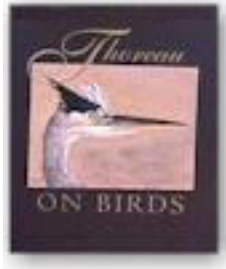


# Guide to Thoreau's Birds<sup>1</sup>



~~Ae~~adian Owl (Northern Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius acadicus*)  
**American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus* (~~Great Bittern~~)  
American Coot *Fulica americana* (~~Marsh Hen~~) (~~einerus~~) (~~oot~~) [Thoreau saw in Minnesota]  
**American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*  
**American Goldfinch** *Carduelis tristis*  
~~American Linnet~~ (**Purple Finch** *Carpodacus purpureus*)  
American Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*  
**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*  
**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*  
American Tree Sparrow *Spizella arborea*  
**American Woodcock** *Scolopax minor*  
~~Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker~~ (**Black-backed Woodpecker** *Picoides arcticus*)  
Auk, Little (Dovekie *Alle alle*)  
**Auk, Great** (~~rarefowl~~) *Pinguinis impennis* (extinct)  
**Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (~~White-headed Eagle~~)  
**Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia*  
**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*  
**Barred Owl** *Strix varia*  
~~Bay-wing~~ (**Vesper Sparrow** *Pooecetes gramineus*)  
~~Beach-bird~~ (Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*)  
~~Beleher-squeleher~~ (**American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus*)  
**Belted Kingfisher** *Ceryle alcyon*  
Bicknell's Thrush: We believe that, in the White Mountains, Thoreau heard this subspecies of the Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*.

## Bitterns

**American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus* (~~Great Bittern~~)  
~~Green Bittern, Small Bittern~~ (**Green-backed Heron** *Butorides striatus*)  
Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis*  
[**American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus*]  
~~Black-and-white Warbler~~ *Mniotilta varia* (~~Black-and-white Creeper~~)  
**Black-backed Woodpecker** *Picoides arcticus*  
~~Black-billed Cuckoo~~ *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (~~St. Domingo Cuckoo~~)

## Blackbirds

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater* (~~Cow Blackbird, Cow Bunting, Cow-pen Bird, Cow-Troopial, Cow-troopial~~)  
**Common Grackle** *Quiscalus quiscula* (~~Crow Blackbird~~)

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1. Obsolete names have a line through them.



Red-winged Blackbird  *Agelaius phoeniceus*  
Rusty Blackbird  *Euphagus carolinus*

**Blackburnian Warbler** *Dendroica fusca*


~~Black Grouse~~ (Spruce Grouse *Dendragapus canadensis*)

~~Blackpoll Warbler~~ *Dendroica striata*

~~Black Scoter~~ *Melanitta nigra* (eoot)

**Black-throated Blue** Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens* (Indigo-bird)<sup>2</sup>

~~Black-throated Green Warbler~~ *Dendroica virens* (Evergreen-forest-bird)

**Bluebird, Eastern**  *Sialia sialis*

~~Blue Heron~~ (Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*)

**Blue Jay** *Cyanocitta cristata*

~~Blue yellow-backed Warbler~~ (Northern Parula *Parula americana*)

**Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

**Bobwhite, Northern** *Colinus virginianus* (Quail)

~~Bonaparte's Gull~~ *Larus philadelphia* (Black-headed Gull)

~~Brant~~ *Branta bernicla*

**Brown Creeper** *Certhia americana*

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*

~~Brown Snipe or Wilson's Snipe~~ (Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*)

**Brown Thrasher**  *Toxostoma rufum*

**Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* (Spirit Duck or Buffle-head Duck or Butterball or Spirit Dipper or Woolhead)

**Buntings**

~~Black-throated Bunting~~ (Dickcissel *Spiza americana*) [Thoreau saw on Cape Cod]

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea* Indigo-bird

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis* Snow-bird, Arctic

~~Butcher-bird~~ (Northern Shrike *Lanius excubitor*)

~~Buzzard, Red-shouldered~~ (Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*)

~~Buzzard, Turkey~~ (Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*) [Thoreau saw above Lake Calhoun in Minnesota]

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis* (Wild Goose)


~~Canada Jay~~ (Gray Jay *Perisoreus canadensis*)

~~Canada Warbler~~ *Wilsonia canadensis*


~~Cape Eagle~~ (Goshawk *Accipiter gentillis*)

**Catbird, Gray** *Dumetella carolinensis*

~~Cat Owl~~ (Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*)


