

Riverbend Park is located in the Potomac Gorge, an ecologically significant landscape along the Potomac River. For neo-tropical songbirds, raptors, waterfowl and other birds Riverbend is an important migratory corridor and nesting place. The park's 418 acres provide diverse habitats including floodplain forest along the Potomac River, upland forest, woodland ponds, and meadows. Spring and fall are especially rewarding times to observe birds in migration.

The checklist includes 191 species of birds which have been observed from the park. An additional 19 birds are listed which have been recorded historically.

The list was compiled from staff, volunteers, and local birders. Special thanks to park volunteers Jack Wright, Dave Young, and Larry Cartwright for their years of observations, knowledge, and contributions to this brochure.

Seasons:

Sp	Spring	March - May
S	Summer	June - August
F	Fall	September - November
W	Winter	December - February

Relative Abundance:

- a** abundant a species likely to be seen in substantial numbers
- c** common a species likely to be seen or heard in suitable habitat
- u** uncommon usually present, not always seen
- r** rare seen occasionally

<u>Species</u>	<u>Sp</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>
Grebes				
___ Pied-billed Grebe	u		u	
___ Horned Grebe	r	r		r
___ Red-necked Grebe	r			r
Cormorants				
___ Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	
Bitterns - Herons				
___ Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	c
___ Great Egret	r	u	r	
___ Green Heron	u	u	u	
___ Black-crowned Night Heron	r	r	r	
Vultures				
___ Black Vulture	c	c	c	c
___ Turkey Vulture	c	c	c	c
Swans - Geese - Ducks				
___ Tundra Swan	u		u	u
___ Canada Goose	a	a	a	a
___ Wood Duck	c	c	u	u
___ Gadwall	u		r	u
___ American Wigeon	r		r	r
___ American Black Duck	u		u	u
___ Mallard	c	c	c	c
___ Blue-winged Teal	u		r	
___ Northern Shoveler	r		r	r
___ Northern Pintail	r		r	r
___ Green-winged Teal	r		r	r
___ Canvasback	r		r	r
___ Redhead	u		r	u
___ Ring-necked Duck	u		c	c
___ Lesser Scaup	u		u	u
___ Bufflehead	u		c	c
___ Common Goldeneye	r		r	r
___ Hooded Merganser	r		r	r
___ Common Merganser	u	u	u	u
___ Red-breasted Merganser	u		u	u
___ Ruddy Duck	r		r	r
Osprey - Hawks - Eagles				
___ Osprey	u	u	u	
___ Bald Eagle	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Harrier	u		r	
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	u	u	u
___ Cooper's Hawk	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Goshawk	u		r	r
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	u	u	u	u
___ Broad-winged Hawk	u		u	
___ Red-tailed Hawk	u	u	u	c
Falcons				
___ American Kestrel	r	r	r	
___ Merlin	r		r	r
Gallinaceous Birds				
___ Wild Turkey	r	r	r	r
Rails				
___ American Coot	c		c	c

<u>Species</u>	<u>Sp</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>
Sandpipers				
___ Killdeer	c		c	c
___ Greater Yellowlegs	r	r	r	
___ Solitary Sandpiper	r			
___ Spotted Sandpiper	r			
___ American Woodcock	u			
Gulls - Terns				
___ Bonaparte's Gull	u		r	
___ Ring-billed Gull	a		a	a
___ Herring Gull	c		c	c
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull				r
___ Great Black-backed Gull				u
___ Caspian Tern	u			
___ Common Tern	u		u	r
___ Forster's Tern	r		r	
Doves				
___ Rock Pigeon	r	r	r	r
___ Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
Cuckoos				
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	r		r	
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	c	c	u	
Owls				
___ Eastern Screech Owl	u	u	u	u
___ Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
___ Barred Owl	c	c	c	c
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl				r
Nightjars				
___ Common Nighthawk	u		u	
___ Whip-poor-will			r	
Swifts				
___ Chimney Swift	a	c	a	
Hummingbirds				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	c	c	u	
Kingfishers				
___ Belted Kingfisher	u	u	u	u
Woodpeckers				
___ Red-headed Woodpecker	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
Flycatchers				
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	r		r	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee	c	c	c	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			r	
___ Acadian Flycatcher	c	c	c	
___ Least Flycatcher			r	
___ Eastern Phoebe	c	c	c	r
___ Great Crested Flycatcher	c	c	c	
___ Eastern Kingbird	c	c	u	

