

WHAT SPECIES IS THIS?

Easy identification for Crowell mini shorebirds and songbirds

by Joe French

A bit over a year ago (January/February 2003) I wrote an article on collecting miniatures, which included group pictures of the three types of minis that Crowell made - ducks, shorebirds and songbirds. Crowell settled on a specific list of 25 candidates for each type of miniature offered, often writing the assigned number and species on the bottom in pencil. He sold them individually, or in groups of 25, with many of the groups going to local schools on Cape Cod. But keep in mind, Crowell did make more than 25 different species for each type of miniature and was willing to make substitutes to his lists of 25.

Most of us have no problem recognizing

the ducks on his list, but easy identification is not the case with the other two groups. Songbirds are not residents of every state, and even birdwatchers, unless they travel extensively, have only seen examples of many in bird guidebooks. For instance, cardinals did not appear in Massachusetts until 1957, which likely accounts for their absence on Crowell's publicized list. Yet there are four types of warblers on the list, suggesting these were native to New England at the time.

Shorebirds present much more of a problem. Even in full spring, or breeding, plumage, many are quite similar, and when they take on their fall coat, without

the use of a guidebook, it's nearly impossible to tell them apart.

After receiving calls asking for the identification of the different birds illustrated in the *Decoy Magazine* article, I realized that I should have included identifying numbers to correspond with the list. It was a difficult task, since I had to battle the wind to keep my numbers in place. All the shorebirds and songbirds from Crowell's list, with the exception of the #22 songbird, which is a cardboard cutout, is included.



SONG BIRDS

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|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Oriole | 14. Kingbird. |
| 2. Downy woodpecker | 15. Scarlet tanager |
| 3. Kentucky warbler | 16. Brown thrasher |
| 4. Blue jay | 17. Cedar waxwing |
| 5. Nuthatch | 18. Flicker |
| 6. Towhee | 19. Nashville warbler |
| 7. R.H. woodpecker | 20. Blue catbird |
| 8. Tree-swallow | 21. Redwing |
| 9. Wood thrush | 22. Black & white warbler |
| 10. Tennessee warbler | 23. Chickadee |
| 11. Bluebird | 24. Goldfinch |
| 12. Robin | 25. PeeWee |
| 13. Ovenbird | |



SHORE BIRDS

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Greater yellow legs | 15. Hudsonian godwit |
| 2. Turnstone | 16. Jack curlew |
| 3. Golden plover | 17. Sanderling |
| 4. Upland plover | 18. Willet |
| 5. Piping plover | 19. Red-breast |
| 6. Blackbreasted plover | 20. Jack snipe |
| 7. Killdeer | 21. Black neck still |
| 8. Dowitcher | 22. Semi-palmated plover |
| 9. Purple sandpiper | 23. Redneck sandpiper |
| 10. Red-back sandpiper | 24. Lesser yellowlegs |
| 11. White-rump sa dpiper | 25. Spotted or Solitary sandpiper |
| 12. Pectoral sandpiper | |
| 13. Least peep | |
| 14. Marbled godwit | |