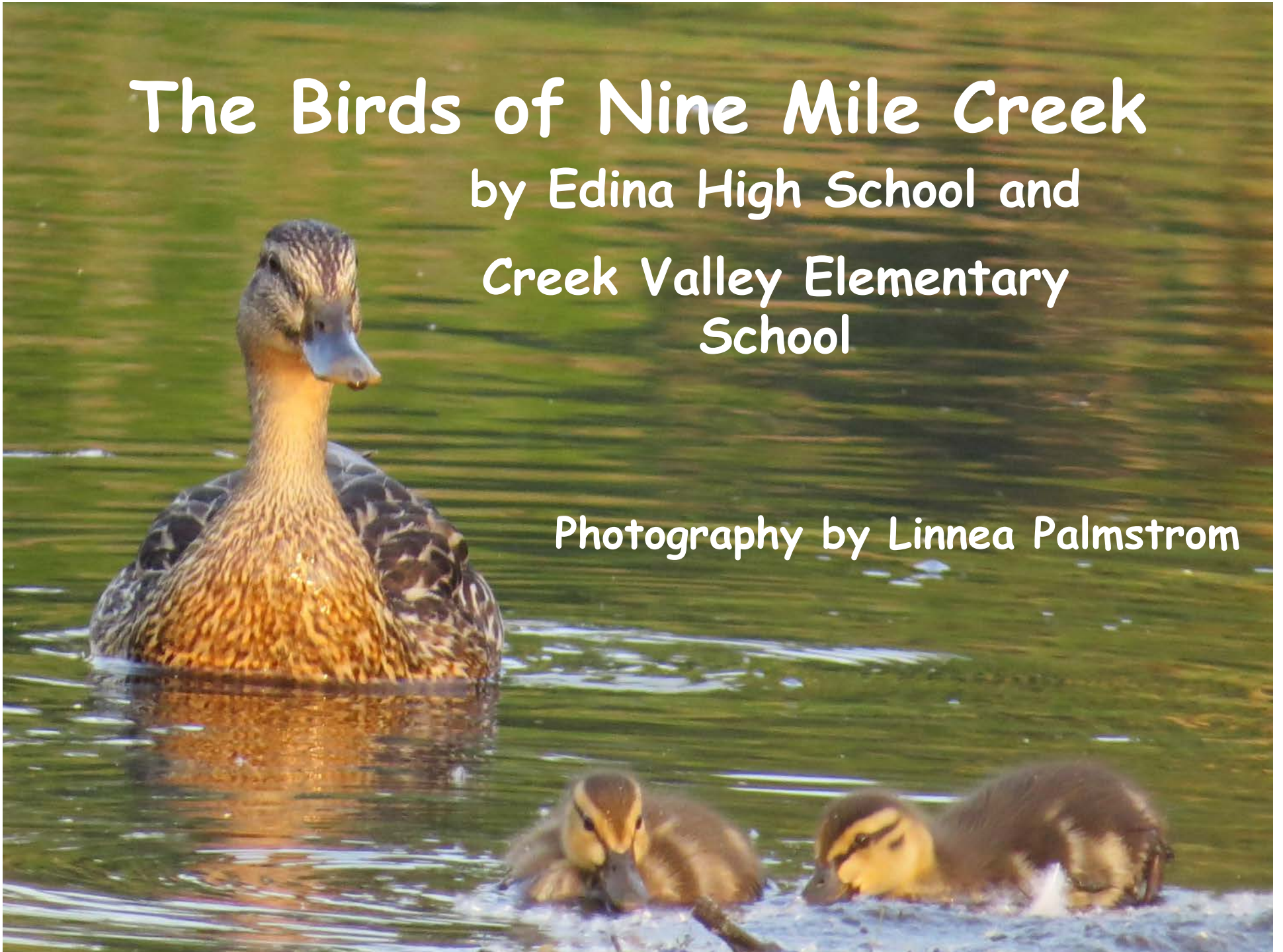


The Birds of Nine Mile Creek

by Edina High School and
Creek Valley Elementary
School

Photography by Linnea Palmstrom





Aerial view of Nine Mile Creek where the birds were photographed.
(Map adapted from Google maps.)



