

# BIRDS OF FORT DRUM



## BIRDING ON FORT DRUM

Fort Drum is a 107,000+ acre military installation located in Jefferson and Lewis Counties of New York. Mostly undeveloped, the installation contains a variety of habitats including coniferous, deciduous, and mixed forests; oak savannah; grasslands; shrublands; and wetlands. This mixture of biological communities supports a varied avifauna, particularly during the breeding season. More than 240 species of birds have been documented on Fort Drum, including 143 for which nesting has been confirmed or suspected, and 27 that are listed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern.

The western portion of Fort Drum contains a mosaic of habitats, including the installation's most extensive grasslands. The fields surrounding Antwerp Tank Trail north of Birch Road provide nesting habitat for grassland species such as Sedge Wren, Savannah and Henslow's Sparrows, and Bobolink, and is also the best location for open country raptors including Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, and Short-eared and Snowy Owls. The sandy grasslands near Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield support a different community of grassland birds, including Upland Sandpiper, Horned Lark and Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows. Nearby oak savannah and open oak woodlands are home to an important population of nesting Red-headed Woodpecker and is among the best locations on Fort Drum for Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will.

The western Training Areas also provide excellent habitat for shrubland and wetland birds. Pleasant, Reedville, and Carr Roads provide access to extensive successional habitats where Brown Thrasher, Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers, Eastern Towhee and other shrubland bird species are common. The best location for seeing wetland birds—such as Pied-billed Grebe, Least and American Bitterns, Common Moorhen, and Marsh Wren—is the marsh along Matoon Creek in Training Area 17B.

The largest stands of mature forest occur in the south-central and northeastern portions of Fort Drum, and are accessible via Lake School Road and FUSA Blvd, respectively. These areas are home to a diverse assemblage of thrushes, warblers, vireos, and other forest species. Osprey and Common Loon nest at some of the ponds and lakes located along FUSA Blvd, and Bald Eagles are regularly seen near Indian and Mud Lakes.

This checklist contains species of birds that have been observed by Fort Drum personnel and follows the American Ornithologists Union's 7<sup>th</sup> edition checklist of North American birds, including taxonomic revisions through the 52nd supplement. Visitors who observe species not listed on this checklist are requested to provide documentation to the Fort Drum Fish and Wildlife Management Program.

To learn more about accessing Fort Drum for wildlife viewing or other recreational activities, please see the web site listed below.

**FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**  
[WWW.FORTDRUM.ISPORTSMAN.NET](http://WWW.FORTDRUM.ISPORTSMAN.NET)



**NATURAL RESOURCES BRANCH**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION**  
**DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**2012**

**Fish and Wildlife Management Program**

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ORDER FAMILY / COMMON NAME	SEASON / ABUNDANCE			
	Sp	Su	F	W

### ANSERIFORMES

#### ANATIDAE

___ Greater White-fronted Goose	v			
___ Snow Goose	u		u	o
___ Ross's Goose	v			
___ Brant	r		r	
___ Cackling Goose	v		v	
___ Canada Goose*	a	u	a	o
___ Tundra Swan	r			
___ Wood Duck*	c	c	c	
___ Gadwall*	u	o	u	
___ American Wigeon	u		u	
___ American Black Duck*	u	u	u	u
___ Mallard*	c	c	c	u
___ Blue-winged Teal*	u	o	u	
___ Northern Shoveler	r		r	
___ Northern Pintail	u		u	
___ Green-winged Teal*	u	u	c	
___ Canvasback	v		v	
___ Redhead	v		v	
___ Ring-necked Duck	u		u	
___ Greater Scaup	r		o	
___ Lesser Scaup	o		u	r
___ White-winged Scoter	v			
___ Black Scoter			v	
___ Long-tailed Duck	v		v	
___ Bufflehead	u		u	u
___ Common Goldeneye	u		u	c
___ Hooded Merganser*	u	u	u	o
___ Common Merganser	u	r	u	o
___ Red-breasted Merganser			v	
___ Ruddy Duck			v	

