BIRDS

of the Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve Clifton Park, NY

The Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve is a 600 acre area between Riverview Road and the Mohawk River in the Town of Clifton Park. The Preserve includes a segment of the original 1825 Erie Canal and Towpath; a segment and a number of structures of the 1842 Enlarged Erie Canal; and the current NY State Barge Canal. The Preserve also contains roads and facilities for the Town of Clifton Park water supply.

Bird habitats include the Erie Canal segments and water control holding ponds and facilities, open fields, cattail marsh, scrub-shrub marsh, vernal pools, upland hardwood forest, evergreen thickets, open fields, seasonally flooded river bottom hardwoods, the Mohawk River and its shore.

Vischer Ferry has been named by Audubon NY as an Important Bird Area (http://www.audubon.org/important-birdareas/vischer-ferry-nature-and-historic-preserve) and by the State of NY as a Bird Conservation Area (http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/27006.html).

> Please visit our partners of the Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway at: <u>http://www.mohawktowpath.org/</u>





Audubon Society of the Capital Region P.O. Box 14135 Albany, NY 12212-4135 www.capitalregionaudubon.org

VF Outing Notes: _	
Date:	Time:
Weather:	Temp:
Leader/Observers:	
Total Species:	

This brochure was compiled by members of the Audubon Society of the Capital District and lists 238 species of birds that have been identified on the VFNHP as of June 2009. Most birds are migratory; therefore, their seasonal occurrence is coded as follows:

Season

Sp—Spring: March-May

Su-Summer: June-August

F—Fall: September-November

 $\textbf{W}-\!\!\text{Winter: December-February}$

*—Birds known to nest on the preserve

Relative Abundance

Relative abundance indicates how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat.

A—*Abundant*: a species which is very numerous **C**—*Common*: likely to be seen or heard in suitable habitat

U—*Uncommon*: present, but not certain to be seen **O**—*Occasional*: seen only a few times during a season

R—*Rare*: may be present but not every year

SPECIES	Sp	Su	F	W		SPECIE
 Geese, Swans, and Ducks						Norther
Brant	U		U			Red-sh
Canada Goose*	С	С	С	С		Broad-
Mute Swan	R					Red-tai
Wood Duck*	С	С	С			Rough-
Gadwall*	U		U			Falcon
American Wigeon	U		U			America
American Black Duck*	U	С	U	U	H	Merlin
Mallard*	С	С	С	С	H	Peregri
Blue-winged Teal	С		С			Rails,
Northern Shoveler	U		U			Virginia
Northern Pintail	U		U		H	Sora*
Green-winged Teal	С		С			
Canvasback			R			Commo America
Redhead	R		R			Plover
Ring-necked Duck	С		U			Black-b
Lesser Scaup	U				H	Semipa
Surf Scoter			R		H	Killdeer
Long-tailed Duck			R			Sandp
Bufflehead	С		С			Spotted
Common Goldeneye	С		U	U		Solitary
Hooded Merganser	С	U	С			Greater
Common Merganser	С	R	U	U	H	Lesser
Red-breasted Merganser			R		H	Semipa
Ruddy Duck				R	H	Wester
Grouse and Turkeys					H	Least S
Ruffed Grouse*	U	U	U	R	H	White-r
Wild Turkey*	U	U	U	R		Pectora
Loons, Grebes, and Cormorants					H	Dunlin
Common Loon	R				H	Stilt Sa
Pied-billed Grebe	U	R	U		- H	Short-b
Horned Grebe	R		R		\vdash	Wilson'
 -						VVIISUIT

