



Birds

OF
WARD POUND RIDGE
RESERVATION

Cross River, New York



The Ward Pound Ridge Reservation is a birdwatcher's paradise. From the gently sloping banks of the Cross River in the northern quarter to the high cliffs of Raven Rocks which loom above the Stone Hill River three miles to the south, birds of field and forest abound throughout the year. This pamphlet contains a useful checklist of the 184 species which have been recorded in the park to date.

The reservation is rich in bird life because its borders circumscribe a wealth of habitats: deciduous woods, pine and spruce groves, meadow, old fields, high ridges, deep hemlock ravines, steep cliffs, lonely swamps, sunny marshes, quiet rivers, rushing streams and a few scattered ponds. Maps and trail information are available at the Trailside Nature Museum, located in the heart of the park. The museum's naturalists are happy to pass on reports of recent sightings of particular interest. If you need advice, or if you encounter a bird or birds of particular interest, please stop in at the museum. Your reports will be added to park records and will help in revising this list in the future.

Reservation Specialties

Eastern bluebirds, uncommon in most of Westchester County, can be seen in Pound Ridge throughout the year. The utility wires along Boutonville and Michigan Roads are the best place to look. Kingfishers, tree swallows, barn swallows, bank swallows, rough-winged swallows, sparrows and starlings also perch on the wires, so keep an eye out for these while hunting for bluebirds. Bluebirds raise young in nestboxes, which hang from poles and trees throughout the park.

At dawn and dusk and on rainy days, the meadows along Boutonville and Michigan Roads are good places to watch for wild turkeys. After an absence of nearly two hundred years, wild turkeys resumed nesting in Pound Ridge woodlands in 1985. Turkeys may be seen throughout the year.

During spring and summer, Wildcat Hollow is usually home to nesting barred owls, winter wrens, solitary vireos, hermit thrushes and black-throated green warblers.

The marsh at the Michigan Road trailhead is one of the best all-round birding sites in the park, particularly during migrations.

The footpaths, which follow the banks of the Cross River, provide good birding year round. Each spring, one of the first warblers of the year, the Louisiana water thrush, can be found here, bobbing its tail as it runs along, occasionally stopping to belt out a high, piping song.

The big sandpit near the junction of Michigan and Boutonville Roads is home to nesting bank swallows, rough-winged swallows and kingfishers.

Good hawk watching can be had in autumn from the field just uphill from the parking lot at the Meadow Picnic Area. Other good sites to see hawks, eagles, falcons and vultures during their southbound flights include the hilltop above the Leatherman's Cave and the summit of Cross River Mountain.

Inquire at the museum about bird walks and other nature programs, which are offered in the Reservation throughout the year. Beginners, experts and middle-of-the-roaders are all encouraged to participate.

Good luck and good birding!

Special Note

The casual use of tape recordings to attract birds is forbidden in Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. Studies have shown that such techniques may place great stress on territorial birds, and in some cases may cause parent birds to abandon eggs or young. Recordings may be used for serious scientific purposes only. Written permission is required. Please inquire at the museum.

s-March-May	C-common
S-June-August	U-uncommon
F-September-November	O-occasional
W-December-February	R-rare
	*-breeding

Common	present in proper habitat, often in good numbers, though not necessarily throughout the period if a migrant.
Uncommon:	likely to be present in proper habitat under proper conditions, but usually in limited numbers, and may not be encountered.
Occasional:	occurs at certain times during the period, but only on an irregular basis or for a very limited period.
Rare:	seen only very infrequently and not necessarily every year.
Breeding:	recorded at least once since 1970.

	s	S	F	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant.....	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Bittern.....	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cattle Egret.....	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-backed Heron.....	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-crowned Night-Heron.....	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Goose.....		O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brandt.....	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose*.....	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck*.....	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Black Duck.....	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard*.....	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Vulture.....	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture*.....	C	U	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Swallow-tailed Kite.....	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey.....	U	R	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle.....	R	R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier.....	C	O	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	C	O	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk*.....	O	O	U	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Goshawk*.....	R	R	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk.....	U	R	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk.....		R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel*.....	C	U	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Merlin.....	R	R	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon.....			R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant*.....	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey*.....	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Bobwhite	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer*.....	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper.....	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper.....	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper.....	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Snipe	U	R	U	R
<input type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock*.....	C	U	U	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Herring Gull.....	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Dove.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo.....	O	U	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo*.....	O	U	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Screech Owl*.....	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl*.....	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl*.....	U	U	U	U

	s	S	F	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-eared Owl.....	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Saw-whet Owl.....	R	R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk.....	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Whip-poor-will	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird*.....	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker.....		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker*.....	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	U	U	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker*.....	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker*.....	U	U	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	R	R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.....	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Arcadian Flycatcher*.....	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher*.....	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher*.....	C	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe*.....	C	C	C	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher*.....	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark.....	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin.....	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> No. Rough-winged Swallow*.....	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow*.....	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow.....	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Boreal Chickadee.....		R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tufted Titmouse*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	U	R	U	O
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper*.....	C	U	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Carolina Wren*.....	O	O	O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren.....	U	R	C	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren.....		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet*.....	C	O	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	C		C	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*.....	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird*.....	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-checked Thrush.....	O	O		

	s	S	F	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush.....	C	R	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush*.....	C	U	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin*.....	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird*.....	C	C	C	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mockingbird*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher*.....	C	C	C	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Pipit.....		U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing*.....	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike.....	R	R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> White-eyed Vireo*.....	U	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Vireo*.....	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo*.....	C	U	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo.....	O	O	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia Vireo.....			O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Warbler*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-winged Warbler.....	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler.....	C	R	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler.....			R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler.....	U	R	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Parula.....	C	O	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler*.....	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler*.....	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler.....	C	O	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler.....	O	R	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Blue Warbler.....	C	O	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	C		C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler*.....	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler.....	C	O	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Warbler.....	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Warbler*.....	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler.....	U	U		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler.....	U	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler.....	C	O	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cerulean Warbler.....	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart*.....	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prothonotary Warbler.....	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Worm-eating Warbler*.....	C	C	O	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush.....	C	O	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Waterthrush*.....	C	C		
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut Warbler.....		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Warbler.....	R	R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler.....	R	R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat*.....	C	C	C	R

	s	S	F	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Warbler*.....	O	O	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler.....	U	R	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler.....	C	O	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-breasted Chat.....	R	R	R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Tanager.....		R		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting*.....	C	C	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Evening Grosbeak.....	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rufous-sided Towhee*.....	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow.....	C		C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow.....	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow*.....	U	O	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Henslow's Sparrow.....	R		R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow.....	C		C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow.....	O		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow.....	C		C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow.....	O		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco.....	C		C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Bunting.....			O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink.....	C	O	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-Winged Blackbird*.....	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark*.....	U	U	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle*.....	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird*.....	C	C	C	O
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole.....	O	O		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Oriole*.....	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Grosbeak.....				R
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch*.....	C	O	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Crossbill.....	R		R	
<input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Crossbill.....	R		R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll.....	R		R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin.....	O		O	O
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch*.....	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	C