### GALLIFORMES

#### PHASIANIDAE

___ Northern Bobwhite (I)		v		
___ Ring-necked Pheasant (I)	o	o	o	o
___ Ruffed Grouse*	u	u	u	u
___ Wild Turkey*	c	c	c	c

### GAVIIFORMES

#### GAVIIDAE

___ Red-throated Loon			v	
___ Common Loon* (SCC)	u	u	u	

### PODICIPEDIFORMES

#### PODICIPEDIDAE

___ Pied-billed Grebe* (ST)	u	u	u	
___ Horned Grebe	v			

### PELECANIFORMES

#### PHALACROCORACIDAE

___ Double-Crested Cormorant	o	o	o	
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### CICONIIFORMES

#### ARDEIDAE

___ American Bittern* (SSC)	u	u	u	
___ Least Bittern* (ST)	r	r		
___ Great Blue Heron*	c	c	c	r
___ Great Egret		o	o	

ORDER FAMILY / COMMON NAME	SEASON / ABUNDANCE			
	Sp	Su	F	W

### CICONIIFORMES (continued)

#### ARDEIDAE (continued)

___ Green Heron*	u	u	u	
___ Black Crowned Night Heron	o	o		

#### CATHARTIDAE

___ Turkey Vulture*	c	c	c	
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### FALCONIFORMES

#### ACCIPITRIDAE

___ Osprey* (SSC)	u	u	o	
___ Bald Eagle (ST/FT)	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Harrier* (ST)	u	u	u	u
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk* (SSC)	u	u	u	u
___ Cooper's Hawk* (SSC)	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Goshawk* (SSC)	u	u	u	u
___ Red-shouldered Hawk* (SSC)	u	u	u	
___ Broad-winged Hawk*	u	u	u	
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	u	u	u	u
___ Rough-legged Hawk	u	o	u	c
___ Golden Eagle (SE)	r	v	r	

#### FALCONIDAE

___ American Kestrel*	u	u	u	o
___ Merlin*	u	o	u	o
___ Peregrine Falcon (SE)	r		r	r

### GRUIFORMES

#### RALLIDAE

___ Virginia Rail*	u	u	o	
___ Sora*	u	u	o	
___ Common Gallinule*	u	u	o	
___ American Coot	r		r	

#### GRUIDAE

___ Sandhill Crane	v			
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### CHARADRIIFORMES

#### CHARADRIIDAE

___ Black-bellied Plover		o	o	
___ American Golden-Plover		r	o	
___ Semipalmated Plover	o	o	o	
___ Killdeer*	c	c	c	

#### SCOLOPACIDAE

___ Spotted Sandpiper*	u	u	u	
___ Solitary Sandpiper	u	u	u	
___ Greater Yellowlegs	u	u	u	
___ Willet	v			
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	o	u	u	
___ Upland Sandpiper* (ST)	r	r		
___ Whimbrel			v	
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	o	o	o	
___ Least Sandpiper	u	u	u	
___ White-rumped Sandpiper		r	r	
___ Baird's Sandpiper		r	r	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper			o	
___ Dunlin		r	r	

ORDER FAMILY / COMMON NAME	SEASON / ABUNDANCE			
	Sp	Su	F	W
<b>CHARADRIIFORMES (continued)</b>				

<b>SCOLOPACIDAE (continued)</b>				
_____ Short-billed Dowitcher		o	o	
_____ Wilson's Snipe*	c	c	c	
_____ American Woodcock*	c	c	c	

<b>LARIDAE</b>				
_____ Ring-billed Gull	c	c	c	r
_____ Herring Gull	o	o	o	o
_____ Glaucous Gull				v
_____ Great Black-backed Gull	o		o	o
_____ Caspian Tern	r			
_____ Black Tern		r		

**COLUMBIFORMES**

<b>COLUMBIDAE</b>				
_____ Rock Pigeon* (I)	c	c	c	c
_____ Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	u

**CUCULIFORMES**

<b>CUCULIDAE</b>				
_____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	o	o	o	
_____ Black-billed Cuckoo*	u	u	u	

**STRIGIFORMES**

<b>STRIGIDAE</b>				
_____ Eastern Screech Owl*	o	o	o	o
_____ Great-horned Owl*	u	u	u	u
_____ Snowy Owl				o
_____ Barred Owl*	u	u	u	u
_____ Long-eared Owl*	o	o	o	o
_____ Short-eared Owl* (SE)	o	o		o
_____ Northern Saw-whet Owl*	o	o	o	o

