

Birds of West Ellerbe Creek Preserve and Indian Trail Park:

A Seasonal Checklist

Compiled by Dan Kaplan (danmaxkaplan@gmail.com) 12/06, rev. 9/07, 3/11

Species are listed in approximate taxonomic order of [Clements' Checklist of Birds of the World](#), roughly paralleling that of most field guides. Not all warblers and sparrows are so named, hence the discontinuities in those families.

Seasons:

- Spring: March – May
- Summer: June-August
- Fall: September-November
- Winter: December-February

Note that many migrants pass through during only a brief period in their season; they may be numerous for only a week or two each year. Summer and winter residents arrive and depart in spring and fall at rather precise times which vary by species. Hence, some summer residents arrive as early as mid-March, others not until May. Bird activity also varies greatly with weather and time of day. Early morning is most productive and even the most common species may be hard to find on a hot afternoon.

Relative abundance:

- A = abundant: always present in conspicuous numbers, hard to miss
- C = common: always present, found on most visits by experienced birders
- U = uncommon: not always present, smaller numbers, or present but difficult to find
- R = rare: found no more than once or twice a year
- * = only a single record

These assessments are based on limited data, mostly my own sporadic visits, mainly in spring and fall. Many species generally common in the region are seldom found in or over the preserve simply due to its small size and limited habitat variety. Many woodland birds are more often heard than seen; a long list requires birding by ear as well as by sight. More data are needed, especially for summer breeders and nocturnal species.

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Species	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Cormorant, Double-crested	*			
Goose, Canada	U	U	U	U
Mallard	U			
Heron, Great Blue	U	U	U	U
Green	*			
Vulture, Black			R	
Turkey	U	U	U	U
Osprey	*		*	
Hawk, Sharp-shinned			R	
Cooper's	U	U	U	U
Red-shouldered	U	U	U	U
Red-tailed	U	U	U	U
Turkey, Wild	*			
Sandpiper, Solitary	R			
Spotted	*			
Killdeer				R
Gull, Ring-billed				U
Pigeon, Rock	U	U	U	U
Dove, Mourning	C	C	C	C
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed	R		U	
Black-billed			*	
Owl, Great Horned	*			
Barred	U	U	U	U
Swift, Chimney	U	C	C	
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated	U	C	C	
Kingfisher, Belted	R		R	
Woodpecker, Red-headed			R	
Red-bellied	C	C	C	C
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied	U		U	U
Woodpecker, Downy	C	C	C	C
Hairy		*		
Flicker, Northern	C	C	C	C
Wood-Pewee, Eastern	C	C	C	
Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied			R	
Acadian	R		R	
<i>Empidonax</i> sp.			U	
Phoebe, Eastern	U	U	U	R
Flycatcher, Great Crested	C	C	C	
Kingbird, Eastern	R			
Jay, Blue	C	C	C	C
Crow, American	C	C	C	C
Crow, Fish	C	C	C	
Raven, Common				*
Vireo, Philadelphia	R		R	
White-eyed	C	C	C	*
Blue-headed	U		U	R
Yellow-throated			*	
Red-eyed	C	C	C	
Warbling	*			

Species	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Waxwing, Cedar	C	R	C	C
Bluebird, Eastern	U	U	U	C
Veery			*	
Thrush, Gray-cheeked			R	
Swainson's	R		U	
Hermit	U		U	U
Wood	C	C	C	
Robin, American	A	A	A	A
Catbird, Gray	C	A	A	R
Mockingbird, Northern	C	C	C	C
Thrasher, Brown	C	C	C	U
Starling, European	C	C	C	C
Nuthatch, Brown-headed	C	C	C	C
White-breasted	C	C	C	C
Creeper, Brown	U		U	U
Wren, Carolina	A	A	A	A
House	C	A	C	
Winter	U		U	U
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray	C	C	C	
Swallow, N. Rough-winged	R			
Barn	R			
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	C		C	C
Kinglet, Golden-crowned	U		U	C
Chickadee, Carolina	C	C	C	C
Titmouse, Tufted	C	C	C	C
Sparrow, House	R	R	R	R
Siskin, Pine				R
Goldfinch, American	C	C	C	C
Finch, House	C	C	C	C
Purple			R	R
Warbler, Blue-winged			U	
Golden-winged			R	
Orange-crowned	*			
Tennessee			R	
Nashville			R	
Parula, Northern	C	?	C	
Warbler, Yellow	R			
Chestnut-sided			U	
Magnolia	R		C	
Cape May	*			
Black-throated Blue	U		R	
Yellow-rumped	C		U	C
Black-throated Green			U	
Blackburnian			U	
Pine	C	C	C	U
Prairie			R	
Palm	*			
Bay-breasted			U	
Blackpoll	U		U	

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Black-and-White	U		U	
Redstart, American	U		C	
Warbler, Worm-eating	R		R	
Ovenbird	U		U	
Waterthrush, Northern	R		R	
Yellowthroat, Common	C	C	C	
Warbler, Hooded	R		R	
Wilson's			R	
Canada			*	
Mourning			*	
Chat, Yellow-breasted	R		R	
Sparrow, Fox	R			U
Song	C	C	C	C
Swamp	R		R	
White-throated	A		A	A
Junco, Dark-eyed	C		C	C
Sparrow, Chipping	U	U	U	U
Field	U		U	C
Towhee, Eastern	C	C	C	C
Tanager, Summer	U		U	
Scarlet	U		U	
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	R		U	
Cardinal, Northern	C	C	C	C
Grosbeak, Blue			*	
Bunting, Indigo	U		U	
Oriole, Baltimore	U		U	
Orchard	R			
Grackle, Common	U	U	U	U
Blackbird, Rusty	*			
Cowbird, Brown-headed	C	C	C	U