



MENTOR MARSH REGION
BIRD FIELD CHECKLIST

Birding Mentor Marsh Region



One of the premier birding sites in Northeast Ohio, Mentor's 230-acre nature preserve includes 1.5 miles of shoreline with rare dune plants, a riverine marsh, and mature oak bluff. It is located on the western boundary of the over 800-acre Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve, which is also one of the best birding sites in the state. Mentor Marsh contains diverse wetland communities and habitat types that serve as important breeding and nursery areas for fish and waterfowl, as well as a 'stopover' resting site for neo-tropical birds and butterflies as they migrate up to several thousand miles in the spring and fall.

This checklist includes 292 species of birds, of which over 260 have been recorded within or offshore of the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and Mentor Marsh. The large-scale removal of invasive phragmites, led by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, has increased occurrences of highly sought-after marsh birds. The potential for rare bird sightings and new breeding species continues to increase. All of these factors, as well as the abundance of protected species like the once rare Bald Eagle, have helped designate the Marsh as an Important Bird Area (IBA) within the Grand River-Lower Watershed.

Along the east portion and south side of the Preserve, you can overlook the marsh and several mudflats, which are excellent spots for shorebirds and waterfowl in migration. The Overlook Trail begins by cutting through deciduous forest, full of warblers, vireos, and flycatchers from spring to fall, and hosts a diversity of species year-round. The trail continues to the bluffs, which offer excellent scoping opportunities for mergansers, gulls, scoters, and many species that overwinter on Lake Erie. Trail maps can be found at the Lagoons office or kiosk.







The City of Mentor Natural Resources Division aims to continue monitoring the quality and diversity of species in the Mentor Lagoons and Marsh to help guide natural resource management. This comprehensive checklist provides abundance ratings by season for all species observed within the Mentor Marsh region. These ratings are site-specific and are derived from eBird data and local birders.

For additional information on birding in the region, including hotspots and recent sightings visit www.ebird.org and download the app on Android or iOS to record your observations. For a free interactive bird identification guide download the Merlin Bird ID app on Android or iOS.

Additional regional resources include the Cleveland Museum of Natural History Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve website at www.cmnh.org/mentor-marsh and the Blackbrook Audubon Society website at www.blackbrookaudubon.org.

KEY

Season

	SP-Spring (March through May)
	SU-Summer (June through July)
	FA-Fall (August through November)
	WI-Winter (December through February)

KEY

A-Abundant (large numbers and shouldn't be missed)

C-Common (seen in suitable habitat)

U-Uncommon (probably present, but not certain to be seen)

O-Occasional (only detected once to a few times each season)

R-Rare (occurs every couple years or less)

*-Introduced species

//-Increased sightings in Ohio; not reported in Mentor

Ducks, Geese, and Swans		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Snow Goose	R	--	R	U
—	Ross's Goose	--	--	--	U
—	Greater White-fronted Goose	O	--	R	--
—	Brant	--	--	R	R
—	Cackling Goose	--	--	R	O
—	Canada Goose	A	A	A	A
—	Mute Swan	U	--	O	U
—	Trumpeter Swan	O	--	O	R
—	Tundra Swan	O	--	U	U
—	Wood Duck	C	C	C	U
—	Blue-winged Teal	C	O	C	--
—	Northern Shoveler	C	--	U	U
—	Gadwall	C	--	U	C
—	American Wigeon	C	--	U	U
—	Mallard	A	C	A	A
—	American Black Duck	C	O	U	C
—	Northern Pintail	C	--	U	U
—	Green-winged Teal	C	R	U	U
—	Canvasback	U	--	O	U
—	Redhead	C	--	O	U
—	Ring-necked Duck	U	--	U	O
—	Greater Scaup	U	--	U	U
—	Lesser Scaup	C	--	O	U
—	King Eider	--	--	--	R
—	Harlequin Duck	--	--	--	R
—	Surf Scoter	--	--	O	O
—	White-winged Scoter	R	--	O	O
—	Black Scoter	--	--	O	O
—	Long-tailed Duck	R	--	O	O
—	Bufflehead	C	--	U	U
—	Common Goldeneye	U	--	O	U
—	Hooded Merganser	C	O	U	U
—	Common Merganser	U	--	O	U
—	Red-breasted Merganser	C	--	C	C
—	Ruddy Duck	U	O	U	U
Pheasant and Turkey		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Ring-necked Pheasant	--	--	--	--
—	Wild Turkey	R	R	O	O
—	Ruffed Grouse	--	--	--	--
Grebes		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Pied-billed Grebe	C	U	C	U
—	Horned Grebe	C	--	U	U
—	Red-necked Grebe	--	--	R	--
—	Eared Grebe	R	--	--	--

