

# Unusual Birds with a Few Sightings in the Park

Black-legged Kittiwake 10/25/83 Eared Grebe 4/2/1996 Eurasian Wigeon 1977

Great Cormorant 10/3-4/2001, 11/02-12/2001 Little Blue Heron 4/21/03, 8/13/2006

Loggerhead Shrike 3/1977 Red Phalarope 4/21/03 Sanderling 9/4/2003 White Ibis 7/31/1993

## **Key Birding Areas and Information**

The forests, fields and the large lake make Marsh Creek State Park a great place for birding year-round.

As the largest and deepest body of water in Chester County, Marsh Creek Lake attracts a fantastic diversity of birds throughout the year. In the winter months, many ducks, geese, gulls, grebes, and coots can be found on the lake. During a mild winter, you can often find great blue heron and belted kingfisher. Bald eagles are occasionally spotted during the winter months hunting for a meal in and around the lake.

During spring and fall migration, bird activity picks up around the lake and its coves, hosting migrants and breeding birds alike. Herons and shorebirds can be found foraging in the shallow waters, wetlands, and along the sandy shores. Osprey will use the lake as a stopover for a food source along their long journeys. Several species of swallow and the common nighthawk can be found chasing insects over the surface of the lake.

Eastern bluebirds, sparrows and a variety of blackbird species can be found year-round in the extensive fields around the park. Look for the many bluebird houses throughout the area, which were established as a trail over thirty years ago, and contributed to the comeback of this species in our area.

The wooded trails of the park are great avenues to see the birds of Pennsylvania's piedmont region. Here you can find permanent residents like woodpeckers, Carolina chickadees, titmice, and cardinals. In the spring and summer months, the woodlands boast beautiful songbirds like warblers, scarlet tanagers, Baltimore orioles, and wood thrush.

# Birds Marsh Creek State Park



### **5** Access for People with Disabilities

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

# Marsh Creek State Park

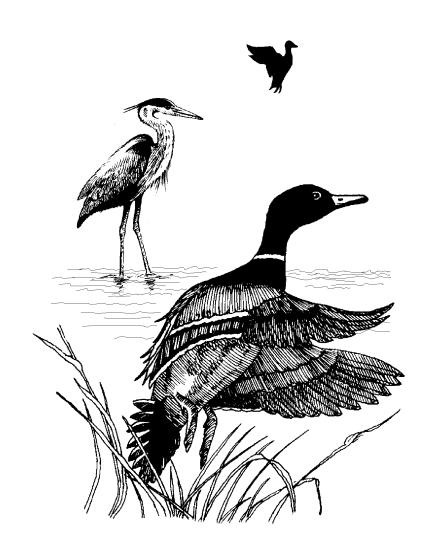
Observer

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Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

6000-PA-DCNR4/416 9/09



# How to Use This Checklist

Carry this list when birding and write down the number of birds you see. The birds are arranged in the same order as most modern bird field guides.

# The Ease of Finding Code

The ease-of-finding codes consider each species' abundance, frequency and conspicuousness (size, color, habits, habitats). For example, although warblers may be more numerous than hawks, the hawk is given the higher code because of its size and soaring flight. Because the warbler is small, quiet and lives in the dense treetops, it has a low code.

	Probably will find
	Might find
	Lucky to find
	Never seen in this parl
*	Irruptive

### **Habitat Codes**

Many birds will rarely be found outside of their habitat. Use the code to help you identify where the bird will likely be found.

