

Trumpeter Swan

CYGNUS BUCCINATOR

Photo By: Barry Hetschko



Range



Orange Breeding
Purple Year-round
Blue Winter

Habitat

Trumpeter Swans prefer undisturbed bodies of water usually less than 6ft deep with a wide range of aquatic vegetation. They require spaces that have at least 100 yards of open water to allow for a running take off. They also like to live in areas with small islands and or beaver and muskrat dens that they can situate their nests on top of. Breeding sites that are common are ponds, lakes, bogs, glacial potholes, marshes or on river banks.

Food

The Trumpeter Swans diet consists mainly of plants however the occasional meal of fish or fish eggs is not uncommon. Younger birds will begin on aquatic insects and then switch over to a more plant-based diet as they age. Trumpeter swans are dabblers meaning when they feed underwater they tip up in the air as they use their bill to pull up vegetation from the bottom. In the winter they become more terrestrial and as such feed on things such as blueberries, broom, wheatgrass, as well as grain crops.

Nesting

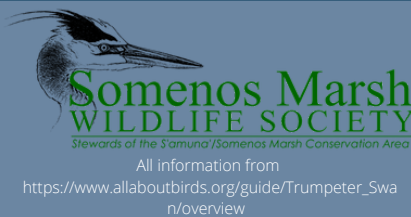
They like to build their nests in areas surrounded by water such as on small islands, beaver or muskrat dams, or on floating platforms. Mating pairs will return to the same nesting spot each year. Nests are built from aquatic vegetation and grasses and is built by both sexes. Nests can take up to 35 days to complete sometimes reaching 11 feet across and 3 feet high!

Conservation

In the early 20th century Trumpeter Swans had been nearly driven to extinction. Between the 1600's and 1800's they were hunted for meat, skins and feathers, this reduced their numbers to about 69 individuals by 1935. Hunting of them has since been banned and data collected between 2000 and 2005 shows that populations have rebounded to over 35,000 with the population still increasing.



Photo By: Barry Hetschko



Anna's Hummingbird

CALYPTE ANNA

Photo By: Barry Hetschko

Range



Habitat

Anna's Hummingbirds prefer to live in coastal shrubs, oak savannahs, and open woodlands, they are also commonly found in urban areas.

Food

Anna's Hummingbirds enjoy drinking the nectar from flowering plants such as Red Flowering currant, Gooseberry, Trumpet honeysuckle, and manzanita. They do not rely solely on nectar for nutrients, small insects that are found in the understory, streambanks, spiderwebs, or in flight can also fall prey to the Anna's Hummingbird.

Nesting

Nesting sites are chosen by the female based on proximity to a source of nectar. Nests are built on branches that sit usually anywhere from 6 to 20 feet from the ground. Nests are built from spider webs, and plant down with the outsides decorated with mosses and lichens. The female sits inside the nest as she builds up the cupped edges. When finished, nests are 1 inch tall by 1.5 inches wide

Conservation

Anna's hummingbirds are the most commonly seen hummingbird on the West Coast. Between 1966 and 2014 their population increased by about 2% with an estimated global breeding population of 5 million. Since the 1930's its range has increased significantly having originally only resided in California and Baja California. This is thanks to the introduction of feeders and exotic trees.



All information from
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Annas_Hummingbird/lifehistory

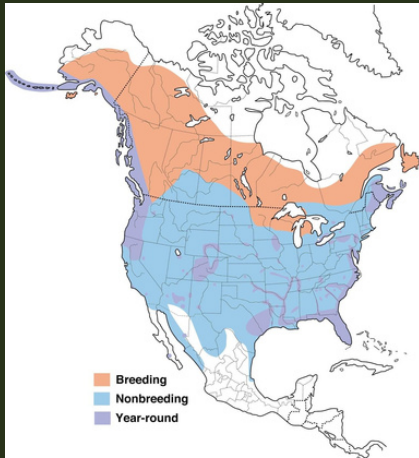
Bald Eagle

HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS

Photo By: Barry Hetschko



Range



Habitat

Bald Eagles nest near large bodies of water, usually keeping away from busy urban areas when possible. They will tolerate humans when feeding around dumps, fish processing plants, and at the base of dams. They prefer to perch in tall mature trees that offer a panoramic view.

Food

Bald eagles primarily eat fish such as salmon, catfish, herring and shad. They also eat a variety of other foods such as birds, crabs, reptiles, mammals. Bald eagles will gorge on large amounts of food that they will digest over several days, they are also capable of fasting over many days!

