

# Hilltop Bird Checklist



Bird species most commonly found in or near the Hilltop Reservation, their relative seasonal abundance and habitat requirements are listed in this document. A few rare occurrences have been left off the list. Bird populations also vary from year to year – thus, some species may increase in the future, or disappear as habitats change. Evidence for nesting in the Hilltop area has been accumulated sporadically since 1995.

*David Hall and Dennis German, 2018*

## CHECKLIST LEGEND:

### Seasons

Many species migrate seasonally. For the Hilltop, we define those seasons as:

Winter: November through March

Spring: April, May

Summer: June through August

Fall: September, October

### Abundance

A = Abundant, seen most times in proper habitat

C = Common, frequently seen in proper habitat

FC = Fairly Common, seen in proper habitat

U = Uncommon, species not seen very often

R = Rare, species occurs regularly, but in small numbers

O = Occasional, species has only been seen a few times over many years

### Nesting

Confirmed breeding – ✓

Suspected / possible breeding – ?

Parasitizes other nests – **P** (e.g., lays its eggs in other birds' nests, for them to raise)

### Habitat

Describes the sites where the species is found most often. Some birds move from one locale to another depending on the season. A few species do not prefer any habitat available at the Hilltop, but are seen commonly in flight (sky) or near the edge of the property (near homes). In addition to those species that prefer woods / thickets or open meadow, some species prefer the borders between those habitat types (edge), or open water (pond / detention basin).

### Other Species Seen Less Often:

Species seen rarely and not listed here include: Bald Eagle, Brown Creeper, Acadian Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Bay-breasted Warbler, Canada Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Field Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird and Winter Wren.

## BEGINNER REFERENCES:

Suggested **websites**: [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu), [www.njaudubon.org](http://www.njaudubon.org), [www.enature.com/birding](http://www.enature.com/birding), [www.ebird.org/content](http://www.ebird.org/content)

Sample **guidebooks**: “The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America”, Peterson’s “A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America”, National Audubon Society’s “Field Guide to North American Birds: Eastern Region”

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Species	Seasonal Abundance				Nest- ing	Habitat
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall		
Canada Goose	FC	U	U	FC		sky
Mallard	R	U	FC	FC	?	pond
Turkey Vulture	R	U	R	U		sky
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	O	U		woods
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	O	U		woods
Red-tailed Hawk	FC	FC	FC	FC	?	woods, sky
Broad-wing Hawk		R	O	U		sky
American Kestrel	R	R	R	U		meadow, sky
Wild Turkey	R	R	R	R	?	woods, thicket
American Woodcock		U		R		edge
Killdeer		U	FC	U	?	meadow, pond
Ring-billed Gull	U	O	O	U		sky
Herring Gull	R	O	O	R		sky
Rock Dove	C	C	C	C	?	near homes
Mourning Dove	A	C	A	C	?	woods, thicket
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		U	R	R		woods
Black-billed Cuckoo		U	U	R	?	woods
Eastern Screech Owl	U	U	U	U	✓	woods
Great-horned Owl	R	R	O	R	✓	woods
Chimney Swift		U	FC	R		sky
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		U	U	R	✓	meadow
Red-bellied Woodpecker	U	C	C	C	✓	woods
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	✓	woods
Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	✓	woods
Northern Flicker	U	C	C	C	?	meadow, woods
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	✓	woods
Eastern Phoebe		R	R	U	✓	meadow
Great Crested Flycatcher		U	U	R	✓	edge
Eastern Wood Peewee		R	C	FC	✓	meadow, woods
Eastern Kingbird		R	U	R	✓	meadow
Tree Swallow		C	U	R	✓	meadow
Barn Swallow		U	FC	R	✓	meadow
Blue Jay	C	A	A	A	✓	woods, meadow
American Crow	C	C	C	C	✓	woods, meadow
Fish Crow	U	O		O		woods, meadow
Common Raven	R	R	R	R		cliffs, tall structures
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	✓	woods, meadow
Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C	✓	woods, meadow
White-breasted Nuthatch	FC	FC	FC	FC	✓	woods
Carolina Wren	U	U	U	U	✓	thicket
House Wren		U	FC	FC	✓	thicket
Golden-crowned Kinglet	R	O		U		woods
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	O	U	R	FC	?	woods, thicket
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		U	U	O	✓	thicket
Veery		U	R	R	?	woods
Hermit Thrush	R	U	R	U		woods, thicket
Swainson's Thrush		R		U		woods
Wood Thrush		U	U	R	✓	woods
Eastern Bluebird	O	U	U	R	✓	meadow, edge

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	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall		
American Robin	C	A	C	A	✓	all
Gray Catbird	O	A	A	C	✓	thicket
Northern Mockingbird	U	U	U	U	✓	thicket
Brown Thrasher	O	U	FC	U	✓	thicket
Cedar Waxwing	U		R	U		thicket
European Starling	U	U	U	U	✓	all
Red-eyed Vireo		C	C	U	✓	woods
Blue-headed Vireo		U	R	R	?	woods
Warbling Vireo		FC	U	R	✓	woods
Blue-winged Warbler		U	U	R	?	meadow
Pine Warbler	O	R		O		edge
Tennessee Warbler		U	R			edge
Northern Parula Warbler		U	O	R		woods
Yellow Warbler		A	C	O	✓	thicket
Magnolia Warbler		U		R		woods
Black-throated Blue Warbler		U	O	R		woods, thicket
Yellow-rump Warbler	O	C		C		thicket
Black-throated Green Warbler		U	R	FC		woods
Prairie Warbler		U	O	R		meadow
Palm Warbler		U		FC		meadow
Blackpoll Warbler		U	O	R		woods
Black & White Warbler		U	R	U	✓	woods, thicket
American Redstart		U	U	R	?	woods, thicket
Ovenbird		U	R	O	?	woods
Common Yellowthroat		C	C	U	✓	thicket
Scarlet Tanager		U	R	R	✓	woods
Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C	✓	all
Blue Grosbeak		R	R		?	meadow, thicket
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		U	FC	R	✓	edge
Indigo Bunting		U	FC	U	✓	edge
Rufous-sided Towhee	R	U	FC	FC	✓	thicket
American Tree Sparrow	C	R		O		edge
Chipping Sparrow		U	R	U	?	edge
Savannah Sparrow		O		U		meadow
Fox Sparrow	U	O		R		thicket
Song Sparrow	U	C	C	C	✓	meadow
Swamp Sparrow	O	R		U		meadow
White-throated Sparrow	A	C		A		thicket
Dark-eyed Junco	A	U		R		all
Red-winged Blackbird	R	A	A	O	✓	meadow
Common Grackle	R	C	C	FC	✓	all
Brown-headed Cowbird	R	C	C	O	P	all
Northern Oriole		FC	U	R	✓	woods
Orchard Oriole		R	R		?	woods
House Finch	U	FC	FC	FC	✓	all
American Goldfinch	U	C	C	U	✓	meadow, woods
House Sparrow	U	U	FC	U	✓	near homes