

### Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

**Description** The Herring Gull is most likely what you picture when you think of a “seagull,” with a white head, orange bill, light gray back and wings, and black wingtips. The Herring Gull is about the size of a large chicken.

**Distribution** The species range throughout North America. Herring Gulls are present year-round in the Northeast, the Great Lakes, and even in southern Alaska.

**Habitat** Look for them along the coast near boats, fishermen, or even rooftops of New York City.

**Diet** Gulls eat fish, worms, birds, eggs, insects, and even garbage if it is available.

**Behavior** They typically nest on islands or other undisturbed locations in large groups called colonies. They build nests on the ground, close to other nesting gulls. They nest in the New York Harbor.



Photo: Kaitlyn Parkins

### Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)

**Description** The Northern Mockingbird is a small, gray-brown songbird with white bars on its wings and outer tail feathers. These white feathers flash when the bird is in flight. They are about the size of a robin.



**Distribution** The species' range is throughout the continental US

**Habitat** Mockingbirds are found in a variety of parks, towns, and yards.

**Diet** They eat a combination of insects and berries.

**Behavior** Mockingbirds are known for their singing. They mimic the songs of birds and other sounds around them, hence the name, mockingbird. Mockingbirds are very territorial when they are nesting and will chase away birds and other animals from the area.

Photo: Steve Nanz

### Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

**Description** The Tree Swallow is a small songbird with a deep-blue iridescent back and white front. They are aerial acrobats and can often be observed

**Distribution** Tree swallows range throughout North and Central America.

**Habitat** Tree Swallows live in open areas that are near water.

**Diet** They primarily eat insects but supplement with berries in winter.

**Behavior** They nest in tree cavities and find homes in yards, fields, and nest-boxes. Tree swallows are social— they tend to nest near each other and gang up to swarm predators.



Photo: Steve Nanz

### Rock Dove (*Columba livia*)

**Description** The Rock Dove is also known as the pigeon. Though variable in color and pattern, they have gray-blue tones with dark gray bodies and light gray wings.

**Distribution** Worldwide

**Habitat** The pigeon's natural habitat is coastal cliffs. Now they occur in a variety of habitats— including the sidewalks of New York City and almost all cities worldwide.

**Diet** Adjusted to city life, rock pigeons are not picky eaters and often have diets consisting of dropped street food and crumbs, as well as seeds.

**Behavior** Pigeons feed on the ground in flocks or individually. They roost together in buildings or on walls or statues. Baby pigeons are called squabs. Pigeons are easily trained, and some have been domesticated pigeons can be trained to fly long distances to return to their coops. Homing pigeons have served in the military to carry messages.

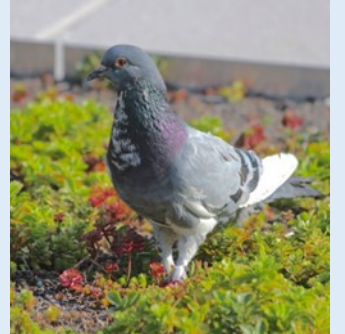


Photo: Debra Kriensky

### Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

**Description** Egrets are long-legged wading birds of fresh or salt water habitat. The Great Egret is an elegant all-white bird, standing about 3 feet tall – the length of a yard stick. Great Egrets have yellow bills. Their green face patch and feathery plumes are obvious during the breeding season.

**Distribution** The species range is worldwide in tropical and temperate habitats.



**Habitat** Egrets are found around many North American freshwater and saltwater wetlands.

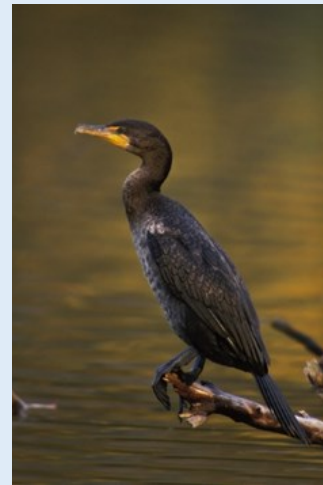
**Diet** Egrets eat fish and other small aquatic

animals, spearing them in the water with their long bill. When in open land, they feed on insects and rodents.

**Behavior** They form large nesting colonies, often with other species of wading birds. They nest in the New York Harbor.

Photo: Steve Nanz

### Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)



**Description** Cormorants The Double-crested Cormorant is a large dark-colored seabird, about the size of a small goose. They have long, muscular necks, hooked beaks, a yellow throat patch, and webbed feet.

**Distribution** The species range is southern Canada, continental US and parts of Mexico.

**Habitat** Cormorants nest in colonies in the New York Harbor, building nests in trees or on the ground in close

proximity to other cormorants or waterbirds.

**Diet** Cormorants primarily eat fish but will also take eels and other sea animals.

**Behavior** They are found on or near the water, often seen sitting low on the water or standing on land with their wings outstretched to dry.

Photo: Steve Nanz

### Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

**Description** The Red-tailed Hawk is a bird of prey. Red-tails are chunky, light-colored, and broad-winged, with dark marks on undersides of its wings. The bottom of its tail is red. Females are a little larger than males.

**Distribution** The species range from central Alaska and Canada south to Panama

**Habitat** Birds soar in the open and don't stay confined to certain habitats but enjoy fields and trees. The most famous Red-tail in New York City is Pale Male, who started nesting there in the 1990s. Now red-tails nest in every borough of New York City.