Nesting

They nest in tall coniferous trees that tower over the canopy, giving them a view from all angles and a clear path for take-off. In their southern range they can be found nesting in deciduous trees, cactus, and mangroves. Their nests are some of the largest of all other birds, reaching 5 to 6 feet in diameter and 2 to 4 feet tall! Nests are primarily made from sticks woven together with the cracks filled in with grasses, moss, or cornstalks. The inside of the nest is lined with softer materials.

Conservation

Bald Eagles hold one of the most inspiring conservation success stories. After the banning of DDT in 1980, populations increased to a now estimated global breeding population of 250,000. Due to trapping, shooting, and poisoning in the late 1900's, Bald eagles were placed under the protection of the Endangered Species Act in 1978. Their recovery has become so successful that they have since been removed from the list!



All Information from:

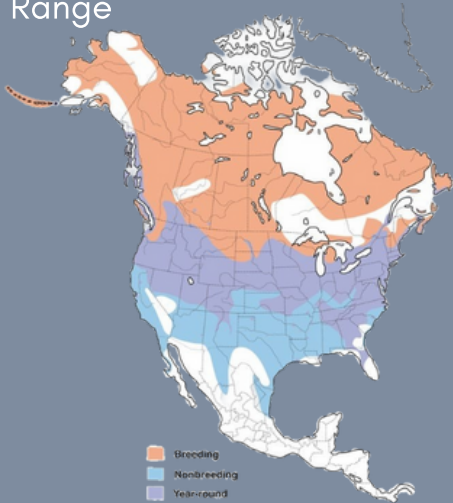
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bald_Eagle/li-fehistory

Canada Goose

BRANTA CANADENSIS



Range



Habitat

Canada Geese can live in many different habitats found near water. They are very commonly found on flat grasslands, crops, or manicured lawns, this is because they like to have a good view of their surroundings to better protect their young

Food

During the spring and summer you will find Canada geese feeding on grasses, sedges, eelgrass and skunk cabbage leaves. During the colder months they like to feed on seeds and berries, such as agricultural grains, corn, and blueberries. There are two subspecies of Canada Goose that have adapted to living in urban areas and grazing on grasses year-round.

Nesting

similar to swans Canada Geese like to nest in slightly elevated areas near water. They choose sites like this so that they can have a good vantage point to see all possible threats in every direction. Females select the site and do the most of the nest construction. Males guard the nest while the female does all of the incubation.

Conservation

Canada Geese are abundant and very common. The total population recorded in North America in 2015 was 4.2 to 5.6 million. Due to abundance of grass lawns, agricultural land, and golf courses, Canada Geese have ample habitat.



**Somenos Marsh
WILDLIFE SOCIETY**
Stewards of the S'amuna/Somenos Marsh Conservation Area

All information from:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Canada_Goose

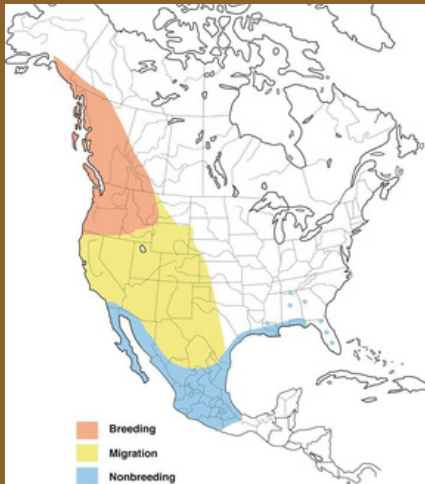
Rufous Hummingbird

SELASPHORUS RUFUS

Photo By: Barry Hetschko



Range



Habitat

You will find Rufous Hummingbirds nesting in open areas such as shrublands, open forest, parks, and yards. During migration you will find them in mountain meadows up to 12,600 feet above sea level. They overwinter in Mexico and can be found in woods consisting of oak, pine and juniper at up to 10,000 feet of elevation.



Food

Rufous Hummingbirds like to feed on nectar and prefer to drink the nectar of bright tubular flowers such as trumpet honeysuckle, columbine, Red flowering currant, fireweed and many others. Small insects provide their source of protein and fats. These are gathered from the air while flying or licked off of the surface of plants.

