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13. ORCHARD ORIOLE
    (icterus spurius)

This Oriole, one of the two species inhabiting the eastern United States, is unique among the forty-five members of the genus in its small size and peculiar coloration. The bright orange or yellow of its relatives is replaced by rich chestnut. The female is very different, being olive green above, yellowish below; while the young male resembles the female but has the face, throat, and chest black. This Oriole’s song is unusually rich and varied, and places him in the first rank of our native songsters. The nest is a cup woven of dried grass; the eggs are bluish white, blotched and scrawled with black and purple. The food, like that of other Orioles, consists largely of insects.

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18. BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE
(Penthestes atricapillus)
Anyone fond of walking in the woods in the fall or winter is sure to be greeted by the cheery "chickadee dee dee" of this little feathered optimist. Always active and busy, and of a fearless and confiding disposition, the Chickadee is a universal favorite. None of our birds do more good in destroying injurious insects and their eggs. 454 plant lice have been found in the stomach of a single Chickadee. In the winter he also eats seeds of various kinds, and has a characteristic habit of holding these against a branch with his feet while he cracks them with his bill. The song is a clear, sweet whistle of three notes, uttered by both male and female. The nest is made in a hole in a stump, dug out by the birds themselves if the wood is sufficiently soft. Often as many as eight eggs are laid, an unusual number for a small bird.

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6. AMERICAN MAGPIE
   (Pica pica hudsonica)

The bird life of western North America exhibits a greater affinity with that of the Old World than does the avifauna of the Eastern States. One of the birds found only west of the Mississippi is the Magpie, a race of the well-known European species. Magpies are close relatives of Jays and Crows and, like them, are famous for their cleverness. They are noisy and conspicuous birds, but adepts at keeping quiet and eluding observation when their lives are in danger. In flight the white in the wings is conspicuous. The Magpie’s nest is usually placed in bushes or trees within twenty-five feet of the ground. It is a great round mass of sticks, sometimes as large as a bushel basket. A hole in the side leads to the center where the six or seven spotted eggs are laid in a cup-like nest of mud, grass, and rootlets.

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12. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD
(Agelaius phoeniceus)

The Redwing is a well-known inhabitant of reedy marshes almost throughout North America. In different regions it varies slightly in size, form, and color, and is therefore divided into several races; while on the Pacific coast it is replaced by two distinct species, the Bicolored and Tricolored Blackbirds. The male, in his glossy black plumage and scarlet epaulettes, is conspicuous about his haunts and if these are invaded he greets the intruder with loud cries of protest. His song is a rich "o-ka-lee," often given as he sails downward on spread wings. His mate is somewhat smaller and very different in color, brown above, below white streaked with black. The nest is usually built a few feet above the water in a bush or sapling and the four or five eggs are bluish white curiously scrawled with black.

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24. COWBIRD
(Molethrus ater)

The Cowbird is so called because of its habit of walking about in flocks and feeding among herds of cattle. The most remarkable fact about the Cowbird is its parasitic nesting habits. Like the well-known European Cuckoos, it lays its eggs in the nests of other birds, which hatch the eggs and raise the young Cowbirds. Scarcely any of our small birds escape being imposed upon by the "Lazybird." The eggs are white, finely speckled with reddish brown. The Cowbird is scarcely a songster, but has in the spring a curious glassy gurgling note.

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10. HOUSE WREN
(Troglodytes aedon)

Few of our birds would be missed more than little Jenny Wren. This familiar and animated bit of feathered life possesses its full share of the energy characteristic of all Wrens. Its bubbling, irrepressible song endears it to all who hear it. It is an irascible little bird and scolds loudly when wandering cats, hawks, or boys threaten the safety of its family. The House Wren usually builds in a bird box or hole in a tree, but when necessary uses any available crevice and has been known to place its bulky nest of sticks in the pocket of a coat hanging in a shed. The eggs are six or eight in number, very thickly and finely speckled all over with pinkish brown. Two broods are raised every season. Insects and spiders constitute the food of the House Wren.

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17. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER
   (Dendroica caerulescens)

This distinctively dressed Warbler may be recognized at a glance. Even in autumn, when so many birds don plainer attire, this species retains its nuptial colors. His mate, however, is very plainly marked and were it not for the small white spot on the wing would be difficult to identify. The Black-throated Blue is a typical member of the family of Wood Warblers, which are found only in America and more highly developed in the eastern United States than in any other region. They are charming little birds in their bright and varied colors, very useful to man because of the vast numbers of insects they destroy, but few of them noteworthy as songsters. The present species spends the summer in Canada, the Northern States, and the Alleghanies. Its cup-shaped nest is placed in a bush near the ground. FOR THE GOOD OF ALL, DO NOT DESTROY THE BIRDS.
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11. SCOTT ORIOLE
(Icterus parisorum)

About forty-five species of American Orioles or Hang-nests are known. They are distributed over every part of North and South America and the West Indies, each region having its particular species, often two or three kinds together. The Scott Oriole represents the genus in the desert of the southwestern United States and the adjacent parts of Mexico. In its black and yellow plumage, loud whistled song, and hanging nest suspended from the branch of a tree, it is a typical Oriole.

