

Birds at Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Birding at the Arboretum

While bird song and activity are at their peak during the early morning hours, any time can be a great time to watch birds! If you are new to birding and would like some guidance, consider attending one of the Arboretum's several bird walks in spring and fall. Just check the [upcoming education events](#) page.

Front entrance near the Visitor Center: Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Northern Oriole, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers can be seen among the Oregon ash and Oregon white oaks. Many species of brightly colored warblers may be seen during the spring migration in April and May.

Tom McCall Riverbank Trail: Watch for Belted Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Merganser, Osprey, and Bald Eagle. In season, you will see and hear Song Sparrows. Listen for Ring-necked Pheasant calling from across the river.

Water Garden: Several Wood Duck nesting boxes are visible from parts of the trail. Look for Mallard and Wood Ducks in the water. Listen in spring and early summer for the upward tremolo of the Swainson's Thrush, as well as Solitary and Warbling Vireo songs. In spring, listen for the Orange-crowned Warbler's rapid descending chatter. The Oregon grape and larkspur growing here attract Rufous Hummingbirds from early to mid-spring. Brushy undergrowth along the trails is home to Song Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, and Rufous-sided Towhee.

Upper Trails: Listen for calls of Black-capped Chickadee, Scrub Jay, Steller's Jay, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. In the upper areas, you may hear and see Chestnut-backed Chickadee. Red-tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures often soar above the hills. In early summer, listen for Lazuli Buntings singing in the meadows near the top of the Zigzag Trail. Across the hillside, blackberry and poison oak thickets are a source of food and cover for coveys of California Quail and Mountain Quail.

The Creek Trail: Along the picnic area and adjacent meadow, you can find American Robin, Scrub Jay, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, Common Flicker, and the flycatchers that reside here during the spring and summer months.

Bird List Key

Status

- VC - Very Common – Many individuals may be expected to be seen or heard throughout the appropriate habitat.
- C - Common – A few to many individuals may be easily seen or heard.

- U - Uncommon – Usually present but not always seen or heard in any one visit.
- O - Occasional – Occurs irregularly. May not be present each year.
- R - Rare – Seldom occurs. One to a few individuals may be seen infrequently (often sightings are separated by a few years).
- M - May occasionally be seen during migration.
- * - Occurs predominately on the eastside of Buford Park (east of Mt. Pisgah summit)

Habitat

- 1 - Riparian – on river/streams or in associated streamside vegetation
- 2 - Low Wetland – Land (and associated vegetation) that remains wet for significant periods throughout the year (includes small ponds and areas such as the Water Garden south of the Arboretum headquarters).
- 3 - Oak Woodland – Oak and mixed deciduous woods that are predominated by oak.
- 4 - Coniferous – Woodlands predominated by conifers.
- 5 - Grassy Slopes – Grassy areas often with occurrences of blackberry or poison oak thickets

	<u>Season</u>				<u>Habitat</u>
	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	
Pied-billed Grebe	O	O	O	O	1
Double-crested Cormorant	-	O	O	O	1
Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C	1
Green Heron	O	O	U	U	1
Canada Goose	U	U	U	U	1
Wood Duck	U	U	U	U	2
Mallard	C	C	C	C	1, 2
Lesser Scaup	O	O	-	-	1
Hooded Merganser	R	R	-	-	1
Common Merganser	U	U	U	U	1
Turkey Vulture	-	-	C	C	3, 4, 5
Osprey	-	-	C	C	1
Bald Eagle	O	O	O	O	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	U	U	3, 4
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	U	3, 4
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	3, 4, 5
American Kestrel	C	C	C	C	3, 4, 5
Ring-necked Pheasant	C	C	C	C	5
Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C	3, 5
California Quail	C	C	C	C	2, 3, 4
Mountain Quail	U	U	U	U	4
Sandhill Crane	-	-	M	-	
Killdeer	C	C	C	C	1, 2
Greater Yellowlegs	O	O	-	-	1

