

BIRDS
OF
PELHAM BAY
PARK
Bronx, New York

A Checklist for Birders

5 December 2006

Pelham Bay Park in the northeast Bronx was established in 1888. At 2,766 acres, it is the largest New York City park and one of only four that are National Audubon Society Important Bird Areas. Pelham has mature and even old-growth deciduous forest (~800 acres), salt marsh and salt flats (~360 acres), a wet meadow, a few small freshwater ponds and wetlands, and 13-mile shoreline along Long Island Sound, the Hutchinson River and Eastchester Bay. Each habitat supports its own bird community. The landfill, not yet returned to Parks' jurisdiction, is still considered parkland. Together, these habitats give Pelham Bay the 264 species, two distinct subspecies ("Eurasian" Green-winged Teal, "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow) and three escapees or releases listed here. At least 82 species have nested in the park.

Despite changes in and near the park over the years, most birds that great 19th and 20th century naturalists and ornithologists, such as Eugene Bicknell, Ludlow Griscom, Joseph Hickey and Roger Tory Peterson recorded here may still be found. Known for its owls and a large nesting colony of herons and egrets, specialties include nesting Wild Turkey, American Woodcock, Savannah Sparrow and fall migrant Osprey.

We thank all those who contributed their sightings. Please call us at (718) 430-1890 if you see anything unusual.

Key to Symbols

S – Spring (March - May)
Su – Summer (June - August)
F – Fall (September - November)
W – Winter (December - February)

A – Abundant; seen every day in proper habitat,
in numbers

C – Common; seen every day in proper habitat

U – Uncommon; present, but not seen every day

R – Rare; usually no more than one bird or small flock
seen per season and not every year

X – Accidental, far from regular range

E – Escapee or release

* – Recorded nesting

H – Has not nested since 1955 or earlier

◦ – Non-native

	S	Su	F	W
☐ Whistling-Duck, Fulvous			X	
☐ Goose, Greater White-fronted				R
☐ Goose, Snow	R		U	U
☐ Brant	R		R	U
☐ Goose, Cackling			X	
☐ Goose, Canada*	A	A	A	A
☐ Swan, Mute°*	U	U	U	U
☐ Duck, Wood	R	R	R	R
☐ Gadwall	C	R	C	C
☐ Wigeon, American	R		R	U
☐ Wigeon, Eurasian				R
☐ Duck, American Black*	U	U	U	C
☐ Mallard*	A	A	A	A
☐ Teal, Blue-winged			R	R
☐ Shoveler, Northern	U		C	C
☐ Pintail, Northern			R	
☐ Teal, Green-winged	U		U	U
☐ Teal, "Eurasian" Green-winged			X	X
☐ Canvasback				R
☐ Redhead				R
☐ Duck, Ring-necked				R
☐ Scaup, Greater		R		C
☐ Scaup, Lesser				U
☐ Eider, King				R
☐ Duck, Harlequin				R
☐ Scoter, White-winged				R
☐ Scoter, Black				R
☐ Duck, Long-tailed				R
☐ Bufflehead	C		C	C
☐ Goldeneye, Common	U			U
☐ Merganser, Hooded	C		C	C
☐ Merganser, Common				R
☐ Merganser, Red-breasted	C		C	C
☐ Duck, Ruddy	C		C	C
☐ Pheasant, Ring-necked°*	U		U	U
☐ Grouse, Ruffed	R	R	R	R
☐ Turkey, Wild*	U	U	U	U
☐ Bobwhite, Northern* <i>H</i>				
☐ Loon, Red-throated				U
☐ Loon, Common				U
☐ Grebe, Pied-billed				U
☐ Grebe, Horned	U		U	C
☐ Grebe, Red-necked			R	
☐ Storm-Petrel, Wilson's		R		
☐ Pelican, American White	X			
☐ Cormorant, Double-crested	C	C	C	C
☐ Cormorant, Great				U
☐ Bittern, American		R	R	R
☐ Bittern, Least*	R	R		

