Bird Habitats in the Wetlands

Clean water attracts a variety of birds

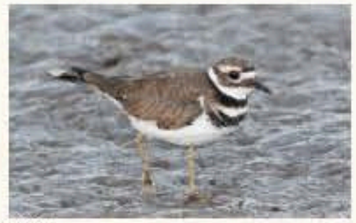
Concentrations of wintering and breeding birds occur wherever the habitat provides enough food and clean water for sanctuary. The wetland park has eight habitats for birds; the shoreline, reed and cattail marshes, open water, shrubs and trees, Crooked River riparian corridor, upland juniper woodlands, human-built shelters and the air.

Migratory birds, such as the red-winged blackbird, stop over at the wetlands park as they travel the Pacific Flyway and many nest here from March to October.

The Pacific Flyway is a major north-south flyway for migratory birds in America, extending from Alaska to Patagonia. Every year, migratory birds travel some or all of this distance both in spring and in fall, following food sources, heading to breeding grounds or traveling to overwintering sites.

The recycled water in this area is healthy enough to support at least eight different bird habitats that attract a wide variety of permanent and migratory birds. Whether it's open water, human-built structures or reeds and cattail marshes, each habitat attracts specific birds that have jobs to do in their special environment. How many birds can you spot?

Tree swallow – *With nest boxes along the river, their job is to eat insects.*



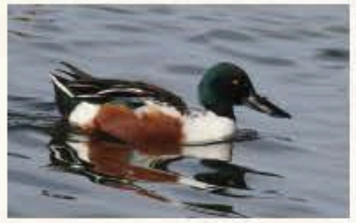
Killdeer – *Abundant throughout the park. These birds have lots of personality.*

Bald eagle – *Our national bird can be found here all year long. In the winter it will hunt for waterfowl.*

Wilson's phalarope – *These birds migrate as far south as the Andes. The female is larger and more colorful.*

Great blue heron – *Nesting rookeries can be found at the old ponds. They are amazing to see in flight.*

Red-tailed hawk – *The most abundant predatory bird at the park.*

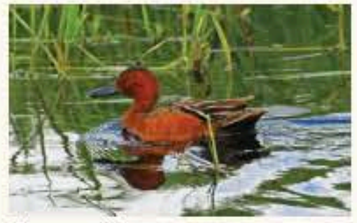


Northern shoveler – *These beautiful birds are abundant in spring, summer and fall. In summer, they nest far to the north.*

Greater yellowlegs – *These waders forage on small fish and insects in the ponds.*

Least sandpiper – *These small birds often circle the park in flight. They feed along the shores and probe the mud for food.*

Canada goose – *This migratory bird can be found at the wetlands all year long. Some will travel on but many will nest and winter-over here.*



Cinnamon teal – *These bright colored birds feed mostly on plant material. The female can produce up to 16 eggs.*

Ring-necked duck – *These ducks dive for food. Unlike some ducks that spring from the water, this duck requires a good run in order to take flight.*

Thanks to:

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Find out more

Learn more about birds in our area and places to find them at ecaudubon.org. You can also discover more about Oregon birds at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/species/birds/swans_ducks_geese.asp.