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White-throated Swift
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27. WHITE-THROATED SWIFT
(Aeronautes melanoleucus)

The Swifts, of which nearly 100 species are known, are found in all parts of the world. They are the most aerial of birds, spending their days on the wing, high in the air, where they secure vast numbers of the tiny insects that constitute their food. Although by most people confused with the Swallows, the Swifts are not at all closely related to these birds, but show many points of affinity with the Hummingbirds. The White-throated Swift inhabits the mountainous regions of the West. Its flight is even swifter than that of most species and it is unquestionably one of the fastest flying of all birds. Its nest is made of vegetable material and feathers, placed in the most inaccessible situations, and fastened to the rocks with the glue-like saliva with which all Swifts are supplied.

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American Three-toed Woodpecker
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30. AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS
(Picoides americanus)
As indicated by their name, the several species of Three-toed Woodpeckers differ from most other members of the large family of Woodpeckers in that they have only three instead of four toes on each foot. The small first toe or hallux, which is of little if any use in any Woodpecker, is in these birds entirely absent. The Three-toed Woodpeckers are also noteworthy in color, the red so nearly universal in the family, usually as a patch on the head of the male, being replaced by bright yellow. These birds inhabit the northern forests of spruce and fir. They spend almost all their time in digging destructive wood-boring grubs from their hiding places in the trunks and branches, and are consequently of the greatest service as conservators of the forest. The eggs, four to six in number, are, as in all woodpeckers, pure white, and are laid in a hole dug by the bird in a stump or tree trunk.
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19.

CALIFORNIA JAY
(Aphelocoma californica)

The California Jay is without the showy crest that adds so much to the appearance of the Blue Jay and so many others. While this species is confined to the Pacific coast, it has very near relatives in other parts of the West. It is a noisy bird with a great variety of notes and these have gained for it in some localities the name of “blue squawker.” Its diet is very varied—birds’ eggs, insects, acorns, pine nuts, wild fruits, berries, and grain. The nest, like that of other Jays, is made of twigs, grass, and moss, lined with fine rootlets, and is placed in bushes or trees rarely more than thirty feet up. The eggs, three to six in number, are buffy or greenish, spotted with brown.

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7. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER
(Protonotaria citrea)

This beautiful Warbler is a common inhabitant of the lowland swamp of the Southeastern States, and the Mississippi Valley. It is particularly fond of willows bordering ponds and streams. Its simple song resembles the syllables "tweet tweet tweet tweet," all in the same key. Unlike most other members of the family, the Prothonotary nests in holes in low trees or stumps. The nest itself is composed of rootlets, fine twigs, moss, and plant down or feathers; and live to seven white, brown-speckled eggs are laid. Like other Warblers, this species is migratory, spending the winter in Central America and northern South America.

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5. **LAZULI BUNTING**

*(Passerina amoena)*

This beautiful little bunting replaces in the Western United States the Indigo bird of the East. The female is dingy grayish brown, the under parts white, shaded with buff on the breast. The family of Finches, Sparrows, and Grosbeaks, of which this bird is a member, is a very large group, comprising hundreds of species, of almost world-wide distribution. They are particularly abundant in all parts of America. Being seed-eating birds, they possess a stout conical bill adapted for this purpose. The Sparrows are usually plainly dressed, but most of the Finches and Grosbeaks are varied with bright shades of red, blue, or yellow. Most of the species are pleasing songsters. The Lazuli Bunting places its cup-shaped nest in a bush, usually near a stream:

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9. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER
(Dendroica castanea)

In its spring plumage this warbler is quite unlike any other species, but young birds in the fall are so much like the Black-poll Warbler in its autumn dress that they can be distinguished with difficulty. The adults at this season are little different from the young, but a stripe of chestnut on the side of the body serves to identify them. The Bay-breast is not a very common bird and to most bird students is known only as a migrant. It passes northward in May from its winter quarters in South America to its summer home in Canada and returns on its southward trip in August and September. Its nest is placed in coniferous trees and its brown-speckled eggs are not peculiar. Its insignificant song can scarcely be distinguished from that of several allied species.

