

Birds Of Quakertown Swamp Checklist

Keep track of the birds you find on your birding adventure through Quakertown Swamp by checking them off here. This is a list of all birds observed during surveys conducted in 2000, 2003 and 2014 in Quakertown Swamp—that's over 140 species! If you are an eBird user, we encourage you to report your findings after your visit.



BARN OWLS

__Barn Owl

BITTERNS, HERONS, AND ALLIES

__American Bittern
 __Black-crowned Night Heron
 __Great Blue Heron
 __Great Egret
 __Green Heron
 __Least Bittern

BLACKBIRDS

__Baltimore Oriole
 __Bobolink
 __Brown-headed Cowbird
 __Common Grackle
 __Eastern Meadowlark
 __Orchard Oriole
 __Red-winged Blackbird

CARDINALS AND ALLIES

__Blue Grosbeak
 __Indigo Bunting
 __Northern Cardinal
 __Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 __Scarlet Tanager

CHICKADEES AND TITMICE

__Black-capped Chickadee
 __Carolina Chickadee
 __Tufted Titmouse

CREEPERS

__Brown Creeper

CUCKOOS

__Black-billed Cuckoo
 __Yellow-billed Cuckoo

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS

__American Black Duck
 __Canada Goose
 __Common Merganser
 __Hooded Merganser
 __Mallard Duck
 __Mute Swan
 __Wood Duck

EMBERIZIDS

__Chipping Sparrow
 __Eastern Towhee
 __Field Sparrow
 __Grasshopper Sparrow
 __Savannah Sparrow
 __Song Sparrow
 __Swamp Sparrow

FALCONS

__American Kestrel

FRINGILLINE AND CARDUELINE FINCHES AND ALLIES

__American Goldfinch
 __House Finch
 __Purple Finch

GNATCATCHERS

__Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

GOATSUCKERS

__Common Nighthawk
 __Whip-poor-will

GREBES

__Pied-billed Grebe

GROUSE, TURKEYS AND OLD WORLD QUAIL

__Ring-necked Pheasant
 __Ruffed Grouse
 __Wild Turkey

GULLS

__Great Black-backed Gull
 __Herring Gull
 __Laughing Gull
 __Ring-billed Gull

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND ALLIES

__Bald Eagle
 __Broad-winged Hawk
 __Cooper's Hawk
 __Northern Harrier

__Red-shouldered Hawk

__Red-tailed Hawk

__Sharp-shinned Hawk

HUMMINGBIRDS

__Ruby-throated Hummingbird

JAYS AND CROWS

__American Crow
 __Blue Jay
 __Common Raven
 __Fish Crow

KINGFISHERS

__Belted Kingfisher

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS

__Brown Thrasher
 __Gray Catbird
 __Northern Mockingbird

NEW WORLD QUAIL

__Northern Bobwhite

NEW WORLD VULTURES

__Black Vulture
 __Turkey Vulture

NUTHATCHES

__White-breasted Nuthatch

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

__House Sparrow

OSPREYS

__Osprey

PIGEONS AND DOVES

__Mourning Dove
 __Rock Pigeon

PLOVERS

__Killdeer

RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS

__American Coot
 __Common Moorhen
 __Sora
 __Virginia Rail

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES

__American Woodcock
 __Least Sandpiper
 __Spotted Sandpiper

STARLINGS

__European Starling

SWALLOWS

__Bank Swallow
 __Barn Swallow
 __Cliff Swallow
 __Northern Rough-winged Swallow

__Tree Swallow

__Veery

SWIFTS

__Chimney Swift

THRUSHES

__American Robin
 __Eastern Bluebird
 __Veery
 __Wood Thrush

TYPICAL OWLS

__Eastern Screech-owl
 __Great Horned Owl
 __Northern Saw-whet Owl

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

__Acadian Flycatcher
 __Eastern Kingbird
 __Eastern Phoebe
 __Eastern Wood-pewee
 __Great Crested Flycatcher
 __Willow Flycatcher

