

Avian Survey

by John R. Blomberg
revised by Brad Blaine

The following list is a revised list of birds found at Johnson T. Janes Park through the efforts of John R. Blomberg. Included in this survey are the scientific names of species which were not included in the initial survey, more detailed descriptions and survey trends.

Explanation of Surveys: The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is currently administered by the National Biological Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service involving a survey of 3,000 24.5 mile routes throughout the agencies' ranges in which volunteers stop every half mile for 3 minutes of bird counting. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is run by the National Audubon Society and is the largest avian survey in the world with over 45,000 volunteers in 1,500 designated areas that are 15 miles in diameter in the US and Canada. Each one is surveyed for a day with participants counting all birds in the area. This survey usually occurs within a week or two of Christmas each year. Arrows designate changes in population; ↑ = increase of less than 2% per year, ↓ = decrease of less than 2% per year, → = a stable population, ↑↑ = increase of greater than 2% per year, ↓↓ = decrease of greater than 2% per year. BBS data ranges from 1966-1993. CBC data ranges from 1965-1989

A significant amount of information was gleaned from various texts, guides, etc. but foremost credit must go to:

Stokes, Donald and Lillian. Stokes Field Guide to Birds-Eastern Region. Little, Brown and Company Publishing. 1996.

Water Birds

No.	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Description</u> (S=seasonal resident, Y=year-round resident)	<u>Notes</u> (BBS=Breeding Bird Survey, CBC=Christmas Bird Count)
1	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	S, this small chestnut and green heron can be found at stream-side and has nested in the area, voice is a "skow" when flushed or in flight or a "raah" when aggressive	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↑
2	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Y, this very large bird has a 6 ft. wingspan, is colored blue-gray and can be found in the stream hunting fish, voice is usually a "frahnk" or short "rok-rok" when aggressive	BBS= ↑↑, CBC= ↑↑
3	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Y, a large duck-like bird with a black and white head, mostly seen or heard overhead, voice is "ahonk"	BBS= ↑↑, CBC= ↑
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Y, male has a bright green head and female has plain brown, can be found along creeks and nests, male doesn't	BBS= ↑↑, CBC= ↓↓

			“quack” rather a “rhaeb, rhaeb” during aggression and a short whistle during courtship, Female “quacks” in a decrescendo when uneasy or separated from male, or a “quegegege” during inciting	
5	Blue-Winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	S, a small duck that nests in the area, male has large white crescent on face female is brown and both show a pale blue on wings in flight, voice is a high-pitched “quack”-ing for female, hi-pitched “tsee” for male	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
6	Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	S, the male has very colorful head, white throat, partial neck ring and chinstrap connected, female is brownish gray with a darker crown and white eye-ring, voice is “oo-eek” for female in flight, hi-whistle for male in courtship groups	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
7	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	Y, a blue or blue and rust colored bird found flying or perched around creek, voice is a continuous woody rattle and a very vocal bird	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↑

Land Birds

<u>No.</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Description</u> (S=seasonal resident, Y=year-round resident)	<u>Notes</u> (BBS=Breeding Bird Survey, CBC=Christmas Bird Count)
8	Sharp-Shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Y, a small woodland hawk that preys on smaller birds, breast is white with reddish streaking and back is blue-black, voice is a rapid series of high “kek kek kek kek”	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
9	Cooper’s Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Y, a larger version of the Sharp-Shinned Hawk and often difficult to separate, voice is a loud repeated high “kek kek kek kek” calls	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
10	Red-Shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Y, a regular nester in the park with brown-red breast and reddish shoulders often soaring high overhead, voice is a high “kee ah”	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
11	Red-Tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Y, a large hawk often seen soaring overhead with reddish-brown tail, voice is a down-slurred scream like “tseeaarr” towards intruders or a “klooeek” given by fledglings and	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑

