

FLYCATCHERS, LARK s S F W

- ___ Eastern Wood Pewee† u u c -
- ___ Acadian Flycatcher† c c u -
- ___ Willow Flycatcher† u r u -
- ___ Eastern Phoebe† u u u o
- ___ Great Crested Flycatcher† u u u -
- ___ Eastern Kingbird† u u u -
- ___ Horned Lark r r r r

SWALLOWS

- ___ Purple Martin† c o c -
- ___ Tree Swallow c - u -
- ___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow† c u u -
- ___ Bank Swallow† c o u -
- ___ Cliff Swallow r - r -
- ___ Barn Swallow† c c c -

JAYS, CROWS

- ___ Blue Jay† c c c c
- ___ American Crow† a a a c
- ___ Fish Crow† c c c u

TITMICE, NUTHATCHES, WRENS

- ___ Black-capped Chickadee o - - o
- ___ Carolina Chickadee† c c c c
- ___ Tufted Titmouse† c c c c
- ___ White-breasted Nuthatch† c c c c
- ___ Red-breasted Nuthatch o - o o
- ___ Brown Creeper† u - u u
- ___ Carolina Wren† c c c c
- ___ House Wren† u u u o
- ___ Winter Wren u - u u
- ___ Marsh Wren† u c r o

THRUSHES, MIMICS

- ___ Golden-crowned Kinglet u - u u
- ___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet c - c u
- ___ Blue-grey Gnatcatcher† c c c o
- ___ Eastern Bluebird† o o r r
- ___ Veery u - u -
- ___ Gray-cheeked Thrush c - c -
- ___ Swainson's Thrush c - c -
- ___ Hermit Thrush u - u r
- ___ Wood Thrush† u u u -
- ___ American Robin† c c c u
- ___ Gray Catbird† c c u r
- ___ Northern Mockingbird† c c c c
- ___ Brown Thrasher† u c u r

WAXWING, STARLING

- ___ Cedar Waxwing u o c u
- ___ European Starling† a a a a

WARBLERS s S F W

- ___ Blue-winged Warbler u - u -
- ___ Golden-winged Warbler u - u -
- ___ Tennessee Warbler c - c -
- ___ Orange-crowned Warbler - - r r
- ___ Nashville Warbler u - u -
- ___ Northern Parula† c u c -
- ___ Yellow Warbler† u c u -
- ___ Chestnut-sided Warbler u - u -
- ___ Magnolia Warbler c - c -
- ___ Cape May Warbler u - c -
- ___ Black-throated Warbler u - u -
- ___ Yellow-rumped Warbler c - c u
- ___ Black-throated Green Warbler u - u -
- ___ Blackburnian Warbler u - u -
- ___ Pine Warbler u - u o
- ___ Prairie Warbler u - u -
- ___ Palm Warbler u - u o
- ___ Bay-breasted Warbler u - u -
- ___ Blackpoll Warbler c - c -
- ___ Black-and-white Warbler c - c -
- ___ American Redstart† c u c -
- ___ Prothonotary Warbler† u u u -
- ___ worm-eating Warbler r - r -
- ___ Ovenbird c - c -
- ___ Northern Waterthrush u - u -
- ___ Louisiana Waterthrush u - u -
- ___ Kentucky Warbler u - u -
- ___ Connecticut Warbler - - r -
- ___ Mourning Warbler r - r -
- ___ Common Yellowthroat† u u u o
- ___ Hooded Warbler† u u u -
- ___ Wilson's Warbler u - u -
- ___ Canada Warbler c - c -
- ___ Yellow-breasted Chat u - o -

VIREOS

- ___ White-eyed Vireo† c c u -
- ___ Solitary Vireo u - u -
- ___ Yellow-throated Vireo† u u u -
- ___ Warbling Vireo† u u u -
- ___ Philadelphia Vireo u - u -
- ___ Red-eyed Vireo† c c c -

TANAGERS SPARROWS

- ___ Scarlet Tanager† u o u -
- ___ Northern Cardinal† c a a c
- ___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak c - u -
- ___ Indigo Bunting† c u u -
- ___ Rufous-sided Towhee† c c c u

- ___ American Tree Sparrow - - - r
- ___ Chipping Sparrow† u u u o
- ___ Field Sparrow† u o u r
- ___ Savannah Sparrow u - u r
- ___ Fox Sparrow u - u o
- ___ Song Sparrow† c c c c
- ___ Lincoln's Sparrow u - u r
- ___ Swamp Sparrow† c o c u
- ___ White-throated Sparrow c - c c
- ___ White-crowned Sparrow o - o r
- ___ Dark-eyed Junco c - c c

BLACKBIRDS

- ___ Bobolink u - u -
- ___ Red-winged Blackbird† c a a u
- ___ Rusty Blackbird u - u u
- ___ Common Grackle† c a a o
- ___ Brown-headed Cowbird† c c c u
- ___ Orchard Oriole† u u u -
- ___ Northern Oriole† c c u r

