

# 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-bird-areas/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: <http://www.mohawktowpath.org/>



**Audubon Society of the Capital Region**  
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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

**W**—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
<b>Geese, Swans, and Ducks</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Brant	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose*	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Mute Swan	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck*	C	C	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall*	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Black Duck*	U	C	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard*	C	C	C	C
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pintail	U		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canvasback			R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Redhead	R		R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck	C		U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Scaup	U			
<input type="checkbox"/> Surf Scoter			R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-tailed Duck			R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bufflehead	C		C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye	C		U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	C	U	C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser	C	R	U	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Merganser			R	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Duck				R
<b>Grouse and Turkeys</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse*	U	U	U	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey*	U	U	U	R
<b>Loons, Grebes, and Cormorants</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	R			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe	U	R	U	
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Grebe	R		R	

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

