



# River Forest, Illinois, USA Birds of Thatcher Woods Forest Preserve

Cathy Walz and Laurel Ahlenius  
University of Illinois & Forest Preserves of Cook County

1

M = Migrant (seen in Spring, Fall)  
BR = Breeding (seen in Summer)  
W = Winter  
Y = Year-round

Photos by: Laurel Ahlenius. Produced by: Cathy Walz (cathy\_walz@outlook.com) and Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Input from: Judy Pollock

All photos are of male birds in breeding plumage unless otherwise noted. Consult a field manual for further descriptions and images of female (fem.) and immature (imm.) birds.

© Field Museum (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org]

[1266] version 1 6/2020



Laurel Ahlenius

## 1 *Branta canadensis* Canada Goose

Long black neck. Black head w/ white sideburns, chin. Often near water, grassy areas. Y



Laurel Ahlenius

## 2 *Aix sponsa* Wood Duck (also fem.)

Male w/colorful face pattern. Female has "teardrop" eye patch. May perch in trees. Y (W—rare)



Laurel Ahlenius

## 3 *Anas platyrhynchos* Mallard

Duck w/iridescent green head, white neck ring, chestnut breast. Y



Laurel Ahlenius

## 4 *Columba livia* Rock Pigeon

Most are gray, although color may vary. Has white rump. Y



Laurel Ahlenius

## 5 *Zenaida macroura* Mourning Dove

Slender, brownish, medium size. Long, pointed tail—can see white edges in flight. Y



Laurel Ahlenius

## 6 *Chaetura pelagica* Chimney Swift

Dark. Generally seen only in flight. Like a cigar with wings. M, BR



Laurel Ahlenius

## 7 *Archilochus colubris* Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Tiny. Long bill. Green back, red throat. Hovers. M, BR



Laurel Ahlenius

## 8 *Charadrius vociferus* Killdeer

Medium bird w/two black breast bands. Common in fields & on shores. M, BR



Laurel Ahlenius

## 9 *Larus delawarensis* Ring-billed Gull

Yellow bill w/black ring. Yellow legs. Black wingtips. Y



Laurel Ahlenius

## 10 *Ardea herodias* Great Blue Heron

Tall. Long legs & neck. Bluish-gray. Dagger-like bill. Often standing at water's edge. Y



Laurel Ahlenius

## 11 *Cathartes aura* Turkey Vulture

Usually seen soaring. Two-toned wings: darker & lighter. Bare reddish head. M, BR



Laurel Ahlenius

## 12 *Accipiter cooperii* Cooper's Hawk

Rusty bars on breast. Dark cap. Long Tail w/dark bands. Medium sized. Y



# River Forest, Illinois, USA

## Birds of Thatcher Woods Forest Preserve

Cathy Walz and Laurel Ahlenius  
University of Illinois & Forest Preserves of Cook County

2

M = Migrant (seen in Spring, Fall)  
BR = Breeding (seen in Summer)  
W = Winter  
Y = Year-round

Photos by: Laurel Ahlenius. Produced by: Cathy Walz (cathy\_walz@outlook.com) and Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Input from: Judy Pollock

All photos are of male birds in breeding plumage unless otherwise noted. Consult a field manual for further descriptions and images of female (fem.) and immature (imm.) birds.

© Field Museum (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org]

[1266] version 1 6/2020



Laurel Ahlenius

### 13 *Buteo jamaicensis* Red-tailed Hawk

Large w/broad wings. White breast w/black streaks on belly. Orangish tail. **Y**



Laurel Ahlenius

### 14 *Megaceryle alcyon* Belted Kingfisher (fem.)

Large gray-blue head w/crest. Gray band on breast. Female w/ rusty band on belly. **Y**



Laurel Ahlenius

### 15 *Melanerpes carolinus* Red-bellied Woodpecker

Black & white barred back. Beige face. Red on crown, nape. Female: red only on nape. **Y**



