

Can you find these residents in your neighborhood and natural areas?

<p>Song Sparrow - 6 inches long</p> 	<p>Song Sparrows are found low in the forest. Their thick, short beaks are good for cracking seeds found on the ground. Streaky brown breasts and solid brown backs help them hide in the forest. You often see them looking for seeds and insects to eat along the side of the trail or hear a male singing from the top of a stump or an eye-level branch.</p>	<p>Downy Woodpecker - 7 in. long</p> 	<p>Downy Woodpeckers forage for insects in deciduous trees with males foraging higher in the canopy than females. In the spring you can hear their tapping as the pair excavates a nesting cavity and then in the fall when they individually excavate a cavity for a winter roost. Females lack the red patch on the back of the head.</p>
<p>Spotted Towhee - 8 inches long</p> 	<p>Spotted Towhees are found on or near the ground. They use their thick beaks to crack seeds and grab insects and grubs from the ground. You often see them jumping backward as they scratch the ground duff to expose their food. The male wears a black hood, while the female's hood is dark grey.</p>	<p>Black-capped Chickadee – 5.5 in</p> 	<p>Black-capped Chickadees are known for their song "check-a-dee-dee-dee". They eat insects, conifer seeds, berries and other fruits. They forage among twigs, branches, and under bark in deciduous trees, and you will often see them clinging to small branches upside down. They are often found in suburban areas in the winter.</p>
<p>American Robin - 10 inches long</p> 	<p>The American Robin is one of our most common city birds. They can be seen flying through the trees and scavenging for food in our parks and yards. Their strong beaks are great for finding worms and pulling them from the ground. They eat a variety of insects and berries as well. See if you can sneak up on one if you see it in front of you on the trail.</p>	<p>Steller's Jay - 12 inches long</p> 	<p>Steller's Jays are noisy, striking cobalt blue-bodied, black-crested jays. They are found in coniferous or mixed coniferous-deciduous forests. They feed on nuts, pine seeds, acorns, and bird eggs and are known to cache food for later. You can find them screaming their warnings from the top of trees or quietly foraging on the ground or in trees and shrubs.</p>

Pictures courtesy of The Cornell Lab of Ornithology - All About Birds

Dark-eyed Junco - 6 inches long



Dark-eyed Juncos in our area are known as the Oregon Dark-eyed Junco. In the winter they are often the most common birds seen in our backyards where they kick up leaf duff and scratch for seeds under shrubs and feeders. During nesting season, they are found in conifers or mixed stand deciduous trees. In the spring and fall see if you can spot them in mixed-species foraging flocks.

Bushtit – 4.5 inches long



Bushtits are tiny, acrobatic birds with long tails and tiny bills. They prefer the edges of coniferous forests. They eat insects and spiders and also small fruit seeds. In winter large flocks of bushtits will move through trees and shrubs foraging. In spring and summer, they pair up to nest. See if you can find their hanging, gourd-shaped nests suspended in a bush or tree.

Anna's Hummingbird – 4.5 inches



Anna's Hummingbirds recently started wintering in our area in the late 1990s. They feed on flower nectar with their long bill and tongue while hovering. They are most attracted to long, tubular red, orange or violet-hued flowers. They also use small holes in trees to feed on sap. And they will fly-catch flying insects or seek out bugs trapped in spider webs.

Red-breasted Nuthatch – 4.5 in



Red-breasted Nuthatches are found in coniferous and mixed forests. They descend trees head-down on trunks or limbs foraging for insects, spiders, seeds and nuts. The name "Nuthatch" comes from "Nuthack", from the habit of hacking or opening nuts by wedging them in a bark crevice and hammering them open with its bill.

Northern Flicker - 14 inches long



Northern Flickers are woodpeckers that inhabit forest edges, open woodlands, and are readily found in our suburban mixed forest neighborhoods and parks. The loud drumming on a chimney flashing during spring is the sign of a male declaring his territory. They love ants, but also eat other insects, berries, and fruits as they forage on the ground or in trees and shrubs.

House Finch - 6 inches long



House Finches can be found in more open suburban areas and are widely distributed throughout much of the US. Their diet includes seeds such as thistle, dandelion, sunflower and mistletoe. They forage on the ground and perch on grasses, shrubs, and trees. They hang out together in small flocks and when perched sing cheerful hoarse warbling notes ending with 'zee'.