~~Cherry-bird~~ (Cedar Waxwing  *Bombycilla cedrorum*)

~~Chestnut-sided Warbler~~ *Dendroica pensylvanica* [Thoreau saw in Minnesota]

~~Chewink~~ (Rufous-sided Towhee  *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)

**Chicadee, Black-capped** *Parus atricapillus* Titmouse, Titmice

~~Chicken, Mother-Carey's~~ (Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanites*)

~~chip-bird~~ (Chipping Sparrow  *Spizella passerina*)

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* (chip-bird or hair-bird)

~~cinereus~~ (American Coot *Fulica americana*) (Marsh Hen) (eoot) [Thoreau saw in Minnesota]

**Cliff Swallow** *Hirundo pyrrhonta*

~~Cock, Heath~~ or Heath Hen or Greater Prairie-Chicken *Tympanuchus cupido cupido*

~~Common Eider~~ *Somateria mollissima* (Eider Duck)

**Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser* (*Shecorway*<sup>3</sup> or Goosander or Sheldrake)

**Common Nighthawk**  *Chordeiles minor*

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* (Brown Snipe or Wilson's Snipe)

2. Thoreau's "indigo-bird" of May 4, 1853, was a Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*.

3. *Shecorway* is the Abenaki name for mergansers.



## THOREAU'S

## BIRDS



Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (~~Sea Swallow or Mackerel Gull~~)<sup>4</sup>  
**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* (~~Maryland Yellowthroat~~)  
Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis*  
Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*  
Coot, American *Fulica americana* (~~Marsh Hen~~) (*einerus*) (~~coot~~) [Thoreau saw in Minnesota]  
Cormorant, Double-crested *Phalacrocorax auritus*  
**Cowbird, Brown-headed** *Molothrus ater*  
~~Coween~~ (~~Oldsquaw~~ *Clangula hyemalis*)  
~~Cowtroopial~~ (~~Brown-headed Cowbird~~ *Molothrus ater*)

### Creepers

~~Black and white Creeper~~ (~~Black-and-white Warbler~~ *Mniotilta varia*)  
**Brown Creeper** *Certhia americana*  
~~Pine Creeper~~ (~~Pine Warbler~~ *Dendroica pinus*)

**Crossbill, Red** *Loxia curvirostra*

### Crows

~~Crow blackbird~~ (~~Common Grackle~~  *Quiscalus quiscula*)  
**Crow, American**  *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

### Cuckoos

~~Black-billed Cuckoo~~ *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (~~St. Domingo Cuckoo~~)  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*

**Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis* (~~Slate-colored Sparrow or Snow-bird~~)  
Dickcissel *Spiza americana* [Thoreau saw on Cape Cod]

### Dipper, Little

**Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*  
**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* (or Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*)  
Red-necked **Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

~~Diver or Great Northern Diver~~ (~~Common Loon~~ *Gavia immer*)

**Dove, Mourning** *Zenaida macroura* (~~Turtle Dove~~)  
Dovekie *Alle alle*

**Downy Woodpecker** *Picoides pubescens*

### Ducks

**Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* (~~Dusky Duck~~)  
Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra* (~~coot~~)<sup>5</sup>  
**Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* (~~Spirit Duck or Buffle-head Duck~~)  
Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* (~~Eider Duck~~)  
Pintail Duck *Anas acuta* (~~Spindle-tail Duck~~)  
Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (~~Surf Duck~~) (~~coot~~)  
White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (~~Velvet Duck~~) (~~coot~~)  
**Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*  
Labrador Duck *Camptorhynchus labradorius* (last known individual was "taken" in 1875 on Long Island)

### Eagles

4. Fishermen along the New England coast also refer to the Arctic Tern and Roseate Tern as "Mackerel Gulls."

5. All three American species of Scoter (Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*, and White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca*) occur in New England and are referred to as "coots" by duck hunters.