Pigeons and Doves		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Rock Pigeon*	C	C	C	C
—	Eurasian Collared-Dove*	//	//	//	//
—	Mourning Dove	C	A	A	C
Cuckoos		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U	--
—	Black-billed Cuckoo	O	U	O	--
Nightjars		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Common Nighthawk	O	O	O	--
—	Eastern Whip-poor-will	R	--	R	--
Swifts		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Chimney Swift	C	C	C	--
Hummingbirds		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C	--
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Yellow Rail	--	--	R	--
—	King Rail	R	--	--	--
—	Virginia Rail	C	C	U	--
—	Sora	C	C	C	--
—	Common Gallinule	U	C	C	--
—	American Coot	C	U	C	U
Cranes		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Sandhill Crane	U	O	O	--
Stilt and Avocet		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Black-necked Stilt	//	//	//	//
—	American Avocet	//	//	//	//
Plovers		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Black-bellied Plover	O	--	O	--
—	American Golden-Plover	--	--	O	--
—	Semipalmated Plover	U	R	U	--
—	Piping Plover	R	--	--	--
—	Killdeer	C	C	C	U
Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allie		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Upland Sandpiper	R	R	--	--
—	Whimbrel	R	--	--	--
—	Ruddy Turnstone	R	--	R	--
—	Red Knot	R	--	R	--
—	Stilt Sandpiper	--	--	U	--
—	Sanderling	--	R	R	--
—	Dunlin	O	--	U	--
—	Purple Sandpiper	--	--	R	R
—	Baird's Sandpiper	--	--	U	--
—	Least Sandpiper	C	U	U	--
—	White-rumped Sandpiper	R	--	--	--
—	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	--	--	O	--
—	Pectoral Sandpiper	U	O	U	--
—	Semipalmated Sandpiper	U	O	U	--

—	Short-billed Dowitcher	O	O	U	--
—	Long-billed Dowitcher	R	--	R	--
—	American Woodcock	O	R	O	R
—	Wilson's Snipe	C	U	U	O
—	Wilson's Phalarope	R	--	R	--
—	Red-necked Phalarope	R	--	R	--
—	Red Phalarope	--	--	R	--
—	Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	C	--
—	Solitary Sandpiper	C	O	U	--
—	Greater Yellowlegs	C	U	C	--
—	Willet	R	--	O	--
—	Lesser Yellowlegs	C	U	C	--
Jaegers, Gulls, and Terns		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Pomarine Jaeger	--	--	R	--
—	Parasitic Jaeger	--	--	R	--
—	Bonaparte's Gull	U	--	U	U
—	Little Gull	--	--	R	R
—	Laughing Gull	R	--	--	--
—	Ring-billed Gull	A	C	C	A
—	Herring Gull	C	U	C	C
—	Iceland Gull	O	--	--	O
—	Lesser Black-backed Gull	O	--	R	O
—	Glaucous Gull	O	--	--	O
—	Great Black-backed Gull	U	--	R	U
—	Caspian Tern	U	R	U	--
—	Black Tern	R	--	R	--
—	Common Tern	O	--	--	--
—	Forster's Tern	O	--	O	--
Loons		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Red-throated Loon	R	--	--	--
—	Common Loon	U	--	U	R
Cormorants		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Double-crested Cormorant	C	U	C	U
—	Neotropic Cormorant	--	R	--	--
Pelicans		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	American White Pelican	R	//	//	//
Bitterns and Herons		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	American Bittern	U	O	O	R
—	Least Bittern	U	U	U	--
—	Great Blue Heron	C	A	A	C
—	Great Egret	C	C	C	U
—	Snowy Egret	R	O	U	--
—	Little Blue Heron	--	R	--	--
—	Cattle Egret	--	--	R	--
—	Green Heron	C	C	C	--
—	Black-crowned Night-Heron	O	O	U	R
—	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	--	--	R	--

