

The Birds of Central Park



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This checklist includes the 200 species of wild birds regularly seen in the Park since 1886. Eighty-one rare or historical species are listed separately at the end.

Typography is used to indicate status. **Bold** denotes birds that are more commonly seen or heard in the appropriate habitat and season, whether they are present **YEAR-ROUND** or are **Annual Migrants**. (Many migrants are common for only a few weeks each year.) **Bold** can reflect either abundance (House Sparrow) or conspicuousness (Mute Swan). *Infrequent* species are seen only every few years.

For example:

BLUE JAY	Year-round; more common
AMERICAN KESTREL	Year-round; less common
Baltimore Oriole	Annual migrant; more common
Hooded Warbler	Annual migrant; less common
<i>Marsh Wren</i>	Infrequent

Unless otherwise noted, migrants are seen in the Park while on their way to breeding or wintering grounds. For some species, spring migration begins as early as February; for others, fall migration begins in July. Many owls, ducks, and sparrows occur primarily in winter. *Flyovers* are rarely found in the Park itself.

The species order follows that of the 7th edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check list (1998).

✓	LOONS, GREBES, CORMORANTS
	Red-throated Loon <i>Flyover</i>
	Common Loon <i>Mainly flyover</i>
	Pied-billed Grebe
	Double-crested Cormorant <i>Occ. winters</i>
	BITTERNS, HERONS, IBISES
	<i>American Bittern</i>
	GREAT BLUE HERON
	Great Egret
	Snowy Egret
	Green Heron <i>Has nested</i>
	Black-crowned Night-Heron <i>Oft. winters</i>
	VULTURES
	<i>Black Vulture</i> <i>Flyover</i>
	Turkey Vulture <i>Flyover</i>
	WATERFOWL
	Snow Goose <i>Mainly flyover</i>
	CANADA GOOSE
	Brant <i>Mainly flyover</i>
	MUTE SWAN <i>Nests</i>
	Wood Duck <i>A few winter</i>
	Gadwall
	<i>American Wigeon</i>
	American Black Duck <i>Winters</i>
	MALLARD <i>Nests</i>
	Northern Shoveler
	<i>Northern Pintail</i>
	Green-winged Teal
	Canvasback
	Ring-necked Duck

YEAR-ROUND • Annual Migrant • *Infrequent*

Common / Less Common



✓	WATERFOWL...	
	Lesser Scaup	
	Bufflehead	<i>Winters</i>
	Hooded Merganser	
	<i>Common Merganser</i>	
	<i>Red-breasted Merganser</i>	
	Ruddy Duck	<i>Winters</i>
BIRDS OF PREY		
	Osprey	<i>Flyover</i>
	Bald Eagle	<i>Flyover</i>
	Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk)	<i>Flyover</i>
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Flyover; oft. in Park</i>
	Cooper's Hawk	<i>Flyover; occ. winters</i>
	<i>Northern Goshawk</i>	<i>Flyover; infreq. in Park</i>
	Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Flyover; infreq. in Park</i>
	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Flyover</i>
	RED-TAILED HAWK	<i>Nests on Fifth Ave.</i>
	<i>Rough-legged Hawk</i>	<i>Flyover</i>
	<i>Golden Eagle</i>	<i>Flyover</i>
	AMERICAN KESTREL	<i>Nests in NYC</i>
	Merlin	
	PEREGRINE FALCON	<i>Nests in NYC</i>
PHEASANTS		
	RING-NECKED PHEASANT	<i>Has nested</i>
GALLINULES, COOTS		
	<i>Common Moorhen</i>	
	American Coot	<i>Oft. winters</i>
SHOREBIRDS		
	Killdeer	<i>Has nested</i>
	<i>Greater Yellowlegs</i>	

YEAR-ROUND • Annual Migrant • *Infrequent*
Common / Less Common

✓	SHOREBIRDS...	
	Solitary Sandpiper	
	Spotted Sandpiper	
	Least Sandpiper	
	<i>Common Snipe</i>	
	American Woodcock	
GULLS		
	Laughing Gull	<i>Daily summer visitor</i>
	RING-BILLED GULL	
	HERRING GULL	
	<i>Iceland Gull</i>	
	GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL	
DOVES, CUCKOOS		
	ROCK DOVE (<i>pigeon</i>)	<i>Nests</i>
	MOURNING DOVE	<i>Nests</i>
	Black-billed Cuckoo	
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	
OWLS		
	EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	<i>Reintroduced in 1998</i>
	<i>Great Horned Owl</i>	
	Long-eared Owl	<i>Oft. winters</i>
	Northern Saw-whet Owl	
GOATSUCKERS		
	Common Nighthawk	
	<i>Chuck-will's-widow</i>	
	Whip-poor-will	
SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, KINGFISHERS		
	Chimney Swift	<i>Daily summer flyover</i>
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	

