

Silverthorne's Common Bird Population



The Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Basic Facts: The physical size of these birds is 21-23 inches, wingspan is 59-71 inches, and its weight varies from 49-71 oz. Even though these birds are slender, with long narrow wings and long legs, they fly with a marked kink in their wings, making an M-shape when seen from below. The adult ospreys are brown on top and white below. The head is white with a broad brown stripe through the eyes. The juvenile osprey have white spots on the back and shading on the breast.

Migration Patterns: Osprey, nicknamed the “sea hawk,” is a long distance migratory bird. Most ospreys, which breed in North America, migrate to Central & South America for the winter, with flight routes following wide paths of the eastern, interior, and western United States. A few ospreys winter over in the southernmost United States, including parts of Florida and California.

Diet: The osprey's diet consists almost exclusively of live fish. In the continental United States, their diet consists of more than 80 species of



live, fresh and saltwater fish. The fish captured averages 6-12 inches and weighs about 5-10 oz. The ospreys have been seen, on a regular basis, “fishing” over Silverthorne's North Pond Park, the Blue River, and the pond at Willow Grove. They will fly over the shallow waters and circle the pond looking for fish which may be close to the surface. Then they swoop down, talons first, and grab its prey out of the water. Their talons, designed with four toes, can reverse two toes in order to carry freshly caught fish, two toes in front and two toes behind. As the



osprey flies back to the nest, it has the ability to move the prey parallel to the bird's body and into a more aerodynamic position, thus reducing wind resistance.

Nest Locations: The osprey nests are built of large sticks and can be viewed in the Silverthorne area, at these four locations:

- In the Outlets at Silverthorne (red village) parking lot, one can view a nest which has been built on the top of a lighting pole. This nest has newer construction and is most visible to view.
- The biggest nest is located on the west side of Highway 9 near the intersection of Golden Eagle Road. This nest is located on two abandoned power poles and measures 6-7 feet in diameter.
- As one travels north on Highway 9, a third nest can be seen on the top of another abandoned power pole. This nest is quite a distance away from the highway and is located on the eastern side.
- If you continue traveling north on Highway 9 (2 miles further and across from Everest Materials) a fourth nest is visible. The nest is located on the eastern side of the highway, and is adjacent to a small pond.



Local Observations: It seems that the osprey inhabit these nests, raise their families, and then in the fall, fly away (parents first, then the young adult ospreys leave). Each year, in the spring, the male osprey arrives first and seems to be “getting the nest ready” for the arrival of his mate. One can see the male osprey carrying sticks to their nest, then his mate arrives. When the osprey chicks are born, the adult osprey can be seen doing most of the fishing and are bringing fish back to the nest to feed the chicks. As the birds get older, as observed by the residents who live near these nests, one can see the adult osprey giving their young flying lessons and then fishing lessons. Towards the end of their growing up period, the adult osprey will leave. The near-adult osprey will be squawking and squawking, like where is mom and dad? A little later on, they too, will leave in the fall. And the cycle will start over again in the spring!





Great Horned Owl

SN: *Bubo Virginianus*
SL: Hoo, hoo-hoo hooo
SZ: 21-22 inches
HB: Pine & aspen forests
MG: Year-round
OS: No other owl species spotted



Red-winged Blackbird

SN: *Agelaius phoeniceus*
SL: No discernible sound
SZ: 8-9 inches
HB: Willow thickets, swamps
MG: Year-round
OS: Yellow-headed Blackbird



Bald Eagle

SN: *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
SL: High-pitched whistling or piping notes
SZ: 30-38 inches
HB: Lakes, ponds, rivers
MG: Year-round
OS: Golden Eagle



American Goldfinch

SN: *Spinus tristis*
SL: No discernible sound
SZ: 5-5 1/2 inches
HB: Woodlands & adjacent fields, in towns
MG: Year-round
OS: Western Finch