Vultures		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Black Vulture	R	--	--	--
—	Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	O
Hawks, Kite, Eagles, and Allies		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Osprey	U	U	U	--
—	Northern Harrier	U	R	U	O
—	Sharp-shinned Hawk	O	R	U	O
—	Cooper's Hawk	U	U	U	U
—	Golden Eagle	R	--	R	--
—	Bald Eagle	C	C	C	C
—	Red-shouldered Hawk	U	U	U	U
—	Broad-winged Hawk	O	O	O	--
—	Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C
—	Rough-legged Hawk	R	--	O	O
Owls		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Barn Owl	R	--	--	--
—	Eastern Screech-Owl	C	C	C	C
—	Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C
—	Snowy Owl	R	--	R	O
—	Barred Owl	O	O	O	O
—	Long-eared Owl	R	--	--	--
—	Short-eared Owl	R	--	R	O
—	Northern Saw-whet Owl	R	--	R	O
Kingfishers		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C	U
Woodpeckers		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U	--	U	--
—	Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
—	Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
—	Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
—	Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	C	C
—	Pileated Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
—	Northern Flicker	C	C	C	O
Falcons		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	American Kestrel	U	O	U	O
—	Merlin	O	--	O	O
—	Peregrine Falcon	O	O	U	O
Flycatchers		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Tropical Kingbird	--	--	R	--
—	Olive-sided Flycatcher	O	R	O	--
—	Eastern Wood-Pewee	C	C	C	--
—	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	R	R	O	--
—	Acadian Flycatcher	U	U	O	--
—	Alder Flycatcher	O	R	R	--
—	Willow Flycatcher	U	C	U	--
—	Least Flycatcher	U	R	U	--
—	Eastern Phoebe	C	U	C	U

—	Great Crested Flycatcher	C	C	U	--
—	Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C	--
	Vireos	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	White-eyed Vireo	O	--	--	--
—	Yellow-throated Vireo	O	--	O	--
—	Blue-headed Vireo	U	R	U	--
—	Philadelphia Vireo	O	--	U	--
—	Warbling Vireo	C	C	U	--
—	Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C	--
	Shrikes	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Loggerhead Shrike	R	--	--	--
—	Northern Shrike	R	--	R	R
	Jays, Crows, Ravens	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Blue Jay	C	C	A	C
—	American Crow	A	C	C	C
—	Fish Crow	R	--	--	--
—	Common Raven	R	--	R	R
	Chickadees and Titmouse	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
—	Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C
	Larks	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Horned Lark	U	--	O	U
	Swallows	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	U	--
—	Purple Martin	C	C	C	--
—	Tree Swallow	C	A	C	--
—	Bank Swallow	U	C	U	--
—	Barn Swallow	C	A	C	--
—	Cliff Swallow	O	U	O	--
—	Cave Swallow	--	--	R	--
	Kinglets	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	--	C	O
—	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	--	C	O
	Nuthatches	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	--	U	U
—	White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C
	Creepers	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Brown Creeper	C	R	U	U
	Gnatcatchers	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	U	U	--
	Wrens	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	House Wren	C	C	U	--
—	Winter Wren	U	--	U	U
—	Sedge Wren	--	--	O	--
—	Marsh Wren	C	A	C	R
—	Carolina Wren	C	C	C	C