Wood Duck



American Wigeon



Blue-winged Teal



Mallard



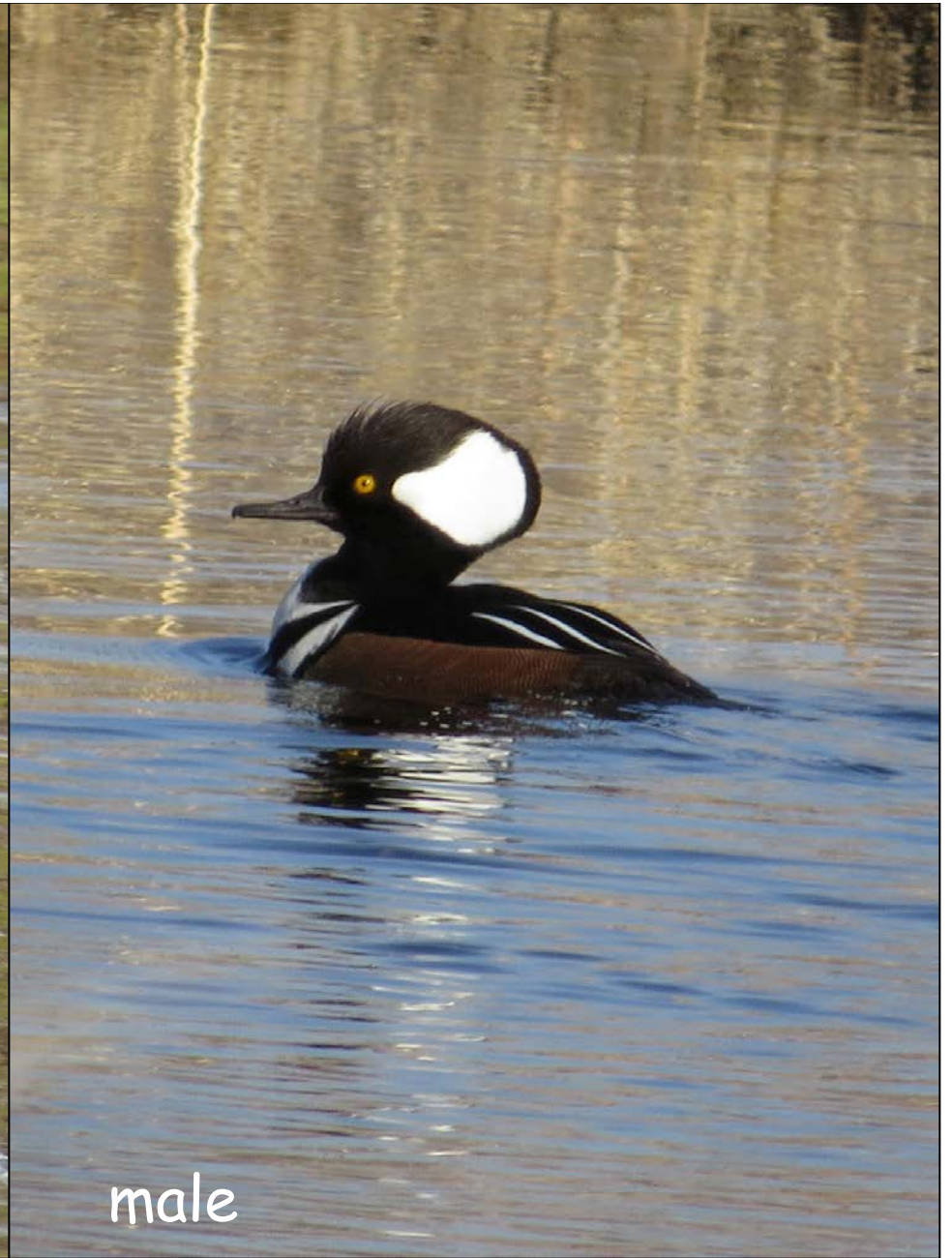
Mallard hybrid



Canada Goose



female



male

Hooded Merganser



Chimney Swift



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Killdeer



Herring Gull



Ring-billed Gull



Franklin's Gull



