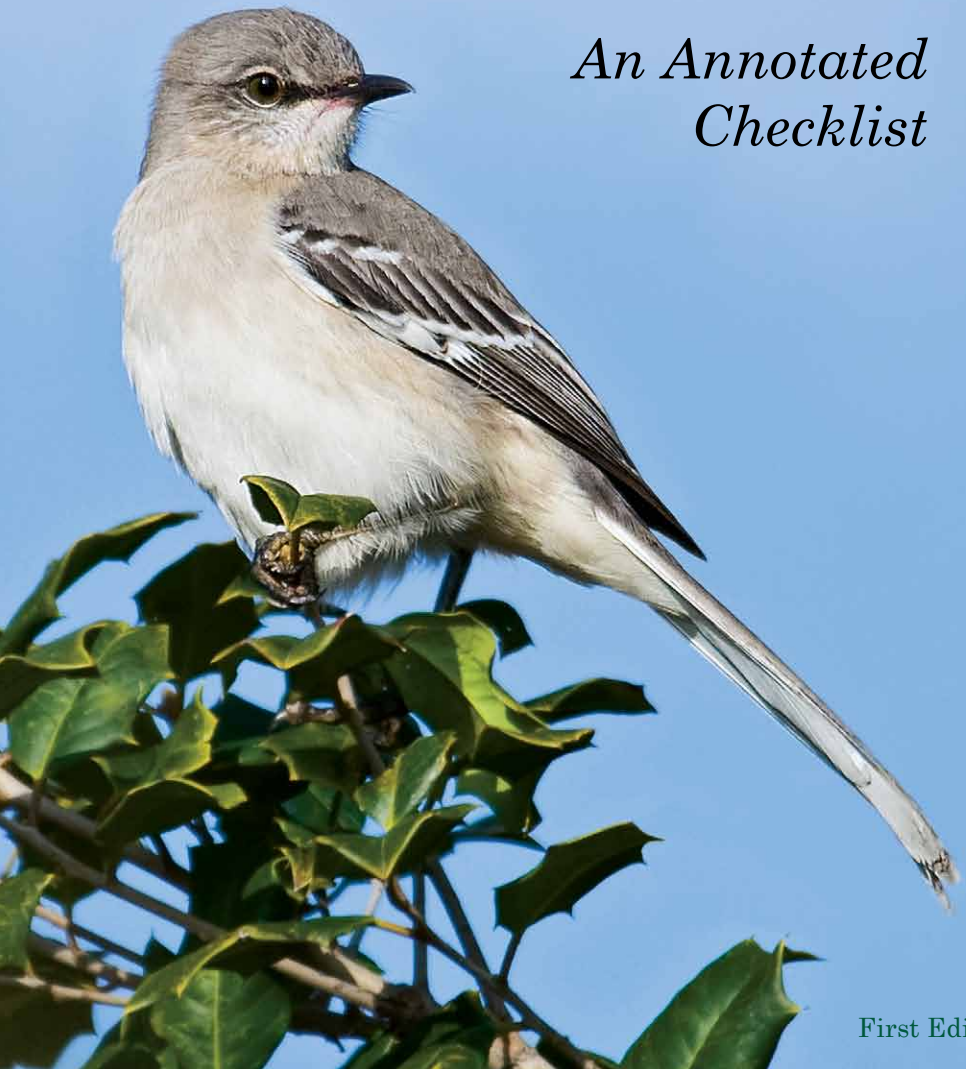


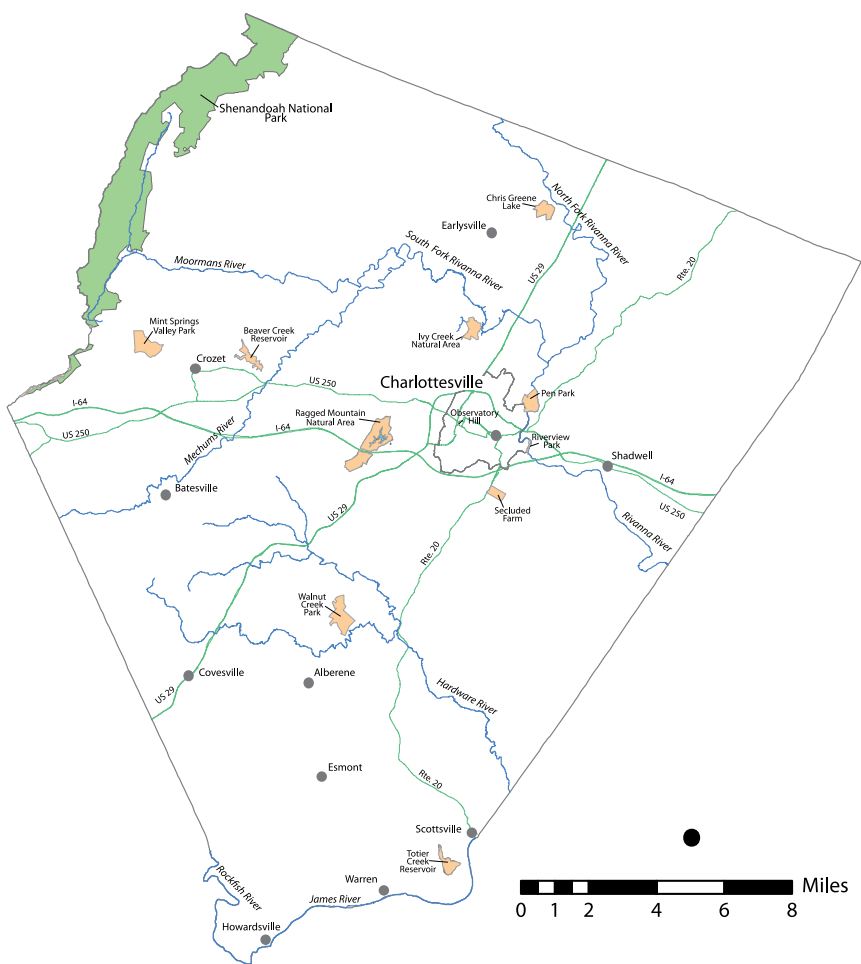
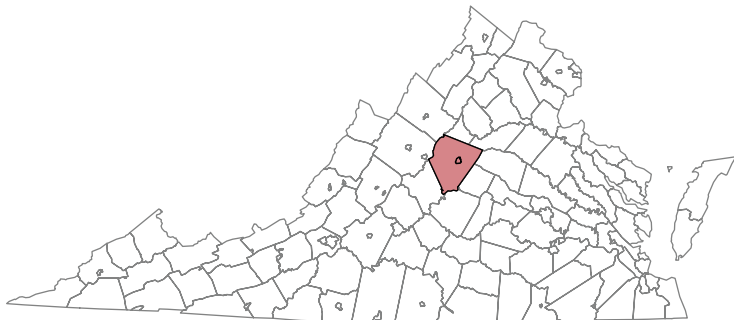
# The Birds of Albemarle County and Charlottesville Virginia

*An Annotated  
Checklist*



First Edition

# Albemarle County



# The Birds of Albemarle County and Charlottesville Virginia

## An Annotated Checklist

Compiled and Edited By  
Jennifer Gaden, David Hogg, Stauffer Miller  
Jim Nix, Brenda Tekin, and John Zimmerman

September, 2010



*Sponsored by the Monticello Bird Club  
Charlottesville, Virginia*



**MONTICELLO BIRD CLUB**  
**Charlottesville, Virginia**  
**[www.monticellobirdclub.org](http://www.monticellobirdclub.org)**

First Edition: September 2010

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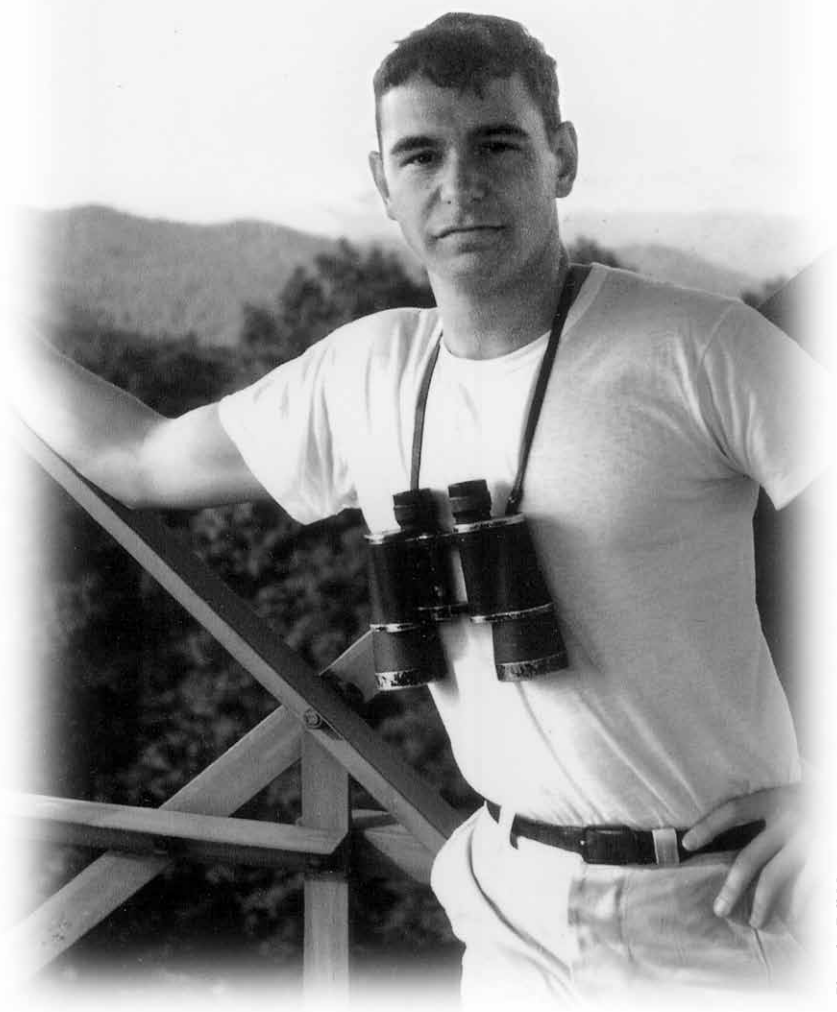


Photo by Bill Minor

**Charles E. (Mo) Stevens, Jr.**

## DEDICATION: CHARLES E. STEVENS, Jr.

This book is dedicated to Charles E. (Mo) Stevens Jr. His 1949 annotated checklist of the birds of Albemarle County, published in collaboration with John H. Grey Jr., was a milestone in the ornithological history of Albemarle County. The bird records in that checklist have been useful over the past sixty years and invaluable in the production of this new one.

Mo was born in Charlottesville in 1926 and still lives there today. He acquired a love of nature at a young age, especially birds. During his boyhood, warblers were abundant during migration in his yard on 2nd Street. Often he would leave his bedroom window open on spring nights to hear their soft, high-pitched calls as they passed overhead. He once distinctly heard from his bed the call of a Green Heron. He developed a love of long walks in the fields and woods of Albemarle County, often walking home twenty miles from Heard's Mountain.

As a teenager, Mo began a lifelong habit of recording his observations in small, pocket-size notebooks. Later, he developed an interest in plants, and made notes about them as well. These notes are now a valuable record of bird arrival, nesting and departure dates, and also locations of rare plants. One of Mo's early birding companions was Fred Scott, who later became an assistant editor of *The Raven*. The two of them had frequent competitions to see who could see the most bird species in a day.

Around 1970, Mo met local teenager Tom Wiebolt. For years, they did marathon Christmas bird counts in the mountains of northwest Albemarle County. It was through Mo that Wiebolt developed an interest in plants, eventually becoming the curator of the herbarium at Virginia Tech. Another long-time botany companion was Dr. Alton Harvill of Longwood College, who studied extensively the range of vascular plant species in Virginia. Still another botanizing, and birding, companion was Bruce Davenport. One of the more remarkable qualities of Mo was his ease in focusing his binoculars on a bird hidden in dense vegetation, despite the lenses being encrusted with sweat, grime and the remnants of past lunches and snacks.

Mo's sense of humor is renowned. It is of a wry, earthy and irreverent sort. He was blessed with a strong body and good joints. Agile and tireless, he hated to quit his nature rambles before dark. Certainly there was a mountain goat in his ancestral genes. He was fearless on steep slopes and even when nearing age eighty could walk all day in the mountains. There will never be another like him.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank the many people who have contributed their time and talents to the publication of this annotated checklist.

We are indebted to Mark Adams, Dan Bieker, Jim Childress, Emilie Snell-Rood and Thelma Dalmas in addition to countless other birders for providing us with their birding records accumulated, in some cases, over long periods of time.

The photographs that accompany the species accounts and grace the covers of the book are the generous contributions of Victoria Dye, Marshall Faintich, Bill Leaning, Bob Schamerhorn and Brenda Tekin.

Tom Dierauf, Amy Gilmer and Leigh Surdukowski wrote major parts of the introductory material. Amy Gilmer also created the map of Albemarle County. We are grateful to Elinor Miller and Ellen Dudley for proofreading.

We give special thanks to Thelma Dalmas who has guided us through this project from the beginning, giving advice based on her extensive experience with annotated checklists and documentation of Virginia birds.

Finally, we are greatly indebted to the Monticello Bird Club for underwriting this project.

Bird records for Albemarle County have been scattered among many birders over the years and exist, in many instances, as notes buried in desk drawers or squirreled away in electronic files. We fear that there are important and interesting records that never made their way to us and therefore are not included in this volume. We encourage all birders to assist in improving and expanding the records of Albemarle County bird sightings in the coming years.



# INTRODUCTION

More than sixty years have passed since John Grey and Mo Stevens compiled the last annotated checklist of the birds of Albemarle County. Many changes have occurred in the region in that period, most significant of which is the increase in human population. In 1950 approximately 52,000 people lived in Charlottesville/Albemarle County (referred to below as Albemarle County). Today that number is 135,000. This increase has had an inevitable impact on bird populations.

In 1950, around seventy per cent of Albemarle County was farmland; today it's a mere thirty per cent. Housing developments, shopping centers, and highways have replaced large areas of farmland, while transitional forest has taken over others. Thus, woodland acreage, while of different makeup from 1950, is roughly the same today. Greater change has occurred with open shrubby areas. Widespread at the half-century mark, such areas are greatly reduced. As a result, species dependent on this habitat, Northern Bobwhite and Loggerhead Shrike for example, are scarce today.

Changes have also occurred with water birds. In the introduction to the 1949 *Birds of Albemarle County*, Grey and Stevens describe a wetland:

“... there is a 20-acre wet meadow on the floodplain of the James River near Hatton. It is located on the ‘Hatton Grange’ property and contains permanent and intermittent pools with a flora of grasses and semi-aquatic plants, many of which are not found elsewhere in Albemarle. Snipe and Blue-winged Teal are fairly common here in migration with occasional Herons, Sandpipers, Soras, and both Marsh Wrens. This area also contains a high density of nesting Red-wings.”

Long ago, however, this land was drained. On the other hand, new water bird habitats have been created. The lake at the Forest Lakes housing development has hosted Hooded Mergansers, American Coots and Ring-necked Ducks in the winter, and the newly-created King Family Vineyard pond is at times a sanctuary for wintering waterfowl and migrating shorebirds.

