

# Biology 427: List of main species to learn

You are responsible for learning to identify the 134 species below shown in **BLACK**. Species shown in **BROWN** were included in pre-pandemic years of this course, but are not required this year. Instructors may still discuss these species during lab session for completeness. Focus on learning their official English names (as set by the American Ornithological Society), or scientific name if you prefer. You should also learn the Order and Family names, especially for large groups. Species scientific names are provided for interest, but in this course you are not expected to memorize them. *Page numbers refer to the 7th Edition of:*

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America  
 Some taxonomic revisions have occurred since this book was published; these are shown in green.



<b>ORDER</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>English Name (AOU)</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>ANSERIFORMES</b>				
	Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Swans)			
		Snow Goose	<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	16
		(changed in 2017 from <i>Chen caerulescens</i> )		
		Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	20
		Trumpeter Swan	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	22
		Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	24
		Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	26
		Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	28
		(changed in 2017 from <i>Anas strepera</i> )		
		Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	28
		American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i> *	30
		(changed in 2017 from <i>Anas americana</i> )		
		Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	30
		Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	32
		(changed in 2017 to <i>Anas clypeata</i> )		
		Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	36
		Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	36
		Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	42
		Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta americana</i>	42
		White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta deglandi</i>	42
		(changed in 2019 from <i>Melanitta fusca</i> )		
		Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	44
		Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	44
		Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	44
		Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	46
		Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	46
		Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	46
<b>GALLIFORMES</b>				
	Odontophoridae (New World Quail)			
		California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	56
	Phasianidae (Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys, and Old World Quail)			
		Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	60
		Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	62
		Sooty Grouse	<i>Dendragapus fuliginosus</i>	62

## PODICIPEDIFORMES

### Podicipedidae (Grebes)

Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	68
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	68
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	70

## COLUMBIFORMES

### Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	72
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	72
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	78
Passenger Pigeon	<i>Ectopistes migratorius</i>	547

## CAPRIMULGIFORMES

### Caprimulgidae (Goatsuckers)

Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	84
------------------	-------------------------	----

## APODIFORMES

### Apodidae (Swifts)

Black Swift	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>	88
Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	88

### Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	98
Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	102

## GRUIFORMES

### Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	108
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	110

### Gruidae (Cranes)

Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>	112
----------------	----------------------------	-----

## CHARADRIIFORMES

### Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)

Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>	114
---------------------	----------------------------	-----

### Charadriidae (Lapwings and Plovers)

Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	116
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	118
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	120

### Scolopacidae (Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies)

Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	132
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	134
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	140
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	144
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	146
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	148
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	152
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	152
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	156

### Stercorariidae (Skuas and Jaegers)

Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	164
------------------	---------------------------------	-----

### Alcidae (Auks, Murres, and Puffins)

	Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cepphus columba</i>	170
	Marbled Murrelet	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	172
	Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	178
	Great Auk	<i>Pinguinus impennis</i>	551
	Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)		
	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	182
	Short-billed Gull	<i>Larus brachyrhynchus</i>	188
	(changed from Mew Gull, <i>Larus canus</i> , in 2021; in split from Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i> )		
	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	190
	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	196
	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	212
GAVIIFORMES			
	Gaviidae (Loons)		
	Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	218
PROCELLARIIFORMES			
	Diomedeidae (Albatrosses)		
	Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	220
	Procellariidae (Shearwaters and Petrels)		
	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	224
	Hydrobatidae (Storm-Petrels)		
	Leach's Storm-Petrel	<i>Hydrobates leucorhous</i>	242
	(changed in 2019 from <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i> )		
SULIFORMES			
	Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)		
	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	252
	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>	254
PELECANIFORMES			
	Pelecanidae (Pelicans)		
	American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	256
	Ardeidae (Bitterns, Herons, and Allies)		
	American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	258
	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	258
CATHARTIFORMES			
	Cathartidae (New World Vultures)		
	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	268
ACCIPITRIFORMES			
	Pandionidae (Ospreys)		
	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	270
	Accipitridae (Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies)		
	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	274
	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	274
	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	276
	(North American populations changed in 2017 from <i>Circus cyaneus</i> )		
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	278
	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	278
	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	278

	Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	288
	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	288
STRIGIFORMES			
	Tytonidae (Barn Owls)		
	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	294
	Strigidae (Typical Owls)		
	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	294
	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	294
	Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	296
	(split from Mexican counterpart, Cinereous Owl, <i>Strix sartorii</i> , in 2021)		
	Spotted Owl	<i>Strix occidentalis</i>	296
	Snowy Owl	<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	296
	Western Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops kennicottii</i>	298
	Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	302
CORACIIFORMES			
	Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)		
	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	304
PICIFORMES			
	Picidae (Woodpeckers and Allies)		
	Red-breasted Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>	310
	Red-naped Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>	310
	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates villosus</i>	314
	(changed in 2018 from <i>Picoides villosus</i> )		
	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>	314
	(changed in 2018 from <i>Picoides pubescens</i> )		
	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	316
	Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	318
FALCONIFORMES			
	Falconidae (Caracaras and Falcons)		
	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	322
	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	322
	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	324
PASSERIFORMES ("perching birds")			
Suboscines:			
	Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)		
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	334
	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	342
Oscines ("true songbirds"; suborder Passeri):			
	Laniidae (Shrikes)		
	Northern Shrike	<i>Lanius borealis</i>	356
	(North American populations changed in 2017 from <i>Lanius excubitor</i> )		
	Vireonidae (Vireos)		
	Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	362
	Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	364

Corvidae (Jays and Crows)			
	Canada(!) Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	364
	(changed from Gray Jay in 2018)		
	Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	366
	Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	370
	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	370
	(changed from Northwestern Crow <i>C. caurinus</i> in 2020, when lumped with American)		
	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	372
Alaudidae (Larks)			
	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	374
Hirundinidae (Swallows)			
	Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	376
	Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	378
	Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	378
	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	378
	Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	380
Paridae (Chickadees and Titmice)			
	Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	384
	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>	386
Aegithalidae (Bushtits)			
	Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	386
Sittidae (Nuthatches)			
	Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	388
Certhiidae (Creepers)			
	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	390
Troglodytidae (Wrens)			
	Pacific Wren	<i>Troglodytes pacificus</i>	392
	Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	394
	Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	394
Cinclidae (Dippers)			
	American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	398
Regulidae (Kinglets)			
	Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	398
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Corthylio calendula</i>	398
	(genus name changed from <i>Regulus</i> to <i>Corthylio</i> in 2021)		
Turdidae (Thrushes)			
	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	408
	Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	408
	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	410
	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	410
	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	414
	Varied Thrush	<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	416
Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)			
	Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	416
Sturnidae (Starlings)			
	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	422
Bombycillidae (Waxwings)			
	Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	424
	Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	424
Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)			
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	428

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)		
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	432
Fringillidae (Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies)		
Pine Grosbeak	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	434
Purple Finch	<i>Haemorhous purpureus</i>	438
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	438
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	440
Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>	442
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	442
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	444
Calcariidae (Longspurs and Snow Buntings)		
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	450
Parulidae (Wood-Warblers)		
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis celata</i> (changed in 2019 from <i>Oreothlypis celata</i> )	458
MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>	462
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	464
Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	468
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	472
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	474
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	482
Passerellidae (American sparrows)		
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	488
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	506
Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	508
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	510
Golden-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>	510
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	512
Cardinalidae (Cardinals, Piranga Tanagers and Allies)		
Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	520
Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	524
Icteridae (Blackbirds)		
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	530
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	532
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	534
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	538
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	544