

# A Guide to the Birds of WARRIORS' PATH STATE PARK



If you enjoy watching wildlife, start with birds! Our park birds are the least shy of any park wildlife. And so it's not hard to get close to most birds. A bird field guide and a pair of good binoculars may help. But all you really need to find park birds is patience and sharp eyes watching for small movements in the trees and thickets. Remember that you can *hear* birds more easily than *see* them, so it's good to train your ears to listen for bird voices, and learn their songs and calls!

Once you learn to tell "who's who" among the birds, you're ready to study bird behavior. Notice how they defend territory and how they attract a mate. Notice where they nest, and what "building materials" they use. Pay attention to the kinds of food they bring their young. And enjoy watching birds living out their everyday lives!

Remember that birds are also great clues to the health of the land. Try to keep track of *where* and *when* you find each kind of bird. Compare your notes from year to year, and you may notice some trends. Since different species of birds need different kinds of habitats, the changes you notice may be clues to changes in local habitats. Since many kinds of birds migrate, often to tropical regions, the changes you notice may also be clues to changes in distant places. If enough people across the earth keep track of changes in bird populations, we may learn enough to better care for every corner of our earth!

(There are some additional notes about the checklist at the end of the list)

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Common Loon	u		u	u
Pied-Billed Grebe	c		c	c
Horned Grebe	u		u	u
Double-Crested Cormorant	u		u	u
America Bittern	r		r	
Great Blue Heron	c	u	c	c
Great Egret	u	u	u	
Little Blue Heron	r	r	r	
Green-backed Heron	c	c	c	
Black-crowned Night Heron	u	u	u	u
Canada Goose	c	c	c	c
Wood Duck	c	c	c	u
Green-winged Teal	u		u	u
American Black Duck	u		u	u
Mallard	c	u	c	c
Northern Pintail	u		u	u
Blue-winged Teal	u		u	
Northern Shoveler	u		u	r
Gadwall	u		u	u
American Wigeon	u		u	u
Canvasback	r		r	r
Redhead	u		u	u
Ring-necked Duck	c		c	c
Greater Scaup	r		r	r
Lesser Scaup	c		c	c
White-winged Scoter	r		r	r
Common Goldeneye	u		u	u
Bufflehead	u		u	u
Hooded Merganser	u		u	u
Common Merganser	r		r	r
Red-breasted Merganser	u		u	u
Ruddy Duck	u		u	u
Black Vulture	c	c	c	c
Turkey Vulture	c	c	c	c
Osprey	u		u	
Bald Eagle	r		r	r
Northern Harrier	u		u	u
Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		u	u
Cooper's Hawk	u	u	u	u
Red-shouldered Hawk	u		u	u
Broad-winged Hawk	u	u	u	
Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c
American Kestrel	c	u	c	c
Merlin	r		r	
Peregrine Falcon	r		r	r
Ruffed Grouse	u	u	u	u
Wild Turkey	r	r	r	r
Northern Bobwhite	c	c	c	c
Sora	r		r	

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
American Coot	c		c	c
Semipalmated Plover	u		u	
Kildeer	c	c	c	c
Greater Yellowlegs	u		u	
Lesser Yellowlegs	u		u	
Solitary Sandpiper	c		c	
Spotted Sandpiper	c		c	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	u		u	
Western Sandpiper	r		r	
Least Sandpiper	u		u	
Pectoral Sandpiper	u		u	
Dunlin	r		u	
Common Snipe	u		u	u
American Woodcock	u	r	u	r
Bonaparte's Gull	u		u	u
Ring-billed Gull	c		c	c
Herring Gull	u		u	u
Caspian Tern	r		r	
Common Tern	r		r	
Forster's Tern	u		u	
Black Tern	r		u	
Rock Dove	c	c	c	c
Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
Black-billed Cuckoo	r		r	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	c	c	u	
Barn Owl	r	r	r	r
Eastern Screech-Owl	c	c	c	c
Great Horned Owl	c	c	c	c
Barred Owl	u	u	u	u
Common Nighthawk	u	u	c	
Chuck-will's-widow	u	u	r	
Whip-poor-will	u	u	r	
Chimney Swift	c	c	c	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	c	u	c	
Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	c
Red-headed Woodpecker	r	r	r	r
Red-bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		u	u
Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
Pileated Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
Olive-sided Flycatcher	r		r	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	c	c	u	
Acadian Flycatcher	u	u	u	
Willow Flycatcher	r	r	r	
Least Flycatcher	r		r	
Eastern Phoebe	c	c	c	u
Great Crested Flycatcher	c	c	r	