## THOREAU'S

## BIRDS

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (White-headed Eagle)  
Goshawk *Accipiter gentillis* (Cape Eagle or Partridge Hawk)  
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (Fish Eagle or Fish Hawk)

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*  
Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*  
Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* (Lark)  
Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*  
Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens* (Wood-Pewee or Peewee or Peawai)  
Eider, Common *Somateria mollissima* (Eider Duck)  
Election-bird or Election Day Bird (Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* and American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*)  
European sparrow (Thoreau never saw this bird.)  
European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (Thoreau never saw this bird.)  
Evergreen-forest bird (Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens*)  
Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla* (Rush Sparrow or *juncorum* or George Minott's huckleberry-bird)

### Finchs

American Goldfinch *Carduelis tristis*  
Grass-Finch (Vesper Sparrow *Poocetes gramineus*)  
Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus* (American linnet)  
Finch-Towhee (Rufous-sided Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) (Towhee-Finch)

Fiery Hangbird (Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula*)  
Fire never-redder (Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*)  
Fish Hawk or Fish Eagle (Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*)  
Flicker, Yellow-shafted *Colaptes auratus*

### Flycatchers

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus* (Small Pewee) [Thoreau's small pewee *Muscicapa acadica* of the Maine woods was probably the Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*.]  
Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus borealis* (Pe-pe)  
Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*

Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca* (Fox-colored Sparrow or cinnamon sparrow)  
*Fringilla* (or *F.*) or *linaria* (Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*) (or Lesser Redpoll or Red-crown)  
Frog Hawk or Hen-Harrier (Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*) Marsh hawk  
garefowl (Great Auk) *Pinguinis impennis* (extinct)  
Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa* (Golden-crested Wren)  
Night-warbler (Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus*, or Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*?)<sup>6</sup>  
Goldeneye, Common *Bucephala clangula*  
Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*  
Golden-winged Woodpecker (Yellow-shafted Flicker *Colaptes auratus*)  
Goldfinch, American *Carduelis tristis*  
Gold Robin or Golden Robin (Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula*)  
Goosander (Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* (*Shecorway*<sup>7</sup> or Sheldrake)  
Goose-Wild (Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*)  
Goshawk *Accipiter gentillis* (Cape Eagle or Partridge Hawk)

### Grackles

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*  
Rusty Grackle (Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus*)

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6. Thoreau was never sure about his night warbler. Though on August 5, 1858, he identified the Common Yellowthroat as his mysterious singer, Cruickshank says on most occasions it was probably the Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus* giving its aerial song.  
7. *Shecorway* is the Abenaki name for mergansers.

Grass Finch or Grass-bird (**Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus***)  
 Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* (~~Yellow-winged Sparrow or Savannarum or savanna~~)  
**Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis***  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*  
 Gray Jay *Perisoreus canadensis* (~~Canada Jay~~)  
**Great Auk (~~garefowl~~) *Pinguinis impennis*** (extinct)  
 Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*  
**Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*** (~~Blue Heron~~)  
 Great Northern Diver (**Common Loon *Gavia immer***)  
 Greater Prairie-Chicken *Tympanuchus cupido* (~~Pinnated Grouse~~)

**Grebes**

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*  
 Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (or Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*)  
 Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Green-backed Heron *Butorides striatus* (~~Green Bittern, Small Bittern~~)

**Grosbeaks**

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator*  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

Ground-bird,<sup>8</sup> Ground-robin, Chewink (**Rufous-sided Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus***)

**Grouses**

Greater Prairie-Chicken *Tympanuchus cupido cupido* (~~Pinnated Grouse or Heath-Cock~~)  
**Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus*** (Partridge)  
 Spruce Grouse *Dendragapus canadensis* (~~Black Grouse~~)



**Gulls**

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* (~~Black-headed Gull~~)  
 Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (~~Sea Swallow or Mackerel Gull~~)<sup>9</sup>  
 Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*  
**Herring Gull *Larus argentatus***

hair-bird (Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*) ~~F-socialis~~

**Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus***

Hangbird (Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula*)

Harrier (Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*) Marsh Hawk

**Hawks ("Skyscrapers")**

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*  
**Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*** (Cape Eagle or Partridge Hawk)  
**Merlin *Falco columbarius***  
 Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus* (~~Hen Harrier or Frog Hawk~~)  
 Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (Fish Eagle or Fish Hawk)  
 Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus* (Hen Hawk)  
 Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* (Hen Hawk)  
 Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus*  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*



8. Thoreau occasionally used this term for such ground-feeding birds as Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*, Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*, and Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus*.

