

The Birds of Carvins Cove



Carvins Cove is a 12,700 acre wilderness area located in Botetourt and Roanoke Counties. This wonderful protected area is the second largest municipal park in the United States and our valley's largest drinking water reservoir! The beautiful mountains and large resevoir make Carvins Cove great for both recreation and wildlife. Keep a lookout for raptors like Bald Eagles or Osprey and any of the other cool birds in this pamphlet!

Male Eastern Bluebird



Eastern Bluebird
Visual ID: Male - Small-sized blue bird with an orange throat and white belly.
 Female - Duller in color, brown to blue on their back and tail, rusty colored throat and chest, white belly.
Sound ID: Low and soft-pitched "tu-a-we" sound.

Female Eastern Bluebird



Male American Goldfinch



American Goldfinch
Visual ID: Male - Yellow, black on wings and head.
 Female - Pale yellowish brown, black and white on wings.
Sound ID: Has a "potato-to-chip" sound.

Female American Goldfinch



Carolina Chickadee
Visual ID: Small-sized bird with black head cap, white cheeks, gray back, wings, and tail.
Sound ID: Has a "chickadee-dee-dee-dee" sound.



Pine Warbler
Visual ID: Small-sized bird with yellow body and head with grey wings with white bars.
Sound ID: Musical and melancholy trill sound.



Dark-Eyed Junco
Visual ID: Small-sized bird with dark gray or slate on their head, back, and wings, light gray on their belly, pale orange bill.
Sound ID: Very high fast trill sound.



Blue-headed Vireo
Visual ID: Small-sized bird with greenish yellow color, blue head, white underparts, two white wing bars.
Sound ID: Has a "hear me, see me, hear I am" sound.



Song Sparrow
Visual ID: Small-sized brown beige bird with a white belly and brown streaking.
Sound ID: Loud song with two to four short notes followed by a trill of notes.



Hermit Thrush
Visual ID: Small-sized bird with brown head and back, reddish tail, pale belly, throat and breast spots.
Sound ID: Melodic "oh, holy holy, ah, purity purity eeh, sweetly sweetly" sound.



Louisiana Waterthrush
Visual ID: Small-sized brown bird with a white and brown striped belly.
Sound ID: Sharp metallic chip sound.

Male Eastern Towhee



Eastern Towhee
Visual ID: Small-sized birds. Male-Black back with white and orange belly. Female- Brown back with white and orange belly.
Sound ID: high-pitched "drink your teeeeee" sound.

Female Eastern Towhee



Male Wild Turkey

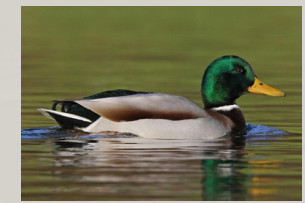


Wild Turkey
Visual ID: Large-sized bird, dark in color, wings barred with white, head/neck varies from red to blue to gray.
Sound ID: Loud, descending shrill with a throaty jumble of sounds.

Female Wild Turkey



Male Mallard



Mallard
Visual ID: Medium-sized water-dwelling bird. Male- Grey body, green reflective head, and a bright yellow bill.
 Female- Beige with brown and white coloration throughout.
Sound ID: Familiar "quack" sound.

Female Mallard

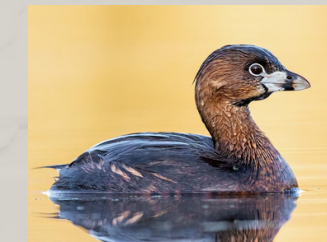


Male Common Merganser



Common Merganser
Visual ID: Male - Large-sized, long white body and green head, red bill with a black tip.
 Female - Orange rusty head with a prominent crest, gray and white splotchy back and wings, red bill.
Sound ID: These birds are mostly silent, but their calls sound like a low raspy "cruck cruck cruck".

Female Common Merganser



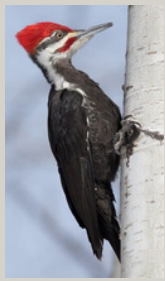
Pied-Billed Grebe
Visual ID: Small-sized and compact bodies, thin necks, large blocky heads, thick bills, no tail, and lobed toes.
Sound ID: Loud series of bleating whoops, coos, and gulping "kuk-kuk-kuk" sounds.



Canada Goose
Visual ID: Large-sized water-dwelling bird with a brown & black back, black and white head, and long black neck.
Sound ID: Familiar loud "honk" sound.

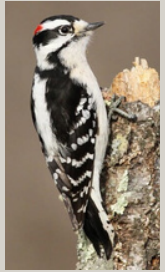


Ring-billed Gull
Visual ID: White head and tail, gray wings with black tips, short orange bill with broad black ring around it.
Sound ID: High-pitched, rising squeal followed by series of short exclamatory points.