YEAR-ROUND • Annual Migrant • *Infrequent*
Common / Less Common

✓	WOODPECKERS	
	Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Oft. winters</i>
	RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	<i>Nests</i>
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Occ. winters</i>
	DOWNY WOODPECKER	<i>Nests</i>
	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Occ. winters</i>
	Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	<i>Nests; occ. winters</i>
FLYCATCHERS		
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	
	Eastern Wood Pewee	
	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	
	Acadian Flycatcher	
	Alder Flycatcher	
	Willow Flycatcher	
	Least Flycatcher	
	Eastern Phoebe	
	Great Crested Flycatcher	
	Eastern Kingbird	<i>Nests</i>
VIREOS		
	White-eyed Vireo	
	Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Has nested</i>
	Blue-headed (Solitary) Vireo	
	Warbling Vireo	<i>Occ. nests</i>
	Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Mostly fall</i>
	Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Occ. nests</i>
JAYS, CROWS		
	BLUE JAY	<i>Nests</i>
	AMERICAN CROW	<i>Nests</i>
	Fish Crow	<i>Has nested</i>

YEAR-ROUND • Annual Migrant • *Infrequent*
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✓	SWALLOWS	
	Tree Swallow	
	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	
	<i>Bank Swallow</i>	
	<i>Cliff Swallow</i>	
	Barn Swallow	
CHICKADEES, TITMICE		
	Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Has nested</i>
	Tufted Titmouse	<i>Nests</i>
NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS		
	Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Occ. winters</i>
	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Winters</i>
	Brown Creeper	<i>Occ. winters</i>
WRENS		
	Carolina Wren	<i>Occ. winters</i>
	House Wren	<i>Nests</i>
	Winter Wren	<i>Occ. winters</i>
	<i>Marsh Wren</i>	
THRUSHES		
	Eastern Bluebird	
	Veery	
	Gray-cheeked Thrush	
	Bicknell's Thrush	
	Swainson's Thrush	
	Hermit Thrush	<i>Occ. winters</i>
	Wood Thrush	<i>Has nested</i>

YEAR-ROUND • Annual Migrant • *Infrequent*
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✓	THRUSHES...	
	American Robin	<i>Nests; a few winter</i>
MIMIC THRUSHES		
	Gray Catbird	<i>Nests; infreq. winters</i>
	NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	<i>Nests</i>
	Brown Thrasher	<i>Has nested; occ. winters</i>
STARLINGS, WAXWINGS		
	EUROPEAN STARLING	<i>Nests</i>
	Cedar Waxwing	<i>Occ. nests</i>
WOOD-WARBLERS		
	Blue-winged Warbler	
	Golden-winged Warbler	
	<i>Lawrence's Warbler (BW & GW hybrid)</i>	
	<i>Brewster's Warbler (BW & GW hybrid)</i>	
	Tennessee Warbler	
	Orange-crowned Warbler	
	Nashville Warbler	
	Northern Parula	
	Yellow Warbler	
	Chestnut-sided Warbler	
	Magnolia Warbler	
	Cape May Warbler	
	Black-throated Blue Warbler	
	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	
	Black-throated Green Warbler	
	Blackburnian Warbler	
	<i>Yellow-throated Warbler</i>	<i>Mostly spring</i>
	Pine Warbler	
	Prairie Warbler	

YEAR-ROUND • Annual Migrant • *Infrequent*
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✓	WOOD-WARBLERS...	
	Palm Warbler	
	Bay-breasted Warbler	
	Blackpoll Warbler	
	Cerulean Warbler	<i>Mostly spring</i>
	Black-and-white Warbler	
	American Redstart	
	<i>Prothonotary Warbler</i>	<i>Mostly spring</i>
	Worm-eating Warbler	
	Ovenbird	
	Northern Waterthrush	
	Louisiana Waterthrush	
	<i>Kentucky Warbler</i>	<i>Mostly spring</i>
	<i>Connecticut Warbler</i>	<i>Mostly fall</i>
	Mourning Warbler	
	Common Yellowthroat	
	Hooded Warbler	
	Wilson's Warbler	
	Canada Warbler	
	Yellow-breasted Chat	
TANAGERS		
	Summer Tanager	<i>Mostly spring</i>
	Scarlet Tanager	
SPARROWS		
	Eastern (Rufous-sided) Towhee	<i>Occ. winters</i>
	American Tree Sparrow	<i>Mostly winter</i>
	Chipping Sparrow	
	Field Sparrow	
	<i>Vesper Sparrow</i>	
	Savannah Sparrow	

