

## Habitats

Colonial National Historical Park provides 8677 acres of protected habitat for over 250 bird species. Habitats include upland forests, tidal and non-tidal wetlands, as well as disturbed and cultural areas. This diversity of habitat attracts a diversity of bird species.

## Seasons

Different seasons bring different birds to the park. Some birds are residents that remain throughout the year. Others are seasonal, migrating from the north to warmer climates during the winter. In the spring southern species migrate north to take advantage of the food resources as plants and insects emerge from winter dormancy. These birds may nest and raise their young in the park. Others are just passing through.

For additional information or to report species not found on the checklist, please contact our Natural Resource staff at: [COLO\\_Resource\\_Managment@nps.gov](mailto:COLO_Resource_Managment@nps.gov)



## Management

Many bird species are returning and increasing in numbers along the Virginia coast since the conservation efforts to protect their habitats were established, including the ban of DDT use. Shorebirds and seabird rafts are often sighted at the mouths of creeks along the Colonial Parkway. Bald eagles, once endangered, now thrive and nest within in the park's boundaries.

Park mowing schedules have been adjusted to allow grassland habitat species to nest. As park managers continue to adapt programs to benefit the coexistence of people and birds, we can expect to see a diversity of birds flying over Colonial for visitors and future visitors to see.

### Photo Credits:

Bald Eagles: Dan Earnhardt  
Barn Swallows: NPS/Dorothy Geyer

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Colonial National Historical  
Park, Yorktown Virginia

## Birds of Colonial National Historical Park



2014

Prepared by the COLO Natural Resource Division

## Bird Watching

Whether you are a veteran bird watcher or just an observer during a walk through the park, you can see many birds in action building nests and searching for food. Look for birds flying overhead or within the forests and fields. Don't just use your eyes, listen out for the unique calls and songs.

### Checklist Key:

This checklist was developed from the 2011 NPS Certified Species Bird List. The order and nomenclature follow The American Ornithologists' Union *2011 check-list of North American Birds*.

**Detected** = Season in which birds were seen

**R** = Residential: found all year

**B** = Breeding Season : 1 June – 15 August

**M** = Migratory Seasons:

15 March – 31 May

15 August – 15 November

**V** = Vagrant, a bird far outside of its normal range

**U** = Unlisted



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Birds of Conservation Concern



Partners in Flight priority species

Check-list	Common Name	De- tected
	<b>Waterfowl</b>	
	Greater White-fronted Goose	U
	Snow Goose	M
	Canada Goose	M
	Mute Swan	B
	Tundra Swan	M
	Wood Duck	M
	Gadwall	M
	Eurasian Wigeon	U
	American Wigeon	M
	American Black Duck	M
	Mallard	B
	Blue-winged Teal	U
	Northern Shoveler	U
	Northern Pintail	M
	Green-winged Teal	U
	Canvasback	U
	Redhead	U
	Ring-necked Duck	U
	Greater Scaup	M
	Lesser Scaup	M
	Surf Scoter	M
	Black Scoter	M
	Long-tailed Duck	U
	Bufflehead	M
	Common Goldeneye	M
	Hooded Merganser	M
	Common Merganser	U
	Red-breasted Merganser	M
	Ruddy Duck	M
	<b>Gamebirds</b>	
	Northern Bobwhite	B
	Ring-necked Pheasant	U
	Ruffed Grouse	B
	Wild Turkey	B
	<b>Grebes and Loons</b>	
	Red-throated Loon	M
	Common Loon	M
	Pied-billed Grebe	R

	Horned Grebe	M
	Northern Gannet	M
	Double-crested Cormorant	M
	Great Cormorant	M
	American White Pelican	M
	Brown Pelican	B
	American Bittern	B
	Least Bittern	U
	Great Blue Heron	M
	Great Egret	B
	Snowy Egret	U
	Little Blue Heron	B
	Tricolored Heron	M
	Cattle Egret	U
	Green Heron	M
	Black-crowned Night-Heron	U
	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	U
	Glossy Ibis	M
	Black Vulture	M
	Turkey Vulture	M
	Osprey	M
	Bald Eagle	B
	Northern Harrier	M
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	M
	Cooper's Hawk	M
	Red-shouldered Hawk	B
	Broad-winged Hawk	M
	Red-tailed Hawk	B
	Rough-legged Hawk	M
	American Kestrel	M
	Merlin	M
	Peregrine Falcon	B
	Clapper Rail	B
	King Rail	U
	Virginia Rail	U

Checklist	Common Name	Detected
	Sora	U
	Purple Gallinule	U
	American Coot	U
<b>Shorebirds</b>		
	Black-bellied Plover	U
	Semipalmated Plover	U
	Killdeer	M
	Spotted Sandpiper	M
	Solitary Sandpiper	U
	Greater Yellowlegs	M
	Lesser Yellowlegs	M
	Ruddy Turnstone	U
	Sanderling	U
	Semipalmated Sandpiper	M
	Least Sandpiper	U
	White-rumped Sandpiper	M
	Pectoral Sandpiper	M
	Dunlin	U
	Short-billed Dowitcher	M
	Common Snipe	M
	American Woodcock	U
<b>Gulls, Terns and Jaegers</b>		
	Bonaparte's Gull	M
	Laughing Gull	M
	Ring-billed Gull	M
	Herring Gull	M
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	V
	Great Black-backed Gull	M
	Least Tern	M
	Caspian Tern	M
	Common Tern	M
	Forster's Tern	M
	Royal Tern	M
	Black Skimmer	U
<b>Doves</b>		
	Rock Pigeon	B
	Mourning Dove	M
<b>Cuckoos</b>		
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	M

