**BIRDS IN THE GILLS CREEK WATERSHED!**

**The Gills Creek Watershed bird inventory was begun with The Great Backyard Bird Count in February 2013.**

A bird count is a fun and easy way for everyday citizens to help out the scientific community and birds everywhere. By simply tallying the type and number of birds seen, participants help scientists track bird populations and their ranges. It doesn't take much to help out; you can spend as little as 15 minutes counting birds!

The species identified in the bird count will be recorded on the Gills Creek website. In future bird counts or personal observations, residents of the Gills Creek Watershed can update us if new species are identified so we can keep an up to date list of the birds in our backyard, the Gills Creek Watershed!

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| * Family (common family name)
	+ Common Name (Genus species) (citations)
* Anatidae (ducks, geese and swans)
	+ Snow Goose (Chen caerulescens)
	+ Canada Goose (Branta canadensis)
	+ Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)
* Podicipedidae (grebes)
	+ Pied-billed Grebe (Podilymbus podiceps)
* Phalacrocoracidae (cormorants)
	+ Double-crested Cormorant (Phalacrocorax auritus)
* Ardeidae (herons, bitterns)
	+ Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias)
	+ Great Egret (Ardea alba)
* Cathartidae (new world vultures)
	+ Turkey Vulture (Cathartes aura)
* Accipitridae (hawks, eagles, kites, harriers)
	+ Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis)
	+ Sharp-shinned Hawk (Accipiter striatus)
	+ Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis)
* Laridae (gulls, terns)
	+ Herring Gull (Larus smithsonianus)
* Columbidae (doves and pigeons)
	+ Rock Pigeon (Columba livia)
	+ Mourning Dove (Zenaida macroura)
* Strigidae (true owls)
	+ Barred Owl (Strix varia)
* Trochilidae (hummingbirds)
	+ Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Archilochus colubris)
* Alcedinidae (kingfishers)
	+ Belted Kingfisher (Megaceryle alcyon)
* Picidae (woodpeckers)
	+ Red-bellied Woodpecker (Melanerpes carolinus)
	+ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus varius)
	+ Downy Woodpecker (Picoides pubescens)
* Tyrannidae (tyrant flycatchers)
	+ Eastern Phoebe (Sayornis phoebe)
	+ Great Crested Flycatcher (Myiarchus crinitus)
* Vireonidae (vireos)
	+ Red-eyed Vireo (Vireo olivaceus)
* Corvidae (crow)
	+ Blue Jay (Cyanocitta cristata)
	+ American Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos)
	+ Fish Crow (Corvus ossifragus)
* Paridae (tit)
	+ Carolina Chickadee (Poecile carolinensis)
	+ Tufted Titmouse (Baeolophus bicolor)
* Sittidae (nuthatch)
	+ White-breasted Nuthatch (Sitta carolinensis)
	+ Brown-headed Nuthatch (Sitta pusilla)
* Troglodytidae (wren)
	+ Carolina Wren (Thryothorus ludovicianus)
* Certhiidae (treecreeper)
	+ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (Polioptila caerulea)
* Regulidae (kinglet)
	+ Golden-crowned Kinglet (Regulus satrapa)
	+ Ruby-crowned Kinglet (Regulus calendula)
* Turdidae (thrush)
	+ Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis)
	+ Hermit Thrush (Catharus guttatus)
	+ American Robin (Turdus migratorius)
	+ Varied Thrush (Ixoreus naevius)
* Mimid (mockingbirds, thrashers)
	+ Gray Catbird (Dumetella carolinensis)
	+ Northern Mockingbird (Mimus polyglottos)
	+ Brown Thrasher (Toxostoma rufum)
* Sturnidae (starling)
	+ European Starling (Sturnus vulgaris) **INV**
* Bombycillidae (waxwing)
	+ Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum)
* Parulidae (new world warbler)
	+ Northern Parula (Setophaga americana)
	+ Pine Warbler (Setophaga pinus)
	+ Yellow-rumped Warbler (Setophaga coronata)
* Emberizidae (American sparrows)
	+ Eastern Towhee (Pipilo erythrophthalmus)
	+ Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia)
	+ White-throated Sparrow (Zonotrichia albicollis)
	+ Dark-eyed Junco (Junco hyemalis)
* Cardinalidae (cardinals)
	+ Northern Cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis)
* Fringillidae (finches)
	+ House Finch (Haemorhous mexicanus) **INT**
	+ Pine Siskin (Carduelis pinus)
	+ American Goldfinch (Spinus tristis)
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**INV** – Invasive: Non-native introduced species which has established a breeding population and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

**INT** – Introduced: Non-native introduced species which has lesser or no adverse effects on native ecology.

**Contributors:**
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This bird list contains sightings reported to [eBird](http://ebird.org) as of November 2013 for the following locations in the Gills Creek Watershed:

* Belser Arboretum
* Hampton Memorial Park
* Sesquicentennial State Park
* White House Road Loop
* 4100 block of E Buchanan Drive

Additional sightings are welcome and should be submitted to Caroline Eastman

**For information on birding and bird counts see the following web sites:**

**The Great Backyard Bird Count** is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. For more information, visit [Great Backyard Bird Count](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html).

**eBird** - A project of the Cornell University Department of Ornitholog yand the National Audubon Society where you can register for an account and submit and keep track of your birding observations. The data provides scientists, researchers and amateur naturalists with real-time data about bird distribution and abundance. See [eBird](http://ebird.org).

**The Birds of North America** - As an online project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, BNA Online contains image and video galleries showing plumages, behaviors, habitat, nests and eggs, and more. And most online BNA accounts now feature recordings of the songs and calls of their species. You can view a sample of bird information, but the site requires a minimal subscription to access all content. [The Birds of North American Online](http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/)

**National Audubon Society** Audubon’s Mission: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. [National Audubon Society](http://www.audubon.org)

**Sibley Guides** - Identification of North American Birds. The company offers books, online information, and smart phone and tablet apps for bird identification. [Sibley Bird Guides](http://www.sibleyguides.com)

**Birds Of North America** - More information and bird calls are available online at [Birds Of North America](http://www.birds-of-north-america.net)

*Any mention of commercial products is for information only; it does not imply recommendation or endorsement by Gills Creek Watershed Association.*