



The Birds at Mills Park

■ (S) SUMMER ■ (W) WINTER ■ (YR) YEAR ROUND



CHIMNEY SWIFT (S)

The loud, chattering calls of Chimney Swifts alert us to their presence as they maneuver overhead feeding on insects. Often called "flying cigars" they spend most of their lives on the wing, and use places with vertical entries such as chimneys and hollow trees for roosting and nesting.



GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (S)

This large, colorful flycatcher is a cavity nester that often uses shed snakeskin as one of its building materials. It can be difficult to see as it forages high in the canopy but announces its presence with a loud, rising weeeep call.



HOUSE WREN (S)

The quick and musical song of this small, plain brown bird is a familiar part of summer. House Wrens often live in close proximity to people in either natural or artificial cavities and will aggressively claim multiple nest sites in their territory.



GRAY CATBIRD (S)

This slender, dark gray bird with a black cap and rufous patch under the tail stays low to the ground in thick, brushy areas. It is named for its hoarse, catlike mew call.



DARK-EYED JUNCO (W)

This familiar winter visitor is dark gray with a pink bill, white belly, and white outer tail feathers. It prefers foraging on the ground along woodland edges and also frequents backyard feeders.



WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (W)

The white throat, white or tan head stripes, and yellow patch near each eye make this wintertime sparrow easy to identify. It scratches on the ground searching for food. Its sound is a beautiful and clear whistled tune.



CHIPPING SPARROW (S)

A small and slender sparrow, the breeding adult has a bright rusty cap, white eyebrow, black eye line, and gray breast. Watch for them foraging on the ground. Nest is a cup of dried grasses and rootlets lined with animal hair. Song is a long, rapid, monotone trill.



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (S)

The Ruby-throat is the only breeding hummingbird of the east. This tiny bird feeds on nectar-rich flowers, insects, and sap. It can hover as well as fly in all directions. It is named after the gorgeous iridescent red throat of the male. Nesting materials such as lichen, moss, and plant down are held together with spider webs.



HOUSE FINCH (YR)

House Finches are brown streaky birds with the males having red on the face, breast, and rump. Yellow and orange are possible color variations derived from diet, which consists of seeds, insects, and fruit. They are also common visitors to the backyard feeder.



AMERICAN ROBIN (YR)

The American Robin is possibly our most familiar songbird. In addition to earthworms this large thrush enjoys insects and a variety of fruits.



MOURNING DOVE (YR)

This dove is named for its mournful cooing sound. A distinctive silhouette makes it easily identifiable from a distance as it sits on a wire, flies overhead, or walks along the ground foraging for food.



RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (YR)

Males are black with red & yellow shoulder patches. Females are a streaky brown. Primarily birds of wetland habitat, the males sing a loud and musical *conk-ah-reee*. Nests are suspended cups of grass and reed built near the ground.



AMERICAN GOLDFINCH (YR)

This small finch is bright yellow, black, and white. Female and non-breeding male plumage is much less colorful. Their undulating flight pattern and clear *po-ta-to-chip* call capture our attention. Nesting is later than other songbirds and seeds comprise the majority of their diet. Favorite feeder seeds are sunflower and nyjer.



NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (YR)

These gray, black, and white birds of open areas near shrubby undergrowth flash large white wing patches in flight. They are highly vocal with an amazing ability to imitate other birds and sounds.



NORTHERN CARDINAL (YR)

Males are bright red, females and juveniles are reddish brown. All have obvious crests. Pairs mate for life and stay together year-round. Both males and females sing clear, whistling songs with many variations.



CAROLINA CHICKADEE (YR)

Friendly, active, and vocal, this small bird flits around in large trees searching for insects, but also visits feeders for seed and suet. Head pattern is a black cap and bib with white cheeks. Nests in natural cavities but will also use boxes. Call is a sweet *chickadee-dee-dee*.



RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (YR)

This medium-size woodpecker is common in a variety of habitats. The nape is red with the male exhibiting additional red at the crown. Its name describes the blush of red on the lower belly that is often difficult to see. It favors insects, seeds, and fruits, and will readily visit a suet feeder.



MALLARD (YR)

The Mallard is at home in both natural and man-made environments. The male's striking green head, yellow bill, and white neck ring make it one of the most familiar ducks. Females are mottled brown and give the typical *quack-quack-quack* duck call.



BLUE JAY (YR)

This songbird of open woodland is large, colorful, intelligent, and noisy. They store food by burying seeds and acorns for winter. They sometimes prey on the eggs and nestlings of other birds and are frequent visitors to backyard feeders.

DOWNY WOODPECKER (YR)

The Downy is the smallest woodpecker in North America. Notice the white back and small bill. Only the male has a red patch at the back of the head. Insects, seeds, and fruits comprise the diet. Encourage a Downy to visit your yard with a suet feeder.



TUFTED TITMOUSE (YR)

A gray pointed crest, large dark eyes, short bill, and whistled sound of *peter-peter-peter* distinguish the Tufted Titmouse. They are cavity nesters and common visitors to backyard feeders.



CAROLINA WREN (YR)

These richly colored birds of cinnamon and buff with striking white eyebrows prefer the cover of thick shrubs. The tails are often pointed upward and their impressively loud *teakettle-teakettle-teakettle* sound is frequently sung.

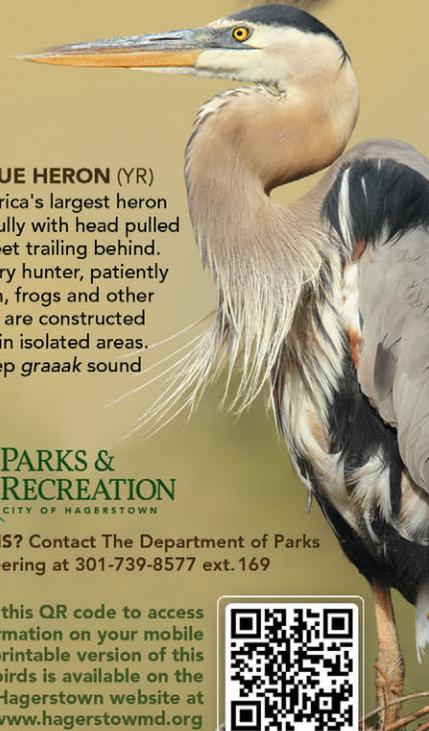


WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (YR)

White-breasted Nuthatches use their long, thin bills to forage under bark for insects. They are often seen moving headfirst down a trunk. These cavity nesters mate for life and stay together year-round. Listen for their loud, nasal, and monotone *ank-ank-ank* sound.

GREAT BLUE HERON (YR)

North America's largest heron flies gracefully with head pulled back and feet trailing behind. It is a solitary hunter, patiently stalking fish, frogs and other prey. Nests are constructed in colonies in isolated areas. Gives a deep *graaak* sound in flight.



QUESTIONS? Contact The Department of Parks and Engineering at 301-739-8577 ext. 169

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