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BIRDING CHECKLIST

This list includes 283 species of birds that may be seen within the Forest Preserves of Cook County. The checklist also includes information on seasonal abundance, nesting and habitat preference. This information is only a guide; birds are highly adaptable and can be found in a number of habitats and outside their normal season of occurrence.

HABITAT TYPES

- Aerial** [A] Species mostly seen in the air flying over a variety of habitats.
- Grasslands** [G] Large tracts of land with very little or no trees and shrubs. Includes old fields, prairies and fens.
- Wetlands** [W] Wet areas with large amounts of vegetation. Includes marshes, swamps and small sloughs.
- Forests** [F] Areas dominated by trees. Includes forests, savannas, and woodlots.
- Open water** [O] Areas of open waters on larger sloughs, ponds and lakes.
- Migrant** [M] These species migrate through our area. Habitat listed is main habitat but may be found in a variety of habitats.

NESTING

- N** Known to have nested in the Preserves
- n** Believed to nest in the Preserves
- *** Parasitic nester leaves eggs in nests of other birds.

SEASONAL OCCURENCE

- Spring** [Sp] March - May
- Summer** [Su] June - August
- Fall** [F] September - November
- Winter** [W] December - February

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

- Abundant** [A] Certain to be found in a variety of habitats.
- Common** [C] Certain to be found in suitable habitat.
- Uncommon** [U] Present in small numbers in suitable habitat, but not always seen.
- Occasional** [O] Observed only a few times during a season.
- Rare** [R] Unlikely to be found even in suitable habitat. Observed at intervals of 2 - 5 years.
- Accidental** [X] Found outside its normal range.
- Introduced** (I) Non-native species that have been introduced to this area.

✓	SPECIES	HABITAT	NEST	SP	SU	F	W
	Greater White-fronted Goose	M-O		O		O	R
	Snow Goose	M-W,O		O		O	R
	Ross's Goose	M-W,O		R		R	R
	Cackling Goose	W,O		O		O	O
	Canada Goose	W,O	N	A	A	A	C
	Mute Swan (I)	O	N	U	U	U	U
	Trumpeter Swan	O	N	U	U	U	O
	Tundra Swan	M-O		R		R	
	Wood Duck	W,O	N	C	C	U	R
	Gadwall	M-W		U		C	R
	American Wigeon	M-W		C		C	R
	American Black Duck	W	n	O	R	O	O
	Mallard	W	N	A	C	A	U
	Blue-winged Teal	W	N	C	U	C	
	Northern Shoveler	W	N	C	O	C	R
	Northern Pintail	M-W	N	U		U	
	Green-winged Teal	W		C	R	C	R
	Canvasback	M-W,O		U		U	
	Redhead	M-W,O		U		U	
	Ring-necked Duck	M-W,O		C	R	U	R
	Greater Scaup	M-O		U		U	R
	Lesser Scaup	M-O		C		C	O
	Surf Scoter	M-O				R	R
	White-winged Scoter	M-O				R	R
	Black Scoter	M-O				R	R
	Long-tailed Duck	M-O				R	R
	Bufflehead	M-O		C		U	R
	Common Goldeneye	M-O		C		C	O
	Hooded Merganser	M-W,O	N	C	U	C	O
	Common Merganser	M-O		C		C	O
	Red-breasted Merganser	M-O		C		C	O
	Ruddy Duck	M-O	N	U	R	U	O
	Ring-necked Pheasant (I)	G	N	U	U	U	U
	Northern Bobwhite	G		R	R	R	R
	Red-throated Loon	M-O		R			
	Common Loon	M-O		U		U	
	Pied-billed Grebe	W,O	N	C	U	U	
	Horned Grebe	M-O		U		U	
	Eared Grebe	M-O		O			
	American White Pelican	M-W,O		U	R	R	
	Double-crested Cormorant	W,O	N	C	C	C	O
	American Bittern	W	N	O	O		
	Least Bittern	W	N	U	U		
	Great Blue Heron	W	N	C	C	C	U