Other factors have strongly altered the landscape of the region. Invasive plants, swelling deer populations, fire suppression and property fragmentation have changed the character of our forests. While the transition forest has favored some bird species, more changes are yet to come. The gradual decline of the oak and its replacement with

maple and beech as forests mature will also affect bird habitat. Climate change is yet another factor that may play an important role in the future of our avian community.

More people in Albemarle County has also meant more birders. Backyard enthusiasts have put up houses for bluebirds, greatly increasing their number in the countryside, and more people are in the field observing and counting. The Christmas Bird Count has grown in numbers of participants over the years, and the Monticello Bird Club encourages and sponsors a wide variety of field experiences. Thus, more birders are looking for—and finding—more birds. It is perhaps relevant to mention here that the 1949 Grey and Stevens annotated checklist includes 240 species. We list 298.

So, it is appropriate that once again we take stock of the birds that live in and pass through our territory. We hope this publication will inform readers about our local birdlife and add to the knowledge of Virginia birds as it takes its place among the many other regional annotated checklists around the Commonwealth that have been an inspiration to us. We further hope that this effort will inspire all birders in Albemarle County to keep good records of their sightings.

For years birders sent Mo Stevens information about interesting sightings which he compiled in his own hand in a series of little books. Today we need a more formal arrangement for a centralized repository for our records. This, too, we hope will be an outcome of our work. With the information contained in this book, we have established a baseline for future reference, motivating us to pursue our passion for birds and be evermore vigilant as the world around us persists in change.

# THE HISTORY OF BIRD STUDY IN ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Bird study in Albemarle County began in the days of Thomas Jefferson. Mr. Jefferson's favorite bird was the Mockingbird, whose song he found far superior to Europe's Nightingale. In 1772 he purchased a Mockingbird for five shillings from a slave of his father-in-law. At the time, Mockingbirds were not resident in heavily forested Albemarle County. Only with the clearing of land as humans moved westward did they arrive. In May of 1792 Thomas Randolph wrote Jefferson, then absent from Monticello, with news that he had heard a beautiful song and that it was the Mockingbird's, not the Fox-colored Thrush. This may be the first record of wild Mockingbirds in the County.

Jefferson kept careful records of spring arrival times of birds to Monticello. Less careful was his daughter Mary, who in 1792 wrote her father, then in Philadelphia, that she had been too busy with the chickens to note the arrival of the martins, swallows and Whip-poor-wills. He knew enough about birds to know there was an unidentified man in Virginia who had spent his life studying their "manner." Accordingly, when ornithologist Alexander Wilson called on President Jefferson in 1808, he was able to pass along this individual's name to Wilson, about to undertake an expedition into the state to study its birds. In 1818 Jefferson noted that the year's first House (Purple) Martin reached Monticello March 18th and the first Whip-poor-will April 2nd. He associated the arrival of Whip-poor-wills with the picking of peas and ripening of strawberries. In his library were ornithological works of Wilson and Mark Catesby.

The first true ornithologist to visit Albemarle County may have been Robert Ridgway, who traveled to Charlottesville about 1882 and found the Fish Crow almost as numerous as the Common Crow. At the time, he was curator of birds at the United States National Museum, working under Spencer Fullerton Baird. In Cobham, eastern Albemarle County, William C. Rives Jr. compiled a list of 129 birds in his environs and in October 1884 reported the Red-headed Woodpecker to have become "somewhat less numerous in Albemarle County of late years." During the winter of 1887-88 he reported that several Long-eared Owls had been caught in a trap in the County. In his time, the Black Vulture was only a hypothetical species in the county and state. In 1900 Edgar Woods recalled huge tree limbs in the County broken down by the weight of countless roosting Passenger Pigeons.

Around 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt purchased a cabin he called Pine Knot near Keene and for the next three years made it his retreat, the first Camp David. On May 18, 1907 he made an exciting observation, a flock of a dozen Passenger Pigeons near the cabin, and immediately wrote to two of his naturalist friends, John Burroughs and C. Hart Merriam. Although Burroughs and Merriam doubted the observation, the Pigeon having been thought extinct, other naturalists found the identification satisfactory. If correct, this would mean that the last sighting of the Passenger Pigeon in the wild by a reputable observer was in Albemarle County.

In May 1908 Roosevelt, his wife and guest Burroughs detrained at North Garden and traveled to Pine Knot by carriage. Roosevelt and Burroughs walked the final few miles, identifying Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue and Wilson's Blackcap Warblers. "He knew them in the trees overhead as quickly as I did," recalled Burroughs. A few days later they traveled north to Roundtop where they left their carriage to watch a wren dart in and out of a fence. Although Burroughs didn't know the bird, his host did, identifying it for Burroughs as a Bewick's. T.R. could get quite excited over a bird sighting. To illustrate this, at the conclusion of a White House conference, apparently later in May 1908, he greeted the participants in a receiving line. Just as he was greeting William Jennings Bryan, who had a somewhat condescending attitude about Roosevelt and conservation, he spotted his friend Hart Merriam, looked right through Bryan and said, "How are you, Hart? What do you suppose John [Burroughs] and I saw on the twenty-fifth of March [May?] at Pine Knot? A Yellow Warbler, by George!" Paul Saunier compiled a list of the approximately fifty birds seen by Roosevelt at Pine Knot. Two no longer occur in the County, the pigeon and wren.

In the summers of 1915 and 1916 Ludlow Griscom, who was doing graduate work in ornithology at Cornell and went on to become an outstanding field ornithologist, taught summer bird classes at the University of Virginia and compiled an annotated checklist of birds of the county. John B. Calhoun taught bird study at University of Virginia from 1935 to 1941. With a special interest in Chimney Swifts, he banded over 20,000 of them in Charlottesville.

The level of birdwatching activity in the County increased greatly in the decade of the 1940s when William S. Minor moved from Kentucky to Park Street in Charlottesville and became a birding companion of Charles E. (Mo) Stevens Jr. who lived on nearby 2nd Street. Neither Mo (or MoJo as he was called) nor Bill owned a car so they hitchhiked or

sponged rides in order to get out of town to bird. Bill entered the Navy through the University of Virginia NROTC program around 1943 while Mo was drafted into the Army as an eighteen-year-old in 1944. Even in wartime Europe there were birds to observe, which Mo did using a British field guide. After the Germans captured him, they suspected his field guide was some sort of codebook.

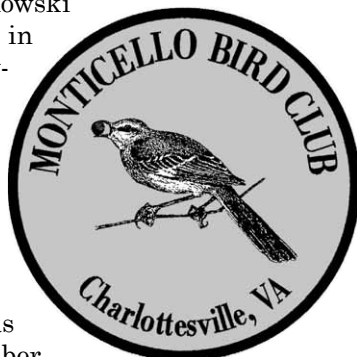
When Bill and Mo returned from the war, they found another birder in Charlottesville, First Presbyterian Church minister John H. Grey Jr., who also lived on 2nd Street. Seeing a need to organize, Reverend Grey spearheaded formation of the Turkey Sag Bird Club, a name chosen by Stevens. Among its first members were Stevens, Minor, Grey and Ken Lawless. The club, which hosted the Virginia Society of Ornithology meeting in 1947, met occasionally at the University of Virginia president's home since Constance DuPont Darden, wife of the president, was an enthusiastic birder. An annotated checklist of County birds done in 1949 contained 240 species. The Turkey Sag club slowly died out, with no one specifically noting its demise.

The Charlottesville Christmas Bird Count began in 1924. A Mr. Barger was compiler the first few years. Stevens took over that task in 1946, not to relinquish it for almost sixty years, an amazing record. When Jennifer Gaden became compiler in 2006, she requested and received the sponsorship of the Monticello Bird Club. The Warren Count in southern Albemarle County began in the 1940s. In 1949, its three participants found forty-three species, among them five Migrant (Loggerhead) Shrikes.

Breeding bird surveys have been done in the Covesville sector of the County since 1967, first by Stevens and up to the present by Thelma and John Dalmas. Another was begun in the Carters Bridge part of the County, also in 1966. It was first done by Stevens and continues under Jennifer Gaden. A County spring count has been done since around 1978. Dinners often followed these counts at the home of Bruce and Pring Davenport at Ivy. Jim Childress presently co-ordinates the count, usually held the first Saturday of May.

# THE HISTORY OF THE MONTICELLO BIRD CLUB

Bill Akers and Leigh Jones Surdukowski co-founded the Monticello Bird Club in February 1986. Approximately twenty-five enthusiastic birders attended the first meeting. The club grew rapidly and currently has about 200 members. The MBC meets the second Thursday of each month from September through June in the Education Building at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. The club has an annual spring picnic and a Christmas party in December and is an active member of the Virginia Society of Ornithology.



The club reaches out to the public in a variety of ways. The monthly newsletter provides information on upcoming trips and events, unusual bird sightings, and the president's comments. It may also feature photography, poems, conservation issues, bird feeding tips or recommendations for gardening to help wildlife. In 1999 Ken Klotz created a club web page, and in 2007 Rob Capon set up a popular Monticello Bird Alert on the net. Members use this opportunity to post birding highlights.

The MBC is a field-oriented club. Each month it offers several field trips, all open to the public. Trips go to numerous sites in Albemarle County and surrounding counties, as well as the birding hotspots of Chincoteague, Highland County and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel islands. In 1995 Leigh Surdukowski began First Saturday of the month bird walks at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. These walks, which concentrate on the novice bird watcher, have introduced hundreds of Charlottesville residents to our area's birds .

Many club members participate in the Charlottesville, Warren and Big Flats Christmas Bird Counts. Members also take part in the Albemarle County Spring Count and the Breeding Bird Survey operated by the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. In addition, several members help tally hawks each fall for the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch at Afton Mountain, organized and run for many years by Brenda Tekin. Stauffer Miller did a big year count for the county and found 196 birds in 2007, 201 birds in 2008 and 184 in 2009. Theresa Shaner encourages

club members to keep a record of Albemarle County bird sightings. In 2007 the club observed a total of 206 birds; in 2008 the number was 207, and in 2009 it was 189. The club has conducted birding surveys for several allied groups such as The Nature Conservancy, Rivanna Trails Foundation, Monticello, Montpelier and Pine Knot Historical Societies.

Five years after the club formed in 1986, the club hosted the Virginia Society of Ornithology's annual meeting. The theme for the meeting, chaired by David Hogg, was "Tracking Birds through Jefferson's Country". The VSO returned to Charlottesville in 2003 with John Zimmerman as chairman. Ken Klotz compiled the booklet, *A Birders Guide to Charlottesville, Virginia, and Vicinity*, for this meeting.

Club members give numerous educational programs to a variety of groups including local schools, science teachers and other bird clubs. Members have lead walks at Monticello and for the Nature Conservancy. In 1995, the club sponsored an International Migratory Bird Day, an event chaired by Jennifer Gaden. Also under her leadership the club sponsors bird feeding and observation programs at local schools. The club purchases whatever supplies are needed, and each group receives a Power Point introduction to feeder birds. Field trips on school grounds or nearby parks are part of the package. Publications are an important contribution to the club's educational efforts. In addition to the Klotz booklet mentioned above, the club published the *Albemarle County Bird Checklist* and *Birds of Ivy Creek* by John Zimmerman.

The Monticello Bird Club has donated thousands of dollars to many different individuals and groups by means of scholarships to students for Nature Camp, to teachers for natural history college classes and to graduate students pursuing studies in ornithology. The club also supports the Ivy Creek Foundation in numerous ways. Besides having made a contribution to the Education Building Fund, the club makes an annual contribution to the foundation, provides bird-feeding equipment, and maintains a set of binoculars available to individuals who need them. A few of the many groups to which the club furnishes financial support are The Wildlife Center of Virginia, The Nature Conservancy, Virginia Society of Ornithology, Albemarle County Public Schools, Piedmont Environmental Council and the American Bird Conservancy

# GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Albemarle County, located in central Virginia, is just east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. With an area of 723 square miles, it is the 6th largest county in the state. Its county seat and largest city is Charlottesville. Counties that border it on the west are Nelson, Augusta, and Rockingham, on the north, Greene and Orange, on the east, Louisa and Fluvanna, and on the south, Buckingham. The town of Scottsville is located along the James River at the southern edge of the county. Crozet, another significant town, is in the western part of Albemarle at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Albemarle County lies mostly within the Piedmont physiographic province, with only the northwestern edge of the county within the Blue Ridge. The Piedmont topography is gently rolling hills and deeply entrenched streams rather than the rugged and much steeper Blue Ridge terrain.

Elevations in the county range from approximately 250 feet along the Rivanna River at the Albemarle-Fluvanna county line to 3,250 feet at the top of Loft Mountain, the county's highest point. In addition to the western margin of the Blue Ridge Mountains, other mountains within the county include the Ragged Mountains, just south of Charlottesville, and the Southwest Mountains on the eastern side of the county. The overall trend of these mountains is a northeast-southwest direction.

Albemarle County is within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The James River and its major tributaries, the Rivanna, Rockfish and Hardware Rivers and their various tributaries flow through the county. The Moormans and Mechums rivers are major tributaries of the Rivanna River. Smaller streams feed these by arising in the county's highest elevations. Many man-made lakes and ponds also occur in the county.

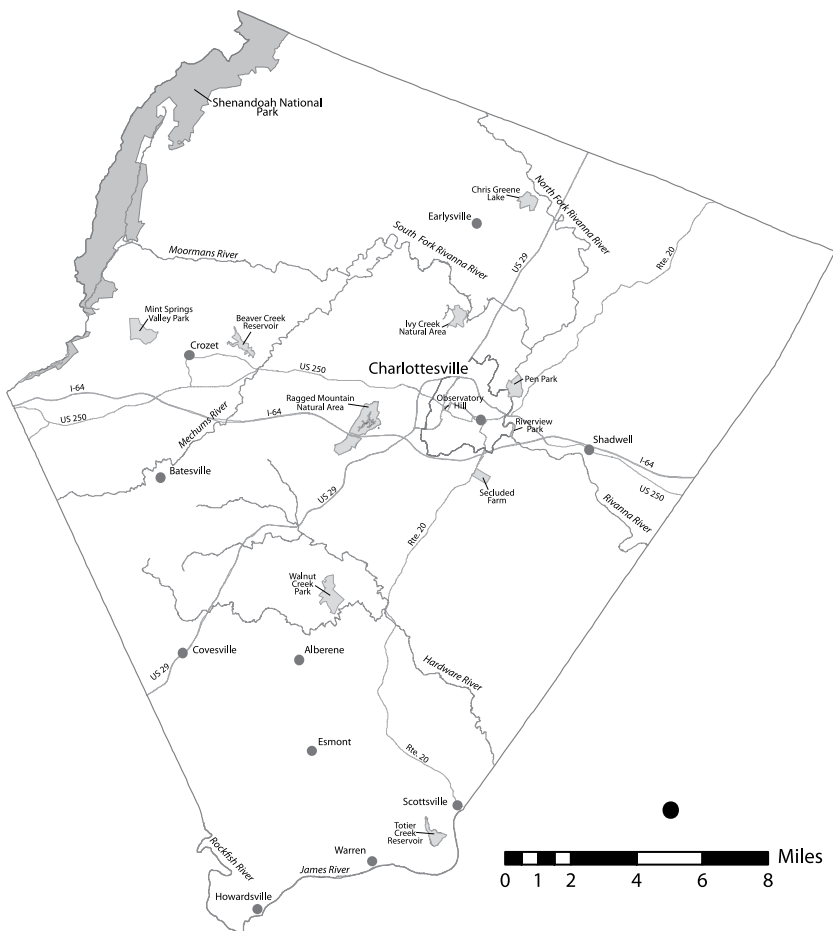
The oldest rocks in the county are in the Blue Ridge province in the western portion of Albemarle County and consist of different types of igneous (granite) and metamorphic (gneiss) rocks which date back over one billion (1,200,000,000) years. The rocks that make up the Blue Ridge have been thrust over the rock layers of the Valley and Ridge province to the west. These rocks were moved to the northwest when (what today is) Africa and North America collided. Catoctin greenstone occurs in the Blue Ridge province, as well. It represents ancient (570 million-year-old) lava flows that spilled out onto the earth's surface



when the continent rifted apart. This formation also crops out all along the Southwest Mountains and produces very fertile soils. Sedimentary and metamorphic rocks cover the southern and eastern portions of the county.