Forest - areas dominated by trees

Water - areas like lakes, ponds and wetlands

Scrub - overgrown fields, scrub growth, edge

Field - crops or mown playfields

★ Anywhere - any habitat

**Bold** birds are known nesters in the park.

# **About This List**

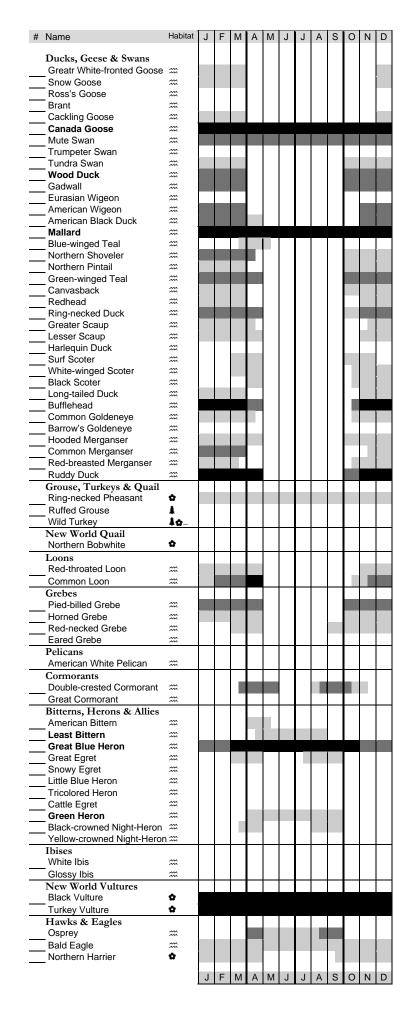
This list includes birds likely to be found in Pennsylvania, as compiled by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. The only birds not on this list are *casual* and *provisional* birds that are rare visitors to Pennsylvania.

### Thanks

Thanks to the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology for their Special Areas Project data and also to Doug Gross, PA Game Commission biologist. Special thanks goes to: Skip Conant and the Valley Forge Audubon Society whose many years of monthly SAP surveys at this park helped contribute to the creation of this checklist. Thanks to Barry E. Blust for his work in the park for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas 1984-88 and 2004-08. Additional contributors to this checklist are: Holly Merker, Tom Reeves, John McNamara, Grier Saunders, Nick Pulcinella, Richard and Eleanor Wolfe, Larry Lewis, Chuck Chalfant, Jane and Rob Kirkland, members of the West Chester Bird Club, and many other birders who have taken the time to report their findings and data during their birding trips in the park.

# How You Can Help

- Report to the park office sightings of rare birds or unusual dates of birds.
- Do not disturb birds or harass wildlife.
- Stay on hiking trails to reduce habitat destruction.
- Do not litter.



#	Name	Habitat	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
	Hawks & Eagles (cont'd)													
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1												
	Cooper's Hawk Northern Goshawk	<b>1</b>										*	* *	*
_	Red-shouldered Hawk	*												
	Broad-winged Hawk	1												
	Red-tailed Hawk	۵												
	Rough-legged Hawk Golden Eagle	<b>☆</b>												
	Falcons	*												<u> </u>
	American Kestrel	۵												
	Merlin	۵												
	Peregrine Falcon	<b>\$</b>					-							_
	Rails & Coots Virginia Rail	<i>m</i>												
	Sora	m												
	Common Moorhen	<i>m</i>												
	American Coot	222												
	Cranes Sandhill Crane	m												
_	Plovers	<i>m</i>												-
	Black-bellied Plover	<i>m</i>												
_	American Golden-Plover	<i>m</i>		ĺ				ĺ		ĺ	ĺ			
	Semipalmated Plover	<i>m</i>		ĺ				ĺ		ĺ	ĺ			
	Piping Plover	<i>m</i>												L
	Killdeer Avocets	<u>m</u> _												_
	American Avocet	<i>m</i>												
	Sandpipers & Phalaropes													T
	Greater Yellowlegs	222												
	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>m</i>				l								
	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>m</i>												
	Willet Spotted Sandpiper	<i>m</i>												
_	Upland Sandpiper	<i>m</i>												
	Whimbrel	<i>m</i>												
	Hudsonian Godwit	<i>m</i>												
	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>m</i>												
	Red Knot Sanderling	<i>m</i>												
_	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>m</i>												
	Western Sandpiper	<i>m</i>												
	Least Sandpiper	<i>m</i>												
	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>m</i>												
_	Baird's Sandpiper Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>m</i>												
_	Purple Sandpiper	<i>m</i>												
	Dunlin	<i>m</i>												
	Stilt Sandpiper	222												
	Buff-breasted Sandpiper Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>m</i>												
	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>m</i>												
	Wilson's Snipe	۵												
	American Woodcock	<b>\$</b> -												
_	Wilson's Phalarope	222												
	Red-necked Phalarope Red Phalarope	<i>m</i>											ĺ	
	Gulls & Terns	m	-		-									┢
	Laughing Gull	<i>m</i>												
	Franklin's Gull	<i>m</i>												
	Little Gull	<i>m</i>			_									L
	Bonaparte's Gull Ring-billed Gull	<i>‱</i> <i>∞</i> −												
	Herring Gull	m- m-												
	Thayer's Gull	<i>m</i>												
	Iceland Gull	<i>m</i>												
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>m</i>												
	Glaucous Gull Great Black-backed Gull	<i>m</i>												
	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>m</i>												
	Caspian Tern	<i>m</i>												
	Common Tern	<i>m</i>				L						L		
	Forster's Tern	<i>m</i>		ĺ				ĺ						
	Black Tern	<i>m</i>	_	_		H	-	_		_	_			<u> </u>
	Pigeons & Doves Rock Pigeon	۵												
	Eurasian Collared-Dove	۵												
_	Mourning Dove	¢												

