

## Hilltop Birding

Bird species most commonly found on the Hilltop, their relative seasonal abundance and habitat requirements, are listed here. A few rare occurrences have been left off the list. Bird populations also vary from year to year. Thus, some species may increase in the future, or disappear as habitats change. Evidence for nesting in this area has been accumulated sporadically since 1995.

*David Hall and Dennis German, 2006*

### CHECKLIST LEGEND:

#### Seasons

Many species migrate seasonally. For the Hilltop, we define those seasons as:

Winter: November through March

Spring: April, May

Summer: June through August

Fall: September, October

#### Abundance

A = Abundant, seen most times in proper habitat

C = Common, frequently seen in proper habitat

FC = Fairly Common, seen in proper habitat

U = Uncommon, species not seen often

R = Rare, species occurs regularly, but in small numbers

O = Occasional, species has only been seen a few times over many years

#### Nesting

Confirmed breeding – ✓

Suspected / possible breeding – ?

Parasitizes other nests – Y (e.g., lays its eggs in other birds' nests, for them to raise)

#### Habitat

Describes the sites where the species is found most often. Some birds move from one locale to another depending on the season. A few species do not prefer any habitat available at the Hilltop, but are seen commonly in flight (sky) or near the edge of the property (near homes). In addition to those species that prefer woods / thickets or open meadow, some species prefer the borders between those habitat types (edge).

#### Other Species Seen Less Often:

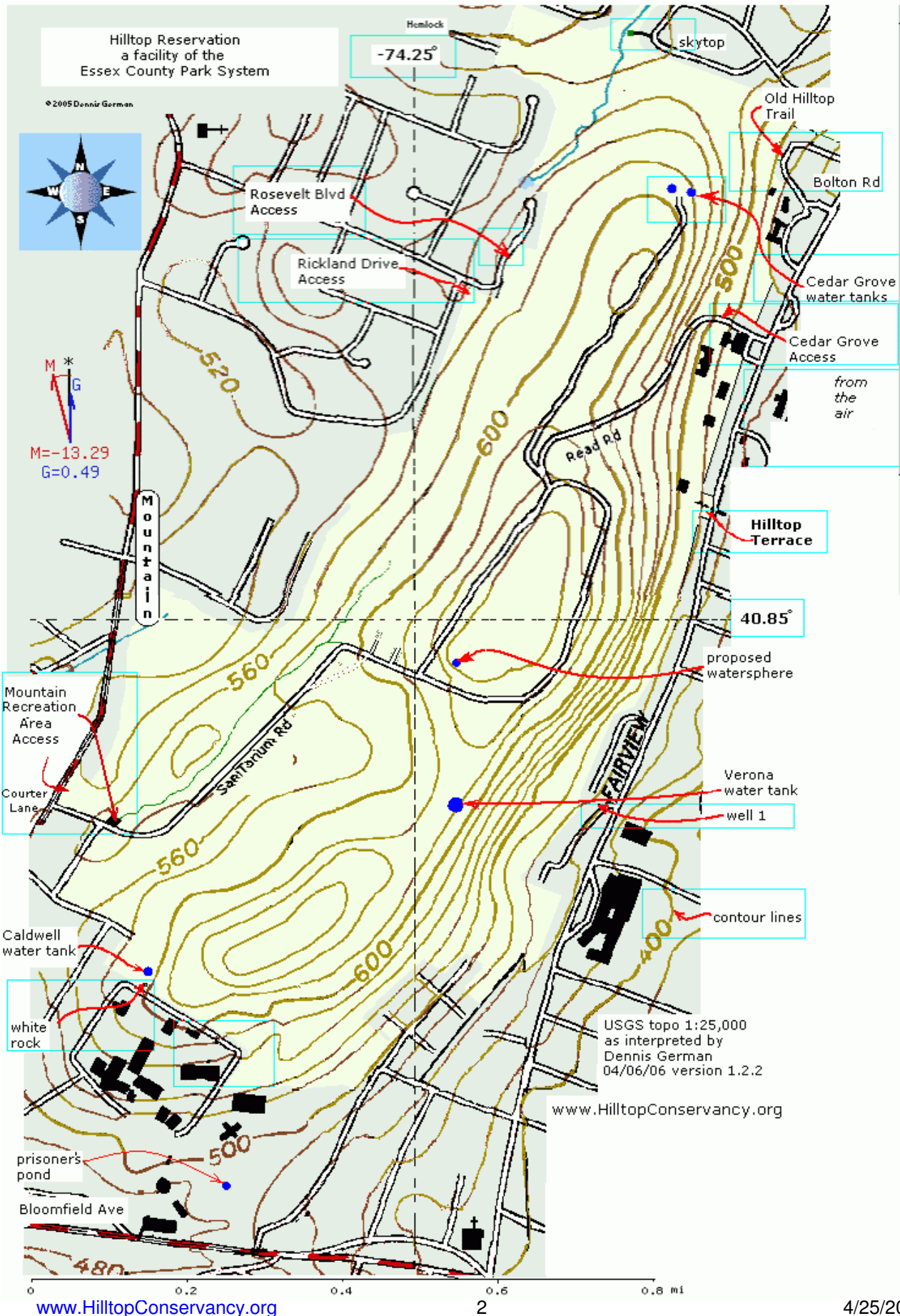
Sample images for the more common species on the Hilltop are pictured. Species seen rarely and not listed here, include: Brown Creeper, Tree Swallow, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Acadian Flycatcher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Field Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, and the Hairy Woodpecker, a larger version of the Downy Woodpecker.