	Starling	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	European Starling*	C	A	C	C
	Mimids	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Gray Catbird	C	C	C	O
—	Brown Thrasher	U	U	U	O
—	Northern Mockingbird	O	R	R	R
	Thrushes	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	C
—	Veery	U	R	O	--
—	Gray-cheeked Thrush	U	--	U	--
—	Swainson's Thrush	C	--	C	--
—	Hermit Thrush	C	--	U	R
—	Wood Thrush	C	C	U	--
—	American Robin	A	A	C	C
	Waxwings	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Cedar Waxwing	U	C	C	O
	Old World Sparrow	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	House Sparrow*	C	C	C	C
	Pipit	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	American Pipit	O	--	U	O
	Finches and Allies	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Evening Grosbeak	--	--	R	--
—	House Finch	U	U	U	U
—	Purple Finch	R	--	O	R
—	Common Redpoll	R	--	R	R
—	Red Crossbill	--	--	R	R
—	White-winged Crossbill	--	--	R	R
—	Pine Siskin	O	--	U	--
—	American Goldfinch	C	A	A	C
	Longspurs and Snow Bunting	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Lapland Longspur	R	--	O	O
—	Snow Bunting	R	--	O	U
	Sparrows	SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Grasshopper Sparrow	O	--	R	--
—	Lark Sparrow	--	--	--	--
—	Chipping Sparrow	C	C	U	--
—	Clay-colored Sparrow	R	--	R	--
—	Field Sparrow	U	R	U	--
—	American Tree Sparrow	C	--	C	C
—	Fox Sparrow	U	--	O	O
—	Dark-eyed Junco	C	--	C	C
—	White-crowned Sparrow	U	--	C	O
—	White-throated Sparrow	C	R	C	C
—	Vesper Sparrow	R	--	R	--
—	LeConte's Sparrow	--	--	R	--
—	Nelson's Sparrow	R	O	O	--

—	Savannah Sparrow	U	O	C	O
—	Henslow's Sparrow	--	--	R	--
—	Song Sparrow	A	A	A	C
—	Lincoln's Sparrow	U	--	C	--
—	Swamp Sparrow	C	C	A	U
—	Eastern Towhee	C	U	U	O
Chat		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Yellow-breasted Chat	R	R	--	--
Blackbirds, Orioles, Grackles		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Yellow-headed Blackbird	R	--	--	--
—	Bobolink	R	O	O	--
—	Eastern Meadowlark	U	O	U	R
—	Orchard Oriole	O	--	--	--
—	Baltimore Oriole	C	C	U	--
—	Red-winged Blackbird	A	A	A	C
—	Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	U	O
—	Rusty Blackbird	C	--	U	--
—	Common Grackle	C	C	C	U
Wood-Warblers		SP	SU	FA	WI
—	Ovenbird	U	O	U	--
—	Worm-eating Warbler	R	--	--	--
—	Louisiana Waterthrush	R	--	--	--
—	Northern Waterthrush	U	--	O	--
—	Golden-winged Warbler	R	--	R	--
—	Blue-winged Warbler	O	R	R	--
—	Black-and-white Warbler	C	--	U	--
—	Prothonotary Warbler	O	R	R	--
—	Swainson's Warbler	R	--	--	--
—	Tennessee Warbler	U	--	U	--
—	Orange-crowned Warbler	R	--	U	--
—	Nashville Warbler	U	--	U	--
—	Connecticut Warbler	R	--	--	--
—	Mourning Warbler	O	R	O	--
—	Kentucky Warbler	R	--	--	--
—	Common Yellowthroat	C	A	C	--
—	Hooded Warbler	U	O	O	--
—	American Redstart	C	C	U	--
—	Kirtland's Warbler	R	//	//	//
—	Cape May Warbler	U	--	U	--
—	Cerulean Warbler	R	--	--	--
—	Northern Parula	U	--	O	--
—	Magnolia Warbler	C	--	C	--
—	Bay-breasted Warbler	U	--	U	--
—	Blackburnian Warbler	U	--	U	--
—	Yellow Warbler	A	C	C	--
—	Chestnut-sided Warbler	U	R	U	--
—	Blackpoll Warbler	U	--	U	--



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