

# Birds

## Maurice K. Goddard State Park

#	Name	Habitat	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Mimic Thrushes</b>														
1	Gray Catbird	☼												
2	Northern Mockingbird	☼												
3	Brown Thrasher	☼												
<b>Starling</b>														
4	European Starling	★												
<b>Pipits</b>														
5	American Pipit	☼												
<b>Waxwings</b>														
6	Cedar Waxwing	☼												
<b>Warblers</b>														
7	Blue-winged Warbler	☼												
8	Golden-winged Warbler	☼												
9	Tennessee Warbler	☼												
10	Orange-crowned Warbler	☼												
11	Nashville Warbler	☼												
12	Northern Parula	☼												
13	Yellow Warbler	☼												
14	Chestnut-sided Warbler	☼												
15	Magnolia Warbler	☼												
16	Cape May Warbler	☼												
17	Black-throated Blue Wbler	☼												
18	Yellow-rumped Warbler	☼												
19	Black-throated Green Wbler	☼												
20	Blackburnian Warbler	☼												
21	Yellow-throated Warbler	☼												
22	Pine Warbler	☼												
23	Prairie Warbler	☼												
24	Palm Warbler	☼												
25	Bay-breasted Warbler	☼												
26	Blackpoll Warbler	☼												
27	Cerulean Warbler	☼												
28	Black-and-white Warbler	☼												
29	American Redstart	☼												
30	Prothonotary Warbler	☼												
31	Worm-eating Warbler	☼												
32	Ovenbird	☼												
33	Northern Waterthrush	☼												
34	Louisiana Waterthrush	☼												
35	Kentucky Warbler	☼												
36	Connecticut Warbler	☼												
37	Mourning Warbler	☼												
38	Common Yellowthroat	☼												
39	Hooded Warbler	☼												
40	Wilson's Warbler	☼												
41	Canada Warbler	☼												
42	Yellow-breasted Chat	☼												
<b>Tanagers</b>														
43	Summer Tanager	☼												
44	Scarlet Tanager	☼												
<b>Towhees</b>														
45	Eastern Towhee	☼												
<b>Sparrows</b>														
46	American Tree Sparrow	☼												
47	Chipping Sparrow	☼												
48	Clay-colored Sparrow	☼												
49	Field Sparrow	☼												
50	Vesper Sparrow	☼												
51	Savannah Sparrow	☼												
52	Grasshopper Sparrow	☼												
53	Henslow's Sparrow	☼												
54	Fox Sparrow	☼												
55	Song Sparrow	☼												
56	Lincoln's Sparrow	☼												
57	Swamp Sparrow	☼												
58	White-throated Sparrow	☼												
59	White-crowned Sparrow	☼												
60	Dark-eyed Junco	☼												
61	Lapland Longspur	☼												
62	Snow Bunting	☼												
<b>Cardinals &amp; Grosbeaks</b>														
63	Northern Cardinal	☼												
64	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	☼												
65	Blue Grosbeak	☼												
66	Indigo Bunting	☼												
<b>Dickcissel</b>														
67	Dickcissel	☼												
<b>Blackbirds</b>														
68	Bobolink	☼												
69	Red-winged Blackbird	☼												
70	Eastern Meadowlark	☼												
71	Rusty Blackbird	☼												

#	Name	Habitat	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	Common Grackle	★												
2	Brown-headed Cowbird	☼												
<b>Orioles</b>														
3	Orchard Oriole	☼												
4	Baltimore Oriole	☼												
<b>Finches</b>														
5	Pine Grosbeak	☼												
6	Purple Finch	☼												
7	House Finch	★												
8	Red Crossbill	☼												
9	White-winged Crossbill	☼												
10	Common Redpoll	☼												
11	Pine Siskin	☼												
12	American Goldfinch	☼												
13	Evening Grosbeak	☼												
<b>Weaver Finches</b>														
14	House Sparrow	☼												

■ Probably will find   ■ Might find   □ Lucky to find   □ Never seen  
 \* Irruptive Visitor   **B** Breeding   **W** Water   **F** Forest   **S** Scrub   **-** Field   **★** Anywhere

### Unusual Birds with a Few Sightings in the Park

**Black-crowned Night Heron** Seen at the park twice, once in 2001 and once in 2002. Reported by two different observers.

**Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)** Not seen during the survey, but reported as being seen several times during the past decade.

**Snow Goose** Only a few have been seen during the survey, but large flocks were seen in the winter of 1993.

**Bald Eagle** A bald eagle has been seen at the park every month for the past two years. They successfully nested in 2000 and 2001. The old nest was destroyed during the winter of 2001/2002 and a new nest was built nearby. Nesting success is unknown for 2002.

**Golden Eagle** Several reported sightings, but none were confirmed.

**Peregrine Falcon** Three people have reported sightings. None were confirmed.

**Bobwhite** The bobwhite found around the park are believed to have escaped from a local breeder.

**Sandhill Crane** A flock of 19 sandhill cranes were seen at the park in 2001. A pair of sandhill cranes were seen all spring, summer and fall near the Cranberry Swamp, just east of the park. A second pair was seen during the spring near the Pine Swamp, south of Stoneboro. It is possible they have bred.

**Caspian Tern** An injured caspian tern was found at the park in the summer of 2001. The bird was taken to a rehabilitation center. Its fate is unknown.

**Barn Owl** There have been no recent observations, but some of the older farmers in the area say they were once found in most barns in the area.