Throughout the county, rock outcrops in broad belts extend in a northeast-southwest direction.

The geography and geology of Albemarle County has a significant impact on its birds. The Northeast-Southwest oriented mountains serve as an annual flyway for migratory birds while the county's variability in elevation and rock types (and soils derived from them) results in an important assortment of vegetation and habitat.



## SELECTED BIRDING LOCATIONS

In 2003 Ken Klotz compiled *A Birder's Guide to Charlottesville, Virginia and Vicinity*, comprising descriptions of 25 areas in Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and the nearby counties. This valuable guide is now available on the website of the Monticello Bird Club (<http://www.monticellobirdclub.org/>). Use the link on the home page to view the guide.

Some of the more popular and productive places in this compilation are:

**The Ivy Creek Natural Area** is 0.5 miles north along Route 743 (the Earlysville Road) from its intersection with Hydraulic Road. This 215-acre natural area offers a wide variety of habitat accessed by a series of well-marked trails. "The Birds of Ivy Creek" written in 2008 by J. Zimmerman details the 165 species of birds which have been recorded there in the recent past, of which about half are migrants.

**The Pen Park Nature Trail** is reached via Pen Park Road off East Rio Road. Follow Pen Park Road for 0.4 miles, turn left following the sign indicating the Nature Trail, and in 0.2 miles you will come to a parking area at Shelter #2. The trail begins behind the shelter. Habitat includes fields and a riparian woods. Best species expected in the summer include Yellow-breasted Chat, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Baltimore Oriole, while winter species include Swamp Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, and Brown Creeper.

**Riverview Park** is on Riverside Avenue off Chesapeake Street in the southeast part of the city. This 27-acre park is a part of the Rivanna Trail System that encircles the city. The bird life here is similar to that expected along the Pen Park Nature Trail.

**Observatory Hill**, on the grounds of the University of Virginia, is accessible by taking McCormick Road west 0.1 miles from its intersection with Alderman Road. At the Y-intersection, take Edgemont Road to the right and follow it to the top of the mountain where the University Observatory is located. The summit is a mixture of clearing and mature hardwood trees, and is usually an excellent place for observing spring migrations between April 15 and May 15. About two dozen species of warblers have been recorded, as well as several species of orioles, thrushes, tanagers and grosbeaks.

**Mint Springs Valley Park**, a 500-acre tract located off Rte 684 (Mint Springs Road) just west of Crozet, is part of the Albemarle County Park System and features a swimming area, hardwood forests, and several trails near the lake and up into the hills. It has good birding in all seasons, but is noted in the summer as a place to find Northern Parula, American Redstart, and Kentucky, Hooded, Worm-eating and Black-and-white Warblers.

**The Old Trail Golf Club** has fields and a pond nearby. To reach this area, enter the Old Trail Subdivision from the south side at the stoplight on US Rte 250W, to the east of the Crozet interchange of I-64 and US Rte 250. Take the first traffic circle 270 degrees to the golf club road. Park outside the golf club entrance and walk in the fields to the south. In addition to wintering waterfowl, this site has had Grasshopper Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, and the only Albemarle County record of Le Conte's Sparrow.



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

Red-tailed Hawk and Blue Jay

# INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIES ACCOUNT

The baseline publication for this current checklist is Grey and Stevens “The Birds of Albemarle County, Virginia, 1949”. Other publications used are:

American Ornithologists’ Union “Check-list of North American Birds”, 7th edition (1998) and its supplements through Number 50.

The Annotated Checklist of Virginia Birds, Virginia Society of Ornithology, 1952, 1979, 1987 and 2007 editions.

R. Clapp, “Egg Dates for Virginia Birds”, 1979.

David W. Johnston and William Ehmann, “Birds of Prey in Virginia – A History of Specimen Records from 1853 – 1988”, 1993.

William C. Rives, Jr., “List of the Birds of Cobham, Virginia”, 1884.

“Virginia’s Breeding Birds: An Atlas Workbook”, Virginia Society of Ornithology, 1989

J. Zimmerman, “The Birds of Ivy Creek”, 2008.

Please see the bibliography for further documentation.

Other resources are:

Albemarle County Spring Count, 1978-2009

Breeding Bird Survey, Carter’s Bridge, 2006-2009, excluding 2007

Breeding Bird Survey, Coveseville, 1975-2009

Christmas Bird Count, Charlottesville, VA 1924-2009

Christmas Bird Count, Warren, VA 1947-2009, excluding 1952

Monticello Bird Club field trip records

Records of an active contingent of area birders

Records in this checklist are complete through 2009, and significant records through the spring of 2010 have been added.

Seasonal designations are:

**spring** (March – May)

**summer** (June – August)

**fall** (September – November)

**winter** (December – February)

The residential status of these species has been categorized as:

**Permanent Resident:** species occurring throughout the year and known or presumed to breed in the area

**Summer Resident:** species that arrive in the spring, breed or presumed to breed, and depart in the fall

**Winter Resident:** species that arrive in late summer and fall and depart in the spring Summer or Winter Visitor: species that only occur during part of the respective season, often erratic in occurrence, and are not known to breed

**Transient:** species of passage during spring and/or fall migration periods.

The relative abundance of these species is described as:

**Abundant:** species likely to be found in large numbers and often widely distributed in the area

**Common:** species present in moderate numbers in appropriate habitats and likely to be seen during the appropriate season

**Uncommon:** species that regularly occur but are present in only small numbers, often restricted to specific habitats

**Rare:** species that are not regularly observed and occur in small numbers, often in habitats of limited distributions

**Irruptive:** species that occur irregularly, often in winter, and are often common when they occur but absent in most years

**Accidental:** species whose continental range does not include the local area but have occurred as a result of unusual weather patterns or errors in their migratory navigational abilities

**Extirpated:** species that once regularly occurred but primarily as a result of habitat changes no longer occur.

For each species its resident status and relative abundance are provided, with seasonal variations in abundances indicated. Inclusive dates of observation for summer residents, winter residents, and spring and fall transients are given in parentheses. Dates for accidentals are included as well as dates for other species that are outside of their usual seasonal status. Sightings cite specific observations of interest. Peak count numbers observed on a given date and at a specific location are included where appropriate as well as unusually high counts on the Christmas Bird Counts and the Albemarle County Spring Counts. Lastly, additional information, such as changes in resident status or unusual observations, is provided as Notes.

When no number of individual birds precedes the date of a sighting it means that a single individual was observed.

Of the total of 298 species listed in this checklist, 129 (43%) are Abundant, Common or Uncommon. Of these, 49(38%) are permanent residents, 42 (33%) reside here only in the summer, and 38 species (29%) visit in the winter.

Private properties mentioned are not shown on the county map nor are their locations described.

The following abbreviations are used:

**ACSC** – Albemarle County Spring Count

**BBS** – Breeding Bird Survey

**CBC** – Christmas Bird Count

**ICNA** – Ivy Creek Natural Area

**O-Hill** - Observatory Hill

**PVCC** – Piedmont Virginia Community College

**UVA** – University of Virginia



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

Pileated Woodpecker

# SPECIES ACCOUNTS

## GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

**Status:** Accidental

*Anser albifrons*

**Sightings:** (3) 20 Feb 1964, Henley's pond; (3) 3 Mar 1964, Henley's pond; (3) 18 - 22 Apr 1964, Langhorne pond;  
1 May – 27 Sep 1980, Crozet

**Peak Counts:** (13) 3 Jan 1988, Warren CBC

## SNOW GOOSE

*Chen caerulescens*

**Status:** Rare Transient

**Sightings:** (10) 26 Nov 1988, Langhorne pond; (4) 16 Oct 1990, near Earlysville; (3) 7-9 Mar 2009, near Crozet

**Peak Counts:** (13) 3 Jan 1988, Warren CBC

## BRANT

*Branta bernicla*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sighting:** 27 Dec 2009, Charlottesville CBC, So. Rivanna Reservoir, immature bird

## CANADA GOOSE

*Branta canadensis*

**Status:** Abundant permanent resident

**Peak Count:** (1,836) 29 Dec 1985, Charlottesville CBC; (1,230) 3 Jan 1988, Warren CBC; (480) 17 Dec 1989, Indian Graves along Rio Mills Rd.

**Note:** A flock flying over Charlottesville Oct 15, 1927 was reported in The Daily Progress. Nests in early April, goslings by 20 April.

## MUTE SWAN

*Cygnus olor*

**Status:** Uncommon permanent resident

**Sightings:** (7) 19 Dec 1999, Charlottesville CBC

**Note:** One or two for a number of years on pond at PVCC; seen regularly on Warren CBC from 2001-2008 with peak count of 25 in 2003

## TUNDRA SWAN

*Cygnus columbianus*

**Status:** Rare transient and winter visitor

**Sightings:** (30) 4 Dec 1977, Woodstock Farm pond; (4) 1 Dec 1991, Rt. 626 near James River; (27) 29 Dec 1991, Warren CBC; (5) 28 Feb 2007, over Langhorne Rd. near Rt. 6

**Peak Count:** (70) 2 Dec 1994, over Batesville

## WOOD DUCK

*Aix sponsa*

**Status:** Common spring, summer and fall resident, and rare winter resident

**Sightings:** (33) 28 Dec 1956, Warren CBC; (43) 6 May 1989, ACSC; (5) 2 Jan 1994, near Warren; (12, with ducklings) 13 May 2008, near Crozet; (3) 25 Feb 2010, Lickinghole Creek

**Note:** Seen on 28 of 31 spring counts



Photo by Victoria Dye

Wood Duck

## GADWALL

*Anas strepera*

**Status:** Uncommon transient and winter-spring visitor  
(15 Oct -15 Apr)

**Sightings:** (3) 25 Mar 2000, ICNA; 20 Mar 2006, ICNA; 16 Dec 2007, ICNA

**Peak Count:** (13) 3 Jan 1988, Warren CBC

## EURASIAN WIGEON

*Anas penelope*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** 24 - 30 Mar 1951, Henley's pond, mixed with American Wigeons

## AMERICAN WIGEON

*Anas americana*

**Status:** Uncommon winter, spring and fall visitor and transient  
(5 Oct -30 Apr)

**Sightings:** (55) 23 Feb 1959, Langhorne pond; (92) 27 Mar 1959, Langhorne pond; (80) 27 Nov 1962, Langhorne pond; (2) 23 Jan 2009, Lake Hollymead



## AMERICAN BLACK DUCK

*Anas rubripes*

**Status:** Uncommon winter, spring and fall visitor and transient

**Sightings:** (105) 3 Feb 1948, So. Rivanna River; (10) 28 Dec 1986, Moorman's River west of White Hall; (6) 27 Dec 1987, Moormans River west of White Hall; (60) 21 Dec 1997, Warren CBC

**Peak counts:** (230) 20 Dec 1981, Warren CBC

**Note:** Stevens considered it common in 1949.

## MALLARD

*Anas platyrhynchos*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Sightings:** (634) 20 Dec 1981, Warren CBC; (20) 23 Jan 2009, Lake Hollymead

**Peak Counts:** (656) 28 Dec 1980, Charlottesville CBC



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

Mallards

## BLUE-WINGED TEAL

*Anas discors*

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall transient; rare winter visitor

**Sightings:** (25) 3 Mar 1955, Langhorne pond; (4) 18 Dec 1983, Warren CBC; (6) 2 May 1989, Langhorne pond; (27) 28 Sep 2009, Langhorne pond; (20) 3 Jan 2010, Warren CBC, in James River near Scottsville

## NORTHERN SHOVELER

*Anas clypeata*

**Status:** Uncommon winter, spring and fall visitor and transient

**Sightings:** (8) 4 Mar 1955, Langhorne pond; (3) 21 Dec 1980, Warren CBC; (2) 29 Feb 2008, Langhorne pond; (2) 30 Jan 2009, Langhorne pond

## NORTHERN PINTAIL

*Anas acuta*

**Status:** Uncommon winter, spring and fall visitor and transient (30 Sep - 15 Apr)

**Sightings:** (2) 2 Jan 1977 and 29 Dec 1985, Charlottesville CBC; (3) 30 Dec 1979, Warren CBC; (2) 2 May 1981, ACSC; (2) 23 Jan 2009, Lake Hollymead

**Peak Counts:** (24) 10 Mar 1949, Henley's pond

## GREEN-WINGED TEAL

*Anas crecca*

**Status:** Uncommon winter, spring and fall visitor and transient  
(30 Sep - 15 Apr)

**Sightings:** (45) 9 Apr 1961, Langhorne pond; (8) 15 Mar 1986, Langhorne pond; (29) 26 Dec 1999, Warren CBC; (4) 23 Jan 2009, Lake Hollymead

## CANVASBACK

*Aythya valisineria*

**Status:** Uncommon winter and spring visitor and transient  
(15 Nov -15 Apr)

**Sightings:** (16) 23 Mar 1961, Langhorne pond; (3) 11 Mar 1964, Langhorne pond; (7) 1 Jan 1978, Warren CBC; (3) 23-30 Jan 2009, Lake Hollymead

## REDHEAD

*Aythya americana*

**Status:** Uncommon winter and spring visitor and transient  
(10 Nov - 5 Apr)

**Sightings:** (10) 16 Feb 1949, Henley's pond; (64) 23 Feb 1959, Langhorne pond; (4) 1 Jan 1984, Charlottesville CBC; (3) 23-30 Jan 2009, Lake Hollymead

## RING-NECKED DUCK

*Aythya collaris*

**Status:** Common winter and spring visitor and transient, uncommon fall transient

**Sightings:** (40) 26 Dec 1965, Warren CBC; (24) 31 Oct 1988, Beaver Creek; (99) 18 Dec 2005, Warren CBC; (50) 20 Feb 2007, pond opposite Colonial Baptist Church, Route 250 east; (50) 23 Jan 2009, Lake Hollymead



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

Ring-necked Duck

## GREATER SCAUP

*Aythya marila*

**Status:** Rare winter and spring visitor and transient

**Sightings:** (8) 2 Apr 1950, Henley's pond; (8) 26 Dec 1954, Charlottesville CBC; (32) 23 Feb 1959, Langhorne pond

## LESSER SCAUP

*Aythya affinis*

**Status:** Uncommon winter and spring visitor and transient

**Sightings:** (43) 30 Mar 1951, Hatton; (205) 22 Mar 1955; (21) 1 Jan 1978, Warren CBC; (4) 6 May 1978, ACSC; (18) 28 Dec 1980, Charlottesville CBC; (10) 22 Feb 2008, pond in Blenheim area

