

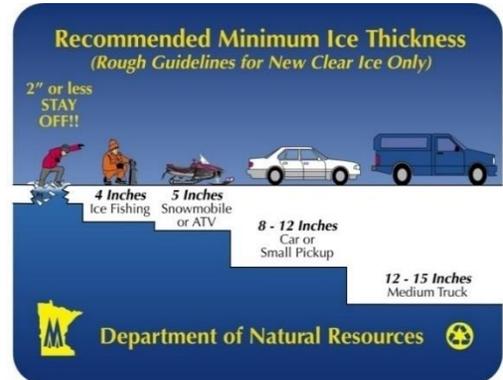
# Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program



## Wildlife Viewing Report – 29 January 2016

### Ice Conditions

With the fluctuating weather conditions this year, exercise caution anytime you are on ice. Always test ice depths on each water body before ice fishing. Areas near islands and areas above flowing water tend to have thinner ice. (e.g., where the Indian River flows through Indian and Narrow Lakes, West Creek near Putney Lane, and streams in the Pleasant Creek and Trout Brook watersheds.)



### Mammals

The Cornell Deer Project continues into its second year. In 2015, 21 fawns were documented as part of the study—by the end of January, 13 were still alive. Beginning in February, activities will include trapping adult female deer that are pregnant and fitting them with radio collars and vaginally-implanted transmitters to track adult deer movements and more easily find fawns when they give birth in the spring. By finding fawns when they are first born, we will better determine fawn survival to include the time when they are most vulnerable.



### Birds

Biologists have spent little time in the field on Fort Drum this month, so there are few birds to report. On 4 January a trip along the western side of Fort Drum turned up a surprisingly large number of birds, including a Snowy Owl, good numbers of Horned Larks and Snow Buntings with at least one Lapland Longspur, and two Red-winged Blackbirds. At least one Snowy Owl has been seen several other times in the TA 12 and 13 grasslands, but the large numbers that were present the past two winters have not appeared. It is also a down year for winter hawks, although most trips up Antwerp Road are turning up one or two Rough-legged Hawks. A Cantonment waterfowl count on 20 and 22 January yielded good numbers of American Black Ducks and Mallards but no unusual species. By far the rarest bird reported this month was a Boreal Chickadee seen at a feeder in the Cantonment Area, but it was only seen by the local residents and has not been reported since early January.

# **Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program**

## **Wildlife Viewing Report – 29 January 2016 (continued)**

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Species observed on Fort Drum from January 4 - January 29:

Canada Goose  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Ruffed Grouse  
Wild Turkey  
Bald Eagle  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Rough-legged Hawk  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Snowy Owl  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker

Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Common Raven  
Horned Lark  
**BOREAL CHICKADEE**  
Black-capped Chickadee  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
American Robin  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
Lapland Longspur  
Snow Bunting  
American Tree Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal

Red-winged Blackbird  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow



**Boreal Chickadee**

(Image: [www.Audubon.org](http://www.Audubon.org); Jeff Manser)

# Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program



## Wildlife Viewing Report – 31 March 2016

### Mammals

The Cornell Deer Project continues into its second year. In 2015, 21 fawns were documented as part of the study—by the end of March, nine were still alive with their radio collars. (Two have fates unknown because their radio collars came off and the other 10 died of various causes).

February and March activities included trapping adult female deer that are pregnant and fitting them with radio collars and vaginally-implanted transmitters (VIT) to track adult deer movements and more easily find fawns when they give birth in the spring. By finding fawns when they are first born, we will better determine fawn survival to include the time when they are most vulnerable. A total of 36 deer were trapped and tagged—22 were pregnant females that had VIT tags implanted, but three of those deer died.

Fawns are typically born in late May/early June.

