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SCARLET TANAGER
(Piranga erythromelas)

In the deep shady woods one finds this flaming jewel of a bird, the Scarlet Tanager. There, in leafy haunts, it befriends man by consuming large numbers of leaf beetles, gypsy moths, caterpillars and other insects injurious to trees. From its winter home in South America it arrives in the United States in May to lend a tropical touch to our woodlands. The rather shallow and loosely-constructed nest of twigs, lined with finer materials, is found on trees from seven to twenty feet up. Three to four eggs, pale bluish-white marked with rufous-brown, are laid. In eastern North America this bird breeds from southern Canada to the northern border of the southern States.

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SONG SPARROW
(Melospiza melodia)

The Song Sparrow is one of our most widely distributed birds, as it is found practically throughout North America south of tree-line. In most of the East it is friendly and sociable, and may be seen in the garden and in thickly settled communities. In summer it destroys great numbers of insects and in the winter, like other Sparrows, weed seeds. It is easily identified by the blackish spots on the sides of the throat and a dark spot on the breast. The nest, which is constructed of grasses, rootlets and bark, and lined with grasses and sometimes hair, is usually found on the ground and occasionally in bushes. The Song Sparrow lays four or five eggs, which are white or bluish-white, heavily marked with rufous-brown.

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LITHO. IN U. S. A.
Eastern Kingbird
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EASTERN KINGBIRD
(Tyrannus tyrannus)

Fearless in its dislike of Crows and Hawks, the Kingbird is often seen attacking these larger birds. The Latin name of "tyrannus (tyrant)" suits it well, for it fears no bird and with characteristic aggressiveness drives off the feathered intruder upon its nesting territory. From its perch upon a fence post, stick or tree weed, it swoops up at or down upon insects which fly near. The orchards and open woodlands are the favorite haunt of the Kingbird. Upon some tree limb, from fifteen to twenty-five feet up, is found the well-formed nest of weed-stalks, grasses and moss, lined with fine rootlets and grasses. The eggs, three to five in number, are white, spotted with reddish-brown. In summer the Kingbird is found nearly throughout the United States and southern Canada.

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PURPLE MARTIN
(Progne subis)
This member of the Swallow family is found more generally distributed throughout the South, where it is a harbinger of spring. In the North it is quite local in occurrence. In habit it resembles its relatives in catching its food on the wing. Fortunate is the farmer who has a colony of these birds on his place, for the Martin is famed for destroying insects. Gourds and "Martin houses," and man-made bird structures containing many separate compartments, are favorite nesting sites of the Martins. Four or five white eggs are laid. Range: Eastern United States, west to the Plains, reappearing on Pacific coast. Winters in South America.

FOR THE GOOD OF ALL,
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WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH
(Sitta carolinensis)

In the winter months the White-breasted Nuthatch is easily enticed from its diet of insects and larvae to partake of the suet placed out by man. Like its smaller relative, the Red-breasted Nuthatch, it is often called “the upside down bird,” for it goes down a tree trunk “head-first” as easily as it can go up. It also is easily identified by its nasal, “hank, hank.” The nest, which is composed of leaves and feathers, is placed in a hollow limb or old Woodpecker hole. Five to eight white eggs with reddish-brown spots are laid. Range: Whole of southern Canada and United States in wooded areas.

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BOBOLINK
(Dolichonyx oryzivorous)

Formerly shot in large numbers on migration as "reed birds" and "rice birds," this bird decreased greatly until protected. On its breeding grounds, in hayfields and meadows, it is often seen and heard as it pours forth its bubbling song, which is uttered on the wing. Deep down in the grass, the Bobolink constructs its well-concealed nest. Four to seven ashy-blue or pearl-gray eggs, blotched with brown and purple are laid. Formerly nesting in the northern and central States, east of the Rocky Mountains, it has greatly increased in recent years, and has been spreading westward, following irrigation and agriculture, so that it now occurs locally in most of the far western States. It migrates to southern South America in winter.

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REDSTART
(Seiurus ruticilla)

One of the easiest of all our Warblers to identify. The female has yellow for the red and ashy-green for the black of the male. Very trim and smart does this bird appear as it hops from limb to limb with tail and wings outspread. In addition to picking the insects from the leaves, it seems to be also a good flycatcher and frequently takes its prey on the wing. The nest is composed of fine strips of bark and grasses and is located in forks or crotches of trees, rarely more than twenty feet high. The four or five eggs are grayish-white, spotted with brown. Range: Most of eastern North America, migrating to the Tropics in winter.