## SURF SCOTER

*Melanitta perspicillata*

**Status:** Rare spring visitor

**Sightings:** (1) 16 Apr 2007, pond near Crozet; (1) 19-20 Apr 2008, Beaver Creek

**Note:** The 2007 bird, a female, appeared after a rainstorm. The 2008 bird was a male.

## WHITE-WINGED SCOTER

*Melanitta fusca*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** (2) 1 Jan 1949, Henley's pond; 4 Nov 1983, Henley's pond

**Note:** The 1949 birds remained till April.

## LONG-TAILED DUCK

*Clangula hyemalis*

**Status:** Rare winter visitor

**Sightings:** 12 Dec 1975, Beaver Creek; (3) 28 Dec 1975, Charlottesville CBC; 31 Dec 1976, Sugar Hollow; 5 Feb 2009, Beaver Creek

## BUFFLEHEAD

*Bucephala albeola*

**Status:** Uncommon winter and spring visitor and transient

**Sightings:** (71) 14 Apr 1955; (58) 14 Apr 1958, Henley's pond; (16) 28 Dec 1969, Warren CBC; (11) 28 Dec 1975, Charlottesville CBC; (43) 18 Dec 2005, Warren CBC; (15) 10 Feb 2007, Scottsville boat landing at James River

**Peak Counts:** (96) 23 Feb 1959

## COMMON GOLDENEYE

*Bucephala clangula*

**Status:** Rare winter visitor

**Sightings:** (6) 28 Dec 1975, Charlottesville CBC; (7) 28 Dec 1986, James River west of Scottsville; (16) 3 Jan 1988, Warren CBC; (17) 31 Dec 2000, Warren CBC; 17 Feb 2007, Lake Hollymead

**Peak Counts:** (96) 23 Feb 1959

## HOODED MERGANSER

*Lophodytes cucullatus*

**Status:** Common winter, spring and fall visitor and transient  
(25 Oct - 20 Apr)

**Sightings:** (24) 24 Nov 1960, Langhorne pond; (17) 20 Dec 1981, Warren CBC; (7) 16 Nov 1986, Sugar Hollow Reservoir; (43) 20 Dec 1998, Warren CBC; (3) 12 Mar 2006, ICNA; (4) 23 Jan 2009, Lake Hollymead

**Note:** Confirmed breeding, Warren 6- 31 May 2000

## COMMON MERGANSER

*Mergus merganser*

**Status:** Rare winter visitor

**Sightings:** (12) 27 Dec 1926, Charlottesville CBC; (3) 2 Jan 1983, Warren CBC; (14) 2 Jan 1993, Warren CBC; winter 2008, Chris Greene Park; 24 Jan 2009, Beaver Creek

**Note:** In 1949 Stevens considered it “our most common regular winter duck, more widely distributed over the rivers and ponds of the county than the Black Duck.” The 2008 bird was a female that moved between Chris Greene Park and the Rivanna River.

## RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

*Mergus serrator*

**Status:** Uncommon winter and spring visitor and transient

**Sightings:** (39) 27 Mar 1948, Henley’s pond; (19) 23 Mar 1961, Langhorne pond; (2) 27 Dec 1998, Charlottesville CBC; 17 May 2004, ICNA

## RUDDY DUCK

*Oxyura jamaicensis*

**Status:** Uncommon winter, spring and fall visitor and transient

**Sightings:** (6) 30 Dec 1959, Warren CBC; (9) 17 Dec 1978, Charlottesville CBC; (9) 30 Nov 2007, Henley’s pond; (2) 10 Jan 2009, Lake Hollymead

## NORTHERN BOBWHITE

*Colinus virginianus*

**Status:** Uncommon permanent resident

**Sightings:** (129) 29 Dec 1985, Charlottesville CBC; (99) 7 May 1983, ACSC; (16) 21 Dec 1986, Charlottesville CBC, near White Hall; (6) 18 Apr 1988, under feeder, Sugar Ridge Rd.; (23) 21 Dec 2003, Warren CBC

**Peak Counts:** (223) 23 Dec 1973, Warren CBC

**Note:** Gradual decrease on Warren CBC since around 1993.

Undergoing a severe decline county-wide, Bobwhites are currently most numerous in the southern part of county near Langhorne-James River Road intersection and in the Scogo Lake area.

## RING-NECKED PHEASANT

*Phasianus colchicus*

**Status:** Introduced species

**Note:** Mr. A. W. Pinkerton of North Garden released pheasants in the vicinity of Hatton Grange in 1932. The birds seem always to have been scarce in the county and never established a nesting population.

## RUFFED GROUSE

*Bonasa umbellus*

**Status:** Uncommon permanent resident

**Sightings:** 26 Dec 1986, Sugar Ridge Rd., White Hall; 15 Nov 1987, Sugar Ridge Rd.; (6) 23 Dec 1990, Charlottesville CBC (1 adult with young); 18 May 1991, Humpback Rocks, Skyline Drive; (3) Mar 13 2008, Skyline Drive

**Note:** Most sightings since 1990 along Skyline Drive; last reported on Warren CBC in 1978.

## WILD TURKEY

*Meleagris gallopavo*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Sightings:** (27) 15 Aug 1971; (43) 30 Dec 2001, Warren CBC; (10) 6 Dec 2006, ICNA; (17) Dec 30, 2007, south of Bungletown

**Note:** Slow increase in numbers on Warren CBC since around 1975

## RED-THROATED LOON

*Gavia stellata*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** 3 Nov 1951, Henley's pond; 28 Apr 1965, Beaver Creek; 16 Apr 1993, Langhorne pond

## COMMON LOON

*Gavia immer*

**Status:** Uncommon spring transient; rare fall and winter transient

**Sightings:** (13) 17 Apr 1954, Henley's pond; 21 Oct 1995, Beaver Creek; (2) 31 Dec 1995, Charlottesville CBC; (3) 19 Apr 2007, Beaver Creek; (2) 1 May 2008, flying over ICNA

**Note:** Most sightings April 10-30 on larger bodies of water

## PIED-BILLED GREBE

*Podilymbus podiceps*

**Status:** Common winter, spring and fall visitor and transient

**Sightings:** (6) 21 Dec 1957, Warren CBC; (7) 3 Jan 1988, Warren CBC; (6) 20 Dec 2007, ICNA; (3) 26 Dec 2009, Charlottesville CBC

**Peak Counts:** (10) 19 Dec 1999, Charlottesville CBC

## HORNED GREBE

*Podilymbus auritus*

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall transient

**Sightings:** (9) 25 Mar 1949, Henley's pond; (3) 9 May 1992, ACSC; (5) 15 Mar 2005, Sugar Hollow Reservoir; (4) 22 Mar 2007, Chris Greene Park

## RED-NECKED GREBE

*Podiceps grisegena*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** (3) 15 Dec 1985, Henley's pond; 22 Feb 1994, Rivanna River near confluence of Moore's Creek; (3) 6 Mar 2003, Beaver Creek

## BROWN PELICAN

*Pelecanus occidentalis*

**Status:** Accidental

**Note:** May 1 1947, John Sacre, caretaker of Charlottesville City Reservoir, identified and photographed the pelican at the reservoir. Stevens identified it from Sacre's photograph.

## DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

*Phalacrocorax auritus*

**Status:** Common spring and fall visitor and transient

**Sightings:** (4) 11 Apr 1998, ICNA; (4) 17 Apr 2004, ICNA; 28 Mar 2005, ICNA; (13) 16 Apr 2006, Chris Greene Park; 6 Oct 2006, ICNA

**Peak Counts:** (26) 9 May 1996, ICNA

**Note:** Formerly rare in the county, now much more frequently seen.

## ANHINGA

*Anhinga anhinga*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** 7 and 10 Sep 2003, single birds seen approaching Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch

## AMERICAN BITTERN

*Botaurus lentiginosus*

**Status:** Rare spring transient (15 Apr – 10 May)

**Peak Counts:** (14) 18 Jul 1948, Henley's pond (only summer record)

**Note:** One winter record 16 Dec 2007, Charlottesville CBC

## LEAST BITTERN

*Ixobrychus exilis*

**Status:** Rare spring transient (13 - 24 May)

**Sightings:** 21 – 24 May 2008, Campbell marsh

**Note:** One fall record 21 Oct 1978

## GREAT BLUE HERON

*Ardea herodias*

**Status:** Common summer resident; uncommon winter resident

**Peak Counts:** (45) 1 Mar 2003, Stony Point rookery

**Note:** Above rookery contained 20 nests in 2002, and about 45 nests in Apr 2010, although it is uncertain how many were in use. It is thought to be the largest Great Blue Heron nesting colony in the Virginia Piedmont.



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

Great Blue Heron

## GREAT EGRET

*Ardea alba*

**Status:** Uncommon spring and summer visitor (26 Mar – 10 May; 2 Jul – 30 Aug)

**Peak Counts:** (16) 1 Aug 1996, Jarmans Gap Rd.

## SNOWY EGRET

*Egretta thula*

**Status:** Rare spring and postbreeding summer visitor

**Sightings:** (3) 2 Aug 1958, Langhorne pond; (2) 21 Aug 1977, Langhorne pond; 15 May 1982, ACSC

## LITTLE BLUE HERON

*Egretta caerulea*

**Status:** Rare spring visitor (3 Apr – 12 May)

**Sightings:** 15 Apr 1967; 3 Apr 2006, Chris Greene Park; 12 May 2007, Lake Hollymead

**Peak Counts:** (37) 21 Jul 1947, Henley's pond

## TRICOLORED HERON

*Egretta tricolor*

**Status:** Accidental

**Note:** One record 15-18 Aug 1955, Langhorne pond

## CATTLE EGRET

*Bubulcus ibis*

**Status:** Rare transient.

**Sightings:** 13 May 1962, Langhorne pond; 27 Dec 1964; (2) 2 April 1977, Langhorne pond; 6 May 1978, ACSC; 5 May 1985, ACSC; 14 May 1995, near Proffit Rd.

## GREEN HERON

*Butorides virescens*

**Status:** Common summer resident (9 Apr - 24 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (15) 8 July 1947; (19) 6 May 1978, ACSC

**Note:** One winter record 18 Dec 2005, mouth of Totier Creek

## BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

**Status:** Rare transient

*Nycticorax nycticorax*

**Sightings:** (2) 2 May 1959, Langhorne pond; (2) 15 Nov 1962, Langhorne pond; (2) 5 May 1979, ACSC; mid-July 2006, Oakencroft pond; 24 Aug 2008, Oakencroft pond

## YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

**Status:** Rare summer transient

*Nyctanassa violacea*

**Note:** One record 30 Jul 1960, Langhorne pond



## WHITE IBIS

*Eudocimus albus*

**Status:** Rare postbreeding summer visitor

**Sightings:** (2) 21 August 1944, Burnt Mills; 8 May 2008, Blenheim Rd; 8 July 2008, King Family Vineyards; (3) 15 July 2008, southern Albemarle County

**Peak Counts:** (8) 2 – 9 Aug 1969; (4) 23 Jul - 6 Aug 1972, Langhorne pond; (4) 20 Aug - 27 Aug 2000, Moormans River

## GLOSSY IBIS

*Plegadis falcinellus*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** 24 Apr 1961, Langhorne pond; 5 May 1981, over O-Hill; 3 May 1989, over Whetstone Place; early May 1991, Lone Oak Farm; 1 June 2008, King Family Vineyards

## BLACK VULTURE

*Coragyps atratus*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (200) 19 Dec 1971, Warren CBC; (376) 17 Dec 1978, Charlottesville CBC

**Note:** On 13 May 1984, Stevens found evidence of a nest in a large rock outcrop one mile east of Doyleville.

## TURKEY VULTURE

*Cathartes aura*

**Status:** Abundant permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (987) 17 Dec 1978, Charlottesville CBC; (300) 1 Jan 1993, on power lines and in trees of West Leigh

## OSPREY

*Pandion haliaetus*

**Status:** Common spring migrant and occasional fall migrant

**Sightings:** (12) 5 May 1979, ACSC; 20 Dec 1988, McIntire Golf Course; (3) 19 Apr 2000, ICNA; (2) 16 Apr 2007, Chris Greene Park; 25 Oct 2008, Half Mile Branch Rd

**Peak Counts:** (4) 2 May 1989, Langhorne pond

**Note:** Average arrival time in spring around April 10

## SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

*Elanoides forficatus*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sighting:** 2 May 2003, ICNA

## MISSISSIPPI KITE

*Ictinia mississippiensis*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** 20 May 1962, Sherwood Forest; 2 Sep 2002, over Rockfish Gap Hawkwatch; 3 May 2003, O- Hill

## BALD EAGLE

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

**Status:** Uncommon permanent resident

**Sightings:** 28 Dec 1988, Sugar Hollow Reservoir; 29 Dec 1991, Rivanna River, Glenmore; 29 Mar 2003, Lake Albemarle; 10 Apr 2006, ICNA; (2) 1 Jan 2006, Charlottesville CBC.

**Note:** Rives, in the 1880s, described it as “occasionally met with.” Stevens and others confirmed a nest along the Rivanna River near Glenmore, 2 Dec 1998.

## NORTHERN HARRIER

*Circus cyaneus*

**Status:** Uncommon transient and winter resident

**Peak Counts:** (13) 22 Dec 1985, Hatton; (3) 9 May 1992, ACSC; (19) 21 Dec 2003, Warren CBC

**Note:** In addition to the CBC and ACSC, sightings have been reported in Mar, Apr, Oct and Nov.

## SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

*Accipiter striatus*

**Status:** Common transient and winter resident; rare summer resident

**Peak Counts:** (9) 17 Dec 1978, 19 Dec 1999 and 14 Dec 2008, Charlottesville CBC; (5) 8 May 1994, ACSC; (50) 22 Sep 1999, ICNA; (8) 26 Dec 1999, Warren CBC

**Note:** This species was apparently rare prior to 1950, with only 17 seen from 1943-1950.

## COOPER'S HAWK

*Accipiter cooperii*

**Status:** Common transient and winter resident; rare summer resident

**Sightings:** (7) 29 Dec 2002, Charlottesville CBC; (5) 21 Dec 2003, Warren CBC; (4) 9 May 2009, ACSC

**Note:** A group of 60 Cooper's Hawks was seen 27 Sep 1945 near Charlottesville. It apparently had been forced away from the Blue Ridge by a storm. A nesting pair was observed 17 May 1993, Rte 250 Bypass.

## NORTHERN GOSHAWK

*Accipiter gentilis*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** 10 Nov 1997, near Batesville, possibly the first county record; 9 Sep 2002, Rte 250 Bypass near Fontaine; 3 May 2003, Jarmans Gap Rd.; 27 Dec 2007, Rip Rap parking, Skyline Drive

## RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

*Buteo lineatus*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (10) 3 May 1988, ACSC; (12) 20 Dec 1998, Warren CBC; (24) 29 Dec 2002, Charlottesville CBC

**Note:** There are many nesting records.



Photo by Brenda Tekin

## BROAD-WINGED HAWK

Red-shouldered Hawk

*Buteo platypterus*

**Status:** Common spring transient (4 Apr – 6 Jun); abundant fall transient (1 Sep – 4 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (16) 5 May 1979, ACSC; (798) 16 Sep 1988, Red Hill School between 9:50 am and 10:15 am; (900) 22 Sep 1993, near PVCC

**Note:** This is the most common hawk observed during the fall hawk watch at Afton Mountain. Although the site itself is in Nelson County, these results are of interest here. In 2009 12,069 Broad-winged Hawks were recorded at the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch. The peak numbers occurred on 16 Sep (4631), 18 Sep (1435) and 21 Sep (1513).

