

BIRD GUIDE

KEYS

Abundance

The visitor is asked to keep in mind that abundance on the island may be very different from abundance on the mainland, for the same species at the same time.

C – Common; should be seen on an average day

U – Uncommon; present, but may not be seen

R – Rare; seen only a few times /year

Habitat

B – Gulf beach

L – Laguna shore

S – Both Shores

P – Fresh water ponds

G - Grasslands

E – Entire island

SHOREBIRDS



American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) P, L, U

18 inches. Thin bill that curves slightly upward. Head is rust during breeding season, grey in winter. Broad black and white stripes on back are distinctive. Voice: single high pitched “kleek” notes. Feeds by sweeping bill back and forth through the water.

Preys on aquatic crustaceans and insects. Has well developed toe-webbing, making them one of the few shore birds that go into deeper water – requiring them to swim. Its breeding range includes the western half of the U.S., portions of Florida and the Gulf coast. It winters in many regions of Mexico. Uncommon –yet found year round in the park. Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.



American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) P, L, R
10.5 inches. Smaller than the Black-bellied Plover, its wing stripe is indistinct, and it has a golden and black speckled back. Its underwings are smoky grey. The adult breeding male shows large white patches on sides of neck. Underparts are black.

Voice: Sad sounding, urgent “que-del” notes, with little pitch change. The American Golden Plover can be seen during migration in March and April, around the Laguna Madre shores, ponds, and marshes. It feeds on invertebrates, such as worms and aquatic larvae. It migrates to upper Canadian territories, and Alaska in the summer, and breeds on the Artic tundra. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, USFWS.*



American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) S, U
17.5 inches. Red-orange brightly colored, chisel-shaped bill, black head and brown back, and white under parts.

Voice: loud whistled “wheep” notes. Feeds in small, noisy flocks in coastal regions. Feeding mostly on mollusks, they also eat worms, barnacles and small fish. Likes to gather in communal roosts that may contain up to a hundred or more individuals. Considered a species of concern in some areas, its range includes the coasts of California and Baja, and the Gulf coast states, parts of Mexico and Central America. It is casual in Southern California, where it has hybridized with the Black Oystercatcher. Can be found in Cuba, and other islands in the Caribbean. Although it lives here year round, it is most frequently observed during the spring and early summer. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) G, P, R

7.5 inches. Gray-brown above and across breast, with long wing tips projecting well beyond tail. Has a larger, longer and straighter bill than the Least Sandpiper. Voice: Rough high pitched, dry “jeerk” call. Likes to forage in drier areas compared to other sandpipers. The female lays her clutch of eggs, which is sometimes 120% of her body mass over 4

days shortly after arriving in the artic. Winters in South America; accidental in North America in midwinter. Migration is through Great Plains states; breeds in the Artic. Rarely spotted, it can sometimes be seen during migration in spring and fall months. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS.*



Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) S, C

11.5 inches. The largest of the plovers, the breeding male has a black and white back, and frosty crown and nape. In winter male and female exhibit gray plumage. Can be distinguished from American Golden Plover by black underwing axilla. It is the only American Plover to have a hind toe on its foot. Voice: distinctive high, clear “pee-o-wee” whistles. Quick to give

alarms, it functions as a sentinel for groups of shore birds. Eats worms, aquatic insect larvae, and occasional seeds and berries. Found in park during the winter months. Nests in the arctic tundra during summer months, and winters along the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts. It is uncommon to rare elsewhere in the interior. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS, Tim Bowman.*



Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) P, U

14 inches. Glossy black back, neck and bill, with white underparts, and long pink-to-red legs. Female and juvenile are browner on back. Voice: common call is a loud sharp yipping sound, constantly repeated. Feeds by sweeping bill side-to-side. Eats invertebrates and small vertebrates, and will often swim in shallow water to catch prey. A

Hawaiian subspecies was at one time down to 200 birds, but has gradually increased its numbers to 1200. It is still listed as a federal endangered species, however. Its range includes the western and southwestern states, Florida and parts of the Gulf Coast and Mexico, Central and South America. Frequently spotted in our park year round.

Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com



Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) S, C

8.5 inches. Stocky, large headed shorebird, with long drooping bill. Non-breeding plumage is dark-brownish-gray. Distinctive breeding plumage: reddish back, white underparts with large black belly patch. Voice: Buzzy, rasping “krree.” notes. Found on beaches and mudflats, it will wade into shallow waters to search for food. It has a range that extends from Alaska and

Canada to the Gulf coast states. Often found in huge flocks, the Dunlin nests in the Arctic and is only commonly spotted in the park during winter.

Photograph courtesy of USGS, Paul Conover.



Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) P, C
10.5 inches. Long, slender shorebird, with mottled brown head, back and wings, and relatively long legs which are yellow-orange. Voice: flight call of short “tu-tu” whistles. Bill is 1 ½ times the length of its head. A wader, it is found in a variety of shallow-water habitats. It is an active feeder, and it can often be seen running through the shallow water to catch its prey. Its range covers almost all of North America and extends well into South America. Its populations appear to be stable, and it is commonly seen in the park during the winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) L, R
15.5 inches. Smallest of the Godwits, it is a large shorebird with grey wings, black underwing with narrow white wing stripe, and long narrow orange and black, slightly upturned bill. Breeding males turn dark chestnut below. Voice: high rising “toe-wit” notes. Can be seen walking in shallow pools, and flats around Laguna Madre, probing the mud with their long bills. It breeds in the Arctic, and winters mostly in South America. Due to its remote breeding and wintering grounds, it is one of the least well known of the American shore birds. Rarely seen in the park, it is spotted during migration only a few times a year. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, H.R. Spendelow, jr.*



Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) S, C
10.5 inches. Exhibits brown wings, and distinctive double-black breast band, orange rump and very long tail. The young Killdeer has only one breast band. Voice: Calls are high, strident “kill-deer” notes. Commonly found in grassy fields, farmlands, and on shores. Pretends to have a broken wing, in order to lure predators from their nest. Eats mainly invertebrates, especially worms and aquatic insect larvae. Its range extends from Canada to the northern part of South America. Is common to the area, and can be found in the park year round. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com*



Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) P, S, C
6 inches. Very small shorebird with short, thin bill, short yellow legs, and crouching posture. It is always darker above than the Western and Semi-palmated sandpipers. Voice: high, trilled “creep”, rising and musical. It is the smallest shorebird in the world. It likes to forage at the edge of mudflats, and the drier areas of ponds and lakes.

During the winter months, it is found in the Southern states, Mexico and well into South America. Found throughout North America during migration, and breeds in Northern Canada and Alaska. Found in small flocks, it is common to the park during all seasons except summer. *Photograph courtesy of National Park Service.*



Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) S, C
23 inches. Buff body with cinnamon underwing. Extremely long, downward-curving bill, and buffy brown, spotted wings, back and tail. Voice: Clear whistles during flight. It is North America’s largest shorebird, and can be found on mudflats, grasslands and at waters edge. Both the male and female incubate eggs, and are aggressive in defense of eggs

and nests. They eat a wide variety of invertebrates, small fish, seeds, and fruit. Obtains prey by locating visually, or by probing deep into crab holes, and plucking prey from the sand and/or water. Its winter range includes the U.S., parts of Florida and the Gulf Coast, extending down into Mexico and Central America. It is commonly spotted year-round in the park. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) P, L, C
11.5 inches. Large, stocky, long-billed shorebird, with white belly and upper rump. Breeding adult is entirely reddish below, with spotted foreneck, and barred sides. Voice: High, sharp “keek” or “pweek” call. It is known for its long bill, and “sewing machine-like” feeding action. It likes to wade in

sheltered, muddy pools. Its winter range includes the eastern and western U.S., Gulf coast, and Mexico. Populations seem to be increasing. It is common to the park during winter, and rare during spring and fall. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com, Alan D. Wilson.*



Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) L, U

18 inches. Large shorebird with a long, bi-colored bill (pink-turning to black at the tip) that turns slightly upward. Tawny brown mottled appearance on wings and back. Voice: hoarse trumpeting “ah-ha” sound. Found on beaches and mudflats. It eats a variety of small fish, worms and seeds. Although its numbers declined drastically during

the 1800s, the current populations appear stable. It breeds in northern prairies and migrates to the eastern, western and Gulf coast shores during the winter. Is rarely spotted in the park. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) G, P, U

8.75 inches. Medium-sized shorebird, with bold, dense streaking on breast and clear white belly. It has rather long, green-yellow legs. The male is larger than the female. Voice: Rather low, rich, harsh trill “churk” notes. Found in small flocks on mudflats, and short grasses, it feeds in wet meadows and marshes. The breeding male has an inflatable throat sack, which expands and contracts during flight displays. Its breeding range extends from the northern most

reaches of Alaska eastward through the Hudson Bay area of the Canadian Tundra. During migration it can be seen throughout the mid and eastern sections of the United States through Mexico to South America. Fairly common on the east coast, it can be spotted frequently in the park during spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Paul Conover.*



Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) S, U

7.25 inches. A small, very pale shorebird, with thin dark bill, partial black breast band and distinctive orange legs. Voice: clear, mellow whistled peeps. Found on sandy beaches and mudflats. It eats mainly invertebrates, such as worms and aquatic larvae. Likes to tap its foot rapidly on the sand to locate invertebrates. Occasionally feeds on seeds and berries.

Intruders to Piping Plover nests are chased, and often pecked or bitten. Frequently seen in the park during fall and winter, but found all year round. Found along Atlantic and gulf coasts, it is considered endangered in certain ranges, and is a rare declining breeder in the Midwest. 30% of the Piping Plover population is located in the park. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS.*



Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) S, U

10.5 inches. Chunky, short legged, and short billed piper, with reddish coloring on its head and breast, during breeding season, and gray during non-breeding season. It has a smooth, fast rapid running action; it is the largest of the “peeps”. Voice: Usually quiet unless near its breeding grounds. Can have a whine like sound. Feeding on shoreline

and mudflats, it (along with the Sanderling) is known as a “clockwork toy”, chasing waves on a sandy beach. It has one of the longest migrations, traveling from the tip of South America to its Artic breeding grounds, some 9000 miles to the north. Although its numbers seem to be decreasing, it is occasionally seen in the park during spring, winter and fall. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Andrew Easton.*



Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) S, C

9.5 inches. Medium sized shorebird, with brightly patterned black and white chest, black and chestnut back and orange legs. Voice: low, short, bouncing rattle. It also has a single sharp “klew” call. As its name suggests, it uses its slender bill to flip aside shells and stones, in search of food. Makes its nest by carving scrapes in the ground. Range: nests on coastal tundra.

Rare island migrant except in the Great Lakes region. Common to the area. during the fall and winter months and less common in the summer. Populations appear stable.

Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Andreas Trepte.



Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) S, C

8 inches. Small, pale sandpiper, with gray above and white below. Bill and legs are black. Voice: Short, soft “wick-wick” notes. Found on almost all tropical and semi-tropical coastlines, it feeds on sandy beaches, running out to water’s edge (sometimes referred to as “clockwork toy” movements) and along the shore line, to snatch small shell fish exposed by

the waves. Breeds in the high Artic, and winters along the North American coastline. Common to the park, its populations seem to have stabilized. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturepicsonline.com.*



Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) P, L, U
7.25 inches. Relatively long-winged and large-headed shorebird, with dark brown back and yellow-orange legs. It has a broad wing stripe bordered in black, and a single band across its chest. Voice: short husky whistle “chuWhee” or “kweetp”. Found on sandy beaches or mudflats. It likes to chase receding waves at ocean shores, and then run away from them when the waves return (“clockwork toy” movement).

One of the few plovers whose numbers appear to be increasing. Its range includes all of Canada and Alaska, the eastern half of the U.S. and down into coastal shores of Mexico, Central and South America. Closely related to the Piping Plover it is frequently seen in our park in the winter months. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org.*



Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) P, L, R
11 inches. Medium-to-large shorebird, with a bill twice as long as its head, brown, heavily spotted and barred plumage with some white shown on the belly. Voice: Melodic “tu-tu-tu” notes during flight. Uses its long bill (which is short only when compared to the Long-billed Dowitcher) to forage, by using a

“sewing machine” method over mudflats. Nests in northern Canada and Alaska. It has a migratory range that dots parts of Canada and the Great Lakes region and extends to the Gulf coast and into Mexico. Has been seen during the winter in our park. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Terry Brestear.*



Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) S, U
6.25 inches. Very pale above, usually slightly darker and greyer than the Piping Plover. Thin black bill, relatively long, dark or grey legs, and black side patches during breeding season. Voice: a rather hard “purrr” sound, as well as a “tur-whet” whistle. It feeds on worms, tiny crab and shrimp, and larval insects. Its young are

very small, and blend in easily with its shoreline surroundings. Since the young cannot fly, they are protected by adults who flap, and fly around the area to protect them. Breeding population has most likely decreased since the 1800s, due to increased recreational use of beaches. Its range includes the Pacific and Gulf Coast shorelines extending to parts of Mexico and Central America. Uncommon and declining on the Gulf Coast. Although they can be found in the park year round, they are most often spotted during fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mike Baird.*



Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) P, U

8.5 inches. Wings and back are dark brown, with small white spots and white underparts. Bold white eye-ring and olive legs. Moderately long legs and neck. It is smaller than the yellowlegs. Voice: Clear, high rising “weet- weet” whistle. Found in shallow backwaters, and small estuaries, ponds and creeks, it is rarely seen in groups. Known as North America’s only regular tree-nesting shorebird, it readily re-uses the nests of other birds. Range: nests throughout

Canada and Alaska and winters in Mexico to South America. Sometimes observed in the park during spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Luther Goldman.*



Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) P, G, U

7.5 inches. Brown head, wings and upperparts, with white underparts and pale yellow legs. As its name suggests, it is striking in breeding season, with barred upperparts and dark spotted underparts. Voice: High, clear whistled “weet” notes. Found singly at waters edge, and on steep banks of ponds and

creeks. Constantly bobs at waters edge, darting after insects. Most wide-spread breeding sandpiper in North America, it will utilize almost any water source. Its breeding range covers virtually all of North America and it winters in Mexico, Central America, and much of South America. Although it has a widespread range it is not commonly spotted in our park. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Paul Conover.*



Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*) S, G,U

8.5 inches. Characterized by a rather heavy, slightly-curved bill, pale eyebrow, heavily bared underparts and long yellow-green legs. It is easily spotted during breeding season due to its boldly-bared plumage. Voice: Low, soft, muffled “jeew” call. Wades in sheltered muddy pools, and feeds like Dowitchers, with which it often associates. Breeds in the northern tundra in Western

Canada and Alaska. Its migration range covers most of the eastern half of Canada and the U.S., and extends down into Mexico, Central and South America where it spends the winter months (sept.-Apr.). Although common to the east coast during migration, it is rarely spotted in our park during spring and fall. Its numbers may be declining.

Photograph courtesy of www.flickr.com. Creative commons. mcormier.



Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) L, C

6.5 inches. Black legs and long bill, resembling a miniature Dunlin. Easily confused with the Semi-palmated Sandpiper, it is longer billed and heavier, with shorter wings and longer legs. Voice: Thin, high, harsh “jeet” notes. Found on mudflats and beaches, it is very common in the fall, winter and spring

months. One of the most abundant of shorebirds, it has a range that includes parts of Alaska and the coastal waters of North America. Its breeding grounds however consist of a limited area of western Alaska. It is noted for migrating in huge, spectacular flocks, particularly along the Pacific coast. Can be seen in the park during spring, fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.com.*



Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) S, G, R

17.5 inches. Grayish-brown all over, it is large, sturdy and sleek, with pointed wings and long, curved bill. It has a boldly-stripped crown and dark eye line. Voice: rapid, forceful “quiquiqui” twitter. Found on marshes, beaches and rocky shores, it uses its long, curved bill to probe deep into the sand for invertebrates. It also feeds on insects and

berries. Its breeding range includes parts of Alaska, and the Southeastern shore of Hudson Bay. Found throughout most of North America during migration, it spends the winter months in the Gulf coast waters and parts of Baja and coastal Central and South America. Rarely seen in the park during spring and fall, it may be fairly common one year, and scarce or absent the next. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com*



White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) P, U

7.5 inches. This small-to-medium sized sandpiper has a distinctive, entirely white rump and reddish area on lower base of bill. It can also be considered a large "peep." Head and neck are dark, giving a hooded look. Voice: distinctive, very high, thin mouse-like “tzeep” notes. It likes to wade out into deeper water, to probe for food.

Migrates from its breeding range in the northern-most reaches of Canada to the Gulf coast states. Relatively common to North America during migration, it is an infrequent park visitor in spring and fall. *Photograph courtesy of Creative Commons, Gavatron.*



Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) S, C

15 inches. Large, heavy-set wader, with relatively large head, and thick bill. Heavily mottled, with white belly, bright, black and white flashing wings and gray legs. Voice: Clear, loud ringing “pill-will-willet” notes. Found in many habitats: marshes, rocky shores and beaches. Often found singly, it nests in wetlands. Its range includes the north and central U.S. and south central Canada (western sub-species) and the eastern U.S. and Gulf coasts (eastern sub-species). It is the only sandpiper that has a breeding range extending into the tropics. Although considered a species of special concern, it is commonly seen in the park year-round. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.*



Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) P, U

9.25 inches. Elegant shorebird, with long, thin, needle-like bill, bold black stripe on face and neck, and reddish orange coloring on its throat and breast (during breeding season). During non-breeding season is pale gray above with white face and underparts. Voice: Low muffled nasal grunting or moaning. Likes shallow, muddy or grassy pools and mudflats, never at sea. Its breeding range includes western North America and migrates through central United States, including the Gulf coast. Occasionally seen here during spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Jim Stasz.*



Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) P, S, U

7.75 inches. Larger than the other belted Plovers, it has brown back and wings, and a disproportionately long and heavy distinctive black bill. Dull leg color. The male displays a large, black neck-band during breeding season. Voice: Loud, sharp high and liquid “weep” notes. Found on sandy beaches, salt pans and mudflats. Its large bill helps it catch larger prey than other plovers. It is listed as threatened in some states. Its range dots the Gulf, Baja, Central American and Eastern U.S. coasts. Although it lives in park year round, it is uncommon in the summer, spring and fall, and rarely seen in the winter. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Peter S. Weber.*



Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) P, U

10.5 inches. Very stocky, short-winged and short-legged, with a very long bill, and boldly striped head and back. Voice: Dry, harsh scraping “scresh” or “kesh” call. Usually solitary and secretive, can be found in any damp, muddy habitat where some vegetation provides cover. It has a range that extends from Alaska to Mexico, and South America. It is frequently seen in our park during spring, fall and winter, and migrates north in the summer. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS, Dave Ward.*

GULLS AND TERNS



Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) P, S, C

18 inches with 44-48 inch wing-span. Brightly colored tern, with black and white body and orange, black-tipped bill. The only bird that has a lower mandible longer than the upper bill. Voice: series of barking “yip-yip-yip” notes. Drags its lower bill through the water while flying, in order to catch fish. Will return to its same nesting grounds each year. A flock of Black Skimmers can be found nesting in early summer next to the JFK Causeway. Its year-round range includes the shorelines of the Gulf Coast states, Eastern U.S. and Central and South America. Common to the park in summer and fall, and uncommon to rare in spring and winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Black Tern (*Chidonias niger*) B, P, C

9.75 inches. Breeding adults are mostly black, with gray wings and White vent underparts. Non-breeders have gray wings and back with white heads and underparts. Small winged and small billed, it is always dark gray above. Voice: series of harsh, sharp “kik” notes. Inhabits fresh water lowlands, nesting on lakes and ponds, and eating insects as well as fish. Its breeding range includes the southern half of Canada, most of the northern U.S. and spends the winter in Mexico and Central America. Populations on the southern extremes of its range have shown declines. Rarely seen in our park during the summer months, but is commonly observed during spring and fall migrations. *Photograph courtesy of Creative Commons, chugui's photos.*



Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) S, U

13.5 inches. A small, graceful tern-like gull, with slender bill and straight, narrow wings. It has a slate black head, and black wing tips, white underparts and pink-to-orange legs. Voice: Low, wooden rasping “keh” or “keh” notes. Rarely mixes with other species. It is the only gull that nests in trees. Its numbers have increased in the last 100 years. Its breeding range includes most of Canada and Alaska. Spends the winters along the East and West coasts and the Gulf Coast states. Occasionally observed here in the winter, it is quite common in the Great Lakes region. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, H.R. Spendelow, jr.*



Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) S, C

21 inches. Our largest tern, the Caspian Tern is stocky, with a red-orange bill, white body, and dark wing tips and tail. Has black cap during breeding season. Voice: Deep, very harsh, heron-like scream “aaayayaum.” Its call is a raspy “kwok.” Can be seen flying 20 to 50 feet above water, patrolling for fish. Its range includes the eastern half of the U.S., including Florida and parts of the Gulf Coast and Mexico. Nesting at seashore, it is common to our area year round. Seen most often along the shore of Laguna Madre. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.*



Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) S, R

12 inches. The most widespread tern in North America, the common tern is a very streamlined shore bird with a dark wedge on the wing tips, and white tail with dark outer webs. Has black hood and orange bill during breeding season. Voice: Low, piercing, drawn-out “kee-ar-r-r” notes. Nesting in large colonies, it is found on lakes, rivers and oceans. Its breeding range includes Canada, the eastern shoreline of the U.S. and parts of the Gulf Coast. It migrates primarily through the Eastern half of the U.S. and the Pacific coast states and Mexico. Spends its winters in South America. Listed as endangered, threatened, or a species of concern in many states, it not commonly seen in the park, but it can infrequently be spotted during the spring and fall months. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, J.A. Spendelow.*



Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) S, P, C

13 inches. Snow white below, pale gray above, with orange bill, legs and feet. Distinctive comma-shaped black ear patch in winter plumage. Dark cap in breeding adult. Voice: similar to Common Tern, but lower and more wooden and rasping. Found on more sheltered waters – ponds, bays, marshes and ocean. Rarely seen

offshore. It is a species of special concern in the Midwestern states, due to loss of wetland habitats. It is the only tern restricted almost entirely to North America. Lives here year round, and is spotted frequently during spring, fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) S, U

14.5 inches. Smaller and more delicate than the Laughing Gull, the Franklin's Gull has a black hood, white underparts, pinkish-slate gray wings with white bar, and black and white tips. Voice: Nasal and laughing "kay-wek" notes, but hollow sounding, and less penetrating than the Laughing Gull. It is unique among

gulls, having two complete molts each year. Its breeding range includes south-central Canada, and the Northern part of the mid-western states. It migrates through the central states and the Gulf coast then through Mexico. Seen inland on ponds and fields, is a migratory gull sometimes spotted in the park during spring and winter. When he arrives in the park, about Easter time, his white areas are pink. He will be found often on the parking lot in front of the Visitor Center. *Photograph courtesy of Smithsonian National migratory bird photo gallery. John Sterling.*



Photo by Jim Stasz

Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) E, U

14 inches. Pale gray above and white below, it has a gray eye patch and black legs. The cap turns black during breeding season. Slightly larger than the Forster's Tern, it has long wings with very long outer wing-tips. Voice: Distinctive, nasal yapping "kay-wek". It keeps to itself, plucking food from mudflats and fields. Unlike other terns that prey on fish exclusively, it will feed on insects, small crab, and other prey that it snatches from the ground and

air. Unlike most terns, it does not dive into the water. Its range includes the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and parts of coastal Mexico. It is considered a species of concern in California. Lives year-round in our park. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Jim Stasz.*



Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) P, S, C

25 inches. Our most widespread large gull, it varies in its size, structure and plumage, creating confusion with other gull species. During its first winter it displays a uniform brown body, with darker brown wing-tips and tail. Then during its second winter it is coarsely patterned with variable overall color. The third winter (Aug.-April) it has bluish-gray wings, pink legs and black tail. The adult non-breeding Herring Gull

has extensive streaking over the head and neck, which turns white during breeding season. Voice: Clear, flat bugling. Breeds primarily in Canada and Alaska. Widespread in North America, it is commonly seen in the park during the winter months. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Andreas Trepte.*



Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) P, S, C

16.5 inches. As with the Herring Gull, it varies in its plumage from the 1st winter through adulthood. Juveniles and young adults are brown to grayish-brown. The second winter finds a gray wash on the neck, wings and back, and a black tail. Adult breeders show a black head and tail, red bill, gray wings and white underparts. Voice: Distinctive nasal laughing call. Very common

to shoreline habitats along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, it can also be found in parking lots and parks. Is known to steal food from other water birds and humans. Very common to our park all year round. *Photograph courtesy of National Park Service, Padre Island National Seashore, Tracy Parris.*



Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) B, C

9 inches. Black head and bill, with white forehead and yellow beak. Our smallest tern. Voice: Rapid, high pitched “kee-zink kee-zink” notes. Mixing freely with other terns, it nests in colonies on beaches and sandbars. Plucks its food from fields and mudflats. Its range includes parts of the gulf coast and extends to northern South America. It is considered

endangered, threatened, or a species of concern in many states, due to a loss of habitat. Seen frequently in summer and fall, it is spotted less commonly in the spring.

Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.



Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) P, S, C

17.5 inches. This gull has a characteristic black “ring” around a yellow bill, gray wings with black tips, and small white spot at very tip of wings. Voice: high hoarse “a-a-a-a-a-a” notes, with wheezy quality. Prefers nesting in sandy beaches, but breeds inland through most of Canada and the Northern U.S. Some Ring-billed Gulls never see the shore, but live their lives near fresh water lakes and ponds.

Its range extends from Canada throughout the U.S. and into Mexico and parts of Central America. One of the most prevalent, and commonly seen gulls, it has been spotted in our parks year round. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Tim Ross.*



Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) S, C

20 inches. Sleek, large, long-winged tern with pale underside, orange bill, black cap and a forked tail.. Voice: Deep, harsh heron-like “keer-reet” scream. The Royal Tern is found only along ocean beaches, and its range includes much of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and parts of the California and Baja coast.

Nesting in colonies, it is fairly common all year round. Seen most often along the Gulf shoreline. Along with the Caspian Tern, it is one of our largest terns. Populations appear to be stable. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Peter S. Weber.*



Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) P, S, C

15 inches. Similar to the Royal Tern, but it is smaller and more slender. Pale gray above, with a black cap during breeding season. It is identified by its yellow-tipped black bill and shaggy crest. Its white tail is deeply forked. Voice: Higher, more abrupt and grating than the Royal Tern with a series of

“kirr-ick, kirr-ick, kirr-ick” notes. It is distinguished from smaller terns by its more powerful flight. Its range includes the shorelines of the Gulf States and islands. Seen in our park all year long, it is less common in winter. Populations, in general, have increased in recent years. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Andrew Easton.*

HERONS and BITTERNS



American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) G, P, U

28 inches. More easily seen than heard, these secretive herons have brown upperparts, and black neck stripes. Its contrasting dark flight wing tips contrast with the pale coloring of the rest of the wing.

Voice: Deep, gulping “oong-ka-choonk” notes. Its breeding range includes much of southern Canada and the U.S. A migratory bird that is occasionally observed in late summer, fall and winter throughout the southern U.S. and Mexico. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Walter Siegmund.*



Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) P, S, U

25 inches. Stocky heron, with large head, short neck and heavy body. The juvenile has a sharply pointed yellowish bill, white spots on wings, and broad, tan breast streaks. The adult bird has a black bill, black back and black cap with slate-gray body and yellow legs.

Voice: Flat, barking “quok” squawk. Considered a nocturnal heron, that roosts during the day in trees or marshes. At night, they forage in marshes and ponds. Its range includes parts of five continents, and spans most of North America. Known to nest in the trees with other

herons and ibises. Lives here year-round, but is not frequently seen. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Calibas.*



Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) G, C

20 inches. Small egret with white plumage, short, yellow bill, stocky neck and short, dark legs. Displays orange patches on head, breast and upperparts, during breeding season. Voice: Short “rick-rack” quacks on breeding grounds, mostly silent otherwise. Found in small flocks, it came to South America from Africa, and gradually spread northward. It follows horses and cattle, and even tractors and grass mowers, to catch the insects that they stir up. Its range includes most of the U.S., Mexico, Central and South America. Resident of the grasslands of our park during spring migration. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Cburnett.*



Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) P, S, C

46 inches. Our largest, heaviest and most widespread heron. Sturdy and stately appearing with heavy yellow bill, blue-gray plumage and black plume on cap. A white morph residing in Florida was once thought to be a separate species. Voice: Deep, hoarse trumpeting “fraaahnk” or “braak” notes. Solitary, and sometimes nocturnal, it hunts fish while wading in quiet waters, but is also known to eat mice. Its range includes most of the U.S., southern Canada, Mexico, Central and parts of South America.

Common year round in our park. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Ryan Wood.*



Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) P, C

39 inches. The symbol of the National Audubon Society, it is larger and somewhat more widespread than the Snowy egret, with a very long neck, deep neck-bow in flight, and a yellow, slightly down-curved bill, black legs and feet. Voice: Deep, low, gravelly “kroow” sound when disturbed. Often solitary, occasionally gathers in loose flocks, and feeds mainly on fish, in open water. Its breeding range includes much of the eastern, and western U.S., and winters in Mexico, and Central and South America. Lives year-round in our park, but is more easily spotted during spring and fall. *Photograph*

courtesy of www.naturespicsonlin.com.



Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) P, U

18 inches. Small, stocky heron, with long straight bill. Darkly plumed, the adult has a dark reddish head and neck, and dark green back. Voice: Sharp “SKEEW” or “skeow” notes. Lives near wooded streams and ponds, as well as marshes that have a wooded covering. Likes to fish by baiting the surface of water using worms, pieces of bread, twigs or feathers. A few winter north. Its breeding range includes the eastern half of the U.S., Pacific and Gulf coasts, and winter range extends into Mexico, Central and South America. Sometimes spotted during spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Marshall Lliff.*



Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) P, L, U

24 inches. Juveniles appear white, to mottled gray. Adults are all dark bluish-gray, purple. Displays reddish head, and neck during breeding season. Voice: Hoarse squawks and fairly high “raaaaa” notes. Usually solitary, it catches fish in shallow water. Its range includes the southeastern U.S., Mexico and Central and South America. Its populations are in decline, due to habitat loss. A year-round resident of our park. *Photograph courtesy of*

www.wikipedia.org.



Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) L, C

30 inches. Slender, long-necked, and long legged, it has both dark morph and white morph types. The white has a bi-colored bill, and long gray legs. The dark morph has slate gray back, wings and underparts, and a pale red cap and neck. Voice: Soft groan and short grunt call. Inhabits shallow salt water, and open salt flats. Its range includes areas of the Gulf coast, and islands,

and some areas in southern California and Baja. Is very active when chasing fish on foot, running, spinning and spreading its wings like a canopy in order to spot the fish.

Although common to our area in spring, summer and fall, the Reddish Egret is considered a bird of concern due to its limited range. Both morphs are found in the park.

Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org.



Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) P, L, U

24 inches. Small, white egret with slender black bill, yellow eyes, black legs and bright yellow feet. Graceful plumes on head neck and back during breeding season. Voice: Deep, hoarse, nasal “fraaahnk” or “braak” sound. Often gathers in loose flocks, and feeds on fish captured in open water, as well as small lakes and ponds. Its range includes the U.S., Mexico and Central and South America. Common in wetland areas, it nests on our barrier islands during spring. *Photograph courtesy of* www.naturespicsonline.com.



Tri-colored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) P, L, C

26 inches. Formerly known as the Louisiana Heron, it is medium-sized bird, with extremely long neck, dark blue and red-brown upperparts, white belly and foreneck, and long, slender bill. Voice: Soft, nasal moaning. Usually solitary, it catches fish in shallow salt water. Common inhabitant of salt marshes along the Gulf coast, it lives in

our park year round. Spotted most often during spring and fall months. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)
G, R

24 inches. Nocturnal heron, with buffy-colored cap, stout bill and black face with white cheeks. It is more slender than the black-crowned heron. Breeding adult has slate gray neck, breast and back, bold head pattern with black head and white cheeks. Voice: High, loud, squawking bark

“kawk” or “kaow” sound. Forages at night in shallow ponds, and marshes. Its range extends from the Mideastern U.S. to Mexico, Central and South America. Lives year-round in the park. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Marcus G. Martin.*

IBISES, SPOONBILLS AND STORKS



Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) L, P, U

32 inches. Related to the ibises, the adult has a pink body with red highlights, and a distinctive spoon-shaped bill.

Voice: low, ibis-like grunting “huh-huh-huh” sound. A large wader, it forages in shallow water swinging its bill from side to side, stirring the water to strain small foods. Its range

includes parts of southern Florida, the Gulf coast and Central and South America.

Although common to our area, especially north of Padre Island Seashore, it is not as common in the park. It can occasionally be spotted during spring time, nesting on the spoil islands. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chili*) G, P, U

23 inches. Adult has red iris, bronze toned neck and chest (during breeding season), long, gray, curved bill and reddish legs and feet. Plumage is golden rosy on back and wings. Face has distinctive white outline around outside of bill and eyes. Voice: Nasal, moaning “urm urmm urmm” notes. Breeds in fresh water marshes, and brackish areas, and probes mud with their long, down-curved curved bills for food. Roosts in trees with other wading birds. Its range includes much of the U.S. west of the Mississippi river, parts of the Gulf coast, Mexico and Central America. Lives year round in the park. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Clinton and Charles Robertson.*



White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) L, R

25 inches. White wading bird with black wing-tips and pink, long curved bill, legs and feet (red during breeding season). Voice: Harsh, nasal “urnk urnk urnk” notes. Common-to-abundant in coastal salt marshes and swamps. Forages in groups, walking slowly with head down, probing mud with their long bills. Its range includes Florida and the Gulf coast as well as parts of Mexico and Central America. Although it lives in the park year-round, it is rarely spotted. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Wood Stork (*Mycteria Americana*) P, C

40 inches. Huge, slow-moving wading bird, with heavy, long, curved bill, bald head, white body with black primary and secondary feathers on the wings. Voice: usually silent, except for nasal barking in nest displays. Slow-moving wader, that forages in shallow water. Can be found in meadows, swamps and coastal wetlands. The Wood Stork is the only stork that breeds in the United States. Its range includes Florida and the Gulf coast, parts of Mexico and Central and South America. A migratory bird, it is common to the park during the summer. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Rob Bennetts.*

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS



American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) L, P, C

62 inches. Very large, always white, with black primary and secondary flight feathers and yellow-orange bill with extensible pouch. Voice: Silent away from breeding grounds. At nest has a quiet, low, grunting call. Does not

dive for fish, but instead dips its head under water to scoop up fish. A migratory bird that winters along ocean shores, its range extends from parts of Canada through the western three quarters of the U.S., and into Mexico. It lives year round in our park, but usually travels inland to breed (except for limited breeding on spoil-bank islands in Laguna Madre). Long term decline stopped in the 1960s with the discontinued use of DDT, and its numbers have gradually returned. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Alan D. Wilson.*



Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) B, C

51 inches. Grayish-brown body, with white head and neck turning yellow during breeding season. Although smaller than the White Pelican, it is still a very large bird, more agile in flight, with the distinctive bill and pouch. Voice: Generally silent. Unique among pelicans, it is the only one to live only near the ocean, and not on inland lakes. It is also the only dark pelican, and the only one that plunges from the air into the water to catch its food. Listed as endangered in the 1970s, due mainly from poaching for feathers and

pesticide poisoning from DDT, the Brown Pelican was removed from that list in 1985. Its range includes the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coastline. Its breeding numbers are stable and increasing. Seen year-round in our park. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) E, C

33 inches. Large, dark-plumed Cormorant, with orange lower chin. Flies with slight neck kink. Voice: Deep, throaty grunts. . Found from fresh water ponds, to ocean waters and wetlands, it is the most common of the cormorants found in North America. Although its numbers dwindled during the use of DDT in the 1950s and 60s, it is now growing in numbers, and is sometimes blamed for declines in sport

fishing and the diminishing numbers in fish farms. Its range includes south-central Canada, most of the U.S. and Mexico. Commonly seen in the park during spring, fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*

GREBES



Eared grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) S, C

13 inches. Black, white and gray in winter, with white ear patch. Black with golden ear tufts during summer. Voice: High, rising, squeaky whistle, which is repeated. Most abundant grebe world wide, it breeds in shallow wetlands in western North America, and after doubling its weight for the trip south, winters in the southwestern states and Mexico. To

warm itself in winter it will often face away from the sun, and bend over to expose its rump to the light. Common to our park in the winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) P, C

13 inches. Tawny brown, with distinctive, stout, thick bill, and black chin and throat. Voice: Far-carrying, throaty “kuk-kuk-kuk-kaou-kaou-kaou” notes. Small, diving water bird common to lakes and ponds, it is more secretive than other grebes. Although it swims like a duck, it does not have webbed feet. It is rarely seen in flight; it eludes predators by

diving, and usually flies at night. Nests around marshes, and winters on fresh or salt water. Its range includes a large portion of North and Central America, and parts of northern South America. Common to the park during the spring fall and winter

Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mlf.

QUAIL



Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) G, C

9.75 inches. Reddish-brown, mottled quail, with a short gray tail. The male has a white throat and eye stripe, that extends to the back of the neck. Voice: loud, ringing “b-Bob-white” and also a clear “Hoy-poo.” Enjoys grasslands and open woodlands, and it feeds and roosts in groups. Has been extensively hunted in some areas, and its numbers

have declined dramatically in most states. It has a range that includes most of the eastern-most U.S., and the eastern coastal regions of Mexico and Central America. Common resident of the park in spring, summer and fall, and less common in the winter.

Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.

COOTS AND CRANES



American Coot (*Fulica Americana*) P, C

15.5 inches. Common, black water bird, with white bill with a black spot at the tip. It is commonly mistaken for a duck, but does not have webbed feet (has lobed toes). Voice: Variety of short “kuk-kuk-kuk” notes. Nests in fresh water marshes, wetlands and ponds in large flocks. Likes to dive for aquatic plants. Its range includes parts of southern

Canada, most of the U.S. and Mexico and Central America. Lives year-round in the park, but most commonly spotted during the spring and fall. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mark Klotz.*



Sandhill Crane (*Grus Canadensis*) G, L, C

46 inches (or greater). Large, gray body, with long neck and legs, red crown and reddish stains on wings. Voice: Loud, wooden rattle “hkkkkkk” or “hkarrrr”, or rolling bugle sound. Does not breed until 2-7 years old, it travels in huge flocks, and is one of the few species world wide that is still common.

Found in open fields or meadows, tundra and wetlands. Regularly feeds in dry fields, and returns to water at night. Its range extends from Alaska and northern Canada down through the U.S. and Mexico and Central America. Commonly spotted in the park during early spring, fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*

DUCKS AND GEESE



American Wigeon (*Anas Americana*) P, U

20 inches. Reddish-brown duck, with a black-tipped gray bill. The male has a white cap, and green patches, on the sides of its head.

Voice: it has a high, squeaky, whistle-like voice similar to a squeaky toy. Known as a dabbler, it surface feeds by tipping its tail

and body up, and then dips its bill and neck down into the water. Its numbers were diminished by nearly 50% during the 1980’s, due to drought conditions in prairie regions, but it has gradually made a recovery. Its range includes most of North America, Mexico and parts of Central and South America. A migratory bird, it is a frequent visitor to the park in spring and winter. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Luther Goldman.*



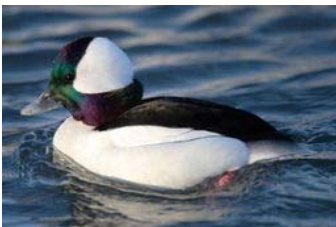
Black-bellied Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) P, R
21 inches. Reddish-brown chest and back, with distinctive black belly, gray face, red bill and long pink legs. In flight, displays a bold, white upper wing stripe. Voice: Wheezy, sharp whistle, with five or six syllables. Found in flocks grazing in fields and wetlands. It nests in trees. Considered a duck of the Neo-tropics, it has a range that includes parts of the southern-most Gulf Coast, Mexico and Central and South America. Although its numbers have been increasing of late, and it lives in the park year-round, it is still only rarely observed. More commonly sighted at the Birding Center in Port Aransas.

Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.



Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) P, C
15.5 inches. Small brown or gray duck, with large light-blue patches on front of wings, which are visible in flight. Adult breeding male has a white crescent on the side of its face. Voice: Course, high, evenly spaced quacks. Filters mud with their bills. Fairly common in marshes, and on ponds and lakes, its range includes most of North America, and extends

into Mexico and South America. It is uncommon on the west coast. It is one of the first migratory ducks to leave its northern homes in the fall, and last to head north in the spring. Commonly seen in our park during spring, fall and winter Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Alan D. Wilson.



Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) L, C
13.5 inches. Our smallest duck, the Bufflehead's name comes from its large head (which means buffalo-headed or ox-headed). It has a black and white body, with a distinctive white oval patch on the side of its head (breeding male), and a gray bill and tail. Voice: usually silent except during courtship, when it displays a guttural chattering. It nests in

holes excavated by Northern flickers, and winters in small flocks on lakes and bays. Its range includes most of North America. Common to our park in the Laguna Madre, during spring and winter. Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org.



Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) L, U

21 inches. Unique head shape, with flat forehead, and long, sloping black bill. The adult breeding male has a white body and wings, rusty red head, and black bill, chest and tail. The female has a pale gray-brown body with black bill, and light brown head. Voice: Low, rough growling “krrrr, krrrr” notes. Populations have fluctuated widely,

and decreased dramatically during the 1980’s. But numbers have greatly increased since the 1990’s. Its range includes parts of western Canada, most of the U.S. and Mexico. Common to the park during the winter. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Chan Robbins.*



Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) L, U

18.5 inches. Medium sized duck, with white and black coloring, and a dark green head (Male) during breeding season. It likes to use the nest boxes of other birds, and is very territorial. Its young may get separated from the mother, during fights she has with other females. They then can

become attached to another brood. One of the last migratory birds to leave the north in fall, its range covers most of Canada and the U.S. An uncommon winter resident of the park. . *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Alan Pingstone.*



Fulvous Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) P, R

19 inches. Rich, buffy-to-tawny color overall, with dark bill, legs and long, tawny neck. Voice: high-pitched whistle-like “kit-TEE” notes. Seed based diet attracts it to rice paddies. Pesticides applied to rice fields in Texas and Louisiana during the 1960s caused a decline in populations, which have since recovered. It has a limited range that includes the Gulf Coast and parts of Mexico and South America. A winter resident of our park. . *Photograph courtesy of*

www.naturespicsonline.com.



Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) P, C

20 inches. Medium sized, mallard-like duck, with pale gray body and paler gray head. Has black tail and pale chestnut on wings. Voice: raspy “reb” quacks. . Found in shallow ponds, lakes and marshes. Floats high on water, picking at its food. Its range includes most of the southern Provinces of Canada, much of North America, Mexico and Central America. Common, in limited numbers, to the park during spring and winter. .

Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Andrew Dunn.



Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) L, R

18 inches. Found primarily along the seacoast and large bodies of water, it is larger than the Lesser Scaup, with a more rounded head and longer, white wing-stripe. Voice: Rough, hoarse “karr, karr” phrase. The nest of the greater scaup has is lined with the down plucked from the mothers own breast. Difficult to distinguish from the Lesser Scaup, true number assessments are difficult to obtain. A rare spring and winter visitor. The photo is of a non-breeding adult male). *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) P, L, R

28 inches. Medium-sized goose, with gray brown body, orange legs and feet, and yellow-white bill. It does not have a white front. Voice: Quick, high-pitched distinctive yelping, or laughing. Found on marshes, wetlands and fields. Had a severe population decline in the 1970s and 80s, but is making a recovery. It has a range that includes the northern-most parts of Canada, Pacific Northwest and gulf coast. Rarely seen in the park during winter months. . *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Adrian Pingstone.*



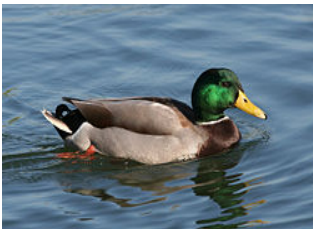
Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) P, C

14 inches. Male exhibits green and red on head, and green patches on tail, with vertical white stripe on shoulders. Both sexes have prominent, buffy streak on the undertail coverts. Female is a dull, brown color with green wing patch. Voice: High, shrill, nasal quack. Prefers shallow ponds and marshes, with lots of vegetation. Feeds mainly by dipping its bill at the surface of mud or water. Its range covers virtually all of North America, Mexico and Central America. Commonly spotted during winter, spring and fall seasons. . Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Alan D. Wilson.



Lesser Scaup (*Aytha affinis*) L, P, C

16.5 inches. Found only in North and Central America, the Lesser Scaup is a medium-sized diving duck, with a black head, neck and chest, a gray body and white wings. Its bill is gray with a black tip. Voice: Rough, grating “garf, garf” notes. Prefers fresh water ponds in winter, but also can be found near salt water marshes and estuaries. Has been known to “play dead” when grasped by a red fox. Its numbers have been declining drastically in recent years. Its range includes most of North and Central America. More common in the winter and spring, it nests in the western regions of North America, and has been spotted year round in the park. . Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.



Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) G,P,L,U

23 inches. Colorful dabbling duck, with metallic green head and neck (adult, breeding male), brown chest, narrow white collar, and yellow (male) bill. Females have tan-brown, mottled plumage, and both sexes have white tails. Voice: female gives a series of loud quacks. Males make a soft “rab” sound. Ancestor to almost all domestic duck breeds, the Mallard and its various related species populate the world. Widespread and abundant, the Mallard can occasionally be found in the park’s fresh water ponds and the wetlands, during winter months. Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Calibas.



Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*) P, C

22 inches. Dark brown dabbler, with lighter brown head and neck. Bold, white bars and blue green strip on wings. Has yellow bill with dark center. Voice: Familiar, loud, raspy quack. Found in any wet habitat, the loss of wetlands has decreased its numbers. Lives year-round in the park and is the only duck known to breed in southern marshes. Range

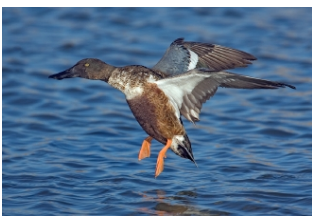
includes Florida and the Gulf coast. Very common to our park year-round. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Aerobird.*



Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) P, L, C

21 inches. Male has chocolate-brown head, white neck, dark gray bill, brown body, distinctive sleek narrow wings, and long pointed tail. Female is much duller, and mostly brown. Voice: The female makes quacks, and the male makes wheezy mew notes. Its range covers virtually all of North America, Mexico

and Central America and the northern-most parts of South America. . Found in shallow ponds and marshes, it is abundant in the west and flies in line formation. Winters in our park, where it is frequently spotted. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS.*



Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) P, C

19 inches. Medium-sized colorful duck, with long bill that is wider at the tip, than at the base. Male is distinguished by green head, white breast and brown sides. Female is duller colored with patterned grey, brown and black appearance. Voice: the female gives a series of hoarse quack and the male, a bray

sound. Found in marshy ponds and shallow wetlands. The bill is about 2.5 inches long, and has over 100 small projections that are used to strain food. Populations appear to be relatively stable. It's range covers most of North America, Mexico and Central America and parts of South America. It is frequently sighted in our park during spring and winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) L, C

23 inches. One of the fastest flying ducks; it is large with, a gray body and wings, orange-brown head and neck, with a wispy crest during non-breeding season. The breeding male has a distinctive red breast and iridescent dark-green head, with white patches on wings. Voice: The female makes a harsh “gruk” sound, and the male a cat-like “yeow-yeow” notes. Considered a “sawbill”, it is long-billed, and rides low in the water. It enjoys salt water more than other ducks. Diving for food, its diet consists mainly of aquatic plants, insects and crustaceans. Its range includes most of North America. Common to our park during winter and early spring. .

Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com., Alan D. Wilson.



Redhead (*Aythya Americana*) L, C

19 inches. Distinctive red head, with gray body and wings, and black chest and tail. Bill is pale blue, with black tip. Voice: the male has a soft, low nasal “meow” call during courtship. A diving duck of freshwater marshes, in summer it gathers in large numbers on marine bays, and in estuaries during winter. Its range includes parts of Alaska, most of Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Common to our park in winter months (especially Laguna Madre). Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.



Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) L, C

15 inches. A small duck with a large head, and long, stiff tail. The non-breeding adult bird has a distinctive gray bill, brown-gray upperparts and wings. Adult males have gray-black heads with white cheeks and cinnamon bodies and wings, and bright blue bills during breeding season. Voice: females give a short hissing noise, and males give a long series of “kirri, kirroo, kirri, kirroo” notes. Can be found on open bays and ponds. Its range includes the northwest parts of Canada and the U.S., Baja and Mexico, and also parts of the Atlantic coastline. In our park, it is most often seen during winter and spring. . Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org., and USGS.



Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) P, L, C

31 inches or greater. A medium-sized goose that is white all over, except for black primaries. It has a black patch on bill edges, or “grinning” patch, and black wing tips. Voice: Harsh, loud, descending “whouk” call. Nests in colonies in the Arctic tundra, and winters on marshes and wetlands. Both white morph and dark morph (blue goose) are commonly

seen in our park during the winter months. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Arpingstone.*

DOVES



Common Ground Dove (*Columbina passerine*) G, R

6.5 inches. Small grayish-brown dove, with a short neck, and short dark tail with white corners. Its small bill is pinkish at the base, and black at the tip. Voice: Has a “woah” or “woop” sound. This smallest of the doves, it is common to the southern states, and tropics. It feeds and nests on the ground. Only rarely seen in our park, it is

listed as “endangered” in New Mexico and as a “species of special concern” in Alabama. . *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) G, C

9-13 inches. Abundant dove, with gray brown body and small head.

Voice: Distinctive “ooo-ooo-ooo” notes. Widespread throughout North and Central America, it is hunted throughout its range.

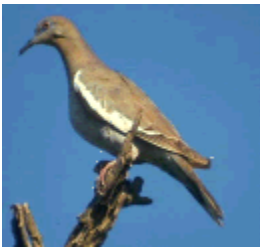
Mourning Doves are monogamous, and may pair for life according to some researchers. Feeds on sunflower seeds, milo and corn.

Commonly seen here all year round. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) G, R

12.5 inches. Blue-gray overall, with iridescent feathers on head and neck. Often referred to as a carrier pigeon, or homing pigeon, it is said to have been used by Julius Caesar to carry news of his battles in Gaul back to Rome. Voice: has a “coo-a-roo” or “cock-a-war” phrase. Able to fly 85 miles per hour. Eats grasses, seeds grains, clovers and bread crumbs. Will take food from the hand. Common in urban settings, it is only spotted rarely in our park during the spring, summer and fall months. . Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, J.M. Garg.



White-wing dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) G, R

11.5 inches. Gray-brown body and wings, with a distinctive white stripe that is very visible in flight. It appears as a stripe when perched. The skin around the eyes is bright blue. Voice: Has a drawn-out “whoo-hoo, whoo-hoo” sound. Likes to nest singly, or in large colonies in mesquite trees, citrus groves, and in saguaro/palo verde deserts of the southwest. Although its numbers decreased in the early 1900s, its populations have rebounded. Mostly tropical, its range includes the south and south-central U.S. and parts of Mexico and Central America. Lives year round in the park, but only spotted on rare instances. Photograph courtesy of USGS.

CUCKOOS AND ANI



Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) G, R

12 inches. Grayish-brown above, light gray below. Its bill is all black. Voice: anywhere from three to five fast (cu-cu-cu-cu) notes, followed by a pause, and then repeated. More often heard than seen, it is very secretive. Found in woodlands, and along streams, it forages on caterpillars, especially spiny caterpillars. The spines eventually accumulate in the stomach lining which is periodically shed to remove them. Its range includes the eastern half of the U.S., and most of Mexico, Central America and some of northern South America. Lives in the park during spring and fall, but is spotted only rarely. .

Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Wolfgang Wander.



Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) G, R
13.5 inches. Black all over, with purple and green overtones. It has an unusual black, curved bill and very long tail, which it dips and wags. Voice: Liquid “tee-ho” with the accent on the “tee.” It is a tropical bird, that ventures into grasslands and prairies. Traveling in small flocks, it lays its eggs in communal nests. Its range includes parts of central and southern Texas, Mexico and Central and South America. Its numbers have decreased in Texas in recent years, although populations generally are stable. Although it lives year-round in our parks, it is sighted only rarely. *Photograph courtesy of*

www.wikipedia.org, Patrick Coin.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) G, U
12 inches. Grayish-brown above, with white underparts, and a boldly-marked black and white tail. Its upper mandible is black, and the lower is yellow. Voice: Has a hollow wooden “ka-ka-ka-kow-kwop-kwop-kwop” sound. Likes open woods, orchards and stream-side willow groves. Once numerous, it is considered endangered in California. Its range includes the eastern half of the U.S., and extends down through Mexico, Central and South

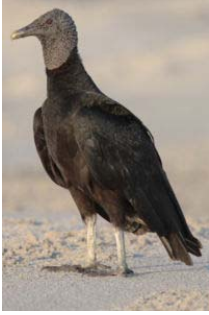
America. Unusually, or rarely sighted during spring, summer and fall within our park. . *Photograph courtesy of* www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.

VULTURES, HAWKS AND FALCONS



American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) G, C
9 inches. Smallest, and most common of our falcons, it is perhaps also our most colorful. Displays a russet back and tail, two black stripes on the face, and striking, dark blue-gray wings (male). Voice: shrill “klee-klee-klee” notes. Found from Alaska to the tip of South America. It likes open country, and its numbers have therefore increased greatly due to deforestation. Feeds on small mammals, insects and reptiles. It hovers before diving for prey. Common to our park in spring, summer and winter. *Photograph courtesy of*

www.wikipedia.org, David Menke.



Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) E, R

25 inches. Large, black and slightly smaller than a Turkey Vulture, it has broad wings, with a large white patch at the tip. While flying, its legs can extend to the tip of the tail, and sometimes beyond. Voice: usually silent, or makes soft hiss sounds. One on one, the Black can dominate the larger Turkey Vulture, but it rarely travels alone. Flight includes rapid flapping, and short glides with wings flat. Less able to spot prey, it will sometimes claim that of the Turkey Vultures. Its range includes the southeastern U.S., Mexico and Central and South America.

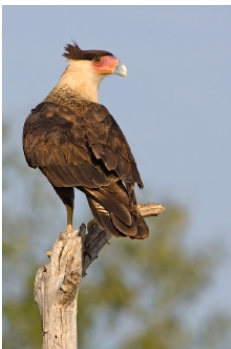
Common elsewhere, it is only rarely sighted in our park. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.*



Coopers Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) G, R

14-20 inches. Medium-sized hawk, with gray-brown body and wings, and barred, reddish-white underparts. Tail is long, rounded and barred. Voice: Sharp “cak-cak-cak” phrase, when alarmed. Preying on songbirds, and some mammals, it sometimes forages by thrashing through vegetation. It inhabits woodlands and streamside groves. Captures and squeezes its prey with its feet, holding it away from its body until it dies. Large flocks tend to migrate, and can be seen at hawk watches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Nevada and New York. Its range includes most of the U.S. and Mexico, and parts of

Central America. Spotted on rare occasions in the park during the winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Crested Caracara (*Caracara plancus*) G, R

23 inches. Black-brown overall, with a large head, long neck and long legs. It is a tropical falcon, with a distinctive red-orange face. In flight it shows whitish patches toward the tips of the wings. Voice: Mostly silent, it makes a hallow sound when alarmed. It feeds chiefly on carrion, but also hunts insects, and small mammals. Rare in Louisiana and Arizona, it is fairly common in Texas, and can be spotted all year round in our park. Its range extends down through Mexico, Central and South America. It is considered “threatened” in Florida.

Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.



Harris' Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) G, R

21 inches. Chocolate-chestnut brown, with barred feathers in flight, it has a white rump and undertail. Voice: long, harsh “irrr” notes. Working in pairs or trios, it surrounds its prey, flushing it out for the others to capture. Although still common in the desert southwest, and other semi-arid woodlands and brushlands, its numbers are declining. Its range extends from the south central and south west, to Mexico, parts of Central America, and northern parts of South America. Lives year round in Southeastern and Southwestern Texas, but is rarely seen in our park. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



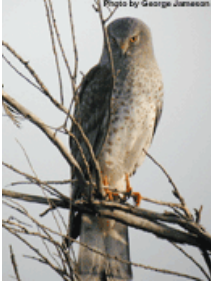
Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) G, R

10 inches. Adult male is blue-gray above, with brown streaking on chest and belly. The female is usually dark brown. The backs of both are usually unmarked. Voice: high “kee-kee-kee) notes. Nests in open woods and prairies, it is found in a variety of habitats. A small hawk, the Merlin does not build a nest, but invades the nest of other raptors and crows. Its breeding range covers most of Canada, Alaska and the North Central U.S. Its range appears to be expanding, and it may be increasing in numbers. This range includes most of Northern U.S., Mexico and Central America, and some northern portions of South America. May be spotted on rare occasions in our park, during spring, fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS, Ronald Laubenstein.*



Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) E, R

14.5 inches. Gray bird of prey, with darker gray-brown wings, pearly gray head with black eye-ring, and short hooked bill. Voice: high thin “phee-phew” notes. Likes woodlands, rangelands and swamps. It captures its prey, mainly insects, on the wing. Considered endangered in certain areas, its breeding range includes the south Atlantic and Gulf coast states and portions of the South-Central States. It winters in Central and South America. A rare spring and winter visitor to the park. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS.*



Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) G, C

16-20 inches. One of the few raptors where the sexes look quite different. The male is grayish above, and mostly white below, with chestnut spotting and black wing tips. The female is brown above, and whitish below, with brown streaks on the breast and flanks. Flies low, with wings forming a slight “V”. Voice: Call consists of a series of “kek or ke” notes. Searches for birds, mice, and frogs while flying low to the ground. Seldom flies high, except during migration. Fairly

common in wetlands, as well as open fields and grasslands. Populations are fairly stable after declining for some years. Its breeding range includes all of Canada, Alaska and the Northern U.S. It winters in the Southern U.S., Mexico and parts of Central and South America. Common to our park, and can be seen during spring, fall and winter. .

Photograph courtesy of USGS, George Jamison.



Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) E, U

23 inches. One of the larger birds of prey in North America, the Osprey is dark brown with a white head, underparts, and a prominent dark eye stripe. Voice: short, chirping whistle-like notes. Nests near fresh or salt water, it feeds almost entirely on fish, using its long claws and spiny pads to secure its prey.

Likes to hover over the water, and then dive feet first to snatch fish. Builds bulky nests in trees, and also on poles, docks and platforms. Numbers drastically declined during the 1950’s-70s, due to pesticides. Although numbers have increased since DDT was banned, the Osprey is still considered endangered or threatened in some states. Its range includes parts of all continents except Antarctica. Not commonly sighted in our park, it resides in the area during spring, fall and winter. .

Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) G, U

16-20 inches. Medium-large size, with black/dark gray cap, wings and body, and buff-brown underparts, with horizontal streaking (adults). Voice: loud, harsh “kee-kee-kee” notes when alarmed. A fast flying falcon, that hunts medium- sized birds by spotting them from a high perch. It gains an altitude advantage on its prey, and then

dramatically swoops down to snatch them. The name “Peregrine” means wanderer, and it has one of the longest migrations of any North American bird. Inhabiting wetlands and cliff areas, it feeds mostly on birds. It almost disappeared during the 50s and 60s, due to DDT and other pesticides; it recovered enough to be removed from the endangered list in 1999. Its range includes parts of northern Canada and Alaska, the western and eastern coastline states and Mexico, Central and parts of South America. Uncommon in the spring fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS.*



Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) G, R

17 inches. Medium to large hawk, with relatively long legs and tail. The adult has reddish shoulders, and wing linings, and reddish, barred chest and underparts. Voice: Unevenly spaced series of clear, high pitched “kee-ah or kah” notes, with the second note descending. Found in moist woodlands, and often seen near

water, its populations appear to be decreasing due to loss of woodland habitat. Its range includes the eastern half of the U.S. and parts of Mexico. Occasionally observed in the grasslands of our park, during spring and fall. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Ryan Wood.*



Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) G, R

19 inches. Large red-tailed hawk with long, broad wings, pale chest and a dark band across the belly. As per its name, it has a bright orange-red tail. Western populations vary from dark to light morph. Voice: raspy, screaming “kree-eee-ar” notes. The most common, and widespread hawk in North America, the Red-tailed Hawk likes open land, and will sit on telephone poles, and look for rodents in the grass below. Its range includes most of North and Central America. Is uncommon to rare in our park, it can seldom be observed spring, fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) E, C

26 inches. Large carrion-feeding bird with hooked bill, black body and wings and bare-skinned red face. Voice: usually silent. Makes a hiss sound when spotting prey. Soars gracefully in search of carrion, rarely flapping its wings. Maintains stability in flight by holding its wings in a V shape. Unlike the black

vulture, it usually forages alone. Its range includes the entire U.S., Mexico and extends down through Central and South America. Fairly common to our park, its populations are increasing nationally. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS.*



White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*) G, C

20 inches. Medium to large stocky hawk, with gray head and back, white underside and red patch on the shoulders. Wings are fairly long and pointed, and extend well beyond the rounded tail. Voice: High, laughing “ke-he, ke-he, ke-he” notes. Found from Texas to Argentina, and on several Caribbean islands. Commonly observed in the grasslands during the winter months in our park, its populations appear to be stable. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Paul Conover.*



White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) E, R

15 inches. Also known as the White-tailed Kite, this medium-sized kite has long pointed wings, a long tail and white underparts. It has a distinguishing black patch on the wings. Voice: whistled “yelp” notes. Hovers over prey and, unlike other American kites, eats mainly rodents and insects. Although its populations vary, it is fairly common in farmlands and grasslands. Its range includes parts of the Pacific and Gulf coasts, Mexico and Central and South America. Winters in the park, but is rarely sighted. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Brett Donald.*

OWLS, NIGHTHAWKS AND NIGHTJARS



Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) G, L, C

16 inches. Large, predatory bird with white, heart-shaped face and underparts, and rusty-brown back, wings and tail. The female is showier, with more spotting on the breast than the male. Voice: raspy, drawn-out hissing screech. Nests in the dark places of city and farm buildings. The Barn Owl has excellent night vision and acute hearing. It can easily find prey at night. Its range includes the lower two-thirds of the U.S., as well as all of Mexico, Central and northern South America. Found year-round in our park in places where there are trees, buildings and shrubbery. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Stevie-B.*



Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) G, R

9.5 inches. Small owl with long legs and brown, white-barred body, head and wings. It has no ear tufts. The female is larger than the male. Voice: two-note “coo-coo.” As indicated by its name, it nests in holes in the ground. It is capable of digging its own burrow, but usually uses those of ground mammals, such as ground hogs. It has been seen foraging during both day and night, unlike most other owls. Its numbers have decreased dramatically in many areas, and it is considered threatened or endangered in many states. Its range covers much of the western U.S., Mexico, Central and South America. It is a

rarely spotted, winter visitor to the park. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Chuck-will's Widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) G, U

12 inches. A Large Nightjar with a large head, small bill and rounded wing-tips and tail. Its gray-brown coloring makes it difficult to spot, as it blends in with its surroundings. . Voice: loud, repeated whistle that sounds like its name “CHUCK-will-WIDO.” Likes to fly low, in search of flying insects. Range includes the southeastern U.S., parts of the Gulf Coast, and

Central and South America. Very shy, and uncommon in our park, it lives in the grasslands during the spring and fall months. *Photograph courtesy of USGS.*



Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) G, C

9.5 inches. Medium-sized bird with gray brown coloring, a large head, small black bill. The white bars on its wings are best seen in flight. Voice: A nasal “peent” sound. The male gives a nasal buzz sound. Resides in woodlands, suburbs and towns. Known in some areas as a “bullbat”, it forages for insects at dusk and dawn. Habitat includes a wide range of North America, although its numbers have been declining in the east. Can occasional be spotted in the park during summer months, nesting near the seashore. *Photograph courtesy of*

www.wikipedia.org., Bob Hines.



Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) G, R

22 inches. Large, basically nocturnal bird of prey, with long ear-tuffs, brown with gold barring and white throat. Voice: deep, throaty “hoo-h’HOO-hoo-hoo” notes. Chiefly nocturnal. Habitat includes forest to cities. It is the only species to eat skunk. It has a very stable population, and large range that extends from Alaska and northern Canada to South America. An all-year-round occupant of the park. *Photograph courtesy*

of USGS, George Jameson.



Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) G, C

8.5 inches. Resembles Common Nighthawk, but wings are shorter and more rounded. Voice: a rapid, tremulous trill, heard only on breeding grounds. A night hunter, its wide mouth helps it snare flying insects. Can be found in dry scrubland, and open plains and deserts. Fairly common in the southwest, its range includes the

southwestern U.S. Mexico and Central America. It is common to our park during the summer. *Photograph courtesy of US Department of Interior.*

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS AND KINGFISHERS



Chimney swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) E, U

5.25 inches. Cigar-shaped, gray-brown swift, with short stubby tail. Voice: single, high, hard “chips” that run together. Does not perch like most birds, but uses its long claws to cling to chimney walls, and other vertical surfaces. One of the most aerial birds, it flies almost constantly. Bathes in flight, swooping down to the water, wetting its wings, and then shaking the water from its wings as it flies away. No records in the U.S. The swift benefited greatly

from the building of cities, which provided structures for it to nest and perch. Its range includes the eastern half of the U.S., parts of coastal Mexico, Central and South America. Resides in the park during the summer. *Photograph courtesy www.wikipedia.org, Bob Hines.*



Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) P, S, U

13 inches. The only Kingfisher in most of North America, it is a medium-sized bird, with a large head and shaggy crest. Both male and female have blue breast-band, white belly and undertail. One of the few birds where the female is more brightly colored than the male. The adult female displays a red chest-band and flanks. Voice: Long, harsh rattle, and also a higher, shorter, more musical “tirrrr” phrases. Common and conspicuous around rivers, ponds and estuaries. Its range includes most of North and Central America and spotted parts of northern South America. Resides in the park during spring, fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Louis Agassiz Fuertes.*



Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) G, C

3.75 inches. Tiny hummingbird, with a short neck, iridescent, metallic-green back and dull white chest. Male has a black chin, with purple trim, and female has a longer bill than the male. Voice: Light dry “tink” notes. Common in lowlands, low mountains, it is found in the southwest, from deserts to gulf shores. In cold weather, it can ingest 3 times its weight in nectar. Easy to spot as it hovers over plants and flowers. Common to the grasslands in our park during spring and fall, and less common in the summer. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org. Mdf.*



Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) G, R

4 inches. Rather long bodied hummingbird, with bright green upperparts, long thin bill and a long, sturdy tail. The male has a red throat, while the females’ throat is white. Voice: sharp, high “chips” and “chitters.” Wings of the male produce a buzzing trill sound in flight. Has the ability to survive cold temperatures by lowering its body temperature and heart rate. Its range includes parts of the desert southwest and portions of the Gulf coast states. Although rarely spotted in our park, it lives in the grasslands during spring and fall. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Marcus Martin.*



Buff-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazillia yucatanensis*) G, R
4.25 inches. Dark green hummingbird, with buff-colored belly and long, thin pinkish bill with black tip. One of the least studied of the hummingbirds; it breeds at or near the Gulf coast. Voice: very high, sharp “smack” call. Although fairly common to the lower Rio Grande valley, land development has

greatly reduced its numbers. It is a rare visitor to our park, and is only spotted in the grasslands during winter. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Chan Robbins.*



Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) G, C
3.75 inches. Metallic green above, the male has a brilliant red throat, and black chin. The female’s throat is whitish, with buffy-white wash on the sides. The only hummingbird that breeds regularly over the eastern United States. Voice: Soft, husky notes, similar to the Black-chinned Hummingbird. Can beat its wings over 50 times a second. Flies non-stop over the Gulf of Mexico to

winter in Central America. In addition to the eastern half of the U.S., its range includes southern parts of Canada as well as most of Mexico and Central America. It is common to our park during spring and fall, and less common during summer. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS.*

WOODPECKERS



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) G, R
8.5 inches. Medium-sized woodpecker, with blackish back, white rump and large, white wing patch. It has yellow breast and underparts. Voice: nasal squealing or mewing “neeah.” These woodpeckers are known for drilling a horizontal line of small holes in trees, and then visiting the holes for sap and insects. It is known as a “keystone” bird, since its existence is necessary to other species. The only woodpecker that is truly migratory, its range extends from northwestern Canada to the southernmost part of Central America. Fairly common in dry, piney forests of the western mountains, it is rarely observed in the grasslands of our park during spring, fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of*

www.wikipedia.org, *Patrick Coin.*

PERCHING BIRDS



Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) G, U
5.75 inches. Olive above, with yellow eye-ring, two buffy-white wing bars, and distinct peak on rear crown. Voice: Explosive, loud, high, rising “spit a KEET” sound. Found in woodland habitats, near water, or high in trees

within forests. Known as an excellent flyer, it can hover and even fly backward. It bathes by diving into water, and then returning to the perch. Its range includes most of the eastern half of the U.S. Populations nation-wide appear to be stable. Resides in our park during spring summer and fall. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Brad Bergstro.*



American Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*) G,L,C
5 inches. Bright yellow percher, with black cap and wings (male). Female is duller with olive head and back, and buff-to-white underparts. Voice: series of twittering “tsee-tsi-tsi-tsit” notes. Does not nest until late June or early July, when most other songbirds have finished breeding. Widespread and abundant, its range includes the entire U.S. and most of Mexico. It winters in our park. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org. Mdf.*



American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) G,L,C
6.5 Inches. Medium-sized songbird, with brown head, back and wings, and buff underparts. The outer tail feathers are white. In winter, the American Pipit becomes browner above and more streaked below. Voice: series of rapid “chee” or “cheedle” or “pip-it” notes. Can be distinguished from the sparrow by its thinner bill, and bobbing tail. Its range includes northern Canada and Alaska during summer months, and the southern U.S. and Mexico, during the fall and winter.

Widespread and abundant, its numbers may be declining. Winters in the grasslands of our park. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Wolfgang Wander.*



American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) G, U

5.25 inches. Colorful warbler, with the male exhibiting glossy black plumage with orange wing and tail bars. The female is gray-black, with white underparts, and pale yellow wing and tail bars. Voice: series of high, thin “tsee-tsee-tsee-tsway” notes. Likes to flap its wings to stir up insects. Common in second-growth woodlands, its range includes much of the south of Canada and

eastern U.S. with winter migration to Mexico, Central and South America. Though its numbers are stable, it is an uncommon visitor to the park in spring and fall. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org.*



Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) G, R

7.75 inches. Medium to large flycatcher, with grayish-brown above. Throat, breast, and underparts are pale gray. It has a short, bushy crest and long rusty tail. Voice: series of repeated phrases “kibrr, kibrr, kibrr.” Nesting in holes in trees, poles and nest boxes, it uses a variety of material (including manmade) for its nests. Its range includes the southwestern U.S., Baja and most of Mexico. More

common in the west and southwest, it is rarely seen during spring and fall in our park. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Paul Conover.*



Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) G, L, U

8.25 inches. Brilliantly colored bird, with black head, wings and tail, and orange underparts. Voice: series of rich “hew-li” notes and rattles. Males do not have their adult plumage until their second year, but some one-year-old males do succeed in mating and nesting. Range covers the eastern U.S. Although abundant, its numbers may be decreasing. A rare vagrant to the West. A

migratory bird that winters here and further south into Mexico. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Chan Robbins.*



Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) E, U

4.75 inches. Our smallest swallow, the Bank Swallow is white underneath and brown on top. It has a distinctive brownish-gray band across the chest, extending in a line down the middle. Voice: repetitive “wit wit dreee drr drr” call. Likes to nest in large colonies, in steep riverbank cliffs, gravel pits, and highway cuts. Although its range covers a wide area that includes the northern three-quarters of the U.S. and most of Canada and Alaska, its numbers may be declining in some areas. Best chances to spot are spring and fall, although it is uncommon to our park. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Peter Osenton.*



Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) E, C

6.75 inches. Recognized by its long, deeply forked tail, the Barn Swallow has reddish-brown throat, iridescent blue wings and tail, and buffy to cinnamon underparts. Voice: squeaky notes, with often a dry character in the middle. Generally nests inside barns and other farm buildings, under bridges, and inside culverts, in pairs or small colonies. Most abundant and widespread of the swallows, it breeds throughout North America, and winters in much of the southern hemisphere. A common visitor to our park during the spring and fall migrations. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Malene Thyssen.*



Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) G, U

5.5 inches. A large warbler with black face, chestnut crown and two white wingbars. Its underparts are buffy colored, except for the breeding males ruddy color. Voice: high pitches series of “seetzy-seetzy-seetzy” notes. Common to coniferous forests of the Northeastern U.S. and Canada, it migrates in winter to Central and South America. Very rare in the West. Its numbers have steadily decreased over the years, mostly due to the spraying of spruce budworms. In fact the population increases and decreases are in direct correlation to the spraying of budworms. Occasionally seen in the park during spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.*



Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) G, R

4.75 inches. This is a small insect eater, with drab, grayish plumage and pale yellow underparts. Voice: Husky, chatty “cheedle, cheedle, cheedle, chee” notes. Enjoys moist woodland habitats, and wet bottomlands. Its range covers central and southwestern U.S. and Northern Mexico. The California Bell’s Vireo is considered endangered, and all

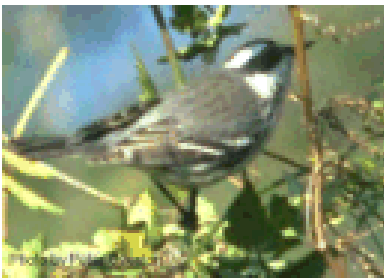
populations have declined in numbers. A rare summer visitor to the park. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Greg Lasley.*



Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) G, U

5.25 inches. Distinctive black and white plumage, with striped crown. Voice: Series of long, high pitched, thin “wee-see-we-see-wee-see” notes. It is the only warbler that creeps along the branches and trunks of trees, foraging for insects. Unusually aggressive for a warbler, it will attack and fight other species. Common in mixed woodlands, it

ranges from Canada, the eastern two-thirds of the U.S. to Central and South America. Common to the park during spring and fall migration. And it observed on rare occasions in the winter. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, C.S. Robbins.*



Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigresce*)

G,R

5 inches. Small songbird, with gray plumage and white and black stripes over the head and neck. White with black-streaked underparts. Voice: a series of buzz notes with the “z” sound prominate (zeedle, zeedle, zeedle).

Likes woodlands and grasslands, usually west of the Rocky Mountains. Its short migratory range includes the

western U.S. to northern Mexico. Very rarely seen in our park during winter.

Photograph courtesy of USGS, Peter Osenton.



Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) G, U

5 inches. Pretty songbird, with yellow-olive head and back, and white belly. The male has a distinctive black throat, while the female's throat is white. Voice: musical "zee-zee-zee-zoo-zee" notes. It sings constantly during mating season. A breeder in the coniferous northeastern forests of the U.S., its range extends from the Western and Eastern provinces of Canada, through the eastern states, to Central America. Common to our park during the spring and fall migrations. *Photograph courtesy of National Park Service.*



Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) G,L,U

5 inches. The breeding male has a brilliant orange head, with large, black eye-ring, black head-streak, wings and tail. It has black-streaked pale yellow underparts. The female's coloring is less bold, with brown-streaked yellow head and face, and buff underparts. Voice: high-pitched "zip, zip, zip, zip, tit,titi, tsee" notes. Only North American warbler with an orange throat. Summers in southeastern Canada and northeastern U.S., and migrates through our park in the fall and winter, on its way to South America. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.*



Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica straita*) G, U

5.5 inches. Breeding male has a black cap, white eye patch and cheeks, black and white plumage and white underparts. Females have a light brown-to-faint yellow head and throat, with black wings and white wing bars. Voice: series of high "tsit-tsit-tsit" notes. Its call is one of the highest pitched of all birds. Nests in coniferous forests of Canada, Alaska and Eastern U.S., and migrates to South America. Much of its migration is over the Atlantic Ocean, and so requires non-stop flight of up to 80 hours. Uncommon visitor to the park during the spring and fall migrations. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, J.A. Spindelov.*



Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) G, C

6.75 inches. Pretty songbird, with deep blue body (male) and chestnut-colored wingbars. The female is brown-to-buffy, with black wing-bars and tail. Voice: series of rich, continuous notes, similar to the Indigo Bunting. Commonly raising two broods per year, its numbers have been stable to increasing. Its range includes the southern half of the U.S., Mexico and

Central America. Nests in our park during the summer months. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Louis Agassiz Fuertes.*



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*polioptila caerulea*) G, R

4.25 inches. Tiny, long-tailed active songbird, with bluish-gray back, white chest and underparts, and white eye-ring. Voice: Thin, wheezy notes, in a steady series. Will swing its tail from side-to-side, to scare up hiding insects. The northern most species of gnatcatcher, and the only migratory one, it likes woodland and scrub areas. It has a range that includes most of

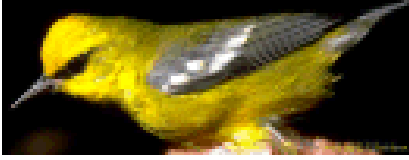
the eastern half of the U.S., the southwestern U.S., and all of Mexico and South America. Although its population is stable it is a rare winter resident of our park. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mark Trabue.*



Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) G, R

5 inches. Formerly known as the Solitary Vireo, the Blue-headed Vireo has a solid blue-gray hood and distinctive white spectacles. It has yellow flanks, olive back, white belly and two white wing-bars. Voice: High, clear, sweet phrases with slurry notes. Common to mixed woodlands, its range covers a good portion of the eastern seaboard and the lower provinces of Canada. It winters along the Atlantic and Gulf coast. It is rarely observed in the park. *Photograph courtesy of*

www.wikipedia.org.



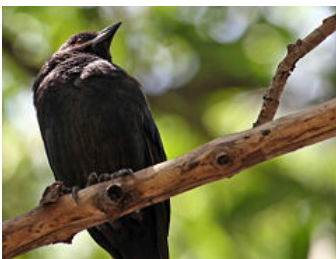
Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) G, U
4.75 inches. Brightly colored songbird, with yellow crown, neck and underparts, black eye-line and blue-gray wings, with two white wing-bars. Voice: Rather harsh, buzzy “beeee-BZZZZZ” notes. Inhabits brushy

meadows, woodlands and grasslands. The Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers often hybridize where ranges overlap. Summer habitat includes most of the eastern U.S. and the Southeastern U.S. and Gulf coast states. Migrates to South America in the winter. Uncommon spring and fall park visitor. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, C.S. Robbins.*



Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) G, R
7 inches. Medium-sized blackbird with yellow crown, white back and wing stripes, and black face, neck and underparts (during breeding season). The non-breeding summer, and fall Bobolink has gray-yellow striped back and wings, and yellow chest and underparts. It is the only American bird that has black underparts and white above.

Voice: distinctive, rolling “bob-o-link” song. Likes to nest in fields and grasslands. It has a breeding range that extends from southern Canada through the northern half of the U.S., In winter it migrates south into South America. Migrations have known to span over 12,000 miles. Rare bird whose numbers are decreasing. Seen only rarely during the spring and fall in our park. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS., S. Maslowski.*



Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) G, R
8.75 inches. Large blue-black bird with red eyes. Male is black and takes on a dark-bronze hue during breeding season. Voice: harsh “chuck” notes. Found in open country, fields and grasslands. The female never makes a nest, but instead uses the nests of other birds. Range includes the southern parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and south into Mexico.

Rarely spotted in our park in spring fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Pablo Leautaud.*



Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) G, U

7.5 inches. Medium sized blackbird, with a brown head (male) metallic dark-green body and black wings. The female has a medium gray head and back, and lighter gray underparts. Voice: combination of squeaky gurgles, and whistles. Common in farmland and woodlands, it lays its eggs in other birds' nests. Its range includes all of the U.S.,

most of Canada and extends through Mexico and Central America. It is a common visitor to our park during spring and fall migration, and uncommon in the winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com.*



Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) G,L,U

8.25 inches. Pretty songbird, with orange head, neck and underparts. Head with black cap and eye-streak (male). It has black wings, with large white wingbars. Voice: series of rich, whistled notes and rattles. Common to woodlands and tree-lined rivers and streams. Hybridizes with the Baltimore Oriole. This has occurred so much so, that they were once considered the same species. Its summer range includes the western U.S. and Canada. In winter the bird is found in Mexico and Central America. Can generally be found in the grasslands of our park, during the spring and summer months. *Photograph courtesy of*

USFWS, Gary Kramer.



Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia Canadensis*) G, U

5.25 inches. Small, colorful warbler, with black necklace on its bright, yellow breast. It has yellow throat chest and underparts, and dark gray back and wings. Voice: short, sharp "chip" notes, followed by warbling notes. Range includes most of the Northeastern half of the U.S. and much of Canada, with migrations through the Gulf coast states, Central and South America. It is one of the first birds to migrate south in the fall, and the last to reach its summer grounds in the north. Visits the park in the spring and fall during migration.

Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Louis Agassiz Fuertes.



Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) G, R

5 inches. Small, colorful songbird, with olive-brown back and wings, yellow head, and yellow chest with thin black stripes. The breeding male has a large ruddy eye patch. The female is less colorful, with drabber gray coloring. Voice: thin, repetitive “chip” notes. Forages for nectar and its preferred food-- bud worms. The decline in

forested lands, and use of insecticides has resulted in a decrease in budworms, and therefore a drop in the numbers of this warbler. Range extends from southern Canada to Central America. Rarely observed in the spring and fall in the park.

Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, USFWS, S. Maslowski.



Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) G, R

7.25 inches. Smooth, sleek, medium-sized songbird, with gray-brown body, black mask edged in white, yellow tail tip and gray head crest. Its name “waxwing” comes from waxy-red patches sometimes found on the tips of the wings. Voice: a series of high “sreee” notes in irregular rhythm. Found in open habitats where berries are plentiful, it’s one of the few temperate birds that specializes in eating fruit.

Populations appear to be increasing throughout its range, which extends from northern Canada to northern South America. However, it is a rare winter visitor to our park. *Photograph courtesy of*

www.wikipedia.org.



Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulean*) G, U

4.75 inches. Small warbler, with colorful sky-blue and white breeding male, and blue-green and buffy colored female. Voice: short, high pitched buzzy notes ending with “zee-zee-zee.” Likes the treetops of deciduous forests in the north, and swampy bottomlands near water, in the south. It has unusual nesting habits, in that the female will sometimes use spider webs for its nest. She also has been observed “bungee jumping” as she drops

from the side, to leave the nest. A species of high concern, its breeding range includes the eastern states, and migrates to Central and South America in the winter. It is under consideration for the Endangered Species list. Occasionally seen in the park in spring and fall. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.*



Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) G, U
5 inches. Distinctive appearance, with greenish-yellow cap and back, darker green wings with pale yellow wingbars, white breast chestnut streaks down the side. Voice: Clear, musical “witew witew witew WEECHEW” notes. Range extends from southeastern Canada, through the eastern half of the U.S. and along the Gulf coast. Likes second-growth woodlands and

scrubby forests. Frequent visitor to the grasslands of our park, during spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.*



Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerine*) G, U
5.5 inches. Brown plumage, with bright chestnut cap, black, long eye-line, white eyebrow and gray-white underparts. Voice: Series of rapid, dry “chip” notes. One of the smallest sparrows, it can be found on grasslands, woodland edges and pine forests. Its nests are not built tight, and sunlight can often

pass through it. Range includes much of the U.S., Mexico and Central America. Although a very common sparrow generally, it is an uncommon visitor, in winter months, at our park. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.*



Clay-color Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) G, U
5.5 inches. Brown plumage, with a distinctive, buffy-white central stripe, white eyebrow, and brown crown and cheeks with black outline. Voice: it has a thin “sip” sound. Common to thickets, groves and grasslands, it winters from Mexico south, and is uncommon to rare in Texas. It has a range that includes the northwest territories of Canada during summer months.

Uncommon visitor to the park in winter. *Photograph courtesy of National Park Service.*



Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) E, C
5.5 inches. This small, long-winged songbird’s square tail and buffy rump distinguish it from other swallows. It has a dark chestnut throat, brown wings and buffy-white underparts. Voice: thin, rattle-like notes. Likes to make ball-shaped mud nests on buildings, cliffs and under bridges. Summer range includes most of North America, with the exception of the southeastern coastal regions, and its populations appear to be increasing. A common fall and spring visitor to our park

during migration. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS., Donna Dewhurst.*



Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) G, U
5 inches. Small songbird with broad, black mask, olive-brown cap, back and wings, and yellow to pale yellow throat and underparts. The female's eye patch is medium brown in appearance. Voice: Loud rolling "wich-i-ty, wich-i-ty, wich-i-ty" notes. Has an extensive range, covering the upper reaches of Newfoundland to the western Canadian provinces and southern Florida, and southern Mexico. Its range also covers much of the U.S. Its numbers are decreasing due to

habitat loss, and it has become vulnerable to larger predatory birds. Stays low in grassy fields, shrubs and marshes. An uncommon winter visitor to the park. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Wolfgang Wander.*



Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*) G, U
11 inches. Stocky, large-headed songbird, with dull, grayish-brown coloring, long tail, and long, slightly down-curved bill. Voice: Harsh, crisp and hurried, with a sharp "whit-weet" call. Liking canyon and brushland habitats, its year-round range covers the southwest into Mexico. Loss of habitat due to urban growth may have caused a decline in population. Uncommon to rare in our

park. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Charles and Clint's Photos.*



Dickcissel (*Spiza Americana*) G, C
6.25 inches. Sparrow-like bird of grasslands, with brown head and wings, with red patch on wings and yellow breast. The breeding male has a large black V on the chest. Voice: Variable "dick dick dickcissel" notes. Likes grassy and weedy fields, and its range extends throughout the middle U.S. and Gulf coast. Migrates in flocks numbering in the

thousands. Commonly spotted here in spring and fall, and less common in summer.

Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, US Forest Service.



Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) G, C

8.5 inches. Large flycatcher, with dark head, back and tail, and white underparts. It has a white tip at the end of the tail. Voice: sharp, rasping “kdik kdik kdik PIKa PIKa PIKa kzeeeeer” notes. Range extends over the entire eastern half of the U.S., as well as some western states, and southern and western Canada. It is a fierce defender of its nests against other larger, predatory birds as well as other flycatchers. Likes open areas with scattered trees and scrub. Common to the park in spring and fall. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.*



Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) G, P, C

9.5 inches. Medium to large sized songbird, with black and brown streaked back, and bright yellow (male) underparts, with a black “V” on its chest. The female is buffy, with dark streaks. Voice: Series of slurred, clear whistles that descend at the end. Common in grasslands, farms and meadows, its numbers have declined dramatically. Its range includes the eastern half of the U.S., parts of Mexico, Central and South America. Common to the park all year round. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, A. Wilson.*



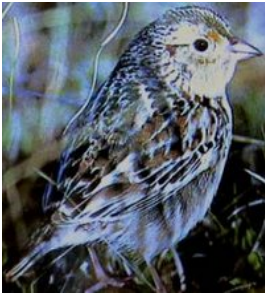
Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) G, U

6.25 inches. Medium size songbird, with dark grayish-olive plumage, dull white throat, darker breast, and white, or pale yellow underparts. Voice: Slurred, high, clear whistles with a series of “pee-a-wee” notes. Common in a variety of woodlands of the eastern U.S., its numbers have been decreasing due to the increase in White-tailed Deer in the forests of the eastern states. In areas of high deer population the canopy is diminished, due to foraging by the deer, and thereby affecting the habitat of this flycatcher. Not common to the park, it is seen in the grasslands during spring and fall. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Louis Agassiz Fuertes.*



Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) G, U
4.75 inches. Brightly colored songbird, with the male exhibiting a golden cap, large black mask and throat. Both sexes have gray backs and wings, with a yellow wing patch, and white underparts. Voice: Fine, high buzz “zee zaa-zaa-zaa” notes.

Likes overgrown pastures, woodlands and clear-cut fields and farms. Range covers the eastern half of the U.S., with wintering ranges further south along the Gulf coast and into Mexico. Its populations have decreased greatly, and it is listed as a Species of Special Concern. It is an uncommon-to-rare resident of the park during the spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, C.S. Robbins.*



Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) G, C
5 inches. Tiny sparrow, with buffy breast and sides, large dark crown with pale stripe, and short tail. Voice: one or two high-pitched “chip” notes, followed by a “buzz” note that sounds like that of a grasshopper. Somewhat secretive, it nests and feeds mostly on the ground in grasslands, and fields. Range includes most of the eastern half of the U.S. and Mexico. It is a common visitor to our park in winter. *Photograph courtesy of National*

Park Service.



Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) G, C
8.5 inches. Dark gray songbird, with a small bill, and long, black tail. Voice: series of warbled notes whistle and squeaks interspersed with ct-like mew notes. Likes low dense underbrush and marshes. Although it is common, its coloring allows it to blend in to its habitat, making it easier to hear than to see. And although its range includes much of the eastern three-quarters of the U.S., its numbers are slightly down in the southern states. Common to the park in the spring and fall and rare in the winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Wolfgang*

Wander.



Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) G, U

7.25 inches. Gray-brown above, with faint, incomplete eye ring and dark spots on breast. Voice: flute-like notes with thin, nasal, intermittent pauses. Enjoys coniferous and mixed woodlands. The gray-cheeked and Bicknell's thrush were only recently recognized as separate species. Breeding range includes most of Northern

Canada and Alaska. Winters in Central and South America. It is an uncommon visitor to the park in the spring and fall migrations. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, USFWS.*



Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) G, U

8.5 inches. This large flycatcher has a gray throat and breast, bright, lemon-yellow colored belly and underparts, cinnamon colored tail and wings (which are barred). Voice: Loud, whistled "wheep" notes, making the bird easier to hear than to spot. Uses snakeskin as well as other material to line its nest. Common in a large variety of woodland habitats over the eastern half of the U.S., it is not as common in our park. Observed during spring and fall in the grasslands. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, D.K. Dawson.*



Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) G, L, C

15 (female)-18 inches (male). A large grackle, with black iridescent body (male), and large keel-shaped tail. The female has brown wings and back, and a dark buff neck and chest, and dark eye patch. Voice: loud "crack" notes and varied whistles. A common bird to North America, it likes open flatlands, wetlands and marshes. Considered a pest since it damages some crops. Its range includes the lower western U.S. and Mexico. Common to

the park all year round. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Patrick Coin.*



Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) G, R

7.25 inches. Medium-large sparrow-like songbird, with olive back and wings, white throat bordered by a white stripe, and red cap. Voice: several short notes followed by two or more trills. Enjoys dense brush along mountains, and high plateaus. Range includes the western U.S., Mexico and the southern-most Texas

Gulf coast. A rarely spotted visitor in winter at our park. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, A. Wilson.*



Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) G, U

5.25 inches. Small warbler, with striking yellow and black coloring. The male has a black hood, yellow throat and neck and large yellow eyepatch, chest and underparts. It's wings, back and tail are olive colored. The female is has a dark olive hood, back and wings, and yellow face, breast and underparts.