**Diet** Their diet consists of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and even road kill.

**Behavior** Red-tailed hawks build nests that can be as large as 3 feet across. They typically mate for life and both birds take turns incubating the eggs and feeding the young.



Photo: Steve Nanz

### Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)



**Description** The Northern Cardinal is a red songbird with a pointy crest on its head, a black mask on its face, and a heavy bill. Males are bright

red. Females are a muted reddish brown.

**Distribution** The species range from southern Canada, through the eastern United States from Maine to Texas and south through Mexico.

**Habitat** They can be found in many habitats including in open woodland, gardens, shrublands, or swamps.

**Diet** They have a varied diets consisting of seeds, berries, and insects.

**Behavior** Both males and females will sing to protect their territory. Cardinals are common backyard feeder birds.

Photo: Steve Nanz

D-Bird.org is an online crowd-sourcing data collection tool that was added to Project Safe Flight in 2014. D-Bird is essential to the continued efforts of Project Safe Flight. When a dead or injured bird is found, a report can be submitted through D-Bird that helps our staff further our research and find more patterns relating to bird collisions.

### Bird Collisions and D-Bird

New York City Audubon has been studying this conservation issue and working toward solutions. Through the Project Safe Flight program NYC Audubon monitors the city for injured birds during migration to identify high collision buildings, seeks to help building owners solve their collision issues, teaches architects about bird-friendly building design, and works with elected officials to draft legislation about bird-friendly cities.

Twice a year millions of birds fly over New York City during migration. Most of these birds travel at night, guided by the moon, stars, and Earth's magnetic field. As these birds reach New York City—or any city in the Atlantic Flyway region—they encounter artificial light and glass buildings. Birds are attracted to light, which can cause them to become disoriented and circle until exhausted, when they land in unsuitable habitat. Once in the city birds are deceived by reflective and transparent glass that they are unable to perceive as a solid barrier. More than 230,000 birds die every year in NYC because of collisions with glass.

### Project Safe Flight

Birds are important part of our ecosystem even in an urban environment like New York City. They pollinate plants, spread seeds, keep nuisance species (like mosquitoes and rats) in check, and recycle nutrients in the environment. New York City lies in the path of the Atlantic Flyway, a major pathway for migratory birds. Our region is also an estuary—a highly productive ecosystem at the interface of river and ocean. Because of these factors, New York City is home to over 350 species of resident and migratory birds. Protecting them is important not only for bird enthusiasts but also for the entire ecosystem.

### Ways to Help Birds in NYC

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT Migratory & Resident Birds



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The project is a partnership among the NYC Soil & Water Conservation District, Evergreen Exchange, NYC Audubon and McGolrick Park Neighborhood Alliance.



New York City Soil & Water Conservation District

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### Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

**Description** The Barn Swallow is a small bird with a vibrant cobalt blue head, back and tail and a tawny belly. The tail is deeply forked. Males are slightly more colorful than females.

**Distribution** The species ranges world-wide and breeds in temperate climates.

**Habitat** Barn Swallows can be found foraging in a range of opens habitats such as fields and ponds. They often build their mud nests on human structures near open fields (like barns).

**Diet** Barn Swallows fly over fields, barnyards, and open water in search of insect prey that they catch in the air.

**Behavior** Swallows are birds that are more often seen flying acrobatically through that sky than perching.

Photo: Steve Nanz



### American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

**Description** The American Kestrel is the smallest member of the falcon family in North America— about the size of a pigeon. Male and female kestrels do not look exactly alike. Males are a little smaller and more boldly colored than females. Both sexes have a rusty-red back and tail with boldly patterned two-toned blue-gray heads. Males have blue-gray wings and one black bar across the bottom of their tail.

**Distribution** Northern Canada into South America

**Habitat** Kestrels are found in a wide variety of habitats, including grasslands, meadows, deserts, and urban built habitat with associated green spaces.



**Diet** Kestrels area sometimes called sparrowhawks. They eat large insects, lizards, small mammals and occasionally small birds.

**Behavior** They like to perch up high on poles and wires where they can look for food. Kestrels nest in cavities and can be attracted with Kestrel boxes.

Photo: Steve Nanz

### Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

**Description** Herons are long-legged freshwater and coastal birds. Adults Black-crowned Night-Herons have white underside and wings, a black back, a black crown, and red eyes. They are a little bigger than a crow.

**Distribution** The species range extends from southern Canada into southern South America. New York City supports a large colony of night-herons during the breeding season.

**Habitat** Night-Herons occur in a variety of freshwater and saltwater wetland habitats.

**Diet** Their main diet is fish and other small aquatic animals.

**Behavior** True to their name, black-crowned night herons are most active at night. They build large stick nests close together on islands or other undisturbed locations to form colonies. They often form these colonies with other species of wading birds.

Photo: Steve Nanz



### American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

**Description** The American Robin is a songbird whose presence is often thought of as the first of spring. Males and females look alike, with a red/orange breast and dark back and wings.

**Distribution** Throughout North America.

**Habitat** They are common in open spaces like fields, lawns, parks, and pastures as well as in more woody areas throughout North America.

**Diet** Robins eat both invertebrates and fruits, consuming more insects and worms in the spring and more fruits in the fall and winter.

**Behavior** Robins can be seen in spring and summer in New York City looking for worms on grassy patches or nesting in trees. Robins are migratory birds, but some stay in New York City year-round.

Photo: Steve Nanz

