

George Washington Memorial Parkway

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Birds

Resource Brief

Regional Bird Monitoring

Since 2007, the National Capital Region Network (NCRN) Inventory & Monitoring program has monitored birds at approximately 385 forest plots throughout the region. Birds are monitored at each plot twice every summer for a total of 770 visits a year. Because this long-term monitoring program occurs within forest habitats, it only accounts for bird species found in forests.

Top 10 Most Common Birds at GW Memorial Parkway

The pictures of birds stacked on the left side of this page represent the most commonly found birds in George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) forests. The largest picture in the stack, the Northern Cardinal, represents the species with the highest density of birds per hectare (ha) of forest. There are 1.92 Northern Cardinals per hectare (although we don't actually have fractions of birds).

The smaller the image, the lower the density rate and the less likely you are to find that species of bird. That means you're about twice as likely to find a cardinal as the Brown-headed Cowbird (.89 birds/ha).

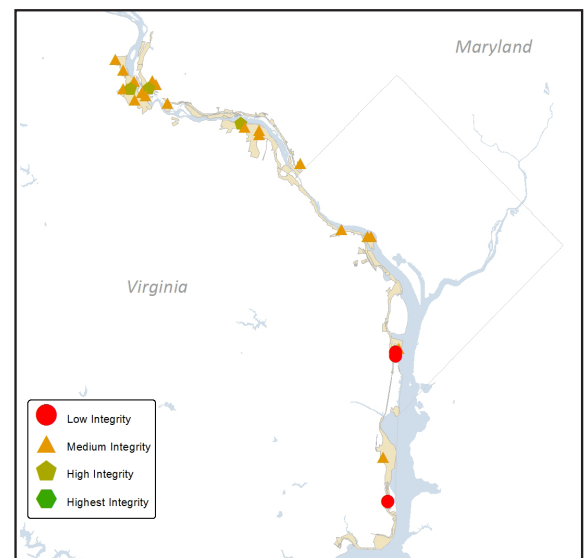
What's impressive about this list is that it includes a species of conservation concern—the Carolina Wren. That means Carolina Wrens that are highly dependent on this region for global survival, are finding valuable habitat at GWMP. The Carolina Wren framed in red is a "stewardship species." For a full list of GWMP's forest bird species, see reverse.

Bird Monitoring Plots & Habitat Quality

Birds are monitored at twenty forest plots in George Washington Memorial Parkway forests. Based on the types of birds detected, each plot is rated for habitat quality.

Plots with large numbers of generalist and habitat-insensitive species score poorly and those with high numbers of specialist or habitat-sensitive species yield higher scores.

In this map, red circles mark Low integrity habitat, orange triangles mark Medium integrity habitat, and light green pentagons mark High integrity habitat.



Bird monitoring plots, rated for habitat quality.

Common Grackle
.63

Carolina Wren
.68

American Goldfinch
.74

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
.76

Eastern Tufted Titmouse
.84

Red-eyed Vireo
.84

Brown-headed Cowbird
.89

Unidentified Chickadee¹
1.17

American Robin
1.48

Northern Cardinal
1.92

¹Detections of Carolina Chickadees and Black-capped Chickadees are combined.

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Birds of GW Memorial Parkway's Forests

From 2007 to 2010, the number of different species detected each year at George Washington Memorial Parkway ranged from 59 to 68. The GW Parkway is home to 13 species of conservation concern, marked below with asterisks.

Acadian Flycatcher**	Common Grackle	Mourning Dove	Turkey Vulture
American Crow	Common Nighthawk	Northern Cardinal	Unidentified Chickadee ⁺
American Goldfinch	Common Yellowthroat	Northern Flicker	Veery
American Redstart	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	Warbling Vireo
American Robin	Eastern Phoebe	Northern Parula	White-breasted Nuthatch
American Woodcock	Eastern Towhee**	Northern Rough-winged	White-eyed Vireo**
Baltimore Oriole	Eastern Tufted Titmouse	Swallow	Wood Thrush*
Barn Swallow	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Waterthrush	Worm-eating Warbler*
Barred Owl	European Starling	Osprey	Yellow Warbler
Belted Kingfisher	Fish Crow	Ovenbird	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black Vulture	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler	Gray Catbird	Prothonotary Warbler*	Yellow-throated Vireo**
Blackpoll Warbler	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Red-bellied Woodpecker**	Yellow-throated Warbler**
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Great Blue Heron	Red-eyed Vireo	
Blue Jay	Great Crested Flycatcher	Red-shouldered Hawk**	*Partners in Flight Watchlist species are vulnerable at a continental scale
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Hairy Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird	
Blue-headed Vireo	Hermit Thrush	Rock Pigeon	
Brown-headed Cowbird	House Finch	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	**Stewardship Species have most of their global population within the region.
Canada Goose	House Sparrow	Scarlet Tanager	
Carolina Wren**	House Wren	Song Sparrow	+Detections of Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees are combined.
Cedar Waxwing	Indigo Bunting**	Swainson's Thrush	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Least Flycatcher	Swamp Sparrow	
Chimney Swift	Louisiana Waterthrush**	Tree Swallow	
Chipping Sparrow	Marsh Wren		

For further information

Ladin, Z., S. E. Goodwin, and W. G. Shriver. In Press. Avian Monitoring in the National Capital Region Network: 2007 – 2011. Natural Resource Data Series Report NPS/NCRN/NRDS—2011/TBD. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado. Will be available online at: http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ncrn/monitoring_birds.cfm

Sinclair, J., M. Koenen, S. Hood, M. Milton, and C. Wright. 2004. Avian Inventory at Six National Capital Region Parks Final Report (Revised). TIC#: NCRO D-48
Available online at: http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ncrn/inventories_avian.cfm

NCRN Bird Monitoring webpage: http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ncrn/monitoring_birds.cfm

Photography: Northern Cardinal- Neil D Scott; American Robin and Carolina Chickadee- Cameron Rognan; Black-capped Chickadee- Bruce Echols; Brown-headed Cowbird and Carolina Wren- Richard Lee; Red-eyed Vireo- AccuSoft Co.; Eastern Tufted Titmouse- Judy Howle; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Goldfinch, and Common Grackle- Laura Erickson