9. Fishermen along the New England coast also refer to the Arctic Tern and Roseate Tern as "Mackerel Gulls."



Sparrow Hawk  *Falco sparverius*  
 Guadalupe caracara  *Polyborus lutosus*



~~Heath-hen~~ (Greater Prairie-Chicken *Tympanuchus cupido cupido*)  
 Hen Harrier or Frog Hawk (Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*) Marsh hawk  
 Hen Hawk (Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*) or (Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*)  
 Hen, Marsh (American Coot *Fulica americana*) (~~emereus~~) (~~coot~~) [Thoreau saw in Minnesota]  
 Hen, Meadow (Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola*)  
 Hen, Mud (Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris*) [Thoreau saw in Minnesota]  
 Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*

### Hérons

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* (~~Blue Heron~~)  
 Green-backed Heron *Butorides striatus* (~~Green Bittern~~, ~~Small Bittern~~)

Herring Gull  *Larus argentatus*

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* (or Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*)


Hoop Owl or Hooting Owl (Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*)

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* (~~Shore Lark~~)

~~Huckleberry bird~~ (Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla*)

Humility (a general term used by early colonists for the larger shorebirds of New England, such as willets and yellow-legs)

Hummingbird, Ruby-throated  *Archilochus colubris*

~~Indigo bird~~ (Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*)<sup>10</sup>

### Jays

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*  
 Gray Jay *Perisoreus canadensis* (~~Canada Jay~~)

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* (~~Slate-colored Sparrow~~ or ~~Snow-bird~~)

~~Junco~~ (Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla*)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* [Thoreau saw in Minnesota]

Kingbird, Eastern  *Tyrannus tyrannus*

Kingfisher, Belted  *Ceryle alcyon*

### Kinglets

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa* (~~Golden-crested Wren~~)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula* (~~Ruby-crested Wren~~)

Kittiwake, Black-legged *Rissa tridactyla*

### Larks

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* (~~Shore Lark~~)

~~Lark~~ (Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*)

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis*

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus* (~~Small Pewee~~) [Thoreau's small pewee *Muscicapa acadica* of

the Maine woods was probably the Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*.]

~~Linaria~~ or ~~Fringilla~~ (or ~~F~~) ~~Linaria~~ (Common Redpoll  *Carduelis flammea*) (or ~~Lesser Redpoll~~ or ~~Red-crown~~)

~~Linnet, American~~ (Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus*)

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

### Loons

Common Loon *Gavia immer* (~~Diver~~ or ~~Great Northern Diver~~)

10. Thoreau's "indigo-bird" of May 4, 1853, was a Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*.

**Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*)**

Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla*

~~Mackerel Gull~~ (Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*) (or ~~Sea Swallow~~)<sup>11</sup>

~~Magnolia Warbler~~ *Dendroica magnolia* (~~Black and yellow Warbler~~)

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

~~Marsh hawk~~ ~~Hen Harrier~~ or ~~Frog Hawk~~ (**Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus***)

~~Marsh hen~~ (American Coot *Fulica americana*) (~~emereus~~) (~~coot~~) [Thoreau saw in Minnesota]

Martin, Purple *Progne subis*

~~Maryland yellow-throat~~ (**Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas***)

Mavis, red (**Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum***)

~~Meadow hen~~ (Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola*)


**Meadowlarks**

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* (~~Lark~~)

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta* [In Minnesota, Thoreau called it "Audubon's western lark" ]

*melodia* (Song Sparrow  *Melospiza melodia*)

**Mergansers**

Common Merganser  *Mergus merganser* (~~Shecorway~~<sup>12</sup> or ~~Goosander~~ or ~~Sheldrake~~)

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

**Merlin *Falco columbarius*** (~~Pigeon Hawk~~)

Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*


~~Mother Carey's Chicken~~ (Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanites*)



**Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*** (~~Turtle Dove~~)

~~Mud hen~~ (Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris*) [Thoreau saw in Minnesota]


~~Myrtle bird~~ (**Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata***)

Nashville Warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla*

**Nighthawk, Common**  *Chordeiles minor* (Booming Nighthawk)

**Night warbler** (~~Ovenbird~~  *Seiurus aurocapillus*, or **Common Yellowthroat**  *Geothlypis trichas?*)<sup>13</sup>

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus* (~~Hen Harrier~~ or ~~Frog Hawk~~) ~~Marsh hawk~~

**Northern Oriole**  *Icterus galbula* (~~Fiery Hangbird~~ or ~~Hangbird~~ or ~~Gold Robin~~ or ~~Golden Robin~~)

~~Northern Shrike~~ *Lanius excubitor* (~~Butcher bird~~)

**Nuthatches**


Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis* (~~Red-bellied Nuthatch~~)

~~White-breasted Nuthatch~~ *Sitta carolinensis* (~~White-bellied Nuthatch~~)



**Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus***

**Oldsquaw *Clangula hyemalis***

**Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus borealis*** (~~Pe-pe~~)

**Oriole, Northern**  *Icterus galbula* (~~Fiery Hangbird~~ or ~~Hangbird~~ or ~~Gold Robin~~ or ~~Golden Robin~~)

**Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*** (~~Fish Eagle~~ or ~~Fish Hawk~~)

**Night warbler** (~~Ovenbird~~  *Seiurus aurocapillus*, or **Common Yellowthroat**  *Geothlypis trichas?*)<sup>14</sup>

**Owls **

11. Fishermen along the New England coast also refer to the Arctic Tern and Roseate Tern as "Mackerel Gulls."

12. *Shecorway* is the Abenaki name for mergansers.