### Birds

For most of February relatively few birds were present on Fort Drum, much as was the case for the winter as a whole. One to three Snowy Owls were seen sporadically in Training Areas 12 and 13, but many fewer were present this winter than during the previous two winters. Despite the sparse snow cover, winter hawks were generally present in low numbers, with maximum daily counts of Rough-legged Hawks rarely exceeding two or three. Other than a few Purple Finches and Pine Siskins there weren't many finches this winter, and no Bohemian Waxwings were found after a small movement passed through Fort Drum in late fall. All in all it was a slow winter

Spring arrived early this year, with the first Turkey Vultures passing through the Fort Drum area on 26 February, and the first wave of Snow Geese arriving on 29 February. By 9 March many migrants had started to pour into Fort Drum, including several species of duck, the first large waves of Ring-billed Gulls, Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Common Grackles, and an early Red-shouldered Hawk. On 16 March numerous American Woodcock were heard peenting on the western boundary of Fort Drum. A series of short cold snaps slowed migration some, but by the end of March Song Sparrows were everywhere, and Wilson's Snipe, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, and Eastern Bluebird were present in good numbers. **(continued)**



*Adult female deer (#419) trapped and tagged as part of the deer survivorship project on Fort Drum on March 4.*

# ***Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program***

## **Wildlife Viewing Report – 31 March 2016 (continued)**

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Species observed on Fort Drum from February 1 - March 31:

Snow Goose	Wilson's Snipe	Black-capped Chickadee
Canada Goose	American Woodcock	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Wood Duck	Ring-billed Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch
American Black Duck	Rock Pigeon	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Mallard	Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird
Ring-necked Duck	Great Horned Owl	American Robin
Bufflehead	Snowy Owl	European Starling
Common Merganser	Barred Owl	Cedar Waxwing
Ruffed Grouse	Belted Kingfisher	Snow Bunting
Wild Turkey	Downy Woodpecker	American Tree Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Hairy Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Pileated Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
Bald Eagle	Merlin	Northern Cardinal
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	Red-winged Blackbird
Cooper's Hawk	Northern Shrike	Common Grackle
Northern Harrier	Blue Jay	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	American Crow	Purple Finch
Red-tailed Hawk	Common Raven	Pine Siskin
Rough-legged Hawk	Horned Lark	American Goldfinch
Killdeer	Tree Swallow	House Sparrow



***Snowy Owl in Training Area 12C on Fort Drum in February 2016.***

# Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program



## Wildlife Viewing Report – 02 May 2016

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### Mammals

The second spring is about to begin with the Cornell Deer Project. Deer fawns will start to appear in late May and early June.

Fort Drum is working Cornell University to determine white-tailed deer fawn survival in the Cantonment Area. Radio-collars are being placed on the fawns and tracked over time to gather information on their movements and whether they survive, or determine what caused their death.

Please report any fawns seen to Cornell University (414-315-2588). Please do not catch the fawn. Researchers from Cornell University will capture the fawn and release it unharmed.

If you want to follow the progress of the project or volunteer at any time, see [www.FortDrumDeer.org](http://www.FortDrumDeer.org).



*Tagged and radio-collared fawn from 2015.*

### Birds

April was cruel to North Country birdwatchers. Warm weather in March brought the promise of an early migration, and some birds did arrive much earlier than usual through the middle of that month, but conditions quickly deteriorated. Starting in late March and continuing for nearly all of April, cold weather and persistent north winds slowed migration nearly to a halt, with the result that birding was very slow on Fort Drum all month. April ended without the large push of Neotropical migrants that has occurred late in the month during most recent years.

Most species that first arrived on Fort Drum during April showed up unusually late. For instance, Chipping Sparrow and Pine Warbler were not seen on Fort Drum until 18 April, about a week later than is average for these species. These two arrivals were part of a modest influx of birds to Fort Drum that continued 19 April, when an Upland Sandpiper was heard at the airfield and the season's first Broad-winged Hawk was seen nearby. Among the few species that seemed to show up roughly on time in April were Brown Thrasher, Blue-headed Vireo, and Northern Waterthrush, all appearing during the last third of the month.

**(continued)**

# **Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program**

## **Wildlife Viewing Report – 02 May 2016 (continued)**

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Species observed on Fort Drum from April 1 - April 30:

Canada Goose	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Brown Thrasher
Wood Duck	Downy Woodpecker	European Starling
American Black Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Northern Waterthrush
Ring-necked Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ruffed Grouse	American Kestrel	Pine Warbler
Wild Turkey	Merlin	Eastern Towhee
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	American Tree Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Blue-headed Vireo	Chipping Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Field Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	American Crow	Vesper Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Common Raven	Savannah Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Horned Lark	Song Sparrow
Broad-winged Hawk	Tree Swallow	Swamp Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	White-throated Sparrow
Rough-legged Hawk	Barn Swallow	Dark-eyed Junco
Killdeer	Black-capped Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Upland Sandpiper	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Greater Yellowlegs	White-breasted Nuthatch	Eastern Meadowlark
Wilson's Snipe	Brown Creeper	Rusty Blackbird
American Woodcock	House Wren	Common Grackle
Ring-billed Gull	Winter Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Rock Pigeon	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Purple Finch
Mourning Dove	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Pine Siskin
Great Horned Owl	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Barred Owl	Hermit Thrush	House Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher	American Robin	



