

Visitors to the woodland, meadow and marsh of the beautiful Brandywine Creek Valley and private open space around the park can enjoy tree swallows in the dog days of summer, a dozen or more species of migrating and breeding warblers each spring, and gliding and soaring raptors passing overhead during their annual fall migration.

The park's forests, including the Tuliptree Woods Nature Preserve with its towering 200-year-old trees, are home to woodpeckers, titmice and chickadees, and a host of neotropical migrant songbirds which leave Delaware to spend the winter in tropical Central and South America.

Meadows and fields provide nesting habitat for Eastern Meadowlark, Field and occasionally Grasshopper Sparrows. Bobolinks stop to rest and feed each spring as they migrate to nesting areas further north.

Scrubby old fields along Wilson Run are home to nesting Willow Flycatchers, Common Yellowthroats and Yellow-breasted Chats. In winter, the scrub and nearby field edges attract wintering sparrows, including White-throated, White-crowned and American Tree Sparrows.

Sparrows and finches are highlights of the winter months. Migrating songbirds fill the woodlands each spring, and occasionally, kettles of Broad-winged Hawks pass up the river valley on their way to northern forests. The passage of hundreds of hawks, vultures and falcons can be seen from Hawk Watch Hill in the fall; in late August and early

September, flocks of migrating Common Nighthawks move south down the valley. In late fall, a rare Golden Eagle or Northern Goshawk may appear as it wings its way south down the Brandywine Valley.

This checklist was developed in accordance with the Seventh Edition of the American Ornithological Union's Checklist of North American Birds. This brochure is most useful when used in conjunction with one of the many fine field guides to North American birds.



Relative Abundance

- c - Common Present and likely to be seen or heard in proper habitat
- u - Uncommon Present in proper habitat but not always seen or heard
- o - Occasional Occurs sporadically in proper habitat
- r - Rare not seen every year

*Indicates a species which has nested within the park

Species in **bold print** are neotropical migrants - they spend the winter in tropical regions of South and Central America

Species in *italicized print* are species that have been introduced into North America by humans.

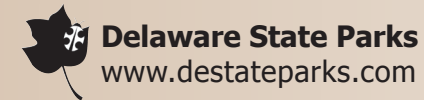
Seasons

- SPRING = S
March *thru* May
- SUMMER = s
June *thru* July
- FALL = F
August *thru* November
- WINTER = W
December *thru* February

Accidental

The following species have been seen at Brandywine Creek State Park fewer than five times. If you see any of these species or one that is not included in the list, please report your sighting to the staff at the Nature Center.

- Cackling Goose
- Mute Swan
- Red-necked Grebe
- Little Blue Heron
- Sora
- Upland Sandpiper
- Laughing Gull
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Caspian Tern
- Long-eared Owl
- Western Kingbird
- Horned Lark
- Marsh Wren
- Harris's Sparrow
- Dickcissel



Delaware State Parks
www.destateparks.com

This checklist was made possible through the contributions of the Delmarva Ornithological Society, volunteers and staff of Brandywine Creek State Park, birders who reported their sightings to the DE-Birds listserve and the following individuals who reviewed this latest edition: Andy Ednie, Michael Smith, Bill Stewart and Chris Bennett.



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BRANDYWINE CREEK STATE PARK

The Division of Parks and Recreation
89 Kings Hwy.
Dover, DE, 19901
(302)739-9220

