

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Birds

Resource Brief



Blue-gray
Gnatcatcher
.43



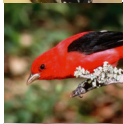
Red-bellied
Woodpecker
.44



Wood Thrush
.5



Downy
Woodpecker
.51



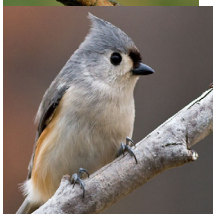
Scarlet
Tanager
.52



Blue Jay
.55



Red-eyed
Vireo
.84



Eastern Tufted
Titmouse
.91



Northern
Cardinal
1



Unidentified
Chickadee¹
1.19

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 Harpers Ferry

The pictures of birds stacked on the left side of the page represent the most commonly found birds in Harpers Ferry forests. The largest picture in the stack, a chickadee¹, represents the species with the highest density of birds per hectare (ha) of forest. There are 1.19 chickadees per hectare (although we don't actually have fractions of birds).

The smaller the image, the lower the species 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 chickadee as a Blue Jay (.55 birds/ha).

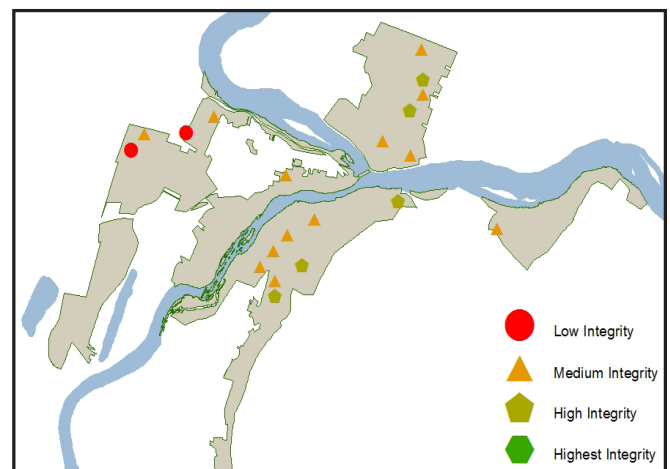
What's impressive about this top ten list is that it includes a species of conservation concern. The Wood Thrush, designated as a "watchlist species" by the Partners in Flight program, is framed in yellow. The fact that it makes the top ten list means that this species is finding valuable habitat at Harpers Ferry. For a full list of bird species found in Harpers Ferry forests, see reverse.

Bird Monitoring Plots & Habitat Quality

Birds are monitored at twenty forest plots in Harpers Ferry. Based on the types of birds detected, each plot is rated for habitat quality.

Points with large numbers of generalist and habitat-insensitive species score poorly and those with high numbers of specialist or habitat-sensitive species get 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 points, rated for habitat quality.

All photographs are used with permission of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Individual photographers noted on reverse.

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

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Birds of Harpers Ferry Forests

From 2007 to 2010, the number of different species detected each year at Harpers Ferry ranged from 49 to 63. Harpers Ferry is home to 11 species of conservation concern, marked below with asterisks.

Acadian Flycatcher**	Eastern Meadowlark	Ovenbird
American Crow	Eastern Phoebe	Pileated Woodpecker
American Goldfinch	Eastern Towhee**	Red-bellied Woodpecker**
American Redstart	Eastern Tufted Titmouse	Red-eyed Vireo
American Robin	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Red-tailed Hawk
Baltimore Oriole	European Starling	Scarlet Tanager
Barn Swallow	Field Sparrow	Song Sparrow
Black-and-white Warbler	Fish Crow	Summer Tanager
Blackpoll Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow	Turkey Vulture
Blue Jay	Gray Catbird	Unidentified Chickadee ⁺
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Great Blue Heron	Warbling Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo	Great Crested Flycatcher	White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper	Hairy Woodpecker	White-eyed Vireo**
Brown Thrasher**	Hooded Warbler**	Wood Thrush*
Brown-headed Cowbird	House Finch	Worm-eating Warbler*
Carolina Wren**	House Sparrow	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Cedar Waxwing	House Wren	Yellow-throated Vireo**
Chimney Swift	Indigo Bunting**	
Chipping Sparrow	Magnolia Warbler	
Common Grackle	Mourning Dove	
Common Yellowthroat	Northern Cardinal	
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Flicker	
Eastern Bluebird	Northern Mockingbird	
Eastern Kingbird	Northern Parula	

*Partners in Flight Watchlist species are vulnerable at a continental scale

**Stewardship Species have most of their global population within the region.

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

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: Black-capped Chickadee- Bruce Echols; Carolina Chickadee- Cameron Rognan; Northern Cardinal- Neil D Scott; Eastern Tufted Titmouse- Judy Howle; Red-eyed Vireo and Scarlet Tanager- AccuSoft Co.; Blue Jay- Gary Mueller; Downy Woodpecker-Terri Gueck; Wood Thrush- JR Woodward; Red-bellied Woodpecker- Mick Zerr; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher- Laura Erickson