***Northern Waterthrush in Training Area 8C on Fort Drum in September 2015.***



***Pine Warbler in Training Area 9A on Fort Drum in May 2013.***

# Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program



## Wildlife Viewing Report – 12 July 2016

### Mammals

The second year of the fawn survivorship project with Cornell University continues. Fort Drum is working Cornell University to determine white-tailed deer fawn survival in the Cantonment Area. Radio-collars are being placed on the fawns and tracked over time to gather information on their movements and whether they survive, or determine what caused their death.

The first deer fawns appeared in May. Currently 43 fawns have been radio-collared and 35 are still living—only one has been killed by a predator.

If you want to follow the progress of the project or volunteer at any time, see [www.FortDrumDeer.org](http://www.FortDrumDeer.org).



*Cornell technician process a fawn in 2016.*

### Birds

All of the grassland bird species that typically occur on Fort Drum were found in 2016, although some in low numbers. Only one Sedge Wren has been found so far this year, a male that occupied a territory for two weeks in June in Training Area 12C. The unusual scarcity of Sedge Wrens this summer was not a surprise, given the extreme dryness of the habitat. Three or four Henslow's Sparrows occupied territories in Training Area 12, but all in locations far from roads. At least five and probably 7 or more Northern Harrier nests were in Training Areas 12 and 13, with a few more nesting sites scattered around the installation. More than 50 singing male Clay-colored Sparrows were found in these same Training Areas. Perhaps the biggest surprise in Training Area 12 was a Least Bittern at the pond on Dogwood Road on 8 July.

As usual, the sandplain grasslands around the airfield and in scattered locations in Training Areas 5, 7, and 8 had large numbers of Field, Grasshopper, and Vesper Sparrows and at least 20-25 Clay-colored Sparrow territories. Smaller numbers of Prairie Warblers were in these areas, as were at least five Upland Sandpiper territories. As usual, these areas were also the best places on Fort Drum to find Common Nighthawks and Eastern Whip-poor-wills. As of 12 July it appears that there are 11-12 Red-headed Woodpeckers territories in Training Areas 5 and 6, but not all territories have yet been worked out, and as many as 15 or more may be present.

**(continued)**

# **Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program**

## **Wildlife Viewing Report – 12 July 2016 (continued)**

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### **Birds (cont.)**

For the second consecutive year biologists from Fort Drum and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology worked with Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers. Blue-winged Warblers continue to increase and have almost completely overtaken Golden-winged Warblers in some parts of the installation, especially Training Area 6A. Once again the largest area with mostly Golden-winged Warbler was along and near Reedville Road, but even here Blue-winged Warblers are increasing. At least two each Cerulean Warblers occupied territories in Training Areas 13A and 15C, but none could be found in the 15C maple stand that has been most reliable for this species in recent years.

Cuckoo numbers were higher this June than during any of the previous 4-5 years, perhaps not surprisingly because tent caterpillars also seemed more abundant than during the past few years. At least six Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found in June and early July, more than usual as this species is usually scarce to absent on Fort Drum, but can become common during tent caterpillar outbreaks.

Unlike most years no Tennessee or Blackpoll Warblers were observed on Fort Drum during June, but few late migrants were still found after May. A Greater Yellowlegs in TA17A on 1 June was

especially surprising because few yellowlegs or migratory shorebirds of any species were seen on the installation during May. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was in TA5D on 2 June. On the rather late date of 18 June two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were on Reedville Road. There also appeared to be a movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches that started during mid-June, as calling individuals were found in stands of pure deciduous forest in locations scattered throughout Fort Drum. Typically Red-breasted Nuthatches are not normally found away from conifers. A Pine Siskin heard over TA5D on 8 July was the first noted on Fort Drum since May.