13. Thoreau was never sure about his night warbler. Though on August 5, 1858, he identified the Common Yellowthroat as his mysterious singer, Cruickshank says on most occasions it was probably the Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus* giving its aerial song.

14. Thoreau was never sure about his night warbler. Though on August 5, 1858, he identified the Common Yellowthroat as his mysterious singer, Cruickshank says on most occasions it was probably the Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus* giving its aerial song.





**Barred Owl** *Strix varia*  
**Eastern Screech-Owl** *Otus asio* Red Owl  
**Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus* Hoot Owl or Cat Owl or Hooting Owl<sup>15</sup>  
**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*  
Northern Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius acadicus* Acadian Owl  
Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*  
Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* White Owl  
Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

**Palm Warbler** *Dendroica palmarum* (Yellow Redpoll or *Sylvia petechia*)  
Parti-colored Warbler or Parti-colored bird (Northern Parula *Parula americana*)  
**Partridge** (Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus*)  
**Partridge Hawk** (Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*) (Cape Eagle)  
**American Passenger Pigeon** *Ectopistes migratorius* (Pigeon, Wild)<sup>16</sup>  
*passerina* (Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*)  
**Peetweet** (Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*)  
**Pe-pe** (Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus borealis*)  
**Petrel, Wilson's** (Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanites*)

### Pewees

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** *Contopus virens* (Wood-Pewee or Peawai)  
**Bridge-Pewee** (Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*)  
**Small-Pewee** (Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*) [Thoreau's small pewee *Muscicapa acadica* of the Maine woods was probably the Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*.]

Phalarope (No clue to species given)

**Phoebe, Eastern** *Sayornis phoebe*  
**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* (or Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*)  
**Pigeon Hawk** (Merlin *Falco columbarius*)  
**Pigeon, Wild** (American Passenger Pigeon *Ectopistes migratorius*)<sup>17</sup>  
**Pigeon-Woodpecker** (Yellow-shafted Flicker *Colaptes auratus*)  
**Pileated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus pileatus*  
**Pine Grosbeak** *Pinicola enucleator*  
**Pine Warbler** *Dendroica pinus* (Pine Creeper)  
**Pinguinis impennis** Great Auk (~~rarefowl~~) (extinct)  
**Pinnated Grouse** (Greater Prairie-Chicken *Tympanuchus cupido*)  
**Pintail Duck** *Anas acuta* (Spindle-tail Duck)  
**Pipit, American** *Anthus spinoletta*

### Plovers

Lesser Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica*  
Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*  
**Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda*  
**Wilson's Plover** (Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*) [Thoreau saw in Minnesota]

Prairie-Chicken, Greater *Tympanuchus cupido* (Pinnated Grouse)

**Purple Finch** *Carpodacus purpureus* (American Linnet)  
Purple Martin *Progne subis*  
**Quail** (Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*)

### Rails

~~Rail bird~~<sup>18</sup>

15. Barred Owls which give eight hoots divided into two groups of four notes each are also commonly called hoot owls. But Thoreau, in describing the call of his hoot owls, stated that they gave five hoots. Therefore he heard the Great Horned Owl.

16. Now extinct.

17. Now extinct.





~~Carolina Rail~~ (Sora *Porzana carolina*)  
~~Clapper Rail~~ *Rallus longirostris* (~~Mud Hen~~) [Thoreau saw in Minnesota]  
~~Virginia Rail~~ *Rallus limicola* (~~Meadow Hen~~)

Raven, Common *Corvus corax*  
~~Red-bird~~ (Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*)  
Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*  
Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis* (~~Red-bellied Nuthatch~~)  
**Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*  
~~Red-crown~~ (*linaria* or *Fringilla* (or *F.*) *linaria* **Common Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*) (or ~~Lesser Redpoll~~)  
**Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea*  
~~Red-Election-bird~~ (Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*)  
**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* (~~red-eye~~)  
**Red-headed Woodpecker** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*  
~~Red-mavis~~ (**Brown Thrasher** *Toxostoma rufum*)  
Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*  
~~Red-Owl~~ Eastern Screech-Owl *Otus asio*

