







I, Spy...BIRDS!

Can you find any of these birds that are often found at Bluff Lake in the Summer?

Put a check mark in the box when you spot one!

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Mallard <i>(Anas platyrhynchos)</i></p> <p><u>Where to look:</u> Bluff Lake, Sand Creek</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most abundant of all ducks • Male is the colorful one and has yellow bill • Female is brown with orange bill 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Black-Crowned Night-Heron <i>(Nycticorax nycticorax)</i></p> <p><u>Where to look:</u> Bluff Lake, Sand Creek</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often tucks neck into its body creating a hunchbacked look • Adults have all black bills, immature have yellow and black bills 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Double Crested Cormorant <i>(Phalacrocorax auritus)</i></p> <p><u>Where to look:</u> Bluff Lake, Sand Creek, Flying Overhead</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long snaky necks • Often seen standing in the sun with wings spread out to dry • Mouth is bright blue inside!
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Red-winged Blackbird <i>(Agelaius phoeniceus)</i></p> <p><u>Where to look:</u> Cattail Marsh, Shortgrass Prairie, Riparian Woods</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical three note call • The males perch on branches and define their territory by singing • Usually found by water 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Common Grackle <i>(Quiscalus quiscula)</i></p> <p><u>Where to look:</u> Bluff Lake, Sand Creek, Riparian Woods, Flying Overhead</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Song is squeaky and not very musical • Eats insects, seeds and even smaller birds! 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Canada Goose <i>(Branta Canadensis)</i></p> <p><u>Where to look:</u> Bluff Lake, Sand Creek, Flying Overhead</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wingspan can reach over 6 feet, can weigh as much as 20 pounds • Often mate for life • Make nests near water



Black-capped Chickadee

(Parus atricapillus)

Where to look: Riparian Woods



- It constantly says its own name “chickadee dee dee”
- A lively, curious, and entertaining bird that hops, jumps, and swings in foliage



American White Pelican

(Pelecanus erythrorhynchos)

Where to look: Bluff Lake, Flying Overhead



- Eat mostly small fish, salamanders, and crayfish
- Their webbed feet make them great at water-ski landings and swimming



Snowy Egret

(Egretta thula)

Where to look: Bluff Lake, Sand Creek, Cattail Marsh



- Snowy Egrets have black legs with bright yellow feet
- Male and female Snowy Egrets take turns incubating their eggs



Red-Tailed Hawk

(Buteo jamaicensis)

Where to look: Riparian Woods, Flying Overhead



- Often seen making circles in the sky while searching for prey
- Eats small rodents, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and insects



American Goldfinch

(Carduelis tristis)

Where to look: Shortgrass Prairie, Riparian Woods



- Often referred to as “wild canaries”
- Can live in almost any environment: country, city, or suburb, coast to coast.



Black-billed Magpie

(Pica pica)

Where to look: Riparian Woods



- Named after the sound they make “mag, mag, mag”
- Sometimes kept as pets, and can be taught to imitate human sounds!