Checklist	Common Name	Detected
	Black-billed Cuckoo	U
<b>Owls</b>		
	Barn Owl	U
	Eastern Screech-Owl	R
	Great Horned Owl	B
	Barred Owl	B
	Short-eared Owl	U
<b>Nightjars</b>		
	Common Nighthawk	U
	Chuck-will's-widow	U
	Eastern Whip-poor-will	U
	Chimney Swift	M
<b>Humming birds</b>		
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	M
<b>King fishers</b>		
	Belted Kingfisher	M
<b>Woodpeckers</b>		
	Red-headed Woodpecker	B
	Red-bellied Woodpecker	B
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	M
	Downy Woodpecker	B
	Hairy Woodpecker	B
	Northern Flicker	M
	Pileated Woodpecker	B
	Eastern Wood-Pewee	M
<b>Passerines</b>		
	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U
	Acadian Flycatcher	M
	Willow Flycatcher	U
	Least Flycatcher	U
	Eastern Phoebe	M
	Great Crested Flycatcher	M
	Eastern Kingbird	M
	Loggerhead Shrike	B
	White-eyed Vireo	M
	Yellow-throated Vireo	M
	Warbling Vireo	M
	Philadelphia Vireo	M
	Red-eyed Vireo	M

Checklist	Common Name	Detected
	Blue Jay	B
	American Crow	B
	Fish Crow	B
	Horned Lark	B
	Purple Martin	M
	Tree Swallow	M
	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	M
	Bank Swallow	U
	Cliff Swallow	M
	Barn Swallow	M
	Carolina Chickadee	B
	Black-capped Chickadee	M
	Tufted Titmouse	B
	Red-breasted Nuthatch	U
	White-breasted Nuthatch	B
	Brown-headed Nuthatch	B
	Brown Creeper	M
	Carolina Wren	B
	House Wren	M
	Winter Wren	M
	Sedge Wren	U
	Marsh Wren	M
	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	M
	Golden-crowned Kinglet	M
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	M
	Eastern Bluebird	M
	Veery	M
	Gray-cheeked Thrush	U
	Swainson's Thrush	U
	Hermit Thrush	M
	Wood Thrush	M
	American Robin	M
	Gray Catbird	M
	Northern Mockingbird	B
	Brown Thrasher	M
	European Starling	B
	American Pipit	U
	Cedar Waxwing	M

Checklist	Common Name	Detected
	Ovenbird	M
	Worm-eating Warbler	M
	Louisiana Waterthrush	M
	Northern Waterthrush	U
	Blue-winged Warbler	M
	Black-and-white Warbler	M
	Prothonotary Warbler	M
	Swainson's Warbler	U
	Tennessee Warbler	U
	Orange-crowned Warbler	M
	Nashville Warbler	U
	Connecticut Warbler	U
	Mourning Warbler	U
	Kentucky Warbler	M
	Common Yellowthroat	M
	Hooded Warbler	M
	American Redstart	M
	Cape May Warbler	U
	Cerulean Warbler	M
	Northern Parula	M
	Magnolia Warbler	M
	Bay-breasted Warbler	M
	Blackburnian Warbler	M
	Yellow Warbler	M
	Chestnut-sided Warbler	M
	Blackpoll Warbler	M
	Black-throated Blue Warbler	M
	Palm Warbler	M
	Pine Warbler	M
	Yellow-rumped Warbler	M
	Yellow-throated Warbler	M
	Prairie Warbler	M
	Black-throated Green Warbler	M
	Canada Warbler	U
	Wilson's Warbler	M
	Yellow-breasted Chat	U
	Eastern Towhee	M
	American Tree Sparrow	U
	Chipping Sparrow	M

Checklist	Common Name	Detected
	Field Sparrow	U
	Vesper Sparrow	U
	Savannah Sparrow	M
	Grasshopper Sparrow	M
	Seaside Sparrow	U
	Fox Sparrow	M
	Song Sparrow	M
	Lincoln's Sparrow	M
	Swamp Sparrow	M
	White-throated Sparrow	M
	White-crowned Sparrow	M
	Dark-eyed Junco	M
	Summer Tanager	M
	Scarlet Tanager	M
	Northern Cardinal	B
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	M
	Blue Grosbeak	M
	Indigo Bunting	M
	Bobolink	U
	Red-winged Blackbird	M
	Eastern Meadowlark	M
	Rusty Blackbird	U
	Brewer's Blackbird	U
	Common Grackle	M
	Boat-tailed Grackle	B
	Brown-headed Cowbird	B
	Orchard Oriole	M
	Baltimore Oriole	M
	Purple Finch	U
	House Finch	B
	Red Crossbill	U
	Common Redpoll	U
	Pine Siskin	U
	American Goldfinch	M
	Evening Grosbeak	M
	House Sparrow	B



We hope you enjoyed your visit to Colonial National Historical Park!