## RED-TAILED HAWK

*Buteo jamaicensis*

**Status:** Uncommon permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (16) 1 Nov 2004, US 29 north; (24) 7 May 1983, ACSC; (48) 22 Dec 1994, Charlottesville CBC

## ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

*Buteo lagopus*

**Status:** Rare winter visitor (11 Dec – 15 Feb)

**Sightings:** 23 Dec 1958, Big Flat, first county record; (2) 15 Feb 1978, Shadwell along I-64; 3 Feb 2004, flyover I-64, ½ mile east of 5th St. exit

## GOLDEN EAGLE

*Aquila chrysaetos*

**Status:** Rare transient (22 Oct - 16 Nov; 19 Apr)

**Sightings:** 7 Nov 1976, Bear Den Mt.; 22 Oct 1988, Rt. 811; 19 Apr 1992, North Garden; 6 Nov 1993, ICNA

## AMERICAN KESTREL

*Falco sparverius*

**Status:** Uncommon  
permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (20) 2 Jan 78,  
Charlottesville CBC

**Notes:** 20 May 1990, female at nest in ICNA barn with 3 eggs, abandoned; May 1991 pair nesting in box near Ivy; a nesting box has been used successfully for approximately 10 years in North Garden.



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

American Kestrel

## MERLIN

*Falco columbarius*

**Status:** Uncommon winter resident (2 Oct – 17 Jan) and  
spring transient (27 Mar – 11 Apr)

**Sightings:** 22 Oct 1988, Rt. 811; 17 Jan 1995, downtown  
Charlottesville; 2 Oct 2003, O-Hill; 9 Dec 2004, downtown  
Charlottesville; 2 Jan 2007, Coles-Rolling Rd.

## PEREGRINE FALCON

*Falco peregrinus*

**Status:** Rare transient (14 Apr, 17 Oct) and winter visitor  
(23 Dec – 2 Jan)

**Sightings:** 23 Dec 1958, Big Flats; 17 Oct 1987, over Rivanna River  
at Free Bridge; 2 Jan 1993, Garth Rd. west of Ivy Creek;  
14 Apr 2004, ICNA

## CLAPPER RAIL

*Rallus longirostris*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Note:** One bird was found dead on Rt. 29 South, 7 Oct 1972. The identification was confirmed by Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

## KING RAIL

*Rallus elegans*

**Status:** Rare fall transient

**Sightings:** 9 Sep 1948; 23 Jul 1949; 24 Aug 1949, Hatton Wet Meadow

## VIRGINIA RAIL

*Rallus limicola*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** 28 Apr 2010, Bentivar marsh

**Note:** An immature bird was found dead at Charlottesville High School, 19 Sep 1980. A bird was killed in a mowing accident on a Milton farm, 8 May 1992. There are four records from Hatton Wet Meadow and Langhorne pond 1950-1956.

## SORA

*Porzana carolina*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** 8 Sep 1999, ICNA; 1 Oct 2007, Warren; 2 Oct 2007, Langhorne pond; 21 Sep 2009, Bentivar marsh

**Peak Counts:** (4) 6 Aug 1950, Langhorne pond

**Note:** Several pre-1950 sightings at Hatton Wet Meadow; two spring sightings: 7 Apr 1978, Gilbert Crossing; 25 Apr 2008, Bentivar marsh; one winter sighting 21 Dec 1975, Pinkerton Swamp

## PURPLE GALLINULE

*Porphyrio martinica*

**Status:** Rare visitor

**Sightings:** (2) 25 Aug 2003, Houchen's Creek

## COMMON MOORHEN

*Gallinula chloropus*

**Status:** Rare spring visitor

**Sightings:** (2) 29 Apr 1950, Henley's pond; 3 May 1980, Campbell marsh; 1 May 1996, Jarmans Gap Rd; (2) 16 Apr 2007, Chris Greene Park

## AMERICAN COOT

*Fulica americana*

**Status:** Rare spring and fall transient and uncommon winter visitor

**Peak Counts:** (129) 14 Apr 1955, Henley's pond (only spring record)

**Note:** Between 1972 and 1985 there are occasional records for the Charlottesville CBC with a peak count of (14) 2 Jan 1977. There are no Charlottesville CBC records before or after. Occasional Warren CBC records with peak count (11) 1 Jan 1998

## SANDHILL CRANE

*Grus canadensis*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** (4) 10 Oct 1996, flying over UVA; 24 May 2003, adult flying and circling over Riverview Park; 25 May 2003, Woolen Mills

## BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

*Pluvialis squatarola*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** (4) 18 Aug 1955, Langhorne pond; 9 May 2008, King Family Vineyards

## AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER

*Pluvialis dominica*

**Status:** Rare fall transient

**Note:** Nine records from 1954-1965: all 5 Sep through 20 Nov, all 1-2 birds at Langhorne pond

## SEMIPALMATED PLOVER

*Charadrius semipalmatus*

**Status:** Uncommon transient

**Sightings:** (2) 7 Sep 1968, Langhorne pond; (5) 9 May 1972, ACSC; (5) 9 May 1992, rain pools in field by James River just east of Warren

**Note:** Most pre-1965 records around 20 May; most fall records around 15 Sep

## KILLDEER

*Charadrius vociferus*

**Status:** Common spring and summer resident; uncommon winter resident

**Peak Counts:** (56) 8 Mar 1992, Jarmans Gap Rd; (106) 19 Oct 1996, muddy field near Buck Island; (41) 8 May 1999, ACSC

**Note:** Seen regularly on CBCs: Peak counts: (52) 21 Dec 1957, Warren CBC; (62) 3 Jan 1960, Charlottesville CBC

## AMERICAN AVOCET

*Recurvirostra americana*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** 21- 29 Sep 1956, Langhorne pond; (2) 8 Aug 2002, small pond near Ivy

## SPOTTED SANDPIPER

*Actitis macularius*

**Status:** Common spring transient (20 Apr – 22 May);  
uncommon fall transient (1 Aug – 30 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (16) 7 May 1978, Langhorne pond;  
(69) 5 May 1979, ACSC

**Note:** One winter record 12 Dec 1985 - 18 Jan 1986, Totier Creek

## SOLITARY SANDPIPER

*Tringa solitaria*

**Status:** Common spring transient (24 Apr – 5 May);  
uncommon fall transient (28 Jul - second week Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (67) 9 May 1992, rain pools east of Warren;  
(92) 9 May 1992, ACSC

## GREATER YELLOWLEGS

*Tringa melanoleuca*

**Status:** Uncommon transient

**Sightings:** (4) 9 May, 1992, ACSC; 15 Nov 2007, Chris Greene Park;  
(4) 30 Aug 2008, Old Trail ponds

## WILLET

*Tringa semipalmata*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** 13 May 1962, Langhorne pond; 28 Jul 2008, sandbar in James River, Warren

## LESSER YELLOWLEGS

*Tringa flavipes*

**Status:** Uncommon transient

**Sightings:** (8) 3 May 1948; (60) 9 May 1992, rain pools east of Warren, ACSC

## UPLAND SANDPIPER

*Bartramia longicauda*

**Status:** Rare fall transient

**Sightings:** (6) 11 Aug 1957, Langhorne pond; 19 Jul 1958, Langhorne pond; (2) 12 Aug 1983, Scotland Farm

**Peak Counts:** (13) 17 Apr 1951

## WHIMBREL

*Numenius phaeopus*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** 28 May, Jarmans Gap Rd, year not recorded

## MARBLED GODWIT

*Limosa fedoa*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** 6 Aug 2007, King Family Vineyards

## RUDDY TURNSTONE

*Arenaria interpres*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** (2) 18 Aug 1955, Langhorne pond; (3) 9 May 1992, rain pools east of Warren

**Note:** 1955 observation just after Hurricane Diane

## SANDERLING

*Calidris alba*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** (2) 18 Aug 1955, Langhorne pond; (3) 23 Sep 1978, Langhorne pond; (2) 9 May 1992, rain pools east of Warren

**Note:** 1955 observation just after Hurricane Diane

## SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER

*Calidris pusilla*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** (34) 17 Aug 1949, White Hall gravel pits; (5) 7 May 1983, ACSC; 7 Aug 1983, Langhorne pond; (12) 9 May 1992, rain pools east of Warren

## WESTERN SANDPIPER

*Calidris mauri*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** 20 May 1948, Bellair pond



## LEAST SANDPIPER

*Calidris minutilla*

**Status:** Uncommon transient

**Sightings:** (13) 13 May 1959, Langhorne pond; (20) 14 Aug 1963, Langhorne pond; (7) 7 May 1989, Langhorne pond; 14 May 2007, King Family Vineyards

## WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER

*Calidris fuscicollis*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** 25 June 1955; 6 Oct 1956; (3) 24 May 1958, Langhorne pond; 19 May 2008, King Family Vineyards

## BAIRD'S SANDPIPER

*Calidris bairdii*

**Status:** Rare fall transient

**Sightings:** 13 -14 Oct 1951, Henley's pond

## PECTORAL SANDPIPER

*Calidris melanotos*

**Status:** Uncommon spring and fall transient

(2 May – 25 May; 18 Aug – 2 Nov)

**Note:** (40) 18 Aug 1955, Langhorne pond, just after Hurricane Diane

## DUNLIN

*Calidris alpina*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** (3) 12 Oct 1963, Langhorne pond; 19 May 2003, Davenport pond; 15 Apr 2007, King Family Vineyards

## STILT SANDPIPER

*Calidris himantopus*

**Status:** Rare fall transient

**Sightings:** 11 Sep 1965, Lake Albemarle

## SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER

*Limnodromus griseus*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** (4) 26 Aug 1961, Langhorne pond; (2) 4 Aug 1962, Langhorne pond; 9 May 1992, ACSC; 8 May 1993, ACSC; 6-7 Jul 2008, King Family Vineyards

## WILSON'S SNIPE

*Gallinago delicata*

**Status:** Common spring transient (10 Mar – 25 May);  
uncommon winter visitor

**Peak Counts:** (150) 25 May 2007, Langhorne pond; Charlottesville

**CBCs:** (11) 19 Dec 1993; (11) 2 Jan 1995; (11) 29 Dec 1996

**Note:** One fall sighting 29 Sep  
1990, Lone Oak Farm

## AMERICAN WOODCOCK

*Scolopax minor*

**Status:** Common spring transient  
(24 Feb – 9 May); rare summer  
resident; rare fall transient  
(5 Oct – 30 Dec).

**Note:** Nest with 4 eggs,  
11 Apr 1947, Milton Airport



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

American Woodcock

## WILSON'S PHALAROPE

*Phalaropus tricolor*

**Status:** Rare spring transient

**Sightings:** (4) 6 May 1978, ACSC Langhorne pond; 6 May 1978,  
Charlottesville

## RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

*Phalaropus lobatus*

**Status:** Status: Accidental

**Note:** Sep 1939, landed on McIntyre School, Charlottesville,  
captured in exhausted condition

## RED PHALAROPE

*Phalaropus fulicarius*

**Status:** Accidental

**Note:** 18 Sep 1938, collected in reflection pool in front of gymnasium  
on UVA grounds

## BONAPARTE'S GULL

*Larus philadelphia*

**Status:** Status: Rare spring transient (27 Mar – 11 Apr)

**Sightings:** (15) 27 Mar 1948, Henley's pond; 19 Apr 2007, Beaver  
Creek Reservoir; 11 Apr 2008, Chris Greene Park

**Peak Counts:** (25) 15 Apr 2007, Old Trail ponds

## LAUGHING GULL

*Larus atricilla*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** (10) 19 Sep 2003, South Rivanna Reservoir after Hurricane Isabel

**Note:** 4 records, mostly Apr 1947, Henley's pond

## RING-BILLED GULL

*Larus delawarensis*

**Status:** Uncommon spring visitor (13 Feb – 24 May); rare winter visitor

**Peak Counts:** (90) 2 Mar 1997, Jarmans Gap Rd; (48) 2 Jan 2005, Charlottesville CBC; (21) 12 May 2001, ACSC

## HERRING GULL

*Larus argentatus*

**Status:** Uncommon spring visitor (21 Apr – 15 May) and rare winter visitor (15 Dec – 25 Feb)

**Peak Counts:** (14) 11 May 1991, ACSC; (4) 25 Feb 2007, Chris Greene Park

## LEAST TERN

*Sternula antillarum*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** (2) 13 Aug 1955, Langhorne pond, after Hurricane Connie

## CASPIAN TERN

*Hydroprogne caspia*

**Status:** Rare spring transient

**Sightings:** 8 May 1965, Langhorne pond; 21 Apr 2008, Lake Hollymead; 29 Apr 2009, Chris Greene Park; (2) 9 May 2009, Chris Greene Park

## BLACK TERN

*Chlidonias niger*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** (19) 3 Sep 1955; (4) 24 May 1958, Langhorne pond

## FORSTER'S TERN

*Sterna forsteri*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** (2) 14 Sep 1948, James River, Scottsville; 6 Apr 1993, Davenport pond

## ROYAL TERN

*Thalasseus maximus*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** (4) 5 May 1948; (5) 5 May 1958, Henley's pond after a night of heavy rain

## BLACK SKIMMER

*Rynchops niger*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** 20 May 1981, flying over Sperry Marine; 19 Sep 2003, South Rivanna River after Hurricane Isabel

## ROCK PIGEON

*Columba livia*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (473) 2 Jan 2005, Charlottesville CBC; (232) 30 Dec 1990, Warren CBC; (62) 5 May 1985, ACSC

## EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE

*Streptopelia decaocto*

**Status:** Rare

**Note:** One record 6 May 2006, North Garden

## MOURNING DOVE

*Zenaida macroura*

**Status:** Abundant permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (897) 3 Jan 1960, Charlottesville CBC; (1336) 31 Dec 1978, Warren CBC; (241) 15 May 1982, ACSC

**Note:** Begins nesting in March

## PASSENGER PIGEON

*Ectopistes migratorius*

**Status:** Status: Extinct

**Note:** Last great rookery failed in 1879, and the last bird died in 1914. President Theodore Roosevelt reported to the naturalist John Burroughs that he had sighted a flock of Passenger Pigeons at Keene, near his cabin Pine Knot. This was in 1907 when the President was visiting Pine Knot (reference Virginia's Birdlife: An Annotated Checklist, Fourth Edition, VSO, 2007).

## **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO**

*Coccyzus americanus*

**Status:** Common summer resident (30 Apr – 5 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (58) 15 May 1982, ACSC; (15) 10 Jun 1979, Covesville BBS

**Note:** Because of its reclusive behavior, more often heard than seen

## **BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO**

*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

**Status:** Uncommon transient and rare summer visitor

(27 Apr – 1 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (5) 6 May 1979, ACSC

## **BARN OWL**

*Tyto alba*

**Status:** Rare permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (3) 1 Feb 2008, near James River and Langhorne Rds.