✓	SPECIES	HABITAT	NEST	SP	SU	F	W
	Great Egret	W	N	C	C	C	
	Snowy Egret	W				X	
	Little Blue Heron	W			O	O	
	Cattle Egret	W		O	R	R	
	Green Heron	W	N	U	C	U	
	Black-crowned Night-heron	W	N	U	C	U	
	Yellow-crowned Night-heron	W	N	R	R	R	
	Turkey Vulture	M-A,G,F	N	C	U	C	
	Osprey	M-W,O	N	O	U	O	
	Bald Eagle	M-W,O	N	O	O	O	O
	Northern Harrier	M-G,W	N	U	R	U	U
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	M-F		U		U	U
	Cooper's Hawk	M-F	N	U	U	U	O
	Northern Goshawk	M				R	R
	Red-shouldered Hawk	W,F	N	O	O	O	O
	Broad-winged Hawk	M-F,A	N	U	O	U	
	Swainson's Hawk	M-A		R		R	
	Red-tailed Hawk	G,F,A	N	C	C	C	C
	Rough-legged Hawk	M-G,A		R		O	U
	Golden Eagle	M-A		R		R	R
	American Kestrel	G,A	N	C	C	C	C
	Merlin	M-A		O		O	
	Peregrine Falcon	M-A		O	O	O	O
	Yellow Rail	M-W	n	R		R	
	King Rail	W	N	O	O	O	
	Virginia Rail	W	N	U	U	U	
	Sora	W	N	C	C	U	
	Common Gallinule	W	N	O	U	U	
	American Coot	W,O	N	C	U	C	O
	Sandhill Crane	M-W,G	N	C	O	O	
	Black-bellied Plover	M-W		R	O	O	
	American Golden Plover	M-W		R	R	R	
	Semipalmated Plover	M-W		O	U	U	
	Killdeer	W,G	N	C	C	C	R
	Black-necked Stilt	M-W		X	X	X	
	American Avocet	M-W		R	R	R	
	Spotted Sandpiper	W	N	C	C	C	
	Solitary Sandpiper	W		C	C	C	
	Greater Yellowlegs	M-W		U	C	U	
	Willet	M-W		R	R	R	
	Lesser Yellowlegs	M-W		U	C	U	
	Upland Sandpiper	M-W	n	R	R	R	
	Hudsonian Godwit	M-W		R		R	



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✓	SPECIES	HABITAT	NEST	SP	SU	F	W
	Marbled Godwit	M-W		R		R	
	Ruddy Turnstone	M-W		R		O	
	Sanderling	M-W		O		O	
	Semipalmated Sandpiper	M-W		U	U	U	
	Western Sandpiper	M-W		R	O	O	
	Least Sandpiper	M-W		C	C	C	
	White-rumped Sandpiper	M-W			O	O	
	Baird's Sandpiper	M-W			O	O	
	Pectoral Sandpiper	M-W		C	C	C	
	Dunlin	M-W		O		O	
	Stilt Sandpiper	M-W		U	O	U	
	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	M-W		R		R	
	Short-billed Dowitcher	M-W		U	U	U	
	Long-billed Dowitcher	M-W		O		O	
	Wilson's Snipe	W		U	O	U	
	American Woodcock	W,F	N	C	U	O	
	Wilson's Phalarope	M-W		R	R	O	
	Red-necked Phalarope	M-W		R		O	
	Franklin's Gull	M-O		O		O	
	Bonaparte's Gull	M-O		U		U	
	Ring-billed Gull	W,O	N	A	C	A	A
	Herring Gull	W,O	N	C	C	C	C
	Thayer's Gull	O					O
	Iceland Gull	M-O					R
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	M-O					R
	Glaucous Gull	M-O					R
	Great Black-backed Gull	M-O					O
	Caspian Tern	W,O		U	C	U	
	Black Tern	W	N	O	O	O	
	Common Tern	M-W,O		O		O	
	Forster's Tern	M-W,O		U		U	
	Rock Pigeon (I)	F,G,W	N	C	C	C	C
	Eurasian Collared-Dove (I)	G		X	X	X	X
	Mourning Dove	G,F,W	N	C	C	C	C
	Monk Parakeet (I)	G,F		O	O	O	O
	Black-billed Cuckoo	F	N	U	U	O	
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	F	N	U	U	O	
	Barn Owl	M-G,F		X		X	X
	Eastern Screech-Owl	F	N	U	U	U	U
	Great Horned Owl	F	N	C	C	C	C
	Snowy Owl	M-G					R
	Barred Owl	F	N	O	O	O	O
	Long-eared Owl	M-G,F					U
	Short-eared Owl	M-G	N			U	U

