the Birds of Kortright

Birdwatching Guide & Checklist

Kortright's seventeen kilometers of walking trails offer visitors excellent access to a range of habitats from cattail marsh to woodland to upland meadow that are home to a wide variety of bird life.

Close to 200 species of birds have been recorded here. This guide describes areas of specific interest to birdwatchers and identifies them on a map. All areas are readily viewed from our trails.

Conservation TORONTO AND REGION

▽ un-common migrant or transient
▼ common migrant or transient
☐ un-common resident
■ common resident

Bold italics indicates nesting record

✔	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Common Loon				▽	▽							
☐ Pied-billed Grebe				▽	▽							
☐ Horned Grebe				▽	▽							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Great Blue Heron			▽	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	▽	▽	▽
☐ Green Heron				▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Tundra Swan			▽	▽								
☐ ***Canada Goose***			▼	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	▼	▽
☐ ***Mallard***				▼	■	■	■	■	■	■	▼	
☐ ***Blue-winged Teal***					▽	▽	▽	▽	▽			
☐ Green-winged Teal				▽	▽							
☐ American Widgeon				▽								
☐ Gadwall				▽								
☐ ***Wood Duck***				▼	■	■	■	■	■	▼		
☐ Canvasback				▽								
☐ Ring-necked Duck				▽								
☐ Lesser Scaup				▽								
☐ Bufflehead				▽	▽							
☐ Common Merganser				▽								
☐ Hooded Merganser				▽	▽							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Sora					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐ Virginia Rail					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Semipalmated Plover					▽							
☐ ***Killdeer***			▼	■	■	■	■	■	■	▽		
☐ ***American Woodcock***				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	▽		
☐ Common Snipe			▽	▽								
☐ Spotted Sandpiper			▽	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	▽			
☐ Lesser Yellowlegs			▽	▽								
☐ Greater Yellowlegs				▽								
☐ Dunlin				▽								
☐ Semipalmated Sandpiper				▽				▽				
☐ Solitary Sandpiper				▽				▽				
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Great Black-backed Gull	▽											
☐ Herring Gull	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽
☐ Ring-billed Gull	▽	▽	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	▽	▽
☐ Iceland Gull	▽											
☐ Caspian Tern					▽							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Turkey Vulture				▽	▽				▽	▽		
☐ Goshawk				▽						▽	▽	▽
☐ ***Sharp-shinned Hawk***	▽	▽	▽	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	▽	▽
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

✔	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Cooper's Hawk	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽
☐ Red-tailed Hawk	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽
☐ Red-shouldered Hawk				▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽		
☐ Broad-winged Hawk				▽					▽			
☐ Rough-legged Hawk	▽	▽	▽								▽	▽
☐ Osprey				▽	▽			▽	▽			
☐ Northern Harrier				▽	▽				▽	▽		
☐ Golden Eagle											▽	
☐ Bald Eagle				▽						▽		
☐ American Kestrel				▽	▽				▽	▽		
☐ Peregrine Falcon									▽			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ ***Ruffed Grouse***	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Ring-necked Pheasant	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽
☐ Northern Bobwhite	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽
☐ Wild Turkey	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ ***Rock Dove***	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ ***Mourning Dove***	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Yellow-billed Cuckoo					▽	▽	▽	▽				
☐ ***Black-billed Cuckoo***					☐	☐	☐	☐				
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ ***Eastern Screech Owl***	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ ***Great Horned Owl***	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Barred Owl	▽	▽										▽
☐ Long-eared Owl		▽								▽	▽	
☐ Saw-whet Owl										▽	▽	
☐ Great Gray Owl	▽	▽										
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Whip-poor-will					▽							
☐ Common Nighthawk					▽			▽	▽			
☐ Chimney Swift					▽	▽	▽	▽				
☐ Ruby-throated Hummingbird					▽	▽	▽	▽				
☐ Belted Kingfisher	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Common Flicker			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ ***Pileated Woodpecker***	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽
☐ Red-bellied Woodpecker					▽	▽	▽	▽				
☐ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					▽							
☐ Hairy Woodpecker	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Downy Woodpecker	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Red-headed Woodpecker					▽							
☐ Black-headed Woodpecker	▽	▽										
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ ***Eastern Kingbird***					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐ ***Great Crested Flycatcher***					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐ ***Eastern Phoebe***				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
☐ Willow Flycatcher					▽	▽	▽	▽				
☐ ***Least Flycatcher***					▽	▽	▽	▽				
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