<u>Species</u>	<u>Sp</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>
Vireos				
___ White-eyed Vireo	u	r	u	
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	u	u	u	
___ Blue-headed Vireo	u	u	u	
___ Warbling Vireo	u	u	u	
___ Philadelphia Vireo	r		r	
___ Red-eyed Vireo	a	a	a	
Crows - Jays				
___ Blue Jay	c	c	a	r
___ American Crow	a	a	a	c
___ Fish Crow	r		r	
___ Common Raven	r		r	
Swallows				
___ Purple Martin	c		u	
___ Tree Swallow	a	c	c	
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	a	c	c	
___ Bank Swallow	r		r	
___ Cliff Swallow	r		r	
___ Barn Swallow	c	u	c	
Titmice - Chickadees				
___ Carolina Chickadee	a	a	a	a
___ Tufted Titmouse	a	a	a	a
Nuthatches				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch			r	
___ White-breasted Nuthatch	c	c	c	u
Creepers				
___ Brown Creeper	r		u	
Wrens				
___ Carolina Wren	c	c	c	c
___ House Wren	c	c	c	
___ Winter Wren				u
___ Marsh Wren			r	
Kinglets				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		c	r
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		c	r
Gnatcatchers				
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	a	a	c	
Thrushes				
___ Eastern Bluebird	c	c	c	u
___ Veery	u	r	u	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	r		r	
___ Swainson's Thrush	u		u	
___ Hermit Thrush	u		u	u
___ Wood Thrush	c	c	u	
___ American Robin	c	c	a	r
Mimic Thrushes				
___ Gray Catbird	c	c	c	r
___ Northern Mockingbird	c	c	c	c
___ Brown Thrasher	u	r	u	r
Starlings				
___ European Starling	r	r	r	r
Wagtails - Pipits				
___ American Pipit	r		r	

Species	Sp	S	F	W
Waxwings				
___ Cedar Waxwing	c	u	c	u
Wood Warblers				
___ Blue-winged Warbler	r		r	
___ Golden-winged Warbler	r		r	
___ Tennessee Warbler	u		u	
___ Nashville Warbler	u		u	
___ Northern Parula	c	c	c	
___ Yellow Warbler	c	u	c	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	r		r	
___ Magnolia Warbler	u		c	
___ Cape May Warbler	u		r	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c			r
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	c		c	
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	c		c	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	r		r	
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	u	u	r	
___ Pine Warbler	r		r	
___ Prairie Warbler	r		r	
___ Palm Warbler	u		c	
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	r		u	
___ Blackpoll Warbler	c		u	
___ Cerulean Warbler	r	r	r	
___ Black-and-white Warbler	c		c	
___ American Redstart	c	r	c	
___ Prothonotary Warbler	u	u	r	
___ Worm-eating Warbler	u	u	r	
___ Ovenbird	c	c	u	
___ Northern Waterthrush	r		r	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	c	c	u	
___ Kentucky Warbler	r		r	
___ Connecticut Warbler			r	
___ Mourning Warbler	r		r	
___ Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	
___ Hooded Warbler	r		r	
___ Wilson's Warbler	r		r	
___ Canada Warbler	u		u	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat			r	
Tanagers				
___ Summer Tanager	r		r	
___ Scarlet Tanager	c	c	c	
Sparrows - Towhees				
___ Eastern Towhee	u		u	r
___ American Tree Sparrow				r
___ Chipping Sparrow	c	u	c	
___ Field Sparrow	c	u	c	u
___ Vesper Sparrow	r		r	
___ Savannah Sparrow	r		u	r
___ Fox Sparrow	u		c	r
___ Song Sparrow	a	c	a	u
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	r		r	
___ Swamp Sparrow	c		c	r

___ Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	u
Cardinals - Grosbeaks				
___ Northern Cardinal	c	c	c	a
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u		u	
___ Indigo Bunting	c	c	c	
Blackbirds - Orioles				
___ Eastern Meadowlark	r			
___ Red-winged Blackbird	c	u	c	r
___ Rusty Blackbird	u			
___ Common Grackle	a	u	a	
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	c	
___ Orchard Oriole	u	r	r	
___ Baltimore Oriole	c	c	c	
Finches				
___ Purple Finch			u	
___ House Finch	u	u	u	u
___ Red Crossbill			r	
___ American Goldfinch	c	a	c	c
Old World Sparrows				
___ House Sparrow	u	u	u	u

The following species have been historically recorded in the past ten years but are not to be expected.

Common Loon
 Neotropical Cormorant
 Eurasian Wigeon
 Greater Scaup
 White-winged Scoter
 Black Scoter
 Peregrine Falcon
 Northern Bobwhite
 Black Tern
 Sooty Tern
 Western Kingbird
 Bewick's Wren
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Swainson's Warbler
 Blue Grosbeak
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Evening Grosbeak
 Pine Siskin

On Cover:

The Connecticut Warbler is seen primarily in fall migration. It nests in the northern Great Lakes region and Canada. It is usually found walking or feeding on the ground. This warbler is thrush-like, with a short tail, long wings, and a characteristic "hood." Connecticut Warblers have large eyes with a complete, bold white eye-ring. Spring migration patterns usually take the warbler west of the Appalachians. Fall migration brings some birds farther east to the meadows of Riverbend Park.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Weather: _____

Riverbend Park

Visitor Center
 8700 Potomac Hills Street
 Great Falls, VA 22066
 703 -759-9018

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend



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For accommodations, call
 Inclusion/ADA, 703-324-8563
 Support at least 10 working days in
 advance of registration deadline or
 event (whichever is earlier).
 TTY 703- 803-3354

Cover illustration by
 Nikki Oteya

The Birds of Riverbend Park



Connecticut Warbler (*Oporonis agilis*)

Riverbend Park
 Great Falls, Virginia