Spotted Sandpiper



Pectoral Sandpiper



Least Sandpiper



Wilson's Snipe



Solitary Sandpiper



Great Egret



Great Blue Heron



Green Heron



Turkey Vulture



Belted Kingfisher



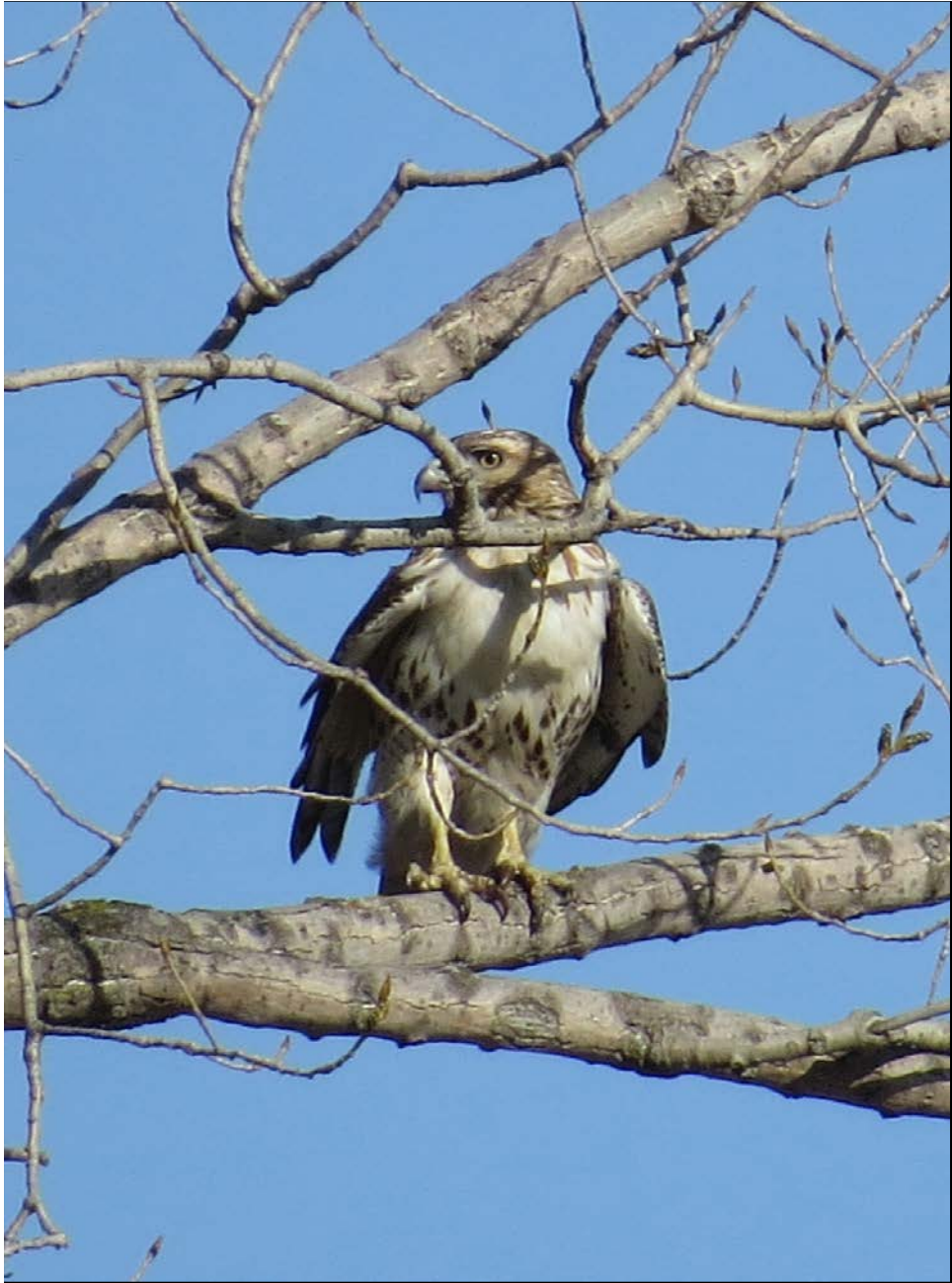
Rock Dove/Domestic Pigeon



Mourning Dove



Cooper's Hawk (with prey)



