



Red-Tailed Hawk

With a 50-inch wingspan, red-tailed hawks are the most familiar large hawk in North America. They perch or hover when searching for prey. The underside of their tail is light red.



Tufted Titmouse

Both males and females are gray with a crest, a lighter belly, and a black patch above the beak. Titmice live on the edge of forests and eat insects and seeds.



Quick Guide to Common Birds



Mourning Dove

Related to pigeons (rock doves), mourning doves can be identified by their mournful coo and their tapered tails with white edges. They forage on the ground but are often seen perched on utility lines.



Mockingbird

Mockingbirds are gray with white patches in their dark wings and tails. They feed on fruit and insects and are known for their distinctive call and ability to mimic other bird calls.



European Starling

Introduced to North America in 1890, the starling can be found across the continent. Starlings gather in large flocks in fall and winter. They are covered in white spots during the winter, but the spots wear away by the summer and they become glossy and dark.

From top to bottom: Red-tailed hawks, robins, blue jays, and mockingbirds are frequently spotted around the cemetery. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EDUCATION SERIES



Eastern Bluebird

Male eastern bluebirds are bright blue with a reddish throat and breast. Females are a duller blue and orange. Feeds on insects and berries.

Northern Cardinal

Male cardinals are red with black around the beak and a distinctive crest. Females have the same crest and conical bill but are brown with red accents.



Blue Jay

Their bright blue color and distinctive crest make blue jays easy to identify. They feed on nuts and seeds in trees, shrubs or on the ground of mixed forests. They are essential for the dispersal of oak tree seeds.



American Robin

Robins have a dark back with a black head, yellow bill and rust-red breast. They are common across North America.



Pileated Woodpecker

Pileated woodpeckers are the largest woodpecker in North America. Mostly black, they have red crests and white stripes on their neck and white under their wings. They eat insects, particularly carpenter ants.



Red-Winged Blackbird

Often found in wetlands and fields, male red-winged blackbirds have a bright red shoulder patch. Female red-winged blackbirds are brown.



Downy Woodpecker

Downy woodpeckers are the smallest woodpecker in North America. They have white bellies and backs with black and white striped heads. Males have a red crown patch. They feed on insects.



American Crow

Smaller than ravens, black crows are often identified by their distinctive caw. Crows are sociable and often gather in groups. They are opportunistic eaters.



Red-Bellied Woodpecker

Males and females have red necks, with the red on the males extending over the head to the beak. Their backs are black and white while their bellies are buff.



American Goldfinch

In summer, male goldfinches are a brilliant yellow with a black cap, wings and tail. In winter, males are the same dull yellow as females. They forage for seeds in weeds, shrubs, and trees.

