticus*. $5\frac{1}{2}$ "; A. 1 and 8. Males have black throats, females whitish ones. Commonly known as English Sparrow.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK: *Sturnella neglecta*. 8"; A. 7 and 8. iR. Field bird with brown back and yellow front with a prominent V. White outer tail feathers showy in flight, which is a quick beat of the wing and then a glide.

REDWINGED BLACKBIRD: *Agelaius phoeniceus*. 9"; A. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. iR. Although the Redwing has been recorded in spots, it is irregular and less abundant than the Brewer's Blackbird. Male displays showy red shoulder patch bordered by yellow; remainder of body black. Females a mottled brown.



Orange-crowned Warbler



Yellow Warbler



Audubon's Warbler



Black-throated Gray Warbler



Townsend's Warbler



Wilson's Warbler

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. 8"; A. 1 through 9. cR. A medium size blackbird. Male with a white eye; female is brownish-gray and lacking the white eye. The common blackbird of the Park; congregates into immense flocks in winter.

WESTERN TANAGER: *Piranga ludoviciana*. (Illus. p. 51) 7"; A. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. cB. The male has the red face and forehead in spring; similar to female in fall. The red face with the black and yellow wings clearly distinguish it from any other bird. Female a duller yellow with two light wing-bars.

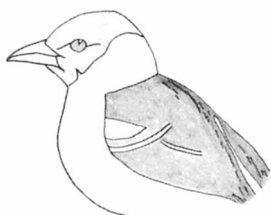
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: *Pheucticus melanocephalus*. (Illus. p. 51) 7"; A. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. iB. Male has dark head and back; several white bars in the wings; rusty breast. Female lacks the color of the male, but has a striped crown and white stripes above and below the eye; back is streaked with several light stripes.

EVENING GROSBEAK: *Hesperiphona vespertina*. (Illus. p. 51) 8"; A. 1 through 9. cR. A large chunky-bodied bird with a stout bill, yellow forehead, dark tail, and large white patches in the wings; breast and under parts tawny to yellow. Female dull yellow, lacks the yellow forehead, but has the large white wing-patches and dark tail.

PURPLE FINCH: *Carpodacus purpureus*. 6"; A. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, and 9. cR. Male, a beautiful raspberry colored bird; reddish head, rump, and breast; brown wings and back, dark tail; two red wing-bars. Female less colorful, a brown streaked bird similar in appearance to a Pine Siskin.

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY FINCH: *Leucosticte tephrocotis*. 5"; A. 2 and 7. rR. Rare finch sometimes observed in the Mount Angeles area, along the Moose Lake Trail, and more commonly in the glacier country of the Mount Olympus region. A dark brown bird with light pink or rose wings and rump; gray crown and face, but a black forehead. Female is duller.

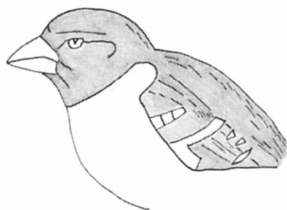
PINE SISKIN: *Spinus pinus*. 4"; A. 1 through 9. cR. A small streaked finch. In spring the male has a yellow lining beneath the wings and near the rump; completely streaked from top to bottom; two white to yellow wing-bars.



Western Tanager



Evening Grosbeak



Black-headed Grosbeak

EJN

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH: *Spinus tristis*. 5"; A. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. cR. Breeding plumage of adult male is a bright golden yellow; the "wild canary" of the Park. Black forehead, wings, and tail lacking in the female. Olive-green plumage in winter for both sexes.

RED CROSSBILL: *Loxia curvirostra*. 5½"; 1 through 9. cR. Male, red head, rump, breast, and under parts; dark red wings and tail; mandibles cross. Female light brown; crossed mandibles.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: *Loxia leucoptera*. 6½"; A. 1 through 9. cR. Male, pink head, back, rump, breast, and under parts; black wings and tail; two white wing-bars. Female lacks the pink and black, but has the white wing-bars; otherwise brown with streaked breast.

RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE: *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. 8"; A. 1, 4, 5, and 7. iR. A ground bird with a dark hood, red eye, dark black back and tail, and rusty-brown sides. Male has the black hood; female brown. White spots occur on the back; in flight white outer tail feathers showy.

SAVANNAH SPARROW: *Passerculus sandwichensis*. 4½"; A. 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8. cT. An open field sparrow, small in size, with pale pink legs; striped back, streaked breast, striped crown, and tail slightly forked; buff stripe over the eye.

OREGON JUNCO: *Junco oreganus*. 5"; A. 1 through 9. cR. Adults have black hood, rusty back and sides, and white outer tail feathers.

CHIPPING SPARROW: *Spizella passerina*. 4"; A. 1 through 9. cB. A small sparrow with a rusty cap, black bill, white eye-stripe; two faint white wing-bars; light clear breast and under parts.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. (Illus. p. 00) 6"; A. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. cB. Common sparrow of the Park in summer and fall; fond of brushy habitats. Larger than either the Chipping Sparrow or Song Sparrow. Adults have a crown striped with black and white; gray throat, two white wing-bars.

