

# Piscataway Park & Fort Washington Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Birds

## Resource Brief

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



Carolina Wren  
.71



Barn Swallow  
.84



American Goldfinch  
.88



Acadian Flycatcher  
.92



Blue Jay  
.92



Eastern Tufted Titmouse  
1.22



Unidentified Chickadee<sup>1</sup>  
1.54



Northern Cardinal  
1.86



Blackpoll Warbler  
2.891



Cedar Waxwing  
3.86

### 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 Piscataway and Ft. Washington

The pictures of birds stacked on the left side of the page represent the most commonly found birds in Piscataway and Fort Washington. The largest picture in the stack, the Cedar Waxwing, represents the species with the highest density of birds per hectare (ha) of forest—3.86 Cedar Waxwings 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. So you're almost twice as likely to find a Cedar Waxwing as you are a Northern Cardinal (1.86 birds/ha).

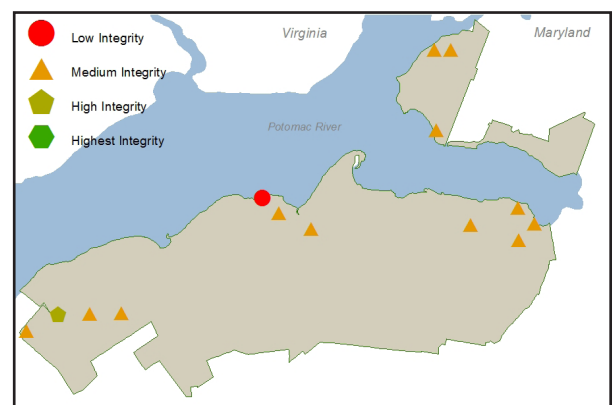
What's impressive about this list is that it includes two species of conservation concern. That means birds that are declining or vulnerable as species, are finding valuable habitat in Piscataway and Fort Washington. The Acadian Flycatcher and Carolina Wren, framed in red, are Partners in Flight "stewardship species." For a full list of bird species found in Piscataway's and Fort Washington's forests, see reverse.

### Bird Monitoring Points & Habitat Quality

Birds are monitored at 14 forest plots in Piscataway and Fort Washington. 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 large 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 plots, rated for habitat quality. Piscataway is below, Fort Washington, above.

<sup>1</sup>Detections of Carolina Chickadees and Black-capped Chickadees are combined.

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## Birds in the Forests of Piscataway and Fort Washington

Between 2007 and 2010, Piscataway and Fort Washington were home to 12 species of conservation concern, marked below with asterisks.

|                         |                               |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Acadian Flycatcher**    | Eastern Phoebe                | Prothonotary Warbler*               |
| American Crow           | Eastern Towhee**              | Purple Martin                       |
| American Goldfinch      | Eastern Tufted Titmouse       | Red-bellied Woodpecker**            |
| American Robin          | Eastern Wood-Pewee            | Red-eyed Vireo                      |
| Bald Eagle              | European Starling             | Red-shouldered Hawk**               |
| Baltimore Oriole        | Field Sparrow                 | Red-winged Blackbird                |
| Barn Swallow            | Fish Crow                     | Ring-billed Gull                    |
| Barred Owl              | Gray Catbird                  | Ruby-throated Hummingbird           |
| Black-and-white Warbler | Great Crested Flycatcher      | Scarlet Tanager                     |
| Blackpoll Warbler       | Hairy Woodpecker              | Tree Swallow                        |
| Blue Grosbeak           | Hooded Warbler**              | Unidentified Chickadee <sup>+</sup> |
| Blue Jay                | House Finch                   | White-breasted Nuthatch             |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher   | Indigo Bunting**              | White-eyed Vireo**                  |
| Brown Thrasher**        | Kentucky Warbler*             | Wood Thrush*                        |
| Brown-headed Cowbird    | Magnolia Warbler              | Yellow-billed Cuckoo                |
| Canada Goose            | Mourning Dove                 | Yellow-breasted Chat                |
| Cedar Waxwing           | Northern Cardinal             | Yellow-throated Vireo**             |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler  | Northern Flicker              |                                     |
| Chimney Swift           | Northern Parula               |                                     |
| Chipping Sparrow        | Northern Rough-winged Swallow |                                     |
| Common Grackle          | Northern Saw-whet Owl         |                                     |
| Common Yellowthroat     | Osprey                        |                                     |
| Downy Woodpecker        | Ovenbird                      |                                     |
| Eastern Bluebird        | Pileated Woodpecker           |                                     |

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

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

<sup>+</sup>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](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](http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ncrn/inventories_avian.cfm)

Photographs: Cedar Waxwing- James Hendrickson; Blackpoll Warbler- Unknown Photographer; Northern Cardinal- Neil D Scott; Black-capped Chickadee- Bruce Echols; Carolina Chickadee and Barn Swallow- Cameron Rognan; Eastern Tufted Titmouse- Judy Howle; Blue Jay- Gary Mueller; Acadian Flycatcher- Grey W. Lasley; American Goldfinch- Laura Erickson; Carolina Wren- Richard Lee.