



Birds

Resource Brief



White-breasted Nuthatch
.66



Common Grackle
.83



Carolina Wren
.84



Acadian Flycatcher
.91



Red-eyed Vireo
.99



Eastern Tufted Titmouse
1.14



Northern Cardinal
1.32



American Goldfinch
1.33



Unidentified Chickadee¹
1.42



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
1.61

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 C&O Canal NHP

The pictures of birds stacked on the left side of the page represent the most commonly found birds in C&O Canal's forests. The largest picture in the stack, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, represents the species with the highest density of birds per hectare (ha) of forest—there are 1.61 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers 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 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher as the Carolina Wren (near the top) at .84 birds/ha.

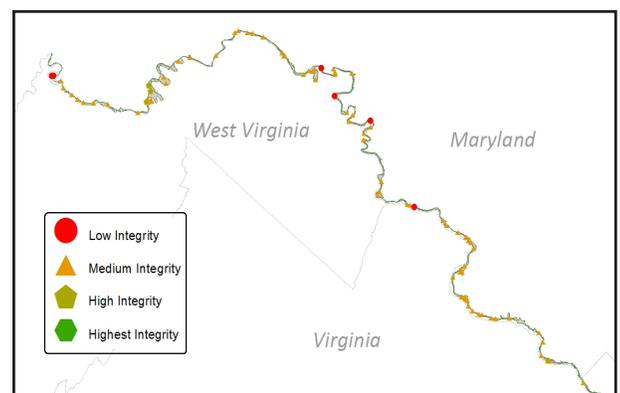
What's impressive about this list is that it includes 2 species of conservation concern. The Acadian Flycatcher framed in red, is a Partners in Flight "watchlist species," and the Carolina Wren framed in yellow is a "stewardship species." That means birds that are declining or vulnerable as a species, are finding valuable habitat at C&O Canal. For a full list of the bird species found in C&O Canal's forests, see reverse.

Bird Monitoring Plots & Habitat Quality

Birds are monitored at ninety-one plots in C&O Canal forests. Based on the types of birds detected, each plot is rated for habitat quality using the Bird Community Index or BCI.

Plots with large numbers of generalist and habitat-insensitive species score poorly and those with large numbers of specialist or habitat-sensitive species get higher scores.

In this map, red circles mark Low integrity habitat, orange triangles mark Medium integrity habitat, and light green pentagons mark high integrity habitat.



Bird monitoring plots, rated for habitat quality.

All photographs are used with permission of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Individual photographers noted on reverse.

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



Birds of C&O Canal's Forests

From 2007 to 2010, the number of different species detected each year at C&O Canal ranged from 74 to 90. C&O Canal is home to 18 species of conservation concern, marked below with asterisks.

Acadian Flycatcher**	Cerulean Warbler*	Killdeer	Scarlet Tanager
American Bittern	Chimney Swift	Least Flycatcher	Song Sparrow
American Crow	Chipping Sparrow	Louisiana Waterthrush**	Summer Tanager
American Goldfinch	Common Grackle	Magnolia Warbler	Tennessee Warbler
American Redstart	Common Raven	Mallard	Tree Swallow
American Robin	Common Yellowthroat	Mourning Dove	Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle	Double-crested Cormorant	Mourning Warbler	Unidentified Chickadee ⁺
Baltimore Oriole	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Cardinal	Warbling Vireo
Barn Swallow	Eastern Bluebird	Northern Flicker	White-breasted Nuthatch
Barred Owl	Eastern Kingbird	Northern Mockingbird	White-eyed Vireo**
Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Meadowlark	Northern Parula	Wild Turkey
Black Vulture	Eastern Phoebe	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Willow Flycatcher
Black-and-white Warbler	Eastern Screech-Owl	Northern Waterthrush	Wood Duck
Black-billed Cuckoo	Eastern Towhee**	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Wood Thrush*
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Eastern Tufted Titmouse	Orchard Oriole	Worm-eating Warbler*
Blackpoll Warbler	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Osprey	Yellow Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler	European Starling	Ovenbird	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-throated Green Warbler	Field Sparrow	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-breasted Chat
Blue Grosbeak	Fish Crow	Pine Warbler**	Yellow-throated Vireo**
Blue Jay	Gray Catbird	Prairie Warbler*	Yellow-throated Warbler**
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Great Blue Heron	Prothonotary Warbler*	*Partners in Flight Watchlist species are vulnerable at a continental scale
Blue-headed Vireo	Great Crested Flycatcher	Red-bellied Woodpecker**	
Brown Creeper	Green Heron	Red-eyed Vireo	**Stewardship Species have most of their global population within the region.
Brown Thrasher**	Hairy Woodpecker	Red-shouldered Hawk**	
Brown-headed Cowbird	House Finch	Red-tailed Hawk	⁺ Detections of Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees are combined
Canada Goose	House Sparrow	Red-winged Blackbird	
Cape May Warbler	House Wren	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Carolina Wren**	Indigo Bunting**	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	
Cedar Waxwing	Kentucky Warbler*		

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 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