

## COMMON BIRDS SEEN AT DUKE POND



**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.



**Hooded Merganser** (17-24") This small diving duck with a flamboyant crest—black and white on the male, cinnamon brown on the female—is a regular winter visitor at Duke Pond.



**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.



**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 an abundant year-round resident of Duke Pond.



Duke University Wetland Center

## A Checklist of the Birds of Duke Pond



A mother Mallard herds her brood across the 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 Facilities Management Department completed construction on the stormwater reclamation lake in 2015, birders have been keeping track of the birds seen in the area now known as Duke Pond.

Duke Pond is on Duke University's West Campus near Erwin Road. It is listed as a birding hotspot on eBird.org.

**ANSERIFORMES**

Canada Goose  
Mallard  
Hooded Merganser

**PODICIPEDIFORMES**

Pied-billed Grebe

**COLUMBIFORMES**

Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove

**CUCULIFORMES**

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

**CAPRIMILGIFORMES**

Common Nighthawk  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird

**CHARADRIIFORMES**

Killdeer  
Spotted Sandpiper

**SULIFORMES**

Double-crested Cormorant

**PELICANIFORMES**

Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Green Heron

**ACCIPITRIFORMES**

Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk

**CORACIIFORMES**

Belted Kingfisher

**STRIGIFORMES**

Great Horned Owl

**PICIFORMES**

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker

**PASSERIFORMES**

Eastern Wood Pewee  
Eastern Phoebe  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Kingbird  
White-eyed Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
House Wren  
Carolina Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Wood Thrush  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
Brown Thrasher  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
House Finch  
Pine Siskin  
American Goldfinch  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
White-throated Sparrow  
Song Sparrow

Swamp Sparrow  
Eastern Towhee  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Common Grackle  
Ovenbird  
Common Yellowthroat  
Northern Parula  
Palm Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
Prairie Warbler  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager  
Northern Cardinal  
Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
House Sparrow

Updated December 2, 2019

**ABOUT DUKE POND**

Duke Pond, a project of the Duke University Facilities Management Department, is a 5.5-acre water reclamation pond located near Erwin Road adjacent to Circuit Drive and Towerview Road. The \$11.5 million project collects rainwater and storm runoff from 22% of the area around Duke's West Campus. Water from the pond is used in the cooling towers at the nearby Chilled Water Plant #2, which pumps water across campus to cool buildings. The pond initiative, inspired by the record drought of 2007, is expected to save about 100 million gallons of potable water a year. A .6-mile walking loop surrounds the pond, and amenities include an observation deck, boardwalk, and covered pavilion. Duke Pond is part of the University-wide stormwater response that includes DUWC's Stream and Wetland Assessment Management Park (SWAMP)

The Duke University Wetland Center is a permanent collaborator on the project with Duke Facilities Management. The Center monitors water quality in Duke Pond and continues to work with Facilities on the selection, maintenance, and monitoring of native wetland vegetation appropriate to the site.