FINCHES

- ___ Purple Finch o - o u
- ___ House Finch† c c c c
- ___ American Goldfinch† c c c c
- ___ Pine Siskin u - - u
- ___ Evening Grosbeak u - - u
- ___ House Sparrow† c a a a

FIELD NOTES

Date _____ Species _____

Observers _____

Weather _____ Wind _____

Time _____

Remarks _____

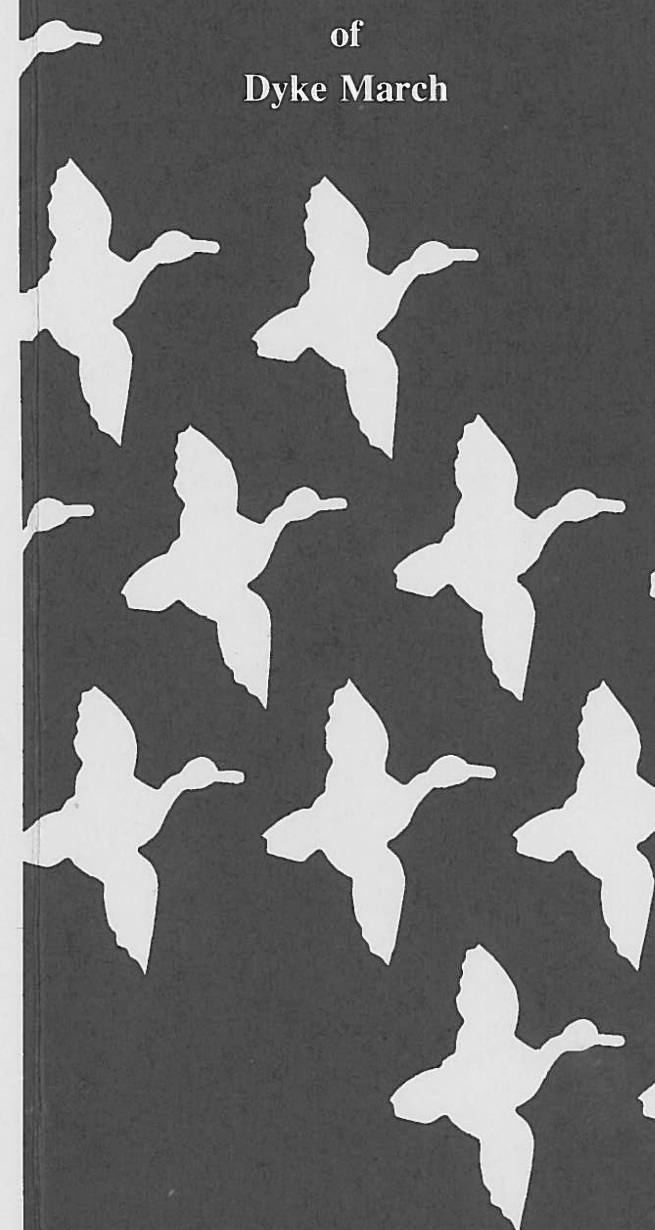
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This bird list and its use is dedicated to the memory of Jackson M. Abbott, a true friend of Dyke Marsh.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Cover art by Roger S. Miller, courtesy of The Friends of Dyke Marsh.
July, 1988

Birds
of
Dyke Marsh



George Washington Parkway
National Park Service

Dyke Marsh is the last large, tidal, fresh-water wetland in the Washington, D.C. area. Nearly half of its original 650 acres has been destroyed by commercial dredging and by filling in the 1960's with building debris. The remnant has been set aside as an "irreplaceable wetland" by Congress for the protection and preservation of wildlife.

As its name suggests, Dyke Marsh was once "diked." An 1800's landowner sought to turn marsh into farmland. The old spelling—dyke—remains from colonial times. Maintaining the earthen dikes around the marsh perimeter apparently was too costly and they were abandoned.

Dyke Marsh is home to a great variety of amphibians, frogs, snapping and painted turtles and several species of water snakes. Beaver (notice their woodchopping marks) and muskrats live here. On higher ground look for cottontails, gray squirrels, shrews, field mice and even foxes. At dusk look overhead for resident bats. Marsh dwelling fish include carp, bullhead, chain pickerel, shad, striped bass and shiners.

The birds are by far the most numerous and easily-observed marsh dwellers. Their variety and numbers are astounding, especially since the return of sub-aquatic vegetation following the recent improvement in Potomac River water quality. One expert, Lt. Col. Jackson M. Abbott, has compiled a list from over 40 years of recorded observations of 296 species seen in Dyke Marsh. Presented here are 209 of the commoner ones with their seasonal abundance and breeding data.

To report birds not listed here or for further information, please contact the Park Ranger on duty or: National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia 22101. Telephone: 285-2598.

