



American Goldfinch

L: 124mm W: 13g

Home: second growth in fields, cutlines, lake edges or burns.

Song: warbles, trills and twitter, flight call "per-chick-ore"

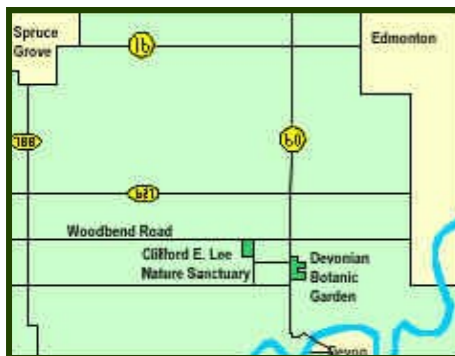
Source:

McGillivray W.B. Semenchuk G.P. 1998. The Federation of Alberta Naturalists: Field Guide to Alberta Birds. Federation of Alberta Naturalists.

Photo Credit:

<http://www.flickr.com/creativecommons/>
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Directions



33km SW of Edmonton city centre. Take highway 16 W to highway 60, go S for 13.2 km to Woodbend Rd. and turn W for 1.6km then S for 1.4 km.

The Sanctuary is open to the public year round free of charge. Donations are encouraged on site or they can be sent to:

51306 Range Road 264
Spruce Grove, Alberta
T7Y 1E7



Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary



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Songbirds

Observe the diversity firsthand!

Songbird Species (Passeriformes) at the Sanctuary

Introduction

Passeriformes, Songbirds, are the largest as well as most diverse commonly recognized group of birds. They're also known as "perching birds." Of the approximately 10,000 existing species of birds, over half are Songbirds. Songbirds live worldwide, with representatives on all continents except Antarctica. Their greatest diversity is in the tropics. Body sizes of Passeriformes vary from about 1.4 kg to just a few grams. Songbirds include some of the most colourful and mysterious of all birds. Due to their high diversity, generally small body size, and relative ease of observation, collection and field study, Songbirds have attracted much attention from various biologists.



Alder Flycatcher

L: 143 mm W: 13 g

Home: wet Alder, Willow thickets near marshes, streams and lakes

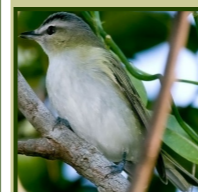
Song: "fee-bee-o" or wheezy, two part "zwee-oo"

Least Flycatcher

L: 130 mm W: 11 g

Home: open deciduous, mixed or conifer groves in northern AB or mountains

Song: sharp 2 syllable frequently repeated "che-bek"



Red-eyed Vireo

L: 150 mm W: 17 g

Home: Aspen groves, parkland forests or boreal forests

Song: a harsh "dzur"

Blue Jay

L: 295 mm W: 101 g

Home: prefers mixed woods, but very urbanized

Song: a loud "jay-jay-jay," also a horn-like "weedle-eele"



Tree Swallow

L: 146 mm W: 16 g

Home: older forests with dead or dying trees with nest holes made by Woodpeckers

Song: (in a group) constant chattering twitter, (alone) "cheet-veet" or "silip"

Barn Swallow

L: 170 mm W: 18 g

Home: nests in man-made structures, forages in water bodies, gardens or livestock yards

Song: series of "surp" notes, flight call "kvick, kvick"



Black-capped Chickadee

L: 131 mm W: 12 g

Home: mixed woods, conifers, fields, thickets or urban areas around feeders

Song: clear "chick-a-dee-dee-dee," in spring a whistled "pee-ter"

Red-breasted Nuthatch

L: 111 mm W: 11 g

Home: mixed woods, coniferous forests, or urban areas

Song: nasal horn-like "yank-yank-yank-yank"



White-breasted Nuthatch

L: 145 mm W: 22 g

Home: deciduous, mixed woods or urban areas

Song: nasal "who-who-who"

House Wren

L: 120 mm W: 11 g

Home: thickets, coulees, suburban yards, river valleys and Cottonwood or Aspen groves

Song: continuous explosive whistle



Design by: Sacha Mulholland 2007

Songbird Species at the Sanctuary



Marsh Wren

L: 122 mm W: 12 g

Home: Cattail or Bulrush sloughs (nest in cattails)

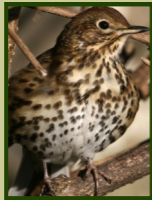
Song: various chips and rattles ending in a buzz trill