	S	Su	F	W
☐ Heron, Great Blue	C	U	C	U
☐ Egret, Great*	C	C	C	R
☐ Egret, Snowy*	C	C	C	
☐ Heron, Little Blue*	R	R	R	
☐ Heron, Tricolored		R		
☐ Egret, Cattle	R			R
☐ Heron, Green		U		
☐ Night-Heron, Black-crowned*	C	C	C	
☐ Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned*	U	U		
☐ Ibis, Glossy*	R	R		
☐ Vulture, Turkey	U		U	
☐ Osprey*	U	U	C	
☐ Kite, Swallow-tailed	X			
☐ Kite, Mississippi		X		
☐ Eagle, Bald	R	U	U	R
☐ Harrier, Northern	C	U	C	C
☐ Hawk, Sharp-shinned		R	C	U
☐ Hawk, Cooper's			U	U
☐ Goshawk, Northern			R	R
☐ Hawk, Red-shouldered			U	R
☐ Hawk, Broad-winged	U		C	
☐ Hawk, Swainson's			X	
☐ Hawk, Red-tailed*	C	C	C	C
☐ Hawk, Rough-legged			R	R
☐ Eagle, Golden			R	
☐ Kestrel, American*	U	U	C	R
☐ Merlin	R		U	
☐ Falcon, Peregrine			U	R
☐ Gyrfalcon				R
☐ Rail, Yellow		R		
☐ Rail, Clapper*	U	U		
☐ Rail, King		R		R
☐ Rail, Virginia	R			R
☐ Sora	R	R		R
☐ Coot, American			R	R
☐ Plover, Black-bellied	C	U	C	
☐ Plover, Semipalmated	C	C	U	
☐ Plover, Piping*		R	R	
☐ Killdeer*	U	U	U	
☐ Oystercatcher, American	R	R		
☐ Yellowlegs, Greater	C	U	C	
☐ Yellowlegs, Lesser	U	U	U	
☐ Sandpiper, Solitary	U		R	
☐ Willet	R	R		
☐ Sandpiper, Spotted	C	U	U	
☐ Sandpiper, Upland	R			
☐ Whimbrel		R	R	
☐ Turnstone, Ruddy	U	U		R
☐ Sanderling				U

	S	Su	F	W
☐ Sandpiper, Semipalmated	U	U	U	
☐ Sandpiper, Least	U	U	U	
☐ Sandpiper, White-rumped	R			R
☐ Sandpiper, Baird's		R		
☐ Sandpiper, Pectoral			R	
☐ Sandpiper, Purple				U
☐ Dunlin				R
☐ Dowitcher, Short-billed	U	U	U	
☐ Snipe, Common	R	R	R	R
☐ Woodcock, American*	C	R	U	R
☐ Phalarope, Wilson's		R		
☐ Gull, Laughing	C	C	U	R
☐ Gull, Bonaparte's	R		R	R
☐ Gull, Ring-billed	C	C	C	C
☐ Gull, Herring	C	C	C	C
☐ Gull, Iceland		R		R
☐ Gull, Lesser Black-backed				R
☐ Gull, Glaucous				R
☐ Gull, Great Black-backed*	C	C	C	C
☐ Tern, Caspian		R		
☐ Tern, Roseate	U			
☐ Tern, Common	U	U		
☐ Tern, Forster's		U	U	
☐ Tern, Least	U	U		
☐ Tern, Black			R	
☐ Skimmer, Black		R		
☐ Razorbill				R
☐ Pigeon, Rock°*	C	C	C	C
☐ Dove, Mourning*	C	C	C	C
☐ Budgerigar° E				
☐ Parakeet, Monk°*	C	C	C	C
☐ Parakeet, Black-hooded° E				
☐ Cuckoo, Black-billed	R	R		
☐ Cuckoo, Yellow-billed	U		U	
☐ Owl, Barn*	R	R	R	R
☐ Screech-Owl, Eastern	U	U	U	U
☐ Owl, Great Horned*	U	U	U	U
☐ Owl, Snowy				R
☐ Owl, Barred			R	R
☐ Owl, Long-eared	U		U	U
☐ Owl, Short-eared				R
☐ Owl, Northern Saw-whet	U		U	U
☐ Nighthawk, Common	R	R	U	
☐ Swift, Chimney	C	C	C	
☐ Hummingbird, Ruby-throated	U	R	U	
☐ Kingfisher, Belted	U	R	U	U
☐ Woodpecker, Red-headed			R	R
☐ Woodpecker, Red-bellied*	C	C	C	C
☐ Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied	U			U

	S	Su	F	W
☐ Woodpecker, Downy*	C	C	C	C
☐ Woodpecker, Hairy*	U	U	U	U
☐ Flicker, Northern*	C	U	C	U
☐ Wood-Pewee, Eastern*	C	C	U	
☐ Flycatcher, Willow*	C	C		
☐ Phoebe, Eastern*	C		C	R
☐ Flycatcher, Great Crested*	C	C	U	
☐ Kingbird, Western			X	
☐ Kingbird, Eastern*	C	C	C	
☐ Vireo, White-eyed	U	U	U	
☐ Vireo, Yellow-throated	R			
☐ Vireo, Blue-headed	U		U	U
☐ Vireo, Warbling*	C	C	U	U
☐ Vireo, Philadelphia			R	
☐ Vireo, Red-eyed*	U	U	U	
☐ Jay, Blue*	C	C	C	C
☐ Crow, American*	C	C	C	C
☐ Crow, Fish	U	U	U	U
☐ Lark, Horned*	R		U	U
☐ Martin, Purple	R	R		
☐ Swallow, Tree*	C	C	U	
☐ Swallow, Northern Rough-winged*	C	C		
☐ Swallow, Bank	C	C	U	
☐ Swallow, Barn*	C	C	C	
☐ Chickadee, Black-capped*	C	C	C	C
☐ Titmouse, Tufted*	C	C	C	C
☐ Nuthatch, Red-breasted	U		U	
☐ Nuthatch, White-breasted*	C	C	C	C
☐ Creeper, Brown	U		U	U
☐ Wren, Carolina*	U	U	U	U
☐ Wren, House*	C	C	C	
☐ Wren, Winter			U	U
☐ Wren, Sedge* <i>H</i>				R
☐ Wren, Marsh*	C	C		R
☐ Kinglet, Golden-crowned	U		U	U
☐ Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	U		U	
☐ Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray*	U	R	U	R
☐ Bluebird, Eastern*	U	R	R	R
☐ Veery*	C		C	
☐ Thrush, Gray-cheeked	R		U	
☐ Thrush, Swainson's	U		U	
☐ Thrush, Hermit	U		U	U
☐ Thrush, Wood*	C	C	U	
☐ Robin, American*	A	C	C	U
☐ Catbird, Gray*	C	C	C	U
☐ Mockingbird, Northern*	C	C	C	C
☐ Thrasher, Brown*	U	U	U	U
☐ Starling, European°*	A	A	A	A

