



# Discovery Center Birding Trail

Sponsored by the Discovery Center Bird Club

## LEARN

As you enjoy the Discovery Center Trails, take a few minutes to pause at each of the Birding Trail signs, donated and placed by the Discovery Center Bird Club at strategic spots along the trails. Each sign provides information on birds that are known, via annual breeding bird surveys, to use the habitat around the area of the sign. Signs include pictures of birds found in the area and information on each species' habitat and behavior.



Photos by Guy David

## LOOK

The Sharp-shinned Hawk (right) and Broad-winged Hawk (below) are commonly found throughout the north woods, especially during the spring, summer and fall.



Raptors spend much of their time in constant watchfulness, in search of prey. As you enjoy the Birding Trail, consider your watchfulness—and keep an eye out for the many beautiful sightings and sounds you're sure to find. Feel thankful that while a raptor's intent is to find food, your intention can be simple enjoyment.

## LISTEN

Walking quietly increases the likelihood of wildlife sightings and leads to insights into our woods' and waters' complex ecosystems. A couple additional tips for finding birds – walk slowly and listen first. Our Birding Trail signs provide information on bird sounds and provide clues on where and what a birdwatcher can listen for. ENJOY!





(Spizella passerina)

# Chipping Sparrow



Photos by Guy David

## LISTEN

The Chipping Sparrow's song is often confused with that of the Pine Warbler's. The Chipping Sparrow's song is a rapid series of dry chips lasting several seconds and is often described as mechanical and dry trill in tone.

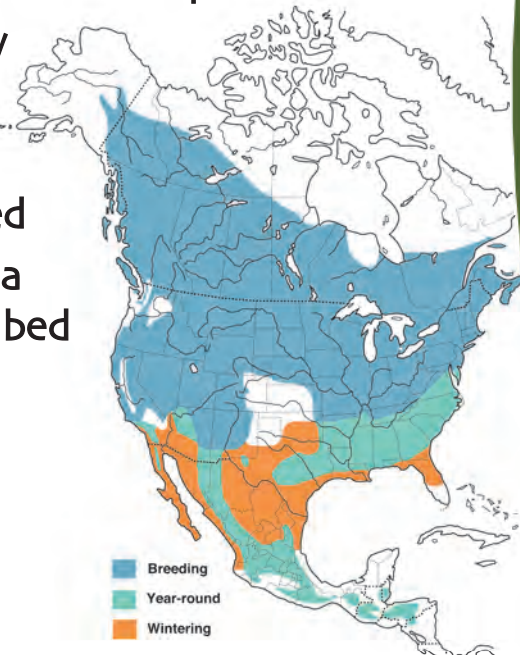
## LEARN

The Chipping Sparrow's range is widespread. It nests in a variety of habitat, including lawns, woodland edges and forests interspersed with grassy openings.

## LOOK

for this small, common songbird. Both male and female Chipping Sparrows (5½") display the same coloration and field markings:

- Bright, rufous-colored cap
- White eyebrow
- Black eyeline



# Pine Warbler (Dendroica pinus)

## LOOK

for this early spring migrant and early breeder (May). The Pine Warbler (5½") displays – females are duller:

- Yellow throat and breast
- Dark, blurry streaks on sides of breast
- Two white wing bars

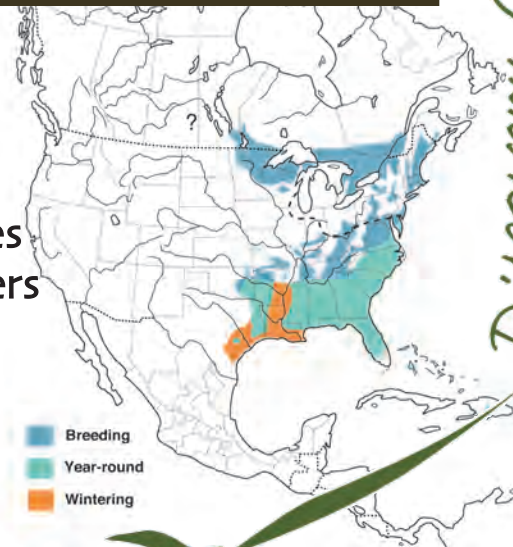


## LISTEN

The Pine Warbler song is a monotonous, twittering musical trill, varying in speed.

