COMMON BIRDS SEEN NEAR THE BIRD BLIND

Mallard (20-28") The Mallard is the most common duck in the eastern U.S. Both the green-headed male and the brown female have bright blue, white, and black wing patches.

Great Blue Heron (39-52") The largest of the North American herons is a solitary hunter, wading and foraging for fish.

Belted Kingfisher (11-14") The Kingfisher uses its oversized, heron-like beak to aggressively dive for fish. Only the female has the rusty-colored breast band.

Red-shouldered Hawk (17-24") This common forest dweller favors woodlands near water while hunting for small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects.

Eastern Bluebird (6.5-7") Once seriously threatened by pesticides and habitat loss, the Eastern Bluebird’s recovery is one of conservation’s great success stories.

Song Sparrow (6") One of the many small, brown sparrows found in shrubby or grassy wet areas, the Song Sparrow is a year-round resident of North Carolina.

A Checklist of the Birds of The Stream & Wetland Assessment Management Park (SWAMP)

A mother Mallard herds her brood across the SWAMP pond during a springtime swim. Photo by Mengchi Ho

Ever since the 1962 publication of Rachel Carson's book Silent Spring, scientists have recognized that bird populations provide an easy-to-read barometer of the pressures that human activities bring to bear on the world’s biodiversity. Birds—whether in our backyards, our cities, or our parklands—are a familiar part of our daily lives. People who might not recognize other indicators of an environment in crisis will notice that the numbers and variety of birds are slipping away. Since the Duke University Wetland Center undertook the restoration of Sandy Creek and its flood plain in 1998, birders have been keeping track of the birds seen in the restoration area now known as SWAMP. If you would like to report your bird sightings at SWAMP, send an e-mail to randyn@duke.edu.
ANSERIFORMES
- Canada Goose
- Mallard
- Hooded Merganser

PODICIPEDIFORMES
- Pied-billed Grebe

SULIFORMES
- Double-crested Cormorant

PELECANIFORMES
- American Bittern
- Great Blue Heron
- Green Heron

ACCIPITRIFORMES
- Black Vulture
- Turkey Vulture
- Osprey
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper’s Hawk
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk

FALCONIFORMES
- Merlin

PASSERIFORMES
- Eastern Wood Peewee
- Acadian Flycatcher
- Eastern Phoebe
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Eastern Kingbird
- White-eyed Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Blue-headed Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Blue Jay
- American Crow
- Fish Crow
- Northern Rough-Winged Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Carolina Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown-headed Nuthatch

The Red-bellied Woodpecker’s barred back and red cap makes it unforgettable. Learn the Red-bellied’s rolling call and you’ll notice these birds everywhere.