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Eastern Kingbird	c	c	c	
Horned Lark	r		r	r
Purple Martin	c	c	u	
Tree Swallow	u	r	u	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c	c	c	
Bank Swallow	u		u	
Cliff Swallow	u		u	
Barn Swallow	c	c	c	
Blue Jay	c	c	c	c
American Crow	c	c	c	c
Common Raven				r
Carolina Chickadee	c	c	c	c
Tufted Titmouse	c	c	c	c
Red-breasted Nuthatch	u		u	u
White-breasted Nuthatch	c	c	c	c
Brown Creeper	u		u	u
Carolina Wren	c	c	c	c
House Wren	c	c	u	r
Winter Wren	u		u	u
Sedge Wren	r		r	
Marsh Wren	r		r	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		c	c
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	u
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	c	c	u	
Eastern Bluebird	c	c	c	c
Veery	u		u	
Grey-cheeked Thrush	u		u	
Swainson's Thrush	u		c	
Hermit Thrush	u		u	c
Wood Thrush	c	c	c	
American Robin	c	c	c	c
Grey Catbird	c	u	c	
Northern Mockingbird	c	c	c	c
Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	u
American Pipit	r		r	r
Cedar Waxwing	u	u	u	c
Loggerhead Shrike	u	r	u	u
European Starling	c	c	c	c
White-eyed Vireo	c	c	u	
Solitary Vireo	u		u	
Yellow-throated Vireo	u	u	u	
Warbling Vireo	r	r	r	
Philadelphia Vireo	r		r	
Red-eyed Vireo	c	c	c	
Blue-Winged Warbler	u		u	
Golden-winged Warbler	u		u	
Tennessee Warbler	u		c	
Orange-crowned Warbler	r		r	
Nashville Warbler	u		u	

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Northern Parula	u		u	
Yellow Warbler	c	c	u	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		c	
Magnolia Warbler	u		c	
Cape May Warbler	u		c	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	u		u	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	c
Black-throated Green Warbler	u		c	
Blackburnian Warbler	u		c	
Yellow-throated Warbler	u	r	u	
Pine Warbler	u	u	u	r
Prairie Warbler	u	r	u	
Palm Warbler	u		c	
Bay-breasted Warbler	u		c	
Blackpoll Warbler	u		r	
Cerulean Warbler	u		r	
Black-and-white Warbler	c	u	c	
American Redstart	c		c	
Prothonotary Warbler	r	r		
Worm-eating Warbler	u	r	r	
Swainson's Warbler	r			
Ovenbird	c	c	u	
Northern Waterthrush	u		u	
Louisiana Waterthrush	u	r		
Kentucky Warbler	u	u	r	
Connecticut Warbler	r		r	
Mourning Warbler	r		r	
Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	
Hooded Warbler	c	c	c	
Wilson's Warbler	r		u	
Canada Warbler	u		u	
Yellow-breasted Chat	u	u	u	
Summer Tanager	u	u	u	
Scarlet Tanager	u	u	u	
Northern Cardinal	c	c	c	c
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u		u	
Blue Grosbeak	u	u	u	
Indigo Bunting	c	c	c	
Rufous-sided Towhee	c	c	c	c
Chipping Sparrow	c	c	u	r
Field Sparrow	c	c	c	c
Vesper Sparrow	u		u	
Savannah Sparrow	u		u	r
Grasshopper Sparrow	u	u	r	
Fox Sparrow	u		u	u
Song Sparrow	c	c	c	c
Lincoln's Sparrow	r		r	
Swamp Sparrow	u		u	u
White-throated Sparrow	c		c	c

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	u
Dark-eyed Junco	u		u	c
Bobolink	r		r	
Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	u
Eastern Meadowlark	c	c	c	c
Rusty Blackbird	u		u	u
Common Grackle	c	c	c	u
Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	c	u
Orchard Oriole	c	c	u	
Norther (Baltimore) Oriole	c	u	u	
Purple Finch	c		c	c
House Finch	c	c	c	c
Pine Siskin	u		u	u
American Goldfinch	c	c	c	c
Evening Grosbeak	u		u	u
House Sparrow	c	c	c	c

A NOTE ABOUT THIS CHECKLIST:

This little checklist is organized taxonomically. Birds here are in the same order as they will be in most good bird field guides. The list is based on seasons, to give you some hints about when each kind of bird is likely to be found in the park. It is based on a checklist prepared by Rick Knight (1992) for the Watauga Audubon Society. These are birds expected to be in the park, based on records maintained by the Tennessee Ornithological Society for the region in general.



ABOUT THE ABUNDANCE CODES

Notice that each bird name is followed by four columns, one for each season. If the column is blank, do not expect to find this bird in the park in this season. If there is a letter in the column, refer to this chart:

ABUNDANCE CODES

- c = Common      You can find this bird often when you are outdoors at this season, if you are in the right habitat.
- u = Uncommon    You can find this bird about half the time when you are outdoors at this season, if you are in the right habitat.
- r = Rare            You will see this bird only a few times or less during this season.

(Note - a species listed as occurring in a season may not be present for the entire season.)