**Loggerhead Shrike** One loggerhead shrike was seen twice on the same day in March of 2001. Impaled mice have been found on Hawthorn trees in this area. None were seen in 2002.

**Bohemian Waxwing** One sighting that was not confirmed.

**Snow Bunting** Several people have reported seeing snow bunting in the area, but none were seen during the survey.

**Rusty Blackbird** Probably more common than reported. When it is reported, it is usually among a large flock of other birds.

**Brewer's Blackbird** Reported once among a large flock of other birds. The brewer's blackbird's range has been expanding.

**Orchard Oriole** One report of a pair by the dam, but not confirmed.

### Key Birding Areas and Information

The many habitats in such a small area make Maurice K. Goddard State Park a great place to see many species of birds. Every season of the year offers much to see. There are trails and pull-offs around the lake that make viewing relatively easy.

Lake Wilhelm is alive with waterfowl during the spring migration. Beginning in March, the waterfowl start to arrive at the sites of aquatic vegetation. The open water encourages rafts of diving duck to congregate. Several species nest at Lake Wilhelm.

Any of the causeways or boat launch areas offer excellent places to view waterfowl. The areas off boat launches #1, #2 and #4 are always good areas to view diving ducks, mergansers, loons and grebes. The beaver pond across from the marina and the pond at the marina are excellent areas to view surface-feeding ducks. The north end of Lake Wilhelm, in State Game Land 270, is also an excellent place to watch surface-feeding ducks. The causeway on Milledgeville Road and the causeway at Cemetery/West Pine Roads are also very good areas. The fall waterfowl migration begins as early as late July. Many species can be seen, but generally not as many in number as in the spring.

The Canada goose is a year-round resident at Lake Wilhelm. The resident population is large and they can be found nesting in most areas of the lake. During the spring and fall migrations, the number of geese increases. At times the Canada goose becomes a problem. Please do not feed the geese!

For many years, Maurice K. Goddard State Park has had a very successful eastern bluebird program. The nest boxes that are placed throughout the park have resulted in over one hundred fledged birds per year. This program is run and staffed by volunteers.

Wood duck nesting boxes have been put up throughout Lake Wilhelm by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), the Department of Conservation and

Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Boy Scouts of America. Hooded mergansers and eastern screech owls also used the boxes.

During late March to May, the nuptial flights of American woodcock are commonly observed at dusk. The best place to view this ritual is on the trail between boat launch #4 and Dugan Run.

Osprey begin migrating in late March. Lake Wilhelm has five osprey nests, three of which were active in 2002. The best place to view the osprey is from the observation deck across the road from the marina and at the beaver pond. This nest has been active for the past three years. Other nests can be observed by looking south from the Milledgeville causeway.

Bald Eagles can be seen all year if there is open water. Bald Eagles have nested at Lake Wilhelm and fledged two young in 2001. That nest, which could be seen from the Milledgeville Road causeway looking north, was destroyed during the winter but was rebuilt a nest a short distance further north in the state game land propagation area. This nest cannot be easily seen and its activity status is unknown.

The warbler migration begins in late March and continues into June. Over twenty-five species of warblers have been seen at Lake Wilhelm. There are several excellent areas to watch for warblers. One of the best is along the trail, thickets and forests below New Vernon, southeast of Dugan Run. The area around the causeways in the state game lands also offers good warbler viewing. The trails at McKeever Environmental Learning Center are also excellent areas. One trail connects to Maurice K. Goddard State Park near the dam.

In 2000, a purple martin program was established at Maurice K. Goddard State Park. A nesting site with plastic gourds was erected at the marina. The first year had one successful nest. The second year had six successful nests. In 2003, all twelve gourds were occupied. A second nesting site is planned for next year at the marina and future plans call for nesting sites throughout the park. This is another all volunteer program.

During the summer, the trails leading to the interiors of the forests are good places to see warblers and deep forest birds. Cuckoos, thrashers, vireos and thrushes can be seen throughout the park from the trails. Many species nest in these areas and in the thickets and grasslands near the trails.

The fall shorebird migration begins in late July and early August. The number of shorebird species depends on the water level of Lake Wilhelm. When the level is low due to drought or the deliberate periodic lowering of the lake for testing purposes, mudflats occur and a variety of shorebirds can be seen. One of the best areas when the lake is drawn down is the bay on the west side of the Milledgeville Road causeway. Other good areas are south of the Lake Wilhelm Road causeway across from the marina, the beaver pond across from the marina and in the marina.

In the winter, walks along the trails provide excellent opportunities to view the resident species and winter migrants. American robins can be found all year in the deeper forests as well as eastern bluebirds. Flocks of sparrows, finches and doves are common. Once the water opens, as early as February, the waterfowl begin to arrive.

The future of the birds and birding at Lake Wilhelm is very promising. Support for the existing programs continues from the DCNR and the PGC. The maturing of the marshes and swamps at the north end of Lake Wilhelm will undoubtedly draw more species to the area. The restoration of native grasses in the park has shown encouraging results. The recently built observation deck at the beaver pond has been well received and the building of a bicycle trail around Lake Wilhelm in the park has made access to certain areas of the park easier.

During the spring, summer and fall Maurice K. Goddard State Park's environmental interpretive technician offers a variety of educational programs throughout the park.

### ♿ Access for People with Disabilities

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

### Maurice K. Goddard State Park

684 Lake Wilhelm Road  
 Sandy Lake, PA 16145  
 724-253-4833  
 email: goddardsp@pa.gov  
 www.visitPAparks.com