Laurel Ahlenius

### 16 *Dryobates pubescens* Downy Woodpecker

Small w/short bill. Black wings w/ white spots. White back. Only males have red patch on nape. **Y**



Laurel Ahlenius

### 17 *Colaptes auratus* Northern Flicker (fem.)

Brown back w/black bars. Black spots on belly. Black bib. Red crescent on nape. White rump. Often feeds on ground. **Y**



Laurel Ahlenius

### 18 *Myiarchus crinitus* Great Crested Flycatcher

Small bird w/dark head. Gray breast. Yellow belly. Reddish wings & tail. **M, BR**



Laurel Ahlenius

### 19 *Sayornis phoebe* Eastern Phoebe

Small bird. Brownish-gray above, whitish underparts. Constantly bobs tail up & down. **M, BR**



Laurel Ahlenius

### 20 *Cyanocitta cristata* Blue Jay

Medium bird. Blue above. Blue crest. Black necklace. White spots on wings & tail. Noisy. **Y**



Laurel Ahlenius

### 21 *Corvus brachyrhynchos* American Crow

All black. Large w/heavy bill. Tail rounded at tip in flight. **Y**



Laurel Ahlenius

### 22 *Hirundo rustica* Barn Swallow

Small w/long, deeply forked tail. Bluish-black above. Reddish-orange throat. Swoops about close to the ground. **M, BR**



Laurel Ahlenius

### 23 *Poecile atricapillus* Black-capped Chickadee

Small. Black cap & bib. White cheeks, side of neck. Gray back. Call is "chick-a-dee-dee-dee". **Y**



Laurel Ahlenius

### 24 *Sitta carolinensis* White-breasted Nuthatch

Small w/gray back, wings. White face w/dark crown, nape. White underneath. Often climbs head-down on tree trunk. **Y**



# River Forest, Illinois, USA

## Birds of Thatcher Woods Forest Preserve

Cathy Walz and Laurel Ahlenius  
University of Illinois & Forest Preserves of Cook County

3

M = Migrant (seen in Spring, Fall)  
BR = Breeding (seen in Summer)  
W = Winter  
Y = Year-round

Photos by: Laurel Ahlenius. Produced by: Cathy Walz (cathy\_walz@outlook.com) and Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Input from: Judy Pollock

All photos are of male birds in breeding plumage unless otherwise noted. Consult a field manual for further descriptions and images of female (fem.) and immature (imm.) birds.

© Field Museum (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org]

[1266] version 1 6/2020



25 *Troglodytes aedon*  
**House Wren**

Small. Grayish-brown. Barring on wings, tail. Tail often cocked up. Slightly curved bill. Noisy, bubbly song. **M, BR**



26 *Poliophtila caerulea*  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

Small. Bluish-gray above; whitish below. White eye-ring. Long tail w/ white outer feathers. **M, BR**



27 *Catharus guttatus*  
**Hermit Thrush**

Brown back; spotted breast. Reddish tail which it cocks up & lowers slowly. White eye-ring. Smaller than robin. **M**



28 *Turdus migratorius*  
**American Robin**

Gray above w/darker head. White marks on face. Reddish-orange below. Medium size. **Y**



29 *Dumetella carolinensis*  
**Gray Catbird**

Dark gray bird w/small black cap. Reddish under the tail. Rambling song that often ends w/ cat-like mew. **M, BR**



30 *Sturnus vulgaris*  
**European Starling**

Iridescent black w/yellow bill in breeding season. In winter, has dark bill & speckled appearance. Medium size. **Y**



31 *Bombycilla cedrorum*  
**Cedar Waxwing**

Brownish-gray. Crest. Black mask. Yellow belly. Yellow tip on tail. **Y**



32 *Passer domesticus*  
**House Sparrow**

Small w/gray crown. Black chin, bib. Brownish-red on upper parts. **Y**



33 *Haemorhous mexicanus*  
**House Finch**

Small. Streaky, brownish back. Belly & sides whitish w/streaks. Reddish-orange forehead, breast, rump. **Y**