**(Bird Species List continued)**



***Black-billed Cuckoo in Training Area 3A.***

# **Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program**

## **Wildlife Viewing Report – 12 July 2016 (continued)**

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Birds observed on Fort Drum 1 June – 12 July:

Canada Goose	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Golden-winged Warbler
Wood Duck	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Blue-winged Warbler
Mallard	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Black-and-white Warbler
Hooded Merganser	Alder Flycatcher	Tennessee Warbler
Ruffed Grouse	Willow Flycatcher	Nashville Warbler
Wild Turkey	Least Flycatcher	Mourning Warbler
Common Loon	Eastern Phoebe	Common Yellowthroat
Pied-billed Grebe	Great Crested Flycatcher	American Redstart
American Bittern	Eastern Kingbird	Cerulean Warbler
Least Bittern	Yellow-throated Vireo	Blackburnian Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Blue-headed Vireo	Yellow Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Warbling Vireo	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Osprey	Red-eyed Vireo	Blackpoll Warbler
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Northern Harrier	American Crow	Palm Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk	Common Raven	Pine Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Horned Lark	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Killdeer	Tree Swallow	Prairie Warbler
Greater Yellowlegs	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Black-throated Green Warbler
Wilson's Snipe	Bank Swallow	Canada Warbler
American Woodcock	Barn Swallow	Eastern Towhee
Ring-billed Gull	Black-capped Chickadee	Chipping Sparrow
Rock Pigeon	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Clay-colored Sparrow
Mourning Dove	White-breasted Nuthatch	Field Sparrow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Brown Creeper	Vesper Sparrow
Black-billed Cuckoo	House Wren	Savannah Sparrow
Great Horned Owl	Winter Wren	Grasshopper Sparrow
Barred Owl	Sedge Wren	Henslow's Sparrow
Common Nighthawk	Marsh Wren	Song Sparrow
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Eastern Bluebird	Swamp Sparrow
Chimney Swift	Veery	White-throated Sparrow
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Hermit Thrush	Scarlet Tanager
Belted Kingfisher	Wood Thrush	Northern Cardinal
Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Gray Catbird	Indigo Bunting
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	Bobolink
Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Red-winged Blackbird
Northern Flicker	European Starling	Eastern Meadowlark
Pileated Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	Common Grackle
American Kestrel	Ovenbird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Merlin	Northern Waterthrush	Baltimore Oriole
		Purple Finch
		Pine Siskin
		American Goldfinch
		House Sparrow

# Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program



## Wildlife Viewing Report – 31 August 2016

### Mammals

The second year of the fawn survivorship project with Cornell University continues. Fort Drum is working Cornell University to determine white-tailed deer fawn survival in the Cantonment Area. Radio-collars were placed on fawns and tracked over time to gather information on their movements and whether they survive, or determine what caused their death.

The first deer fawns appeared in May. Currently 46 fawns have been radio-collared and 35 are still living—only three have been killed by predators, presumably coyotes.

The next phase of the project is trapping adult deer and affixing ear tags in order to conduct a cantonment area-wide population estimate later in the year.

If you want to follow the progress of the project or volunteer at any time, see [www.FortDrumDeer.org](http://www.FortDrumDeer.org).

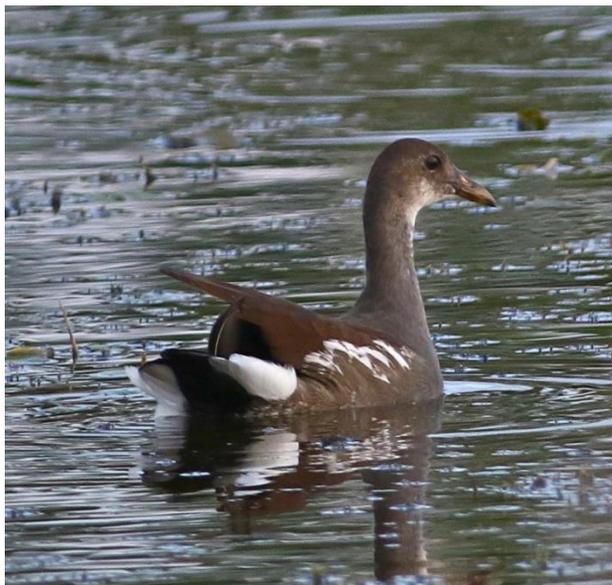


**Adult female deer (#419)  
near clover trap.**

### Birds

Although most birds are very quiet in late July and August, there were a number of interesting sightings this period involving local breeding species and migrants.