## LEARN

The Pine Warbler is found almost exclusively in pines during the breeding season. It often nests high in the canopies of Pine trees, in nests built of grass, pine needles, twigs, and plant fibers bound together with spider web or caterpillar silk. The Pine Warbler is the only wood warbler known to ingest seeds on a regular basis.



Maps from Birds of North America Online, Cornell Lab of Ornithology





(Cygnus buccinator)

# Trumpeter Swan

## LOOK

- Large overall white
- Length 58-72 inches
- Long black bill that slopes evenly onto a flattened forehead
- Pink line at base of bill (forming a smiling line)
- Neck is held erect when swimming or walking

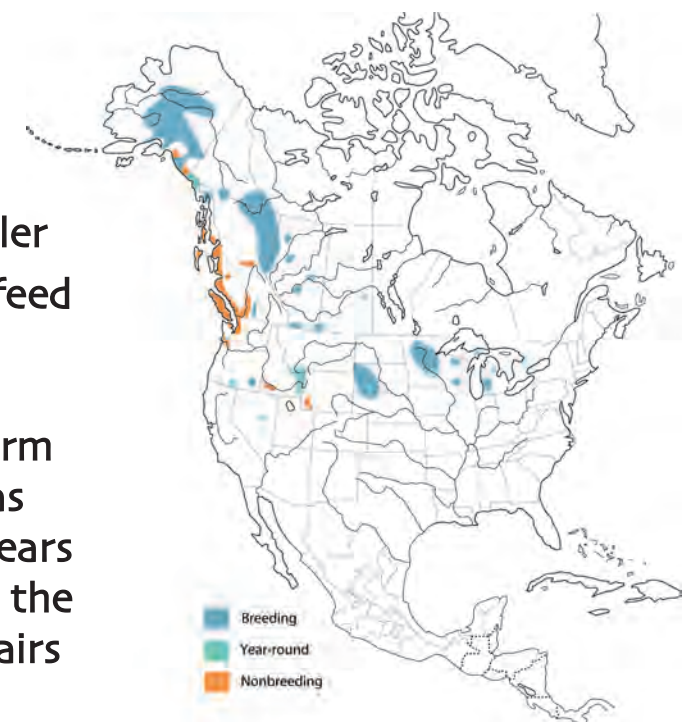
The similar Tundra Swan is smaller and may have a yellow spot in front of the eye. On a Tundra Swan, the bill is slightly concave onto a rounded head.

## LISTEN

The song is characterized by resonating honking notes: a deep rasping "ko-ho." It has been likened to the old-fashioned oo-ga horns of vintage autos.

## LEARN

This bird is a dabbler that plunges its head into the water to feed on aquatic plants and tuberous roots. It prefers fresh water and defends a large territory. They are monogamous and form long term pair bonds. This great bird was extirpated in Wisconsin, but in recent years it has been successfully reintroduced by the Wisconsin DNR. There are now many pairs breeding across the Northwoods.



Photos by Guy David





(Sphyrapicus varius)

# Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



## LOOK

The untrained eye may mistakenly identify the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker for a small Hairy Woodpecker. Closer inspection reveals a red forehead and a white wing stripe. The two photos on this sign reveal a female (left) and male (right). Can you spot a distinguishable feature that identifies gender? In this case, the female has a white throat and the male has a red throat.

## LISTEN

rrrrraat..a..tat...tat....tat.....tat.....tat!

When spending time in the northwoods one cannot help but hear the tapping of woodpeckers on trees and limbs. Did you know that sometimes you can tell what kind of woodpecker is knocking by the sound that it makes? The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker looks for objects to tap on including tin roofs, empty bird houses, and dead branches. When it finds a spot that produces a resonating sound it begins to repeatedly rap. Unlike other woodpeckers of this area, sapsuckers begin each series with rapid taps and then slows the rhythm until the series ends.

Photos by Guy David

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers do have a recognizable voice, but they don't sit and sing like many bird species. Once you find one, spend a little time listening to what it has to "say."

## LEARN

So what about those neatly placed holes in the trunks of trees?

Those are called "sapsucker wells"—seeing these reveals their presence. Sapsuckers mainly eat the inner bark of trees, and lap sap that oozes from the wells and insects that become trapped in the sap. Other animals such as butterflies also benefit from the oozing sap.