34 *Spinus tristis*  
**American Goldfinch**

Small. Bright yellow w/black cap, wings, tail. Yellow becomes brownish-yellow in winter. Orange bill. **Y**



35 *Spizella passerina*  
**Chipping Sparrow**

Small. Clear, gray breast. Chestnut cap. White eyebrow. Black line through eye. **M, BR**



36 *Melospiza melodia*  
**Song Sparrow**

Small. Streaky brown/gray/rust above. Underparts whitish w/streaks on breast merging into central spot. **Y**



# River Forest, Illinois, USA

## Birds of Thatcher Woods Forest Preserve

Cathy Walz and Laurel Ahlenius  
University of Illinois & Forest Preserves of Cook County

Photos by: Laurel Ahlenius. Produced by: Cathy Walz (cathy\_walz@outlook.com) and Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Input from: Judy Pollock

All photos are of male birds in breeding plumage unless otherwise noted. Consult a field manual for further descriptions and images of female (**fem.**) and immature (**imm.**) birds.

© Field Museum (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org]

[1266] version 1 6/2020



37 *Zonotrichia albicollis*  
**White-throated Sparrow**  
Small w/black & white (or brown & tan) head stripes. White throat, w/dark border. Yellow spot between eye & bill. **M, W**



38 *Junco hyemalis*  
**Dark-eyed Junco**  
Small. Dark gray above. White belly & white outer tail feathers. Pale bill. **M, W**



39 *Icterus galbula*  
**Baltimore Oriole**  
Bright orange below. Black above. Black head. Orange rump. White wingbars. **M, BR**



40 *Agelaius phoeniceus*  
**Red-winged Blackbird**  
Black. Dark eyes. Red shoulder patches tipped w/yellow. Medium size. **Y (W—rare)**



41 *Molothrus ater*  
**Brown-headed Cowbird**  
Medium size. Glossy black w/ brown head & neck. Dark eyes. **Y (W—rare)**



42 *Quiscalus quiscula*  
**Common Grackle**  
Glossy black w/purplish-blue head & breast. Yellow eyes. Long wedge-shaped tail. **M, BR**



43 *Setophaga petechia*  
**Yellow Warbler**  
Small. All yellow. Rusty streaks on breast. **M, BR**



44 *Setophaga palmarum*  
**Palm Warbler**  
Small w/chestnut cap and light streaks along sides. Yellow under the tail. Bobs tail up & down. **M**



45 *Setophaga coronata*  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler**  
Small, streaky bird. Yellow rump. Yellow patches on “shoulders” more easily seen. **M**



46 *Cardinalis cardinalis*  
**Northern Cardinal**  
Red w/black face. Red crest. Reddish-orange bill. Medium size. **Y**



47 *Pheucticus ludovicianus*  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**  
Black above w/white wingbars. White belly w/red triangular bib. White bill. **M, BR**



48 *Passerina cyanea*  
**Indigo Bunting**  
Small. Bright, deep blue—darker on head. **M, BR**

Sources: eBird. Bird Observations for Thatcher Woods Forest Preserve and for Cook, Illinois. Bar Chart for 2000-2019. [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) Accessed 21 September, 2019; -- Illinois Ornithological Society. [www.illinoisbirds.org/the-birds-of-illinois/](http://www.illinoisbirds.org/the-birds-of-illinois/) Accessed 10 September, 2019; -- National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, 7th ed., National Geographic, 2017; -- Peterson, Roger Tory. *Field Guide to Birds of Eastern and Central North America*. 6th ed., Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010; -- Retter, Michael. American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of Illinois. Scott & Nix, 2017; -- Sibley, David. *Sibley Birds East*. 2nd ed., Alfred A. Knopf, 2016; -- Stokes, Donald & Lillian. *The New Stokes Field Guide to Birds: Eastern Region*. Little, Brown & Co., 2013.

Additional resource: Please use *Warblers of the Chicago Region* as a supplemental guide, <https://fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org/guides/guide/999>