

# BACKYARD ORNITHOLOGY: Common Birds of Central Florida

winter  
edition

See how many of the following common central Florida birds you can find and identify by watching their typical hangouts and habitats, October - March. Record observations in the boxes next to each species.

**At Birdfeeders** (Sunflower seeds are a bird favorite; hummingbird feeders imitate flowers.)  
Many birds will visit feeders year round. Some species look different in the winter, with duller, more mottled plumage.



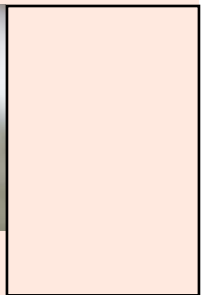
**Northern Cardinal**  
(*Cardinalis cardinalis*)



**Tufted Titmouse**  
(*Baeolophus bicolor*)



**Blue Jay**  
(*Cyanocitta cristata*)



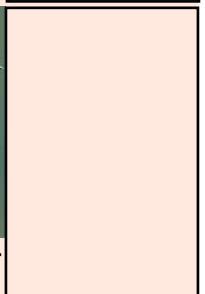
**American Goldfinch**  
(winter) (*Spinus tristis*)



**Carolina Chickadee**  
(*Poecile carolinensis*)



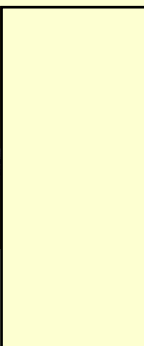
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**  
(*Archilochus colubris*)



**In Trees, on Trunks and Branches** (Keep an eye on nearby utility lines and poles too.)  
Watch for mixed flocks passing through the trees hunting insects. Listen for dove coos, owl whoos, woodpecker drums.



**Mourning Dove**  
(*Zenaida macroura*)



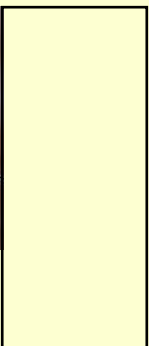
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**  
(*Poliophtila caerulea*)



**Palm Warbler**  
(bobs tail)  
(*Setophaga palmarum*)



**Yellow-rumped Warbler**  
(*Setophaga coronata*)



**Barred Owl**  
(*Strix varia*)



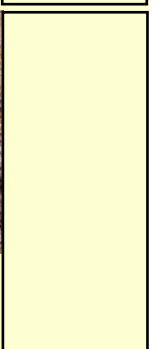
**Red-bellied Woodpecker**  
(*Melanerpes carolinus*)



**Downy Woodpecker**  
(*Picoides pubescens*)



**Pileated Woodpecker**  
(*Dryocopus pileatus*)



## In and Around Bushes, Shrubs, Hedges (Listen for chips, calls, songs in the underbrush.)

Brushy vegetation provides nesting sites, food, and cover for many birds. Say *Pish-pish-pish-pish*—some might peak out!



**Carolina Wren**  
(*Thryothorus ludovicianus*)



**Chipping Sparrow**  
(*Spizella passerina*)



**American Robin**  
(*Turdus migratorius*)



**Gray Catbird**  
(*Dumetella carolinensis*)



**Brown Thrasher**  
(*Toxostoma rufum*)



**Northern Mockingbird**  
(*Mimus polyglottos*)

## Large Walking Birds (These species can fly, but spend most of their time foraging on foot.)

Sandhill cranes stroll in town & country. Ibis hunt for food on moist ground. Wild turkeys eat mostly plants materials.



**Sandhill Crane**  
(*Grus canadensis*)



**White Ibis**  
(*Eudocimus albus*)



**Wild Turkey**  
(*Meleagris gallopavo*)

## Flying Overhead (Listen Up for crow caws, or the sharp cries of osprey, heron, hawk, eagle.)

Don't forget to look skyward! These common flyover species have distinctive body patterns that help in identification.



**American Crow**  
(*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)



**Bald Eagle**  
(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)



**Osprey**  
(*Pandion haliaetus*)



**Great Blue Heron**  
(*Ardea herodias*)



**Red-shouldered Hawk**  
(*Buteo lineatus*)



**Red-tailed Hawk**  
(*Buteo jamaicensis*)



**Turkey Vulture**  
(*Cathartes aura*)



**Black Vulture**  
(*Coragyps atratus*)

**\*Citizen science data help the birds! SUBMIT your bird checklists at EBIRD.ORG**

Images from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds, bird guide: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/>

**Gillespie**  
MUSEUM  
STETSON UNIVERSITY