Red-tailed Hawk



Broad-winged Hawk



Bald Eagle



Osprey



Merlin



American Kestrel



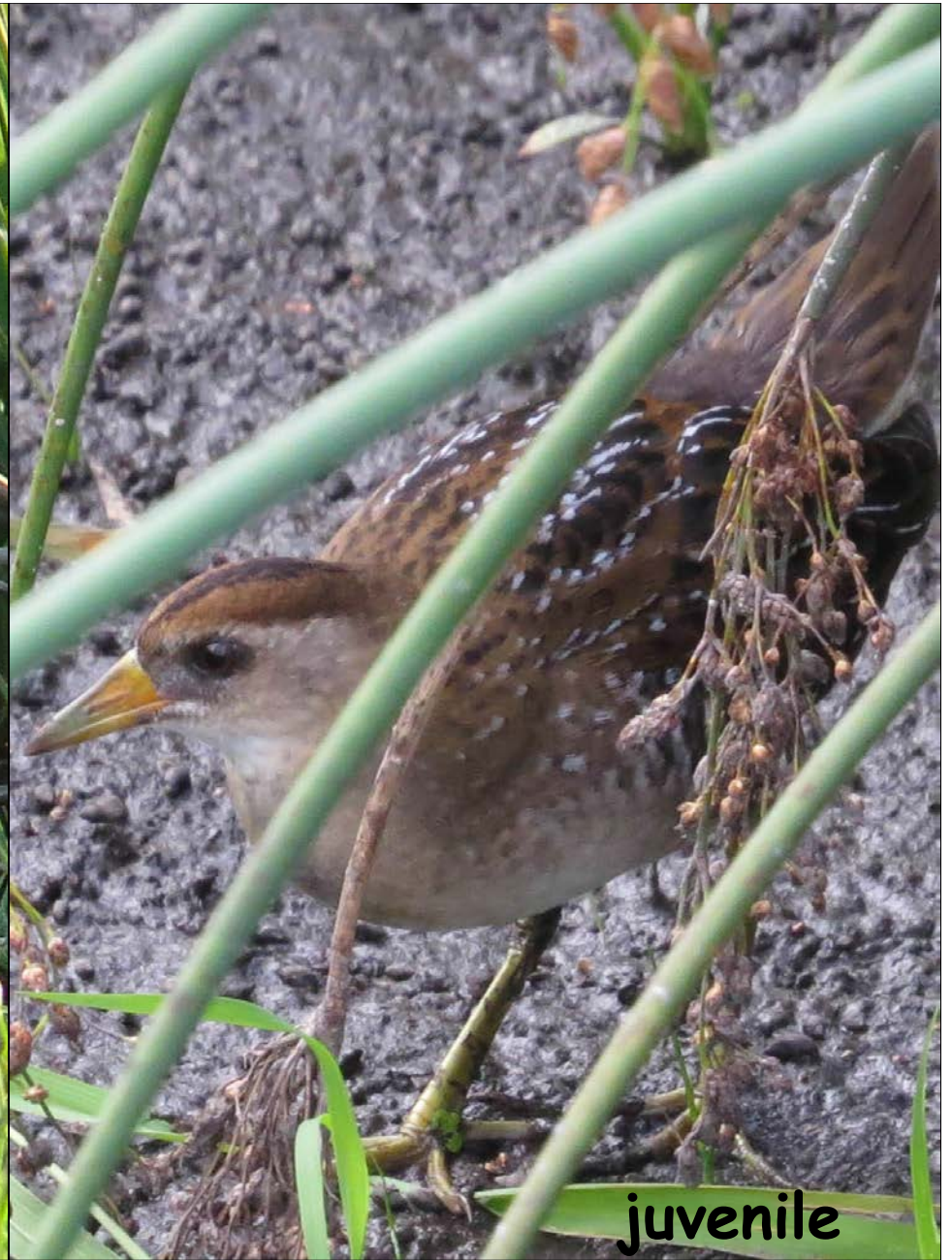
Wild Turkey



American Coot



adult



juvenile

Sora



