

Birds Yellow Creek State Park

# Name	Habitat	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Thrushes													
Eastern Bluebird	♠												
Veery	♠												
Gray-cheeked Thrush	♠												
Swainson's Thrush	♠												
Hermit Thrush	♠												
Wood Thrush	♠												
American Robin	★												
Mockingbirds & Thrashers													
Gray Catbird	♠♠												
Northern Mockingbird	♠												
Brown Thrasher	♠												
Starlings													
European Starling	★												
Pipits													
American Pipit	☞												
Waxwings													
Cedar Waxwing	☞♠												
Warblers & Chats													
Blue-winged Warbler	♠												
Golden-winged Warbler	♠												
Tennessee Warbler	♠												
Orange-crowned Warbler	♠												
Nashville Warbler	♠												
Northern Parula	♠												
Yellow Warbler	♠												
Chestnut-sided Warbler	♠												
Magnolia Warbler	♠												
Cape May Warbler	♠												
Black-throated Blue Warbler	♠												
Yellow-rumped Warbler	♠												
Black-throated Grn Wrblr	♠												
Blackburnian Warbler	♠												
Yellow-throated Warbler	♠												
Pine Warbler	♠												
Prairie Warbler	♠												
Palm Warbler	♠												
Bay-breasted Warbler	♠												
Blackpoll Warbler	♠												
Cerulean Warbler	♠												
Black-and-white Warbler	♠												
American Redstart	♠												
Prothonotary Warbler	♠												
Worm-eating Warbler	♠												
Ovenbird	♠												
Northern Waterthrush	☞♠												
Louisiana Waterthrush	☞♠												
Kentucky Warbler	♠												
Connecticut Warbler	♠												
Mourning Warbler	♠												
Common Yellowthroat	☞♠												
Hooded Warbler	♠												
Wilson's Warbler	♠												
Canada Warbler	♠												
Yellow-breasted Chat	♠												
Tanagers													
Summer Tanager	♠												
Scarlet Tanager	♠												
Emberizids													
Eastern Towhee	♠♠												
American Tree Sparrow	♠												
Chipping Sparrow	♠												
Clay-colored Sparrow	♠												
Field Sparrow	♠												
Vesper Sparrow	♠												
Savannah Sparrow	♠												
Grasshopper Sparrow	♠												
Henslow's Sparrow	♠												
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sprrw	♠												
Fox Sparrow	♠												
Song Sparrow	♠												
Lincoln's Sparrow	♠												
Swamp Sparrow	☞												
White-throated Sparrow	♠												
Harris's Sparrow	♠												
White-crowned Sparrow	♠												
Dark-eyed Junco	♠												
Lapland Longspur	♠												
Snow Bunting	♠												

# Name	Habitat	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cardinals & Allies													
Northern Cardinal	♠♠												
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	♠												
Blue Grosbeak	♠												
Indigo Bunting	♠												
Dickcissel	♠												
Blackbirds													
Bobolink	♠												
Red-winged Blackbird	☞♠												
Eastern Meadowlark	♠												
Yellow-headed Blackbird	♠												
Rusty Blackbird	♠												
Brewer's Blackbird	♠												
Common Grackle	★												
Brown-headed Cowbird	♠												
Orchard Oriole	♠												
Baltimore Oriole	♠												
Finches & Allies													
Pine Grosbeak	♠												
Purple Finch	♠												
House Finch	★												
Red Crossbill	♠												
White-winged Crossbill	♠												
Common Redpoll	♠												
Pine Siskin	♠												
American Goldfinch	♠												
Evening Grosbeak	♠												
Old World Sparrows													
House Sparrow	♠												

■ Probably will find ■ Might find ☞ Lucky to find □ Never seen
 * Irruptive Visitor Breeding ☞ Water ♣ Forest ♠ Scrub - Field ★ Anywhere

Unusual Birds with a Few Sightings in the Park

- American White Pelican - 4/28/1992
- Bicknell's Thrush - 5/17/1996
- Brewer's Blackbird - 11/14/1992
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper - 8/31/2005
- Cattle Egret - 4/25/1990
- Clay-colored Sparrow - 5/12/1985 stayed for more than one month
- Eared Grebe - 5/10/1990, 8/13/1997
- Glossy Ibis - 5/9/1996 to 5/17/1996
- Great Cormorant - 3/27/1999
- Leach's Storm-Petrel - 9/19/2003
- Lesser Black-backed Gull - 1 record
- Little Gull - 4/18/2006
- Mississippi Kite - 6/1/2004
- Piping Plover - 4/30/2002
- Purple Gallinule - 1 found dead 4/23/1983
- Red Knot - 10/24/1987 to 10/25/1987
- Red Phalarope - 11/10/1990
- Sabine's Gull - 9/19/2003
- Sandhill Crane - 3/22/2005, 5/9/2006
- Sedge Wren - 8/26/2005
- Stilt Sandpiper - 8/10/1998, 9/19/2003, 8/28-31/2005
- Summer Tanager - 4/34/1992
- Swainson's Warbler - 5/19/1989
- Tricolored Heron - 10/2/1987
- Western Sandpiper - 8/24/1998

