

AVIAN SURVEY OF THE NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER

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BIRDS OF THE NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER

The following list contains the common names of 177 bird species that have been recorded in the NRGNR during the past 10 years. No attempt was made to determine the abundance of each species; only presence was recorded. A "migrant" is a species that passes through the NRGNR area on its way to or from its nesting or wintering grounds. A "winter visitant" is a species that may appear during the winter season, but it does not necessarily remain all winter. A "winter resident" is a species that remains in the area during the winter. A "permanent resident" is a species that is in the area the year round. A "summer visitor" is a bird that may be seen during the summer, but it does not nest in this area. The 104 species whose names are followed by an "*" are believed to nest in the NRGNR. The determination of nesting follows the criteria established by the West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project (See Appendix.). The bird names and order are from the Check-List of North American Birds, Sixth Edition, American Ornithologists' Union, 1983.

Common Loon - migrant.

Pied-billed Grebe - migrant; early winter visitor.

Horned Grebe - migrant.

Double-crested Cormorant - migrant.

Great Blue Heron - migrant; summer visitor; early winter visitor.

Little Blue Heron - one record, June 1983 (Redstart, January 1984).

Green-backed Heron* - migrant; possible nester.

Mute Swan - one record, January 1985 (Redstart, July 1985).

Canada Goose - established permanent resident; nests nearby around Bluestone Lake.

Wood Duck* - migrant; possible nester; early winter visitor.

Green-winged Teal - migrant; early winter visitor.

American Black Duck - migrant; early winter visitor; nests at Crump's Bottom upriver from Bluestone Lake.

Mallard* - migrant; winter resident; fledged young seen near Sandstone Falls (Phillips, pers. notes).

Northern Pintail - migrant; winter visitor.

Blue-winged Teal - migrant.

Gadwall - migrant; winter visitor (Loudermilk, 1981).

American Wigeon - migrant.

Canvasback - migrant.

Redhead - migrant.

Ring-necked Duck - migrant; early winter visitor.

Lesser Scaup - migrant; early winter visitor.

Common Goldeneye - migrant; winter visitor.

Bufflehead - migrant; winter visitor.

Hooded Merganser - migrant; winter visitor.

Common Merganser - migrant; winter visitor.

Red-breasted Merganser - migrant.

Ruddy Duck - migrant; winter visitor.

Black Vulture* - see text.

Turkey Vulture* - migrant; possible nester.

Osprey - migrant; summer visitor; early winter visitor.

Bald Eagle - see text.

Northern Harrier - migrant.

Sharp-shinned Hawk - migrant; may be permanent resident. Hall (1983) indicates that it may occur in any forested habitat in any county in the state. This is another species about which the Atlas Project is seeking more nesting information.

Cooper's Hawk* - see text.

Red-shouldered Hawk* - may be permanent resident; has been recorded in the area in every month; possible nester.

Broad-winged Hawk* - migrant; possible nester.

Red-tailed Hawk* - may be permanent resident; has been recorded in the area in every month; possible nester.

Golden Eagle - recorded from Hawk's Nest, April 1976 (Worthington, pers. notes) and Bluestone State Park, December 1977 (American Birds, Pipestem CBC, July 1978).

American Kestrel* - may be permanent resident; more noticeable in the winter; male on territory, Fayette Station Road, 1985 (Kodak, pers. notes).

Ruffed Grouse* - permanent resident; fledged young, McKendree Road.

Wild Turkey* - reestablished permanent resident; possible nester.

Northern Bobwhite* - permanent resident; possible nester.

American Coot - migrant.

Killdeer* - migrant; winter resident; possible nester.

Greater Yellowlegs - migrant.

Lesser Yellowlegs - migrant.

Solitary Sandpiper - migrant.

Willet - one record, Fayette Station, May 1985, many observers.

Spotted Sandpiper* - migrant; possible nester.

Common Snipe - migrant.

American Woodcock* - migrant; possible nester.

Bonaparte's Gull - migrant.

Ring-billed Gull - migrant.

Herring Gull - migrant.

Rock Dove* - permanent resident; possible nester.

Mourning Dove* - migrant; winter resident; possible nester.

Black-billed Cuckoo* - migrant; possible nester.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo* - migrant; possible nester.

Eastern Screech Owl* - permanent resident; fledged young, Thurmond, 1980
(Worthington, pers. notes).

