Birds Need Our Help

This park and nearby Greenway are still full of bird life and birdsong—a healthy ecosystem that also enriches our own lives.

However, the presence of birds is not something to take for granted. Many bird species are in decline. Some birds that have previously made their homes in Willamette Valley grasslands such as at Rasor Park are now rare or even extinct here because so little is left of the area's historical oak savanna-prairie.



Careful—It's Nesting Season!

Please take care to help our feathered friends find safe haven here in the park! Between April 1 and July 15 or so, there may be birds nesting in tall grass, shrubs, or low-hanging branches.

People, feral cats, pets running loose or too near nest sites, and management activities (mowing, spraying) can cause birds to abandon their nests.

Restore Habitat, Restore Birds!









The savanna-prairie restoration underway at the park aims to improve habitat to make sure that a diversity of birds continue to have quality places to feed and nest along this important Greenway corridor. Big-leaf maple, Oregon white oak, and Pacific madrone are just some of the trees in Rasor Park that provide food, shelter, and nest sites for birds.

Birds of Rasor Park

Bring your binoculars and take time to watch and listen for bird life—you may be surprised how many different bird species you can find here at Rasor Park. Some birds are permanent year-round residents, while others only pass through, or stay for the summer, leaving again in fall.











Rasor Park eBird Hotspot: Your Input Needed!

For a checklist of bird species that have been seen at Rasor Park, check out our eBird hotspot at https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2347577. We would love your help to add new bird sightings to the list, especially during spring and fall, when additional species are migrating through. EBirding is Citizen Science at its best, helping to document the global distribution and migration of birds, and to advance conservation. ebird.org/home.



Watch for These Spring and Fall Migrants

Yellow-rumped warblers, Black-throated gray warblers, and Wilson's warblers arrive in early to mid-April. Western Tanagers and Black-headed grosbeaks arrive later in April along with other warblers.

Western wood pewees arrive in early May.

Photo credits: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Lori Howard

Can you identify these birds in the photos (and in the park)?

- Northern flicker
- Bushtit
- __ White-breasted nuthatch
- __ Ruby-crowned kinglet
- __ Yellow-rumped warbler
- __ Spotted towhee
- __ Violet green swallow
- Bewick's wren

- Osprey
- American kestrel
- _ Red-tailed hawk
- _ Bald eagle
- _ Orange-crowned warbler
- White-crowned sparrow
- Townsend's warbler
- __ American goldfinch

Birds are on the Wing!

Many birds migrate along our Willamette Greenway corridor during the fall and spring mass movement of birds from breeding (summer) homes in the north to non-breeding (winter) homes in the south.

Interesting Facts About Bird Migration

- A majority of land birds (including most songbirds—thrushes, warblers, finches, sparrows) migrate <u>at night</u>.
- They likely navigate by stars and moon, and light-dependent ability to "see" Earth's magnetic fields (magneto-reception.)
- Scientists are now tracking bird movement at night using radar, video, and also audio recording of night flight calls.