### Redpolls

~~Lesser Redpoll~~ (~~Red-crown~~ or *linaria* or *Fringilla* (or *F.*) *linaria* **Common Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*)  
~~Yellow Redpoll~~ or Sylvia petechia (Palm Warbler *Dendroica palmarum*)

~~Red-shouldered Hawk~~ *Buteo lineatus* (~~Hen Hawk~~)  
~~Redstart~~, American *Setophaga ruticilla*  
~~Red-shouldered Hawk~~ *Buteo lineatus* (~~Hen Hawk~~)  
~~Red-tailed Hawk~~ *Buteo jamaicensis* (~~Hen Hawk~~)  
**Red-throated Loon** *Gavia stellata*  
~~Red-wing~~ (~~Red-winged Blackbird~~ *Agelaius phoeniceus*)<sup>19</sup>  
~~Rice-bird~~ (**Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

### Robins

~~American Robin~~ *Turdus migratorius*  
~~Gold Robin~~ or ~~Golden Robin~~ (Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula*)  
~~Ground robin~~ (~~Rufous-sided Towhee~~ *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)

~~Rose-breasted Grosbeak~~ *Pheucticus ludovicianus*  
~~Rough-legged Hawk~~ *Buteo lagopus*  
~~Ruby-crowned Kinglet~~ *Regulus calendula* (~~Ruby-crested Wren~~)  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris*  
~~Rush Sparrow~~ (~~Field Sparrow~~ *Spizella pusilla*)  
~~St. Domingo Cuckoo~~ (~~Black-billed Cuckoo~~ *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*)  
~~Sanderling~~ *Calidris alba*

### Sandpipers

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*  
Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*  
**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia*  
**Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda*

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18. May refer to any of the rails of Concord including the King Rail *Rallus elegans*, which Thoreau never mentioned in his writings.  
19. The "Red Wing" chieftainship of Red Wing, Minnesota did not refer to the red wing of this blackbird, but referred rather to a swan's wing dyed red that was the badge of office of the chiefly dynasty.




Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* (~~seringo~~ or ~~seringo-bird~~ or *passerina*)

### Scoters

- Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra* (~~coot~~)<sup>20</sup>
- Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (~~Surf Duck~~) (~~coot~~)
- White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (~~Velvet Duck~~) (~~coot~~)
- ~~Velvet Scoter~~ (European, similar to White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca*)

Scaups, Greater *Aythya marila* and Lesser *Aythya affinis*

~~Sea-swallow~~ (Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*) (or ~~Mackerel Gull~~)<sup>21</sup>

~~Seringo~~ (Thoreau frequently called the Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* the ~~seringo~~ or ~~seringo-bird~~, but he also applied the name to other small birds. At least once he spoke of the “seringo,” that is to say the “song” or “serenade,” of the Cedar Waxwing  *Bombycilla cedrorum*)

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*

~~Shecorway~~ (Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* (or ~~Goosander~~ or ~~Sheldrake~~)<sup>22</sup>

~~Sheldrake~~ (Both Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* and Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* are called sheldrakes, but Thoreau used this name for the Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*.)

~~Shore-lark~~ (Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*)

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

~~Shrike, Northern~~ *Lanius excubitor* (~~Butcher-bird~~)

~~Slate-colored Sparrow~~ (Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*)

~~Small Bittern~~ (Green-backed Heron *Butorides striatus*) (~~Green Bittern~~)

~~Snipe, Common~~ *Gallinago gallinago* (~~Brown Snipe~~ or ~~Wilson's Snipe~~)

~~Snow-bird~~ (Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* (Slate-colored Sparrow))

~~Snow-bird, Arctic~~ (Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*)


~~Snowy Owl~~ *Nyctea scandiaca* ~~White Owl~~


Song Sparrow  *Melospiza melodia* (~~melodia~~ or ~~three-spotted~~)


~~Sora~~ *Porzana carolina*


### Sparrows


Sparrow  *Fringillidae*


American Tree Sparrow  *Spizella arborea*


Chipping Sparrow  *Spizella passerina* (~~chip-bird~~ or ~~hair-bird~~)

Dark-eyed Junco  *Junco hyemalis* (~~Slate-colored Sparrow~~ or ~~Snow-bird~~ or *F. Hyemalis*)

Field Sparrow  *Spizella pusilla* (~~Rush Sparrow~~ or ~~juncoorum~~ or ~~Huckleberry-bird~~)


