

Birding Hotspots and Locations

- 1. Bluebird Barn** – A wide variety of birds frequent this area including several species of sparrows, Common Yellowthroats, Indigo Buntings and Yellow-breasted Chats in Summer and woodland species such as Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Eastern Screech Owls.
- 2. Warbler Ridge** – This is the best spot for migrating warblers in Spring and Fall. The trail runs along a mature tree line with woods to the north and park fields to the south.
- 3. Shumpert Pond** – A small tree lined pond with a viewing platform. Green Heron's often use the pond in summer. Woodpeckers, Great-crested Flycatchers and Yellow-billed Cuckoos can often be heard calling in the summer as well.
- 4. Bunting Overlook** – Probably the best view in the park overlooking the river and native grassland fields. Great spot for seeing Indigo Buntings. As the trail goes down through the woods to Waterthrush Creek look for warblers, woodpeckers, nuthatches and an occasional thrush.
- 5. Waterthrush Creek** – Sometimes wet, sometimes dry. A treelined creek bed that is the best spot for migrating waterthrushes. Due to its heavy vegetation, being bordered by fields and water presence most of the time, this creek bed probably attracts more different species of birds over the course of the year than any other area in the park.
- 6. Wayne's Pond** – A small pond with some heavy vegetation around the back side. Green Herons use it in summer along with nesting Red-winged Blackbirds. In winter Swamp Sparrows are usually present.
- 7. Martin Way** – The section of trail from Wayne's Pond to Eagle Junction is prime viewing for birds feeding over and along the river. Purple Martins and Orchard Orioles nest here. Osprey and Bald Eagles can frequently be seen hunting over the river. Wood Ducks, Mallards, Belted Kingfishers and Great Blue Herons are all regulars.
- 8. Eagle Junction** – This is a delightful spot where three trails meet. Song Sparrows hang out in the brushy areas and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers often nest close by.
- 9. Prothonotary Lane** – During the summer Prothonotary Warblers nest along this section of trail. Due to its heavy shade and cooler temperatures almost all songbirds in the park can be encountered here at some point.
- 10. Sparrow Retreat** – During winter this area between the river and the main road is a major hangout for sparrows. White-crowned, White-throated, Field, Song and Swamp Sparrows are all seen here. This is also the best spot to see Fox Sparrow. In 2018 a Harris Sparrow overwintered here.
- 11. Rough-winged Junction** – At this junction you can look out over the river in summer and see Northern Rough-winged Swallows feeding. They nest back in the cliffs just above the water surface. A Black Vulture usually uses the cave to nest in.
- 12. Kestrel Stakeout** – There is a pair of breeding American Kestrel's which are usually seen on the powerlines between the Green House and the end of the road. This is also a favorite area for bluebirds, sparrows and other grassland birds.
- 13. Green House** – This unoccupied former tenant house is a great spot to stop for a relaxing break. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds buzz around all summer. Tree Swallows are usually feeding nearby and the fields across the road.
- 14. Bluebird Lane** – The area between Goldfinch Junction and the Green House is another favorite for grassland species. House Wrens often nest in the Bluebird boxes. Savannah Sparrow can

usually be found along here during winter. Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows love to sit on the powerlines.

- 15. Goldfinch Junction** – This intersection between Bobwhite Run, Waterthrush Creek and the main road is often a very active area. American Goldfinch are usually present and Yellow-billed Cuckoos feed in the taller trees in summer.
- 16. Bobwhite Run** – This trail is treelined and has a heavy understory. With grassland fields on both sides it is a good spot to hear or see Northern Bobwhite. The hedgerow and tree line is a favorite spot for many of the grassland birds that like to fly up and sing their courtship songs in spring.
- 17. Hermit Junction** – This spot is another good location to stop and look for a variety of species. Hermit Thrush and Winter Wren are often found in the brushy areas back toward the main road. Warblers and other songbirds can sometimes be found along the tree lines during migration.

- 18. Yellowthroat Lane** – The area between the Bluebird Barn and Hermit Junction is boarded by Hickory Ridge Woods and the large grassland field that runs up the opposite hill. Indigo Buntings, Common Yellowthroats, Yellow-breasted Chats and Field Sparrows can be numerous.
- 19. Hickory Ridge** – A loop trail runs up to the ridge. Great-horned Owls and Summer Tanagers have nested here for years. Woodpeckers, Wood Thrush and Red-eyed Vireos also use the ridge in summer for their nesting sites.
- 20. Blue Heron Island** – This island has been birded very little prior to the bridge being built. A Great Blue Heron rookery has been present for the last few years. It is probable that Prothonotary Warblers nest along the bank.