Nesting

Nests are built in tall coniferous and deciduous trees about 30 feet off the ground. They choose from a variety of different species such as Western red cedar, Douglas Fir, Hemlock, and Sitka Spruce. They like to build the nest in areas that are hidden by drooping branches sometimes having upwards of 20 nests in just a few square meters.

Conservation

The Rufous Hummingbird is currently on the 2014 State of the Birds Watch List which means that it is at risk of becoming threatened or endangered without conservation efforts. Between 1966 and 2014 their populations have declined by 2% per year, which amounts to a 62% decline over that period of time. The estimated global breeding population is about 11 million with 100% having spent at least some time in Mexico each year.



All information from:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Rufous_Hummingbird/overview

Common Yellowthroat

GEOTHLYPIS TRICHAS

Photo By: Barry Hetschko

Range



Habitat

Common Yellow throats like to live in a range of habitats from prairies to wetland to pine forests. They are most commonly found in wet areas with dense low laying vegetation. They also have a very broad breeding range across North America. In the winter months you will find them in the southern United States, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean.

Food

Common Yellowthroats are ground foragers and their diet primarily consists of a wide variety of insects such as flies, beetles, dragonflies, wasps, bees, butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, caterpillars and many others. They like many birds also consume grit to aid in digestion.

Nesting

Nests are constructed by the female on or near the ground. Nests are supported by grasses, sedges, cattails, reeds, or skunk cabbage. When built in marshy areas, nests are usually positioned higher off the ground to compensate for flooding.

Conservation

Although this species is common, they are facing a decline of about 1% per year between 1966 and 2014 which equates to about 38% decline over that time period. The estimated breeding population is about 87 million. In the United States, two distinct populations in San Francisco Bay and Brownsville Texas are facing threats from habitat loss and degradation resulting in steep population declines in these areas.



**Somenos Marsh
WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

Stewards of the Samuno/Somenos Marsh Conservation Area

All information from:

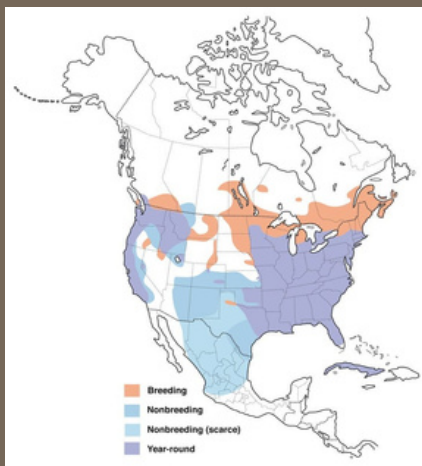
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Yellowthroat/lifehistory

Wood Duck

AIX SPONSA
(C) 2011 Shawn McCready



Range



Habitat

You will find Wood Ducks living in Swamps, beaver ponds, small lakes, freshwater marshes, streams, creeks, and rivers. They require ample vegetative cover up to 75% to allow them to hide and forage. This often looks like downed trees and low shrubs such as alder, cottonwood, willow, and emergent aquatic vegetation such as smartweed and arrowhead.



Food

Wood Ducks typically feed in aquatic environments on small invertebrates, seeds, and fruits. Occasionally if food is scarce, they will venture on land to feed on acorns and nuts, and vegetation. About 80% of a Wood Ducks diet consists of plant materials.

Nesting

Wood Ducks are cavity nesting birds. Cavity inspections are conducted by the female as the male stands watch. Nesting cavities are typically found in trees with a 1-2 foot diameter and a cavity that is between 2-60 feet high (the higher the better). As wood Ducks cannot make their own cavities, they rely on cavities caused by broken branches exposing the heartwood of the tree, or occasionally one created by a woodpecker. Cavity trees are usually next to or overtop of water.

Conservation

Between 1966 and 2015 Wood Duck populations increased. In the US Wood ducks are found year-round with some found breeding in Canada and some wintering in Mexico.



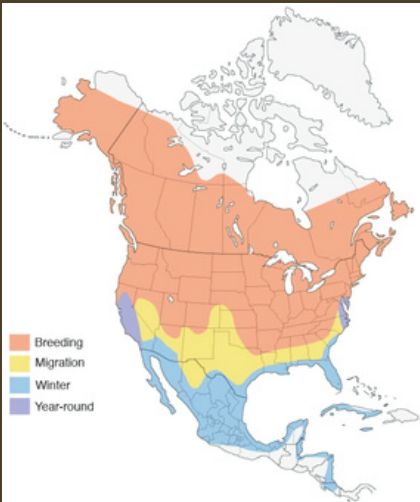
Tree Swallow

TACHYCINETA BICOLOR

Photo By: Barry Hetschko



Range



Habitat

Tree Swallows can be found in areas close to water such as fields, marshes, shorelines, beaver ponds and swamps. They rely on bodies of water to produce a steady supply of flying insects to feed on.