Fox Sparrow  *Passerella iliaca* (~~Fox-colored Sparrow~~)

Grasshopper Sparrow  *Ammodramus savannarum* (~~Yellow-winged Sparrow~~ or ~~Savannarum~~ or ~~savanna~~)

Savannah Sparrow  *Passerculus sandwichensis* (~~seringo~~ or ~~seringo-bird~~ or *passerina*)

Song Sparrow  *Melospiza melodia* (~~melodia~~)



Swamp Sparrow  *Melospiza georgiana*

Vesper Sparrow  *Pooecetes gramineus* (~~Bay-wing~~ or ~~White-in-tail~~ or ~~Grass-Finch~~ or ~~Grass-bird~~)


White-throated Sparrow  *Zonotrichia albicollis*

European  sparrow (Thoreau never saw this bird.)

Sparrow Hawk *Falco sparverius*

Spruce Grouse  *Dendragapus canadensis* (~~Black Grouse~~) 

~~Stake-driver~~ (American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus*)

Starling, European  *Sturnus vulgaris* (Thoreau never saw this bird.)

~~Storm-Petrel~~ (Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanites*)

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (~~Surf Duck~~) (~~coot~~)

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*

20. All three American species of Scoter (Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*, and White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca*) occur in New England and are referred to as “coots” by duck hunters.

21. Fishermen along the New England coast also refer to the Arctic Tern and Roseate Tern as “Mackerel Gulls.”

22. *Shecorway* is the Abenaki name for mergansers.

**Swallows**

- Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*
- Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
- Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* (Chimney Swallow)
- Cliff Swallow *Hirundo pyrrhonta* (Republican Swallow)
- Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* (White-bellied Swallow)

Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana*

Swan, Tundra *Cygnus columbianus*

Swift, Chimney *Chaetura pelagica*

*Sylvia paradalina* (Canada Warbler *Wilsonia canadensis*) and *Sylvia striata* (Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*)

*Sylvia petechia* or Yellow Redpoll (Palm Warbler *Dendroica palmarum*)


Tanager, Scarlet *Piranga olivacea*

Tattler, Solitary (Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*)

Teal, Blue-winged *Anas discors* and Green-winged *Anas crecca*



Tell-tale (Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*; Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*) [Thoreau saw lesser at Minnehaha Falls in Minnesota]

Tern, Common *Sterna hirundo* (Sea Swallow or Mackerel Gull)<sup>23</sup>

Thrasher, Brown  *Toxostoma rufum* (Mavis, red)

Three-toed Woodpecker, Arctic (Black-backed Woodpecker *Picoides arcticus*)

**Thrushs**

Night warbler (Ovenbird  *Seiurus aurocapillus*, or Common Yellowthroat  *Geothlypis trichas?*)<sup>24</sup>

Gray-checked Thrush *Catharus minimus*

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*

Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla*

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*

Veery *Catharus fuscescens* (Wilson's Thrush or Yoricke)

Golden Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*

Tinker (Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris*) [Thoreau saw in Minnesota]

Titlark (American Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*)

Titmouse, Titmice (Black-capped Chickadee *Parus atricapillus*)

Towhee Finch (Rufous-sided Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) (Finch Towhee)

Tree Sparrow, American *Spizella arborea*

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*


Tropical Cow (Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*)

Turtle Dove (Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*)

Tweezer-bird (Northern Parula *Parula americana*)

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*

Veery *Catharus fuscescens* (Wilson's Thrush)

Vesper Sparrow  *Pooecetes gramineus* (Bay-wing or White-in-tail or Grass Finch or Grass-bird)

**Vireos**

Red-eyed Vireo  *Vireo olivaceus* (red-eye)

Solitary Vireo *Vireo solitarius*

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

23. Fishermen along the New England coast also refer to the Arctic Tern and Roseate Tern as "Mackerel Gulls."

24. Thoreau was never sure about his night warbler. Though on August 5, 1858, he identified the Common Yellowthroat as his mysterious singer, Cruickshank says on most occasions it was probably the Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus* giving its aerial song.



Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola* (Meadow Hen)

Vulture, Turkey *Cathartes aura* [Thoreau saw above Lake Calhoun in Minnesota]

### Warblers

- Black-and-white Warbler ■ ~~*Mniotilta varia* (Black-and-white Creeper)~~
- Blackburnian Warbler ■ *Dendroica fusca*
- Blackpoll Warbler ■ *Dendroica striata*
- Black-throated Blue Warbler ■ *Dendroica caerulescens* (Indigo bird)<sup>25</sup>
- Black-throated Green Warbler ■ *Dendroica virens* (Evergreen forest bird)
- ~~Blue-yellow-backed Warbler (Northern Parula ■ *Parula americana*)~~
- Brown Creeper ■ *Certhia americana*
- Canada Warbler ■ *Wilsonia canadensis*
- Chestnut-sided Warbler ■ *Dendroica pensylvanica* [Thoreau saw in ■ Minnesota]
- Connecticut Warbler ■ *Oporornis agilis*
- Golden-winged Warbler ■ *Vermivora chrysoptera*
- Magnolia Warbler ■ *Dendroica magnolia* (Black-and-yellow Warbler)
- Nashville Warbler ■ *Vermivora ruficapilla*
- Night warbler (Ovenbird ■ *Seiurus aurocapillus*, also Common Yellowthroat ■ *Geothlypis trichas?*)<sup>26</sup>
- Palm Warbler ■ *Dendroica palmarum* (Yellow-Redpoll or *Sylvia petechia*)
- ~~Parti-colored Warbler or Parti-colored bird (Northern Parula ■ *Parula americana*)~~
- Pine Warbler ■ *Dendroica pinus* (Pine Creeper)
- Yellow Warbler ■ *Dendroica petechia* (Yellow-bird or Summer Yellow-bird)
- Yellow-rumped Warbler ■ *Dendroica coronata* (Myrtle-bird)

Waterthrush, Louisiana *Seiurus motacilla*

### Waxwings

- Black-throated Waxwing (Dickcissel *Spiza americana*)
- Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* (Cherry-bird)

Whip-poor-will ■ *Caprimulgus vociferus*

Whistler (Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*)

White-breasted Nuthatch ■ *Sitta carolinensis* (White-bellied Nuthatch)

White-headed Eagle (Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

White-in-tail (Vesper Sparrow *Poocetes gramineus*)

White Owl (Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*) [Thoreau did not describe]

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*

White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (Velvet Duck) (eoot)

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*

Wilson's Snipe or Brown Snipe (Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*)

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanites* (Chicken, Mother-Carey's)

Wilson's Thrush (Veery *Catharus fuscescens*)

Woodcock, American ■ *Scolopax minor*

Wood Duck ■ *Aix sponsa*

### Woodpeckers ■

Black-backed Woodpecker ■ *Picoides arcticus* (Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker)

Downy Woodpecker ■ *Picoides pubescens*

Hairy Woodpecker ■ *Picoides villosus*

Pileated Woodpecker ■ *Dryocopus pileatus*





25. Thoreau's "indigo-bird" of May 4, 1853 was a black-throated blue warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*.


26. Thoreau was never sure about his night warbler ■. Though on August 5, 1858, he identified the Common Yellowthroat as his mysterious singer, Cruickshank says on most occasions it was probably the Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus* giving its aerial song.








# THOREAU'S

# BIRDS


- Red-headed Woodpecker  *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*
- Ivory-billed Woodpecker  *Campephilus principalis* ~~Lord God Bird~~
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  *Sphyrapicus varius* ~~Sap-Sucker~~
- Yellow-shafted Flicker  *Colaptes auratus* (~~Golden-winged Woodpecker~~ or ~~Pigeon Woodpecker~~)

Wood-Pewee, Eastern *Contopus virens* (~~Wood Pewee~~ or ~~Peawai~~)  
 Wood Thrush  *Hylocichla mustelina*

## Wrens

- Golden-crowned Kinglet  *Regulus satrapa* (~~Golden-crested Wren~~)
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet  *Regulus calendula* (~~Ruby-crested Wren~~)
- Marsh Wren  *Cistothorus palustris*
- Sedge Wren  *Cistothorus platensis*
- Winter Wren  *Troglodytes troglodytes*



Yellow-Bellied sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius* ~~Sap-Sucker~~  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*  
 Yellow-bird or Summer Yellow-bird (Yellow Warbler  *Dendroica petechia*)

## Yellowlegs

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*  
 Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* [Thoreau saw at Minnehaha Falls in Minnesota]

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* (~~Yellow-rump~~)  
 Yellow-shafted Flicker *Colaptes auratus*  
 Yellowthroat, Common *Geothlypis trichas* (~~Maryland Yellow-throat~~)  
 Yellowthroat (Veery *Catharus fuscescens*)