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES**

<b>CAPRIMULGIDAE</b>				
_____ Common Nighthawk* (SSC)	c	c	c	
_____ Whip-poor-will* (SSC)	c	c	o	

**APODIFORMES**

<b>APODIDAE</b>				
_____ Chimney Swift*	u	u		

<b>TROCHILIDAE</b>				
_____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	u	u	o	

**CORACIFORMES**

<b>ALCEDINIDAE</b>				
_____ Belted Kingfisher*	u	u	u	r

**PICIFORMES**

<b>PICIDAE</b>				
_____ Lewis's Woodpecker	v			
_____ Red-headed Woodpecker* (SSC)	u	u	u	
_____ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	o	o	o	o
_____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*	c	c	c	
_____ Downy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
_____ Hairy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
_____ Black-backed Woodpecker	v			v
_____ Northern Flicker*	c	c	c	o
_____ Pileated Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u

ORDER FAMILY / COMMON NAME	SEASON / ABUNDANCE			
	Sp	Su	F	W
<b>PASSERIFORMES</b>				

<b>TYRANNIDAE</b>				
_____ Olive-sided Flycatcher	o	r	o	
_____ Eastern Wood-Pee-wee*	c	c	u	
_____ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	u	u	o	
_____ Alder Flycatcher*	c	c	o	
_____ Willow Flycatcher*	u	u	o	
_____ Least Flycatcher*	c	c		
_____ Eastern Phoebe*	c	c	c	
_____ Great-crested Flycatcher*	c	c		
_____ Western Kingbird		v		
_____ Eastern Kingbird*	c	c		

<b>LANIIDAE</b>				
_____ Northern Shrike	u		u	u

<b>VIREONIDAE</b>				
_____ Yellow-throated Vireo*	u	u	o	
_____ Blue-headed Vireo*	u	u	u	
_____ Warbling Vireo*	c	c	u	
_____ Philadelphia Vireo	r		u	
_____ Red-eyed Vireo*	c	a	c	

<b>CORVIDAE</b>				
_____ Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
_____ American Crow*	c	c	c	c
_____ Common Raven*	u	u	u	u

<b>ALAUDIDAE</b>				
_____ Horned Lark* (SSC)	u	u	u	u

<b>HIRUNDINIDAE</b>				
_____ Purple Martin	o	o		
_____ Tree Swallow*	c	c	c	
_____ Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	u	u	u	
_____ Bank Swallow*	u	u	u	
_____ Cliff Swallow*	u	u		
_____ Barn Swallow*	c	c	c	

<b>PARIDAE</b>				
_____ Black-capped Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
_____ Tufted Titmouse	r	r	o	r

<b>SITTIDAE</b>				
_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch*	u	u	u	u
_____ White-breasted Nuthatch*	u	u	u	u

<b>CERTHIIDAE</b>				
_____ Brown Creeper*	u	u	u	u

<b>TROGLODYTIDAE</b>				
_____ Carolina Wren	r	r	r	r
_____ House Wren*	c	c	u	
_____ Winter Wren*	u	u	u	
_____ Sedge Wren* (ST)	o	u	o	
_____ Marsh Wren*	u	u	o	

<b>SYLVIIDAE</b>				
_____ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	u	u		

<b>REGULIDAE</b>				
_____ Golden-crowned Kinglet*	c	r	c	u
_____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	

<b>TURDIDAE</b>				
_____ Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	
_____ Veery*	c	c	u	

ORDER FAMILY / COMMON NAME	SEASON / ABUNDANCE			
	Sp	Su	F	W

PASSERIFORMES (continued)

**TURDIDAE (continued)**

___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	o		u	
___ Swainson's Thrush	u	o	u	
___ Hermit Thrush*	c	c	c	
___ Wood Thrush*	c	c		
___ American Robin*	a	a	a	u