Great Horned Owl* - permanent resident; on nest near Kaymoor, 1977 (Kodak,
pers. notes).

Barred Owl* - permanent resident; possible nester.

Common Nighthawk - migrant; possibly nests on flat rooftops of buildings in
Beckley. It may nest on the ground on fairly level strip-mined areas
(Hall, 1983).

Whip-poor-will* - migrant; possible nester.

Chimney Swift* - migrant; possible nester.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird* - migrant; possible nester.

Belted Kingfisher* - migrant; winter resident; pair seen near Sandstone
Falls.

Red-bellied Woodpecker* - permanent resident; nest with young, Babcock
Park, 1984 (Boyd, pers. communication).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - migrant; winter resident.

Downy Woodpecker* - permanent resident; possible nester.

Hairy Woodpecker* - permanent resident; adult feeding young at nest, Fayette Station Road, 1982 (Worthington, pers. notes).

Northern Flicker* - migrant; winter resident; possible nester.

Pileated Woodpecker* - permanent resident; adult carrying food for young near Sewell, 1984 (Worthington, pers. notes).

Eastern Wood-Pewee* - migrant; male on territory, Kates Branch.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - migrant; one record, May 1984, Fayette Station Road (Kodak and Worthington, pers. notes).

Acadian Flycatcher* - migrant; seven territorial males, McKendree Road.

Least Flycatcher - migrant; nests in Fayette and Raleigh Counties (Hall, 1983). Brooks Bird Club members recorded it on their 1975 foray in Raleigh County (Bell, 1976).

Eastern Phoebe* - migrant; early winter visitor; young in nest, Sandstone, 1975 (Bell, 1976).

Great Crested Flycatcher* - migrant; on nest at Kates Branch.

Eastern Kingbird* - migrant; possible nester.

Horned Lark* - migrant; possible nester.

Purple Martin* - migrant; possible nester (May not nest if nest boxes are not available.).

Tree Swallow* - migrant; adult with food for young, Sandstone Falls.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow* - migrant; possible nester.

Bank Swallow - migrant; summer records, Fayette County (Hall, 1983).

Cliff Swallow - migrant; summer records, Fayette County (Hall, 1983).

Barn Swallow* - migrant; possible nester.

Blue Jay* - permanent resident; possible nester.

American Crow* - migrant; winter resident; possible nester.

Common Raven* - see text.

Black-capped Chickadee - winter visitor; unconfirmed reports from Babcock State Park during the nesting season. The Brooks Bird Club members reported it from Raleigh County (Bell, 1976).

Carolina Chickadee* - permanent resident; male on territory, Kates Branch.

Tufted Titmouse* - permanent resident; adult with food for young,
McKendree Road.

Red-breasted Nuthatch - migrant; winter visitor.

White-breasted Nuthatch* - permanent resident; pair near Sandstone Falls.

Brown Creeper* - migrant; winter visitor; pair building nest, Kates Branch

Carolina Wren* - permanent resident; seven territorial males, McKendree
Road.

House Wren* - migrant; possible nester.

Winter Wren - migrant; winter resident.

Golden-crowned Kinglet - migrant; winter visitor.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - migrant; early winter visitor.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* - migrant; fledged young at Sandstone Falls.

Eastern Bluebird* - migrant; winter resident; young in nest, Grandview
(Bell, 1976).

Veery - migrant.

Gray-cheeked Thrush - migrant.

Swainson's Thrush - migrant.

Hermit Thrush - migrant; winter visitor.

Wood Thrush* - migrant; seven territorial males, McKendree Road.

American Robin* - migrant; winter resident; used nest, Sandstone Falls.

Gray Catbird* - migrant; adult with food for young, Sandstone Falls.

Northern Mockingbird* - permanent resident; possible nester.

Brown Thrasher* - migrant, early winter visitor; possible nester.

Cedar Waxwing* - recorded in every month; seen copulating, Kates Branch.

European Starling* - permanent resident; young in nest, Sandstone Falls
(Bell, 1976).

White-eyed Vireo* - migrant; fledged young at substation above Keeneys
Creek.

Solitary Vireo* - migrant; adult with food for young at substation above
Keeneys Creek.

Yellow-throated Vireo* - migrant; male on territory, McKendree Road.

Warbling Vireo* - migrant; possible nester.