Voice: loud, musical “taa-wit, taa-wit, taa-wit” notes. Likes lowland swamps and bogs, and moist woodlands. It's breeding range extends from the eastern U.S. to the Gulf coast states. It winters in Mexico and Central America. Uncommon to rare visitor to the park in spring and fall, its general population appears to be increasing. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS.*



Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) G,L,C

6.75-7.75 inches. The only true lark native to North America, this songbird has a distinctive head pattern with black “horns” and black stripes under the eyes. The top of the head, neck, back and wings are pale brown, with pale yellow-buff underparts. Voice: series of high, tinkling notes.

Range includes all of Canada, and most of North America and Mexico. A ground dweller, it prefers fields, open grasslands and rocky shorelines. It is a year-round resident of our park. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Julie Waters.*



House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) G, C

6.25 inches. Buffy-to-brown songbird, with the male showing a gray crown, black eye-ring and throat, and chestnut streaked head and wings. Voice: slightly metallic “cheep, chirrup” sound. Enjoys both urban and country habitats and has a range that covers virtually all of the U.S., Mexico and Central America. Not considered a water bird, it can swim to escape

predators. It likes to throw dust over its body, just like it was bath water. Common to the park all year long. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, J.M. Garg.*



House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) G, U

4.75 inches. Small, brown songbird, with faint eyebrow, thin, pointed bill and moderately short tail held cocked over the back. Voice: Extremely varied. Rapid, rolling series of rattles and trills. Found throughout North America, it likes scrubland, farms, gardens and parks. Known to take over other bird's bird houses. It is an occasional, but uncommon winter visitor to the

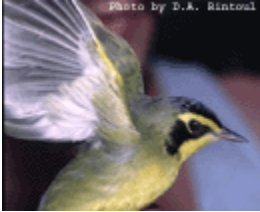
grasslands of the park. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Marcus Martin.*



Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) G, C

5.5 inches. Colorful songbird, with deep blue head and body, and brown and black stripes on blue wings. Voice: Series or paired, varied phrases and notes. Likes the clearings adjacent to woodlands, and brushy areas near water. Its breeding range extends throughout the eastern U.S. Winters in Central and South America. It is a common visitor to the park in spring and fall migration. *Photograph*

courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Dave Menke, USFWS.



Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) G, U

5.25 inches. Small, brightly colored songbird, with brown-olive back and wings, yellow belly and flanks, and black cheeks. It has a yellow eyebrow, that wraps around the eye forming spectacles. Voice: musical, loud “chuuree” notes. Common in low wet lands and moist woodlands, it nests on the ground. Range includes the

south-eastern half of the U.S. during summer. Eastern Mexico and Central America during winter. It is an uncommon visitor to the park in spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, D.A. Rintoul.*



Lark Bunting (*Calaamospiza melanocorys*) G, R

7 inches. Large sparrow with black plumage, and distinctive white patch on wings. Its non-breeding plumage becomes a drab gray-brown color. It is the only sparrow to change its coloring so completely between breeding and non-breeding seasons. Voice: Soft, distinctive “hoo-ee” notes. Enjoys dry plains and prairies, especially sagebrush. Its range extends through

the mid-western U.S. into Mexico. It is a rare winter visitor to the park. *Photograph courtesy of National Park Service.*



Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) G, U
6.5 inches. Brown, barred sparrow, with distinctive head pattern consisting of chestnut cap, with white stripes down the center and over the eyes, and outlines a chestnut cheek. It has buffy-white underparts, and a black tail with white corners. Voice: Rapid series of sharp “tisp” notes. Because of its unusual plumage, and courtship rituals it is like no other sparrow, and is the only member of its genus. Unlike other songbirds, it walks on the ground, instead

of hopping. It hops only during courtship. The courting male will crouch on the ground, holding its tail at a 45 degree angle upward showing, off its white tips. He offers the female a twig during courtship. Although the range covers the western $\frac{3}{4}$ of the U.S. and much of Mexico, its numbers are decreasing. It is an uncommon resident to the park in spring, fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, A. Wilson.*



Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) G, U
5.25 inches. A dull, small flycatcher, the Least Flycatcher has a large white eye ring, brownish olive-to-gray back, two white wing bars, and white-to-buff underparts. Voice: sharp, dry “CHEbek or cheBIK” notes, repeated rapidly. One of the smallest and most common flycatchers in North America, it likes open woodlands and fields. An uncommon-to-rare visitor to the park, it is sometimes observed during spring and fall migration.

Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.



Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) G, U
5 inches. Small sparrow, with brown-streaked wings, buffy-orange face, throat and chest, and white head-stripe. Voice: High, short, hissing buzz. Likes grassy fields, and marshes. Range includes summering in Canada and North-central U.S. It winters in the Gulf States. Very secretive, with very few ever having been banded, and those where never recovered. Uncommon to the grasslands of our park in winter. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Chan Robbins.*



Photo by Peter S. Weber

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) G, U

5.75 inches. Brown-gray on back and wings, buffy-streaked underparts and wide gray eyebrow. Voice: Alternates series of high-pitched "zeet" notes with lower "chip" notes. Found in marshy bogs, thickets and mountain meadows. Its range covers most of the lower Canadian provinces during summer, and Gulf coast states and Mexico in winter. Resides in the grasslands of the park during

winter. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Peter S. Weber.*



Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) G, C

9 inches. Large-headed predator, with black mask, gray throat and chest, and black wings with white patches. Voice: Sharp, mechanical "krrDI or JEEuk" phrases. Uses its hooked bill to kill insects, small mammals and other birds, by impaling them on thorns, and then tearing them apart. This seems to also mark territory, and attract mates. Its range, which is declining rapidly, extends from southern parts of Canada to Central and South

America. A subspecies located on San Clemente Island in California is listed as endangered. Common visitor to our park in spring, fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Dave Menke, USFWS.*



Photo by J. A. Spendlow

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) P, G, U

6 inches. Small songbird, with dark green-brown back, wings and tail, white, black-streaked underparts and buffy flanks. Voice: Several phrases of loud ringing notes, followed by a brief series of short rapid notes. Liking forested lakes and streams; it is often confused with the

Northern Waterthrush. Has the strange habit of napping during mid-day, by retracting its neck into its body, squatting down and covering its legs with its wings. It ranges from the eastern half of the U.S., and migrates through the Gulf coast states, to Mexico and Central America in the winter. Uncommon to the park in spring and fall migration.

Photograph courtesy of USGS, J.A. Spendlow.



Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) G, C
5 inches. Small, pretty warbler, with yellow throat and chest, black neck, stripes down the side, gray crown and a yellow rump. It has a distinctive white patch on the tail. Voice: Short, whistled “weety weety weeteo” call. Likes moist coniferous forests, and its breeding range includes most of Canada and the eastern half of the U.S.. An uncommon visitor to our grasslands during the fall and spring migrations. *Photograph courtesy of USGS,*

Marcus Martin.



Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis Philadelphia*) G, U
5.25 inches. Small songbird, with olive-brown wings and back, and yellow underparts and flanks. The male's head is a bright blue-gray, and the color continues along its throat, darkening to black at the breast. The female has a slightly paler cap, without the dark throat patch.

Voice: has a two part song, with the first being a series of rolling two-syllable phrases, and ending in a lower pitch. Likes dense undergrowth in wet woodlands, marshes and thickets. Sometimes pretends it has a broken wing, to draw predators away from its nest. Breeding range includes the eastern half of the U.S. and most southern Canada. It migrates through the Gulf coast states and into Central America. Uncommon to the park during migration in spring and fall, and rarely observed in winter. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, J.A. Spendelow.*



Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) G, U
4.75 inches. Small, stocky songbird, with a gray head, plain olive-green back and wings, and yellow throat, breast and belly and a bold, white eye-ring. Voice: loud, musical two-part phrase, with several of the two-note phrases followed by a trill. Nests on the ground (sometimes using porcupine quills for the nest) and feeds almost exclusively on insects. The Nashville Warbler's breeding range extends throughout most of the Northeastern and Northwestern U.S., and much of southeastern Canada. Winters in Mexico, and Central America. Uncommon during in the spring

and fall migration in our park. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, P. Reynolds, USFWS.*



Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) G, U
10 inches. Medium-sized songbird, with pale gray upperparts, long tail and legs, whitish underparts and large white patches on the wings. Voice: series of varied phrases, each repeated two to six times in a row. It will mimic other bird songs and calls. It is a constant singer that sings all day, and sometimes into the night. The Northern Mockingbird (the state bird of Texas) can be found in a variety of habitats, from towns to open areas, and dense bushes. Uncommon to our park in the

spring, fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com. Brett Peters.*



Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) P, G, U
5.75 inches. Small songbird, with brownish back and wings, buffy-pale black-streaked underparts, and a pale eyebrow. Voice: begins with loud ringing phrases, and then slightly lower-pitched “chink” notes. It likes woodland habitats, ponds and swamps in lowland areas, during winter months. It spends its summers in the northern forests of

Canada, and the northeastern U.S. Its winter range includes the southern Texas Gulf coast, and down through Mexico and South America. It is an uncommon visitor to the park in spring and fall. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, J.A. Spendelow.*



Northern Parula (*Parula Americana*) G, C
4.5 inches. Brightly colored warbler, with gray-blue above, yellow-green upper back, blue-gray wings with two white wingbars and yellow chest and neck. The adult male has gray/rufous band across the chest. Voice: Rising buzz with distinctive, sharp “zeeeeee-tsup” final note. Common in coniferous and mixed woods, especially near water. Range extends from southeastern Canada, through most of the eastern

half of the U.S. and Gulf coast. Since the 1950s it has nested, and been an occasional visitor along the California coast, far from its normal range. It is commonly spotted during spring and fall in our park. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org., Daniel Berganza.*



Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

E, C

5 inches. Small, long-winged songbird, with a small bill, dull brown head, back, tail and long pointed wings. It has a pale brown throat and buff underparts. Gets its name from the outer wing-feathers that have small hooks or points. Voice: steady, repetitive, rough, rising “frip frip frip” sound. Likes to nest in river banks, cliffs, under bridges and in culverts. Range includes the entire

U.S., and parts of Canada and Mexico. It’s population numbers appear stable. Common visitor to the park during the spring and fall months. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.*



Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) G, U

7.5 inches. Large, short-tailed and sturdy, with a tapered body and large head. The white center of its breast contrasts sharply with its gray sides and wings, giving it a vested appearance. Voice: It has a sharp, penetrating whistle “whip WEEDEEER” or “quick, three beers”. Likes to make charging flights from its perch, to catch insects, and then return to the perch. Nest in coniferous forests, and also burned-out forests. Due to the loss of wintering habitat, its numbers have decreased dramatically. Uncommon visitor to the grasslands of our park, during the spring and fall migration.

Photograph courtesy of USGS, Paul Conover.



Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) G, U

5 inches. Small, drab songbird, it actually has four sub-species, the most colorful is the Pacific Coast (*lutescens*) form. The one found in Alaska and Canada (*celata*) is the dullest and grayest, the Rocky Mountain and Great Basin form (*orestera*) is intermediate in appearance, and those found along the Channel Islands and Baja (*sordida*) is the darkest green. Voice: Fast series of flat notes, the last few notes on a lower pitch. Inhabits open, brushy woodlands, forest edges and thickets. Abundant over much of the range, it is an

uncommon visitor to our park in the winter. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Jack Saba.*



Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) G, U

7.25 inches. This oriole is the smallest of the oriole family, with Olive back and wings, and yellow underparts. The breeding male is chestnut overall, with a black hood. Voice: consists of sharp “chuk” notes, and loud warbles, with a whistle at the end. This songbird eats nectar and pollen (especially in winter) from flowers. It then transfers the pollen from flower to flower, on the top of its head. Found along rivers and streams, in woodlands close to a shore, it ranges from the eastern half of North America (Breeding) to northern South America (winters).

Uncommon visitor to our park in spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Joseph Joby.*



Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) G, R

6 inches. Large for a warbler, the Ovenbird has olive back, wings and tail, a russet cap with dark stripes, and white underparts with black streaks. Voice: Loud “teacher-teacher-teacher” call. Liking forest floors, it can be heard throughout the summer in our eastern woodlands, but rarely seen. It gets its name from the shape of its nest which, with a dome on top, resembles a Dutch oven. Male Ovenbirds sing together, with one starting and then others joining

him. Its breeding range includes the eastern two thirds of North America, and winters in most of Central America. It is a rare visitor to the park in the spring and fall. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, J. Maslowski, USFWS.*



Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) G, U

5.25 inches. Strikingly colorful songbird (male), with blue head, light green back, brown wings and orange-red breast, underparts and rump. The female is olive green on top, and pale yellow-green on neck, breast and underparts. Voice: series of rapid, sweet notes and phrases. Likes grasslands near streams, thickets and low, woodland areas. Its breeding range includes the south central U.S. and winters in parts of Florida and parts of Mexico and Central America. Uncommon to the park in spring and fall, and rare in summer. *Photograph courtesy Creative Commons, Oakland Nature Preserve, Dan Irizarry.*



Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) G, U
5.25 inches. Gray-green songbird, with yellow underparts, a dull white eyebrow and dark eye line. Voice: Series of repetitive phrases that sound like the asking, and then answering of a question. Phrase always ends on a downswing or upswing note. One of the most northerly breeding of the vireos, its summer range spans the southern provinces of Canada through the Northeastern U.S. It winters in Central and South America. An uncommon

visitor to or park during spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Deanna Dawson.*



Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) G, U
5.5 inches. Medium-sized, plump warbler, with yellow head, chest and underparts, greenish back and dark gray wings. Its name refers to clerks in the Catholic Church, whose robes were yellow. Voice: loud, ringing “tweet-tweet-tweet” notes. One of only two warblers that breeds in holes (the other being Lucy’s Warbler). Enjoys southeastern U.S. swamplands. Its breeding range includes the

eastern half of the U.S., and winters to Central and South America. Its population numbers appear to be in direct correlation to habitat destruction. The Canadian population is considered endangered. Uncommon to the park in spring and fall during migration. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.*



Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) G, U
8 inches. A member of the swallow family, the male Purple Martin is entirely bluish-black, with a large head, thick chest and broad, pointed wings. Voice: a series of musical chirps, followed by high pitched twitters. Largest of the North American swallows, it is a popular birdhouse dweller, nesting almost exclusively in nest boxes. Not only does it get all its food (insects) during flight, it gets its water that way too, by skimming the surface of ponds. Will nest in bird houses with other Purple Martins. Breeding range covers a wide

area of the eastern and southern U.S. and Central Canada. Numbers have diminished greatly in Pacific states. An uncommon visitor in the grasslands of our park, during spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Marshall Liff.*



Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) G, U

6 inches. Small songbird, with a blue-gray crown, olive-green back and wings, and pale yellow-buff underparts. It has dark red eyes, with a dark stripe through the eye, and a white eyebrow. Voice: Simple, quick whistle-like phrases, with nasal quality. Phrases have down slur, then upswings, as though asking, then answering a question. Although animal food

makes up 85 % of its summer diet, it becomes a fruit eater in winter. The breeding range extends from the eastern half of the U.S., through most of Canada and the Gulf coast. An uncommon visitor to our park during the spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of USGS.*



Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) P, G, C

8.75 inches. The male is black, with large red patch over both shoulders (breeding). The female has a completely different appearance, with a dark brown striped body, wings and underparts (similar to a large sparrow). Voice: wet, gurgling “konk-la-reee” notes. Enjoys nesting in wetlands

and marshes in thick vegetation, and is an aggressive defender of its nests. One of the most abundant birds in North America, the Red-winged Blackbird’s range extends from Canada through all of the U.S. and south into Mexico. Common to the park all year round. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com., Alan D. Wilson.*



Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) G, U

8 inches. A member of the Cardinal family, it is a multi-colored songbird with dark brown to black head, back and wings, and a rose-colored breast, fading to white underparts. Voice: rich warbling notes and an “eek” call. Enjoys wooded habitats near water, and has a breeding range that extends from parts of Northwestern and southern Canada to Northeastern U.S. Winters in South America. Uncommon to the park during spring and fall.

Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org., Ken Thomas.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) G, U
4.25 inches. Very small songbird, with dull, gray-olive green wings and body, white eyering and white wingbars. The male rarely shows its red crown. Voice: High clear tones ending with a low whistled chant “sii si sisisi berr berr.” Common in woodlands and thickets, it beats its wings rapidly while hovering when it feeds. Although its range extends from

Canada to South America, its numbers may be decreasing. Winters in our park, but is not commonly sighted. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, National Park Service.*



Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) G, C
5.5 inches. Brown-gray sparrow with pale head stripe, and yellow-white eyebrow. Voice: several short notes followed by rich buzzy “dzeee” notes. Lives in a variety of habitats, including marshes, grasslands and coastlines. Breeding range covers most of the Northern U.S. Canada and Alaska. Winters in the Southern U.S. and Mexico. Will often return to the same coastal area nesting grounds each year. It has 17 sub-species in all. Is common to the park in winter, and less

common in fall and spring. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, USFWS, Donna Dewhurst.*



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) G, U
13 inches. Medium sized songbird with an extremely long, forked tail, pearly gray upperparts and salmon colored flanks and underside of the tail. Voice: sharp, raspy “pup, pero” notes. Commonly found in semi-open areas, its breeding range extends from southern Nebraska, through Texas and northern Mexico. It is the state bird of Oklahoma. Uses lots of man-made objects for

its nests such as bits of string, cloth, paper, cigarette filters etc. These objects make up approximately 30% of its nests. Common to the grasslands and shores of our park during both spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of www.birdsofoklahoma.net.*



Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) G, U

4.5 inches. Small, secretive wren, with brown-streaked crown, wings and back, whitish eyebrow, and buff belly, and underparts. Voice: Sharp, increasing chips followed by a rapid series of “chap chap chatatatat” notes. The Sedge Wren can be very reclusive. It may show up in large numbers in a certain region one year, and then be virtually absent in the next. Its breeding range extends from Northwest Canada through the North Central states of the U.S. Winters in Southeast U.S. into Mexico. An uncommon winter visitor to our park. Considered

a species of concern, due to its decreasing population. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Greg Lasley.*



Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) G, U

7.75 inches. Colorful, medium size songbird, with the male being the only North American bird that is entirely rosy-red. The female are mostly olive-yellow, with slight reddish wash. Voice: series of whistle notes that sound like “peanut butter.” Forages for bees and wasps in both summer and winter habitats. Will catch a bee and bang it against a tree,

then removes the stinger by rubbing it against a branch before eating it. Although most populations are stable, it is considered a species of concern in California. Likes piney woods, and cottonwood groves. Its breeding range includes southeastern and southern states and Northern Mexico. Winters in Central and South America. It is an uncommon visitor to the park in spring and fall. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Bureau of Land Management.*



Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) G, U

7 inches. Medium-sized thrush, with brown back and wings and bright, buffy breast, with dark spots. It has a buff eye-ring and cheeks. Voice: Ascending series of varied whistles of a flute-like quality. It is the only thrush whose notes increase in pitch. Fairly common, although its numbers

appear to be decreasing, it is found in moist woods and swamps. Its breeding range includes much of Canada, Alaska and the northwestern U.S. Resides in the grasslands of our park during spring and fall. Winters in Southern Mexico and Central and South America. *Photograph courtesy of National Park Service.*



Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) G, R
5.5 inches. Small, secretive songbird, with dull brown plumage, pale underparts, and pale-white eyebrow and cheeks. Voice: loud, ringing series of “so-so-so-sweet-to-hear” type notes. Rare bird found in undergrowth in swamps, as well as thickets of cane. Some feel that the cane is necessary to its existence. Species at risk, due to loss of habitat. But actual populations are hard to determine, due to the secret nature of the bird. Its breeding range includes most of the southeastern U.S. A rare spring and fall visitor to the park. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Char*

Robbins.



Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza Georgiana*) G, U
5.75 inches. Small songbird with gray face, rufous underparts and wings, and a white throat. Voice: slow, musical, metallic trill on one pitch. Nests in dense swamp-like marshes and fields. The Swamp Sparrow has longer legs than others in its genus, allowing it to make its way through various wetland habitats. Its breeding

range extends from most of Canada through the eastern half of the U.S. Winters throughout Eastern U.S. and south into Mexico. Uncommon winter visitor to the grasslands of our park. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, USFWS, John and Karen Hollingsworth.*



Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) G, C
4.75 inches. Small, sharp-billed warbler, with a short tail, long wings, and drab olive-gray plumage. The breeding male has a bold, white eyebrow and white underparts.

Voice: A series of sharp, high chirps, usually in three parts, with each having a slightly different pitch. Found in coniferous and mixed woodlands in summer, and open woods and grasslands in fall and winter. Breeding range covers most of Canada, wintering in Central America. It is commonly spotted during spring and fall migration in our park. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Pat Lynch.*



Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) E, C

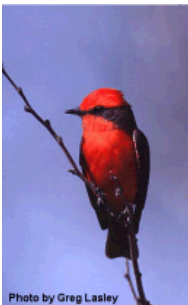
5.75 inches. Small songbird, with white underparts and shiny blue-green crown, wings and tail. Voice: clear, sweet whistles and twitters. Common in wooded habitats near water, where dead trees provide nest holes. Also likes nest boxes, fence posts and barn eaves. Migrating in huge flocks, the Tree Swallow's breeding range covers almost the entire U.S. It nests further north than any other swallow, and is common even the northern reaches of Alaska. Common spring and fall visitor to our park during migration. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org, Mdf.*



Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) G, U

7 inches. Reddish brown thrush, with white underparts, and a buffy chest and throat, dotted with faint reddish-brown spots. Voice: Smooth, rolling nasal "veer" notes. Found in shady woods, and streamside thickets and bogs. Range includes winter areas of Brazil, and breeding range encompasses summering regions of the northern U.S. and southern Canada. It winters in South America. Its populations have shown a steady decrease, and it is an uncommon fall and spring resident of our park. *Photograph courtesy of National*

Park Service.



Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) G, U

6 inches. Adult male has bright red head, chin, breast and underparts, with brown back, wings and tail. The female is grayish-brown above, with blackish tail. Her throat and breast are white. Voice: high, sharp flat notes and a higher, rolling trill. The male often mates by bringing a butterfly, or other brightly colored insect to the female. Found in open bushes and scrub areas of the south and southwest, its numbers have diminished dramatically due to human water use and development.

Uncommon to our park, it can be infrequently spotted in the grasslands during spring, fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Greg Lasley.*



Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) G, U

6.25 inches. Large sparrow, with grayish-brown streaked back and plumage, white eye-ring and outer tail feathers. Voice: rich series of two long slurred notes, followed by two higher notes, and then a series of short lower notes. Listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern in several states, it likes farmlands, grasslands and forest clearings. Declining numbers have been attributed to use of chemicals, and various other farming practices. Its range includes most of North

America. It is an uncommon resident here in winter, and less common to rare in spring and fall. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Jim Stasz.*



Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) G, R

5.5 inches. Small songbird, with drab, pale gray-olive plumage and white underparts. Lacks wingbars. Voice: Long, rapid, repetitive notes that rise and fall, usually ending on a high note. Found mainly in broadleaf trees, it has an extensive breeding range, spanning most of the

U.S., as well as western Canada. Winters in portions of Mexico and Central America. It is a rarely observed winter visitor to the park. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Chan Robbins.*



Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) G, U

8.75 inches. Medium-sized songbird, with gray chest and head, yellow belly, dark gray wings with white outer feathers and a black, square tail. Voice: high, hard, squeaky “pidik pik pidik PEEKado” notes. Common in open country, its breeding range encompasses almost the entire western half of the United States,

including the southern tip of Florida. Winters in Mexico. Likes to use telephone posts, fence posts, and other man-made objects for nesting. Less common. Seen in the grasslands of our park during the spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.com.*



Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) G, R
7.25 inches. Colorful songbird, with red cap (male), bright yellow neck, breast and lower back. It has a bold, black upper back patch, and black wings and tail. The female is similarly marked, except her head is a yellow-olive color. Voice: series of short notes that sound like a “robin with a sore throat.”

Breeding in coniferous forests, its breeding range includes the western half of Canada and the U.S. Winters south to Mexico and South America. A rare spring and fall visitor to the park. *Photograph courtesy of* [Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com](http://www.naturespicsonline.com).



White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) G, U
5 inches. Small, gray-olive songbird with yellow sides, yellow spectacles and a white throat. It has two white wingbars. Voice: rapid, nasal, loud “rik rik rik rik” notes, usually beginning and ending with a sharp “chick.” Breeding range extends throughout much of the eastern and southern U.S. It bathes by rubbing itself against wet leaves and foliage. Populations generally appear stable. It can be observed in the park during spring, fall and winter.

Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.com.



White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) G, R
7 inches. Large sparrow, with brown head, back and wings, white throat, dark crown stripes and yellow eyebrow. Voice: series of whistles, usually two single notes, followed by three triple notes. Enjoys woodlands, fields, and brush lands. Is not uncommon to find them in urban areas. Breeding range includes most of Canada and

Northeastern U.S. Winters in Eastern and Southern Midwest states of the U.S. A rare winter visitor to the park. *Photograph courtesy of* www.wikipedia.org.



Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) G, R
5.75 inches. Color ranges from pale gray head, greenish back (Eastern race) to darker brown (Brewster's race in the Northwest). Has two whitish wing bars and broad, straight-sided tail. Voice: Harsh, burry "RITZbew or rrrEEP-yew" notes. Identical to the Alder Flycatcher, with the exception of a slightly longer bill and the call. The two

species were thought to be the same until the 1970s. Found in brushy habitats in wet areas, pastures and mountain meadows. Overall populations appear to be declining, and the western sub-species is considered endangered. Its range includes the northern two thirds of the U.S., and its South American wintering grounds. Rare to uncommon in the grasslands of our park during spring, fall and winter migration (Eastern race).

Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.com.



Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) G, U
4.75 inches. Pretty songbird, with olive-brown back, wings and tail, and yellow throat and underparts. The male has a black cap. Voice: series of rapid chatter-like "chee" notes. Likes swamps, bogs and moist wood lands. The only warbler found in high tropical plains, it has a breeding range extending from the northernmost tip of Alaska, throughout most of Canada and the Northwest U.S. It winters along the Gulf Coast,

Mexico and the southern end of Central America. Due to threats to its breeding habitat, its numbers have been decreasing fairly rapidly. It is an uncommon resident of the park during spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS.*



Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) G,L,U
7.75 inches. Largest of the spotted thrushes, this reddish-brown songbird's spots cover its white neck and underparts. Voice: series of yodel-like phrases with pauses in between. Even though it is very common in eastern forests, the Wood Thrush remains a species of concern, as its populations have shown steady, long-term decline (possibly linked to acid-rain conditions). Breeding range covers the far eastern parts of Canada and the Eastern U.S. Winters in parts of Mexico and most of Central America. A migratory bird, it can be

spotted in our park during the winter months. *Photograph courtesy of USFWS.*



Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) G, U
5.25 inches. Small songbird, with a black-striped, buffy head, and brownish-olive back and wings. Its underparts are buffy to pale yellow. Voice: rapid, dry “zeep-zeep” trill. Feeding on worms and caterpillars, it is found in the undergrowth and wooded slopes of deciduous forests. Breeding range extends throughout the southeastern states. It winters in Central America. Its numbers are currently stable, although it is very vulnerable due to its dependence on forested areas. It is an uncommon visitor to the park in the spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of National Park Service.*



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) G, U
5.5 inches. Short-tailed and big headed, it is olive above and yellow below. Voice: It has hoarse “chebunk or cheberk” notes. Found in bogs, swamps and damp coniferous woods. Its remote Canadian breeding areas seem secure. Its wintering habitat (Central and South America) is subject to deforestation. Likes to winter in shaded, South American coffee plantations. Rare to uncommon in the grasslands of our park during spring, fall and winter migration. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, C.S. Robbins.*



Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) G, U
7.5 inches. Once considered the largest warbler, recent genetic research suggests it may not be a warbler. Colorful songbird, with yellow throat and breast, blending to buffy rump, olive-brown head, back, wings and tail. Voice: series of cackles, squawks, whistles and rattles, sometimes while hovering. Its breeding range covers most of the U.S., and its winter range extends down through Mexico and Central America. An uncommon resident to the park in spring and fall months. *Photograph courtesy of Bureau of Land Management.*



Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) G, P, U
9.5 inches. Large, distinctively-colored blackbird, with a yellow head, black wings and body. The breeding male also has a black eye-ring, and white wing patch. Voice: hoarse croak. Likes freshwater marshes and lakes. Will make its nest in reeds, and cattails over water. Is a very aggressive defender of its nests against predators, usually wrens. Breeding range includes western Canada and most of the western U.S. It winters in Mexico. Sometimes observed in the park during spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com, Alan D. Wilson.*



Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) G, C
5.5 inches. Small songbird, with gray-brown plumage, and yellow patches on the side, throat, cap and rump. It is the most common of the warblers. Voice: musical trill rising and falling. It has a distinctive “chek” note. It is the only warbler known to eat and digest the wax found in wax myrtles, and bayberries.

Abundant in mixed woodlands, its breeding range covers most of Canada, Alaska and portions of the U.S. Winters throughout the Southern U.S., Mexico and Central America. A common winter visitor to our park. *Photograph courtesy of www.naturespicsonline.com, Alan D. Wilson.*



Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) G, U
5.5 inches. Colorful songbird, with blue-gray back and shoulders, black and white eye patch and yellow throat. Voice: sharp, slurred “chip” notes. Nests in tall trees in the swamps of southeast U.S. Fairly common in live oak and cypress woodlands. Its populations appear stable to increasing, and its breeding range is slowly expanding northward. It resides in the

park during spring and fall migration. *Photograph courtesy of USGS, Gary Broussard.*



Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) G,L,C
5 inches. Beautiful, brightly colored songbird, with yellow body, brown-streaked wings and dark, prominent eye. Male has chestnut-streaked chest. Voice: most common song is a rapid “sweet-sweet-sweet-I’m-so-sweet” phrase. Widespread and

abundant, its breeding range covers most of North America. It winters in Mexico, Central America and the northern most parts of South America. A migratory bird, the Yellow Warbler is most often seen in our park during the fall and winter. *Photograph courtesy of www.wikipedia.org.*