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8. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL
   (Loxia leucoptera)

The oddly shaped bill of the half-dozen species of Crossbills is found in no other birds. It is well adapted for extracting the seeds from the cones of spruces and pines, and it is these seeds that form the staple diet of the Crossbills. The White-winged Crossbill is a bird of the far North. In the United States it is a rare winter visitor, but at intervals of many years migrates southward in numbers. The cause of these flights is uncertain, but it is reasonable to suppose that they are caused by a failure of the crop of coniferous seeds. The female Crossbill is dull olive green in color, the under parts more grayish. The two white wing bars distinguish it from the American Crossbill. The song of this species is low and sweet, resembling that of the Goldfinch.

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2. SUMMER TANAGER (Piranga rubra)

This is a common bird in the Southern States. Although it migrates to Central and South America for the winter, it does not, like the Scarlet Tanager, exchange its red summer coat for one of olive green, but retains its bright plumage the year round. The female is much like that of the Scarlet Tanager, but more orange in shade. The song is very musical and pleasing, and the call note very characteristic, sounding like the syllables “chicky-tucky-tuck.” The nest is built on the limb of a forest tree and the eggs are light greenish blue with numerous brown spots.

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1.

DICKCISSEL
(Spiza americana)

The Dickcissel, or Black-throated Bunting, has an interesting history. Prior to 1880 it was a rather common bird in the Middle Atlantic States, but is now of very rare occurrence in this region. Even in the Middle West, where it is still common, the distribution is irregular and has changed in recent years. In the summer the Dickcissel makes its home in wide grassy fields where it builds its nest on the ground or in low trees or bushes. The eggs are four or five in number and pale blue in color. The Dickcissel is a tireless singer. The unmusical song, which is given with great earnestness, resembles the syllables "dick dick chee chee chee chee," and from this the bird’s name is derived. In winter, when they visit South America and when migrating, Dickcissels associate in large flocks.

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15. WESTERN TANAGER
(Piranga ludoviciana)

In traveling from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the change in bird life is of great interest to a lover of nature. When one nears the Rocky Mountains, or sometimes not until the Sierra Nevada is reached, the familiar eastern species give way to others which are evidently closely related, but may differ considerably in color. The Western Tanager is a good example of this, for it exactly takes the place of the well-known eastern Scarlet Tanager. Formerly, when the territory of Louisiana comprised a very extensive region, this bird was known as the Louisiana Tanager, but this inappropriate name has now been given up. The song of this species has the same swinging rhythm as that of its eastern cousin. Its nest and eggs also resemble those of its relative. Its food consists of caterpillars, insects, and berries.

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16. ARKANSAS KINGBIRD
   (Tyrannus verticalis)

In the western United States the common Kingbird of the East is replaced by this more brightly colored species. The habits of all the Kingbirds are much alike. They are noisy, active birds, ever on the alert for a passing hawk or crow, which is promptly driven from the neighborhood. The red or yellow crown spot, so characteristic of the Kingbirds, is rarely visible in life. When excited the feathers of the crown are raised and the spot of bright color is exposed to the view of the bird’s mate or rival. The nest, built of twigs, weed stems, rootlets, hair, and feathers, and the four spotted eggs are similar to those of the common Kingbird.

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14.

PHOEBE
(Sayornis phoebe)

The Phoebe, though plain in plumage and unmusical in voice, is one of the most welcome arrivals of early spring. Soon after the Robin and Bluebird have returned from the South and before the snow has disappeared, we look for this little gray Flycatcher. Male and female are alike in appearance and both utter the same simple song, "Phoebe." They feed almost entirely on insects, captured on the wing, and the good they do in reducing the numbers of these pests is incalculable. The Phoebe is a very domestic and confiding bird. In wilder regions its nest is often built on a small sheltered ledge of a rock, but in settled localities it is usually placed on the beam of a bridge over the water, in a shed, or under the roof of a piazza. It is a pretty structure of mud and green moss, lined with hair, and the eggs are white, rarely with a few dark specks.

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3. PAINTED BUNTING
(Passerina ciris)

Among the many brightly colored birds of the United States none is more gaudy than this one. Its brilliancy has won it the name of Nonpareil, the Matchless One. Only the male, however, is thus attired; his mate is plain olive green above and greenish yellow below. The loud, bright song of the male and his gay colors combine to make him a favorite cage bird, but in recent years, owing to protective laws, their capture and sale for this purpose has greatly diminished. This is a shy bird, the male in particular, owing to his showy plumage, takes special care not to expose himself to possible danger. The nest is like that of the Indigo Bunting, but the eggs differ in that they are spotted.

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21.

OVENBIRD
(Selurus aurocapillus)

The Ovenbird, often called Golden-crowned Thrush on account of its thrush-like appearance, is really a warbler, though in color and habits it is very different from the brightly colored, arboreal species. The Ovenbird feeds on the ground, where it walks about prettily, bobbing its head at each step. Its song resembles the word "teacher" repeated about eight times in rapid succession, each "teacher" louder than the preceding. In May and June this song may be heard in every woodland, for the Ovenbird is very generally distributed. It has also a much more musical flight song, given usually in the evening when the bird ascends high above the tree tops. The nest is a domed structure of grass and leaves, placed on the ground. It is from the fancied resemblance of the nest to an old-fashioned Dutch oven that the name Ovenbird is derived.

