BIRDS OF UDALL’S POND
AT GREAT NECK LIBRARY

Images and descriptions compiled by Christy Orquera, MLS, Head of Adult Services and Reference at Great Neck Library
Welcome to the Summer reading GET WATCHING badge aid

Udall’s Pond is home to more than 37 bird species and several varieties of each, offering a fantastic viewing opportunity for new and seasoned bird watchers.

You do not need binoculars to view the birds, but a good pair makes the experience even better, especially for seeing the ones that are on the opposite side of the pond.
Tips for Bird Watching: Be Quiet

Birds are startled by loud noises and will flee to cover. It is almost impossible to sneak up on a bird, because birds hear much better than humans do. By minimizing noise, you can get much closer to a bird. The overwhelming temptation, when seeing an especially exciting bird, is to yell, “WOW! LOOK AT THAT! IT’S RIGHT OVER THERE!”

Shhh…whisper.
The result is that the bird is more likely to remain for everyone to see, for a long and leisurely look.
Tip #2 Avoid sudden movements

Sudden movement startles birds too. Getting close to a bird means stalking it, moving slowly. Sudden movement, even when swinging your binoculars up to your eyes, can make a bird nervous enough to fly away. The closer you are to a bird, the more slowly and quietly you should move.
Tip #3 Look Around

Many bird watchers, focused on the flock in the pond, forget to look at the other habitats around them. **Look up.** You might see the osprey or a hawk. Look in the trees that line the pond, you might catch a glimpse of the kingfisher or an egret hanging out in the treetops.
Tip #4 Study the Pond

Each bird is adapted to a certain place on or around the pond. Some birds prefer to be in the water, some birds only like the bushes around the water’s edge. Some birds like the tall branches of the surrounding trees. The osprey likes its platform on the northeast edge. The red-wing blackbird loves the tall reeds on the south edge. What you see will depend on where you look.
Many birds have poor color vision, but bright clothes, like whites, will contrast with the surrounding environment and enhance the appearance of movement. Wear darker colors or earth tones to blend into the background.
Tip #6 be patient

A sparrow hopping around in a bush will eventually move into a spot where you can get a good look. Bird watching is often about being patient and waiting for the birds to show themselves.
Tip #7 Put the Sun at your back

It is usually possible to view the pond with the sun at your back. This makes it easier to see and identify birds. When the bird is between you and the sun it is harder to identify.
No matter how patient you are, no matter how slowly and quietly you move, you just cannot get a good look at the bird. When this happens, try a technique called *pishing*. Pishing involves making small, squeaky noises by kissing the back of your hand or making a low whistled *pish* by blowing air through your closed teeth. Small birds are attracted to such sounds and will often pop into view to investigate.

**How to pish:** Clench your teeth, open your lips and whisper the word *pish*. 
Quick list of birds on Udall’s pond

- Blackbird
- Blue jay
- Brown creeper
- Catbird
- Cardinal
- Cormorant
- Crow
- Dove
- Duck
- Eagle
- Egret
- Finch
- Goose
- Grackle
- Hawk
- Heron
- Junco
- Kingfisher
- Merganser
- Mockingbird
- Northern flicker
- Nuthatch
- Osprey
- Pigeon
- Raven
- Robin
- Sandpiper
- Seagull
- Sparrow
- Starling
- Swallow
- Swan
- Tern
- Warbler
- Woodpecker
Blackbirds & Blue Jays

Red-winged blackbird

Blue jay
Brown creepers & Catbirds

Brown creeper

Catbird
Cardinals & Cormorants

Cardinal

Cormorant
Crows & Doves

Crow

Mourning Dove
Ducks & Eagles

Mallard ducks

Adult and juvenile bald eagles
Egrets & finches

Snowy egret

House finch
Geese & grackles

Canadian goose

Grackle
Hawks & Herons

Red tail hawk

Heron
Juncos & Kingfishers

Junco

Belted kingfisher
Mergansers & Mockingbirds

Merganser

Mockingbird
Northern flickers & nuthatches

Northern flicker

Nuthatch
Ospreys & Pigeons

Osprey

Pigeon
Ravens & Robins

Raven

Robin
Sandpipers & seagulls

Sandpiper

Seagull
Sparrows & starlings

Sparrow

Starling
Swallows & swans

Barn swallow

Swan
Terns & Warblers

Common tern

Yellow warbler
Woodpeckers

Downy woodpecker

Red-bellied woodpecker
More resources

- National Audubon Society
  - North Shore Audubon Society
  - South Shore Audubon Society
  - Eastern Long Island Audubon Society

- Kaytee Wild Bird Products, in stores

- Cornell Lab of Ornithology
  - Merlin Bird ID APP by Cornell University

- Kaufman Field Guide book

- Sibley Guide to Birds book
Photo sources:

Audubon Society, Birds In Bloom, Bird Watching Daily, Christy Hinko, Cornell University, Wikipedia
Thank you for attending our program

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