▽ un-common migrant or transient
▼ common migrant or transient
☐ un-common resident
■ common resident

Bold italics indicates nesting record

✔	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Alder Flycatcher					▽	▽	▽	▽				
☐ Eastern Wood Peewee					☐	☐	☐	☐				
☐ Olive-sided Flycatcher					▽	▽						
☐ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher					▽							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Horned Lark	▽	▽	▽	▽								
☐ ***Tree Swallow***				■	■	■	■	■				
☐ ***Bank Swallow***					☐	☐	☐	☐				
☐ ***Northern Rough-Winged Swallow***					☐	☐	☐	☐				
☐ ***Barn Swallow***					■	■	■	■				
☐ Cliff Swallow					▽	▽	▽	▽				
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ ***Blue Jay***	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ ***Common Crow***	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ ***Black-capped Chickadee***	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
☐ Boreal Chickadee	▽	▽										
☐ ***White-breasted Nuthatch***	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Red-breasted Nuthatch	▽	▽									▽	▽
☐ Brown Creeper	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽
☐ House Wren					■	■	■	■				
☐ Winter Wren			▽	▽	▽				▽	▽	▽	▽
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ ***Gray Catbird***					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	▽	▽	▽
☐ ***Brown Thrasher***					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐ Northern Mockingbird	▽	▽									▽	▽
☐ ***American Robin***	▽	▽	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	▽
☐ ***Wood Thrush***					▽	▽	▽	▽				
☐ Hermit Thrush	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽				▽	▽	▽	▽
☐ Swainson's Thrush				▽	▽				▽	▽		
☐ Gray-cheeked thrush				▽	▽				▽	▽		
☐ Veery				▽	▽				▽	▽		
☐ Varied Thrush	▽	▽										
☐ ***Eastern Bluebird***				▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽			
☐ ***Blue-gray Gnatcatcher***					☐	☐	☐	☐				
☐ Golden-crowned Kinglet	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽				▽	▽	▽	▽
☐ Ruby-crowned Kinglet				▽	▽			▽	▽	▽		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Water Pipit									▽			
☐ Bohemian Waxwing	▽	▽	▽	▽								▽
☐ Cedar Waxwing	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽
☐ Northern Shrike	▽	▽	▽									▽
☐ ***Starling***	▽	▽	▽	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	▽	▽	▽
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

✔	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ ***Red-eyed Vireo***					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐ Philadelphia Vireo					▽	▽						
☐ ***Warbling Vireo***					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Golden-winged Warbler					▽			▽				
☐ ***Blue-winged Warbler***					▽	▽	▽	▽				
☐ Black and White Warbler					▽			▽	▽			
☐ Tennessee Warbler					▽			▽	▽			
☐ Orange-crowned Warbler					▽			▽	▽			
☐ Nashville Warbler					▽			▽	▽			
☐ Northern Parula					▽			▽				
☐ Black-throated Blue Warbler					▽			▽	▽			
☐ ***Yellow Warbler***					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐ Magnolia Warbler					▽	▽		▽	▽			
☐ Yellow-rumped Warbler					▽			▽	▽			
☐ Black-throated Green Warbler					▽			▽	▽			
☐ Blackpoll Warbler					▽	▽						
☐ Cerulean Warbler					▽	▽						
☐ Blackburnian Warbler					▽			▽	▽			
☐ Chesnut-sided Warbler					▽	▽	▽	▽				
☐ Bay-breasted Warbler					▽			▽	▽			
☐ Cape May Warbler					▽			▽	▽			
☐ Pine Warbler					▽	▽	▽	▽	▽			
☐ Palm Warbler					▽			▽	▽			
☐ Ovenbird					▽	▽	▽	▽	▽			
☐ Northern Waterthrush					▽			▽	▽			
☐ ***Mourning Warbler***					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐ Connecticut Warbler					▽	▽						
☐ ***Common Yellowthroat***					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐ Yellow-breasted Chat					▽							
☐ Hooded Warbler					▽							
☐ Wilson's Warbler					▽			▽	▽			
☐ Canada Warbler					▽			▽	▽			
☐ American Redstart					▽	▽	▽	▽	▽			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ ***Cardinal***	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ ***Rose-breasted Grosbeak***					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐ ***Indigo Bunting***					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐ Dickcissel					▽							
☐ ***Eastern Towhee***					▽	▽	▽	▽	▽			
☐ ***Savannah Sparrow***				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐ Vesper Sparrow					▽	▽	▽	▽	▽			
☐ Henslow's Sparrow					▽							
☐ Dark-eyed Junco	☐	☐	☐	☐						☐	☐	☐
☐ Tree Sparrow	☐	☐	☐	☐						☐	☐	☐
☐ Lincoln's Sparrow					▽			▽	▽			
☐ Chipping Sparrow					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐ ***Field Sparrow***					▽	▽	▽	▽	▽			
☐ White-crowned Sparrow				▽	▽			▽	▽			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