**Note:** Observations include the Warren CBC (1 each 1975, 1976); the ACSC (1 each 1989, 1991); two records from 1969. The Feb 2008 birds were seen in silos.

## **EASTERN SCREECH-OWL**

*Megascops asio*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (10) 29 Dec 1996, Charlottesville CBC; (10) 30 Dec 2001, Warren CBC; (4) 12 May 2001, ACSC

## **GREAT HORNED OWL**

*Bubo virginianus*

**Status:** Uncommon permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (11) 29 Dec 1985, Charlottesville CBC; (11) 27 Dec 1987, Charlottesville CBC; (26)

2 Jan 1994, Warren CBC; (8) 4 May 2002, ACSC

## **SNOWY OWL**

*Bubo scandiacus*

**Status:** Rare Irruptive

**Note:** One record reported by James Irvine 28 Nov 1940 of a bird that had been shot in Albemarle County.

## BURROWING OWL

*Athene cunicularia*

**Status:** Accidental

**Note:** A man hunting groundhogs at Scotland Farm in August 1983 discovered this bird, the first documented Burrowing Owl for Virginia. The owl remained at the farm 10 Aug - 9 Oct, was seen by a number of birders and was the subject of an article in the VSO newsletter of Oct 1983.

## BARRED OWL

*Strix varia*

**Status:** Uncommon permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (4) 28 Dec 2003 and other years, Charlottesville CBC; (3) 31 Dec 1989, Warren CBC; (3) 29 Dec 1991, Warren CBC; (7) 10 May 1986, ACSC



Photo by Bill Leaning

Barred Owl

## LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

**Status:** Rare

**Note:** One record of a bird caught in a trap near Sugar Hollow, Nov 1929

## SHORT-EARED OWL

*Asio flammeus*

**Status:** Rare

**Sightings:** 15 Jul - 9 Nov 1963, near Woodstock Farm; 10 Jan 1996, near Woodstock Farm; 3 Feb 2003, near Mechums River

## NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL

*Aegolius acadicus*

**Status:** Rare

**Sightings:** 29 Dec 1944, Rte 680 north of Rte 250 junction; 7 Dec 1948; 26 Dec 1965, Warren CBC; undated, near Walmart, struck by a car; 19 May 2006, Blue Ridge

## COMMON NIGHTHAWK

*Chordeiles minor*

**Status:** uncommon spring transient (14 May – 8 Jun); common fall transient (10 Aug – 24 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (1000) late Aug 1944, Sugar Hollow; (500) 19 Aug 1951, Ivy; (160) 30 Aug 1993, Ivy Farm East; (9) 15 May 1982, ACSC

## CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW

*Caprimulgus carolinensis*

**Status:** Rare summer visitor (2 May - 26 Aug)

**Note:** Observed 8/31 ACSC, with a maximum number of (2) 4 May 2002. There are several records in addition to the ACSC. A recording was made of a calling bird 2 May 2007, Sugar Hollow. One or more have occurred annually in the Advance Mills area, 2007-2010.

## WHIP-POOR-WILL

*Caprimulgus vociferus*

**Status:** Uncommon spring transient (9 Mar – 20 May);  
rare summer resident and fall transient

**Sightings:** 25 Sep 1944, Big Flat; 10 Jun 2008, Carter's Bridge BBS

**Peak Counts:** (25)14 May 1961, Big Flat; (26) 7 May 1983, ACSC

**Note:** The population of summer residents has declined during the last twenty years.

## CHIMNEY SWIFT

*Chaetura pelagica*

**Status:** Abundant summer resident (7 Apr – 13 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (4000)14 Oct 1995, Charlottesville;  
(604) 05 May 1979, ACSC

## RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

*Archilochus colubris*

**Status:** Common summer resident  
(16 Apr – 28 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (13) 7 May 2005,  
ACSC



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

## RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD

*Selasphorus rufus*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** 7- 11 Oct 1991;  
9 - 12 Oct 1993; Oct 2001 - Feb 2002,  
Buck Mountain; 24 Feb 2002, Earlysville

**Note:** Recent practice is to distinguish Rufous from Allen's (*Selasphorus sasin*) by measurement. The first three of these birds described above were not physically examined. The fourth record was established by examination to be of a Rufous Hummingbird.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

## BELTED KINGFISHER

*Ceryle alcyon*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (34) 19 Dec 1999, Charlottesville CBC; (20) 20 Dec 1998, Warren CBC; (14) 10 May 1986, ACSC

## RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

**Status:** Rare permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (18) 3 Jan 1960, Charlottesville CBC; (36) 2 Jan 1994, Warren CBC;

(3) 9 May 1987, ACSC

**Note:** As many as 12 individuals have been observed within a 15 acre patch at Cobham Park Farm.

## RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

*Melanerpes carolinus*

**Status:** Abundant permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (171) 29 Dec 2002, Charlottesville CBC; (116) 21 Dec 1997, Warren CBC; (94) 15 May 1982, ACSC

## YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

*Sphyrapicus varius*

**Status:** Common transient and winter resident (22 Sep – 7 May)

**Peak Counts:** (83) 16 Dec 2001, Charlottesville CBC; (84) 31 Dec 2000, Warren CBC; (11) 7 May 1995, ACSC

## DOWNY WOODPECKER

*Picoides pubescens*

**Status:** Abundant permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (145) 22 Dec 1995, Charlottesville CBC;

(137) 2 Jan 1983, Warren CBC; (62) 7 May 1983, ACSC

## HAIRY WOODPECKER

*Picoides villosus*

**Status:** Uncommon permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (30) 26 Dec 1982, Charlottesville CBC; (20) 29 Dec 1974, Warren CBC; (15) 7 May 1983, ACSC



Downy Woodpecker

Photo by Brenda Tekin



## **RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER**

*Picoides borealis*

**Status:** Extirpated

**Note:** One specimen collected by W. C. Rives, 30 Dec 1887, Cobham

## **NORTHERN FLICKER**

*Colaptes auratus*

**Status:** Abundant permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (184) 19 Dec 1999, Charlottesville CBC; (131) 29 Dec 1991, Warren CBC; (49) 6 May 1978, ACSC.

## **PILEATED WOODPECKER**

*Dryocopus pileatus*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (90) 19 Dec 1999, Charlottesville CBC; (67) 20 Dec 1998, Warren CBC; (37) 10 May 1986, ACSC

## **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER**

*Contopus cooperi*

**Status:** Rare transient

**Sightings:** 30 Aug 1981, Rugby Road; 18 May 1996, Ivy Farm East; 14 May 2006, Meadow Creek Park; 30 Jul 2007, Secluded Farm

## **EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE**

*Contopus virens*

**Status:** Common summer resident (1 Apr – 21 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (99) 15 May 1982, ACSC; (20) 10 Jun 1978, Covesville  
BBS

## **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**

*Empidonax virens*

**Status:** Common summer resident (2 May – 17 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (63) 15 May 1982, ACSC; (9) 7 Jun 1992, Covesville  
BBS

## **ALDER FLYCATCHER**

*Empidonax alnorum*

**Status:** Rare spring transient

**Sightings:** 1 May 2003; 17 May 2006, Riverview Park;  
23 May 2008, Campbell marsh

## WILLOW FLYCATCHER

*Empidonax traillii*

**Status:** Rare spring transient (3 May – 18 Jun)

**Peak Counts:** (2) 8 May 2004, ACSC

**Note:** Observed 8/31 ACSC; there are 5 additional records from 1982 to 2000.

## LEAST FLYCATCHER

*Empidonax minimus*

**Status:** Rare spring transient (2 May – 20 May);

rare fall transient (27 Aug – 16 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (4) 11 May 1991, ACSC; (4) 12 May 2001, ACSC

**Note:** Observed on 9/31 ACSC; there are four additional spring records 1991 – 2005. All three fall records are from ICNA.

## EASTERN PHOEBE

*Sayornis phoebe*

**Status:** Common summer resident and uncommon winter resident

**Peak Counts:** (37) 2 Jan 1995, Charlottesville CBC; (26) 2 Jan 1994, Warren CBC; (59) 11 May 1991, ACSC

## GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER

*Myiarchus crinitus*

**Status:** Common summer resident (22 Apr – 3 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (48) 15 May 1982, ACSC

## WESTERN KINGBIRD

*Tyrannus verticalis*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** One record 6 Oct 2003, North Garden

## EASTERN KINGBIRD

*Tyrannus tyrannus*

**Status:** Common spring transient and uncommon summer resident (26 Apr – 11 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (90) 7 May 1988, ACSC

**Note:** There are three fall records from ICNA: 18 Aug 2004, 1 Sep 2007 and 11 Sep 2007. These birds could be either early fall migrants or from local breeding populations.

## SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

*Tyrannus forficatus*

**Status:** Status: Accidental

**Sightings:** 27 May 1962, Woodstock Farm

## LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

*Lanius ludovicianus*

**Status:** Formerly rare permanent resident; uncommon winter visitor; presently rare winter visitor

**Peak Counts:** (22) 30 Dec 1959, Warren CBC; (13) 31 Dec 1966, Charlottesville CBC; (13) 2 Jan 1972, Charlottesville CBC; (2) 5 May, 1979, ACSC; (2) 12 May 1984, ACSC

**Note:** The population of this species began to decline in last quarter of the twentieth century and has not recovered. It is now only rarely observed in Albemarle County.

Charlottesville CBC total number observed: (68) 1965-1974; (28) 1975-1984; (10) 1985-1994; and (1) 1995-2008. Warren CBC total number observed: (98) 1965-1974; (68) 1975-1984;

(19) 1985-1994; (3) 1995-2008; observed on 7/31 ACSC counts 1978-2009; The most recent spring record is 08 May 1994; the most recent winter record is Jan, Feb 2007, Blenheim Rd. near the Hardware River



Photo by Brenda Tekin

Loggerhead Shrike

## WHITE-EYED VIREO

*Vireo griseus*

**Status:** Common summer resident (13 Apr – 14 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (40) 5 May 1990, ACSC

**Note:** Most numerous in the eastern part of the County. A bird at Via School on the North Fork of Moormans River (elevation 2100 feet) 16 Jul 1948 was unusual for the elevation.

## YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

*Vireo flavifrons*

**Status:** Common spring transient

(14 Apr- 18 May); uncommon summer resident

**Peak Counts:** (20) 15 May 1982, ACSC

**Note:** Late fall date 16 Sep 2003, ICNA

## BLUE-HEADED VIREO

*Vireo solitarius*

**Status:** Uncommon spring transient (24 Mar – 15 May); rare and local summer resident; rare fall transient (7 Sep – 12 Nov)

**Peak Counts:** (11) 8 May 1993, ACSC

**Note:** One Charlottesville CBC record 20 Dec 2009

## WARBLING VIREO

*Vireo gilvus*

**Status:** Uncommon spring transient (2 May – 15 May); rare summer resident; rare fall transient

**Sightings:** 25 Sep 1996; 27 Sep 2001, ICNA; 29 Aug 2006, ICNA; 25 Sep 2003, ICNA

**Peak Counts:** (12) 8 May 2004, ACSC

**Note:** Observed in 6/7 years between 2003 – 2009, Coveseville BBS

## PHILADELPHIA VIREO

*Vireo philadelphicus*

**Status:** Rare spring transient (1 May – 19 May); rare fall transient (8 Sep – 9 Oct)

**Note:** Observed on 2 ACSC: 5 May 1990 and (2) 8 May 1999; including the ACSC records, there are 9 observations of this vireo in May, and three in the fall.

## RED-EYED VIREO

*Vireo olivaceus*

**Status:** Abundant summer resident (18 April – 6 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (234) 15 May 1982, ACSC; (25) 18 June 1995, Coveseville BBS

## BLUE JAY

*Cyanocitta cristata*

**Status:** Abundant permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (990) 6 May 1978, ACSC; (776) 18 Dec 1988, Warren CBC; (674) 16 Dec 2001, Charlottesville CBC

**Note:** Nearly absent in winter when mast is limited; for example (17) 23 Dec 1990, Charlottesville CBC

## AMERICAN CROW

*Corvus brachyrhynchos*

**Status:** Abundant permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (2272) 1 Jan 1995, Charlottesville CBC; (1405) 5 Jan 1997, Warren CBC; (364) 8 May 1999, ACSC

## FISH CROW

*Corvus ossifragus*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (55) 6 May 1978, ACSC; (51) 20 Dec 1998, Warren CBC; (1327) 19 Dec 1999, Charlottesville CBC

## COMMON RAVEN

*Corvus corax*

**Status:** Uncommon permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (17) 5 May 1979, ACSC; (15) 27 Dec 1987 and 29 Dec 1996, Charlottesville CBC; (17) 30 Dec 2001, Warren CBC

**Note:** Nests have been found in Albemarle

## HORNED LARK

*Eremophila alpestris*

**Status:** Rare permanent resident; uncommon in winter

**Sightings:** May 6 2010, Langhorne pond

**Peak Counts:** (298) 22 Dec 1951, Charlottesville CBC; (256) 23 Dec 1951, Warren CBC; (3) 9 May 1992 ACSC

## PURPLE MARTIN

*Progne subis*

**Status:** Uncommon transient and summer resident  
(late Mar – 4 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (25) 11 May 1996, ACSC

## TREE SWALLOW

*Tachycineta bicolor*

**Status:** Common transient and summer resident (late Mar – late Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (77) 5 May 1979, ACSC

**Note:** Numbers increasing in recent years due to availability of bluebird nest boxes

## NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW

*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

**Status:** Common transient and uncommon summer resident  
(14 Mar - Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (93) 5 May 1979, ACSC

## **BANK SWALLOW**

*Riparia riparia*

**Status:** Rare transient and summer resident (9 May – 20 Sep)

**Sightings:** (12) 24 May 1958; (22) 9 May 1959, Langhorne pond

**Peak Counts:** (23) 20 Sep 1990, Langhorne pond

## **CLIFF SWALLOW**

*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

**Status:** Uncommon transient and rare summer resident

(25 Apr – 10 Sep)

**Sightings:** (12 nests) 26 Aug 1984, in a large brick barn 0.2 miles WNW of Batesville

**Peak Counts:** (18) 3 Jul 1989; (18) 8 Jun 1993, Route 722 bridge over the Rock Fish River

**Note:** There is a reliable colony at Howardsville.

## **BARN SWALLOW**

*Hirundo rustica*

**Status:** Common transient and summer resident (20 Apr – 24 Aug)

**Sightings:** 2 Jan 1983, Warren CBC

**Peak Counts:** (346) 6 May 1978, ACSC

## **CAROLINA CHICKADEE**

*Poecile carolinensis*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (474) 1 Jan 1995, Charlottesville CBC

## **BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE**

*Poecile atricapillus*

**Status:** Rare winter visitor (Nov - Mar)

**Sightings:** (4) 23 Dec 1965, near Blackrock Gap, Skyline Drive; 2 Jan 1976, near Blackrock Gap; 13 Nov 2002, Chris Greene Park

**Peak Counts:** (27) 23 Dec 1943, Charlottesville CBC; (9) 1 Jan 1984, Charlottesville CBC

**Note:** According to Virginia's Birdlife: An Annotated Checklist, Fourth Edition, VSO, 2007, "conclusively identifying individual Black-capped Chickadees out of range, especially in light of hybridization, makes determining the abundance and frequency of occurrence of this species away from known breeding areas exceedingly difficult."