Food

Tree Swallows rely on a diet of mainly insects with very little plant-based foods. You can find them feeding during the day from dawn to dusk, staying no more than 40 feet off the ground. Flying insects such as dragonflies, damselflies, mayflies, bees, ants, sawflies, caddisflies, beetles, wasps and many many more make up their diet. Despite their small size their prey can be up to two inches long. Prey is captured while in flight as the swallows fly in an acrobatic fashion with dives, twists, and turns. During breeding they will expand their diet to get more calcium by consuming things like crayfish exoskeletons, fish bones, clamshells, or eggshells.

Nesting

Tree Swallows are cavity nesters and as such like to build nests in dead standing trees, nest boxes, or old woodpecker holes. They can also be found nesting in less conventional places such as holes in the ground, eaves troughs of buildings, or in hollow stumps.

Conservation

Between 1966 and 2014 Tree Swallows population declined by 49% according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Lack of available nesting sites may be what is contributing to lower population numbers. The installation of bird boxes helps greatly but natural cavity trees are disappearing due to clearing and forestry. Another factor that could be affecting this species is their diet. It is possible that bioaccumulation from toxic chemicals in pesticides could be impacting them as well.



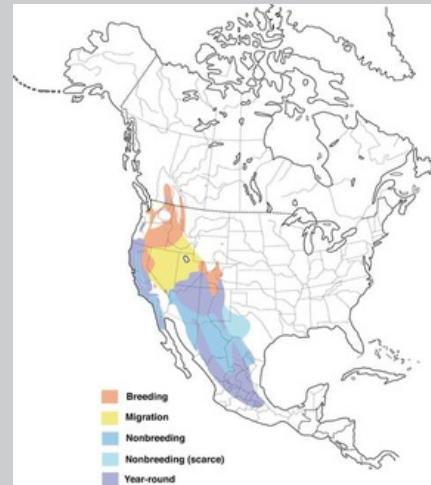
Western Bluebird

SIALIA MEXICANA



Photo By: Barry Hetschko

Range



Habitat

You will find the Western Bluebird living at the edges of woods or in open woodlands. They can be found in both coniferous or deciduous forests. They do well in disturbed areas where burning or logging has taken place if there are still standing dead trees for perching and nesting.



Photo By: Barry Hetschko

Food

The Western Bluebird's summer diet consists of mainly ground dwelling insects such as caterpillars, beetles, grasshoppers, wasps, ants, pill bugs, and even snails! In the winter months their diet consists mainly of seeds and berries such as elderberries, raspberries, mistletoe, serviceberries, sumac, and juniper!

Nesting

Western Bluebirds search for nesting sites as a pair, carefully inspecting cavities until the perfect one is chosen. Cavity trees can be dead or alive and there is generally not a preference for the type of tree either with nests being found in cottonwood, pine, aspen, oak, willow, and sycamore. Trees chosen for nesting have pre-existing cavities from rot or woodpeckers, bluebirds will also happily nest in nest boxes.

Conservation

Western Bluebirds have a stable population, with a global breeding population of about 6.7 million individuals. Out of that total population only 1% breeds in Canada, 67% in the US and 52% in Mexico. Habitat loss is the greatest threat to Western Bluebirds. Due to natural fire suppression in woodlands as well as intense logging.



Photo By: Barry Hetschko

Great Horned Owl

BUBO VIRGINIANUS



Photo By: Barry Hetschko

Range



Habitat

You will find Great Horned Owls in second growth forests, agricultural areas, swamps, and orchards. They have no preference and can be found in both deciduous and coniferous forests. They like to include both open and forested areas in their local range and can quite often be found in urban parks and near cities.



Photo By: Barry Hetschko

Food

The Great Horned Owl is not a picky eater, having the broadest diet of all North American Raptors. They will prey on anything from a small rodent to even other raptors and everything in between. Their diet mostly focuses on mammals such as rabbits, mice, rats, squirrels, marmots, house cats, and many more. Birds are also a staple in their diet, they will prey on ducks, hawks, crows, and even other owls!