SEASON

Most birds are migratory. Their seasonal occurrence at Dyke Marsh is coded as follows:

s - Spring March, April, May
 S - Summer June, July, August
 F - Fall Sept, Oct, Nov
 W - Winter Dec, Jan, Feb

† - Species which nests or has nested

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

a - abundant Very numerous species
 c - common Certain to be seen or heard
 u - uncommon Present, may not be seen
 o - occasional Infrequently seen
 r - rare Not present every year

Birds of Dyke Marsh, Bellehaven and Hunting Creek

Names and their order follow the Sixth A.O.U. Checklist

DIVERS s S F W

___ Common Loon u - u u
 ___ Horned Grebe u - u u
 ___ Pied-bill Grebe† u - u u
 ___ Double-crested Cormorant u c u r

WADERS

___ Least Bittern† u r - -
 ___ American Bittern u - u -
 ___ Great Blue Heron c c c c
 ___ Little Blue Heron - u u -
 ___ Great Egret u c u r
 ___ Snowy Egret - u u -
 ___ Green-backed Heron† u u u r
 ___ Black-crowned Night Heron u - u r

WATERFOWL

___ Tundra Swan u - u u
 ___ Canada Goose† c u c c
 ___ Wood Duck† c c c r
 ___ Green-winged Teal u - u u
 ___ American Black Duck† c u c c
 ___ Mallard† a c c a
 ___ Northern Pintail u - c u
 ___ Blue-winged Teal u - u r
 ___ Northern Shoveler u - u r
 ___ Gadwall u - u r
 ___ American Wigeon u - u r
 ___ Canvasback u - u u

s S F W

___ Redhead r - r r
 ___ Ring-necked Duck u - u u
 ___ Greater Scaup c - c u
 ___ Lesser Scaup c - c c
 ___ Oldsquaw o - o r
 ___ Common Goldeneye u - u u
 ___ Bufflehead c - c c
 ___ Hooded Merganser u - u u
 ___ Common Merganser c - c c
 ___ Red-breasted Merganser o - o r
 ___ Ruddy Duck c - c c

RAPTORS

___ Turkey Vulture u u u u
 ___ Osprey c u c -
 ___ Bald Eagle u u u u
 ___ Sharp-shinned Hawk u - u c
 ___ Cooper's Hawk u - u u
 ___ Northern Harrier u - u r
 ___ Red-shouldered Hawk u u u u
 ___ Broad-winged Hawk u u u -
 ___ Red-tailed Hawk u r c c
 ___ American Kestrel† u u u u

RAILS

___ Virginia Rail† u u u r
 ___ Sora u - u -
 ___ Common Moorhen† u r u -
 ___ American Coot u - u c

SHOREBIRDS

___ Lesser Golden Plover - - u -
 ___ Black-bellied Plover u - u -
 ___ Semipalmated Plover u - u -
 ___ Killdeer† c c c c
 ___ Greater Yellowlegs c - c -
 ___ Lesser Yellowlegs c - c -
 ___ Solitary Sandpiper u - u -
 ___ Stilt Sandpiper - u - -
 ___ Spotted Sandpiper c - c -
 ___ Short-billed Dowitcher u - u -
 ___ Long-billed Dowitcher - - u -
 ___ Common Snipe u - u u
 ___ Pectoral Sandpiper u - c -

s S F W

___ Dunlin u - c o
 ___ White-rumped Sandpiper - - u -
 ___ Baird's Sandpiper - - r -
 ___ Least Sandpiper c - c -
 ___ Semipalmated Sandpiper c - c -
 ___ Western Sandpiper - - c -

GULLS, TURNS

___ Laughing Gull o c c r
 ___ Bonaparte's Gull c - u r
 ___ Ring-billed Gull a u c a
 ___ Herring Gull c u c c
 ___ Great Black-backed Gull c r c c
 ___ Lesser Black-backed Gull u - u u
 ___ Common Tern r u u -
 ___ Forster's Tern u c c -
 ___ Caspian Tern c u c -

DOVES, CUCKOOS

___ Rock Dove† c a a a
 ___ Mourning Dove† c c c c
 ___ Black-billed Cuckoo u - u -
 ___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo† c c c -

OWLS

___ Screech Owl† r r r r
 ___ Great Horned Owl† u u u u
 ___ Barred Owl† u u u u
 ___ Saw Whet Owl - - - r

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRD, KINGFISHER

___ Common Nighthawk u - u -
 ___ Whip-poor-will u - - -
 ___ Chimney Swift† c c c c
 ___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird† u u u -
 ___ Belted Kingfisher† u u u u

WOODPECKERS

___ Red-headed Woodpecker† o - o o
 ___ Red-bellied Woodpecker† c c c c
 ___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker u - u u
 ___ Downy-Woodpecker† c c c c
 ___ Hairy Woodpecker† u u u u
 ___ Northern Flicker† c c c c
 ___ Pileated Woodpecker† o o o o