FOX SPARROW: *Passerella iliaca*. 7"; A. 1 through 9. cT and iV win. A large sparrow with heavy spotting on the breast and under parts; reddish head, back, and tail.

SONG SPARROW: *Melospiza melodia*. 5"; A. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. cR. A rusty sparrow with heavy streaks on the breast and under parts; a central spot on the breast; much darker than the Savannah Sparrow. Tail is rounded. Inhabits marshy areas.

FOR YOUR RECORDS

DATE _____ TIME _____

LOCATION IN PARK _____ ELEVATION _____

WEATHER _____ WIND _____ TEMPERATURE _____

TOTAL SPECIES _____ TOTAL INDIVIDUALS _____

OBSERVERS _____

FIELD CHECK LIST

COMMON BIRDS OF OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Common Loon | ☐ Tufted Puffin |
| ☐ Sooty Shearwater | ☐ Band-tailed Pigeon |
| ☐ Leach's Petrel | ☐ Screech Owl |
| ☐ Double-crested Cormorant | ☐ Short-eared Owl |
| ☐ Brandt's Cormorant | ☐ Saw-Whet Owl |
| ☐ Pelagic Cormorant | ☐ Common Nighthawk |
| ☐ Great Blue Heron | ☐ Black Swift |
| ☐ Harlequin Duck | ☐ Vaux's Swift |
| ☐ White-winged Scoter | ☐ Rufous Hummingbird |
| ☐ Surf Scoter | ☐ Belted Kingfisher |
| ☐ Common Scoter | ☐ Red-shafted Flicker |
| ☐ Ruddy Duck | ☐ Cooper's Hawk |
| ☐ Hooded Merganser | ☐ Red-tailed Hawk |
| ☐ Common Merganser | ☐ Golden Eagle |
| ☐ Sharp-shinned Hawk | ☐ Bald Eagle |
| ☐ Common Murre | ☐ Marsh Hawk |
| ☐ Pigeon Guillemot | ☐ Peregrine Falcon |
| ☐ Cassin's Auklet | ☐ Sparrow Hawk |
| ☐ Rhinoceros Auklet | ☐ Blue Grouse |

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Ruffed Grouse | ☐ Western Flycatcher |
| ☐ California Quail | ☐ Olive-sided Flycatcher |
| ☐ American Coot | ☐ Horned Lark |
| ☐ Black Oystercatcher | ☐ Violet-green Swallow |
| ☐ Semipalmated Plover | ☐ Bank Swallow |
| ☐ Killdeer | ☐ Rough-winged Swallow |
| ☐ Common Snipe | ☐ Barn Swallow |
| ☐ Spotted Sandpiper | ☐ Cliff Swallow |
| ☐ Least Sandpiper | ☐ Gray Jay |
| ☐ Dunlin | ☐ Steller's Jay |
| ☐ Sanderling | ☐ Common Raven |
| ☐ Red Phalarope | ☐ Common Crow |
| ☐ Glaucous-winged Gull | ☐ Clark's Nutcracker |
| ☐ Heermann's Gull | ☐ Chestnut-backed Chickadee |
| ☐ Winter Wren | ☐ Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| ☐ Robin | ☐ Brown Creeper |
| ☐ Varied Thrush | ☐ Dipper |
| ☐ Hermit Thrush | ☐ House Wren |
| ☐ Swainson's Thrush | ☐ Wilson's Warbler |
| ☐ Western Bluebird | ☐ House Sparrow |
| ☐ Mountain Bluebird | ☐ Western Meadowlark |
| ☐ Townsend's Solitaire | ☐ Redwinged Blackbird |
| ☐ Golden-crowned Kinglet | ☐ Brewer's Blackbird |
| ☐ Ruby-crowned Kinglet | ☐ Western Tanager |
| ☐ Cedar Waxwing | ☐ Black-headed Grosbeak |
| ☐ Hutton's Vireo | ☐ Evening Grosbeak |
| ☐ Solitary Vireo | ☐ Purple Finch |
| ☐ Warbling Vireo | ☐ Gray-crowned Rosy Finch |
| ☐ Orange-crowned Warbler | ☐ Pine Siskin |
| ☐ Yellow Warbler | ☐ American Goldfinch |
| ☐ Audubon's Warbler | ☐ Red Crossbill |
| ☐ Black-throated Gray Warbler | ☐ White-winged Crossbill |
| ☐ Townsend's Warbler | ☐ Rufous-sided Towhee |
| ☐ Hermit Warbler | ☐ Savannah Sparrow |
| ☐ MacGillivray's Warbler | ☐ Oregon Junco |
| ☐ Pileated Woodpecker | ☐ Chipping Sparrow |
| ☐ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | ☐ White-crowned Sparrow |
| ☐ Hairy Woodpecker | ☐ Fox Sparrow |
| ☐ Downy Woodpecker | ☐ Song Sparrow |