✔	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ White-throated Sparrow	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽			▽	▽	▽	▽	▽
☐ Fox Sparrow				▽					▽	▽		
☐ ***Swamp Sparrow***	▽	▽	▽	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	▽	▽	▽
☐ ***Song Sparrow***	▽	▽	▽	■	■	■	■	■	■	▽	▽	▽
☐ Snow Bunting	▽	▽										▽
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ ***Bobolink***					☐	☐	☐	☐				
☐ ***Eastern Meadowlark***				▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽		
☐ ***Red-winged Blackbird***			▼	■	■	■	■	■	■	▼	▽	
☐ ***Baltimore Oriole***					☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐ Orchard Oriole					▽	▽	▽					
☐ ***Common Grackle***				■	■	■	■	■	■	▼		
☐ ***Brown-headed Cowbird***				▼	■	■	■	■	■	▼		
☐ Scarlet Tanager					▽	▽	▽	▽				
☐ Rusty Blackbird									▽	▽		
☐ Brewer's Blackbird				▽					▽			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ ***House Sparrow***	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
☐ Evening Grosbeak	▽	▽	▽								▽	▽
☐ Purple Finch	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽					▽	▽	▽
☐ House Finch	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Pine Grosbeak	▽	▽	▽								▽	▽
☐ Common Redpoll	▽	▽	▽								▽	▽
☐ Pine Siskin	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽						▽	▽
☐ ***American Goldfinch***	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐ Red Crossbill	▽	▽	▽								▽	▽
☐ White-winged Crossbill	▽	▽	▽								▽	▽
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Additional species

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

the Birds of Kortright

Birdwatching Guide & Checklist

Wetlands

Kortright has three permanent and several seasonal wetland areas that offer good viewing of birdlife. The largest permanent wetland feature is Kortright Marsh **(1)** located in the valley, west of the visitor centre. During spring and fall migration, a variety of waterfowl and wading birds can be found here. Osprey are frequently sighted during these periods as well. Summer residents at Kortright include Canada Geese, Mallards, Wood Ducks, Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, Spotted Sandpipers and as many as five species of swallows. Two smaller wetlands worth visiting are the Spring Peeper Ponds **(2)** and the Windmill Pond **(3)**. Both Virginia Rail and Sora may be found here during the breeding season. Two seasonal wetlands to check are located northeast of the visitor centre **(4)**.