Perhaps the best birding was at the Matoon Marsh in Training Area 17B, where unprecedented numbers of Pied-billed Grebes and Common Gallinules nested this year. High counts for these species were 41 Pied-billed Grebes on 18 August and 23 Common Gallinules on 13 July, both including numerous juveniles. Also on 13 July the first Common Tern ever documented on Fort Drum was at Matoon; this species was long-expected to appear on the installation, although it was thought more likely in migration than during mid-summer. On 1 August an American Wigeon and three Black-crowned Night-Herons were in the marsh.



**Common Gallinule in Training Area 17B  
on 18 August 2016.**

# **Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program**

## **Wildlife Viewing Report – 31 August 2016 (continued)**

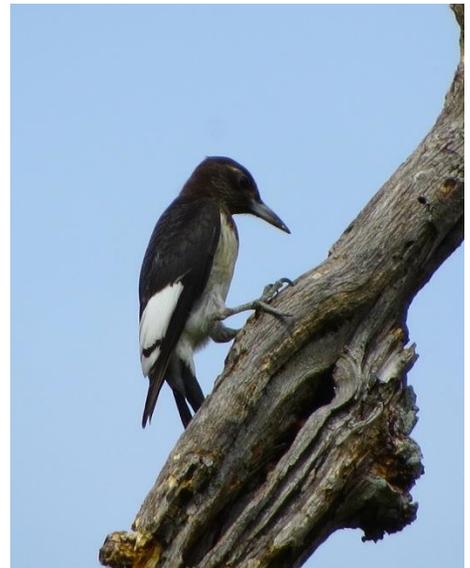
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### **Birds (cont.)**

Numbers for both Henslow's Sparrow and Sedge Wren were low on Fort Drum this year, as they apparently were elsewhere in northern New York. Two Henslow's Sparrows were still vocal in Training Area 12 on 13 July, but none were detected after this date. Until mid-July only one Sedge Wren had been found on grassland bird surveys, a male in Training Area 12C, but a second male appeared in the same area on 19 July, and another male was found in Training Area 3B on 27 July. By the beginning of August there appeared to be a total of four male Sedge Wrens on Fort Drum, more than expected given the extremely dry habitat conditions, but none of these birds could be found by the second week of August. During the last few days of July presumably migrating Upland Sandpipers were heard flying over several Training Areas.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were unusually quiet nearly all season, but were quite vocal and active in Training Area 5D on 26 August. On this date checks of five territories turned up at least eight adults and seven juveniles, many of the adults involved in territorial skirmishes as their offspring frequently crossed territory boundaries. Also on 26 August a late immature Orchard Oriole was seen in Training Area 5D, the first observation of this species on Fort Drum this year.

By late August migrant songbirds often pass through Fort Drum in good numbers, but migration has been rather sluggish so far. As usual, migrating Yellow Warblers and Bobolinks were observed most days beginning in mid-July, and a number of apparently migrating flycatchers have also been noted. No large warbler flocks have been seen on the installation yet, and migrants have been few and far between. Among the scarce migrating warblers observed during late August were a Tennessee Warbler on 22 August and a Wilson's Warbler on 29 August, both in Training Area 6A, and several Magnolia Warblers in Training Area 4D on 30 August.



***Juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker in Training Area 5B in 2015.***

A few miscellaneous reports are worth mentioning. On 29 July a Peregrine Falcon was over the Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield; Peregrines are rare on Fort Drum outside of migration but are increasing regionally as a breeder. The only Least Bittern found on Fort Drum this year was at the pond on Dogwood Road in Training Area 12C on 14 July, and a Caspian Tern was at this pond on 9 August. A group of five apparently migrating Common Nighthawks was over Route 26 on 24 August.

