

Appomattox Court House

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park



Birding in the Park

Birding opportunities abound at Appomattox Court House NHP. The park's 1,696 acres provide a variety of forest and grassland habitats for over 90 species of birds. Use the checklist on the reverse side of this brochure to record your bird sightings. The Hiking Trails brochure provides more information on the more than eight miles of trails as you explore the park.



Where to Look for Birds

While birds seem to be found everywhere, most species are closely tied to a specific habitat and will be more prevalent there. As a basic guide, the map below shows generalized habitat types in the park.

Approximately 500 acres of the park are maintained as grasslands to evoke the rural landscape of 1865. The park uses a variety of tools to maintain grasslands including prescribed burning, cutting hay, cattle pasturing and off-season mowing. The best opportunities for viewing birds of the grasslands and forest edges can be found along the Stage Road Trail, Sweeney Trail, Conner-Sweeney Cabin Trail and Ferguson Wildlife Trail.

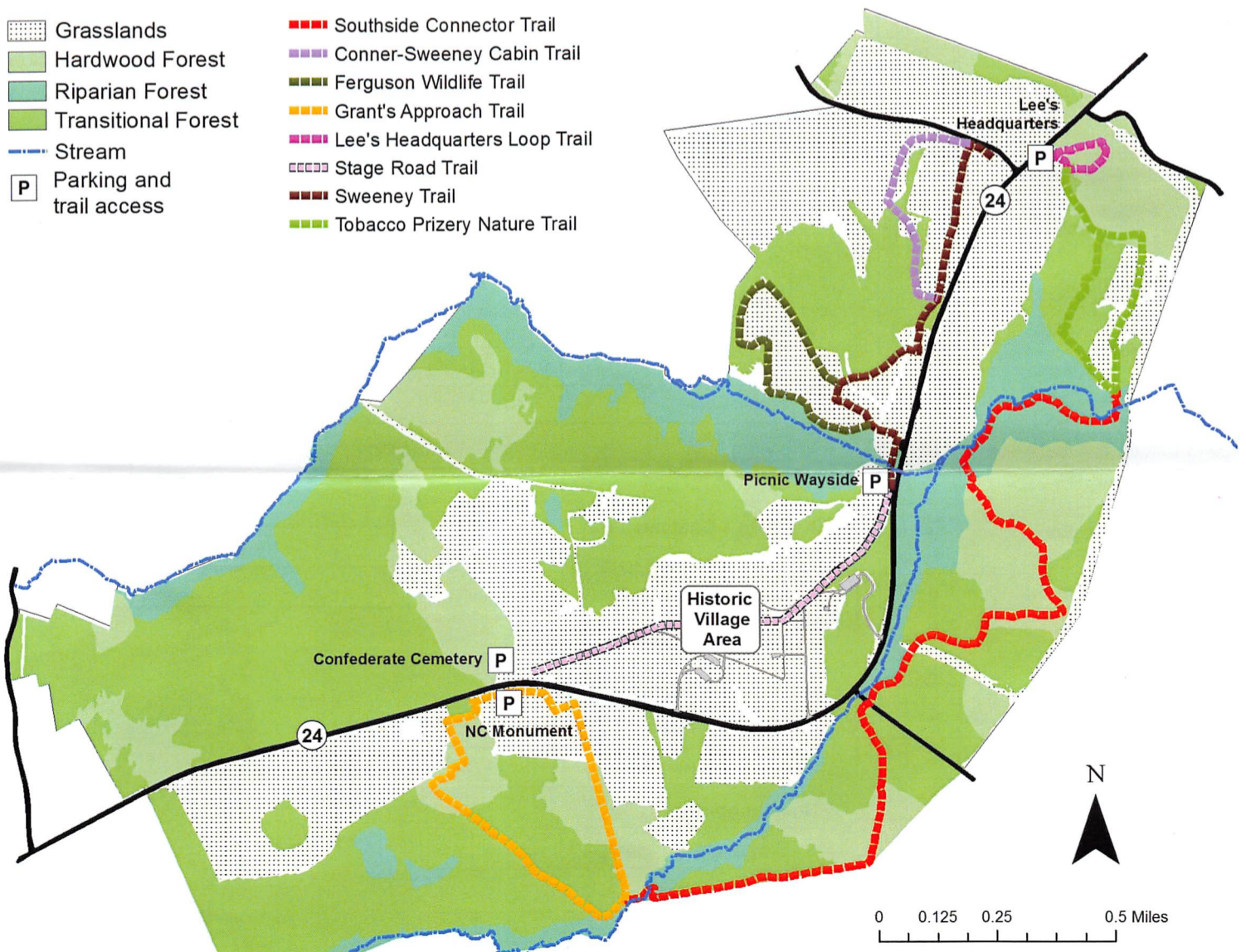
Approximately 1,100 acres of the park is forested. Forest types are divided into the following three broad categories:

- **Hardwood** – Mature forest on drier, upland areas. Overstory typically consists of oak, hickory and poplar.
- **Riparian** – Located on lower, moist areas along streams and wetlands. Overstory typically consists of maple, oak, sycamore, poplar and ash. These forests can have a rich vegetative understory.
- **Transitional** – This forest type is successional, changing from aging pine and redcedar stands to hardwoods such as maple, poplar, oak and hickory. In many areas, the pine overstory has fallen and thick stands of young hardwoods and shrubs have emerged.

