PARK USE GUIDELINES FOR BIRDERS

- Park hours are 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Stay on appropriately designated trails.
- Do not enter any posted area.
- Park only in designated parking areas.
- Observe, but do not disturb.

the **mission** of Three Rivers Park District is to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system.

Three Rivers Park District maintains a system of seven park reserves and a number of regional parks within the seven county metro area. The combined area is more than 27,000 acres. Almost all native habitat types found within the metro area are represented in the park reserves.

This list of 288 bird species includes only those that have been observed within the Park District since 1968. The taxonomic order and common names used here conform with the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.) *Check-list of North American Birds, Seventh Edition* (1998) and subsequent supplements (www.americanornithology.org)

For information about birding classes and programs or to report unusual bird sightings, call our Natural Resources division at 763-694-7840 or one of the Nature Centers listed below.

Eastman Nature Center, Elm Creek Park Reserve: 763-694-7700
Lowry Nature Center, Carver Park Reserve: 763-694-7650
Mississippi Gateway Regional Park: 763-694-7790
Richardson Nature Center, Hyland Lake Park Reserve: 763-694-7676

ThreeRiversParks.org

Updated 6/2021

ThreeRivers
PARK DISTRICT

checklist & observation
Guide to Birds

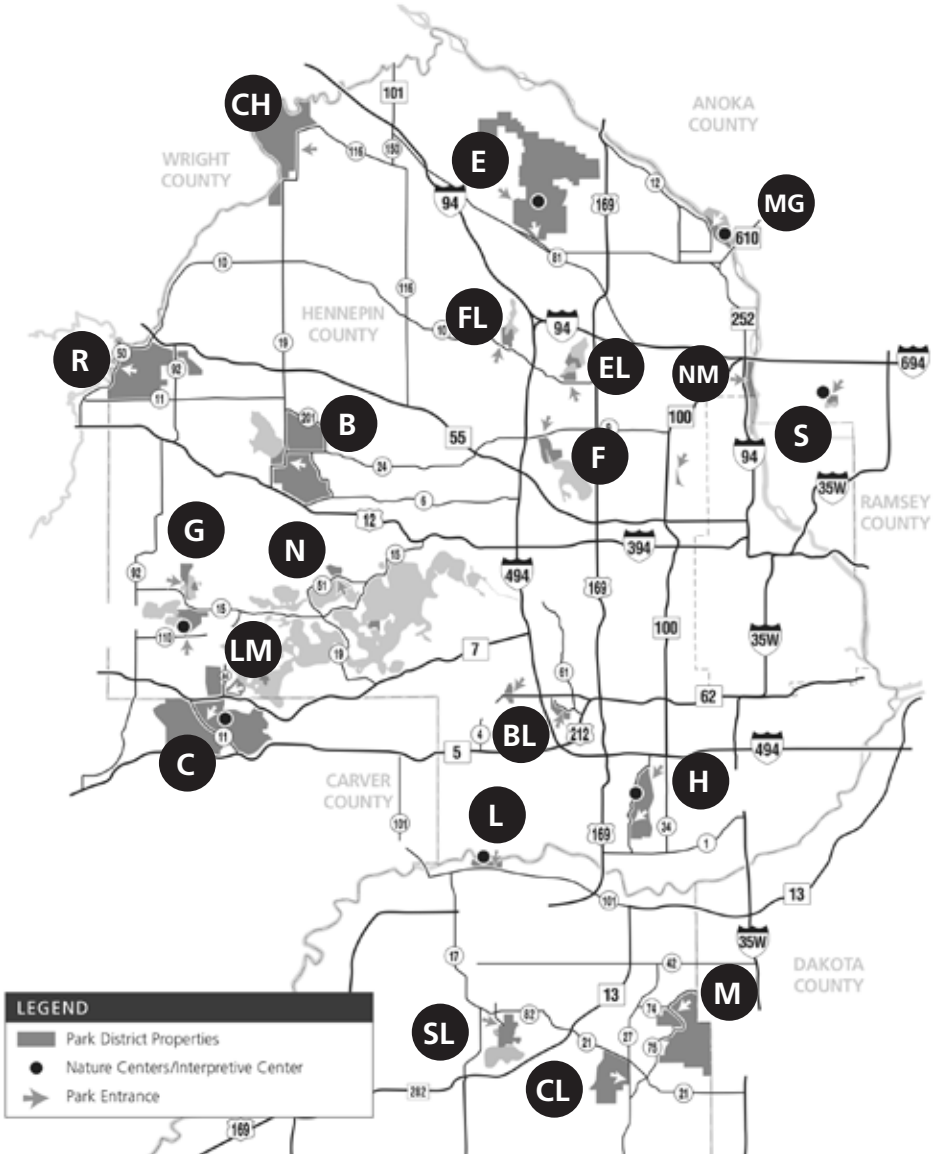
Photo by: John Pennoyer

Date: _____ Time: _____ Total Species: _____

Observer: _____

Location: _____

Weather: _____



NESTING STATUS CODES

- ● Positive nesting records within the park system
- × Previously nested, no evidence of nesting since 1990
- ○ Nesting assumed based upon observations in the parks
- — No evidence of nesting, most of these are migrants
- **e** Extirpated, not recorded in the parks since 1990

PARK CODES

Letter codes after a species name indicate the parks where a species is most likely to be found (not given for "rare" and "accidental" species). When the designation "All" appears, it means all of the park reserves. See the map on the back cover.

- **B** Baker Park Reserve
- **BL** Bryant Lake Regional Park
- **C** Carver Park Reserve
- **CL** Cleary Lake Regional Park
- **CH** Crow-Hassan Park Reserve
- **EL** Eagle Lake Regional Park
- **E** Elm Creek Park Reserve
- **FL** Fish Lake Regional Park
- **F** French Regional Park