Woodlands

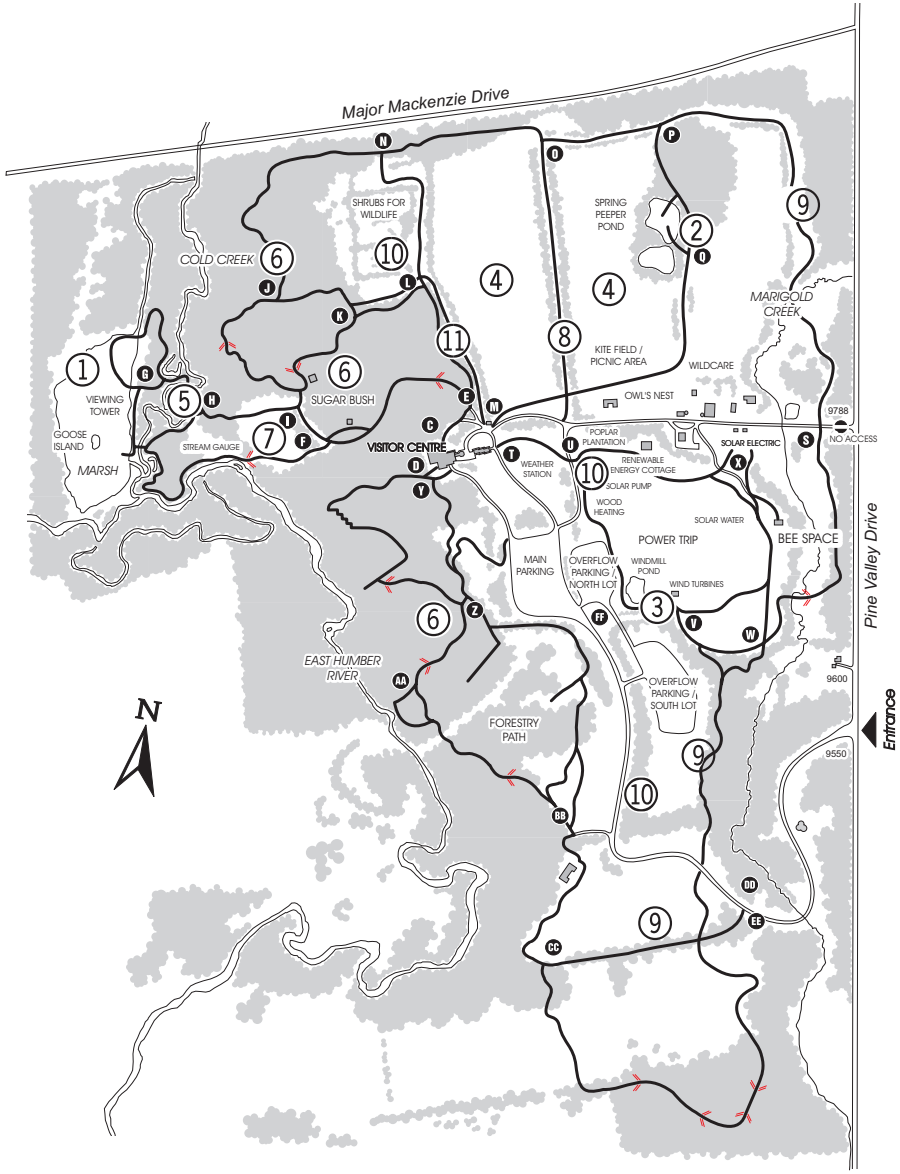
Several distinct woodland types are present at Kortright. The most productive is the riparian forest found along the Humber River and Cold Creek **(5)**. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Mourning Warblers regularly nest in this area. Spring Warbler watching can be excellent here as well. The mature Maple / Beech forest **(6)** found on the valley wall has interior nesting species including Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Wood Peewee and Scarlet Tanager. This forest is also your best bet for Pileated Woodpecker.

Meadows

Open areas at Kortright harbour some interesting species. One area to check closely is the small meadow in the valley **(7)**. Indigo Buntings and Blue-winged Warblers are known to nest here. Other meadow areas **(8)** shelter Bobolinks, Meadowlarks and Savannah Sparrows.

Nestbox trails

Bluebird boxes have been placed throughout the property **(9)**. While we do not have successful breeding every year, late April and early May usually has Bluebirds checking out suitable nesting sites. House Wrens, Tree Swallows and Chickadees are regular uses of the nesting boxes.



Hedgerows

The planting of wildlife shrubs has created extensive hedgerows, ideal habitat for Brown Thasher and Gray Catbird **(10)**. The hedgerows can be particularly active in late fall and winter with large nubers of Robins, individual Northern Mockingbirds and wandering flocks of Bohemian Waxwings taking advantage of berry crops.

Winter bird feeder trail

We maintain over twenty feeders from November to March **(11)**. Winter rarities include White-throated Sparrows and Hermit Thrushes. Good viewing of common winter birds including Cardinals, Chickadees, Blue Jays, Dark-eyed Juncos and others is available from the café in the visitor centre.

This guide was prepared with the generous support of the West Humber Naturalists and Bushnell Sports Optics Worldwide.

Kortright
Centre for Conservation