

## Native Birds Mini Field Guide

**Resident birds** - Birds that are in the area year-round.

Here are six songbirds that make TreeSong their home: American Robin, Pacific Wren, Black-capped Chickadee, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and American Dipper.

See which ones you might see right in your own backyard! We suggest heading out on a bird walk in your neighborhood or local natural area to see the amazing variety of birds that live in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.

### American Robin



#### **Turdus migratorius**

- ORDER: Passeriformes
- FAMILY: Turdidae

American Robins are one of the most well recognized birds in the United States. Look for them in backyards or on grass at parks as they search for earthworms, tugging them out of the ground with their beaks.

**Size & Shape:** 10". Bulky, large, round body, long legs and fairly long tail.

**Color:** Solid gray back, stout yellow bill, dark stripes on white throat, warm orange breast, white undertail, white marks above and below eye.

**Behavior:** Runs on ground or stands still while searching for insects and worms. Takes fruits from bushes, trees, and the ground. Winter flocks can number in thousands. Roosts communally at night in dense vegetation, often near fruit. May migrate if driven south by cold, but usually returns north as soon as temperature allows.

**Habitat:** Urban neighborhoods, parks, suburbs, farms, woodland edge. Avoids dense forest.

**Field Marks:** Reddish orange breast and sides, gray upperparts, darker head, white eye crescents, dark tail with white corners in flight, yellow bill with black tip.

**Fun Facts:** Robins change what they eat depending on the time of day. In the morning you might catch them eating earthworms on lawns and in parks. Later in the day, they eat more fruit.

For more about the American Robin, including audio of their song and calls, please check out the amazing **All About Birds** website:  
[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/american\\_robin](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/american_robin)

## Pacific Wren



### **Troglodytes pacificus**

- ORDER: Passeriformes
- FAMILY: Troglodytidae

These plucky little birds are the champion singers in the forest here at TreeSong.

**Size & Shape:** 4". Tiny, round, with stubby tail.

**Color:** Chocolate-brown above, rich-rufous-brown on breast.

**Behavior:** Usually forages very low among dense vegetation, searching for insects among foliage, on twigs and trunks, and on ground. Around TreeSong, they are seen flitting from sword fern to sword fern.

**Habitat:** Dense coniferous forests, thickets.

**Field Marks:** Fine, dark banding on tail, wings, belly. Light brown eyebrow.

**Fun Facts:** Pacific Wrens have the longest and most intricate song of all North American songbirds.

For more about the Pacific Wren, including audio of their song and calls, please check out the amazing **All About Birds** website:  
[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/pacific\\_wren](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/pacific_wren)

### **Black-capped chickadee**



## **Poecile atricapillus**

- ORDER: Passeriformes
- FAMILY: Paridae

Black-capped Chickadees are always a delight to see, with their round tiny bodies and large heads. They are no stranger to people, found in urban neighborhoods as well as in forest habitat.

**Size & Shape:** 4 3/4" – 5 3/4". Small long slender tail and short bill. Has a large head and thick neck.

**Color:** Black cap and bib, white cheeks, gray, black and white back and wings and buffy brown underparts.

**Behavior:** If you see one, you'll likely see more as these birds travel in flocks. They also head to feeders and then quickly depart, often to stash their food to eat later or somewhere else.

**Habitat:** Forests, parks, and backyards.

**Field Marks:** Look for the black cap and bib, and gray and black back.

**Fun Facts:** You don't have to have the ears of an expert to identify the call of a Black-capped Chickadee. They will chirp out their name for you: "Chicka-dee-dee-dee!" It's also their alarm call, with more "dees" signifying greater nearby danger.

For more about the Black-capped Chickadee, including audio of their song and calls, please check out the amazing **All About Birds** website:

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black-capped\\_Chickadee/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black-capped_Chickadee/overview)



## Dark-eyed Junco



### **Junco hyemalis**

- ORDER: Passeriformes
- FAMILY: Passerellidae

This small bird is a common sight across North America, seen foraging on forest floors. Look for their dark grey heads, and bright white outer tail feathers that can be seen while in flight.