			adults or a “chwirrk” during courtship	
12	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Y, unmistakable turkey shape with black feathers and with naked head, voices include gobbling, yelping, and clucking	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
13	Rock Dove/Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Y, unmistakable pigeon shape and variable colors	BBS= ↑
14	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Y, nests in area and can be confused with small raptors, gray brown body with iridescent sides of neck, voice is a “ooahoo oo oo” for unmated males or a “ooahoo” for nesting males and females	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
15	Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	S, larger songbird with very white breast and gray brown above often hides and difficult to see voice is a “kukukukakaka kalp kalp kalp” slowing near the end	BBS= ↓, CBC= →
16	Black-Billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	S, like the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo but with a mostly black bill, voice is a soft repeated and monotonous “cucucu, cucucucu”	BBS= ↓
17	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Y, seen in preserve on occasion, large owl with distinct ears or horns, voice is 4 to 6 deep resonant hoots in various rhythms by different individuals often like “hooohoo hooohoo hoo” females higher pitched	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
18	Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	Y, large owl without ears or horns, black eyes, voice is a series of hoots like “who cooks for you” female higher pitched	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
19	Eastern Screech Owl	<i>Otus asio</i>	Y, small red or gray phase owl with yellow eyes, voice is an eerie whinny, rising and falling pitched trill on one note	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
20	Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	S, seen flying overhead catching bugs usually close to dark, has pointed wings with broad white stripes, voice is a nasal “peent”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
21	Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	S, small black birds with pointed wings and tail, very fast fliers usually in groups catching bugs often nesting in house chimneys near preserve, voice is a rapidly repeated “chitter-chitter-chitter” or separate “chip”	BBS= ↓

			calls	
22	Ruby-Throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilocus colubris</i>	S, very small bird with rapid wing beat flying from flower to flower gathering food in more open areas, voice is a series of varied chips and twitterings	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↓
23	Red-Bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Y, black and white back with a lot of red on head red on belly is hard to see, voice is a harsh “churr” drums in short bursts only 1 second long	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
24	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Y, woodpecker with black-spotted breast and yellow underwings, variations in color as either red or yellow shafted morphs, voice is a loud “kekekekeke” for territoriality or a “woikawoikawoika” during courtship	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
25	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Y, common woodpecker in park, black and white and male has a red spot on head, small bill, voice is a “teek” or “queek queek” during courtship	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
26	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Y, very similar to Downy Woodpecker but is larger with much longer bill, voice is a heavier “teek” or “wickiwickiwicki” during courtship	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
27	Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Y, very large woodpecker with red crested head about the size of a crow, voice is a loud 10 to 15 “cuk” calls given between mates, “woika woika” calls given during courtship or territorial interactions	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
28	Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myarchus crinitus</i>	S, a large crested olive-gray bird with a yellow belly, feeds high in trees and nests in cavity, voice is a loud strongly ascending “wheep” or a burry “preet”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
29	Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	S, a small gray-green bird of the forest, voice is high slurred whistles with long pauses, like “peeahwee peeoh” or a “chip” call	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
30	Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	S, about the size of Eastern Wood Pewee but with more yellow, voice is like the word “pizza” or a loud even-pitched “peet”	BBS= ↑

