

Richard Van Inwegen Photograph Descriptions

to be used to accompany the online photography video

Students can take turns reading each description aloud

Video Time Markers

0:06 Adult Eagle Taking Off

A majestic and very strong bird; beautiful to watch when it takes off and fly.

0:12 Albatross with 9 ft Wings

This large bird that can soar for miles like a glider without flapping its wings and remain out at sea for months.

0:17 Gull with Lunch

Gulls eat all types of shellfish and quickly fly off to hide it from other gulls.

0:23 Baby Loon's First Call

For the first few days, babies often ride on their mother's back when out for a swim. They learn quickly that the bathroom is on the land – not in the water.

0:28 Baby Plover Seeking Warmth of Mother

Only a couple of days old and running around, but they still need to huddle under their mother to get warm.

0:34 Bald Eagles Determining Who's the Boss

Females are larger than males. They often “mock fight” to show who is the boss and try to steal food from one another. In this image one eagle was trying to chase another away for a fish.

0:39 Bronzed Cow Bird Impressing the Lady

Males puff up and fly almost like a helicopter to impress the ladies.

0:44 Caracara Coming to Roost

A South American bird that can be found in Texas and the Southwest.

0:50 Cardinal Courting

It is hard to see, since it happens fast, but male cardinals will offer a seed to a female as part of their courting ritual.

0:56 Dancing Blue-Footed Boobies

Females choose their mates by determining how well males can dance and how well they are able to build a nest.

1:00 Great Egret Taking Off

One of the largest birds seen in New England.

1:06 Flying Sandhill Cranes

A very large pretty bird that can be found by the thousands in winter in New Mexico.

- 1:11 Gull Dropping Clam on Rocks
Gulls drop shellfish onto rocks to break the shell so they can get their meals.
This is a composite of three different images.
- 1:16 Gull trying to steal from Cormorant
Gulls often try to steal meals from other smaller birds. They will even try to steal from an Osprey.
- 1:22 Snowy Owl in Flight
They are beautiful in flight. He was taking off to find another meal.
- 1:27 Hedwig (Snowy Owl) Staring Contest
My favorite bird that sometimes can be seen in Massachusetts during the Winter. This bird and I watched each other for almost an hour as it digested its lunch and took a nap.
- 1:32 Hummingbird Getting Lunch
This photo was taken in my backyard near plants that were selected to attract wildlife including butterflies and hummingbirds.
- 1:38 Kingfisher with Second Breakfast
These birds are amazingly fast and skillful at fishing.
- 1:45 Loon Chasing a Foe
Loons are very territorial – they do not like sharing their space with other loons. This loon was not bothered by me but was upset at another loon that entered his territory. He chased it away.
- 1:50 Mocking Bird Chasing a Hawk
Small birds will often chase flying hawks and owls while in flight. The small birds have good speed and can maneuver much better in air. But when the hawks land, the small birds need to watch out for those sharp talons.
- 1:55 Osprey Taking Dinner Home
When Osprey carry fish, they turn it around head-first to make it more aerodynamic.
- 2:00 Painted Bunting Taking a Bath
This is one of the most colorful birds found in the United States.
- 2:06 Puffin Bringing Home the Meal
Adult puffins catch several fish at one time to bring back to the nest to feed their babies.
- 2:12 Puffin Landing
These very pretty birds have short stubby bodies and need to flap their wings very fast to fly. However, they fly surprisingly fast.
- 2:18 Road Runner with Lunch – Beep Beep.
This guy was trying to impress the ladies with the small toad that he caught.

2:23 Sandhill Cranes Taking Off

Often you will see multiple birds take off at one time when they are in a large flock. These three “friends” stick together in a crowd.

2:29 Snow Geese in Heart-shaped Flight

In this image, I caught two of them forming the shape of a heart.

2:34 Snow Goose Taking Off

In winter, they form flocks of thousands and when they take off as a group, they make so much noise it is referred to as a “blast”.

2:39 Wood Duck Enjoying a Swim

This is a very colorful duck that can be seen around New England.

2:44 Winter Robin Eating Holly Berry

In winter, robins gather into flocks and can strip the holly tree in my backyard of all its berries in minutes.

2:49 Western Grebe Swimming Along

I caught him in a reflective moment.