

BIRDS



OF
RIVERDALE PARK
AND
WAVE HILL
Bronx, New York



Together, Wave Hill and Riverdale Park include 125 acres of deciduous woods, vine thickets, Hudson River waterfront and scenic vistas, as well as managed lawns and gardens. This diversity of habitat attracts a wide variety of migrating and resident birds. Riverdale's

location along the eastern flyway makes it an ideal migratory flyover for many species of songbirds, waterfowl, and hawks.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, famous naturalists like Eugene Bicknell, Ludlow Briscom, and John Kieran recorded species like the eastern bluebird, woodcock, meadowlark, and seaside sparrow as breeders in the area. Today, many of these and other former breeding birds are seen in Riverdale only as spring or fall migrants. Changing land use and development of former woods, pastures, and marshes have led to the decline of many once-common species. On the other hand, some non-migratory birds such as the northern mockingbird and cardinal were once rare here. These birds, once limited to southern areas, have expanded their ranges, and are now common in Riverdale year-round.

Situated high on Riverdale's ridge, Wave Hill attracts many birders and naturalists with its variety of forests, gardens, lawns, and wide views across the Hudson to the Palisades. In the fall, a weekend hawk watch open to the public records migrating hawks and blue jays as they soar high overhead. Wave Hill naturalists record bird sightings, lead spring bird walks, and coordinate the local Christmas Bird Count for the Riverdale area.

Riverdale Park offers large wooded areas, a small wetland, and a long Hudson River shoreline. Riverdale Park has not been thoroughly examined for birds in all seasons and a number of likely species await

discovery. Present breeders include migrants like the rose-breasted grosbeak and yellow warbler, as well as year-round residents such as the white-breasted nuthatch and ring-necked pheasant.

Additional sightings for this list are welcomed. Please notify the Wave Hill naturalists if you identify any unlisted species. They can be reached at (212) 549-2055.

SEASON

- Sp – Spring (March-May)
- Su – Summer (June-August)
- F – Fall (September-November)
- W – Winter (December-February)

ABUNDANCE

- A – Abundant Observable in great numbers in specific seasons.
- C – Common Usually seen in proper habitat.
- U – Uncommon Present every year in specific seasons but not in great numbers.
- R – Rare Only a few individuals seen in specific seasons. Not seen every year.
- * – Breeder Recorded as a recent breeding bird for Riverdale Park or Wave Hill.

HABITAT KEY

- D – Deciduous forest
- G – Wave Hill gardens and lawns
- O – Seen overhead
- R – Hudson River
- W – Riverdale Park wetland
- V – Vine thickets or clearings

	Sp	Su	F	W
— Loon, common—O			R	
— Cormorant, double- crested—R,O	U	U	U	
— Swan, mute—R			R	R
— Goose, snow—O			U	U
— Goose, Canada—O	U		C	
— Duck, black—R	R	U	U	C
— Mallard*—R,W	U	U	U	
— Duck, wood—D		R		
— Canvasback—R				C
— Bufflehead—R				U
— Scoter, white-winged—R			U	
— Gull, herring—R,O	A	A	A	A
— Gull, ring-billed—R,O	A	A	A	A
— Gull, greater black- backed—R,O	C	C	C	C
— Gull, laughing—R,O	C	C		
— Heron, great blue—R,G,O		U	U	
— Heron, black-crowned night—R,G,W,O		U		
— Heron, green-backed—G,R		R	R	
— Woodcock—D	R			
— Sandpiper, spotted—R		R		
— Pheasant, ring-necked*—D,V ..	U	U	U	U
— Hawk, sharp-shinned—O	U		U	
— Hawk, cooper's—O				R
— Harrier, northern—O			R	
— Hawk, red-tailed—O,D	U		U	U
— Hawk, rough-legged—O			R	
— Hawk, red-shouldered—O		R	R	
— Hawk, broad-winged—D,O	U		C	
— Eagle, bald—O			R	
— Eagle, golden—O			R	
— Osprey—R,O	U		C	
— Vulture, turkey—O	R		R	
— Kestrel, American—R,O	U		U	
— Falcon, peregrine—O			R	
— Owl, common screech*—D	R	R	R	R
— Owl, great horned—D	R			R
— Owl, long-eared—G				R
— Parakeet, monk—R,O		R		
— Parakeet, black-hooded—G,O ..		R	R	
— Dove, mourning*—D,G,V	C	C	C	C
— Dove, rock*—D,O,G,V	C	C	C	C
— Cuckoo, yellow-billed—D,G	R	R	R	
— Nighthawk, common—O			R	
— Hummingbird, ruby- throated—V,G	R		C	
— Kingfisher, belted—R,G			U	
— Flicker, common*—D,G	A	C	A	U