The best forest birding opportunities are along the Southside Connector Trail, Grant's Approach Trail and Tobacco Prizery Nature Trail.

Habitat Map

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Grasslands | Southside Connector Trail |
| Hardwood Forest | Conner-Sweeney Cabin Trail |
| Riparian Forest | Ferguson Wildlife Trail |
| Transitional Forest | Grant's Approach Trail |
| Stream | Lee's Headquarters Loop Trail |
| Parking and trail access | Stage Road Trail |
| | Sweeney Trail |
| | Tobacco Prizery Nature Trail |



Bird Checklist

The following checklist is based on a bird inventory conducted at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park in 2003. Not all of the species listed will be present during your visit. While some birds are year-round residents, others are only seasonal or migratory visitors to central Virginia.

The common name of each bird species is followed by the habitat and season in which it is most likely to be found locally. The space to the left of each common name will allow you to record the species that you observe during your visit

Habitats
Seasons

G Grassland
T Transitional forest
Y Year-round resident
W Winter season
R Riparian forest
H Hardwood forest
S Summer season
M Migratory pass-through

Common Name	Habitat	Seas
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Tanagers - Sparrows - Grosbeaks

Summer Tanager	H	S
Scarlet Tanager	H	S
Northern Cardinal	G, T	Y
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	H	M
Blue Grosbeak	G, R	S
Indigo Bunting	G, T	S
Eastern Towhee	G, T	Y
Field Sparrow	G	Y
Chipping Sparrow	G, T	Y
Grasshopper Sparrow	G	S
Savannah Sparrow	G	W
White-throated Sparrow	G	W
Song Sparrow	G, R, T	Y
Dark-eyed Junco	G, T	W

Woodpeckers

Red-bellied Woodpecker	R, T, H	Y
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	R	W
Downy Woodpecker	R, T, H	Y
Hairy Woodpecker	R, T, H	Y
Pileated Woodpecker	R, T, H	Y
Northern Flicker	G, T	Y

Flycatchers - Kingbirds

Eastern Wood-pewee	G, T	S
Acadian Flycatcher	R	S
Great Crested Flycatcher	G, T	S
Eastern Kingbird	R, G, T	S
Eastern Phoebe	R, G, T	S

Thrushes - Mimics

Eastern Bluebird	G	Y
American Robin	G	Y
Wood Thrush	R, H	S
Hermit Thrush	R, H	W
Gray Catbird	G, T	S
Northern Mockingbird	G, T	Y
Brown Thrasher	G, T	S

Nuthatches - Creepers

White-breasted Nuthatch	R, T, H	Y
Brown Creeper	R, T, H	W

Swallows - Swifts

Northern Rough-winged Swallow	R	S
Barn Swallow	G, R	S
Chimney Swift	G	S

Vireos

Red-eyed Vireo	R, T, H	S
White-eyed Vireo	G, R	S
Yellow-throated Vireo	R, T, H	S

Common Name	Habitat	Seas
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Wood Warblers

Northern Parula	R	S
Yellow Warbler	R	S
Chestnut-sided Warbler	H	M
Cape May Warbler	T	M
Black-throated Blue Warbler	H, T	M
Yellow-rumped Warbler	G, R, T	W
Black-throated Green Warbler	T	M
Prairie Warbler	G	S
Pine Warbler	T	S
Yellow-throated Warbler	R, T	S
Worm-eating Warbler	H	S
Black-and-white Warbler	H, T	S
American Redstart	H	S
Ovenbird	R, T, H	S
Louisiana Waterthrush	R	S
Kentucky Warbler	R, H	S
Common Yellowthroat	G, R	S
Hooded Warbler	H	S
Yellow-breasted Chat	G, R	S

Blackbirds - Finches

Eastern Meadowlark	G	Y
Brown-headed Cowbird	G	Y
Red-winged Blackbird	G, R	Y
Common Grackle	G, R	Y
Baltimore Oriole	R, T	S
Orchard Oriole	G, R, T	S
House Finch	G, R	Y
American Goldfinch	G	Y

Wrens

Carolina Wren	G, R, T, H	Y
Winter Wren	R	W

Waxwing

Cedar Waxwing	G, R	Y
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Kinglets - Gnatcatchers

Golden-crowned Kinglet	T	W
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	T, H	W
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	H	S

Titmice - Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse	R, T, H	Y
Carolina Chickadee	R, T, H	Y

Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	G, T	S
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Starlings

European Starling	G	Y
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Common Name	Habitat	Seas
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Doves

Mourning Dove	G, T	Y
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Corvids

Blue Jay	R, T, H	Y
American Crow	G, T	Y

Cuckoos

Yellow-billed Cuckoo	R, H	S
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Waterfowl - Herons

Wood Duck	R	Y
Great Blue Heron	R	Y
Green Heron	R	S

Upland Game Birds

Northern Bobwhite	G	Y
Wild Turkey	G, R, T, H	Y

Shorebirds

Killdeer	G	Y
American Woodcock	R, T	Y

Hawks - Eagles

Northern Harrier	G, R	W
Cooper's Hawk	T, H	Y
Red-shouldered Hawk	R, H	Y
Red-tailed Hawk	G, R, T	Y
Bald Eagle	R	Y
American Kestrel	G	Y

Owls

Great Horned Owl	R, T, H	Y
Barred Owl	T, H	Y
Eastern Screech Owl	R, H	Y

Vultures

Turkey Vulture	G, R	Y
Black Vulture	G	Y

Other Species Observed

