

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

November 24, 1952

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Saratoga NHP

From: Park Ranger, Saratoga NHP

Subject: Check List of Birds observed in Saratoga National
Historical Park

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The attached check list of birds with brief comments on occurrence represents those species observed in the park from the Fall of 1950 to the present date. This check list is not complete particularly in reference to warblers. Only birds which have been actually identified have been listed; birds whose identification from field markings was suspicious have been omitted.

All identification was based on field markings with checks being made against the following reference material: Roger Tory Peterson's A Field Guide to the Birds, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1947 and Richard H. Pough's Audubon Bird Guide, Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, N. Y., 1946.

Howard H. Chapman
Howard H. Chapman
Park Ranger

Attachment

CHECK LIST OF BIRDS OF SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Herons and Bitterns: Ardeidae

1. Great Blue Heron

Found in the marshy eastern sections of the park.

Geese: Anserinae

1. Canada Goose
2. Snow Goose

These two species of geese are occasionally seen in the park during the migration seasons.

Surface-Feeding Ducks: Anatinae

1. Mallard
2. Black Duck

Common during spring and fall migrations.

Diving Ducks: Aythyinae

1. Ring-necked Duck

Only five of these birds have been seen in the park.

Mergansers: Merginae

1. Hooded Merganser
2. American Merganser

Observed frequently on the Hudson River early in the spring.

Aecipiters, or Short-winged Hawks: Aecipitrinae

1. Eastern Goshawk

Infrequently seen in the park.

Buteos, or Buzzard Hawks: Buteoninae

1. Red-tailed Hawk

Common in this area.

Harriers: Circinae

1. Marsh Hawk, or Harrier

Most common hawk in the park.

Ospreys: Pandionidae

1. Osprey

Only one of these birds has been observed.

Felcons: Falconidae

1. Sparrow Hawk, or Kestrel

Observed frequently in this area.

Grouse: Tetraonidae

1. Ruffed Grouse

A substantial number populate this area. Incorrectly called partridge in this area. The partridge belongs to Phasianidae.

Quails, Partridges, and Pheasants: Phasianidae

1. Ring-necked Pheasant

Common in this area. However a two year observation has been that the population is doing little more than maintaining itself.

Plovers and Turnstones: Charadriidae

1. Killdeer

Only one observation has been made of this bird in the park.

Woodcock, Snipe, Sandpipers, etc.: Scolopacidae

1. Woodcock

Infrequently observed along hedgerows.

2. Upland Plover

Occasionally seen in the park during the spring migration.

Gulls: Larinae

1. Herring Gull

Observed occasionally on the Hudson River.

Pigeons and Doves: Columbidae

1. Mourning Dove

Observed frequently during the summer.

NOTE: The so-called "domestic pigeon" is omitted from this list.

Swifts: Apodidae

1. Chimney Swift

Observed principally around the Blockhouse.

Kingfishers: Alcedinidae

1. (Eastern) Belted Kingfisher

This bird has been infrequently observed along the abandoned canal.

Woodpeckers: Picidae

1. Flicker
2. Pileated woodpecker
3. Hairy Woodpecker
4. Downy Woodpecker

The most common woodpecker in the park.

Occasionally seen along forest edges.

Frequently seen in forested areas.

Only one or two observations made of this bird.

Flycatchers: Tyrannidae

1. Eastern Kingbird
2. Eastern Phoebe

Commonly observed in open areas of the park during the summer.

Only an occasional observation of this species is made in the park.

Swallows: Hirundinidae

1. Barn Swallow

This swallow is seen frequently in the headquarter's area during the summer.

Crows and Jays: Corvidae

1. Blue Jay
2. Crow

The bluejay is one of the most common year-round residents of the park.

This bird is commonly observed from early spring through late fall in the park.

Titmice: Paridae

1. Black-capped Chickadee

Though this specie is a year-round resident it is much more conspicuous during the winter.

Nuthatches: Sittidae

1. White-breasted Nuthatch

Only infrequent observations of this species have been made.

Creepers: Certhiidae

1. Brown creeper

Only one observation made in the two year period.

Mockingbirds and Thrashers: Mimidae

1. Catbird

This bird has been observed on rather infrequent occasions.

2. (Eastern) Brown Thrasher

Observations have been limited to areas of dense shrubby growth.

Thrushes, Robins, Bluebirds, etc.: Turdidae

1. Robin

The most common bird seen in the park.

2. Veery

Occasionally observed along woodland edges.

3. Eastern Bluebird

Frequently observed in open areas of the park.

Starlings: Sturnidae

1. Starling

Another common bird found in Saratoga.

Wood Warblers: Parulidae

1. Yellow Warbler

Only one observation made during the report period.

Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, and Orioles: Icteridae

1. Bobolink

Occasionally observed in the open fields of the park.

2. Meadowlark

Another bird observed in the open fields.

3. Red-wing

Frequent observations are made in the vicinity of marshy sites.

4. Baltimore Oriole

Only infrequent observations are made of this species.

5. Bronzed Grackle

Frequently observed along the Hudson River.

6. (Eastern) Cowbird

Only occasional observations have been made of this species.

Tanagers: Thraupidae

1. Scarlet Tanager

Only one observation has been made of this bird during the two year period.

Grosbeaks, Finches, Sparrows and Buntings: Fringillidae

1. (Eastern) Evening Grosbeak

Only observations made of this species have been made at infrequent intervals during late fall or early spring.

2. Common Goldfinch

Next to the robin the most frequently observed bird during the summer.

3. Towhee: Chewink

Observations of this species have been infrequent during the report period.

4. Slate-Colored Junco

A common bird in the park during the fall.

5. (Eastern) Chipping Sparrow

Observations of this bird are made frequently in the headquarter's area during the summer.

6. (Eastern) Fox Sparrow

This species has been noted in the park only during the fall.

7. Song Sparrow

Only one observation has been made in the park during the two-year period.

8. Snow bunting

Very infrequently observed in the park.