31	Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	S, a large purple black swallow that flies overhead catching bugs, notice forked tail and has nested in Rt. 50 garden shop martin house, voice is in pairs of notes followed by a guttural warble, of a “cher cher” near nests	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↑
32	Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Y, large blue, black, gray and white crested bird that is very active, voice is a harsh “jaay jaay” given in alarm or a liquid “toolool” and may imitate hawk calls	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↑
33	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Y, large all black bird with large bill, voice is a noisy “caaw”	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
34	Tufted Titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>	Y, a small crested blue-gray bird which nests in the preserve, voice is very vocal, a downslurred “peter peter peter” or a scolding “jewjewjew” and “tseejwee” or a contact call of “tseet”	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
35	Carolina Chickadee	<i>Parus carolinensis</i>	Y, a cousin to the Black-Capped Chickadee, is a small gray bird with black cap and chin with a white breast, commonly nesting in the preserve, voice is 2 whistled notes 1 st slightly higher than 2 nd	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
36	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	S, a small brown and white bird that winters here from the North, often creeps up a tree trunk in search of food, voice is a series of high-pitched whistles such as “see wee see tu wee” call is a high “tsee”	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
37	White-Breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Y, this blue-gray, black and white up-side-down bird walks on the bottom side of tree limbs at times, voice is “werwerwerwer” or “ip” and “ank ank” especially in aggressive postures	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
38	Red-Breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Y, like the white-breasted but with a red breast, voice is a nasal “nyeep nyeep” or a short “tsip”	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
39	Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Y, a small brown bird with uptilted tail and a broad white eye-stripe, voice is a 3-part phrase such as “tea kettle, tea kettle, tea kettle”	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
40	Golden-Crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	S, a small winter visitor that flocks with chickadees, voice is several high notes which end in chatter like	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑

	Kinglet		“tsee tsee tsee”	
41	Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	S, similar to Golden-Crowned with white wing bars and eye ring, very active and nervous bird seen in winter and during migration, voice is a song of descending high notes followed by 3-part phrase like “see see see you you you look-at-me, look-at-me, look-at-me”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↑
42	Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	S, a very small blue-gray bird with lighter breast and white eye ring, very active, voice is a series of buzzy notes, with a thin peevish “zeeee” call	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
43	Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Y, blue back and red breast, often found in open areas and wood edges, voice is a series of downslurred whistles like “cheer cheerful charmer” or a mallow “turwee”	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
44	Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	S, brown-backed thrush with large brown spots on breast, found on or close to ground, voice is a flutelike “bupbuppeeohlay, bupupaholee”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
45	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Y, gray-brown back and red or rust-colored breast often feeds on ground, voice is a “cheeryup cheerily” song or a “teek” or “tuk tuk tuk” or “tseep” given in flight	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
46	Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	S, all gray bird with black cap and russet bottom, voice is a mimic of other birds with each version given only once, also catlike “meeow” calls	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
47	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Y, a gray and white bird with a long tail with white edges with white wing patches showing in flight, voice is a mimic of other birds with each version repeated 3 or more times, or a raspy “chjjj” or “chewk”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
48	Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	S, brown with brown streaked breast, large curved bill and long tail often high in trees and nests in the preserve, voice is a loud series of twice repeated songs mimicking other birds	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
49	Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Y, crested brown bird with yellow belly tail with a yellow band usually feeding in flocks, voice is a very high	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑

			pitched thin "see"	
50	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Y, the common blackbird of the city and adjacent areas, usually in and can be found in and around preserve, varied coloration with yellow bill, voice is a running stream of calls of other birds, flight call a short "chjjj"	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↑
51	White-Eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	S, a small gray-yellow bird of low thickets, whitish wing bars and yellow spectacles, song is loud and varied begins and ends with "chick" such as "chick-adooweeoo-chick"	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
52	Yellow-Throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	S, similar to the white-eyed vireo but found higher in the trees with a song that ends in a distinctive "three-eight" phrase	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↓
53	Red-Eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	S, back is olive, breast white white eyebrow with a black stripe above and below, voice is short, medium pitched whistled phrases with pauses in between such as "eeyay, oolee, eeyup"	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↓
54	Blue-Winged Warbler	<i>Vermivorus pinus</i>	S, yellow with blue wings with two wing bars, black eye stripe, found low, voice is a singing wheezy "beee-bzzz" 1 st note higher pitched than 2 nd	BBS= ↑
55	Cerulean Warbler	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	S, a small bird with blue back and white breast, two white wing bars, high in trees, voice is rapid buzzy notes such as "zray zray zray zree"	BBS= ↓
56	Yellow-Rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	S, a common winter bird with a bright yellow rump and a tinge of yellow on sides, often forming small winter flocks, voice is a sharp "check"	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
57	Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	S, found in more open areas, male is yellow with fine red breast streaks, voice is "sweet, sweet, sweet, I'm so sweet" last note accented	BBS= ↑, CBC= →
58	Hooded Warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	S, male has olive back yellow underparts with black hooded face, often near the ground, voice is a "ta-wit ta-wit ta-wit tee-yo"	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
59	Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	S, ground warbler with brown back and white breast with bold dark	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↓

