

Narrative to accompany the bird slide show:

Bird 1: Should know this bird. -GBH

Bird 2: Should know this bird. – and note that it's Canada goose, not Canadian!!

Bird 3: Should know this bird. – Mallard

Bird 4: TV!!! Should know this bird. Note that it's huge, like the bald eagle but 2 things about it in flight – 1 it carries it's wings tipped up in a bit of a 'V', not flat like the eagle. 2- as it soars it doesn't do it steadily. It's our "tippy canoe" bird, as it waivers back and forth as it soars.

Bird 5: Osprey – cell tower bird. Should know this bird.

Bird 6: Should know this bird. Our nation's symbol. The only bird to ever be specifically protected by name as part of the endangered species act. (Wild horse is the only other species to be mentioned by name. All other species just achieve "protected status").

Bird 7: Should know this bird. Red Tailed Hawk

Bird 8: Should know this bird. NO. Questions. Asked.

Bird 9: Like the pigeon, but smaller and it's mourning dove because of its sad sound, not 'morning' like time of day.

Bird 10: Should know this bird. Anna's is larger than the rufous hummingbird, and way more red and green.

Bird 11: Stellar's Jay. Resident of the Doug Fir habitat, less the open oak habitat. Note the prominent black crest.

Bird 12: Western Scrub Jay renamed CA scrub jay. More a resident of the open oak habitat. This is the one with the long narrow tail visible from a distance. About the size of a robin.

Bird 13: Should know this bird. No questions. (we'll talk about ravens another time)

Bird 14: Really? How cute is this little bird? Should know this bird, by sight and by song, as it says its name.

Bird 15: Should know this bird. American Robin.

Bird 16: This little bird is common, sings its heart out and it the quintessential LBJ – little brown job. The Song Sparrow has grey/brown streaks on its head. Tail NOT barred like the Bewick's wren, which is about the same size and occupies similar habitat.

Bird 17: WOW!!! Hopefully you saw this bird and it will stick with you for a lifetime!! What a treat!! Not uncommon, but challenging to spy in its marshy habitat. Ah, the Virginia Rail. ☺

Bird 18: Cinnamon teal, a distinctive duck. Turns out it can hybridize with the blue winged teal. Who knew?

Bird 19: The red-winged blackbird is a squawky marsh and grassland bird with showy red wing patches.

Bird 20: The Savannah sparrow looks a whole lot like the song sparrow, admittedly. Note though, that the head has two differences. Does not have the grey/brown striping. And above the savannah sparrow's eyes are yellow streaks. Faint, but distinct.

Bird 21: The violet green swallow is our little bug catching expert that you can watch wheel through the sky right outside of this very building. Three things distinguish it from the tree swallow. 1. Purple and green, not blue. 2. It has a white rump patch, that spot where it's tail connects to its body. 3. On the vg, the white on the throat continues up around behind and above the eye.

Bird 22: Similar to the VG, but see differences noted above.

Bird 23: Crazy common invasive little bird that pushes out many natives from nest boxes, etc. Same size as the song sparrow but note the black on the throat, the all grey crown and it has a much stronger looking beak. Because it's actually a finch.

Bird 24: A common little bird around here and probably at your house too. Size of a sparrow, roughly. Black head. And when it flutters and flies it flashes little white 'pleats' in its tail. This is how I get it most commonly.

Bird 25: Chipper little bird. Note the typical wren tail on this Bewick's wren. It is flipped UP and it has the cross barred coloration. It's about the size of the song sparrow, occupies a similar niche, ah...but note the distinction in the bill. It's a bug grabber rather than a seed cracker.

Bird 26: Brown Creeper – this cute little bird looks a lot like a moving piece of bark on a tree. Curved bill. It walks up the trunk of the tree looking for food. Not to be confused with the nuthatches – they walk head first DOWN the tree trunk looking for food. Really.

Bird 27: White breasted nuthatch. Nesting over by the Tripp lot in a nest box – three years running now!!! A wonderful indicator of healthy white oak savannah habitat!! And yes, if it's walking head first down the trunk of a tree, it's likely a nuthatch.

Bird 28: Bushtit. Cute little bird. Non-descript, save it's all grey plumage and looooong narrow tail. Aside from its brief window of breeding it usually clusters in flocks of a dozen, two dozen or 5 dozen. Leapfrogs from tree to tree to tree, chittering as they go.

Bird 29: Red breasted sapsucker is a woodpecker and makes the grid pattern in trees. Should be the red-headed sapsucker, but hey, they didn't ask me.

Bird 30: Native bird. Larger than a mourning dove. Note white on neck and tail band.

Bird 31: Northern flicker. Despite the one picture I've included with the yellow plumage underneath, our western flickers have only the red feathers. Yellow is east coast. But same bird. Our only woodpecker that regularly searches for food like a robin, hopping around on the ground. It's also the woodpecker we were looking at up on the lights for the sports fields, hammering away on the metal box to claim territory and attract the ladies.

Bird 32: Love this bird. Regularly perched on utility wires along country roadsides. SMALL hawk. The American Kestrel used to be called the chicken hawk. Not sure why. For a size reference, note that it's eating a dragonfly in one of the pics!!

