

◆Song Sparrow: 6-7" common brown native bird with streaked breast and melodic "sweet, sweet, sweet" call (MS)

► White-crowned Sparrow: 7" brown body, adults have yelloworange bill, black and white cap, seasonal bird (MS)





■Golden-crowned

Sparrow: 7.25" brown
body, adult has yellowishgold crown, dusky bill,
and long tail, seasonal
bird (IA)

► House Sparrow: 6.25" handsome, common, non-native, gray/brown bird with black "bib" and beak, and streaky chest (IA)





■Dark-eyed

"Oregon" Junco: 6.25"

pink bill, black "dippedin-ink" hood, tan back,

white flash of tail feathers
in flight (MS)

► California Towhee: 9" common brownish robin-sized bird with rust under long tail, groundscratching feeder, "chink" call (MS)



GROUND FEEDERS

OPEN FIELDS



Top to bottom, L side: **Western Bluebird:** 7" bright blue and rust fly-catcher (PS); **Black Phoebe:** 7" stout, grey and white fly-catcher, frequetn tail flicks, found perched near water (MS); **Barn Swallow:** 6.75" acrobatic, navy with orange belly, forked tail (JH); R side: **American Crow:** 17.5" big, black, bold, social "caw-ing" bird (MS); **American Robin:** 10" orange breast, white eye-ring, eats berries/earthworms (MS); **Killdeer:** 10.5" double black neck rings, "kill-deer" call, seen on open fields (MS)

■ Mt. Diablo Audubon Society meets the first Thursday of the month, 7 PM, Camellia Room, The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Enjoy free monthly programs, field trips, Young Birders Club, legislative/conservation events, and classes. Please join us!

www.mtdiabloaudubon.org, Facebook, Meetup

Photo Credits: (IA) Isaac Aronow, (JH) Jean Halford, (LL) Lynn Larrow, (PS) Paul Schorr, (JS) Joy Shonfeld, (MS) Maren Smith, (CT) Cassie Tzur; Brochure: Maren Smith

40 COMMON BIRDS OF HEATHER FARM PARK











EGRETS & HERONS

Top L: **Great Blue Heron**: 54' tall, blue-gray wading bird, uses dagger-like, yellow-orange beak to spear fish (MS); Top R: **Snowy Egret:** 24" white, black beak/legs, yellow

feet (MS); Middle L: Black-crowned Night-Heron: 25" adult, gray/white with a red eye (MS); Middle R: Green Heron: 18" streaked with greenish back, crest, yellow feet, "croak" call (LL); Bottom L: Great Egret: 39" tall white wader, yellow beak, black feet (MS)



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Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

TREES & BUSHES









Top to bottom, L side: House Finch: 6" sparrow-like, streaked chest, M red head/chest (MS); Bewick's Wren: 5.25" brown, white eyebrow (MS); Mourning Dove:12" pigeon-like, tan, mournful "coo, coo, coo" (MS); California Scrub-Jay: 12" bold, noisy, blue-gray bird, white belly (MS); R side: Lesser Goldfinch: 4.5" yellow-gray, flock bird, male bright yellow, black cap (MS); Oak Titmouse L: 5.8" quick gray bird with crest (MS) and Chestnut-backed Chickadee R: 4.8" small, busy bird with black cap/throat, white belly, chestnut back (MS): Bushtit: 4.5" tiny, gray, "buzzy" flock bird (MS); White-breasted Nuthatch: 5.8", gray-black/white with long beak, feeds head-first (MS); Anna's Hummingbird: 4" fast, emerald green, red throat (JS)

WOODPECKERS & HAWKS





Far L: Nuttall's Woodpecker: 7.5" black/ white barred back, male red cap, rattling call (MS); L: Northern Flicker: 12.5" large tan woodpecker, black-striped back, black chest patch, dotted breast, M red cheek/malar stripe, eats ants and insects (MS); R: Red-shouldered Hawk: 17" chestnut shoulder/chest, black/white banded tail and wings, eats rodents, "keeyer" scream (MS)



ON OR NEAR THE WATER



Pied-billed Grebe: 13" small, brown, diving duck, with chunky beak, seen bobbing about the lake (IA)



Double-crested Cormorant: 33" prehistoric looking gray-black bird with a hooked bill, dives for fish (MS)



Mallard: 23" brown female L; colorful green-headed male R, orange feet, familiar dabbling ducks, (MS)



Wood Duck: 18" male multicolored "helmet", female white eye ring, cavity nester in tree or nesting box (MS)



Belted Kingfisher: 13', stocky, blue/white, shaggy crest, F rust, noisy "chatter" call, dives for fish (MS)



Red-winged Blackbird: 9" M black with red "epaulets", nests in reeds, social, "rustyhinge" call (IA)



Canada Goose: 45" large, brown-black/white adults with yellow baby goslings, loud "honking" call (MS)



American Coot: 15.5", round, gray-black, white bill, green-yellow lobed feet, dives/dabbles (MS)



Heather Farm
Park map: Check
the Rotary kiosk
for more bird
information, the
island for a
Belted Kingfisher,
the natural pond
for ducks, and the
flowers for
hummingbirds!



Bufflehead: 13.5" compact black/white duck, M white bonnet, F white cheek, seasonal winter visitor (MS)



Ring-necked Duck: 17" M has black back, gray bill with white stripe and black tip, seasonal winter visitor (IA)

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Heather Farm Park map: Check the Rotary kiosk for more bird information, the island for a Belted Kingfisher, the natural pond for ducks, and the flowers for hummingbirds!



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