Nesting

Nests are most often built in trees such as Beech, Cottonwood, Alder, Juniper and Pine. They will also use pre-existing nests from other species, tree cavities, nesting platforms, and cliff ledges. You can often spot a pair roosting together near the future nest site for several months before laying eggs.

Conservation

Great Horned Owls are considered to be common throughout North America, however between 1966 and 2015, the population declined by about 72% according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Great horned Owls are quite resilient and can adapt to changing landscapes. Since they aren't picky eaters, they will always be able to find something to eat. Owls living close to urban areas face threats from poison that is accumulated in their prey such as rats.



Stewards of the Somenos/Somenos Marsh Conservation Area

All information from:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Horned_Owl/lifehistory

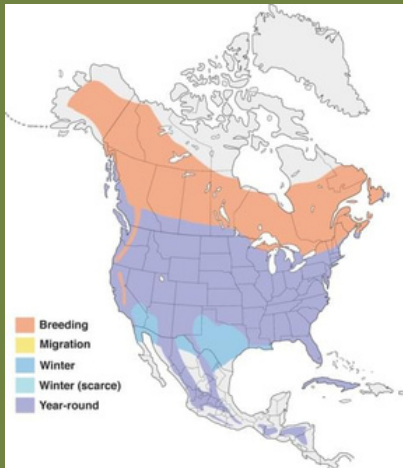
Northern Flicker

COLAPTES AURATUS



Photo By: Barry Hetschko

Range



Habitat

Northern Flickers can be found in a variety of habitats such as forest edges, woodlands, open fields, urban parks, and backyards. They also like wet areas such as marshes, stream sides, and flooded swamps.

Food

The Northern Flickers diet primarily consists of insects, most commonly ants and beetles. In winter you can find them eating other foods such as seeds and fruits. They like to pull ants and other insects from the soil using their beaks like a woodpecker to hammer into the ground and then use their long slender tongue to snap up any insects they find.



Photo by Mark Peck

Nesting

Flickers are cavity nesting birds that create their own nesting cavities in diseased or dead trees. They will also nest in cavities created by others or revisit the same cavity year after year. Cavities are found 6-15 feet from the ground or even higher.



Conservation

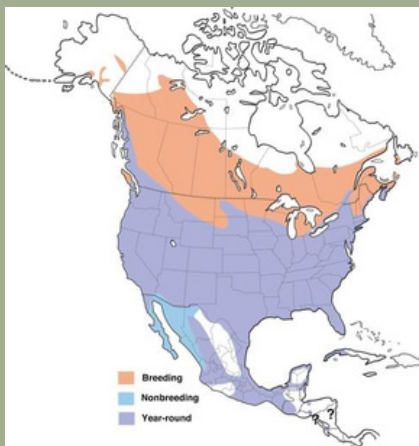
The Northern Flicker is a common and wide spread bird, however, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey their population decreased by about 1.5% per year between 1966 and 2012, this resulted in a 49% drop in the population. There's estimated to be a breeding population of about 9 million worldwide.

Red Winged Blackbird

AGELAIUS PHOENICEUS



Range



Habitat

During the breeding season you will find Red-winged Blackbirds in wetted areas such as marshes, estuaries or rice paddies. They can also be found in meadows and alfalfa fields. During fall and winter time they congregate in pastures, feedlots, grasslands, and agricultural fields.

Food

The Red-winged Blackbirds diet consists of both insects and seeds. In the summertime insects are the main food source, often probing at the base of aquatic plants to reveal hiding insects. In the fall and winter they feed on seeds from weedy plants such as ragweed, or sunflowers and waste grains.

Nesting

You will find their nests built low around tall shoots of aquatic vegetation or trees. Nests are situated near the ground or water surface, usually in densely vegetated areas such as cattails, bulrushes, or Phragmites in wetlands and willow, alder, goldenrod, and blackberry in upland areas.



Conservation

Red-winged Blackbirds are one of the most abundant native birds on the continent. Regardless of this their population has faced a 30% decline between 1966 and 2014 according to the North American breeding Bird Survey. The global breeding population sits around 130 million with about 14% of them spending part of their year in Canada.