## TUFTED TITMOUSE

*Baeolophus bicolor*

**Status:** Abundant permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (153) 7 May 1983, ACSC

## RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

*Sitta canadensis*

**Status:** Uncommon transient and winter visitor (late Sep – mid-Apr)

**Peak Counts:** (62) 31 Dec 1995, Charlottesville CBC

**Note:** Irregular abundance, common in some years but scarce in most

## WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

*Sitta carolinensis*

**Status:** Common  
permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (155) 16 Dec 2001, Charlottesville CBC

## BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH

*Sitta pusilla*

**Status:** Rare

**Sightings:** 1 Apr 2004, Reservoir Rd near  
Ragged Mountain Natural Area

## BROWN CREEPER

*Certhia americana*

**Status:** Uncommon transient and winter resident (mid-Oct – 7 May)

**Sightings:** 4 May 2002; 7 May  
2005, ACSC

**Peak Counts:** (24) 29 Dec 1960,  
Charlottesville CBC

## CAROLINA WREN

*Thryothorus ludovicianus*

**Status:** Abundant  
permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (337) 17 Dec 2006,  
Charlottesville CBC



Photo by Victoria Dye

Carolina Wren

## BEWICK'S WREN

*Thryomanes bewickii*

**Status:** Formerly rare permanent resident

**Sightings:** 27 Dec 1954, 28 Dec 1956, 31 Dec 1958 and 27 Dec 1970, Warren CBC; (4) 9 Jun 1962, Bucks Elbow

**Peak Counts:** (6) 1 Jul 1961, Big Flat

**Note:** Last observation in this area was a single bird 2 May 1981, ACSC. No confirmed observations in Virginia in recent years

## HOUSE WREN

*Troglodytes aedon*

**Status:** Common transient and summer resident (16 Apr – 14 Oct); rare winter visitor

**Sightings:** (2) 27 Dec 1970, Warren CBC; 29 Dec 1956, 28 Dec 1958, 30 Dec 1973 and 28 Dec 1974, Charlottesville CBC

**Peak Counts:** (32) 15 May 1982, ACSC

## WINTER WREN

*Troglodytes troglodytes*

**Status:** Uncommon transient and winter resident (30 Sep – 16 Apr)

**Peak Counts:** (24) 28 Dec 1975 and 27 Dec 1992, Charlottesville CBC

## SEDGE WREN

*Cistothorus platensis*

**Status:** Rare transient and winter visitor (Sep - May); formerly rare summer resident

**Sightings:** 26 Dec 1949, Warren CBC; (6) 10 Oct 1970, wet meadow west of Hatton; (3) 5 May 1990, ACSC

**Peak Counts:** (12) 24 Aug 1949, wet meadow west of Hatton

**Note:** The wet meadow west of Hatton was drained circa 1971 and the species has not been seen since at this location.

Breeding records 1950-1952.

## MARSH WREN

*Cistothorus palustris*

**Status:** Rare transient and winter visitor (Sep - May)

**Sightings:** 27 Dec 1954, Warren CBC; 17 Dec 1968, Polo Grounds Rd; 22 Sep 1999, ICNA; 6 Oct 2007, Scogo Lake

**Note:** All sightings are single birds



## **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET**

*Regulus satrapa*

**Status:** Common transient and winter resident (11 Oct – 11 Apr)

**Peak Counts:** (249) 27 Dec 1992, Charlottesville CBC

## **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET**

*Regulus calendula*

**Status:** Common transient and winter resident (17 Sep - 11 May)

**Peak Counts:** (111) 28 Dec 2003, Charlottesville CBC

## **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER**

*Poliophtila caerulea*

**Status:** Common summer resident (31 Mar – 20 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (146) 8 May 1999, ACSC

## **NORTHERN WHEATEAR**

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** 14 Sep 1974, Highland Orchards Farm; bird lingered for three days

## **EASTERN BLUEBIRD**

*Sialia sialis*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (470) 16 Dec 2001, Charlottesville CBC



Photo by Bill Leaning

Eastern Bluebird

## **VEERY**

*Catharus fuscescens*

**Status:** Uncommon transient, mainly in spring (25 Apr - 25 May; 25 Aug – 30 Sep); localized summer resident (nests at the Loft Mountain campground)

**Peak Counts:** (9) 7 May 1983, ACSC

## **GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH**

*Catharus minimus*

**Status:** Rare transient (5-24 May; 5-21 Oct)

**Sightings:** 17 Dec 1978, Charlottesville CBC; 3 May 1991, Sugar Ridge Rd west of White Hall; 24 May 2006, ICNA; 4 Oct 2007, Secluded Farm; 17 Oct 2007, ICNA

**Peak Counts:** (3) 7 May 1983, ACSC

## SWAINSON'S THRUSH

*Catharus ustulatus*

**Status:** Common transient (7-24 May; 26 Sep - 4 Oct)

**Sightings:** (20+) 4 Oct 2007, Secluded Farm

**Peak Counts:** (112) 12 May 1956; (52) 7 May 1983, ACSC

## HERMIT THRUSH

*Catharus guttatus*

**Status:** Common transient and winter resident (12 Oct – 11 May)

**Peak Counts:** (69) 27 Dec 1998, Charlottesville CBC

## WOOD THRUSH

*Hylocichla mustelina*

**Status:** Common transient and summer resident (24 Apr – 9 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (174) 6 May 1978, ACSC



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

Hermit Thrush

## AMERICAN ROBIN

*Turdus migratorius*

**Status:** Common permanent resident, abundant in winter

**Peak Counts:** (5479) 28 Dec 1980, Charlottesville CBC

## VARIED THRUSH

*Ixoreus naevius*

**Status:** Accidental

**Note:** 16 Jan 1977. The thrush was feeding with robins on fallen persimmons six miles west of Charlottesville.

## GRAY CATBIRD

*Dumetella carolinensis*

**Status:** Common transient and summer resident; rare winter visitor (25 Apr – 17 Oct)

**Sightings:** 25 Feb 2010, Lickinghole Creek

**Peak Counts:** (107) 5 May 1985, ACSC

## **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD**

*Mimus polyglottos*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (252) 29 Dec 1985, Charlottesville CBC

## **BROWN THRASHER**

*Toxostoma rufum*

**Status:** Common transient and summer resident; uncommon winter visitor (early Apr – early Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (43) 6 May 1978, ACSC

## **EUROPEAN STARLING**

*Sturnus vulgaris*

**Status:** Abundant permanent resident

**Sightings:** (14,000) 31 Dec 1995, Free Bridge (included in peak count)

**Peak Counts:** (15,318) 31 Dec 1995, Charlottesville CBC

## **AMERICAN PIPIT**

*Anthus rubescens*

**Status:** Rare transient and winter visitor (22 Oct – 11 Mar)

**Sightings:** 10 May 1986, ACSC; (30) 22 Oct 1988, Route 811 near Henley's pond; (35) 11 Nov 1989, Route 811; (50) 6 Nov 1993, Scotland Farm; (9) 3 Jan 2010, Warren CBC

**Peak Counts:** (350) 18 Mar 1949; (150) 11 Mar 1990, plowed field near Crozet

## **CEDAR WAXWING**

*Bombycilla cedrorum*

**Status:** Common permanent resident; uncommon summer resident

**Peak Counts:** (1315) 28 Dec 1980, Charlottesville CBC

## **BLUE-WINGED WARBLER**

*Vermivora pinus*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (26 Apr - 9 May; 18 Aug – 6 Oct)

**Note:** Grey and Stevens reported that Ludlow Griscom, who taught ornithology during the summer sessions of 1915 and 1916 at UVA, wrote that this species was “uncommon” during the summer school session at the university.

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** *Vermivora chrysoptera*  
**Status:** Uncommon transient (25 Apr – 14 May; 16 Aug – 15 Sep)  
**Peak Counts:** (6) 6 May 1978, ACSC

**TENNESSEE WARBLER** *Vermivora peregrina*  
**Status:** Uncommon transient (1 May – 19 May; 1 Sep – 27 Oct)  
**Peak Counts:** (32) 13 Sep 1958, Big Flat

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** *Vermivora celata*  
**Status:** Uncommon transient (25 Apr – 10 May; 20 Sep – 4 Oct)  
**Sightings:** 10 May 1958, south of Woodbridge; 26 Apr 1990, Batesville;  
20 Sep 1993, ICNA

**NASHVILLE WARBLER** *Vermivora ruficapilla*  
**Status:** Uncommon transient (18 April – 10 May; 3 Sep – 30 Oct)  
**Peak Counts:** (7) 6 May 1978, ACSC; (2) 15 Sep 2004, O-Hill

**NORTHERN PARULA** *Parula americana*  
**Status:** Common transient (13 Apr – 26 May; 22 Aug – 19 Oct);  
uncommon summer resident; rare winter visitor  
**Sightings:** 11-12 Nov 1988, Batesville  
**Peak Counts:** (31) 8 May 1999, ACSC

**YELLOW WARBLER** *Dendroica petechia*  
**Status:** Common transient (12 Apr – 11 May; 10 Aug – 29 Sep);  
rare summer resident  
**Peak Counts:** (78) 6 May 1978, ACSC  
**Note:** Two winter records two days apart: 30 Dec 1990, Warren CBC;  
1 Jan 1991, Scottsville

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** *Dendroica pensylvanica*  
**Status:** Common transient (26 Apr – 21 May; 3 Aug – 9 Oct);  
common summer resident above 2100 ft.  
**Peak Counts:** (75) 14 May 1961, Big Flat; (60) 10 May 1997,  
Charlottesville; (6) 14 Sep 2004, O-Hill

## MAGNOLIA WARBLER

*Dendroica magnolia*

**Status:** Common transient (1 May – 28 May; 26 Aug – 14 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (8) 15 Sep 2004, Chris Greene Park

## CAPE MAY WARBLER

*Dendroica tigrina*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (23 Apr – 17 May; 31 Aug – 15 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (17) 7 May 1987, ACSC; (6) 2 Oct 2006, ICNA

**Note:** Two winter records: 30 Dec 1990, Charlottesville;

7 Feb 1995, Batesville

## BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

*Dendroica caerulescens*

**Status:** Common transient (22 Apr – 22 May; 31 Aug – 21 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (36) 6 May 1978, ACSC; (41) 10 May 1997,

Charlottesville

**Note:** One winter record 23 Dec 1997, Batesville

## YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

*Dendroica coronata*

**Status:** Abundant transient and winter resident (2 Oct – 18 May)

**Peak Counts:** (326) 6 May 1978, ACSC; (456) 31 Dec 2000,

Warren CBC

## BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER

*Dendroica virens*

**Status:** Common transient (11 Apr – 24 May; 21 Aug – 20 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (42) 2 Oct 2003, O-Hill

**Note:** Stevens reported that in the 1940's it nested in the Southwest Mountains and Sugar Hollow around 600 – 1500 ft., Blackrock Gap and Heard's Mountain at 1700 ft.

## BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

*Dendroica fusca*

**Status:** Common transient (15 Apr – 28 May; 3 Aug – 11 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (7) 6 May 1978, ACSC; (26) 10 May 1997,

Charlottesville

## **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** *Dendroica dominica*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (27 Mar – 28 May; 20 - 28 Sep); rare summer resident (2 Jun – 1 Aug);

**Peak Counts:** (8) 18 Apr 1964, near Hatton

**Note:** Winter record, 10 Dec 1979 – 7 Jan 1980, Scottsville

## **PINE WARBLER** *Dendroica pinus*

**Status:** Uncommon summer resident (22 Feb – 19 Oct); rare winter resident (31 Oct – 30 Dec)

**Peak Counts:** (8) 31 Mar 2003, Ragged Mt.; (11) 14 Jun 1981, Covesville BBS; (27) 8 May 1999, ACSC

## **PRAIRIE WARBLER**

*Dendroica discolor*

**Status:** Uncommon summer resident (9 Apr – 23 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (33) 24 May 1958, Fan Mt.; (74) 6 May 1989, ACSC

## **PALM WARBLER**

*Dendroica palmarum*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (6 Apr – 5 May; 17 Sep – 5 Nov); rare winter visitor (16 - 29 Dec)

**Peak Counts:** (4) 16 Apr 1994, Ivy Farm East



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

Prairie Warbler

## **BAY-BREASTED WARBLER** *Dendroica castanea*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (3 – 28 May; 3 Sep – 11 Oct)

**Sightings:** 18 – 24 Mar 1976, Shadwell

**Peak Counts:** (2) 17 Sept 2003, O-Hill; (4) 6 May 2000, ACSC

## **BLACKPOLL WARBLER** *Dendroica striata*

**Status:** Common transient (2 May – 2 Jun; 4 Sep – 31 Oct); accidental winter visitor (19 Dec 71)

## CERULEAN WARBLER

*Dendroica cerulea*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (13 Apr – 18 May; 27 Aug – 8 Sep);  
summer status uncertain

**Peak Counts:** (52) 5 May 1979, ACSC; (21) 10 May 1997,  
Charlottesville

**Note:** Grey and Stevens (1948) comment that summer birds are “most common” in the Southwest Mountains (feeding young at nest), 6 – 26 Jun. In 1966 “dozens of pairs” were reported breeding on Castle Rock Mountain.

## BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER

*Mniotilta varia*

**Status:** Common transient (4 Apr – 20 May; 31 Jul – 4 Oct);  
uncommon summer resident

**Peak Counts:** (36) 6 May 1978, ACSC

**Note:** Stevens considered it a common summer resident in the 1940's.  
One wintering individual at Woodstock Farm, 5 Nov – 3 Dec 1989.

## AMERICAN REDSTART

*Setophaga ruticilla*

**Status:** Common transient  
(13 Apr – 26 May; 1 Sep – 12 Oct);  
uncommon summer resident  
(8 May – 27 Aug)

**Peak Counts:** (76) 8 May 1994,  
ACSC; (15) 14 Sep 2004, O-Hill

**Note:** Stevens considered it a  
very common summer resident  
in the 1940's.



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

American Redstart

## PROTHONOTARYWARBLER

*Protonotariacitrea*

**Status:** Uncommon spring transient (11 Apr – 12 May);  
accidental summer visitor (25 June)

**Peak Counts:** (2) 12 May 1979, Gilbert Station

## WORM-EATING WARBLER

*Helminthos vermivorus*

**Status:** Uncommon summer resident (15 Apr – 17 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (32) 8 May 1994, ACSC

## SWAINSON'S WARBLER

*Limnothlypis swainsonii*

**Status:** Accidental spring transient (28 Apr – 13 May)

**Note:** There were three sightings at the house of Robert S. Merkle, Sherwood Forest: 28 Apr 1962, 29 Apr 1964, and 13 May 1966.

Merkel and Stevens reported this warbler could only be found when singing as it lived in a “terrible tangle” of vegetation. They were unable to prove it nested.

