

# Field Notes

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

November 2006

## Winter Birds

Winter is a great time to watch birds. Although there are fewer species around many will come to feeders. In Manitoba over 400 different bird species have been recorded, however, only about 50 (12%) of these stay during the winter. It is the perfect time of year to start learning the different species!

The birds that spend the winter in Manitoba belong to a variety of groups. They include: grouse, hawks, owls, pigeons, woodpeckers, crows and jays, chickadees, nuthatches, waxwings, shrikes, sparrows, and finches. There are always a few stray species that manage to spend the winter here (e.g. ducks, geese) but they are not regular winter residents.



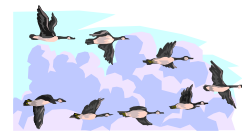
Birds have many strategies for dealing with the cold, snowy Manitoba winters. Some birds grow extra feathers on their bodies and legs, some fluff up their feathers to trap air close to their skin to keep warm, some will huddle together for warmth, some store food, and some change their diets from insects to seeds, nuts and berries.

1, 2, 3...

There are many opportunities to get help when learning the winter birds. Come and join the Winter Bird Workshop on November 19<sup>th</sup> or the Christmas Bird Count on December 16<sup>th</sup> here at Oak Hammock Marsh.

## Did you know?

That 88% of Manitoba's birds migrate.



That the Snowy Owl considers southern Manitoba its winter destination.



That some birds have larger brains and grow new brain cells each fall so that they can remember where they hid their food.



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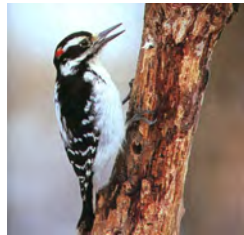
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## Common Winter Species



Downy Woodpecker



Hairy Woodpecker



Evening Grosbeak



Common Redpoll



Blue Jay



White-breasted  
Nuthatch



American Goldfinch



Black-capped Chickadee



House Sparrow



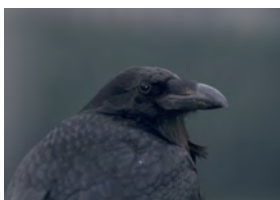
House Finch



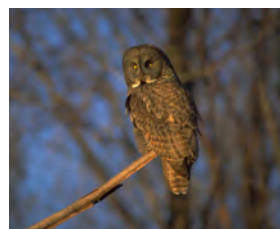
Red-breasted  
Nuthatch



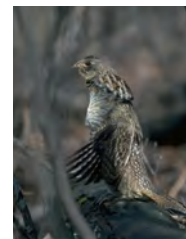
Snow Bunting



Common Raven



Great Gray Owl



Ruffed Grouse



Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is a joint project of  
Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Province of Manitoba