Stewards of the Samuno/Somenos Marsh Conservation Area

All information from:

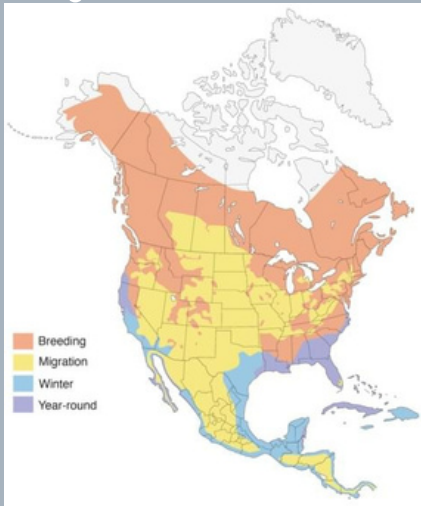
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-winged_Blackbird/overview



Osprey

PANDION HALIAETUS

Range



Habitat

You will find Ospreys nesting no further than 20km away from fish bearing waterbodies. They have an incredibly broad range and can be seen as far north as Alaska and as far south as Mexico. Ospreys prefer to nest high up where they can have a panoramic view and their nest is out of reach from predators such as raccoons.

Food

The Osprey is unique as it is the only hawk in North America that almost exclusively consumes live fish. Fish are captured by the Ospreys incredible ability to dive up to 3 feet deep to grab a fish from the water. Their diet consists of over 80 different species of fish from both fresh and salt water accounting for 99% of its total diet. The remainder of its diet comes from consuming other animals such as birds, snakes, squirrels, and voles.

Nesting

Nests are placed high up on sturdy trees or poles that provide a panoramic view for spotting predators. Nests can be found atop large dead trees, cliffs, hydro poles, or on manmade platforms. Males choose the nesting site before the females arrive and also choose the building materials while the female uses the material to build the nest.



Conservation

Considered a conservation success story after they faced a serious decline between 1950 and 1970 due to the over use of toxic pesticides that caused poisoning and soft egg shells. Since the ban of the pesticides at fault, populations have been increasing by 2.5% per year between 1966 to 2015 according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.



**Somenos Marsh
WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

Stewards of the Samuno/Somenos Marsh Conservation Area

All information from:

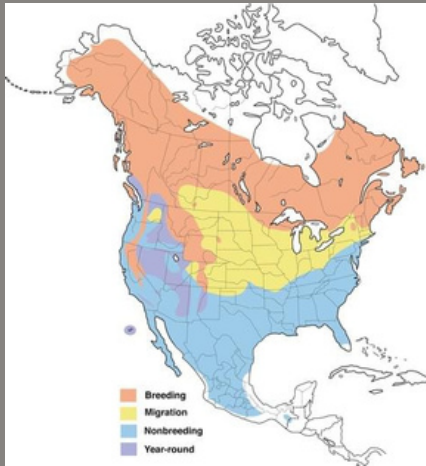
<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Osprey/overview>

Ruby Crowned Kinglet

REGULUS CALENDULA

Photo By: Barry Hetschko

Range



Habitat

Ruby Crowned Kinglets are commonly found in a variety of different forest settings across northwestern Canada and the United States. Throughout the summer they are most commonly found in spruce-fir forests but can also be found in mountain shrubs, deciduous forest, isolated trees in meadows and floodplain meadows with oak, pine, aspen or spruce. In the winter months and during migration you will find them in thickets and woods all across North America.

Food

The Ruby Crowned Kinglet's diet consists primarily of small insects such as spiders, aphids, ants, wasps, and bark beetles. Insects are harvested from the surfaces of branches, bark and leaves and from the forest floor. The remainder of their diet is made up of seeds and fruits such and dogwood berries and poison oak.

Nesting

Nests are built high up in trees sometimes up to 100 feet from the ground and nestled up close to the bark of the tree or suspended from small twigs. Females choose nest sites that are hidden and camouflaged behind overhanging branches. Nests are built over a 5-day period and are made up of feathers, grass, moss, cocoon silk, and spider webs



Conservation

Ruby Crowned Kinglets are common throughout North America. The North American Breeding Bird Survey reports the breeding population numbers to be stable between 1966 and 2015. The estimated global breeding population is about 90 million. They seem to be fairly tolerant of human disturbances since they have such broad habitat requirements.