YEAR-ROUND • Annual Migrant • *Infrequent*
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✓	SPARROWS...	
	Fox Sparrow	<i>Of. winters</i>
	Song Sparrow	<i>Nests; a few winter</i>
	Lincoln's Sparrow	
	Swamp Sparrow	<i>Occ. winters</i>
	White-throated Sparrow	<i>Winters</i>
	White-crowned Sparrow	
	Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Occ. winters</i>
	NORTHERN CARDINAL	<i>Nests</i>
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	
	<i>Blue Grosbeak</i>	
	Indigo Bunting	
BLACKBIRDS		
	<i>Bobolink</i>	
	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Nests; occ. winters</i>
	<i>Eastern Meadowlark</i>	
	Rusty Blackbird	
	Common Grackle	<i>Nests</i>
	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Occ. winters</i>
	Orchard Oriole	<i>Mostly spring</i>
	Baltimore Oriole	<i>Nests</i>
FINCHES, OLD-WORLD SPARROWS		
	Purple Finch	
	HOUSE FINCH	<i>Nests</i>
	<i>Common Redpoll</i>	
	<i>Pine Siskin</i>	
	American Goldfinch	<i>Winters</i>
	<i>Evening Grosbeak</i>	
	HOUSE SPARROW	<i>Nests</i>

YEAR-ROUND • Annual Migrant • *Infrequent*
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RARE (seen fewer than ten times since 1970)

Horned Grebe	Glaucous Gull
Red-necked Grebe	Caspian Tern
Anhinga	Common Tern
Least Bittern	Forster's Tern
Little Blue Heron	Black Skimmer
Tricolored Heron	Barn Owl
Cattle Egret (<i>Flyover</i>)	Barred Owl
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Short-eared Owl
Glossy Ibis	Western Kingbird
Eurasian Wigeon	Northern Shrike
Blue-winged Teal	Bell's Vireo
Redhead	Horned Lark
Tufted Duck	Purple Martin
Common Eider	Boreal Chickadee
Surf Scoter	Northern Wheatear
White-winged Scoter	American Pipit
Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)	Swainson's Warbler
Common Goldeneye	Western Tanager
Mississippi Kite	Clay-colored Sparrow
Wild Turkey	Lark Sparrow
Virginia Rail	Grasshopper Sparrow
Sora	Henslow's Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	LeConte's Sparrow
Semipalmated Plover	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Lesser Yellowlegs	Upland Sandpiper
Upland Sandpiper	Whimbrel (<i>Flyover</i>)
Whimbrel (<i>Flyover</i>)	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Semipalmated Sandpiper	White-rumped Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper	Pectoral Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper	Red Phalarope
Red Phalarope	Black-headed Gull
Black-headed Gull	Bonaparte's Gull
Bonaparte's Gull	Lesser Black-backed Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull	
	Black-backed Woodpecker
	Loggerhead Shrike
	Bewick's Wren
	Sedge Wren
	Black-throated Gray Warbler
	Townsend's Warbler

HISTORICAL (not seen since 1970)

Ruffed Grouse	Black-backed Woodpecker
Northern Bobwhite	Loggerhead Shrike
Clapper Rail	Bewick's Wren
Purple Gallinule	Sedge Wren
Western Sandpiper	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Snowy Owl	Townsend's Warbler

Help Protect Birds and Their Habitat

When observing birds, stay on paved paths and Park drives. Trampling damages fragile vegetation.

Observe birds from a comfortable distance. If a bird seems agitated by your presence, move farther away.

Don't approach or try to rescue a fallen nestling. The parents are usually nearby and will continue to care for it.

Please pick up litter and dispose of it properly. Birds can get entangled in discarded fishing line, six-pack loops, and plastic bags.

Central Park Conservancy is a private, not-for-profit organization founded in 1980 that manages Central Park under a contract with the City of New York/Parks & Recreation. The Conservancy invites all Central Park visitors to become partners in taking care of the Park to ensure that it remains a beautiful place for leisure, recreation, and the appreciation of nature.

For more information about the Conservancy, please call 212-310-6600 or visit our website at www.centralparknyc.org.

To take a tour or to learn more about the Urban Park Rangers, please call 212-360-2774.

This list was compiled and designed by Rebekah Creshkoff and Marie Winn, and reviewed by Tom Fiore, Dick Gershon, Roger Pasquier, Peter Post, Steve Quinn, Marty Sohmer, and Lloyd Spitalnik.
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