

B7 GREAT BLUE HERON

Length 46"

TRAITS: Large bird with wing span up to seven feet. Bluish gray body with white head with black on crown and face. Long pointed yellowish bill and dark legs.

HABITATS: This permanent resident lives in emergent wetlands, aquatic beds. Uses tops of tall conifers and Black Cottonwood trees for nesting. Nests in colonies.

FOODS: Fish, frogs, salamanders, young birds, and small mammals.

THREATS: Few natural predators, but crows will take unattended eggs.

"GEE WHIZ": Fly and rest with neck curved in S shape. Stands still waiting patiently for movement on water's surface then strikes with its bill.



B8 KILLDEER

Length 10"

TRAITS: Small shorebird. White breast with two dark stripes. Banded head, and a reddish orange rump.

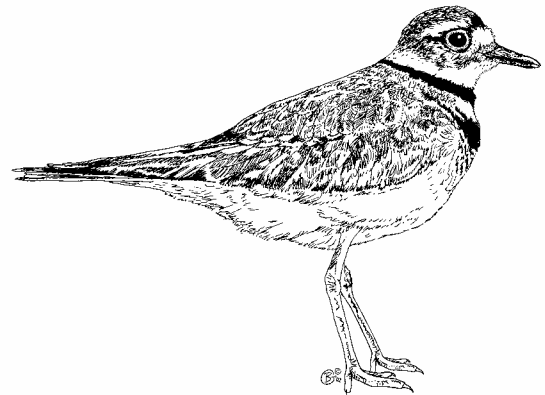
HABITATS: Permanent resident. Lives on wet prairies, upland prairies and exposed mudflats of aquatic beds.

Nests on open ground.

FOODS: Seeds, beetles, grasshoppers, caterpillars, ants, dragonflies, worms and grubs.

THREATS: Hawks, eagles, foxes, house cats.

"GEE WHIZ": Will pretend to have a broken wing or leg to distract threats away from nest.



B9 MALLARD

Length 23"

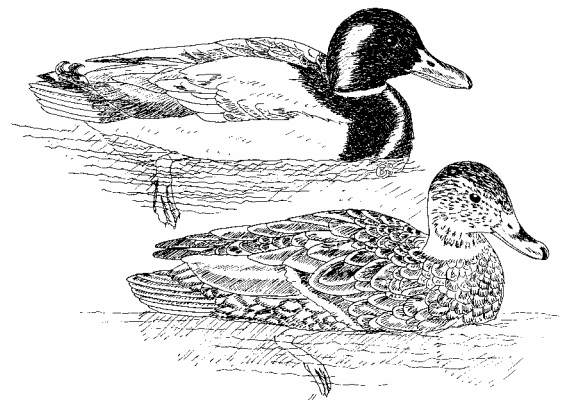
TRAITS: Duck, male is gray with brown breast. Green head and neck, yellow bill. Female is brown with an orange bill with dark brown markings.

HABITATS: Permanent resident. Lives in aquatic beds and emergent wetlands.

FOODS: Seeds, sedges, grass, aquatic plants, snails, insects.

THREATS: Foxes and raptors. Opossum and raccoons feed on eggs.

"GEE WHIZ": The mallard is a dabbling duck; feeds by tipping tail-up in the water to get food.



B10 NORTHERN FLICKER

Length 12”

TRAITS: Medium-sized woodpecker with stout, sharp bill. Brown barred back, spotted underside, and stiff tail feathers.

HABITATS: Permanent resident. Open deciduous woodlands.

FOODS: Often feeds on insects on the ground, especially ants. Occasionally eats seeds and acorns.

THREATS: Hawks, falcons, and owls.

“GEE WHIZ”: May nest in the same tree cavity each year. Starlings or squirrels may take over nesting cavity.



B11 NORTHERN HARRIER Length 17-23”

TRAITS: Hawk with a sharply hooked bill. Slim with long wings and tail. Male grayish above, white below. Female brown above and streaked below. Black wing-tips.

HABITATS: A permanent resident. Wet prairies, upland prairies, and emergent wetlands.

FOODS: Voles, snakes, frogs, grasshoppers, and sparrows.

THREATS: Raccoons and crows will eat the Northern harrier eggs and coyotes and Great-horned owls will eat the nestlings.

“GEE WHIZ” Uses excellent hearing to locate prey. Perch low and fly close to ground, wings upraised as they search for food. Formerly called “Marsh Hawk”.



B12 RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Length 9”

TRAITS: Black male with bright red shoulder patches. Female heavily brown streaked.

HABITATS: Permanent resident. Emergent wetlands, wet prairies and upland prairies. Nests near or over water.

FOODS: Seeds, blackberries, moths, beetles, grasshoppers, spiders, and snails.

THREATS: Snake, raccoon, other blackbirds, and hawks.

“GEE WHIZ”: Found in large flocks in winter. Can be very aggressive defending territory. Will attack crows, ravens, magpies, hawks, and osprey.