- **G** Gale Woods Farm
- **H** Hyland Lake Park Reserve
- **LM** Lake Minnetonka Regional Park
- **R** Lake Rebecca Park Reserve
- **MG** Mississippi Gateway Regional Park
- **M** Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve
- **N** Noerenberg Gardens
- **NM** North Mississippi Regional Park
- **S** Silverwood Park
- **SL** Spring Lake Regional Park
- **L** The Landing

HABITAT CODES

Habitat Codes (not given for "accidental" species)

- **A** Aerial birds most often seen in flight or soaring
- **O** Open country grasslands, prairies, meadows (less than 10% shrubs or trees)
- **S** Shrub/small trees fencerows, forest edges, old fields
- **F** Forests woodlots, conifer groves (trees greater than 30 ft. tall, closed canopy)
- **W** Water/Wetland ponds, lakes, rivers, marshes, swamps, wet meadows
- **D** Developed buildings, bridges, bird feeders, trails, roads, landscape plantings

SEASONS

Spring: early March to late May
Summer: late May to mid August
Fall: mid August to late November
Winter: late November to early March

SEASONAL ABUNDANCE CODES

- **a** Abundant, easily seen in all parks
- **c** Common, regularly visible in most parks
- **u** Uncommon, but predictably occurring in specific areas
- **r** Rare, seen infrequently, unpredictable
- ***** Accidental, fewer than 5 records for the parks since 1968

✓	Species	Park	Nesting	Habitat	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	Geese, Swans, Ducks							
	Snow Goose (Blue Goose)		—	A,W	r		r	
	Greater White-fronted Goose				*			
	Canada Goose	All	●	W	a	a	a	c
	Trumpeter Swan	All	●	W	c	c	c	c
	Tundra Swan	All	—	A,W	c		c	r
	Wood Duck	All	●	W	c	c	c	r
	Blue-winged Teal	All	●	W	c	u	c	
	Cinnamon Teal		—		*			
	Northern Shoveler	All	×	W	u	r	u	
	Gadwall	All	×	W	c	r	c	
	Eurasian Wigeon		—				*	
	American Wigeon	All	—	W	c		c	
	Mallard	All	●	W	a	a	a	c
	American Black Duck	B, C, MG	—	W	r	r	u	r
	Northern Pintail		—	W	r		r	
	Green-winged Teal		×	W	u		u	
	Canvasback	B,F,C,M	×	W	u		u	
	Redhead	B,F,C,M	×	W	u		u	
	Ring-necked Duck	All	—	W	c		c	
	Greater Scaup		—	W	r		r	
	Lesser Scaup	All	—	W	c		c	
	Long-tailed Duck	F	—		r		r	
	Bufflehead	All	×	W	c		c	
	Common Goldeneye	B, C, MG, R	—	W	u		u	u
	Hooded Merganser	All	●	W	u	u	u	r
	Common Merganser	C, MG, F, H	—	W	u		u	
	Red-breasted Merganser	MG	—	W	u		r	
	Ruddy Duck	E, M	●	W	u	r	u	
	Pheasants, Grouse, Turkeys							
	Wild Turkey	All	●	F	c	c	c	c
	Ruffed Grouse	B	×	F	r	r	r	r
	Gray Partridge (released)		—	O	r		r	r
	Ring-necked Pheasant	All	●	O,S	c	c	c	u