Spotted Sandpiper	U	U	C	C	1
Western Sandpiper	-	O	-	-	1
Least Sandpiper	-	O	-	-	1
Ring-billed Gull	U	U	U	U	1
California Gull	U	U	O	-	1
Herring Gull	O	O	-	-	1
Thayer's Gull	O	O	-	-	1
Glaucous-winged Gull	U	U	-	-	1
Rock Dove	C	C	C	C	1, 2, 3
Band-tailed Pigeon	O	R	U	U	3, 4
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C	2, 3, 4
* Barn Owl	U	U	U	U	2
Western Screech-Owl	C	C	C	C	2, 3, 4
Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C	2, 3, 4
Northern Pygmy-Owl	U	U	U	U	3, 4
Northern Saw-whet Owl	U	U	U	U	4
Common Nighthawk	-	O	-	-	1, 3, 5
Vaux's Swift	-	-	C	C	1, 2, 3, 4
Anna's Hummingbird	U	U	U	U	2
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	C	C	2, 3
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C	C	1
Lewis' Woodpecker	R	-	R	-	3
Red-breasted Sapsucker	U	U	U	U	2, 3, 4
Downy Woodpecker	VC	VC	VC	VC	1, 2, 3, 4
Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	2, 3, 4
Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C	2, 3, 4, 5
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	3, 4
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	U	U	4
Western Wood-Pewee	-	-	VC	VC	1, 2, 3, 4
Willow Flycatcher	-	-	C	C	2, 5
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	-	-	C	U	1, 4
Western Kingbird	-	-	O	O	5
Tree Swallow	-	-	VC	VC	1, 2, 3
Violet-green Swallow	-	-	VC	VC	1, 2, 3
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	C	C	1
Cliff Swallow	-	-	U	U	1
Barn Swallow	-	-	C	C	1, 2, 3, 5
Steller's Jay	VC	VC	VC	VC	3, 4
Scrub Jay	VC	VC	VC	VC	2, 3
American Crow	VC	VC	VC	VC	1, 2, 3, 4
Common Raven	U	U	U	U	3, 4
Black-capped Chickadee	VC	VC	VC	VC	1, 2, 3, 4

Chestnut-backed Chickadee	C	C	C	C	4	
Bushtit	C	C	C	C	2, 3	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	3, 4	
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	3	
Brown Creeper	C	C	C	C	2, 3, 4	
Bewick's Wren	C	C	C	C	2, 3, 4	
House Wren	-	-	VC	VC	2, 3	
Winter Wren	C	C	C	C	2, 3 (Winter)	4 (Sp. Sum)
American Dipper	-	R	-	-	1	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	VC	VC	VC	VC	4	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U	C	U	-	2, 3, 4	
Western Bluebird	U	U	U	U	3, 5	
Swainson's Thrush	-	-	C	C	2, 3	
Hermit Thrush	U	U	O	O	2 (Winter)	4 (Summer)
American Robin	VC	VC	VC	VC	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
Varied Thrush	C	C	U	-	2, 3, 4	
Cedar Waxwing	C	C	VC	VC	1, 2, 3, 4	
European Starling	C	C	C	C	2, 3, 4	
Solitary Vireo	-	-	C	C	2, 3, 4	
Hutton's Vireo	U	U	U	U	2, 4	
Warbling Vireo	-	-	U	U	2, 3, 4	
Red-eyed Vireo	-	-	R	-	1	
Orange-crowned Warbler	O	O	C	C	1, 2, 3, 4	
Nashville Warbler	-	-	U	U	3, 4	
Yellow Warbler	-	-	C	U	1	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	C	C	U	3, 4	
Black-throated Gray Warbler	-	-	C	C	3, 4	
Townsend's Warbler	U	U	U	-	4	
Hermit Warbler	-	-	U	U	4	
MacGillivray's Warbler	-	-	C	C	1, 2, 3	
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	C	C	1, 2, 5	
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	VC	C	1, 2, 4	
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	U	U	1	
Western Tanager	-	-	C	C	3, 4	
Black-headed Grosbeak	-	-	VC	VC	1, 2, 3, 4	
Lazuli Bunting	-	-	VC	VC	3, 5	
Rufous-sided Towhee	VC	VC	VC	VC	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
Chipping Sparrow	-	R	C	C	3, 4	
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	C	C	5	
Fox Sparrow	C	C	-	-	2, 3, 5	
Song Sparrow	VC	VC	VC	VC	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	U	-	-	2	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	C	C	C	-	2, 5	

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)
Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*)
Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*)
Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)
Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*)
Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)
Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)
Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx
serripennis*)
Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*)
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)
Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*)
American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)
Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)
Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*)
Chestnut-backed Chickadee (*Parus rufescens*)
Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*)
Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*)
White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*)
Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*)
Bewick's Wren (*Thyromanes bewickii*)
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)
Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)
American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*)
Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*)
Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*)
Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)
Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*)
American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)
Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)
Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)
European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*)
Hutton's Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*)
Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*)

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)
Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*)
Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*)
Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)
Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*)
Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)
Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*)
Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*)
MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*)
Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)
Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*)
Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)
Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)
Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)
Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*)
Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)
Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)
Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*)
Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*)
Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)
Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*)
Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)
White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)
Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*)
Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)
Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)
Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)
Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)
Bullock's (Northern) Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)
Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*)
House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)
Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)
Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*)
Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*)
American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*)
Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertina*)
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

1995 bird list compiled by Dan Gleason. Other revisions by Barbara Gleason & Arboretum staff.