#	Name	Habitat	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
	Cuckoos Black-billed Cuckoo	٠												
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	ů ů												
	Barn Owls													$\overline{}$
	Barn Owl	۵												
	Typical Owls													
	Eastern Screech-Owl Great Horned Owl	<b>♣</b>												
	Snowy Owl	â												
	Barred Owl	1												
	Long-eared Owl Short-eared Owl	<b>≜</b>												
	Northern Saw-whet Owl	ŭ 1												
	Goatsuckers	-												
	Common Nighthawk	<b>1</b>												
	Chuck-will's-widow Whip-poor-will	# #												
	Swifts													$\overline{}$
	Chimney Swift	*												
	Hummingbirds													
	Ruby-throated Rufous Hummingbird	<b>☆</b>												
	Kingfishers													$\vdash$
	Belted Kingfisher	<i>m</i>												
	Woodpeckers & Allies													
	Red-headed Woodpecker Red-bellied Woodpecker	i i				<b>,</b>	_		<b>L</b>			<b>L</b>		
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	* *												
	Downy Woodpecker	1												
	Hairy Woodpecker Northern Flicker	1												
	Pileated Woodpecker	1												
	Tyrant Flycatchers	<del>-</del>												
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	<b>!</b>												
	Eastern Wood-Pewee Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<b>1</b>												
	Acadian Flycatcher	1												
	Alder Flycatcher	<b>≈</b> •												
	Willow Flycatcher	<b>≈</b> •												
	Least Flycatcher Eastern Phoebe	<b></b> ★												
	Great Crested Flycatcher	1												
	Eastern Kingbird	۵												
	Shrikes Loggerhead Shrike	٠												
	Northern Shrike	÷												
	Vireos													
	White-eyed Vireo	•												
	Yellow-throated Vireo Blue-headed Vireo	# #				ŀ								
	Warbling Vireo	Ī				ľ								
	Philadelphia Vireo	1												
	Red-eyed Vireo	1												
	Jays & Crows Blue Jay	1												
	American Crow	*												
	Fish Crow	*												
	Common Raven Larks	1				-			$\vdash$			$\vdash$		$\dashv$
	Horned Lark	_												
	Swallows													
	Purple Martin Tree Swallow	## <b>#</b>										L		
	N. Rough-winged Swallow	mer mer												
	Bank Swallow	<b>≈☆</b>												
	Cliff Swallow	<b>≈</b> •												
	Barn Swallow Chickadees & Titmice	<b>≈</b> \$										$\vdash$		$\dashv$
	Carolina Chickadee	1				5			۲					
	Black-capped Chickadee	1	* *	* *	* *	*						* *	* *	* *
	Tufted Titmouse	1										Ħ		
	Nuthatches Red-breasted Nuthatch	A	* *	* *	* *	*						* *	* *	* *
	White-breasted Nuthatch	1												
	Creepers													
	Brown Creeper	1							Щ			Ш		
	Wrens Carolina Wren	å o				<b>,</b>	_		<b>L</b>			<b>L</b>		
		~ ••												
			J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D

<sup>\*</sup> Irruptive - These visitors can be seen in large numbers or be absent. Their presence varies from year to year and depends greatly on the weather in very distant parts of the continent.