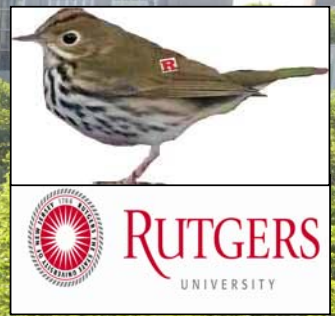


The Birds of Rutgers Newark - Urban Campus Biodiversity -



A magnet for migrant birds in downtown Newark?

Have a closer look around campus especially in spring or fall and you might find birds sneaking around the trees and shrubs in desperate search of food and shelter. Over the past years we identified on our small urban campus **more than 100 species of birds**, among those unusual ones like Woodcocks and Merlin falcons. Most of these are migrants that stop only briefly here on their way south or north.

Why do birds stop here? Depending on the season, migration is a way to get away from either the cold weather or from the crowded conditions in mild winter quarters. This journey has its perils. Birds have to spent huge amount of energy and seem to be always close to starvation. Predators wait for them, glass fronts of buildings can be death traps and there is always the problem of inclement weather. No wonder that places with many trees, especially within larger inner city “deserts” will then act as migrant magnets. Birds typically arrive in the early morning – many birds travel at night – see the green-spots on our campus and land.

What can we do to provide them with what they need? Over the last few years we embarked on a number of research and management initiatives that should answer this question and that will improve the life quality of our campus for birds – and for us.



Research & Conservation

The many reflecting glass surfaces on campus pose a large death risk for migrating birds. Based on our long-term systematic study we estimate the casualties due to window collision at between **300 and 700 birds per year**. We are currently installing UV-reflective decals at crucial windows.



Stewardship: Habitat Improvement



Photo by Eleonora Luongo

Every spring a large number of students and other members of the campus community gather for *Earth Day* to plant native plants that provide further shelter and food for our passing bird guests. We create these sustainable gardens and wild zones in collaboration with the Greater Newark Conservancy.



Common Yellowthroat



American Woodcock



Winter Wren



Hermit Thrush



White-throated Sparrow



European Starling

Education & Fun



Weekly bird walks (and class “field trips”) introduce the campus community and our neighbors to a lesser known fact: that the campus is partly wild too.



American Robin



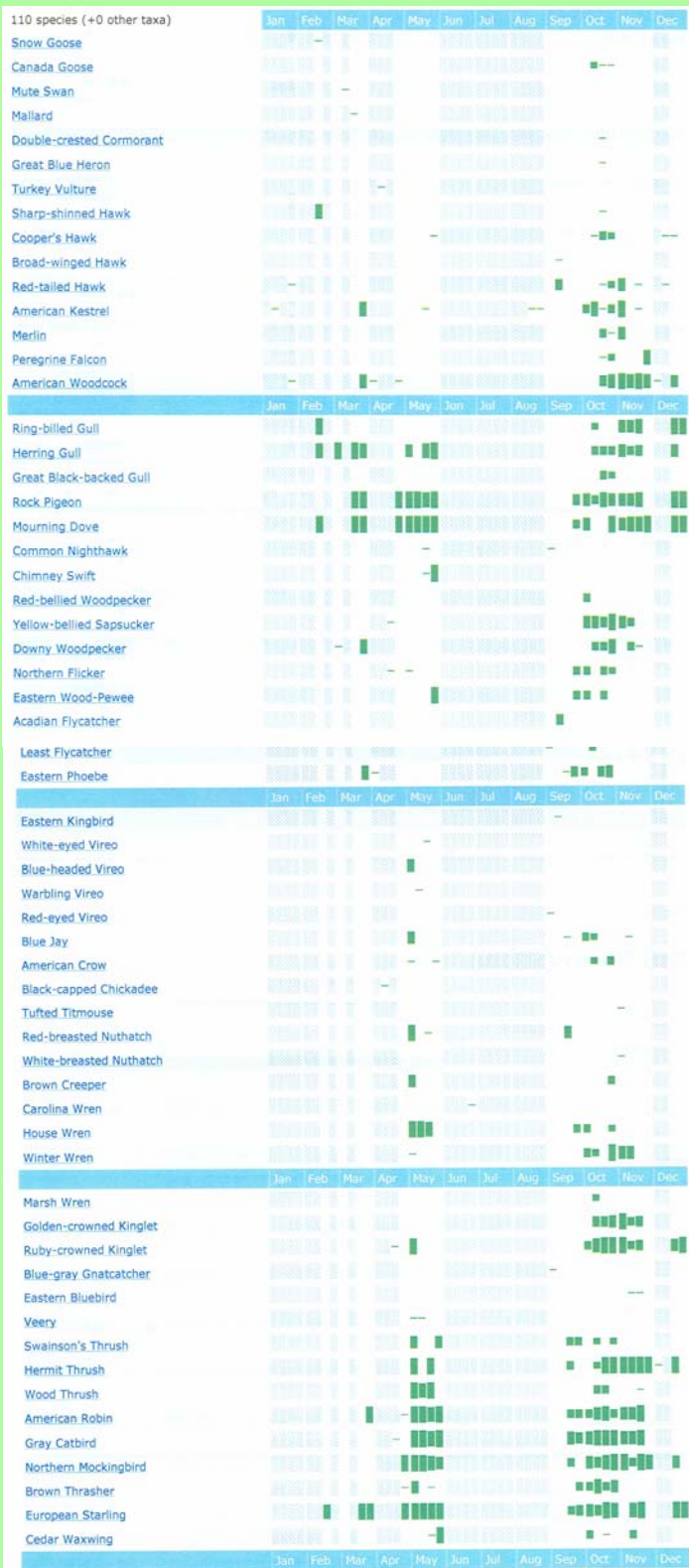
Black-and-White Warbler

House Sparrow



Newark campus bird list

The Birds and their occurrence throughout the year (prepared with eBird.org)



Short **Bird-walks** are offered in May and October every Wednesday at 7:45 am. Meet at the Campus side of Boyden Hall (see website for details)