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26. GREEN JAY
(Xanthocephalus Ikvuesa)

The Green Jay is remarkable among the members of its family for its green and yellow colors. It is a characteristic Mexican species, barely reaching the United States in the valley of the lower Rio Grande in southern Texas. It is a remarkable fact in geographic distribution, paralleled however by many other species, that there are no Green Jays in Central America south of Honduras, but in South America there is a species closely related to that of Mexico. In habits, voice, and nesting, these birds have all the characteristics of other Jays.

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Violet Green Swallow
Third Series

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22. VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW
(Tachycineta thalassina)

This beautiful Swallow is not so familiar and well-known as many of its allies. It is exclusively a bird of the lar West, where it builds its nest in the walls of cliffs or canyons or places it in a hole in a tree. Even for a Swallow, it is remarkable for its very long wings, short tail, and tiny bill and feet. Its plumage is not only unusual in color but also in its very soft texture. Like other Swallows, it lives on flying insects captured in the air.

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4. VARIED BUNTING
(Passerina versicolor)

The colors of this little bunting are decidedly unusual. As in the case of its relatives, the Indigo Bunting of the East and the Lazuli Bunting of the West, the female is a brown, sparrowy bird, with scarcely a trace of her mate’s bright tints. This is one of the desert birds of southern Arizona, Texas, and Mexico. Its neat nest is made of grasses and weed stems, and the eggs are plain bluish white. The genus Passerina includes six species, all birds of brilliant colors and pleasing songs. They are distributed over the greater part of the United States and Mexico.

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23. GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE
(Oreospiza chlorura)

This is one of the characteristic birds of the Western States, migrating southward in winter to central Mexico. It is an inhabitant of the sagebrush, chaparral, and cactus, and is usually observed singing from the top of a bush or hopping about on the ground. The song is bright and musical and the call is a soft mewing note. The nest, which is placed on the ground, is made of sticks, and lined with grass. The eggs, four in number, are whitish, speckled with reddish brown.

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29. SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER
(Muscivora forficata)

This beautiful bird is an inhabitant of Central America, Mexico and Texas, reaching its northern limit in southern Kansas. It is not found on either coast of the United States. The Scissor-tail is an aristocratic cousin of the Common Kingbird, differing strikingly in the greatly elongated tail feathers and in the bright red and salmon tints of his plumage. Like the Kingbird, he is a bold and active bird, attacking without hesitation, hawks and ravens that invade his domain. He feeds upon insects of various kinds and at times eats berries. The nest, placed in small trees or bushes, is cup-like, composed of rootlets and plant stems, lined with finer material and feathers; and the five eggs are white, spotted with brown and purple.

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28. CANADA WARBLER
(Wilsonia canadensis)

This pretty Warbler may be known by the necklace of black spots across its yellow throat. This mark is obscure in young birds and at one time they were supposed to be a distinct species. The Canada is one of the Flycatching Warblers, catching its insect prey on the wing. It is an abundant bird in the rhododendron thickets of the North and along the Alleghany Mountains to North Carolina. Like its relatives, it moves southward in the fall and spends the winter in the mountains of South America. Its song is sweet and lively, superior to that of most other Warblers. The nest of strips of soft bark, moss, and leaves, lined with rootlets, is well hidden in mossy banks or beneath large roots, and the four or five eggs are white, spotted with reddish brown.

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25. BOBOLINK
(Dolichonyx oryzivorus)

The Bobolink is one of our few native birds that, like the Skylark and the Nightingale, have been celebrated in verse. The Bobolink’s life is a varied one. It reaches our Northern States early in May, the males a few days in advance of their mates. For the next two months the rollicking song, to which the bird owes its name, may be heard any day in the grassy meadows. The brown female is very sparrow-like in appearance and much less often seen than her mate. Even before midsummer, the Bobolinks gather in flocks, the males exchange their black and white plumage for a dress of brown and buff, and soon the long journey southward begins. They are now known to the hunters as Reedbirds, and when they reach the rice fields of the Southern States, they are called Ricebirds. The winter is passed in South America, south of the Amazon.

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20.

VEERY
(Hylocichla fuscescens)

The sweet mysterious chant of the Wilson’s Thrush ... Veery is unique among our bird songs. Unlike its relative, the Wood Thrush, this species spends the summer in swamps and wet woods. Its note is a soft whistled “whew,” which can be so closely imitated that the bird may be called close up to one. The Veery builds its compact nest of bark, leaves, and rootlets on or near the ground. The four beautiful greenish blue eggs are indistinguishable in color from those of the Wood Thrush and Robin.

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