Red-eyed Vireo* - migrant; seven territorial males, McKendree Road.

Golden-winged Warbler* - see text.

Tennessee Warbler - migrant.

Northern Parula* - migrant; male on territory near Sewell.

Yellow Warbler* - migrant; possible nester.

Chestnut-sided Warbler* - migrant; adult with food for young, Kates Branch.

Magnolia Warbler - migrant; summer record, Fayette County (Hall, 1983).

Cape May Warbler - migrant.

Black-throated Blue Warbler* - migrant; June records, Babcock (Phillips, pers. notes) and Grandview (Bell, 1976).

Yellow-rumped Warbler - migrant; winter resident.

Black-throated Green Warbler* - migrant; possible nester.

Blackburnian Warbler - migrant; summer records, Fayette County, (Hall, 1983).

Yellow-throated Warbler* - migrant; possible nester.

Pine Warbler* - migrant; possible nester; recorded in July 1983 (Kodak, pers. notes).

Prairie Warbler* - migrant; possible nester.

Palm Warbler - migrant.

Bay-breasted Warbler - migrant.

Blackpoll - migrant.

Cerulean Warbler* - migrant; possible nester.

Black and White Warbler* - migrant; fledged young, McKendree Road.

American Redstart* - migrant; adult with food for young, McKendree Road.

Worm-eating Warbler* - migrant; male on territory, Fayette Station Road.

Swainson's Warbler* - see text.

Ovenbird* - migrant; seven territorial males, Kates Branch.

Louisiana Waterthrush* - migrant; male on territory near Coal Run.

Kentucky Warbler* - migrant; male on territory near Sewell.

Common Yellowthroat* - migrant; fledged young at substation above Keeneys Creek.

Hooded Warbler* - migrant; seven territorial males, McKendree Road.

Wilson's Warbler - migrant.

Canada Warbler - migrant; summer records, Fayette County (Hall, 1983).

Yellow-breasted Chat* - migrant; male on territory at substation above Keeneys Creek.

Summer Tananger* - migrant; male on territory, Grandview (Bell, 1976).

Scarlet Tananger* - migrant; male on territory, Kates Branch.

Northern Cardinal* - permanent resident; pair seen, Sandstone Falls.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak* - migrant; possible nester.

Indigo Bunting* - migrant; seven territorial males, McKendree Road.

Dickcissel - one record (Buhlmann and Vaughn, 1985).

Rufous-sided Towhee* - migrant; winter resident; seven territorial males, Kates Branch.

American Tree Sparrow - winter visitant.

Chipping Sparrow* - migrant; possible nester.

Field Sparrow* - migrant; winter visitor; possible nester.

Vesper Sparrow - migrant; nests on reclaimed strip mine near the Fayette County land fill (Worthington, pers. notes).

Grasshopper Sparrow* - see text.

Fox Sparrow - migrant; early winter visitor.

Song Sparrow* - permanent resident; fledged young, Sandstone Falls.

White-throated Sparrow - migrant; winter visitor.

White-crowned Sparrow - migrant; early winter visitor.

Dark-eyed Junco - migrant; winter visitant.

Red-winged Blackbird* - migrant; winter visitor; possible nester.

Eastern Meadowlark* - migrant; winter visitor; possible nester.

Rusty Blackbird - migrant.

Common Grackle* - migrant; male on territory near Fire Creek.

Brown-headed Cowbird* - migrant; possible nester.

Orchard Oriole* - migrant; possible nester.

Northern Oriole* - migrant; pair seen, Sandstone Falls.

Purple Finch - migrant; winter resident.

House Finch* - permanent resident; nest with young, Hinton 1982 (Phillips, pers. notes).

Pine Siskin - migrant; winter visitor.

American Goldfinch* - migrant; winter resident; possible nester.

Evening Grosbeak - migrant; winter wisitor.

House Sparrow* - permanent resident; on nest in Hinton.

The following list contains the names of 42 species of birds which have been located near the NRGNR and may possibly have occurred within the boundaries. Information is given only for those which may nest nearby.

Red-throated Loon

Red-necked Grebe

American Bittern

Common Egret

Black-crowned Night Heron

Tundra Swan

Northern Shoveler

Greater Scaup

Surf-Scoter

White-winged Scoter

Rough-legged Hawk

Merlin

Peregrine Falcon

Sora

Virginia Rail

Common Moorhen