Bird 33: The Cedar Waxwing is a locally migratory bird. It migrates around the valley, up into the hills and back in search of berries to eat. Note the yellow underside, the black robber's mask and the crest at the back of its head. Regularly seen flocking.

Bird 34: Barn swallow was the fast-flier nesting at the Champoege visitor center. Similar to our VG swallow, but note that it's a darker purple on its back with a rusty red belly. AND –whoa!!! That tail is majorly and deeply forked!!

Bird 35: The Vaux's Swift is a high flying small bird like the swallows, but unable to perch on a branch, etc. Simply lacks the ability. Roosts at night in a tree cavity or chimney, but can't perch. And when it flies it's more flitty and spastic, like watching a bat fly rather than a bird. And its wings are a bit longer and more curved into a sickle than a swallow's. Like a cigar stub with wings.

Bird 36: Ah, what a beautiful song this bird has! The black headed grosbeak is appropriately named with that large honking beak!!! Look at that thing!! Similar size to a robin. Note the rusty red comes up off the chest and behind the head. If you know the lilting song of the robin – a wonderful marker for springtime – the grosbeak's song is very similar, but speeded up.

Bird 37: Spotted Towhee. Curious little bird that we see a lot off the Tripp lot. It's a bit bigger than a song sparrow but not quite as big as a robin. Looks a lot like the grosbeak, but smaller, longer tail, RED eye, not the massive beak and white on belly.

Bird 38: House Finch – nests outside 700's. Note finch beak – a strong seed cracking one. Not sexual dimorphism – the female is drab, the male bright red accents. About the size of a sparrow, but sits more upright.

Bird 39: American Goldfinch. Canary yellow??? Goldfinch.

Bird 40: European Starling. Invasive. Note the yellow bill and black eye.

Bird 41: Brewer's blackbird. Note the black bill and yellow eye.

Bird 42: This gorgeous little bird gave us a good look along the dirt road behind the Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. Similar to the western bluebird, in size and color. Stronger beak, the kind that says "I eat seeds", rather than the bluebird's bug eating bill. Note too that the orangish color is restricted to below the head and not all down the belly.

Bird 43: The western bluebird – the reason we go to Champoeg in the spring time is to see the recovery efforts to manage and improve numbers on this ever-so-blue little song bird. Insect eating beak. Reddish-buff color extends down along sides of belly.

Bird 44: Goofy social woodpecker about the size of the northern flicker. Gave us quite the show at lunchtime at Champoeg. Actually pecks holes in oak trees and stuffs acorns in for safe keeping.

Bird 45: Western Wood Pewee. This small, nondescript olive grey bird is quite vocal with its distinctive "pee -a- wee" call, but admittedly challenging to see. Cuz it's small and looks a lot like the color of the leaves in the trees it sits in. But, with flycatcher behavior, it flies out in little loops to grab insects and returns to its perch. Note the wing bars and the crest on its head.

Bird 46: Uh!!! What a fantastic little marker of spring. Small. Pretty much greenish-yellow – perfect for blending in as the sunlight filters through the leaves in the trees above you. Might go your whole life and not see the little blotch of orange on its head. Bright yellow underneath and a beautiful descending trill call.

Bird 47: Barred Owl. ☺ Curious bird willing to respond to calls even mid-day. May have seen it at Mary S Young or on our trip to Champoeg. Unforgettable! Can interbreed with the endangered Spotted Owl and is outcompeting the spotted owl where their habitats overlap. ☹

Bird 48: Sora. Another marsh bird like the Virginia Rail. Quite similar in size and occupies a similar niche. Rare to actually see one. Call a lot, but to actually see one? You were lucky.

Bird 49: This clever little bird does not actually build its own nest. The brown-headed cowbird lays its eggs in other birds' nests. Their eggs hatch first and outcompete the actual nestlings and get fed by their surrogate parents at the expense of those parent birds actual offspring. Subtle black bird with, well, a brown head.

Bird 50: Swainson's Thrush. This bird is Bingham's favorite sign of spring. There is no visual difference between a male and female robin; both have the same red chest, etc. But...if you thought that you were looking at the drab female version of the robin, it'd be the Swainson's thrush.

Bird 51: Common Yellowthroat is a chatty marsh bird about the size of a chickadee. Black robber's mask and bright yellow belly.

Bird 52: Green Heron – similar to the GBH in that it's a heron and a wading bird, but legs not as long. Neck not as long. Half the size of GBH. Sits on branches overhanging water and stabs at food in water from its perch.

Bird 53: Chipping sparrow is a pretty little LBJ. Note the copper colored crown and the much whiter belly.

Bird 54: Wow, the Bullock's Oriole. 😊 What a pretty song this one has, and plumage sometimes so bright it seems aflame! A little smaller than a scrub jay.

Bird 55: Western Tanager. Similar in size to the Bullock's. You will not see this bird and think you're seeing something else. No way. No how. What a treat, every time I see one. Each and every time. Can't believe they come this stunningly feathered this far from the tropics.

Bird 56: Lesser Goldfinch is quite similar to the American Goldfinch but note, the bright yellow on the belly doesn't transfer to the back. Instead, the back has a dullish green gray color. And black on the head is more complete in coverage.