**Size & Shape:** 5 3/4". Sparrow-shaped.

**Color:** Black hood, plain brown back, short, pink conical bill, white outer tail feathers, whitish belly.

**Behavior:** Flocks forage on ground, also in trees, mostly for seeds, insects. Often scratches at ground with feet. Regular beneath bird feeders.

**Habitat:** Nests in coniferous, mixed woods, particular at brushy edges. In migration, winter can appear anywhere, including cities.

**Field Marks:** Dark gray hood, pale peach brown flanks, rusty back, sparrow-like body shape.

**Fun Facts:** One of the most common birds in North America, there are an estimated 630 million Dark-eyed Juncos across the continent.

For more about the Dark-eyed Junco, including audio of their song and calls, please check out the amazing **All About Birds** website:

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Dark-eyed\\_Junco/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Dark-eyed_Junco/overview)

### **Song Sparrow**



## **Melospiza melodia**

- ORDER: Passeriformes
- FAMILY: Passerellidae

The Song Sparrow can be found across the United States, and is one of our most common sparrows. Their plumage (feathers) changes depending on where they live. In Oregon and Washington their feathers are dark and streaked, while in Arizona, they are pale.

**Size & Shape:** 6". Medium sized, fairly bulky. Bill is short and stout, head fairly rounded, tail is long and rounded, wings are broad.

**Color:** Streaked brownish above with brown wings. Dark, dense streaking may merge into a central spot on its whitish breast. Wide gray eyebrow, brown crown with gray central stripe, dark mustache mark.

**Behavior:** Feeds mostly on ground on insects, seeds (including below bird feeders,) some fruit. Less prone to flock. Sings year round; in region, begins nesting in late winter.

**Habitat:** Prefers shrubs, thicket edge in wetter areas, but frequents semi-open habitats, broken forest.

**Field Marks:** Breast with coarse brown streaks, dark mustache, back gray with brown streaks, face gray with brown markings.

**Fun Facts:** When the days get longer, many birds start to breed. But Song Sparrows don't just look at how long the sun is shining. They start breeding when the temperatures get warm enough.

For more about the Song Sparrow, including audio of their song and calls, please check out the amazing All About Birds website:

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Song\\_Sparrow/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Song_Sparrow/overview)



## American Dipper



### **Cinclus mexicanus**

- ORDER: Passeriformes
- FAMILY: Cinclidae

This distinctive bird is locally common along rushing streams in the West, and is often seen along the Washougal River here at TreeSong. It is usually seen bobbing up and down on a rock in mid-stream, or flying low over the water, following the winding course of a creek or river. You can hear its melodious song and calls over the rushing water.

**Size & Shape:** 7 ½", stout, chunky with short tail.

**Color:** Solid slate-grey

**Behavior:** Most food is caught underwater. The Dipper may walk with only its head submerged, or may dive, "flying" underwater and walking on the bottom, probing under stones in streambeds. It will also swim on the surface to pick up floating insects. It eats mostly aquatic insects (larvae of caddisflies, mayflies, beetles, bugs, and mosquitoes, as well as adults of these insects and many others; also some worms and snails. Also eats fish eggs and very small fish).

**Habitat:** Fast-flowing streams in mountains. Breeds along swift, rocky streams (often behind waterfalls), seeming to favor clear, cold water, often in narrow canyons.

**Field Marks:** Slate grey body, pale legs, white eyelids which flash when it opens and closes its eyes.

**Fun Facts:** The American Dipper is the only true aquatic songbird. Water Ouzel is another name sometimes used for the Dipper.

For more about the American Dipper, including audio of their song and calls, please check out the amazing **All About Birds** website:  
[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American\\_Dipper](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Dipper)

Information from:  
Portland Audubon, Kids' Guide to Oregon Birds  
Birds of the Willamette Valley Region by Nehls, Aversa and Opperman