			spots, eye ring and russet crown, voice is a loud “teacher teacher teacher”	
60	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	S, male has olive back, yellow underparts and black mask, nests close to ground, voice is a often repeated “wichity wichity wichity wich”	BBS= ↓, CBC= →
61	Yellow Breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	S, olive back and bright yellow breast, often heard but seldom seen, voice is a jumble of sounds call is a grating “chack”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
62	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	S, the black and orange of the tail and wings of the male redstart is hard to miss, voice is a variable series of high notes ending with a downslurred note, call is a sweet “chip”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↑
63	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Y, the crested male redbird is hard to confuse with anything else, voice is a clear series of repeated calls like”whoit whoit whoit cheer cheer cheer”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
64	Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	S, males are all blue found at edges, voice is short fast series of calls like “tsee tsee tew tew teer teer”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
65	Rufous-Sided Towhee/Easter n Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Y, male is black headed and backed with rufous side (rust colored) and white underparts, voice is “drink-your-tea-ee-ee-ee-ee-ee”	BBS= ↓
66	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Y, brown-backed with heavily streaked breast with a central dark spot, often found along stream thickets, nests in park, voice is a few repetitious calls followed by a varied warble	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
67	American Tree Sparrow	<i>Spizella arborea</i>	S, a winter visitor of the open fields and forest edges, reddish cap with two white wing bars, black spot on a clear breast, voice is a 3-note “tseedle-eet”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
68	Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	S, a winter visitor with a clear breast, gray face and reddish crown, pink bill, two white wing bars and white eye ring, voice is a downslurred series of whistles increasing in speed	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓

			towards end like a bouncing ball	
69	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	S, smaller sparrow with red cap and white eyebrow two white wing bars, voice is continuous rapid trill lasting 2-3 seconds	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑
70	Dark-Eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	S, common winter visitor, often flocking, gray above with white underparts, voice is a brief trill on a single or a few trills	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
71	White-Throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	S, a common winter visitor with clear breast and a white striped head with yellow mark between bill and eye, voice is a two-whistled tone followed by 3-4 higher wavering notes like “sweet sweet Canada Canada Canada”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
72	Red-Winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	S, found in winter flocks, blackbird with red and yellow shoulder patches, voice is a loud “okalee”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↑
73	Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	S, found in early spring in wet portions of the park, black with yellow eyes, voice is a squeaky “chugalasqueek”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
74	Brown-Headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	S, male with black-green body with brown head parasitizes other nests with own eggs, voice is a liquid “bublucomsee”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↓
75	Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	S, long keep-shaped tail and pale yellow eyes, male appears purplish at close range, voice a short “kobaba-leek”	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↑
76	Northern Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	S, orange and black bird which constructs a hanging nest high in trees, voice is 4-8 medium pitched tones	BBS= ↓
77	Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivaceae</i>	S, an all red bird similar to the Cardinal but without a crest, voice a well spaced 2-note burry whistle such as “zureet zeeyeer zeeroo”	BBS= ↑
78	Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	S, an all red bird like Cardinal but no crest, voice is a varied string of whistles	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↑
79	American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Y, male is black and yellow in spring paler in the winter, often found on thistles and sycamore seed balls,	BBS= ↓, CBC= ↑

			voice is either a long canarylike song or a short forceful warble, calls include “sweeet”, “beerbee” and “perchicoree”	
80	House Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Y, common on edges of preserve, male has brown cap, has red head, bib and rump, voice is a musical warble ending with a harsh downslurred “jeer”	BBS= ↑, CBC= ↑