**MIMIDAE**

___ Gray Catbird*	c	c	c	
___ Northern Mockingbird*	u	u	o	
___ Brown Thrasher*	c	c	u	

**STURNIDAE**

___ European Starling* (I)	c	c	c	c
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**MOTACILLIDAE**

___ American Pipit	u		u	
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**BOMBYCILLIDAE**

___ Bohemian Waxwing	o		o	o
___ Cedar Waxwing*	c	c	c	u

**CALCARIIDAE**

___ Lapland Longspur	o		o	u
___ Snow Bunting	o		o	c

**PARULIDAE**

___ Ovenbird*	a	a	u	
___ Worm-eating Warbler	v	v		
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	v			
___ Northern Waterthrush*	u	u		
___ Golden-winged Warbler* (SSC)	u	u		
___ Blue-winged Warbler*	u	u		
___ Black-and-white Warbler*	c	c	u	
___ Tennessee Warbler	u	r	u	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	r		r	
___ Nashville Warbler*	c	c	u	
___ Connecticut Warbler	v		r	
___ Mourning Warbler*	u	u	o	
___ Common Yellowthroat*	a	a	u	
___ Hooded Warbler	r	r		
___ American Redstart*	a	a	u	
___ Cape May Warbler	u	o	u	
___ Cerulean Warbler* (SSC)	u	u		
___ Northern Parula	u	o	u	
___ Magnolia Warbler*	c	u	c	
___ Bay-breasted Warbler*	u	o	u	
___ Blackburnian Warbler*	u	u	u	
___ Yellow Warbler*	c	a		
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler*	c	a	u	
___ Blackpoll Warbler	c	o	c	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler*	u	u	u	
___ Palm Warbler	u		u	
___ Pine Warbler*	c	c	u	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler*	c	u	c	
___ Prairie Warbler*	u	u	r	
___ Black-throated Green Warbler*	c	c	u	
___ Canada Warbler*	u	u	o	
___ Wilson's Warbler	u	o	u	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat (SSC)	r	r		

**EMBERIZIDAE**

___ Eastern Towhee*	c	c	u	
___ American Tree Sparrow	u		u	c
___ Chipping Sparrow*	c	c	u	

ORDER FAMILY / COMMON NAME	SEASON / ABUNDANCE			
	Sp	Su	F	W

PASSERIFORMES (continued)

**EMBERIZIDAE (continued)**

___ Clay-colored Sparrow*	u	u	o	
___ Field Sparrow*	c	c	u	
___ Vesper Sparrow* (SSC)	c	c	u	
___ Savannah Sparrow*	c	a	c	
___ Grasshopper Sparrow* (SSC)	u	u		
___ Henslow's Sparrow* (ST)	u	u		
___ Nelson's Sparrow		v		
___ Fox Sparrow	u		u	r
___ Song Sparrow*	c	c	c	r
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	r		u	
___ Swamp Sparrow*	c	c	c	
___ White-throated Sparrow*	c	c	c	o
___ White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	
___ Dark-eyed Junco*	c	r	c	u

**CARDINALIDAE**

___ Scarlet Tanager*	c	c	u	
___ Northern Cardinal*	u	u	u	u
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	c	c	u	
___ Indigo Bunting*	u	u	u	
___ Dickcissel		v	v	

**ICTERIDAE**

___ Bobolink*	c	a	u	
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	a	a	a	o
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	u	o	u	
___ Rusty Blackbird	u		u	
___ Common Grackle*	c	c	c	
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	c	o
___ Orchard Oriole		r		
___ Baltimore Oriole*	c	c		

**FRINGILLIDAE**

___ Pine Grosbeak			o	o
___ Purple Finch*	u	u	u	u
___ House Finch* (I)	u	u	u	u
___ Red Crossbill*	o	r	o	o
___ White-winged Crossbill*	o	r	o	o
___ Common Redpoll	u		u	c
___ Hoary Redpoll	r		r	r
___ Pine Siskin*	o	o	u	o
___ American Goldfinch*	c	c	c	u
___ Evening Grosbeak	o	o	o	o

**PASSERIDAE**

___ House Sparrow* (I)	u	u	u	u
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**Season Occurrence:**

Sp = Spring (March - May)      F = Fall (September - November)  
 Su = Summer (June - August)      W = Winter (December - February)

**Relative Abundance:**

a = abundant (hard to miss)  
 c = common (easily observed in suitable habitat)  
 u = uncommon (present but not always seen)  
 o = occasional (seen infrequently)  
 r = rare (not seen every year)  
 v = vagrant (fewer than 5 records)

**State/Federal Status:**

SSC = State Species of Concern      FT = Federal Threatened  
 ST = State Threatened      FE = Federal Endangered  
 SE = State Endangered      I = Introduced

\*Breeding has been documented or is probable.