

Birds of Sacramento River NWR



The **Yellow-rumped Warbler** is one of the most common warblers in North America. Although other warblers have yellow rumps, none are as conspicuous as consistently as this species.



The red pigment in the face of the **Western Tanager** is rare in birds. It is not manufactured by the bird, instead it must be acquired from their diet of insects that acquire the pigment from plants.

The **Lesser Goldfinch's** song is a rapid medley of twittering notes. Its call is a high, clear "tee-ye."



Spotted Towhees forage primarily on the ground. They dig in soil for good with a characteristic two-footed backwards hop.



The **Western Kingbird's** song is a series of "kip" notes followed by a series of high-pitched fussy chittering notes.



A **Bank Swallow** colony may range from 10 nests to nearly 2,000. Their song is a harsh twittering.

The **Belted Kingfisher** is often seen hovering before it plunges headfirst into water to catch fish.



The **Mourning Dove's** song is a sad Òcoo-OOH, Ooo-Ooo-OooÓ.





Although the **Northern Flicker** can climb up tree trunks and hammer on wood like other woodpeckers, this bird prefers to find food on the ground - ants in particular.

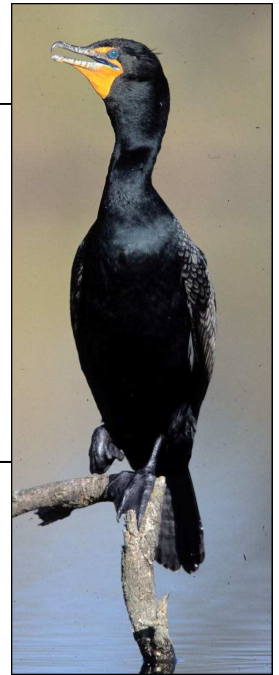


The **Common Merganser** has a long bill with toothy projections along its edges that help the duck hold onto its slippery fish prey.



White Pelicans don't dive for their food, instead they work together to surround fish in shallow water then scoop them into the pouches in their bills.

Double-crested Cormorants dive from the surface and chase prey underwater. Once they are done, they must spread their wings out to dry because they are not waterproof.

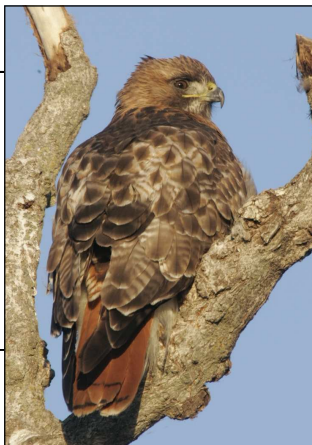


A **California Quail's** topknot looks like a single feather, but it is actually a cluster of six overlapping plumes.

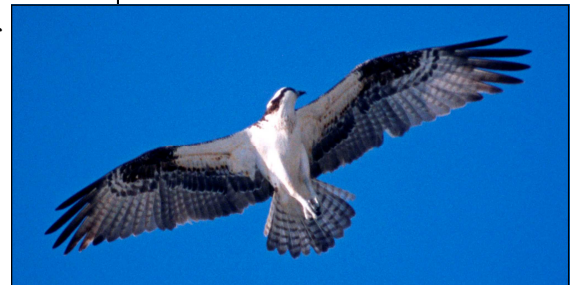


Benjamin Franklin wanted the national bird of the United States to be the **Wild Turkey**, not the Bald Eagle.

The raspy cry of the **Red-tailed Hawk** is often used in movies to represent any eagle or hawk anywhere in the world.



Fish account for about 99 percent of an **Osprey's** diet. When carrying a large fish, they will carry the fish headfirst to make it as aerodynamic as possible.



Photos courtesy of Steve Emmons, Mike Peters, Lee Karney and John and Karen Hollingsworth.