## OVENBIRD

*Seiurus aurocapilla*

**Status:** Common summer resident (8 Apr – 14 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (83) 6 May 1978, ACSC

## NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH

*Seiurus noveboracensis*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (21 Apr – 31 May; 31 Aug – 20 Oct)

**Sightings:** 3 May 1991, Scotland Farm; 9 May 1997, Ivy Farm East, 9 May 2006, Belmont

## LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH

*Seiurus motacilla*

**Status:** Common summer resident (23 Mar – 13 Sep);

Accidental winter visitor

**Sightings:** 3 Jan 1970, Charlottesville CBC

**Peak Counts:** (41) 11 May 1991, ACSC

## KENTUCKY WARBLER

*Oporornis formosus*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (29 Apr -17 May; 16 Aug – 14 Sep);  
rare summer resident

**Peak Counts:** (33) 11 May 1991, ACSC

**Note:** Grey and Stevens reported breeding in the Southwest Mountains and Sugar Hollow with nest records for 6 May and fledged young on 22 Jun at 1000 ft.

## CONNECTICUT WARBLER

*Oporornis agilis*

**Status:** Rare transient (15 May, 7 Sep – 4 Oct)

**Sightings:** 7 Sep 1991, Ivy; 8 Sep 1998, Ivy Farm East



## MOURNING WARBLER

*Oporornis philadelphia*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (26 Apr – 16 May; 27 Aug – 14 Oct)

**Sightings:** 14 Oct 1992, Ivy (caught in a mist net); 16 May 1994, Ivy Farm East; 27 Aug 2005, ICNA

## COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

*Geothlypis trichas*

**Status:** Common summer resident

(8 Apr – 22 Oct); uncommon winter resident (16 Dec – 5 Jan)

**Peak Counts:** (107) 7 May 1983, ACSC



Photo by Brenda Tekin

Common Yellowthroat

## HOODED WARBLER

*Wilsonia citrina*

**Status:** Uncommon transient and summer resident (16 Apr – 28 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (70) 21 Jun 1951; (6) 24 May 1958, Fan Mt.;

(27) 8 May 1999, ACSC

## WILSON'S WARBLER

*Wilsonia pusilla*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (4 – 20 May; 25 Aug – 12 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (2) 27 Sep 05, Fontaine Ave

## CANADA WARBLER

*Wilsonia canadensis*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (30 Apr – 28 May; 24 Jul – 28 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (25) 12 May 1956

## YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

*Icteria virens*

**Status:** Status: Uncommon summer resident (27 Apr – 5 Oct);

accidental winter visitor

**Peak Counts:** (15) 14 Jun 1981, Covesville BBS;

(63) 8 May 1999, ACSC

**Note:** Winter records: 30 Dec 1984, Charlottesville CBC;

16 Dec 2007, Charlottesville CBC

## EASTERN TOWHEE

*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

**Status:** Abundant permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (34) 10 Jun 1978, Covesville BBS;

(151) 5 May 1979, ACSC; (9) 30 Dec 1984, Rivanna River

## BACHMAN'S SPARROW

*Aimophila aestivalis*

**Status:** Rare summer resident (17 May – Aug 1)

**Note:** No records since 1962, probably extirpated

## AMERICAN TREE SPARROW

*Spizella arborea*

**Status:** Uncommon winter resident (20 Nov – 31 Mar)

**Peak Counts:** (430) 23 Dec 1950, Charlottesville CBC;  
(53) 28 Dec 1965, Charlottesville

**Note:** Late spring records 12 May 2001; 8 May 2004

## CHIPPING SPARROW

*Spizella passerina*

**Status:** Common summer resident (12 Mar – 14 Nov); uncommon winter visitor (18 Dec – 5 Jan; 26 Feb)

**Peak Counts:** (18) Coveseville BBS; (83) 5 May 1979, ACSC;  
(30) 4 Jan 2009, Warren CBC

## CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

*Spizella pallida*

**Status:** Accidental spring transient

**Sightings:** 22 Apr 2002, ICNA

## FIELD SPARROW

*Spizella pusilla*

**Status:** Abundant permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (466) 28 Dec 1980, Charlottesville CBC;  
(126) 7 May 1983, ACSC

**Note:** Possibly two populations, the abundant summer population separated by a hiatus in the fall from the less abundant winter population.

## VESPER SPARROW

*Poocetes gramineus*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (25 Mar – 15 May; 16 Oct – 6 Nov); rare winter resident (29 Dec – 16 Jan)

**Peak Counts:** (10) 9 Apr 1961, Hog Creek; (10) 26 Oct 1962, Henley's pond; (7) 27 Dec 1992, Charlottesville CBC

**Note:** Grey and Stevens list it as a breeding species (fledged young, 17 – 31 May), but uncommon to scarce.

## LARK SPARROW

*Chondestes grammacus*

**Status:** Accidental transient

**Sightings:** 11 Oct 1979, Birdwood; 7 Aug 2007, Lake Albemarle

**Note:** Nested Jun 1925

## SAVANNAH SPARROW

*Passerculus sandwichensis*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (16 Feb – 21 May; 11 Sep – 17 Oct);

rare winter visitor (1 Dec – 5 Feb)

**Peak Counts:** (40) 4 Jan 2008, Warren CBC

## GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

*Ammodramus savannarum*

**Status:** Uncommon summer resident (27 Mar – 20 Oct);

rare winter visitor

**Peak Counts:** (63) 6 May 1999, ACSC

**Note:** Winter records: (2) 3 Jan 1971, Charlottesville CBC; 2 Jan 1983, Warren; 27 Dec 1990, Charlottesville feeder

## HENSLOW'S SPARROW

*Ammodramus henslowii*

**Status:** Extirpated summer resident – no records since 1952; rare

transient bird found dead in downtown Charlottesville 25 Apr 2009

## LE CONTE'S SPARROW

*Ammodramus leconteii*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** 4 – 5 Nov 2008, Old Trail fields

## NELSON'S SPARROW

*Ammodramus nelsoni*

**Status:** Rare transient and winter visitor

**Sightings:** 11 Oct 1947, White Hall Gravel Pits; 11 Oct 1979,

Birdwood; 31 Dec 2007, Bentivar marsh

## FOX SPARROW

*Passerella iliaca*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (22 Feb – 8 May; 23 Oct – 4 Nov);

winter resident (30 Nov – 27 Jan)

**Peak Counts:** (17) 3 Nov 1964, lower Mechums River

## SONG SPARROW

*Melospiza melodia*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (100) 6 May 1978, ACSC; (658) 20 Dec 1981, Warren CBC

**Note:** Abundant during some winters

## LINCOLN'S SPARROW

*Melospiza lincolni*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (3 – 16 May; 17 Sep – 28 Oct)

**Sightings:** 8 Oct 1988, Pen Park; 3 May 1991, Scotland Farm;

3 Oct 1993, Scottsville Elementary School

## SWAMP SPARROW

*Melospiza georgiana*

**Status:** Common transient (3 Mar – 19 May; 25 Sep – 30 Oct),

uncommon winter resident (27 Nov – 24 Feb)

**Peak Counts:** (12) 12 Apr 1998, location unknown; (66) 22 Dec 1995, Charlottesville CBC

## WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

*Zonotrichia albicollis*

**Status:** Abundant transient and winter resident (23 Sep – 23 May)

**Peak Counts:** (375) 6 May 1978, ACSC; (40) 24 Oct 1999, location unknown; (1673) 19 Dec 1999, Charlottesville CBC

**Note:** Late spring transient

1 Jun 2006

## WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

*Zonotrichia leucophrys*

**Status:** Common transient and winter resident (4 Oct – 19 May)

**Peak Counts:** (70) 2 May 1981, ACSC; (183) 2 Jan 1994, Warren CBC

## DARK-EYED JUNCO

*Junco hyemalis*

**Status:** Abundant transient and winter resident (1 Oct – 5 May); summer resident (*J. h. carolensis*) at higher elevations (e.g. Big Flat)

**Peak Counts:** (1363) 22 Dec 1985, Warren CBC



Photo by Bill Leaning

Dark-eyed Junco

## LAPLAND LONGSPUR

*Calcarius lapponicus*

**Status:** Rare winter visitor

**Sightings:** 18 Dec 1985; 28 Dec 1960, Warren CBC

**Note:** One individual, 6 May 2000, ACSC

## SNOW BUNTING

*Plectrophenax nivalis*

**Status:** Rare winter visitor (10 Oct – 2 Nov)

**Peak Counts:** (4) 2 Nov 90, Bucks Elbow

## SUMMER TANAGER

*Piranga rubra*

**Status:** Uncommon summer resident (23 Apr – 1 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (15) 6 May 1989, ACSC

**Note:** Winter record 25 Jan 2005, at feeder

## SCARLET TANAGER

*Piranga olivacea*

**Status:** Common summer resident (16 Apr – 17 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (109) 15 May 1982, ACSC

## WESTERN TANAGER

*Piranga ludoviciana*

**Status:** Accidental winter visitor

**Sightings:** 8 Dec 1994; 13 – 28 Feb 2010, at Charlottesville feeder

## NORTHERN CARDINAL

*Cardinalis cardinalis*

**Status:** Abundant permanent resident

## ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK

*Pheucticus ludovicianus*

**Status:** Common transient

(24 Apr – 22 May; 1 Sep – 9 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (47) 7 May 1983, ACSC

**Note:** 7 Feb 1992, at Crozet feeder



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

## **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

**Status:** Accidental in winter and spring

**Sightings:** 29 Jan – 2 Feb 1974, banded at Scottsville feeder;  
(2) 10 May 1975, O-Hill

## **BLUE GROSBEAK** *Passerina caerulea*

**Status:** Uncommon summer resident (28 Apr – 6 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (23) 18 Jun 1989, Esmont; (20) 6 May 1999, ACSC

**Note:** Two winter records: 29 Dec 1968, Warren CBC; 20 Dec 1981, Warren CBC; 19 Dec 1993, Charlottesville CBC

## **INDIGO BUNTING** *Passerina cyanea*

**Status:** Abundant summer resident (22 Apr – 20 Oct)

**Peak Counts:** (50) 14 Jun 1981, Coveseville BBS; (460) 12 May 1982, ACSC

**Note:** One winter record  
21 Dec 1980

## **PAINTED BUNTING** *Passerina ciris*

**Status:** Accidental winter visitor

**Sightings:** 1 Jan – 2 Apr 1998,  
intermittently at Charlottesville feeder

## **DICKCISSEL** *Spiza americana*

**Status:** Rare transient and summer visitor (14 – 18 Jun)

**Peak Counts:** (6) 18 Jun 1989, Warren

**Note:** Fall record 6 Oct 1935; winter record 21 Dec 1963,  
Charlottesville CBC count week

## **BOBOLINK** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (28 Apr – 10 May; 23 Aug – 30 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (125) 4 May 1958, location not given;  
(689) 6 May 1978, ACSC

## RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

*Agelaius phoeniceus*

**Status:** Uncommon permanent resident

**Peak Count:** (477) 5 May 1979, ACSC; (1147) 1 Jan 1988,  
Charlottesville CBC

## EASTERN MEADOWLARK

*Sturnella magna*

**Status:** Uncommon summer resident and winter resident

**Peak Counts:** (395) 31 Dec 1967, Warren CBC;  
(170) 6 May 1978, ACSC

## YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

**Status:** Accidental

**Sightings:** 14 May 2002, Charlottesville

## RUSTY BLACKBIRD

*Euphagus carolinus*

**Status:** Uncommon spring transient (24 Mar – 7 May); rare winter  
visitor (2 Nov – 20 Feb)

**Peak Counts:** (14,404) 31 Dec 1958, Warren CBC;  
(49) 7 May 1987, ACSC

## COMMON GRACKLE

*Quiscalus quiscula*

**Status:** Abundant summer resident (7 Mar – 30 Oct); uncommon  
winter visitor (26 Nov – 22 Feb)

**Peak Counts:** (40,020) 19 Dec 2004, Warren CBC

## BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD

*Molothrus ater*

**Status:** Uncommon permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (217) 30 Dec 1949, Charlottesville CBC

## ORCHARD ORIOLE

*Icterus spurius*

**Status:** Common transient (22 Apr – 12 May; 2 - 29 Aug); uncommon  
summer resident (8 Jun – 25 Jul)

**Peak Counts:** (71) 6 May 2006, ACSC

## BALTIMORE ORIOLE

*Icterus galbula*

**Status:** Common summer resident (9 Mar – 28 Sep)

**Peak Counts:** (60) 15 May 1982, ACSC

**Note:** Winter records: 28 Dec

1974, Charlottesville CBC;

3 Jan 2004, Belmont

## PURPLE FINCH

*Carpodacus purpureus*

**Status:** Common winter visitor

(26 Sep – 11 May);

rare summer visitor

**Sightings:** 6 July 2000, Belmont

**Peak Counts:** (63) 6 May 1978,

ACSC; (687) 31 Dec 1978,

Warren CBC

**Note:** Not present every winter



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

Purple Finch

## HOUSE FINCH

*Carpodacus mexicanus*

**Status:** Common permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (1105) 28 Dec 1986, Warren CBC; (180) 19 Jan 1989,

White Hall

**Note:** Not recorded by Grey and Stevens. Species first identified on the 1968 Charlottesville CBC and on the Warren CBC in 1970.

## RED CROSSBILL

*Loxia curvirostra*

**Status:** Uncommon transient (8 Mar – 22 Apr; 28 Oct);

irruptive winter visitor (21 Dec – 1 Jan)

**Sightings:** 15 Aug 1966, Charlottesville

**Peak Counts:** (20) 7 Apr 1941, UVA; (20) 21 Dec 1975, south of Keene;

(23) 19 Nov 1997, Charlottesville

## WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

*Loxia leucoptera*

**Status:** Rare winter visitor (23 Dec – 10 Feb)

**Peak Counts:** (12) 10 Feb 1964, King Mt. Rd.; (10) 28 Dec 1965,

Charlottesville CBC



## COMMON REDPOLL

*Acanthis flammea*

**Status:** Rare winter visitor (11 Dec -9 Feb)

**Peak Counts:** (52) 11 Dec 1965, Trayfoot, Skyline Drive;  
(29) 26 Feb 1978, Charlottesville

**Note:** One spring record 22 May 1959, between Trayfoot  
and Black Mountain overlooks, Skyline Drive

## PINE SISKIN

*Carduelis pinus*

**Status:** Irruptive winter visitor (19 Oct – 30 May)

**Peak Counts:** (25) 20 Apr 1987, White Hall; (331) 27 Dec 1987,  
Charlottesville CBC;  
(83) 7 May 1988, ACSC

**Note:** One summer record 9 Jul 1990, White Hall

## AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

*Carduelis tristis*

**Status:** Abundant

permanent resident

**Peak Counts:** (494) 6 May 1978, ACSC; (561) 19 Dec 1999,  
Charlottesville CBC

## EVENING GROSBEAK

*Coccothraustes vespertinus*

**Status:** Irruptive transient and winter visitor (7 Nov - 12 May)

**Peak Counts:** (261) 1 Jan 1972 Charlottesville CBC; (83) 6 May  
1978, ACSC;  
(40) 24 Apr 1988, White Hall

## HOUSE SPARROW

*Passer domesticus*

**Status:** Uncommon permanent resident

**Note:** Species became established in area during 1884

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Remembrances of Bill Minor and Mo Stevens, from interviews done by Stauffer Miller with Maureen Minor and Mo Stevens.



Photo by Bob Schamerhorn

Great Blue Heron

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[illegible]



Photo by Bill Leaning

Cedar Waxwing



Northern Bobwhite