BIRDS

of
Brandywine Creek State Park

Species	Seasonal Abundance			
	S	s	F	W
Geese and Ducks				
Snow Goose	r	-	o	o
Canada Goose*	c	c	c	c
Wood Duck*	c	c	c	r
Gadwall	r	-	r	r
American Wigeon	r	-	r	r
American Black Duck	r	o	o	o
Mallard*	c	c	c	c
Blue-winged Teal	r	-	r	r
Northern Shoveler	r	-	r	r
Northern Pintail	r	-	r	r
Green-winged Teal	r	-	r	r
Ring-necked Duck	r	-	r	r
Bufflehead	r	-	r	r
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	r
Hooded Merganser	r	-	r	r
Common Merganser	o	-	o	o
Gamebirds				
Wild Turkey	r	r	r	r
Loons, Grebes and Cormorants				
Common Loon	o	-	o	-
Pied-billed Grebe	r	-	r	-
Double-crested Cormorant	o	-	o	o
Hérons and Egrets				
Great Blue Heron	c	c	u	c
Great Egret	o	o	o	-
Snowy Egret	r	r	-	-
Little Blue Heron	r	r	r	-
Cattle Egret	r	r	r	-
Green Heron*	u	u	o	-
Black-crowned Night-Heron	r	-	-	-
Vultures, Hawks, Eagles & Falcons				
Black Vulture*	u	u	u	u
Turkey Vulture*	c	c	c	c
Osprey	u	o	c	-
Bald Eagle	o	o	o	o
Northern Harrier	r	-	o	o
Sharp-shinned Hawk	o	-	c	o
Cooper's Hawk*	u	o	u	o
Northern Goshawk	-	-	r	r
Red-shouldered Hawk	o	o	o	o
Broad-winged Hawk	o	r	u	-
Red-tailed Hawk*	c	c	c	c
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	r	r
Golden Eagle	-	-	r	r

Species	Seasonal Abundance			
	S	s	F	W
Vultures, Hawks, Eagles & Falcons				
American Kestrel*	u	u	c	u
Merlin	r	-	o	r
Peregrine Falcon	r	r	r	r
Rails				
Virginia Rail	r	r	r	r
American Coot	r	-	r	r
Shorebirds				
Killdeer*	o	o	o	o
Spotted Sandpiper	u	o	u	-
Solitary Sandpiper	o	o	o	-
Greater Yellowlegs	r	-	r	-
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	r	-
Least Sandpiper	-	-	r	-
Wilson's Snipe	o	-	o	r
American Woodcock	o	r	o	-
Gulls & Terns				
Ring-billed Gull	u	o	u	u
Herring Gull	r	r	r	u
Great Black-backed Gull	r	-	r	r
Doves, Cuckoos, Owls & Nightjars				
Rock Pigeon	c	c	c	c
Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	o	o	o	-
Black-billed Cuckoo*	r	r	r	-
Eastern Screech-Owl*	u	u	u	u
Great Horned Owl*	u	u	u	u
Barred Owl*	o	o	o	o
Common Nighthawk	o	-	u	-
Whip-poor-will	r	r	r	-
Swift, Hummingbird, Kingfisher & Woodpeckers				
Chimney Swift*	c	c	c	-
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	u	u	u	-
Belted Kingfisher*	u	u	u	u
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	r	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	o	-	u	o
Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Hairy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
Northern Flicker*	c	c	c	r
Pileated Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u

Species	Seasonal Abundance			
	S	s	F	W
Flycatchers				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	r	-	r	-
Eastern Wood-Pewee*	c	c	u	-
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r	-	r	-
Acadian Flycatcher	c	c	c	-
Alder Flycatcher	r	-	r	-
Willow Flycatcher*	u	u	o	-
Least Flycatcher	r	-	r	-
Eastern Phoebe*	c	c	c	r
Great Crested Flycatcher*	u	u	u	-
Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	u	-
Vireos, Jays & Crows				
White-eyed Vireo*	c	c	u	-
Yellow-throated Vireo*	o	o	o	-
Blue-headed Vireo	u	-	u	-
Warbling Vireo*	u	u	r	-
Philadelphia Vireo	r	-	r	-
Red-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	-
Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
American Crow*	c	c	c	c
Fish Crow	u	u	u	u
Swallows				
Purple Martin	u	u	o	-
Tree Swallow*	c	c	c	r
Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	c	c	r	-
Bank Swallow	-	r	o	-
Cliff Swallow	r	r	r	-
Barn Swallow*	c	c	c	-
Chickadees, Titmouse & Nuthatches				
Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
Black-capped Chickadee	r	-	-	r
Tufted Titmouse*	c	c	c	c
Red-breasted Nuthatch	o	-	o	o
White-breasted Nuthatch*	c	c	c	c
Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	c	o
Orchard Oriole*	u	u	u	-
Baltimore Oriole*	c	c	u	-
Creepers, Wrens, Kinglets & Gnatcatcher				
Brown Creeper	r	-	u	u
Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
House Wren*	c	c	c	-
Winter Wren	r	-	o	o
Golden-crowned Kinglet	o	-	c	u
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c	-	c	r
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	c	o	-