Peregrine Falcon

SN: *Falco peregrinus*
SL: No discernible sound
SZ: 16-22 inches
HB: Pine forests, ponds, wetlands, cliffs, tall buildings
MG: Year-round
OS: No other falcon species spotted



American Kestrel

SN: *Falco sparverius*
SL: Klee-klee-klee, excited sound
SZ: 12 inches
HB: Fields, grassy areas
MG: Year-round
OS: Merlind Kestrel



Black-headed Grosbeak

SN: *Pheucticus melanocephalus*
SL: No discernible sound
SZ: 8-9 inches
HB: Pine & aspen forests
MG: Year-round
OS: Western Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak



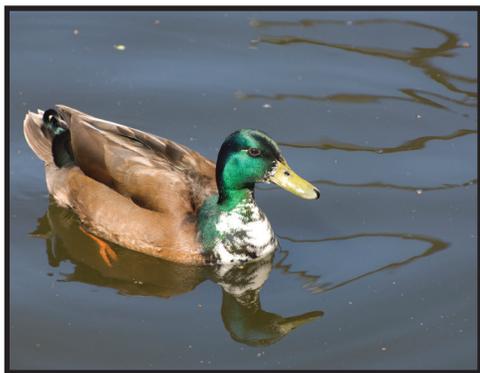
Dark-eyed Junco

SN: *Junco hyemalis*
SL: Short musical trill or whistle
SZ: 6 inches
HB: Pine & aspen forests, willow thickets
MG: April-October
OS: Gray-headed Junco, Oregon Junco, Pink-sided Junco, White-crowned Sparrow



Black-billed Magpie

SN: *Pica hudsonia*
SL: No discernible sound
SZ: 18 inches
HB: Pine & aspen forests, in towns & areas with shrubs
MG: Year-round
OS: American Crow, Common Raven



Mallard

SN: *Anas platyrhynchos*
SL: Quack, quack
SZ: 23 inches
HB: Ponds, streams, marshes
MG: Year-round
OS: Wood Duck, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck



Stellar's Jay

SN: *Cyanocitta Stelleri*
SL: Shak, shak, shak
SZ: 11-12 inches
HB: Mountain forests, shrubs
MG: Year-round
OS: Gray Jay, Blue Jay



Osprey

SN: *Pandion haliaetus*
SL: Kew-kew-kew
SZ: 21-23 inches
HB: Lakes, ponds, rivers
MG: Year-round
OS: Bald Eagle



Red-tailed Hawk

SN: *Buteo jamaicensis*
SL: Keeeer
SZ: 22 inches
HB: Grasslands, forests
MG: Year-round
OS: Cooper's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Northern Goshawk



White-tailed Ptarmigan

SN: *Lagopus leucura*
SL: No discernible sound
SZ: 12-12 1/2 inches
HB: Mountain tundras
MG: Year-round
OS: Sharp-tailed Grouse



Broad-tailed Hummingbird

SN: *Selasphorus platycercus*
SL: Clicking sound
SZ: 3 3/4 inches
HB: Meadows, willow thickets
MG: Spring-Summer
OS: Rufous Hummingbird



Pine Siskin

SN: *Carduelis pinus*
SL: Buzzy "sheree" call
SZ: 5 inches
HB: Mountain forests, shrubs
MG: Year-round
OS: Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill



Downy Woodpecker

SN: *Picoides pubescens*
SL: Tap, tap, tap
SZ: 6 1/2 inches
HB: Coniferous & aspen forests
MG: Year-round
OS: Red-naped Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker

KEY

SN: Scientific name
SL: Sounds like
SZ: Size
HB: Habitat
MG: Migratory
OS: Other species

The birds depicted in this brochure are representative of those that live in, are passing through, or migrating to Silverthorne for the summer.

This brochure was produced by the SPORT Committee with special thanks going to Bill Linfield for his photography and the Summit Daily News for the use of their map.

March 2014