Horned Lark



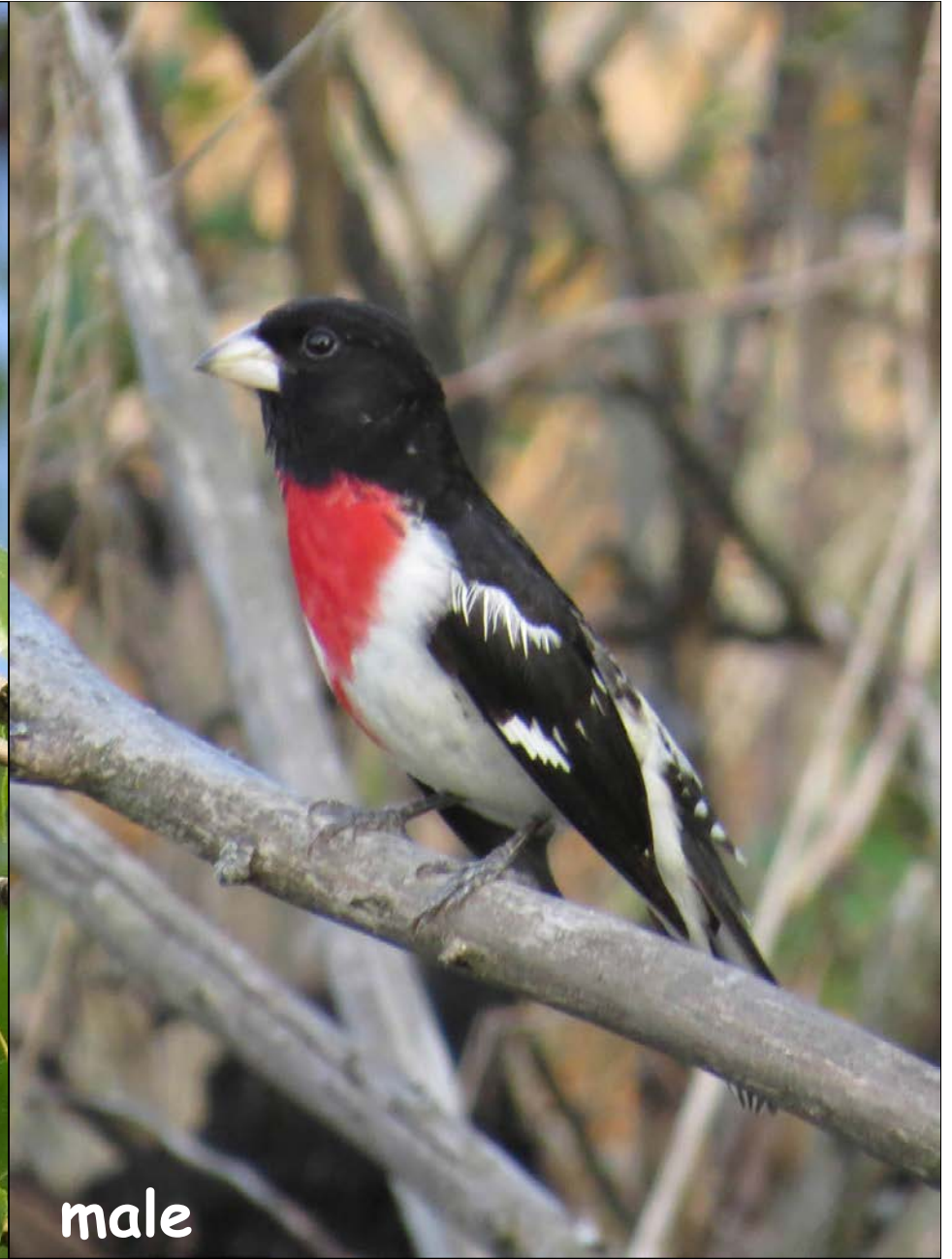
Cedar Waxwing



Northern Cardinal



female



male

Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Scarlet Tanager (missing photo)



