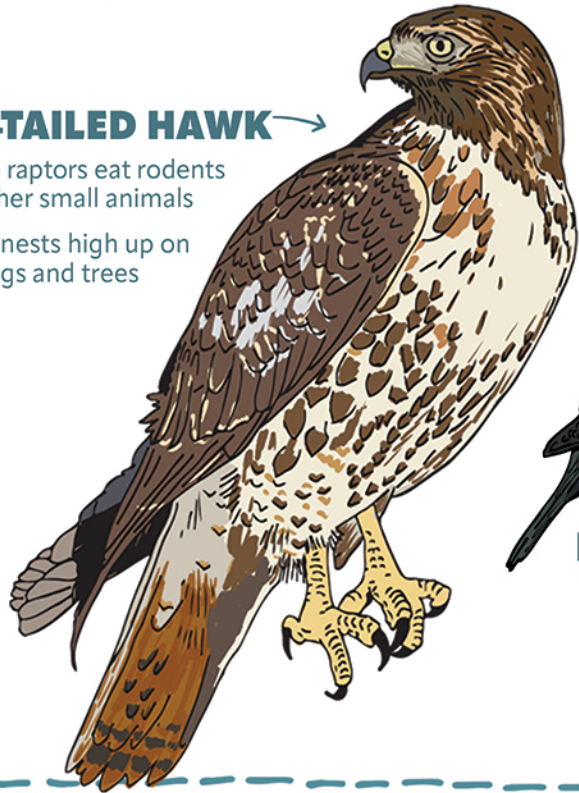


FINDING BIRDS

RED-TAILED HAWK

- these raptors eat rodents and other small animals
- build nests high up on buildings and trees



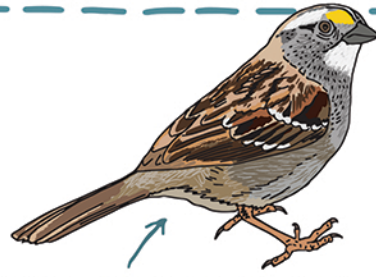
AMERICAN ROBIN

- build sturdy nests of mud and straw
- eat mostly insects, berries and earthworms they find in the soil



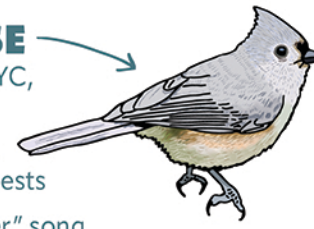
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

- in NYC during winter, spring and fall; build nests on or near the ground
- two color variations you can see on their heads: white-striped & tan-striped



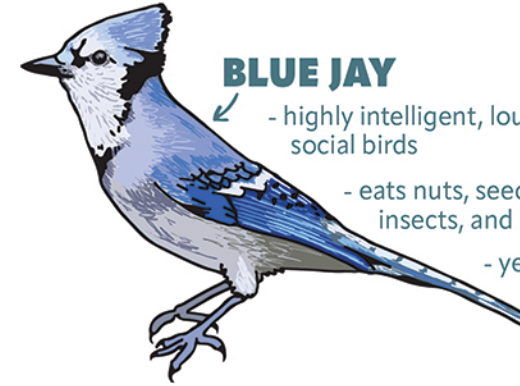
TUFTED TITMOUSE

- year-round residents of NYC, but mostly seen in winter
- use old woodpecker holes or natural cavities to build nests
- makes a "peter-peter-peter" song



BLUE JAY

- highly intelligent, loud, and social birds
- eats nuts, seeds, acorns, insects, and bird eggs
- year-round resident of NYC



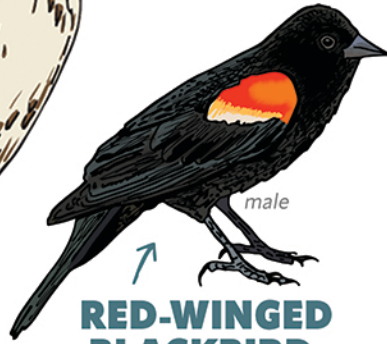
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

- member of the warbler family
- males have a black "bandit" mask; females do not
- found in the understory during spring and fall



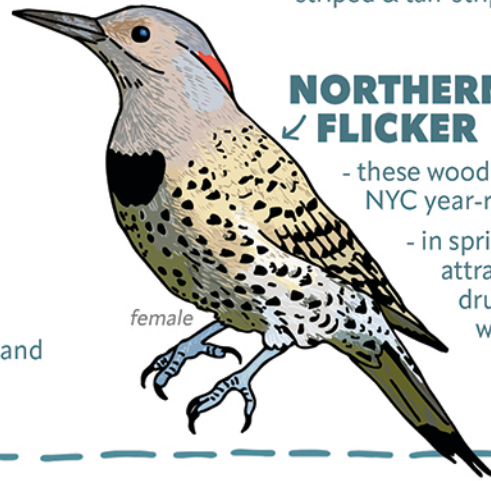
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