✓	Species	Park	Nesting	Habitat	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	Grebes							
	Pied-billed Grebe	All	●	W	c	u	c	
	Horned Grebe		—	W	r		r	
	Red-necked Grebe		×	W	r	r	r	
	Eared Grebe		—				*	
	Western Grebe		—		r			
	Clark's Grebe	R	—		*			
	Pigeons, Doves							
	Rock Pigeon	All	●	A,D	u	u	u	u
	Mourning Dove	All	●	D,S	c	c	c	u
	Cuckoos							
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	All	●	S	r	r	r	
	Black-billed Cuckoo	All	●	S,F	r	r	r	
	Goatsuckers							
	Common Nighthawk	All	×	A,D	u	r	u	
	Eastern Whip-poor-will		—	F	r			
	Swifts							
	Chimney Swift	All	●	A,D	u	u	u	
	Hummingbirds							
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	All	●	A,D	u	u	u	
	Rufous Hummingbird		—				*	
	Rails, Coots							
	Virginia Rail	All	○	W	u	u	r	
	Sora	All	●	W	u	u	r	
	Common Gallinule		—			*		
	American Coot	All	●	W	c	r	c	
	Yellow Rail		—				*	
	Cranes							
	Sandhill Crane	All	●	O,W	c	u	u	
	Plovers							
	Black-bellied Plover		—	W	r		r	
	American Golden-Plover		—	W	r		r	
	Killdeer	All	●	O,D	u	u	u	
	Semipalmated Plover		—	W	r		r	

NESTING STATUS

- ● Positive
- × Previously
- ○ Assumed
- — No evidence
- e Extirpated

HABITAT

- **A** Aerial
- **O** Open country
- **S** Shrub/small trees
- **F** Forests
- **W** Water/Wetland
- **D** Developed

SEASONAL ABUNDANCE

- **a** Abundant
- **c** Common
- **u** Uncommon
- **r** Rare
- * Accidental

✓	Species	Park	Nesting	Habitat	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	Sandpipers, Snipe, Woodcock							
	Upland Sandpiper		×	O	r	r		
	Hudsonian Godwit		—		*			
	Marbled Godwit		—		*			
	Ruddy Turnstone		—	W	r		r	
	Red Knot		—				*	
	Sanderling		—	W	r	r	r	
	Stilt Sandpiper		—	W	r		r	
	Dunlin		—	W	r		r	
	Baird's Sandpiper		—	W	r	r	r	
	Least Sandpiper	C	—	W	r		r	
	White-rumped Sandpiper		—		r	*	r	
	Pectoral Sandpiper	C	—	W	u	u	u	
	Semipalmated Sandpiper	C,E	—	W	u	u	u	
	Short-billed Dowitcher		—	W	r	r		
	Long-billed Dowitcher		—	W	r		r	
	American Woodcock	All	●	S,F	u	r	u	
	Wilson's Snipe	B,C,CH,E,M	●	W	u	r	u	
	Spotted Sandpiper	CH,E,H	●	W	r	r	r	
	Solitary Sandpiper	C,F,CH	—	W	u	u	u	
	Lesser Yellowlegs	C,CH,R	—	W	u	u	u	
	Willet		—	W	r			
	Greater Yellowlegs	C,CH	—	W	u	u	u	
	Wilson's Phalarope		—	W	r	r		
	Gulls, Terns							
	Bonaparte's Gull		—	A,W	r	r	r	
	Franklin's Gull	All	—	A,W	u	r	c	
	Ring-billed Gull	All	—	A,W,D	a	c	a	r
	Herring Gull	MG	—	A,W	u		u	r
	Iceland Gull		—					*
	Lesser Black-backed Gull		—					*
	Glaucous Gull		—	W				r
	Caspian Tern	C,F	—	W	u	r	r	
	Black Tern	CH,E,M,R	●	W	u	r	r	
	Common Tern		—	W	r		r	
	Forster's Tern	C,F,H	×	W	u	r	u	