✓	SPECIES	HABITAT	NEST	SP	SU	F	W
	Northern Saw-whet Owl	M-F	n	R	R		O
	Common Nighthawk	M-A,F	N	C	U	C	
	Whip-poor-will	F	N	O	O		
	Chimney Swift	A	N	C	A	C	
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	F	N	U	U	U	
	Belted Kingfisher	W	N	C	C	C	U
	Red-headed Woodpecker	F	N	U	U	O	O
	Red-bellied Woodpecker	F	N	C	C	C	C
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	F		U		U	R
	Downy Woodpecker	F	N	C	C	C	C
	Hairy Woodpecker	F	N	U	U	U	U
	Northern Flicker	F,G	N	C	C	C	O
	Pileated Woodpecker	F	N	O	O	O	O
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	M-G,F		R	R	R	
	Eastern Wood-Pewee	F	N	U	C	U	
	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	M-F		O		O	
	Acadian Flycatcher	M-F,W	N	U	U	O	
	Alder Flycatcher	M-W,F		U	U	O	
	Willow Flycatcher	G,W	N	C	C	U	
	Least Flycatcher	F	n	U	C	U	
	Eastern Phoebe	F,G	N	C	C	C	R
	Great Crested Flycatcher	F	N	C	C	U	
	Eastern Kingbird	G	N	C	C	U	
	Loggerhead Shrike	G,F		X	X	X	
	Northern Shrike	G,F				R	O
	White-eyed Vireo	G,F	N	O	O		
	Bell's Vireo	G	N	R	O		
	Yellow-throated Vireo	F	N	U	U		
	Blue-headed Vireo	M-F		U	R	O	
	Warbling Vireo	F,G	N	C	C	U	
	Philadelphia Vireo	M-F		O		O	
	Red-eyed Vireo	F	N	C	C	U	
	Blue Jay	F,G	N	C	C	C	C
	American Crow	F,G	N	C	C	C	C
	Horned Lark	G	N	U	O	O	U
	Purple Martin	W,G,A	N	U	C	U	
	Tree Swallow	W,G,A	N	C	C	C	
	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	W,A	N	U	U	U	
	Bank Swallow	W,A	n	U	U	U	
	Cliff Swallow	W,A	N	U	U	U	
	Barn Swallow	W,A	N	C	C	C	
	Black-capped Chickadee	F,G	N	C	C	C	C
	Tufted Titmouse	F	N	U	U	U	U

✓	SPECIES	HABITAT	NEST	SP	SU	F	W
	Red-breasted Nuthatch	F		U		U	O
	White-breasted Nuthatch	F	N	C	C	C	C
	Brown Creeper	M-F		U		U	U
	Carolina Wren	F	N	U	U	U	U
	House Wren	F	N	C	C	U	
	Winter Wren	M-F		U		U	O
	Sedge Wren	G,W	N	U	U		
	Marsh Wren	W	N	C	C	O	
	Golden-crowned Kinglet	M-F		U		U	O
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	M-F		C		C	R
	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	F	N	C	C	U	
	Eastern Bluebird	F,G	N	C	C	C	O
	Veery	F	N	U	U	O	
	Gray-cheeked Thrush	M-F		U		U	
	Swainson's Thrush	M-F		C		U	
	Hermit Thrush	M-F		C		U	O
	Wood Thrush	F	N	U	U		
	American Robin	F,G,W	N	A	C	A	U
	Gray Catbird	F	N	C	C	C	R
	Northern Mockingbird	G,F		R	R	R	R
	Brown Thrasher	F,G	N	C	C	U	R
	European Starling (I)	G,F,W	N	A	C	A	C
	American Pipit	W,G		O		O	
	Cedar Waxwing	F	N	C	C	C	C
	Blue-winged Warbler	G,F	N	C	C	U	
	Golden-winged Warbler	F	n	U	U	O	
	Tennessee Warbler	M-F		C	U	U	
	Orange-crowned Warbler	M-F		U		U	
	Nashville Warbler	M-F		C	O	U	
	Northern Parula	M-F		U		O	
	Yellow Warbler	W,G,F	N	C	C	U	
	Chestnut-sided Warbler	M-F,G	N	U	O	U	
	Magnolia Warbler	M-F		U		U	
	Cape May Warbler	M-F		U		U	
	Black-throated Blue Warbler	M-F		U		U	
	Yellow-rumped Warbler	M-F,G,W		C		C	O
	Black-throated Green Warbler	M-F		C		U	
	Blackburnian Warbler	M-F		U		O	
	Yellow-throated Warbler	M-F		R			
	Pine Warbler			C		O	
	Prairie Warbler	M-G		R			
	Palm Warbler	M-F,G		C	O	U	
	Bay-breasted Warbler	M-F		U		U	
	Blackpoll Warbler	M-F		C	O	U	