	Sp	Su	F	W
— Warbler, Canada—D	U		U	
— Warbler, Cape May—D,G	U			
— Warbler, chestnut-sided—D,V	U		C	
— Warbler, bay-breasted—D	R		R	
— Warbler, black-burnian—D	C		U	
— Redstart, American—D	C		C	
— Warbler, pine—D	U			
— Warbler, prairie—W	U			
— Warbler, palm—D	U		U	
— Warbler, blue-winged—V	U			
— Warbler, yellow*—V,W	C	U	C	
— Warbler, worm-eating—D	R			
— Warbler, Tennessee—D	R			
— Warbler, Wilson's—V	R		R	
— Warbler, hooded—D	R			
— Warbler, Nashville—D			R	
— Warbler, mourning—D	R			
— Yellowthroat, common*—V,W	C	C	C	
— Chat, yellow-breasted—V			R	
— Waterthrush, northern—D	R			
— Ovenbird—D	U		U	
— Blackbird, red-winged*—W	C	C	C	
— Cowbird, brown- headed*—D,V,G	U	U		
— Grackle, common*—D,G	A	A	A	
— Starling, European*—D,V,G	A	A	A	A
— Oriole, orchard*—D	R			
— Oriole, northern*—D,V,W	C	C	U	
— Tanager, scarlet—D	U		U	
— Sparrow, house*—V,G	A	A	A	A
— Junco, dark-eyed—D,V			A	A
— Cardinal, northern*—D,V	C	C	C	C
— Redpoll, common—D				R
— Finch, house*—D,V,G	A	A	A	A
— Finch, purple—D				R
— Goldfinch, American—V	U	U	U	U
— Bunting, indigo—V	C			
— Grosbeak, rose-breasted*—D	C	U	U	
— Grosbeak, evening—G	U			
— Towhee, rufous-sided*—V	C	R	U	
— Sparrow, white-throated—V			A	A
— Sparrow, white-crowned—V			R	
— Sparrow, chipping—V	U		U	
— Sparrow, swamp—W,D	U		U	
— Sparrow, fox—D				R
— Sparrow, song*—W,V	C	C	C	C
— Sparrow, savannah—V			R	
— Siskin, pine—G				U

	Sp	Su	F	W
— Woodpecker, red-bellied—D ..	U	R	U	U
— Sapsucker, yellow-bellied—D .	U		U	R
— Woodpecker, downy*—D	C	C	C	C
— Woodpecker, hairy—D	U			U
— Kingbird, eastern—R,V	U	U	U	
— Flycatcher, great crested—D,V .	U			
— Phoebe, eastern—D,V,W	U			
— Pewee, eastern—D	U		U	
— Flycatchers, Empidonax species—D,V	U		U	
— Martin, purple—O	R			
— Swallow, barn—O	U		U	
— Swift, chimney—O	U	U		
— Crow, common*—D,V,R	C	C	C	C
— Crow, fish—D,V,R	U	U	U	U
— Jay, blue*—D,V,O	C	C	A	C
— Chickadee, black-capped*—D .	C	C	C	C
— Titmouse, tufted*—D	C	C	C	C
— Nuthatch, white-breasted*—D	C	C	C	C
— Nuthatch, red-breasted—D ...	R		R	
— Creeper, brown—D	U		U	R
— Wren, house*—V,D	U	U	U	
— Wren, winter—D,V	U		C	
— Wren, Carolina—D,V	R		R	
— Kinglet, ruby-crowned—D	C		C	
— Kinglet, golden-crowned—D ..	C		C	
— Gnatcatcher, blue-gray—D	U		U	
— Thrasher, brown*—D,V	U	U	U	
— Catbird, gray*—V	A	A	C	
— Mockingbird, northern*—G,D	C	C	C	C
— Robin, American*—G,V	A	A	A	U
— Thrush, Swainson's—D	C		U	
— Thrush, hermit—D	U		U	R
— Veery—D	U		U	
— Thrush, wood—D	C		U	
— Waxwing, cedar—D	C		C	
— Vireo, red-eyed—D	C		U	
— Vireo, warbling—D	R		R	
— Vireo, white-eyed—V	R			
— Vireo, solitary—D	U		U	
— Warbler, northern parula—D .	C		C	
— Warbler, black- throated green—D	C		U	
— Warbler, black and white—D .	C		C	
— Warbler, blackpoll—D	A		U	
— Warbler, black-throated blue—D	U		U	
— Warbler, magnolia—D	U		U	
— Warbler, yellow- rumped—D,V,W	U		C	

—Notes—

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