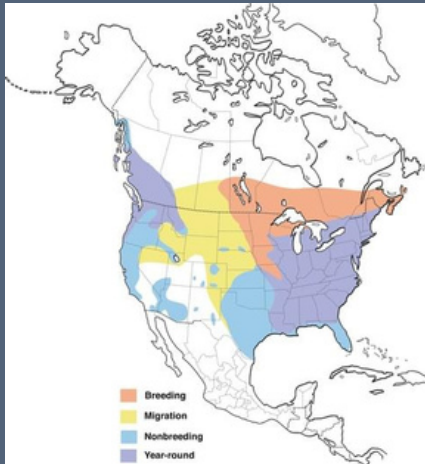
Hooded Merganser

LOPHODYTES CUCULLATUS



Photo By: Barry Hetschko

Range



Habitat

Across eastern North America and the Pacific Northwest, Hooded Mergansers can be found breeding in forested wetlands. They will also nest in areas where nest boxes have been installed. They like to be in forest comprised of spruce and fir or pine and hardwood forests, towards the Midwest they are found in riparian cottonwood/elderberry forests. They like to forage in shallow waters such as marshes, ponds, swamps, rivers, and small lakes.

Food

Hooded Mergansers have a very broad diet consisting of aquatic insects, small fish, amphibians, crustaceans, vegetation and mollusks. With eyes specially designed to see underwater, they dive down to capture prey, powering themselves by kicking their feet. Ducklings only a day old are capable of diving for food.

Nesting

Hooded Mergansers are cavity nesting ducks, nesting sites are chosen by the female. Cavities chosen are close to water and are in live and dead trees from 10 -90 feet off the ground. They adapt well to nesting in boxes especially when wood shavings or old nesting material is available.



Conservation

This species is fairly common across North America; the North American Breeding Bird Survey suggests a population increase between 1966 and 2015. This increase is due to past over hunting and habitat degradation that occurred prior to the 20th century.



All information from:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Hooded_Merganser/overview

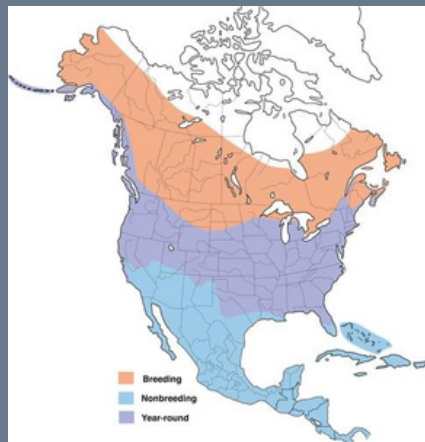
Belted Kingfisher

MEGACERYLE ALCYON



Photo By: Barry Hetschko

Range



Habitat

Belted Kingfishers require access to waterbodies for their food supply. The waterbody must be clear to allow them to view their prey from above, this also requires tall perches near the waters edge and little overhanging vegetation. They are most commonly seen in lakes, ponds, streams, estuaries, and calm marine water.

Food

Their diet mainly consists of fish such as sticklebacks and trout, but they also consume a variety of other foods such as crayfish, insects, mollusks, young birds, amphibians, and small mammals. Kingfishers hunt usually from a high perch over the water that gives them a clear view of the prey. After prey is spotted, they dive into the water with their eyes closed and capture food by closing their beak around it. They then take their prey up to the perch and tenderize their food before swallowing it headfirst!

Nesting

Their nests are created by excavating a burrow from unvegetated earthen banks next to or close to a water body. The mating pair will select the nesting site together during courtship. Cavities are excavated high enough to avoid damage from floodwaters. Nests take about 3-7 days to dig out with both male and female working in shifts. Nest burrows can extend between 3 to 6 feet deep into the bank.



Conservation

Currently Belted kingfishers are considered to be widespread and common in North America. Although they are common, their population experienced a 53% decline between 1966 to 2014 according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Due to this they are considered to be a common species facing steep decline according to Partners in Flight.



**Somenos Marsh
WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

Stewards of the Somenos/Somenos Marsh Conservation Area

All information from:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Belted_Kingfisher/overview

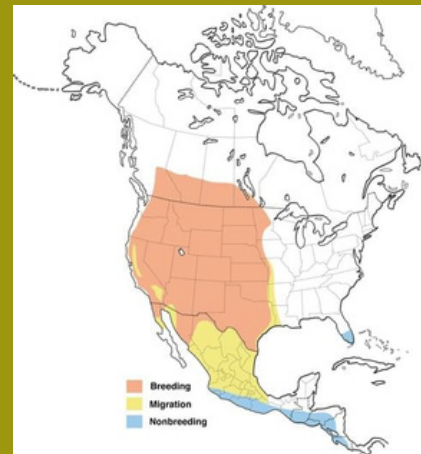
Western Kingbird

TYRANNUS VERTICALIS



Photo By: Barry Hetschko

Range



Habitat

Western kingbirds can be seen in open areas across North America such as grasslands, agricultural fields, urban lands, pastures, desert shrubs, and savannah. Since they nest in trees and shrubs but forage in open areas, they often choose to nest at the forest edge.

