

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Birds

Resource Brief

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.

Most Common Birds a Wolf Trap

The pictures of birds stacked on the left side of the page represent the most commonly found birds in the forests of Wolf Trap. The largest picture in the stack, the Eastern Tufted Titmouse represents the species with the highest density of birds per hectare (ha) of forest. There are 1.58 of them 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 an Eastern Tufted Titmouse as a chickadee¹ (.88 birds/ha).

What's impressive about this list is that it includes a species of conservation concern. The Carolina Wren framed in yellow is a "stewardship species" and it is finding valuable habitat at Wolf Trap. For a full list of bird species found in the forests of Wolf Trap, see reverse.

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



Carolina Wren
.19



American Crow
.44



Unidentified Chickadee¹
.88



Northern Cardinal
.91



American Robin
.97



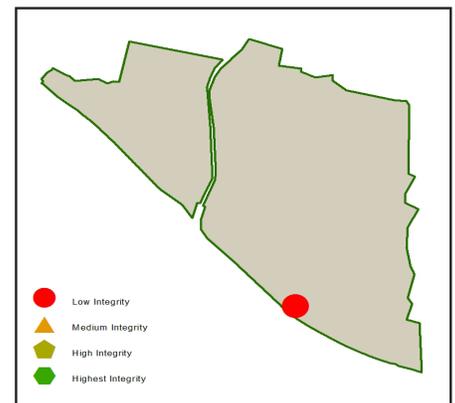
Eastern Tufted Titmouse
1.57

Bird Monitoring Plots & Habitat Quality

Birds are monitored at 1 forest plot in Wolf Trap. Based on the types of birds detected, the site was rated for its habitat quality.

Plots with large numbers of generalist and habitat-insensitive species score poorly and plots with high numbers of specialist or habitat-sensitive species yield higher scores.

In this map, the red circle indicates that the one plot in the park provides Low integrity habitat for birds.



Wolf Trap's bird monitoring plot, rated for habitat quality.

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

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Birds of Wolf Trap's Forests

From 2007 to 2010, the number of different species detected each year at Wolf Trap ranged from 7 to 9. Wolf Trap is home to 2 species of conservation concern, marked below with asterisks.

American Crow
American Goldfinch
American Robin
Carolina Wren**
Common Grackle
Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Towhee**
Eastern Tufted Titmouse
Gray Catbird
Northern Cardinal
Unidentified Chickadee⁺

**Stewardship Species have most of their global population within the region.

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

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 online 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