✓	Species	Park	Nesting	Habitat	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	Loons							
	Common Loon	All	●	W	u	u	u	
	Cormorants							
	Double-crested Cormorant	All	—	W	c	u	c	
	Pelicans							
	American White Pelican	All	—	W	u	u	c	
	Bitterns, Herons, Egrets							
	American Bittern		×	W	r	r	r	
	Least Bittern	B, E	○	W	u	u	r	
	Great Blue Heron	All	●	W	c	c	c	
	Great Egret	All	—	W	c	c	c	
	Snowy Egret		—			*		
	Little Blue Heron		—			*		
	Cattle Egret		—	W	r	r		
	Green Heron	All	●	W	c	c	c	
	Black-crowned Night-Heron	M	—	W	r	r	r	
	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		×	W	r	r		
	American Vultures							
	Turkey Vulture	All	—	A	c	u	c	
	Ospreys							
	Osprey	All	●	A,W	c	c	u	
	Eagles, Harriers, Hawks							
	Golden Eagle		—				*	
	Northern Harrier	C,CH,E	●	O	u	r	u	r
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	All	—	A,D,F	c		c	u
	Cooper's Hawk	All	●	F	u	u	u	r
	Northern Goshawk		—	F	r		r	r
	Bald Eagle	All	●	A,W	c	c	c	c
	Red-shouldered Hawk	B,C,E,M	●	F	u	u	u	r
	Broad-winged Hawk	All	●	F	u	u	u	
	Swainson's Hawk		—		*			
	Red-tailed Hawk	All	●	O,S,F	c	c	c	u
	Rough-legged Hawk		—	O	r		r	u

NESTING STATUS

- ● Positive
- × Previously
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- — No evidence
- e Extirpated

HABITAT

- **A** Aerial
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SEASONAL ABUNDANCE

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✓	Species	Park	Nesting	Habitat	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	Typical Owls							
	Eastern Screech-Owl		○	F	r	r	r	r
	Great Horned Owl	All	●	O,S,F	u	u	u	u
	Snowy Owl		—	O				r
	Northern Hawk Owl		—					*
	Barred Owl	All	●	F	u	u	u	u
	Great Gray Owl		—					r
	Long-eared Owl		×	F	r	r	r	r
	Short-eared Owl		—	O	r		r	r
	Boreal Owl		—					*
	Northern Saw-whet Owl	C	—	D,S,F	r		u	r
	Kingfisher							
	Belted Kingfisher	All	●		u	u	u	r
	Woodpecker							
	Red-headed Woodpecker	CH,E,C,R,M	×	O,D	r	r	r	r
	Red-bellied Woodpecker	All	●	F,D	c	c	c	c
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	All	●	F	u	r	u	
	Downy Woodpecker	All	●	D,O,F	c	c	c	c
	Hairy Woodpecker	All	●	D,F	c	c	c	c
	Northern Flicker	All	●	D,F	c	c	c	r
	Pileated Woodpecker	All	●	F,D	u	u	u	u
	Falcons							
	American Kestrel	All	●	O	u	u	c	r
	Merlin		—	O	r		r	
	Peregrine Falcon		—	A,W	r	r	r	r
	Tyrant Flycatchers							
	Great Crested Flycatcher	All	●	F	c	c	u	
	Tropical Kingbird		—	O,S		*		
	Western Kingbird		—	O,S	*			
	Eastern Kingbird	All	●	O,S	c	c	u	
	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		—	O,S		*		
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	C,M	—	S,F	u		u	
	Eastern Wood-Pewee	All	●	F	c	c	c	
	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		—	S	r		r	
	Acadian Flycatcher	E,M	●	F	r	u		

✓	Species	Park	Nesting	Habitat	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	Alder Flycatcher	All	●	W	r	r	r	
	Willow Flycatcher	All	●	W	u	u	r	
	Least Flycatcher	All	●	S,F	u	u	u	
	Eastern Phoebe	All	●	D	u	u	u	
	Shrikes							
	Loggerhead Shrike		×	O,S	r	r	r	
	Northern Shrike	C	—	D,O,S	r		r	u
	Vireos							
	White-eyed Vireo		—		*		*	
	Bell's Vireo		—		*			
	Yellow-throated Vireo	All	●	F	u	u	u	
	Blue-headed Vireo	All	—	F	u		u	
	Philadelphia Vireo	C	—	S	r		u	
	Warbling Vireo	All	●	W,F	u	u	u	
	Red-eyed Vireo	All	●	F	c	c	c	
	Jays, Magpies, Crows							
	Canada Jay		—	D				r
	Blue Jay	All	●	D,S,F	a	a	a	a
	Black-billed Magpie		—					*
	American Crow	All	●	All	a	a	a	a
	Common Raven	R	●	F	r	r	r	r
	Larks							
	Horned Lark	C,CH,E	●	O	r	r	r	r
	Swallows							
	Bank Swallow		●	A,W	r	r	r	
	Tree Swallow	All	●	A,O,W	a	c	c	
	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	●	A,W	r	u	r	
	Purple Martin	B,F,EL,E	●	A,W	c	c	r	
	Barn Swallow	All	●	A,D	c	c	u	
	Cliff Swallow	C, MG,E,H,R	●	A,W	u	u	u	
	Chickadees, Titmouse							
	Black-capped Chickadee	All	●	D,O,F	a	a	a	a
	Tufted Titmouse		—		*			