### **(Bird Species List continued)**

# **Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program**

## **Wildlife Viewing Report – 31 August 2016 (continued)**

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Species observed on Fort Drum July 13 – August 31:

Canada Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	European Starling
Wood Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Cedar Waxwing
American Wigeon	Downy Woodpecker	Ovenbird
American Black Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Waterthrush
Mallard	Northern Flicker	Blue-winged Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Pileated Woodpecker	Black-and-white Warbler
Hooded Merganser	American Kestrel	Tennessee Warbler
Ruffed Grouse	Merlin	Nashville Warbler
Wild Turkey	Peregrine Falcon	Common Yellowthroat
Common Loon	Eastern Wood-Pewee	American Redstart
Pied-billed Grebe	Alder Flycatcher	Magnolia Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Willow Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler
American Bittern	Least Flycatcher	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Least Bittern	Eastern Phoebe	Pine Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Great Crested Flycatcher	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Prairie Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Yellow-throated Vireo	Black-throated Green Warbler
Osprey	Blue-headed Vireo	Canada Warbler
Bald Eagle	Warbling Vireo	Wilson's Warbler
Northern Harrier	Red-eyed Vireo	Eastern Towhee
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	American Crow	Clay-colored Sparrow
Broad-winged Hawk	Common Raven	Field Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Horned Lark	Vesper Sparrow
Virginia Rail	Tree Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Common Gallinule	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Grasshopper Sparrow
Killdeer	Bank Swallow	Henslow's Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	Barn Swallow	Song Sparrow
Upland Sandpiper	Black-capped Chickadee	Swamp Sparrow
Least Sandpiper	Red-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Wilson's Snipe	White-breasted Nuthatch	Scarlet Tanager
American Woodcock	Brown Creeper	Northern Cardinal
Ring-billed Gull	House Wren	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Caspian Tern	Winter Wren	Indigo Bunting
Common Tern	Sedge Wren	Bobolink
Rock Pigeon	Marsh Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird	Common Grackle
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Veery	Brown-headed Cowbird
Black-billed Cuckoo	Hermit Thrush	Orchard Oriole
Barred Owl	Wood Thrush	Baltimore Oriole
Common Nighthawk	American Robin	Purple Finch
Chimney Swift	Gray Catbird	American Goldfinch
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Northern Mockingbird	House Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher	Brown Thrasher	

# Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program



## Wildlife Viewing Report – 17 October 2016

### Fall Foliage

Autumn colors just peaked and leaves are starting to fall. Take advantage of living in the northeastern U.S. and check out fall foliage. For more information and a list of recommendations in the Adirondacks:

[www.visitadirondacks.com/what-to-do/fall-foliage](http://www.visitadirondacks.com/what-to-do/fall-foliage).



### Mammals

The second year of the fawn survivorship project with Cornell University continues. Fort Drum is working Cornell University to determine white-tailed deer fawn survival in the Cantonment Area. Radio-collars were placed on fawns and tracked over time to gather information on their movements and whether they survive, or determine what caused their death.

A total of 63 fawns were captured—18 in 2015 and 45 in 2016. Of the 18 fawns in 2015, 11 survived to one year of age (one lost its radio collar and its fate is unknown.) To date, 34 of the 45 fawns in 2016 have survived.

The next phase of the project is trapping adult deer and affixing ear tags in order to conduct a cantonment area-wide population estimate later in the year.

If you want to follow the progress of the project or volunteer at any time, see [www.FortDrumDeer.org](http://www.FortDrumDeer.org).



*A female White-tailed Deer with two tagged fawns.*

### Birds

The fall songbird migration is winding down now but never was very active, at least not compared to most years. Much like the fall of 2015, the passerine migration was unusually slow nearly all season, with a few fairly active days but many more days where migrants were hard to come by. Extremely dry conditions seems to have encouraged some species to depart early, contributing to the sense that there haven't been as many birds around as one would normally find. The waterfowl migration is starting to pick up, with Canada Geese moving in good numbers several days in early October. However, the scarcity of water on Fort Drum and elsewhere in northern New York means that ducks are absent from many places where they usually can be found at this time of year.

(continued)

# **Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program**

## **Wildlife Viewing Report – 17 October 2016 (continued)**

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### **Birds (continued)**

The songbird migration was especially slow during the first half of September, and on many days it seemed like almost nothing was moving, although clearly they were as several species were last seen on Fort Drum during this period. The last Yellow-billed Cuckoo of the year was heard at the Warren Swamp on 1 September, and on 6 September the season's last Eastern Kingbirds, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Baltimore Orioles were seen. The only significant movement of passerines observed before 15 September was on the 8<sup>th</sup>, when a large flock of warblers in TA5D contained multiple Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, and Black-throated Green Warblers. The only Olive-sided Flycatcher observed on Fort Drum this fall was also observed on 8 September.