Swainson's Thrush

L: 175 mm W: 29 g

Home: Aspen forests in the parkland, mountains or boreal forests

Song: ascending series of whistles heard morning and night



American Robin

L: 247 mm W: 80 g

Home: backyards or urban areas

Song: loud, clear "cheerily cheer-up cheereo"

Bohemian Waxwing (winter)

L: 195 mm W: 60 g

Home: urban areas with Mountain Ash trees, breeds in mixed woods or open conifers near water

Song: (alone) no song, (in groups) high-pitched lispy whistles



Cedar Waxwing (summer)

L: 167 mm W: 33 g

Home: deciduous woodlands, forest edges by water or urban parks

Song: same as Bohemian Waxwing, but higher pitched

Yellow Warbler

L: 119 mm W: 10 g

Home: any shrubby habitat (prefers wetter environments)

Song: clear whistled "see-see-see, ti-ti-see" (strong on the 3 syllables)



Yellow-rumped Warbler

L: 136 mm W: 12 g

Home: mixed woods, conifers, Black Spruce bogs and pines are okay (seen anywhere in the spring)

Song: loose musical trill

Ovenbird

L: 146 mm W: 18 g

Home: dense Aspen stands with sparse shrubs and thick leaf litter

Song: loud ringing "tee-cher, tee-cher, tee-cher, tee-cher, tee-cher"



Common Yellowthroat

L: 124 mm W: 10 g

Home: Alder or Willows by sloughs, marshes, bogs or beaver ponds

Song: loud slurred "witchity, witchity, witch" (lasts 3 secs)

Chipping Sparrow

L: 135 mm W: 12 g

Home: anywhere including backyards, parks, fields or forests

Song: "seep" or "chip" or unmusical trill of "chip" notes



Song Sparrow

L: 156 mm W: 21 g

Home: breeds in shrub growth by water, seldom found in edges of fields or pastures

Song: clear whistles then short buzzy notes followed by "see, see, see, buzz, buzz, teeker, teeker, teeker"

Lincoln Sparrow

L: 139 mm W: 17 g

Home: Willow or Alder thickets or wet brushy sites in the mountains or northern AB

Song: energetic series of warbles and trills



Swamp Sparrow

L: 140 mm W: 17 g

Home: sedges or Cattails on edges of sloughs, ponds or rivers in northern AB

Song: slow trill that ends suddenly

White-throated Sparrow

L: 165 mm W: 25 g

Home: edges, brushy areas along cutlines, Aspen, coniferous or mixed forest

Song: clear whistled "O, sweet, Canada, Canada, Canada," call note a sharp "chink"



White-crowned Sparrow

L: 166 mm W: 27 g

Home: shrubby alpine along water or extreme north (seen anywhere during migration)

Song: one clear whistle followed by slurred whistles

Dark-eyed Junco

L: 151 mm W: 19 g

Home: mixed woods, cutlines, edges, city parks or suburbs

Song: metallic trill



Rose-breasted Grosbeak

L: 195 mm W: 47 g

Home: old mixed wood or Aspens mostly near edges

Song: series of warbling and a sharp "peek"

Red-winged Blackbird

L: 229 mm W: 70 g

Home: reeds, Cattails, Bulrushes near sloughs, ponds and lakes (will nest in ditches)

Song: "o-ka-ree" and a "chuck" call



Yellow-headed Blackbird

L: 260 mm W: 93 g

Home: Cattails, sloughs, marshes or lake edges around eastern half of central AB

Song: "croak"

Brewer's Blackbird

L: 230 mm W: 71 g

Home: pastures, ranchyards, prairies, Aspen groves, thickets or marshes

Song: wheezy single note "zwee" followed by a "chuck"



Brown-headed Cowbird

L: 191 mm W: 46 g

Home: open landscapes with perches close to cattle, cutlines, burns or roadsides in the north.

Song: squeaky rattles and short trills

Baltimore Oriole

L: 189 mm W: 35 g

Home: edges of open poplar or Cottonwood groves by rivers

Song: whistled "doodle" notes in series



Purple Finch

L: 151 mm W: 26 g

Home: mixed or open coniferous forests, except in southern AB (forages in deciduous trees)

Song: fast bubbling warble, call "pit"

Pine Siskin

L: 120 mm W: 13 g

Home: mixed coniferous or deciduous stands, frequent visitors to urban yards and parks

Song: slurred whistle "zee-oop"

