

Birds of Prophetstown

Compiled by Matthew Wieczorek
Information from Sibley Field Guides to
Birds of Eastern North America by
David Sibley ©2003

Compilers Note

- By no means do I consider this short guide a comprehensive list of the species present in the park. These are the species I see most often.
- Other species I have seen and heard include: Bald Eagle, Indigo Bunting, Meadowlarks, Bobwhite Quail and Prairie Warblers.
- If you come out and notice a bunch of species not included, e-mail me at prophetstowninterp@dnr.in.gov, and I will be glad to add to the list for the benefit of all.
- I do not claim this information as mine. The text is taken from [The Sibley Field Guide to Birds](#), by David Sibley, and the pictures have their copyright information on them.

Red-winged Blackbird

- Color: Male: Black body with red & yellow bands on shoulder Female: Commonly mistaken for a sparrow. Larger size than sparrow. Dense uniform streaks across belly.
- Call: Several indistinguishable notes followed by kon-ka-kreeeee (Very buzzy and distinct)



Eastern Bluebird

- Color: Male: Bright orange breast and striking blue wings
Females: Orange breast and soft blue-gray wings.
- Call: Soft whistles combined with a chiti
WEEW wewidoo



Cedar Waxwing

- ◉ Color: General: Silky brown color and crest, yellow-tipped tail and dark distinctive mask. Glossy look to entire bird. Commonly in a small flock (4-10 other individuals)
- ◉ Call: High-pitched single note. May have slight trill to it. Mostly single high-pitched simple note



Black-capped Chickadee

- ◉ Color: General: Small large-headed and long tailed. Black cap and throat with white cheek distinctive. Late in season (September- end of year) belly will get a yellowish tinge.
- ◉ Call: Song a simple fee-beeyee. Call the traditional chick-a-dee-dee-dee



Barn Swallow

- Color: General: Long forked tail with long pointed wings. Dusky blue topside and whitish to orange underside with red-brown throat.
- Call: Very soft call, simple notes moderately high-pitched. Song is not the way to identify this species.



Chestnut-sided Warbler

- Color General: Tail held at raised angle Male: Yellow crown. Black face, white belly with a chestnut colored streak on belly near wing. Female: Pale gray belly, yellow green along top of head. White eye-ring.
- Call: Clear and musical with emphatic ending. (Witew witew witew WEECHEW)



Chipping Sparrow

- ◉ Color: Adult non-breeding: Un-streaked whitish underside with distinct dark eye-line extending to bill. Adult breeding: Same as non-breeding but with burnt red crown and white stripe above eye.
- ◉ Call: Mechanical trill. Simple note not changing in volume or pitch.



Common Yellow-throat

- ◉ Color: Male: Plain belly and back. Yellow throat with a black mask surrounding eyes. Females: Plain simple coloration with yellow throat and darker cheeks.
- ◉ Call: A simple 3-5 note call consisting of Wichety wichety wichety



Gray Catbird

- ◉ Color: General: Slate gray plumage with black cap and distinctive tail. Under-tail color is dirty red-brown.
- ◉ Call: A hoarse cat-like mewing.



Turkey Vulture

- ◉ Color: General: Large size with dark color throughout. Distinctive red head and in flight have evenly spread wings with whitish wing tips.
- ◉ Call: Seldom heard, soft hissing and clucking.



Baltimore Oriole

- Color: Male: Orange breast with a solid black head. Female, head is a gray-brown with an orange-yellow breast.
- Call: Short series of clear rich whistles "pidoo tewdi tewdi yeew".



White-breasted Nuthatch

- Color: General: Blue-gray above and an all white face. Males may have darker crown stripe than females. Often seen climbing head-down through trees.
- Call: Nasal, slightly descending "yenk"



Song Sparrow

- Color: General: Long rounded tail, with reddish-brown color. Brown and gray crown stripes. White breast with broad coarse brown streaks.
- Call: Several short notes surrounding a long trill in the middle. "Seet seet seet zleeeeeee seet seet."



Scarlet Tanager

- Color: Male: Brilliant red with black wings and tail (Mar-Aug) Females & Males (Aug-Mar): Wings darker than body. Greenish yellow overall.
- Call: Song: Very robin like and the call is a hard "Chik-brrr".



Dickcissel

- ◉ Color: Female: Rufous shoulder with a yellow breast. Pale bill and yellowish stripe across eyes. Male: Gray nape, more pronounced yellowing through eyes and a black breast.
- ◉ Call: Short series of notes, “skee-dlees chis chis chis”



Indigo Bunting

- ◉ Color: Females: Bi-colored bill, whitish throat with indistinct wing-bars. Warm cinnamon to gray-brown overall. Male: Bright blue, darker on head. Striking coloration.
- ◉ Call: Hard, sharp urgent warble with most phrases repeated “Ti ti whee whee zerre zerre”



Tufted Titmouse

- ◉ Color: General: All-gray above with a gray crest on the head. Pale around the eye with a black forehead. Also has orange flanks to a mostly white chest.
- ◉ Call: A low clear whistled “peter peter peter peter”, usually two-syllabled.



American Goldfinch

- Color: Female: Plain yellow brown along head with buffy wing bars. Also have whitish under-tail covers. During breeding season, females are a dull version of the males. Males: Yellow back with brilliant yellow chest. Also have black forehead with an orange bill.
- Call: High sweet phrases
“toWEE toWEE tweer tweer ti ti ti”