	S	Su	F	W
☐ Pipit, American			R	
☐ Waxwing, Cedar*	U	U		U
☐ Parula, Northern	C		C	
☐ Warbler, Yellow*	C	C	C	
☐ Warbler, Chestnut-sided	U		U	
☐ Warbler, Magnolia	U		U	
☐ Warbler, Cape May	U			
☐ Warbler, Black-throated Blue	U		U	
☐ Warbler, Yellow-rumped	C		C	U
☐ Warbler, Black-throated Green	U		U	
☐ Warbler, Blackburnian	U		U	
☐ Warbler, Yellow-throated			R	
☐ Warbler, Pine	U			R
☐ Warbler, Prairie	U		U	
☐ Warbler, Palm	U		U	R
☐ Warbler, Bay-breasted	R			
☐ Warbler, Blackpoll	U	R	C	
☐ Warbler, Black-and-white	C		C	
☐ Redstart, American*	C	U	C	
☐ Warbler, Prothonotary	R			
☐ Warbler, Worm-eating	R			
☐ Ovenbird	U		U	
☐ Waterthrush, Northern	R			
☐ Waterthrush, Louisiana	R			
☐ Warbler, Connecticut			R	
☐ Warbler, Mourning	R		R	
☐ Yellowthroat, Common*	C	C	C	R
☐ Warbler, Hooded		R		
☐ Warbler, Wilson's	U		U	
☐ Warbler, Canada	U		U	
☐ Chat, Yellow-breasted		R		
☐ Tanager, Scarlet*	U			R
☐ Towhee, Eastern*	C	C	C	
☐ Sparrow, American Tree				
☐ Sparrow, Chipping*	U	U	U	U
☐ Sparrow, Field	U		U	U
☐ Sparrow, Vesper	R		R	R
☐ Sparrow, Savannah	U	U	U	U
☐ Sparrow, "Ipswich" Savannah			R	
☐ Sparrow, Grasshopper* <i>H</i>				R
☐ Sparrow, Nelson's			R	
☐ Spar., Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed*	C	C		
☐ Sparrow, Seaside*		R		R
☐ Sparrow, Fox			U	U
☐ Sparrow, Song*	C	C	C	C
☐ Sparrow, Lincoln's			R	R
☐ Sparrow, Swamp	U	U	U	R
☐ Sparrow, White-throated	C		C	C
☐ Sparrow, White-crowned			R	

	S	Su	F	W
☐ Junco, Dark-eyed	C		C	C
☐ Longspur, Lapland				R
☐ Bunting, Snow			R	R
☐ Cardinal, Northern*	C	C	C	C
☐ Grosbeak, Rose-breasted*	U	U	U	
☐ Grosbeak, Blue			R	
☐ Bunting, Indigo*	U	U	U	
☐ Dickcissel			R	
☐ Bobolink	U		U	
☐ Blackbird, Red-winged*	A	A	A	U
☐ Meadowlark, Eastern	R		R	
☐ Blackbird, Yellow-headed				X
☐ Blackbird, Rusty	C		U	U
☐ Grackle, Common*	C	C	C	U
☐ Cowbird, Brown-headed*	C	C	C	U
☐ Oriole, Baltimore*	C	C	U	R
☐ Oriole, Orchard*	U	U		
☐ Grosbeak, Pine				R
☐ Finch, Purple	U		U	R
☐ Finch, House°*	U	U	U	U
☐ Redpoll, Common				R
☐ Siskin, Pine				R
☐ Goldfinch, European° E				
☐ Grosbeak, Evening			R	
☐ Sparrow, House°*	C	C	C	C

Text [and illustration] by David S. Küntler,
Wildlife Manager for
Van Cortlandt & Pelham Bay Parks

Compiled by David S. Küntler and Carl Jaslowitz

Layout by Marjorie-Helene DeJean

Financed by federal Community
Development Block Grant funds



City of New York
Parks & Recreation
Pelham Bay Park Administrator's Office

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Adrian Benepe, Commissioner
Hector M. Aponte, Borough Commissioner
Margot Perron, Pelham Bay Park Administrator