Brown Creeper



American Crow



Blue Jay



Dark-eyed Junco



Swamp Sparrow



Lincoln's Sparrow



Song Sparrow



Savannah Sparrow



Fox Sparrow



Vesper Sparrow



American Tree Sparrow



Chipping Sparrow



White-throated Sparrow



Harris' s Sparrow



American Goldfinch



House Finch (eating elderberries)



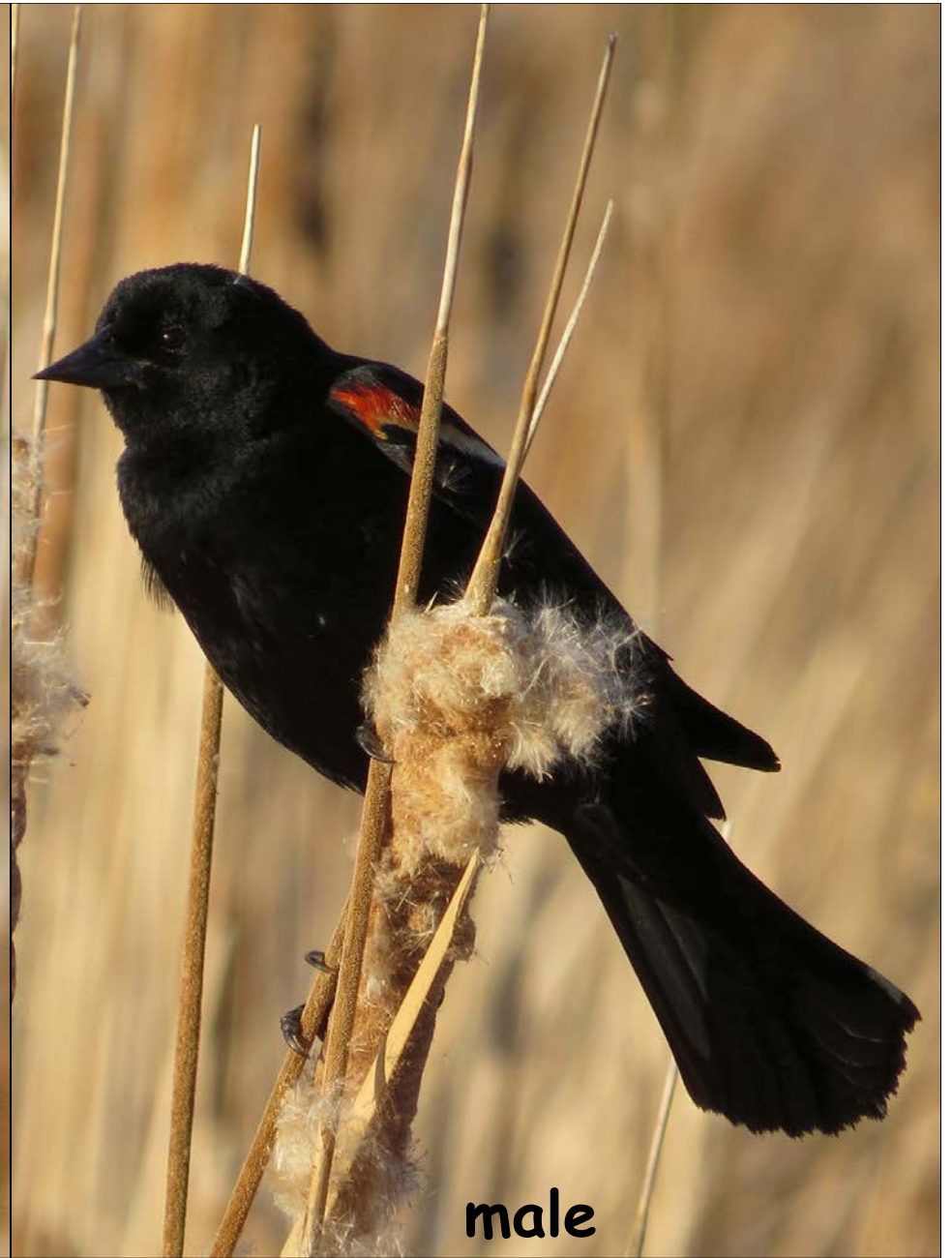
Barn Swallow



Tree Swallow



female



male

Red-wing Blackbird



Baltimore Oriole



Brown-headed Cowbird



Common Grackle



Eastern Meadowlark



Northern Shrike



Gray Catbird



Brown Thrasher



Black-capped Chickadee



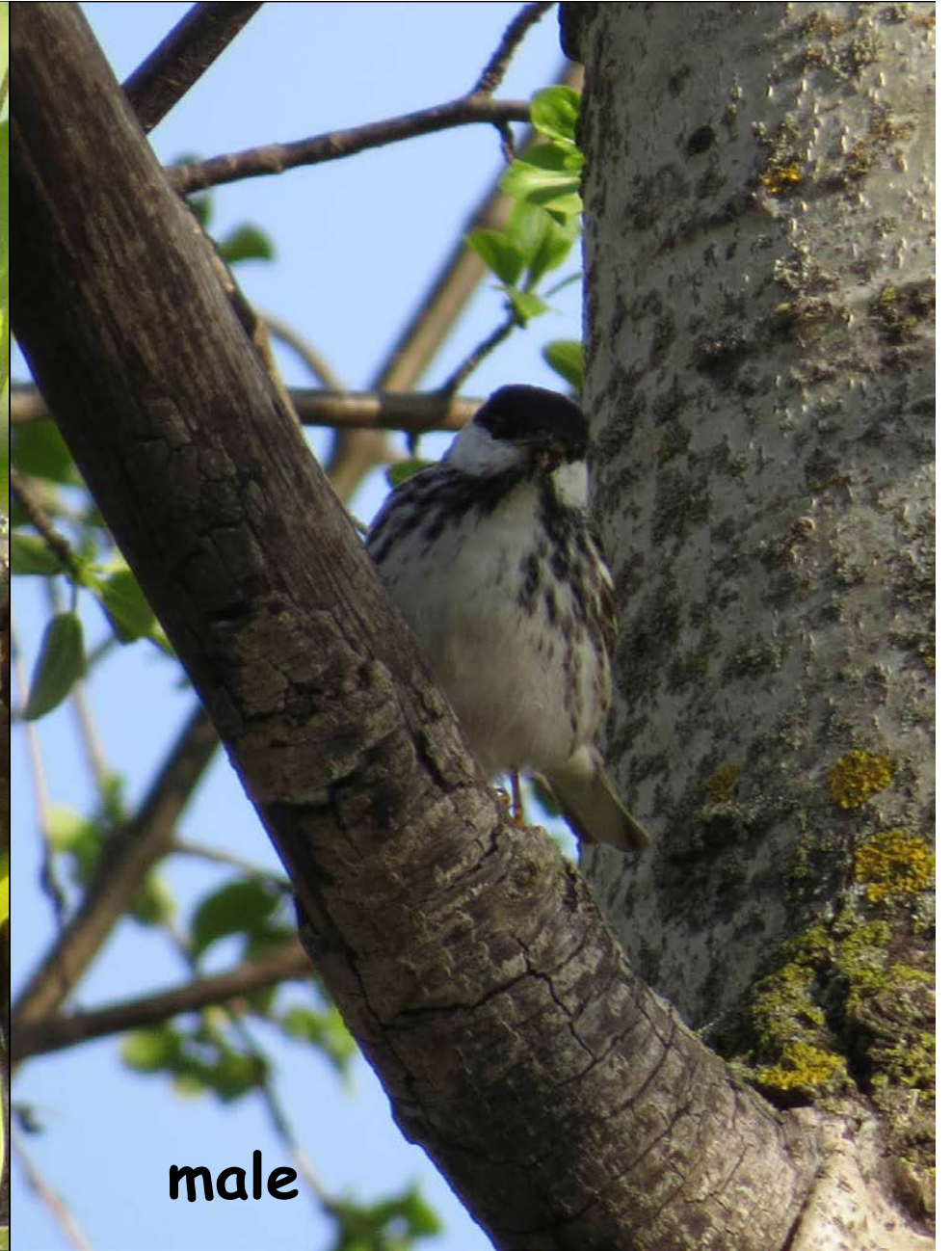
House Sparrow



Magnolia Warbler



female



male

Blackpoll Warbler



Common Yellowthroat



Black-and-white Warbler



Tennessee Warbler



Nashville Warbler



Northern Waterthrush



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Palm Warbler



Yellow Warbler



American Redstart



Orange-crowned Warbler



Golden-winged Warbler



Wilson's Warbler



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher



Ruby-crowned Kinglet



Golden-crowned Kinglet



White-breasted Nuthatch



European Starling



House Wren



Hermit Thrush



Swainson's Thrush



Eastern Bluebird



American Robin (bathing in Nine Mile Creek)



Alder Flycatcher



Least Flycatcher



Great Crested Flycatcher



Eastern Phoebe



Eastern Kingbird



Red-eyed Vireo



Northern Flicker



Pileated Woodpecker



Red-bellied Woodpecker



Downy Woodpecker



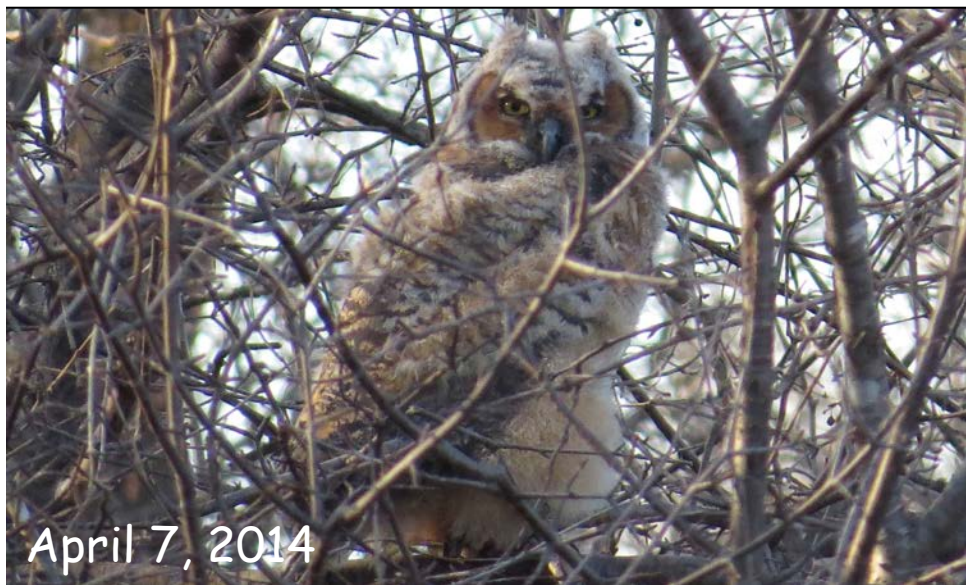
Hairy Woodpecker



Pied-billed Grebe



Great Horned Owl



The Great Horned Owl chick grows up.

These are photographs of 104 bird species that I have seen walking along a 2/3 mile section of Nine Mile Creek by Edina High School and Creek Valley Elementary School in Edina, Minnesota. These birds were photographed between May 2012 and October 2014.

Every time I go on a walk, there is something new to see. From these walks, I was fortunate to have a glimpse into the lives of these birds. Bird parents work very hard to keep their young fed and safe. Their chicks are always in danger from predation, and small birds band together to chase away potential predators. Weather is also a concern. Many chicks died after heavy rainstorms. In my mind I can still hear the distressed sounds of the catbirds and song sparrows calling for their chicks after rain flooded their nests and their chicks were gone.

There are also joyful times when the ospreys soar in the air riding the thermals, seeming to enjoy flight itself. In the Creek Valley Prairie, the songbirds are loud and noisy in the fall as they feast on Cup Plant and Compass Plant seeds.

I would like to thank my mentor for this project, Erica Sniegowski, of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District for her enthusiastic encouragement and guidance and Dr. Linnea Hall, Executive Director of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, for verifying my bird identifications.

I hope you have fun watching the birds that live by Nine Mile Creek!

~Linnea Palmstrom





Nine Mile Creek at Edina High School

Updated 10-24-2014