### BEGINNER REFERENCES:

Suggested **websites**: [www.birds.cornell.edu/](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/), [www.njaudubon.org/](http://www.njaudubon.org/), [www.enature.com/birding/](http://www.enature.com/birding/), [www.ebird.org/content/](http://www.ebird.org/content/), [www.real-world-systems.com/birding/](http://www.real-world-systems.com/birding/)

Sample **guidebooks**: "The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America", Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America", National Audubon Society's "Field Guide to North American Birds: Eastern Region"

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### Hilltop Birding – Checklist

Species	Seasonal Abundance				Nesting	Habitat
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall		
Canada Goose	FC	U	U	FC		sky
Turkey Vulture	R	U	R	R		sky
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	O	U		woods
Cooper's Hawk	U	U	O	U		woods
Red-tailed Hawk	FC	FC	FC	FC	?	woods, sky
Broad-wing Hawk		R	O	U		sky
American Kestrel	R	R	R	U		meadow, sky
Wild Turkey	R	R	R	R	?	woods, thicket
Ring-billed Gull	U	O	O	U		sky
Herring Gull	R	O	O	R		sky
Rock Dove	C	C	C	C	?	near homes
Mourning Dove	A	C	A	C	?	woods, thicket
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		U	R	R		woods
Black-billed Cuckoo		U	U	R	?	woods
Eastern Screech Owl	U	U	U	U	✓	woods
Great-horned Owl	R	O	O	O	?	woods
Chimney Swift		U	FC	R		sky
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		U	U	R	✓	meadow
Red-bellied Woodpecker	U	C	C	C	✓	woods
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	✓	woods
Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	✓	woods
Northern Flicker	U	C	C	C	?	meadow, woods
Eastern Phoebe		R	R	U	✓	meadow
Great Crested Flycatcher		U	U	R	✓	edge
Eastern Wood Peewee		R	C	FC	✓	meadow, woods
Eastern Kingbird		R	U	R	✓	meadow
Barn Swallow		U	FC	R	✓	meadow
Blue Jay	C	A	A	A	✓	woods, meadow
American Crow	C	C	C	C	✓	woods, meadow
Fish Crow	U			O		woods, meadow
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	✓	woods, meadow
Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C	✓	woods, meadow
White-breasted Nuthatch	FC	U	FC	FC	✓	woods
Carolina Wren	U	U	U	U	✓	thicket
House Wren		U	FC	FC	✓	thicket
Winter Wren	R			O		thicket
Golden-crowned Kinglet	R	O		U		woods
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	O	U	R	FC	?	woods, thicket
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		U	U	O	✓	thicket
Veery		U	R	R	?	woods
Hermit Thrush	R	U	R	U		woods, thicket
Swainson's Thrush		R		U		woods
Wood Thrush		U	U	R	✓	woods
American Robin	C	A	C	A	✓	all
Gray Catbird	O	A	A	C	✓	thicket
Northern Mockingbird	U	U	U	U	✓	thicket
Brown Thrasher	O	U	FC	U	✓	thicket

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Species	Seasonal Abundance				Nesting	Habitat
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall		
Cedar Waxwing	U		R	R		thicket
European Starling	U	U	U	U	✓	all
Red-eyed Vireo		C	C	U	✓	woods
Blue-headed Vireo		U	R	R	?	woods
Warbling Vireo		U	R	R	?	woods
Blue-winged Warbler		U	U	R	?	meadow
Pine Warbler	O	R		O		edge
Tennessee Warbler		U	R			edge
Northern Parula Warbler		U	O	R		woods
Yellow Warbler		A	C	O	✓	thicket
Magnolia Warbler		U		R		woods
Black-throated Blue Warbler		U	O	R		woods, thicket
Yellow-rump Warbler	O	C		C		thicket
Black-throated Green Warbler		U	R	FC		woods
Prairie Warbler		U	O	R		meadow
Palm Warbler		R		FC		meadow
Blackpoll Warbler		U	O	R		woods
Black & White Warbler		U	R	U	✓	woods, thicket
American Redstart		U	U	R	?	woods, thicket
Worm-eating Warbler		U	R		✓	steep slopes
Ovenbird		U	R	O	?	woods
Common Yellowthroat		C	C	U	✓	thicket
Canada Warbler		R		R		edge
Scarlet Tanager		U	R	R	✓	woods
Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C	✓	all
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		U	FC	R	✓	edge
Indigo Bunting		U	Fc	U	✓	edge
Rufous-sided Towhee	R	U	FC	FC	✓	thicket
American Tree Sparrow	C	R		O		edge
Chipping Sparrow		U	R	U	?	edge
Savannah Sparrow		O		U		meadow
Fox Sparrow	U			R		thicket
Song Sparrow	R	C	C	C	✓	meadow
Swamp Sparrow		R		U		meadow
White-throated Sparrow	A	C		A		thicket
Dark-eyed Junco	A	U		R		all
Red-winged Blackbird	R	A	A	O	✓	meadow
Common Grackle	R	C	C	FC	✓	all
Brown-headed Cowbird	R	C	C	O	Y	all
Northern Oriole		FC	U	R	✓	woods
House Finch	U	FC	FC	FC	✓	all
American Goldfinch	U	C	C	U	✓	meadow, woods
House Sparrow	U	U	FC	U	✓	near homes