Species	Seasonal Abundance			
	S	s	F	W
Thrushes & Mimics				
Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	c
Veery*	c	u	u	-
Gray-cheeked Thrush	o	-	o	-
Bicknell's Thrush	r	-	r	-
Swainson's Thrush	o	-	o	-
Hermit Thrush	u	-	u	o
Wood Thrush*	c	c	c	-
American Robin*	c	c	c	c
Gray Catbird*	c	c	c	r
Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
Brown Thrasher*	c	c	u	r
Starling, Pipit & Waxwing				
European Starling*	c	c	c	c
American Pipit	r	-	-	r
Cedar Waxwing*	o	c	c	o
Warblers				
Blue-winged Warbler	o	o	o	-
Golden-winged Warbler	r	-	r	-
Tennessee Warbler	r	-	r	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	r	-	r	-
Nashville Warbler	r	-	o	-
Northern Parula	c	r	u	-
Yellow Warbler*	c	u	o	-
Chestnut-sided Warbler	c	r	c	-
Magnolia Warbler	c	-	c	-
Cape May Warbler	r	-	r	-
Black-throated Blue Warbler	c	-	c	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c	-	c	o
Black-throated Green Warbler	u	-	u	-
Blackburnian Warbler	u	-	u	-
Yellow-throated Warbler	r	r	r	-
Pine Warbler	o	-	o	-
Prairie Warbler*	c	u	u	-
Palm Warbler	c	-	u	r
Bay-breasted Warbler	r	-	o	-
Blackpoll Warbler	c	-	o	-
Cerulean Warbler	r	-	r	-
Black-and-white Warbler	c	r	c	-
American Redstart	c	r	c	-
Prothonotary Warbler	r	-	r	-
Worm-eating Warbler	o	r	r	-
Ovenbird*	c	c	o	-
Northern Waterthrush	o	-	o	-
Louisiana Waterthrush	u	r	r	-
Kentucky Warbler	o	r	r	-
Connecticut Warbler	-	-	r	-

Species	Seasonal Abundance			
	S	s	F	W
Warblers				
Mourning Warbler	r	-	r	-
Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	-
Hooded Warbler	o	r	r	-
Wilson's Warbler	o	-	o	-
Canada Warbler	u	-	u	-
Yellow-breasted Chat*	u	u	o	-
Tanager's & Sparrow's				
Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	c
Veery*	c	u	u	-
Gray-cheeked Thrush	o	-	o	-
Bicknell's Thrush	r	-	r	-
Swainson's Thrush	o	-	o	-
Hermit Thrush	u	-	u	o
Wood Thrush*	c	c	c	-
American Robin*	c	c	c	c
Gray Catbird*	c	c	c	r
Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
Brown Thrasher*	c	c	u	r
Swamp Sparrow	c	-	c	c
White-throated Sparrow	c	-	c	c
White-crowned Sparrow	o	-	u	r
Dark-eyed Junco	c	-	c	c
Cardinals, Grosbeaks & Buntings				
Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	o	-	o	-
Blue Grosbeak*	u	o	u	-
Indigo Bunting*	c	c	c	-
Blackbirds				
Bobolink	u	r	o	-
Red-winged Blackbird*	c	c	c	u
Eastern Meadowlark*	c	c	c	o
Rusty Blackbird	r	-	r	-
Common Grackle	c	c	c	u
Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	c	o
Orchard Oriole*	u	u	u	-
Baltimore Oriole*	c	c	u	-
Finches & House Sparrow				
Purple Finch	o	-	o	o
House Finch*	c	c	c	c
Pine Siskin	r	-	r	r
American Goldfinch	c	c	c	c
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	r	r
House Sparrow	u	u	u	u