

Ten Common Birds of Atlanta

Part of Atlanta Audubon Society's *Learning About Birds* curriculum series.

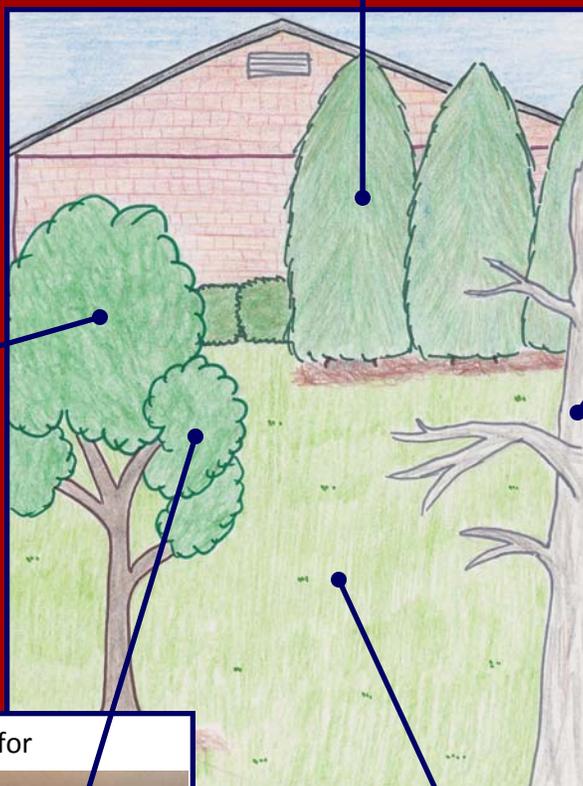
The **Northern Cardinal** is found in almost every shrub in Atlanta. Male Northern Cardinals are bright red while females are golden brown. Both the male and female have a crest, a black-masked face and a thick, orange beak used for cracking open seeds. Listen for its melodic "*purdy purdy purdy*" song, "*kyeeer, kyeeer*" call and a high, metallic sounding "*chip*."



The **Red-bellied Woodpecker** is a large, zebra-striped bird with a bright orange-red nape (back of neck). The males are even brighter, with orange-red on their foreheads. This woodpecker is found in wooded habitats looking for insects on tree trunks, but also visits bird feeders. Listen for loud "*churr*" or "*chig-chig-chig*" calls.



The **Carolina Chickadee** is a small songbird found in wooded habitats hopping on branches in search of insects to eat. It also loves visiting bird feeders. Look for its black cap and bib. Listen for its whistle-like song "*fee bee, fee bay*" and fast, buzzy call "*chicka-dee-dee-dee*."



The **Tufted Titmouse** is known for its gray crest and feisty behavior. It is found in wooded habitats flitting between branches looking for insects to eat. It is also one of the most common birds at a feeder. Listen for its low whistle-like song "*peter-peter-peter*" and their squawky, almost angry calls "*zhree zhree zhree!*"



The **American Robin** is one bird that you will not find at a feeder. It likes to hop on the ground among grass and leaves looking for earthworms and insects. The American Robin is known for its orange breast and belly, and its happy, melodic song "*cheerily, cheer-up, cheerily*."

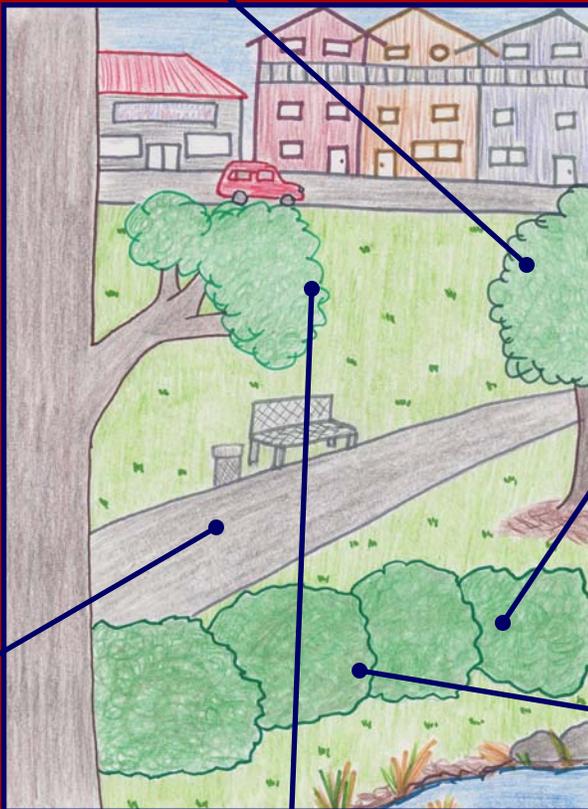


The **Northern Mockingbird** is known for mimicking the songs and calls of other birds and being aggressive. It is found in open areas with shrubs and small trees. This gray bird, with white wing patches, can be seen looking for insects and berries close to the ground. Imitated songs are repeated three to four times, but you can also listen for its loud “chewk” call.

The **Brown Thrasher** is the state bird of Georgia, and also can mimic other bird songs. However, it usually repeats its imitated songs only twice. The Brown Thrasher usually stays hidden among shrubs and forages on the ground, “thrashing” through leaves in search of insects. It has a bright reddish-brown back with dark streaks on its breast and belly. Listen for a loud “chuck” call.



The **Rock Dove**, or Rock Pigeon, is usually found in groups foraging on the ground for seeds. Rock Doves are found most often in cities. They nest and roost on concrete or stone structures such as building ledges, rafters and beams under bridges. Their colors vary from light gray to black, often with iridescent feathers on their necks. Listen for a low, rolling cooing song.



The **Blue Jay** is a large, opportunistic bird, meaning it will eat just about anything it finds. It is known for its bright blue, black and white colors and aggressive behavior towards larger birds and other animals. The Blue Jay is found in open areas, woods and cities. Listen for its loud, squawky “jaay! jaay!” and flute-like “toolili” calls.



Chippy Challenge



What do you think birds in other parts of your state, country or continent are like? Find out! Write a letter to a bird pen pal about the common birds in your area. Get creative – draw a picture, make a collage or write a story. Ask your new pen pal to write back to you about the birds in his or her area.

The **Carolina Wren** is a little cinnamon brown bird with a white eye stripe and tail that tilts upward. It is known for making nests in sheds, garages and hanging flower pots. It is easy to find hopping noisily around looking for insects. Listen for its loud “tea kettle, tea kettle, tea kettle” song and loud, harsh “teer” call.