- found in marshy areas
- males have black bodies and red wings; females mostly brown with beige streaks



NORTHERN FLICKER

- these woodpeckers live in NYC year-round
- in spring, males attract mates by drumming on objects with their beaks



ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Look Up! Look Down! Look all around these NYC neighborhood parks and find the birds and trees highlighted in this **Urban Bird Explorers Guide**.

This guide was developed in partnership with Washington Square Park Eco Projects, Local Nature Lab, Madison Square Park Conservancy, Natural Areas Conservancy, and Van Cortlandt Park Alliance.



Design & illustration by Super Nature Adventures



TREE DETECTIVE

FLOWERING DOGWOOD

- white blooms in spring
- scarlet red foliage in fall



NORTHERN RED OAK

- produces acorns in late summer and fall
- leaves turn brownish-red to bright red in the fall

SWEETGUM

- star-shaped leaves turn bright orange, purple, or red in the fall
- spiky balls that hold seeds change from green to brown by fall



EASTERN WHITE PINE

- clusters of 5 needles that are about 4 inches long
- long grayish-brown cones provide food for birds



RED MAPLE

- look for "helicopter" seeds starting in late spring
- leaves turn deep red in fall



TULIP TREE

- large tulip-shaped flowers in early summer, provide nectar for many birds
- leaves turn bright yellow in fall



SERVICEBERRY

- small shrub tree in the understory
- look for red berries in summer, which provide food for birds



PARKS TO VISIT



Highbridge Park
Manhattan/Bronx, 130 Acres
Nearby Station: 168 St (A, C, 1)



Madison Square Park
Manhattan, 6.25 acres
Nearby Station: 23 St (R, W) or 23 St (6)



Marine Park
Brooklyn, 800 Acres
Nearby Stations: Ave U (Q) or Kings Hwy (B, Q)



Van Cortlandt Park
Bronx, 1146 Acres
Nearby Stations: Van Cortlandt Park 242 St (1) or Woodlawn (4)



Washington Square Park
Manhattan, 10 acres
Nearby Station: 8 St-NYU (R, W) or Astor Place (6)

For more details, directions, and other parks to visit, go to: nycgovparks.org



SKY
above the
tree tops where
birds fly

CANOPY
includes the tops of most trees
and creates shade below

UNDERSTORY
smaller trees, shrubs, and other
plants provide important habitats
for birds and other wildlife

GROUND
trees grow their
roots in the soil

IN THE SKY

See a bird flying high above the trees? That might be a Red-tailed Hawk!

Red-tailed Hawks can sometimes be seen soaring above the city's parks looking for their next meal.

You can spot them by seeing their reddish brown tails.



LOOK UP

What do you notice in the branches of the trees?

BIRD SOUNDS

- 1 Find a spot to sit, like on a bench or in the grass.
- 2 Take some time and listen to the birds around you.
- 3 Where are the bird sounds coming from? What do they sound like?

TIP: Birds tend to be more active earlier in the day.

Don't forget to look in the UNDERSTORY

for birds, insects, and other wildlife!

LOOK CLOSE

What do you notice on the trunk or bark of trees?

TREES MATTER

Trees help birds by:

- Providing places and materials for nesting
- Supplying foods like seeds, nectar, berries, buds, or insects
- Protecting them from predators
- Being a good place to roost and rest

DID YOU KNOW

that many birds play an important role as pollinators?

WARBLERS

Warblers are some of New York's most colorful and lively migratory birds.

The males are usually brightly colored, each type with a different patterning. They use distinctive songs to attract females during breeding season.



Look for the Common Yellowthroat in shrubs and on the ground during spring and fall.

NEW YORK CITY URBAN BIRD EXPLORERS GUIDE

CHANGES IN THE SEASONS

Take a moment to consider the time of year.

- What do you notice in this season?
- What birds do you see?
- How are they behaving?

Some birds live here year round, and some migrate seasonally.

Bird behavior and appearance can change in different seasons, depending on the weather, what foods are available, or breeding seasons.

LOOK DOWN

The ground level is an important part of the urban canopy. Many birds such as the White-throated Sparrow find seeds, insects, and other food amidst the leaves that have fallen to the ground.



Some birds also find nesting materials on the ground.