

Where to See Birds

French Creek State Park, an Important Bird Area, is located in the Hopewell Big Woods, a 73,000-acre forested area in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The park has two lakes, several small creeks and streams, wooded wetlands and open meadows. Most of the park is forested, making it easy to see and hear woodpeckers. Walk the wooded trails during any time of year for a glimpse of one of the five resident woodpeckers. An alert birder will be rewarded with the sight of a pileated woodpecker excavating for carpenter ants, wood chips flying in every direction!

In the summer months, many warblers and woodland birds use the forest for their summer breeding grounds. Hooded warblers can be heard in early summer, as well as chestnut-sided warblers, wood thrush, ovenbirds and others. Listen in the morning and early evening for the ethereal notes of the wood thrush.

Bluebird boxes are maintained throughout open areas in the park. Bluebirds and tree swallows are easy to spot in the fields surrounding the park office. A favorite sight is that of noisy bluebird fledglings, calling for food. Watch your head, as dive-bombing tree swallows will try to scare you away from their nest boxes!

Spring and fall are excellent times for viewing migrants. Check forest edges, wet meadows and both lakes for resting and feeding birds. Look for pine and palm warblers moving through in the spring, as they make their way to more northern breeding grounds.

Hopewell Lake and Scotts Run Lake –

Check the edges of the lakes in spring and summer for herons. In the spring, look overhead for osprey and, occasionally, a bald eagle. During the summer, the rattling call of the belted kingfisher can't be missed, as it fishes from lake edges. Fall and winter months find migrating waterfowl using the lakes as a resting area.

Six Penny – The former Recreation Demonstration Area can be accessed from the parking lot on Geigertown Road. Follow Horse Shoe Trail to Six Penny Creek. Continue to follow the creek downstream, for glimpses of migrating shore birds, waterfowl, kingfishers, and warblers. In the spring, listen for waterthrush and other migrating warblers. The lower end of the impoundment, near the dam breast, makes a good vantage point for scanning the wetlands and woodlands adjacent to the creek.

Novice and experienced birders will find many birds to see and hear at any time of year in French Creek State Park. Share your favorite sightings with the park naturalist, and check for nature programs during the spring and summer months.

♿ 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.

French Creek State Park

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Elverson, PA 19520

610-582-9680

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pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Common Birds

French Creek State Park





Forests

Year-round Residents

- American Crow
- Downy Woodpecker
- Great Horned Owl
- Northern Flicker
- Tufted Titmouse
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Blue Jay
- Eastern Screech-Owl
- Northern Cardinal
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Wild Turkey

Spring Visitors

- Cooper's Hawk
- Eastern Wood-pewee
- House Wren
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- White-throated Sparrow
- Eastern Bluebird
- Gray Catbird
- Ovenbird
- Sharp-shinned Hawk

Summer Visitors

- Brown Thrasher
- Eastern Towhee
- Gray Catbird
- Ovenbird
- Scarlet Tanager
- Veery
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Cooper's Hawk
- Eastern Wood-pewee
- Northern Oriole
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Wood Thrush

Autumn Visitors

- Cooper's Hawk
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- American Tree Sparrow
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- White-throated Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Winter Wren



Fields and Grassy Areas

Year-round Residents

- American Crow
- American Kestrel
- European Starling
- House Finch
- Mourning Dove
- Turkey Vulture
- Northern Mockingbird
- American Goldfinch
- Carolina Wren
- Field Sparrow
- House Wren
- Song Sparrow

Spring Visitors

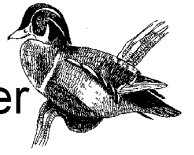
- American Robin
- Common Grackle
- Eastern Phoebe
- Killdeer
- Barn Swallow
- Eastern Bluebird
- Indigo Bunting
- Tree Swallow

Summer Visitors

- American Robin
- Common Grackle
- Eastern Phoebe
- Killdeer
- Barn Swallow
- Eastern Bluebird
- Indigo Bunting
- Tree Swallow

Autumn Visitors

- American Robin
- White-throated Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco



Wetlands and Water

Year-round Residents

- American Crow
- Ring-billed Gull
- Fish Crow

Spring Visitors

- American Woodcock
- Canada Goose
- Great Blue Heron
- Herring Gull
- Osprey
- Wood Duck
- Common Yellowthroat
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Belted Kingfisher
- Common Grackle
- Green Heron
- Mallard
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Yellow Warbler

Summer Visitors

- American Woodcock
- Canada Goose
- Great Blue Heron
- Herring Gull
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Wood Duck
- Common Yellowthroat
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Belted Kingfisher
- Common Grackle
- Green Heron
- Mallard
- Ring-billed Gull
- Yellow Warbler

Autumn Visitors

- Bufflehead
- Common Loon
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Osprey
- Common Goldeneye
- Common Merganser
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Ring-necked Duck