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- **r** Rare
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✓	Species	Park	Nesting	Habitat	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	Nuthatches							
	Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	—	D,F	r		r	u
	White-breasted Nuthatch	All	●	D,F	c	c	c	c
	Creepers							
	Brown Creeper	All	●	D,F	u	r	u	u
	Wrens							
	House Wren	All	●	D,S	c	a	c	
	Winter Wren		—	S,W	r		r	
	Sedge Wren	All	●	O,W	u	u	u	
	Marsh Wren	All	●	W	u	u	u	
	Gnatcatchers							
	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	All	●	F	c	c	c	
	Kinglets							
	Golden-crowned Kinglet	All	—	F	c		c	r
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	All	—	D,S,F	c		c	
	Bluebirds, Solitaires, Thrushes							
	Eastern Bluebird	All	●	D,O,S	c	c	c	r
	Mountain Bluebird		—		*	*		
	Townsend's Solitaire	C	—	F				r
	Veery	E,M	●	F	u	u	u	
	Gray-cheeked Thrush		—	S,F	r		r	
	Swainson's Thrush	All	—	S,F	u		u	
	Hermit Thrush	All	—	F	u		u	
	Wood Thrush	E,M,G,R	●	F	u	r	r	
	American Robin	All	●	D,S,F	a	a	a	u
	Mockingbirds, Thrashers							
	Gray Catbird	All	●	D,S	c	c	c	
	Brown Thrasher	All	●	S	u	u	r	r
	Northern Mockingbird		—		*	*		
	Starlings							
	European Starling	All	●	D,F	c	c	c	c
	Weaver Finches							
	House Sparrow	G,H,B,R	●	D	u	u	u	u

✓	Species	Park	Nesting	Habitat	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	Waxwings							
	Bohemian Waxwing		—	D,S	r			r
	Cedar Waxwing	All	●	S,D	c	c	c	r
	Pipits							
	American Pipit		—	W	r		r	
	Sprague's Pipit		—				*	
	Finches							
	Evening Grosbeak		—	D,F	r		r	r
	Pine Grosbeak		—	D,F				r
	House Finch	All	●	D	c	c	c	c
	Purple Finch	C	—	D,F	u	r	u	u
	Common Redpoll		—	D,O	r		r	r
	Hoary Redpoll		—	D,O				r
	Red Crossbill		—	D,F				r
	White-winged Crossbill		—	D,F				r
	Pine Siskin		—	D	r		r	r
	American Goldfinch	All	●	D,O,S	c	a	a	c
	Longspurs							
	Lapland Longspur		—	O	r		r	
	Snow Bunting		—	O			r	r
	Towhees, Sparrows							
	Grasshopper Sparrow	CH,M	●	O	u	u	u	
	Lark Sparrow	CH,E	○		r			
	Chipping Sparrow	All	●	D	c	c	c	
	Clay-colored Sparrow	All	●	O,S	u	u	u	
	Field Sparrow	All	●	S	u	u	u	
	Fox Sparrow	All	—	D,F	u		u	
	American Tree Sparrow	All	—	D,S,O	c		u	c
	Dark-eyed Junco	All	—	D,O,S	a		a	c
	White-crowned Sparrow		—	D	r		r	
	Harris's Sparrow	B,C,CH,MG	—	D,O,S	u		u	
	White-throated Sparrow	All	—	D,S	c		c	r
	Vesper Sparrow	CH,M	●	O	u	u	u	
	Le Conte's Sparrow	C,CH	—	O,W	r	*	r	

Towhees, Sparrows (continued) on page 5

NESTING STATUS

- ● Positive
- × Previously
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- — No evidence
- e Extirpated

