



## Bird Checklist



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Birds perch, flutter, nest, hunt, and soar at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. Their colors and songs add visible and audible vitality to the park's dignified commemorative setting. This bird checklist, based on data from scientific surveys, is your own tool for measuring the vital signs of the park's natural areas.

### Monitoring Birds

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site is on the Mississippi flyway, a major bird migration route. It offers an excellent grassland habitat teeming with insects and prairie plant seeds. Many species rest and take refuge in the park's reconstructed tallgrass prairie and along its quiet stream.

The presence or absence of grassland birds like sedge wrens, dickcissels, grasshopper sparrows, Henslow's sparrows, bobolinks, and eastern meadowlarks indicate the prairie's overall health. Populations of these species decline as prairies disappear from the landscape. Several species are of continental importance because of their dwindling numbers.

National park staff and volunteers monitor long-term changes in breeding bird populations to evaluate the quality of habitat the park provides. The findings supplement inventory and monitoring data collected by National Park Service biologists. Studying long-term changes in bird populations helps park managers evaluate prairie restoration efforts, the effectiveness of management methods (such as prescribed fire, mowing, or herbicide use), and the quality of habitat the park provides.



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Eastern bluebirds use the nest boxes on the edges of the prairie.

**Key to the Checklist**

Sp = Spring  
 S = Summer  
 F = Fall  
 W = Winter

A = Abundant, very numerous  
 C = Common, almost certain to be seen  
 U = Uncommon, present but not readily seen  
 O = Occasional, seen rarely

\*Confirmed resident or breeder at Herbert Hoover NHS

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Mallard*	C	C	C	
Wood duck	O	O		
Turkey vulture	U			
Northern harrier	O	O	O	
Rough-legged hawk				U
Red-tailed hawk*	C	C	C	C
Broad-winged hawk	O			
Bald eagle*	U	U	U	U
Osprey	O	O		
American kestrel*	C	C	C	
Wild turkey	O	O	O	O
Northern bobwhite*	U	U	U	
Ring-necked pheasant*	C	C	C	C
Great blue heron*	U	U		
Black-crowned night heron	O			
Killdeer*	C			
Spotted sandpiper	O			
American woodcock	O			
Common Snipe	O			
Rock dove	U	U	U	U
Mourning dove*	C	C	C	
Yellow-billed cuckoo	U	U		
Black-billed cuckoo	O			

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Eastern screech owl	U	U	U	U
Great horned owl*	C	C	C	C
Barred owl	O		O	
Barn owl	O			
Common nighthawk*	C	C		
Chimney swift*	C	C		
Ruby-throated hummingbird*	C			
Belted kingfisher	O			
Red-bellied woodpecker	U	U	U	U
Red-headed woodpecker*	U			
Hairy woodpecker	U		U	U
Downey woodpecker*	C		C	C
Eastern kingbird*	C	C		
Northern flicker	U	U	U	
Great-crested flycatcher*	C	C		
Willow flycatcher	O	O		
Eastern phoebe	O			
Eastern wood-pewee*	C	C		
Horned lark	U	U	U	U
Barn swallow*	A	A		
Cliff swallow*	A	A		
Tree swallow*	C	C		
Northern rough-winged swallow*	U	U		
Purple martin*	U	U		
Blue jay*	A	A	A	A
American crow*	A	A	A	A
Black-capped chickadee*	U	U	U	U
White-breasted nuthatch	U		U	U
Brown creeper	U	U		
Sedge wren*	U	U		
House wren*	C	C		
Brown thrasher*	U			
Gray catbird*	C	C		
Northern mockingbird*	U	U		

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
American robin*	A	A		
Eastern bluebird*	C	C		
Golden-crowned kinglet	U			
Ruby-crowned kinglet	U			
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	U			
Cedar waxwing*	C	C	C	
Loggerhead shrike	O			
European starling*	A	A	A	A
Red-eye vireo*	U	U		
Bell's vireo	O	O		
Yellow throated vireo	O	O		
Warbling vireo	O	O		
Cerulean warbler*	O			
Kentucky warbler	O	O		
Blue-winged warbler	O	O		
Prothonotary warbler	O			
Ovenbird	O	O		
Louisiana waterthrush	O			
Common yellowthroat*	C	C	C	
Yellow warbler*	C	C		
American redstart	O	O		
Bobolink*	U			
Eastern meadowlark*	C	C	C	C
Western meadowlark	O	O		
Red-winged blackbird*	A	A	A	
Brewer's blackbird	U	U		
Common grackle*	A	A	A	
Brown-headed cowbird*	U			
Baltimore oriole*	C	C		
Orchard oriole	U	U		
Northern cardinal*	C	C	C	C
Indigo bunting*	C			
Rose-breasted grosbeak	O			
Dickcissel*	C			

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Eastern towhee	O			
Savannah sparrow*	U	U	U	
Grasshopper sparrow*	U	U		
Henslow's sparrow*	O	O		
Vesper sparrow	U	U		
Lark sparrow	O			
Dark-eyed junco*	A			
American tree sparrow*	A			
Chipping sparrow*	C	C		
Field sparrow*	U	U		
Harris sparrow	O	O		
White-crowned sparrow	U	U		
White-throated sparrow	U	U		
Song sparrow*	C	C	C	C
Snow bunting	U			
Evening grosbeak	O			
Purple finch*	C			
House finch*	U			
American goldfinch*	C	C	C	C
House sparrow*	A	A	A	A

**Sources**

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