The results of visits to the Matoon March on 9 and 15 September suggest that many marsh birds departed between these two dates. On 9 September 23 Pied-billed Grebes and 17 Common Gallinules were counted at the marsh, similar to tallies from previous visits this year. The only Least Bittern detected this year at Matoon Marsh was also heard on the 9<sup>th</sup>. On 15 September just 3 grebes and 2 gallinules were counted, suggesting that many had departed during the previous week. A Pied-billed Grebe on Dogwood Pond 6 September was clearly an active migrant, as it was the only grebe sighting on this pond all year. Usually Tree and Barn Swallows forage in large numbers over Matoon Marsh, Dogwood Pond, and other wetlands on Fort Drum well into September and often into October, but this year swallows seemed to disappear entirely from the installation by late August, and none were seen in September or early October. Presumably the drought and related lack of water, and presumed reduction in aerial insects accounts for the disappearance of swallows this season.



***Common Gallinule Training Area 17B in 2016.***

The volume of migrants picked up during the latter half of September, but remained rather low most days. An odd mix of species was observed at the Matoon Marsh on 15 September, including a late Willow Flycatcher and Yellow Warbler, along with an early Rusty Blackbird flight. The best day of the month was on 19 September, when 14 warbler species were observed in Training Area 8C, including the season's first Orange-crowned Warbler, an unusually late Blue-winged Warbler, and numerous Nashville, Tennessee, Magnolia, and Black-throated Green Warblers. The season's first wave of Ruby-crowned Kinglets was also noted on this date. Relatively few migrants were seen the subsequent few days, but included a few infrequently-observed species such as Philadelphia Vireo and Gray-cheeked Thrush.

The heaviest songbird flights of the fall came in early October, when large numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers, White-throated Sparrows, and other late-season songbirds started moving. The largest pulse of these was observed throughout northern New York on 2 October, but many remained on Fort Drum through at least 7 October. On this date a survey of Training Area 12C turned up hundreds of Yellow-rumped Warblers, scores of sparrows including 5 Lincoln's Sparrows, and at least one Orange-crowned Warbler. Migrant numbers were much lower the second week of October, but with at least one new arrival, as the season's first Fox Sparrows were in Training Area 6A on 11 October.

# **Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program**

## **Wildlife Viewing Report – 17 October 2016 (continued)**

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### **Birds (continued)**

Species observed on Fort Drum September 1 – October 13:

Canada Goose	Great Crested Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler
Wood Duck	Eastern Kingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Mallard	Yellow-throated Vireo	Blackpoll Warbler
Hooded Merganser	Blue-headed Vireo	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Ruffed Grouse	Warbling Vireo	Palm Warbler
Wild Turkey	Philadelphia Vireo	Pine Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue Jay	Prairie Warbler
American Bittern	American Crow	Black-throated Green Warbler
Least Bittern	Common Raven	Wilson's Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Black-capped Chickadee	Eastern Towhee
Green Heron	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Chipping Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	White-breasted Nuthatch	Clay-colored Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Brown Creeper	Field Sparrow
Northern Harrier	House Wren	Vesper Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Winter Wren	Savannah Sparrow
Broad-winged Hawk	Marsh Wren	Song Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Lincoln's Sparrow
Common Gallinule	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Swamp Sparrow
Virginia Rail	Eastern Bluebird	White-throated Sparrow
Killdeer	Veery	White-crowned Sparrow
Solitary Sandpiper	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Scarlet Tanager
American Woodcock	Swainson's Thrush	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Ring-billed Gull	Hermit Thrush	Indigo Bunting
Rock Pigeon	Wood Thrush	Bobolink
Mourning Dove	American Robin	Red-winged Blackbird
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Gray Catbird	Eastern Meadowlark
Barred Owl	Brown Thrasher	Rusty Blackbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	European Starling	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	Cedar Waxwing	Baltimore Oriole
Red-headed Woodpecker	Ovenbird	Purple Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-winged Warbler	Pine Siskin
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Black-and-white Warbler	American Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker	Tennessee Warbler	House Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler	
Northern Flicker	Nashville Warbler	
Pileated Woodpecker	Mourning Warbler	
American Kestrel	Common Yellowthroat	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	American Redstart	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Cape May Warbler	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Northern Parula	
Willow Flycatcher	Magnolia Warbler	
Least Flycatcher	Bay-breasted Warbler	
Eastern Phoebe	Blackburnian Warbler	