Food

Their diet primarily consists of insects which are usually captured in mid-flight! Using acrobatic maneuvers, insects are snatched out of the air by the Kingbird and then taken back to their perch, where they are then beaten against the hard surface until subdued and then consumed. Prey is also taken from the ground and the surface of vegetation. Due to their small beak size, they typically eat smaller prey such as bees, crickets, wasps, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, spiders, and caterpillars.

Nesting

Nests are built nestled in the crotches of trees such as willow, elm, cottonwood, sycamore, green ash, Box elder, Western Juniper, Yucca and many more. They have also been seen using human made structures such as buildings, antennae, fenceposts, and hydro poles. The nest is built by the female and is made up of grass stems, small twigs, cottonwood bark, roots, and many other plant fibres.



Conservation

This species is considered common with populations remaining stable between 1966 and 2014 according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. The majority of the population (91%) is found in the United States with only 5% being found in Canada. They have adapted to live in more urban areas causing their range to grow since the 1800's.



Somenos Marsh
WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Stewards of the Somenos/Somenos Marsh Conservation Area

All information from:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Western_Kingbird/overview

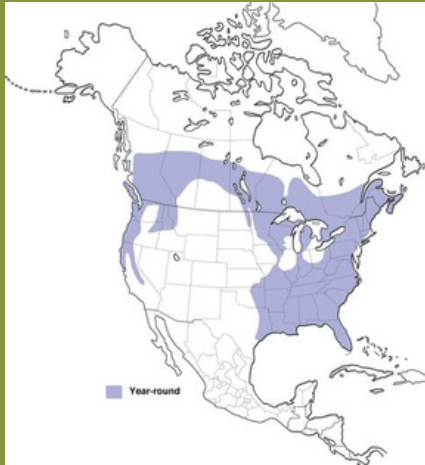
Piliated Woodpecker

DRYOCOPUS PILEATUS



Photo By: Barry Hetschko

Range



Habitat

You will find the Piliated Woodpecker living in mature coniferous and deciduous forests of all types. They can even be found in younger forests if they have adequate dead standing trees or downed decaying wood. They are common to see in urban areas near forest patches.

Food

The primary food source for Piliated Woodpeckers is carpenter ants and other ants as well as wood boring beetle larvae, caterpillars, termites, cockroaches, and grasshoppers. They also enjoy fruits and seeds such as hackberry, blackberries, sassafras, sumac, poison ivy, holly, persimmon, elderberry and dogwood. Ants can make up between 40% to 97% of their diet.



Nesting

Nests are built inside cavities carved out by the male, typically in a large dead standing tree. Since many other species like to also nest in cavities in dead standing trees, there is much competition for the space and Piliated woodpeckers can find themselves sharing their space with others such as bats and swifts. Nest cavities can take between 3 to 6 weeks to complete.



Conservation

This species is considered to be common and abundant with the population increasing between 1966 and 2014 according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. About 33% of the breeding population lives in Canada and is non migratory.

Steller's Jay

CYANOCITTA STELLERI



Photo by R2S Photography

Range



Habitat

You will find Steller's Jays living in coniferous and mixed coniferous-deciduous forests at elevations between 3000 to 10,000ft, and well as in the lower coastal foothills of the Pacific North West.

Food

They are considered to be generalist foragers eating nearly anything they can catch, forage or steal. Their diet consists of insects, seeds berries, nuts, small mammals, nestlings, eggs, as well as garbage, picnic foods, and bird seed. They can carry several large nuts such as acorns at a time and will cache them for a winter food store.



Photo By Rick Leche

Nesting

Nests are placed in coniferous trees usually close to the top on a horizontal branch. Nesting sites are chosen by both the male and female. Nests are built out of a variety of materials such as stems, leaves, moss and all held together with mud. The inside of the nest is lined with softer materials such as animal hair and pine needles.



Conservation

This species is common and populations have remained stable between 1966 and 2015 according the North American Breeding Bird Survey. The estimated breeding population currently sits at about 2.8 million.



All information from:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Stellers_Jay/lifehistory