



Birds

Resource Brief



Blue-gray
Gnatcatcher
.54



Eastern Tufted
Titmouse
.56



American
Goldfinch
.57



Downy
Woodpecker
.58



Red-eyed
Vireo
.66



Acadian
Flycatcher
.66



Unidentified
Chickadee¹
.75



Gray Catbird
1.09



Northern
Cardinal
1.58



American
Robin
2.98

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 Rock Creek Park

The pictures of birds stacked on the left side of the page represent the most commonly found birds in the forests of Rock Creek Park. The largest picture in the stack, the American Robin represents the species with the highest density of birds per hectare (ha) of forest. There are 2.98 robins 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 robin as a Northern Cardinal (1.58 birds/ha).

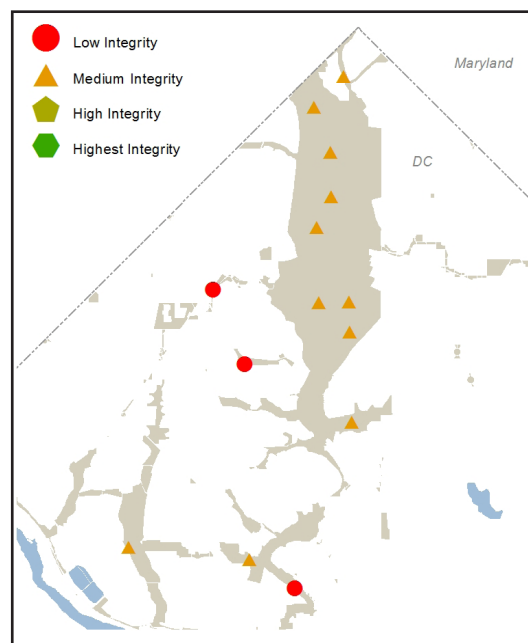
What's impressive about this list is that it includes a species of conservation concern. That means a bird that has most of its global population in this region, is finding valuable habitat at Rock Creek. The Acadian Flycatcher, framed in red, is a Partners in Flight "stewardship species." For a full list of bird species found in the forests of Rock Creek, see reverse.

Bird Monitoring Points & Habitat Quality

Birds are monitored at fourteen forest plots in Rock Creek. 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, and orange triangles mark Medium integrity habitat.



Bird monitoring plots in Rock Creek/, rated for habitat quality.

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



Birds of Rock Creek Park Forests

From 2007 to 2010, the number of different species detected each year at Rock Creek Park ranged from 41 to 54. Rock Creek is home to 10 species of conservation concern, marked below with asterisks.

Acadian Flycatcher**	Downy Woodpecker	Red-bellied Woodpecker**
American Crow	Eastern Phoebe	Red-eyed Vireo
American Goldfinch	Eastern Towhee**	Red-shouldered Hawk**
American Redstart	Eastern Tufted Titmouse	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
American Robin	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Scarlet Tanager
Baltimore Oriole	European Starling	Song Sparrow
Barred Owl	Gray Catbird	Swainson's Thrush
Belted Kingfisher	Great Blue Heron	Unidentified Chickadee ⁺
Black-and-white Warbler	Great Crested Flycatcher	Veery
Blackpoll Warbler	Hairy Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Hermit Thrush	Wood Duck
Blue Jay	House Finch	Wood Thrush*
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Sparrow	Worm-eating Warbler*
Blue-winged Warbler	House Wren	Yellow Warbler
Brown Thrasher**	Indigo Bunting**	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Brown-headed Cowbird	Mallard	Yellow-throated Warbler**
Carolina Wren**	Mourning Dove	
Cedar Waxwing	Northern Cardinal	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Northern Flicker	
Chimney Swift	Northern Mockingbird	
Chipping Sparrow	Northern Parula	
Common Grackle	Ovenbird	
Common Yellowthroat	Pileated Woodpecker	

*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: American Robin, Gray Catbird, and Carolina Chickadee- Cameron Rognan; Northern Cardinal- Neil D Scott; Black-capped Chickadee- Bruce Echols; Acadian Flycatcher- Greg W. Lasley; Downy Woodpecker- Terri Gueck; American Goldfinch and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher- Laura Erickson; Eastern Tufted Titmouse- Judy Howle