



W I N T E R B I R D S

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.