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Yellow-throat
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YELLOW-THROAT

(Geothlypis trichas)

Like a tiny black-masked highwayman, this little warbler appears as we come upon it in the underbrush of the roadside or in the thickets and bushes of fields. In song it seems to say “whitchity, whitchity.” Like most of the Warbler family, it performs a great service to man in its consumption of harmful insects. The female wears no mask. The nest is usually on or near the ground and is constructed of grasses, bark, and dead leaves, and is lined with finer materials. The three to five white eggs are lightly spotted on the larger end with rufous and umber. This bird is found throughout the United States and southern Canada. There are numerous very similar subspecies.

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EASTERN PHOEBE
(Sayornis phoebe)

Almost before the first green of spring appears, the Phoebe returns to its summer home, and we again see it sitting on some fence post or on a branch overhanging a stream uttering its simple “pewit phoebe.” Suddenly from its perch it darts off in pursuit of some winged insect, only to return almost immediately to its lookout. Under a bridge on a girder, in the cow shed, or under the roof of the piazza, wherever a few inches of shelf room is afforded, one may look for its nest, constructed of mosses and mud and lined with hair or grasses. The four or five eggs are white, rather sparsely spotted on the larger end with cinnamon brown. Range: Central Canada and Northern States east of the Great Plains.

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ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK
(Hedymeles ludovicianus)

From the throat of this beautifully plumed bird is poured forth in the lush of the May morning so sweet a song that lucky is he who hears it. This bird frequents the second growth and thickets of small trees and bushes in overgrown fields. Of inestimable value is its service to man, for it consumes large numbers of tent-caterpillars, gypsy and brown-tail moths, canker worms, potato beetles and many other harmful insects. The nest is in low trees and bushes and is made of twigs and lined with fine rootlets. The eggs, which number four or five are pale blue and heavily blotched with brown. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak is found breeding in southern Canada and in the northern United States east of the Great Plains.

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RED-EYED VIREO

(Vireo olivaceus)

On hot summer days in the deep shade trees of our lawns and woodlands this commonest of our Vireos utters its warbling song so incessantly and uninterruptedly that it has been called the "preacher bird." From branch to branch it flits, searching over and under the leaves for insects. What would our trees suffer without these guardians! From the fork of some slender branch, from five to forty feet up, hangs the tightly-woven, cup-like nest. Strips of bark, paper and the down of plants are used in the construction, and the inside is lined with finer materials. In this hanging basket are laid three or four white eggs, with brownish-black markings on the larger end. Found breeding in the United States in the northwestern states and in the east from southern Canada to Florida.

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Downy Woodpecker

Louis Agostini Puente

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DOWNY WOODPECKER
(Dryobates pubescens)

A lively little all-the-year-round resident of all North America. It makes an excellent customer at feeding stations and suet chunks, but the bulk of its diet is made up of harmful insects which it searches out of cracks in the bark by the incessant hammering of its sharp bill. Farmers recognize in the Downy Woodpecker a valuable friend. Its staccato note of “peek peek” closely resembles that of the Hairy Woodpecker. From four to six white eggs are laid in May, usually in a hole in a dead tree.

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ROBIN
(Turdus migratorius)

The one bird known by everyone. Its friendliness to man has in turn won it man's friendship. Its markedly cheerful song, heard most frequently at dawn and dusk, is one of spring's earliest signs. The Robin usually nests near human habitations in trees of orchard, lawn and thin woodland. Its building materials are of a wide variety, including grasses, roots, leaves, string and paper for the outside, and an inner wall of mud lined with fine grasses. Eggs are bluish-green and three to five in number. Man need not begrudge the Robin the small amount of fruit it eats, for that damage is abundantly offset by the large number of insects and worms which it destroys.

Range: North America, from tree-line to the Mexican tableland.

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Eastern Bluebird
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EASTERN BLUEBIRD
(Sialia sialis sialis)

Harbinger of spring and beloved by all for its soft sweet song and friendly nature, the Bluebird returns to its summer home before the winter is over. Orchards, the edges of fields, and country roads are its favorite haunts. And there, early in March, the male and his mate, who wears a dress less brilliant of blue and reddish brown, seek old holes in decaying trees for a nesting site. Very readily will these beautiful birds choose a bird box for their home. Grasses line the nest in which from four to six bluish-white, or occasionally plain white, eggs are laid. In the spring and summer they feed on insects, worms and small caterpillars, and in the fall, as they move southward, many kinds of berries. They are found in eastern North America and winter from New York southward.

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