HABITAT

- **A** Aerial
- **O** Open country
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✓	Species	Park	Nesting	Habitat	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	Towhees, Sparrows (continued)							
	Nelson's Sparrow		—		*			
	Henslow's Sparrow	C,CH,H,M	●	O	r	u		
	Savannah Sparrow	CH,G,M	○	O	u	u	u	
	Song Sparrow	All	●	S	a	a	a	r
	Lincoln's Sparrow		—	D,S	r		r	
	Swamp Sparrow	All	●	W	u	u	u	
	Green-tailed Towhee		—		*			
	Spotted Towhee		—		*		*	
	Eastern Towhee	H,M	●	S,D	u	u	u	
	Chats							
	Yellow-breasted Chat	B,H	—		*	*		
	Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, Orioles							
	Bobolink	C,CH,G,H,M	●	O	u	u	r	
	Red-winged Blackbird	All	●	W,D	a	a	a	r
	Eastern Meadowlark	All	●	O	u	u	u	r
	Western Meadowlark	C	×	O	r	r	r	r
	Yellow-headed Blackbird	CL,M,R	●	W	u	u	u	
	Rusty Blackbird		—	W	r		r	r
	Brewer's Blackbird		—	O	r	r	r	
	Common Grackle	All	●	D,S,F	c	c	c	r
	Brown-headed Cowbird	All	●	D,S,F	a	a	a	r
	Orchard Oriole	C, CH	●	S	u	u	u	
	Baltimore Oriole	All	●	D,S	u	u	u	
	Wood Warblers							
	Ovenbird	All	●	F	u	u	u	
	Louisiana Waterthrush		—		*			
	Northern Waterthrush	C	—	F,W	r		r	
	Golden-winged Warbler	C	O	S	r	r	r	
	Blue-winged Warbler	All	●	S,F	u	u	r	
	Black-and-white Warbler	All	—	F	c	r	c	
	Prothonotary Warbler	L,MG	●	W,F	r	r		
	Tennessee Warbler	All	—	F,S	c		c	
	Orange-crowned Warbler	All	—	S	u		u	
	Nashville Warbler	All	—	S,F	c		c	

✓	Species	Park	Nesting	Habitat	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	Connecticut Warbler		—	S,F	r		r	
	Mourning Warbler	M	●	S,W	u	r	u	
	Kentucky Warbler		—	F	r	r		
	Common Yellowthroat	All	●	S,W	a	a	c	
	Hooded Warbler	C,M	●	F	u	u	r	
	American Redstart	All	●	S,F	c	c	c	
	Cape May Warbler		—	F	r		r	
	Cerulean Warbler	C,E,M,R	●	F	u	u		
	Northern Parula		—	S,F	r		r	
	Magnolia Warbler	All	—	S,F	u		u	
	Bay-breasted Warbler		—	F	r		r	
	Blackburnian Warbler	B,C,M,N	—	F	u		u	
	Yellow Warbler	All	●	S,W	a	a	c	
	Chestnut-sided Warbler	All	●	S	u	r	u	
	Blackpoll Warbler	All	—	F	u		u	
	Black-throated Blue Warbler		—	S	r		r	
	Palm Warbler	All	—	S,D	c		c	
	Pine Warbler		—	F	r		r	
	Yellow-rumped Warbler	All	—	S,F	a		a	r
	Yellow-throated Warbler		—		*			
	Prairie Warbler		—		*			
	Black-throated Green Warbler	C,M,B,E	—	F	u		u	
	Canada Warbler	C,M	—	S,F	u		u	
	Wilson's Warbler	C,M	—	S,W	u		u	
	Tanagers,Grosbeaks, Buntings							
	Summer Tanager		—			*		
	Scarlet Tanager	All	●	F	u	u	u	
	Northern Cardinal	All	●	D,S,F	c	c	c	c
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	All	●	D,S,F	c	c	c	
	Indigo Bunting	All	●	S,D	c	c	c	
	Dickcissel	CH	●	O		u		
	Field Notes							

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- ● Positive
- × Previously
- ○ Assumed
- — No evidence
- e Extirpated

HABITAT

- **A** Aerial
- **O** Open country
- **S** Shrub/small trees
- **F** Forests
- **W** Water/Wetland
- **D** Developed

SEASONAL ABUNDANCE

- **a** Abundant
- **c** Common
- **u** Uncommon
- **r** Rare
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