

Many birds of different shapes, sizes, and colors call Yates Mill Pond, the surrounding fields, or forest home. Many of these birds migrate seasonally so they are not seen year-round, while others are here as permanent residents.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

LOCATION: In grassy areas or gardens, eating seeds

SIZE: Small finch; 7.0 to 8.0-inch wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Short conical bill and a short-notched tail; during breeding season, the males are bright yellow with a black forehead and black wings; breeding females are a slightly duller yellow and have some olive colors as well; nonbreeding males and females are light brown with black and white-striped wings



COMMON BIRDS



HISTORIC YATES MILL COUNTY PARK

NORTHERN CARDINAL

LOCATION: Along the trails in shrubs and trees

SIZE: A small-sized bird; 10.0 to 12.0-inch wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Short, thick bill with a prominent head crest; males are bright red with black around the face and throat, while females are light brown with red on their wings and tail



Male



Female

CAROLINA CHICKADEE

LOCATION: Along trails in shrubs and trees

SIZE: A very small bird; 6.0 to 8.0-inch wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Gray body with a black cap and throat, and white cheeks



CAROLINA WREN

LOCATION: Along the trails and millpond edge in dense vegetation

SIZE: A very small bird; 10.0 to 11.0-inch wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Reddish-brown back, a tan belly, and a white throat and eyebrows



EASTERN BLUEBIRD

LOCATION: In trees along the pond edge and on power lines

SIZE: A small bird; 10.0 to 12.5-inch wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Males are more brightly colored blue on their back and wings with a rusty throat and chest; females are grayish-blue on their backs with blue wings and an orange-brown chest



TUFTED TITMOUSE

LOCATION: Along trails in shrubs and trees

SIZE: A very small bird; 8.0 to 10.0-inch wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Dark eyes and a gray crest; a gray back and wings with a white underside; slight peach color on the sides under each wing



RESOURCES

Cornell Lab of Ornithology
birds.cornell.edu/home

eBird
ebird.org

Wake County Audubon Society
wakeaudubon.org

North Carolina Birding Trail
ncbirdingtrail.org

****Birds are not to scale**

This guide will help you to identify a few of the birds that call our park home!

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

LOCATION: In tall trees in the forest and near the millpond

SIZE: Medium-sized woodpecker; 13.0 to 16.5-inch wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: A pale belly with black and white-barred wings and back; males and females both have a red stripe on the back of their heads



DOWNY WOODPECKER

LOCATION: Along trails in trees, especially standing dead snags

SIZE: A small woodpecker; 10.0 to 12.0-inch wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: White underside, black wings with white spots and a white back; a black and white-striped head with a short bill; males will have a red spot on the back of their head



BROWN THRASHER

LOCATION: Underbrush along trails and under shrubs

SIZE: A medium-sized bird; 11.0 to 13.0-inch wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Reddish brown back; an off-white to tan-colored chest with brown streaks; slightly down-curved beak and yellow eyes



NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD

LOCATION: In the trees along trails or guarding winterberry bushes near the education center

SIZE: Medium-sized bird; 12.0 to 15.0-inch wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Gray back and wings with a white underside and a long tail; each wing has a white bar across it



TURKEY VULTURE

LOCATION: Circling above the millpond and surrounding tree line

SIZE: 5.0-foot wingspan



COLOR/PATTERN: Black body with gray flight feathers and tail; they have a bare head that is usually bright reddish-pink

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

LOCATION: Flying over the pond or perched on tree branches near the millpond edge

SIZE: Medium-sized hawk, 3.0 to 4.5-foot wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Reddish-brown fronts of wings; tan and brown-banded feathers and tail



MOURNING DOVE

LOCATION: On the forest floor and along the edges of trails

SIZE: Medium-sized bird; 15.0 to 18.0-inch wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Grayish-tan back and wings with large black spots and a pale peach-colored underside; long, thin tail, thin black bill, and pink feet



BLUE JAY

LOCATION: Along trails in tall trees

SIZE: Medium-sized bird; 13.0 to 17.0-inch wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Blue back and white chest with a black necklace; wings and tail are barred with black and have white tips



****Birds are not to scale**

BELTED KINGFISHER

LOCATION: Around the edges of the millpond

SIZE: Medium sized bird, 1.0-foot wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Blue-gray back and head with a white neck and chest; females have a brown belly band, while males have a larger blue-gray crest



FISH CROW

LOCATION: Edges of the millpond or in the surrounding woods

SIZE: Medium-sized bird, 2.5 to 3.0-foot wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: All black with a large, thick bill and sturdy legs; slightly smaller than the American crow.

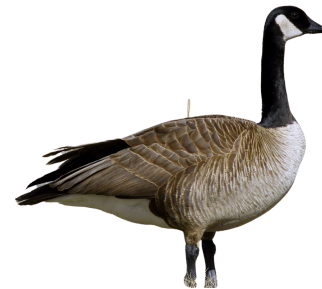


CANADA GOOSE

LOCATION: Swimming in the millpond, feeding or nesting on its edges, or flying overhead

SIZE: Large goose; 5.0-foot wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Black head and neck with white cheeks and chinstrap; has an off-white chest with light brown wings



GREAT BLUE HERON

LOCATION: Standing in the water on the millpond edges or flying above

SIZE: Tall slender bird with long legs, 5.5 to 6.5-foot wingspan

COLOR/PATTERN: Gray-blue feathers with a long yellow beak; they have a long black stripe and plume on top of the head

