

# Spring Birds and Where to Find Them







# Black-capped Chickadee

*Poecile atricapillus*

Often found in Eastern White Pine Forest, willow thickets, and opens woods, these small, energetic birds are often seen flitting from tree-to-tree.

Chickadees forage for their food, often hanging upside down to reach under branches.

You can often hear them giving their cheery-sounding chick-a-dee call notes as they fly from tree-to-tree.



# White-breasted Nuthatch

*Sitta carolinensis*

These birds can be seen mainly in Eastern White Pine Forests, and favor the woodland edge along rivers, roads, and clearings.

White-breasted Nuthatches forage for their food, and are often drawn to bird feeders for sunflower seeds or suet. In the wild, their diet consists of mainly insects.

These birds sometimes mate for life.





# Downy Woodpecker

*Dryobates pubescens*

The Downy Woodpecker is often found in Eastern White Pine Forest, but favors a wide variety of habitats, from wilderness areas to suburban yards.

This bird is the smallest woodpecker in North America.

Due to its small size, it can forage on weed stalks and twigs as well as trees.

Its relative, the Red-bellied Woodpecker, is much less common, but can also be found in Eastern White Pine Forests.





# Northern Cardinal

*Cardinalis cardinalis*

Often found in woodland edges, thickets, pitch pine forests, and shrubland, the well-known birds can also be found in city parks and at backyard bird feeders.

The Northern Cardinal mainly feeds by foraging, hopping on the ground or in low bushes. These birds favor sunflower seeds at bird feeders.



The males are bright red in color, while the females are a more muted reddish-brown.





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## Dark-eyed Junco

*Junco Hyemalis*

Dark-eyed Juncos are part of the Sparrow family, and prefer conifers and mixed woods. In Wareham, they can be found in Pitch Pine or shrubland.

In winter especially, flocks of Juncos can be found around woodland edges and suburban yards, feeding on the ground. They feed mostly on insects and seeds, and sometimes berries.

These birds will make ticking calls as they fly up into bushes.



# Eastern Bluebird

*Sialia Sialis*

Part of the Thrush family, these birds can be seen in open meadows or fields, or in forest clearings and scattered trees.

In the past, the Eastern Bluebird population was at risk due to loss of habitat and nesting sites, but the population has been increasing, likely due to birdhouses in many areas.

The Eastern Bluebird is the most widespread of the three bluebird types, and feeds by foraging for insects and berries.





# Yellow Warbler

*Setophaga petechia*

You can find these small yellow birds near open fields, or the forest edge.

As part of the Wood Warbler family, the Yellow Warbler favor bushes or thickets, near swamp edges or streams, or gardens.

The Yellow Warbler's diet consists of mostly insects, including mosquitos, flies, spiders, and caterpillars.

The less common Pine Warbler may also be seen while on the trails in Wareham. This relative of the Yellow Warbler is chiefly seen in open pine barrens, and forages on berries, seeds and insects to survive.



Their coloring is similar but more brown compared to the Yellow Warbler.



# Red-winged Blackbird

*Agelaius phoeniceus*

These birds can be found in coastal areas or marshland, as well as in cultivated land that is located near water.

The Red-winged Blackbird is part of the Blackbird and Oriole family, and breeds most commonly in freshwater or brackish marshes.

The red shoulder patches of the males are hidden under body feathers until the male sings. They are known for their bold temperament, and several will often attack larger birds like hawks and crows that fly over the nesting area.

Red-winged Blackbirds feed mostly on insects and seeds by foraging while walking on the ground.







# Great Blue Heron

*Ardea herodias*

These majestic birds can be found in coastal areas or marshland, including swamps and tidal flats.

The largest heron in North America, the Great Blue Heron can be seen standing still in shallow waters, or flying over marshland with its head hunches back onto its shoulders.

The Great Blue Heron forages in calm, fresh waters, slow-moving rivers, or shallow coastal bays and estuaries. These birds nest in trees or shrubs near the water.

These birds eat mostly fish, but also frogs, salamanders, turtles, snakes, insects, rodents, and other birds.



# Osprey

*Pandion haliaetus*

Often seen soaring overhead, these birds can be found around coastal areas and marshes, including freshwater rivers and lakes, brackish estuaries, and saltwater.

Osprey were seriously endangered by pesticides in the mid-1900s, but have made a good comeback since the banning of DDT in 1972.

These expert fishers will fly slowly over the water to spot fish, and plunge feet-first into the water to grasp its prey in its talons.

Osprey will nest on any platform that is off the ground, including atop utility poles and on boats. These birds may use the same nest for years, gradually adding to it each year.