Key Birding Areas and Information

Yellow Creek State Park is noted for its spring waterfowl migration. Beginning in March, wood duck, gadwall, American wigeon, American black duck, mallard, northern shoveler and both species of teal congregate amid the aquatic vegetation. Out on the open water, there can be rafts of diving ducks like canvasback, redhead, ring-necked duck, bufflehead, both scaup, all three mergansers and also common loon, and pied-billed and horned grebes.

A good place to see waterfowl is to pull completely off of PA 259 directly below the park maintenance building. Check the small cove to your right for puddle ducks. A walk to the waterfowl observatory offers the opportunity to scope the middle of the lake. The marsh west of the observatory (to your left) can be excellent for northern pintail and great blue heron. Yellow Creek Lake is a great place to observe migrating tundra swan that frequently arrive in flocks of hundreds of swans.

During late March into May, the nuptial flights of American woodcock

are commonly observed at dusk along the lakeshore below PA 259 and in the day use area. Osprey begin migrating the first week of April. Osprey often perch in the trees across the lake behind the osprey nest platform to the northeast. (Platform unused as of 2001.)

The warbler migration begins with the return of the Louisiana waterthrush in late March to early April. Walk from the park office to the bridge on PA 259 and check the banks of Laurel Run and the rocks in the stream to see waterthrush. The area around the park office and the bridge can be excellent in early May for migrant passerines.

The following birds nest near the park office: Look for blue-headed vireo between the bridge and PA 422. The black-throated green warbler sings from the hemlocks across the road from the office. Ovenbird is a summer resident in the forest. Hooded warbler can often be seen along Laurel Run Trail. A walk along Laurel Run Trail can yield the resident woodpeckers, black-capped chickadee, tufted titmice and white-breasted nuthatch.

During the summer months, the trails lead into the interiors of the forests, which are good places to see warblers and deep forest birds. Park in the day use area and walk up the service road near the trailhead of Ridge Trail. Near the beginning of this road, blackburnian warbler may be heard singing from the conifers to your left and blue-winged and yellow warblers nest in the scrub growth to your right. Further up the hill nest black-billed cuckoo, white-eyed vireo, brown thrasher, and blue-winged, golden-winged and prairie warblers. Where the terrain flattens out, several trails lead off in both directions. By turning sharply right, the trail leads through a conifer forest to a stand of spruce on the left at a T-intersection. Golden-crowned kinglet have nested here during the past several years. At this T-intersection, turn right again. This trail parallels Observatory Trail, which is below to the left. Here nest brown creeper, American redstart, ovenbird and hooded warbler. Red-breasted nuthatch sporadically nest here.

Another good warbler spot is to pull off of the road at Grandma's Cove and bird the area around Meyers Road. Continue to the top of the hill and walk down the road (vehicles prohibited). Check the pines and shrubs carefully for kinglets and warblers during migration. Hermit thrush, gray catbird and fox sparrow have wintered here, feeding on the vast array of berries. During late May or June, a leisurely walk along Dam Site Trail, which begins near the parking lot, will yield red-eyed vireo, northern parula, American redstart, ovenbird, Louisiana waterthrush, scarlet tanager, eastern towhee, and black-throated green, blackburnian, black-and-white and Kentucky warblers.

The fall shorebird migration begins in late July and early August. Just southwest of the South Shore boat launch are several pull-offs on your right. Stop at the parking area on the curve and scope the mudflats in the cove. This is usually the best area to find shorebirds if water levels are low. Most numerous are killdeer and spotted sandpiper, but semipalmated plover, both yellowlegs, and solitary, semipalmated, least, and pectoral sandpipers are not unusual. This is also a good spot to find green heron and belted kingfisher. Watch for common snipe from August through November.

In the winter months, American robin, an occasional hermit thrush, mixed flocks of sparrows and purple finch may be found by walking along the main road into the day-use area. As soon as the water opens up, sometimes as early as February, waterfowl begin to arrive.

Date _____ Time _____

Weather _____

Observer _____

♣ Access for People with Disabilities

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

Yellow Creek State Park

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