

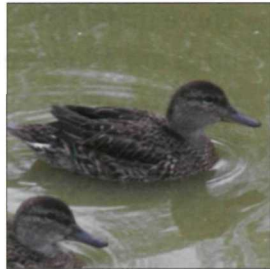
Waterfowl and Shorebirds

American Avocet



Avocets are one of the few birds that have different bill shapes between males and females. (female has upturned, male has a straight bill).

Green-winged Teal



This dabbling duck has a green patch on its wing that is clearly visible when in flight.

Killdeer



Killdeer have a broken wing display that they will do to lead predators away from their bare-ground nest.

Long-Billed Curlew



Their long billed is used to remove food deep in the mud.

Marbled Godwit



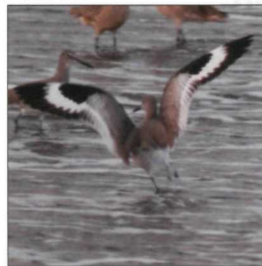
Due to similar colouring and size, it is often confused with the curlew (down turned beak), but has a straight beak.

Northern Shoveler



Shovelers have wide bills and specialized tongues to filter food from muddy water.

Willet



When flushed, look for the striking wing pattern in flight (black and white) and listen for the high-pitched territorial call – WILL WILLET, repeated.

Did You know?

- Birds are decedents of dinosaurs?
- Birds that fly have hollow bones to make them lighter?
- Bird lungs are more efficient than mammal lungs at getting oxygen to the blood?
- Plumage refers to a birds feathers?

Game Birds

Sharp-tailed Grouse



Grouse are well known for their spring mating dances. Look for Grouse along the Frenchman Valley Bottom (Ecotour Stop #5).

Ring-necked Pheasant

These non-native birds were brought to North America for sport. Males display unique,



colourful plumage year round.

Other Birds

Common Nighthawk



This threatened bird is commonly found at the Frenchman Valley Campground. Listen for its unique “snort” as it hunts mosquitos at dusk.

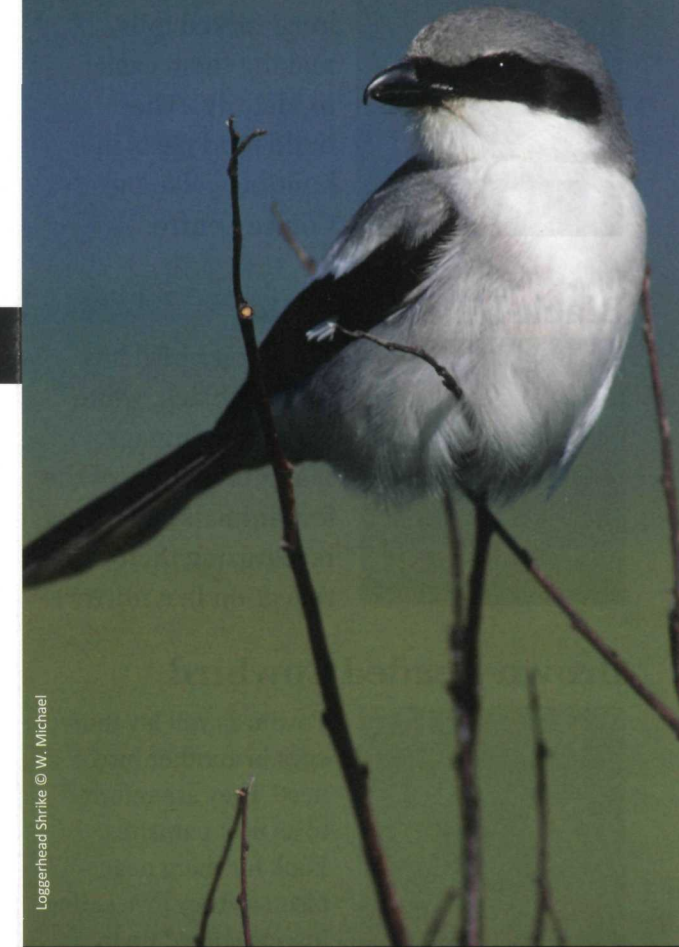
Mourning Dove



This family of birds are the only in North America that can drink water without raising their heads, by using suction.

Birding 101

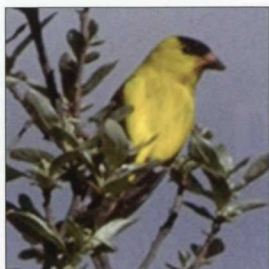
*Beginner's Guide to Birds in
Grasslands National Park*



Loggerhead Shrike © W. Michael

Songbirds

American Goldfinch



Goldfinches will duplicate certain songs of their partners perfectly.

Barn Swallow



Barn Swallows have long, forked tails, making them easier to identify. They build mud nests in buildings, like the Coulee Centre.

Black-billed Magpie



This larger bird has striking black, white and blue plumage. Magpies are one of the few animals capable of recognizing their own reflection in a mirror!

Brown-headed Cowbird



Cowbirds will lay their eggs in another bird's nest! They are referred to as nest parasites. Look for them near bison as they love eating insects stirred up by a herd, or off of a bison's back!

Brown Thrasher



Brown Thrasher males have thousands of different songs that they sing.

Eastern Kingbird



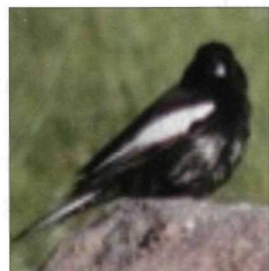
This aggressive bird will defend its area against all predators, and will appear to ride a flying hawk, while pecking its head.

Horned Lark



Horned Larks are one of the first migrant birds to return in February or early March.

Lark Bunting



During breeding the males are distinctive black and white while females look more like sparrows. They are often seen hunting for insects on the ground and on gravel roads.

Red-winged Blackbird



The red shoulder patch is only found on males and is used to maintain territory not to attract females.

Sparrows



Many types of sparrows can be found in the park. Often you only see a glimpse of brown fluttering past you.

Western Kingbird



Western Kingbirds have a courtship display where males fly 15m in the air and tumble down wildly.

Western Meadowlark



Meadowlarks are able to open their bills with enough strength that they can create holes in the ground.

Birds of Prey

Burrowing Owl



Burrowing owls are the size of a pop can & migrate to Mexico every year! They can eat as many as 1500 mice & 10,000 grasshoppers each summer.

Great Horned Owl



These majestic birds are often seen on a high perch at dusk, hunting for mammals (up to rabbit-size).

Northern Harrier



Northern Harriers are the only type of harrier found in North America.

Swainson's Hawk



This hawk migrates to Argentina yearly. This is the longest migration of any hawk.