	Red-necked Grebe	R		R	
	Double-crested Cormorant	С	С	U	
	Bitterns and Herons				
	American Bittern*	U	U	U	
	Least Bittern*	R	R	R	
	Great Blue Heron	C	U	C	
	Great Egret	C	0	U	
	Snowy Egret			R	
	Green Heron*	U	U	U	
	Black-crowned Night-Heron	R	R	R	
	New World Vultures	K	ĸ	ĸ	
Г	Turkey Vulture	U	U	U	
	Kites, Eagles, and Hawks	0	0	0	
	Osprey	U		U	
	Bald Eagle	R	R	R	R
	Northern Harrier	R	ĸ	R	ĸ
	Sharp-shinned Hawk*	K U	U	к U	R
		U	U	U	
	Cooper's Hawk*				R
—	SPECIES	Sp	Su	F	W
_	Northern Goshawk	R		R	R
	Red-shouldered Hawk*	U	U	U	U
	Broad-winged Hawk	U		U	
	Red-tailed Hawk*	U	U	U	U
	Rough-legged Hawk				R
_	<u>Falcons</u>				
	American Kestrel	U	U	U	
	Merlin				R
	Peregrine Falcon	R	R	R	R
_	Rails, Gallinules, and Coots				
	Virginia Rail*	U	U	U	
	Sora*	U	U	U	
	Common Moorhen*	U	U	U	
	American Coot	U		U	
	<u>Plovers</u>				
	Black-bellied Plover	U		U	
	Semipalmated Plover	U		U	
	Killdeer*	С	С	С	
_	Sandpipers				
	Spotted Sandpiper	С		С	
	Solitary Sandpiper	U		U	
	Greater Yellowlegs	С		С	
	Lesser Yellowlegs	С		С	
	Semipalmated Sandpiper	U		U	
	Western Sandpiper			R	
	Least Sandpiper	U		U	
	White-rumped Sandpiper	R		R	
	Pectoral Sandpiper	U		U	
	Dunlin	0		R	
	Stilt Sandpiper	R		R	
	Short-billed Dowitcher	R		R	
	Wilson's Snipe*	U	U	U	
L	thison's onipe	0	0	0	

