

Common Water Birds of the Charles

Mute Swan: Huge and white, more common further upriver.

Canada Goose: Brown bodies with a black head and neck and a white cheek patch.

Mallard: The typical duck, males are green headed with a gray body and a dark chest. Females are basically all brown.

American Black Duck: Like a female Mallard, but with a darker, chocolate colored body

Wood Duck: Wildly patterned and totally distinctive. Females are duller but have white patch around the eye and the same head shape.

Ring-necked Duck: Dark back, gray sides, dark head, and a ring on the bill. Females are solid brownish with some marks on the face and a ring on the bill.

Common Goldeneye: Males have white bodies and dark heads with a white spot between the bill and the eye. Females have a grayish body and brown head.

Hooded Merganser: Small, with a distinctive thin bill and crest. Males are black and chestnut with a white chest and white patch in the crest. Females are a plain brown.

Common Merganser: Large. Males are very white with green heads. Females are brown with reddish heads.

Cormorants: Large, skinny black birds that often stretch their wings as they perch. The Great Cormorant is occasional in winter, Double-crested Cormorants are regular in summer.

American Coot: Small and very dark slaty blue with a white bill. Has a very distinctive bobbing motion as it swims.

Ring-billed Gull: the typical gull, medium-sized with a light gray back.

Herring Gull: Much larger than the Ring-billed but quite similar in color.

Great Black-backed Gull: Huge gull. Adults have very blackish wings and backs.

Great Blue Heron: Large blue-gray bird with a long bill, long neck, and long legs.

Less Common Water Birds

Green-winged Teal: Tiny duck. Males has reddish faces with a green stripe, gray bodies, and a yellowish rear. Females are brown but distinctive in size and shape.

Bufflehead: Small duck. Males are mostly white with a black head with a white patch that extends to the edge. Females are dark with a white spot behind the eye.



Mute Swan



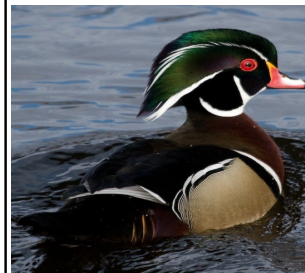
Canada Goose



Mallards



American Black Duck



Wood Duck



Ring-necked Ducks

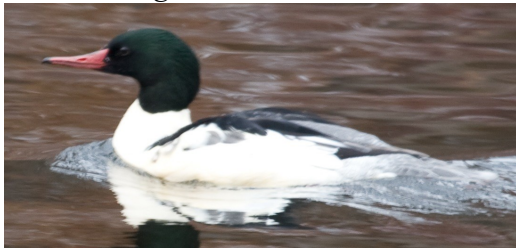


Goldeneye

For less common birds and other things, see:
<http://www.brewsterslinnet.com/charles-river-nature>



Hooded Merganser



Common Mergansers



American Coot



Great Blue Heron



Great Cormorant



Green-winged Teal



Ring-billed Gull



Bufflehead (female)

Common Early Spring Land Birds

Red-tailed Hawk: A large hawk with a blackish belly band. Adults have a bright red tail.

Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawk: smaller hawks that are quite difficult to tell apart.

Belted Kingfisher: Fairly large, blue and white with a shaggy crest and a rattling call.

Downy Woodpecker: Small woodpecker, black and white.

Blue Jay: A crested blue bird with a white belly and black collar.

American Crow: Large and all black.

Fish Crow: Almost identical to American Crow but has a more nasal, doubled cah-ah call note. Has become very scarce, although was quite common a few years ago.

Black-capped Chickadee: A very small bird with a black cap and bib and a grayish body.

Tufted Titmouse: A gray bird with a crest.

White-breasted Nuthatch. Blue back, black head, white belly. Often climbs headfirst down trees.

American Robin: Blackish head and back, red breast.

Northern Mockingbird: A robin-sized gray bird with white patches in the wings and tail.

European Starling: A small black bird with a thin yellow bill and lots of speckles on the body.

Song Sparrow: A very streaky sparrow.

White-throated Sparrow: A sparrow with a white throat and obvious white or tan eye-line that ends with a yellow spot above the bill.

Dark-eyed Junco: Black bird with a white belly and white outer tail feathers.

Northern Cardinal: Red or reddish brown with a crest.

Red-winged Blackbird: A robin-sized black bird with a red patch on the wing.

Common Grackle: A fairly large black bird with an iridescent gloss.

American Goldfinch: A small finch. Females and winter plumaged males are a dull yellow/green-gray color with black wings. Breeding males are bright yellow with a black cap and wings.

House Sparrow: Males have a black throat and gray and brown face. Females have an eyeline and no streaking on the front.