✓	SPECIES	HABITAT	NEST	SP	SU	F	W
	Cerulean Warbler	M-F		U	O		
	Black-and-white Warbler	M-F		C		U	
	American Redstart	M-F	N	C	O	C	
	Prothonotary Warbler	W	N	U	U	O	
	Worm-eating Warbler	M-F		O			
	Ovenbird	F	N	U	U	U	
	Northern Waterthrush	M-F,W		U		U	
	Louisiana Waterthrush	F,W	N	U	U		
	Kentucky Warbler	M-F		O			
	Connecticut Warbler	M-F		O		O	
	Mourning Warbler	M-F		U		O	
	Common Yellowthroat	W	N	C	C	U	
	Hooded Warbler	F	N	U	U	O	
	Wilson's Warbler	M-F		U		U	
	Canada Warbler	M-F		U		U	
	Yellow-breasted Chat	G,F	N	U	U	U	
	Eastern Towhee	G,F	N	C	C	C	O
	American Tree Sparrow	M-G,F		O		C	C
	Chipping Sparrow	F	N	C	C	U	
	Clay-colored Sparrow	M-G,F	N	U		U	
	Field Sparrow	G	N	C	C	C	R
	Vesper Sparrow	G	N	O	O	R	
	Lark Sparrow	G		R	R	R	
	Savannah Sparrow	G	N	C	C	U	
	Grasshopper Sparrow	G	N	U	U	U	
	Henslow's Sparrow	G	N	U	U	U	
	Le Conte's Sparrow	M-W,G		O		O	
	Nelson's Sparrow	M-W,G		O		O	
	Fox Sparrow	M-F,G		U		U	O
	Song Sparrow	S,G,W	N	C	C	C	C
	Lincoln's Sparrow	M-F,G		U		U	
	Swamp Sparrow	W	N	C	C	C	U
	White-throated Sparrow	M-F,G		C		C	U
	Harris's Sparrow	M				R	X
	White-crowned Sparrow	M-F,G		U		U	O
	Dark-eyed Junco	M-G,F		C		C	A
	Lapland Longspur	M-G					U
	Snow Bunting	M-G					U
	Summer Tanager	F	N	O	O		
	Scarlet Tanager	F	N	C	U	U	
	Northern Cardinal	F,G	N	C	C	C	C
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	F	N	C	C	U	
	Blue Grosbeak	G	n	X	X		
	Indigo Bunting	G,F	N	C	C	U	
	Dickcissel	G	N	U	U	O	

✓	SPECIES	HABITAT	NEST	SP	SU	F	W
	Bobolink	G	N	U	C	U	
	Red-winged Blackbird	W	N	A	A	A	O
	Eastern Meadowlark	G	N	C	U	C	O
	Western Meadowlark	G		R	X		
	Yellow-headed Blackbird	W	N	U	U	O	
	Rusty Blackbird	M-W,F		U		U	R
	Brewer's Blackbird	M-G,W		O	R	O	U
	Common Grackle	W,G,F	N	A	C	A	O
	Brown-headed Cowbird	W,G,F	N*	A	C	A	U
	Orchard Oriole	F,G	N	U	U	O	
	Baltimore Oriole	F,G	N	C	C	U	
	Purple Finch	M-F		O		O	U
	House Finch	F,G	N	C	C	C	C
	Red Crossbill	M-F					R
	White-winged Crossbill	M-F					R
	Common Redpoll	M-G					O
	Pine Siskin	M-F		R		R	U
	American Goldfinch	G,F	N	C	C	C	C
	Evening Grosbeak	M-F					R
	House Sparrow (I)	G,F	N	A	A	A	A

RARITIES

The following species have been seen at least once within the holdings of the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Please report species listed as rare or accidental in the main checklist, or any species not on this checklist, to one of the Forest Preserves' Nature Centers.

- Eurasian Wigeon
- Red Knot
- King Eider
- Ruff
- Barrow's Goldeneye
- Laughing Gull
- Wild Turkey
- Sabine's Gull
- Red-necked Grebe
- Parasitic-Jaeger
- Western Grebe
- Chuck-will's -widow
- Wood Stork
- Rufous Hummingbird
- Mississippi Kite
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
- Black Rail
- Fork-tailed Flycatcher
- Whooping Crane
- Hoary Redpoll

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