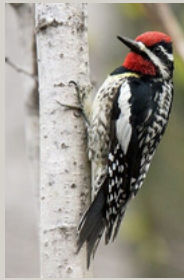
Pileated Woodpecker

Visual ID: Large-sized bird with a black belly, back, and wings. White and black stripes cover the face with a large red crest on head.
Sound ID: Loud "kuk kuk kuk" sound. The drumming on trees is deep and loud lasting several seconds.



Downy Woodpecker

Visual ID: Small-sized bird with a white belly and back and black and white barred wings. Their faces are striped with black and white. Males have a red spot on the back of their head.
Sound ID: High-pitched "pik" sound. Their drumming is a rapid set of strikes.



Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker

Visual ID: Medium-sized birds with black and white barred bodies and wings. Both sexes have a red forehead. Males also have a red throat.
Sound ID: Squealing "quee-ah, quee-ah" sound.



Red-bellied Woodpecker

Visual ID: Large-sized bird with a white belly, black & white barred back/wings, and red crown.
Sound ID: Rolling "kwirr" or "churr" sound.



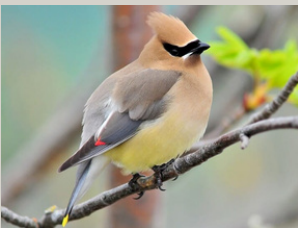
White-breasted Nuthatch

Visual ID: Small-sized bird with a white belly and grey and black wings. Often seen climbing headfirst down tree trunks.
Sound ID: Loud laughing sound.



Northern Flicker

Visual ID: Large-size brown bird with spots on belly, large black chest spot, red spot on back of head, long beak, and yellow/orange under wings.
Sound ID: Loud single-note "kyeer" sound.



Cedar Waxwing

Visual ID: Medium-sized grey and beige bird with a white and yellow belly, black mask, and beige crest.
Sound ID: Very high pitched whistley "bezeeee" sound.

Male Cardinal



Northern Cardinal

Visual ID: Male - Red with a black mask. Female - Dull brown with some red on their wings and tail. Both are medium-sized birds and have crests.
Sound ID: Has a "chip", melodic "cheeeeee cheeeeee" followed by a trill, or a "pew pew" sound.

Female Cardinal



Male Red-winged Blackbird



Red-Winged Blackbird

Visual ID: Medium-sized birds. Male- Black body with a red shoulder patch. Female- Brown and beige striped body with a slightly red shoulder patch.
Sound ID: Scratchy "conk-a-ree" sound.

Female Red-winged Blackbird



American Crow

Visual ID: Large-sized black bird with a large black bill.
Sound ID: Screeching "caw caw caw" sound.



Blue Jay

Visual ID: Medium-sized bird with a white chest and a blue back. Wings are blue with black and white bars. Black ring around the neck to the back of their blue crest.
Sound ID: Loud "jeer" sound.



Eastern Phoebe

Visual ID: Small-sized brown bird with a white belly.
Sound ID: High-pitched "phoebe phoebe" sound.



Carolina Wren

Visual ID: Small-sized bird with rusty brown back, light rusty belly and chest, white eye stripe, white throat and distinct white eye stripe.
Sound ID: High pitched quick whistley "teakettle teakettle" sound.



Osprey

Visual ID: Large-sized bird with dark brown and black wings, white chest and belly, brown lines across head and eyes, dark hooked beak.
Sound ID: High pitched whistley sound.

Adult Bald Eagle



Bald Eagle

Visual ID: Large-sized bird with white head and tail, dark brown body. Juveniles have white showing in the wing pit area.
Sound ID: Weak-sounding sound. Usually a series of high-pitched whistling or piping notes.

Juvenile Bald Eagle



American Kestrel

Visual ID: Small-sized falcon with rust and black splotches on backs, black tail, and blue wings.
Sound ID: Has a "klee" or "killy" sound repeated 3-6 times.



Tufted Titmouse

Visual ID: Small-sized grey bird with a white belly and rusty orange patch under the wing. Grey tuft on the head with a black beak.
Sound ID: High-pitched "peter peter" sound.



Mourning Dove

Visual ID: Medium-sized bird with round body, long neck, small head, cream in color with long tails that are edged with white in flight. Similar shape and size to a pigeon.
Sound ID: Distinctive "coo coo coo" sound. Don't mistake for an owl!

For more information on basic birding skills, sound identification, and visual identification follow this QR code to All About Birds by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



Additionally, the Merlin Bird ID and eBird apps by Cornell allow you to record sounds and use descriptions of birds to identify them. They are great resources for all levels of birders!

Pamphlet created by students at Virginia Tech. All images sourced from All About Birds and Cypress Utley.