



## W I N T E R   B I R D S

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### FORESTS

- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker- Similar in size to Red-bellied Woodpecker and Hairy Woodpecker. Look for prominent white wing patch and faint yellow color.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch--- Similar to White-breasted but much smaller, stubbier. Buffy-red breast and white line above eye.
- Brown Creeper ----- Similar in behavior to White-breasted Nuthatch but creeper has a brown back and slender down-curved bill. Goes up the tree.
- Winter Wren ----- Tiny wren (our smallest). Short, stubby erect tail. Buffy-barred belly.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet- Smaller than chickadee. Look for white line above eye. Gold or orange crown bordered by black. (The gold is not easy to see.)
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet--- Similar to Golden-crowned but lacks white line above eye. Has eye-ring and ruby red crown. (The ruby is really, really not easy to see.)
- Yellow-rumped Warbler- Only winter warbler. Slightly larger than chickadee. Look for yellow marks on rump, base of wing (armpit), top of head.
- Hermit Thrush----- Only thrush we should see in winter. Reddish tail. Dark-spotted white breast. Slowly bobs tail up and down.
- Purple Finch----- Very similar to the much more common House Finch. Raspberry color is more widespread. No dark streaks on sides like House Finch has.
- Pine Siskin----- Small, very streaked finch. Similar to female House & Purple Finches except touches of yellow at base of tail and on wing. Not very common.
- Evening Grosbeak----- Cardinal sized finch with heavy bill. Yellowish body, black and white wings. Looks like over-grown goldfinch. Not very common.

### THICKETS, SECONDARY GROWTH

- White-throated Sparrow--- White throat, head either bright white or drab tan striped, yellow at base of bill. Song: "*Poor Sam Peabody, Peabody*"

### CITY PARKS, SUBURBAN AREAS

- Dark-eyed Junco----- Charcoal gray top, white belly, wing outer feathers on tail.

## LAKES, PONDS, RIVERS

Pied-billed Grebe----- Looks like small brown duck without a duck-like bill.

American Coot----- Charcoal gray/black duck-like but with white non-duck-like bill,  
Runs on water to take-off.

## GULLS

Bonaparte's Gull----- Smallest of three, summer plumage it has a solid black head but not in  
winter plumage. Look for solid black bill.

Ring-billed Gull----- In winter plumage look for ring around bill, yellow legs.

Herring Gull-----In winter plumage looks a lot like Ring-billed, though much less  
common, look for size difference, Herring is a good bit bigger and has  
flesh colored legs

## DUCKS

### *Dabbling ducks that tip up their bottom to feed and can spring into flight*

Green-winged Teal-----Male: Brown head, green mask. Vertical white and green line front of  
wing. Smallest dabbling duck, almost half the size of a Mallard.

Northern Pintail----- Male: Needle-pointed tail. White breast with white extending up neck  
to back of brown head. Not very common.

Gadwall----- Male: Overall gray/brown duck, black rump, white patch rear edge of  
wing. Winter populations are increasing in Tennessee Valley

American Wigeon----- Male: light colored patch on forehead, green stripe starts at eye and  
goes to back of head. Often grazes on land.

### *Diving ducks that disappear underwater to feed and run on water to take-off*

Canvasback----- Brick-red head, long gray bill, black breast, light gray body.  
Not very common.

Redhead----- Male: Red head. Tri-colored bill.

Ring-necked Duck----- White ring around gray bill. Dark head and breast, light gray flanks.

Bufflehead----- Smallest local duck. Male: Large white spot behind eye to top of head

Common Goldeneye----- Male: Round white spot in front of eye. Green-black head

## MERGENSERS

Hooded Merganser-----Mergansers are the only ducks that specialize in eating fish. Long saw-  
edged bill, with large white spot bordered in black behind eye.

## STIFF-TAILED DUCKS

Ruddy Duck----- Small. Chunky, tail erect. White bottom ½ of head.