	American Woodcock*					Г	Philadelphia Vireo	П		Б		_	Yellow Warbler*	c	c			Purple Finch	Р		Б	р
		U	U	U			Red-eyed Vireo*	ĸ	C	R C		_	Chestnut-sided Warbler*	C C	C	U		House Finch	R U	U	R U	R U
	<u>Gulls and Terns</u> Bonaparte's Gull	Р		Б			,	Ľ	C	C				U U	C				U	U	U	U
	Ring-billed Gull	ĸ	С	к С	С	Г	Jays and Crows	٨		•			5	U		U		 Common Redpoll American Goldfinch*	c	c	c	к U
	-	C II	U	U			Blue Jay*	A	A	A	U			0		0		Evening Grosbeak	C	С	C	U
	Herring Gull	0	U		U		American Crow*	A	A	A	A		Yellow-rumped Warbler			U U		5				к
	Great Black-backed Gull	U	U	U	U		Fish Crow	ĸ	ĸ	R	R		Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U		Old World Sparrows				
	Black Tern	ĸ		R			Common Raven	R	ĸ	R	R			U		U		House Sparrow	U	U	U	U
	Common Tern	R		к		Г	Swallows							U		U						
	Pigeons and Doves	C	C	~	c		Tree Swallow*	A	A	A			Prairie Warbler	U		U						
	Rock Pigeon*	C	C C	C	C		N. Rough-winged Swallow	C II		С			Palm Warbler	U		U						
	Mourning Dove*	C	C	С	С		Bank Swallow	U	ĸ	U			Bay-breasted Warbler	к		ĸ						
	Cuckoos						Cliff Swallow	0	ĸ	U				R		U						
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	U	U	U			Barn Swallow	C	U	С				U	U	U						
	Black-billed Cuckoo*	U	U	U		Г	Chickadees and Titmice				~			U	U	U						
	<u>Owls</u>						Black-capped Chickadee*	A	A	A	C			U	U	U						
	Eastern Screech-Owl	U	U	U	U		Tufted Titmouse*	A	A	Α	С			U	U	U						
	Great Horned Owl*	U	U	U	U	Г	Nuthatches and Creepers							U								
	Barred Owl	R	R	R	R		Red-breasted Nuthatch*	U	U	U	U		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	U	~	U						
	SPECIES	Sp	Su	F	W	-	SPECIES	Sp	Su	F	W	-		Sp	Su	F	W	 ACCIDENTALS (Seen fewer than	four tir	nes)		
	Northern Saw-whet Owl	R		R			White-breasted Nuthatch*	C	C	С	С			С	С	C		Tundra Swan				
_	Goatsuckers	_		_			Brown Creeper*	U	U	U	R			U		U		Eurasian Wigeon				
	Common Nighthawk	R		R		_	Wrens	_	_	_				U		U		Barrow's Goldeneye				
_	<u>Swifts</u>						Carolina Wren	R	R	R		_	<u>Tanagers</u>					King Eider				
	Chimney Swift	U	U	U			House Wren*	С	C	С	_			U	U	U		Red-throated Loon				
_	<u>Hummingbirds</u>	-	-	-			Winter Wren	U		U	R	_	New World Sparrows		_			Little Blue Heron				
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	С	С	С			Marsh Wren*	U	U	U				U	R	U		Tricolored Heron				
	<u>Kingfishers</u>		-	-		-	Kinglets and Gnatcatchers						American Tree Sparrow				U	Cattle Egret				
	Belted Kingfisher*	U	С	С			Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		U				U	U	U		Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
_	<u>Woodpeckers</u>						Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U		U				U		U		Glossy Ibis				
	Red-bellied Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	U	U	U			Savannah Sparrow	ĸ		U		Wood Stork				
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U	-	U		Г	Thrushes				_		Fox Sparrow	ĸ	-	ĸ	_	Ruff				
	Downy Woodpecker*	С	С	C	С		Eastern Bluebird*	U	U	U	R		Song Sparrow*	C	С	C	R	Red-necked Phalarope				
	Hairy Woodpecker*	C	С	C	С		Veery*	U	U	U				U		U		Laughing Gull				
	Northern Flicker*	C	С	С	R		Swainson's Thrush	U		U		_		U	U	U	_	Whip-poor-will				
	Pileated Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U		Hermit Thrush	U		U			White-throated Sparrow	C		C	R	Red-headed Woodpecker				
	Tyrant Flycatchers	-		-		_	Wood Thrush*	U	U	U				U		U		Acadian Flycatcher				
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	ĸ	6	R			American Robin*	А	А	А	U			U		U		Orange-crowned Warbler				
	Eastern Wood-Pewee*	C	С	C		F	Mockingbirds and Thrashers	6	6	~			Snow Bunting				R	Yellow-throated Warbler				
	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	к		ĸ		_	Gray Catbird*	C	C	С			Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Bunting Northern Cardinal*	<u>1s</u>	6	~		Prothonotary Warbler				
	Alder Flycatcher	U		U		_	Northern Mockingbird	R	к	R				C	C	C	U	Worm-eating Warbler				
	Willow Flycatcher*	U	U	U			Brown Thrasher	R	R	R			Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	C	C	C		Connecticut Warbler				
	Least Flycatcher	U	~	U		Г	<u>Starlings</u>				~			U	U	U		Yellow-breasted Chat				
	Eastern Phoebe*	C	C	C			European Starling*	A	Α	А	С	_	Blackbirds									
	Great Crested Flycatcher*	C	С	С		Г	Waxwings						Bobolink			U						
	Eastern Kingbird*	U	U	U			Cedar Waxwing	U	U	U	U			A	A	A						
—	<u>Shrikes</u>				-	-	Wood-Warblers							U		U						
	Northern Shrike				R	⊢	Blue-winged Warbler	U		U				A	A	A						
	Vireos					⊢	Golden-winged Warbler	R		R				U	U	U						
Н	Yellow-throated Vireo*	U	U	U		⊢	Tennessee Warbler	R 		R				R	R	R						
Н	Blue-headed Vireo	U	~	U		⊢	Nashville Warbler	U 		U			Balaniore eriole	С	С	С						
	Warbling Vireo*	С	С	С		L	Northern Parula	U		U			<u>Finches</u>									