VIREOS

__Red-eyed Vireo
 __Solitary Vireo
 __Warbling Vireo
 __White-eyed Vireo
 __Yellow-throated Vireo

WAXWINGS

__Cedar Waxwing

WOODPECKERS AND ALLIES

__Downy Woodpecker
 __Hairy Woodpecker
 __Northern Flicker
 __Pileated Woodpecker
 __Red-bellied Woodpecker
 __Red-headed Woodpecker

WOOD-WARBLED

__American Redstart
 __Black-and-white Warbler
 __Black-throated Green Warbler
 __Blue-winged Warbler
 __Canada Warbler
 __Cerulean Warbler
 __Chestnut-sided Warbler
 __Common Yellowthroat
 __Hooded Warbler
 __Kentucky Warbler
 __Louisiana Waterthrush
 __Northern Parula
 __Ovenbird
 __Pine Warbler
 __Prairie Warbler
 __Prothonotary Warbler
 __Worm-eating Warbler
 __Yellow Warbler
 __Yellow-breasted Chat
 __Yellow-rumped Warbler
 __Yellow-throated Warbler

WREN

__Carolina Wren
 __House Wren
 __Marsh Wren
 __Winter Wren

Pennsylvania Endangered or Threatened Species



Top 10 Interesting Birds Of Quakertown Swamp

1. American Bittern – Known for its loud call "oonk-a-lunk" and distinctive markings that provide camouflage, this elusive bird is very cryptic. When startled, it may freeze in place with its beak pointed skyward and sway slightly to blend in with the wetland grasses.



3. Wood Duck – With lovely ornate lines on their bright green heads, they are beautiful birds to view. As a cavity nesting bird, they are one of a few duck species that can grip bark and perch on branches thanks to the claws on their feet.



5. Willow Flycatcher – Like other Flycatchers, its song is innate (inborn), not learned like the songs of most other songbirds. As with a few other bird species, the Willow Flycatcher may deal with Brown-headed Cowbird eggs in their nest either by covering them in nest lining or simply building a new nest on top of the first one.



6. Red-shouldered Hawk – Returning to the same nesting territory year after year, this hawk relies heavily on habitat preservation to keep its home safe. With a distinct barred red breast and translucent crescents near the wingtips, this hawk is a great year-round resident to spot.



8. Wood Thrush – Feeding in leaf litter for invertebrates and on shrubs for fruit, the wood thrush is a very unique songbird in that it can sing "internal duets" with itself. Its y-shaped voicebox allows it to harmonize notes with itself. Males tend to do more feeding of the chicks in the first part of the year to allow females to start a second brood.

9. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – This is the only truly migratory gnatcatcher and may rebuild up to seven nests in a single breeding season in an attempt to raise a successful brood. By flicking its tail from side to side, the blue-gray gnatcatcher is able to scare up bugs to eat.



10. Common Yellowthroat – It predominantly forages on or near the ground and will even eat dirt to possibly aid in digestion or add minerals to its diet. Males have a bright yellow throat and breast plus a thick dark mask. Females have a yellow throat and more of a dull olive-gray color over their body.

Tips For Your Visit

- ◆ During the hunting season (approximately October through January), please wear orange outerwear and be careful when visiting any properties.
- ◆ We all need to steward and care for the land to ensure its longevity for the future, so take out anything you bring in with you. No littering please!
- ◆ In order to protect important vegetation in this habitat, please stay on trails where available.
- ◆ Please note that many areas within the swamp are temporarily or seasonally flooded, so wear your muck boots and please be careful.
- ◆ Do not feed or harass wildlife.
- ◆ Take only pictures and memories. Do not remove any plants, rocks, or other natural items from the swamp.
- ◆ There are no restrooms available in the swamp, but there are local restaurants and stores in Quakertown Borough, which is located about 3 miles away from the swamp via Rte. 309 or Rte. 313.
- ◆ If you intend to have more than 10 people on the State Gamelands, please contact the Southeast Division of the State Gamelands at 610-926-3136 or 610-926-3137.
- ◆ The Heritage Conservancy property trail is maintained by staff and volunteers. To get involved, please contact us at 215-345-7020.



To preserve and protect our natural and historic heritage

215.345.7020
85 Old Dublin Pike • Doylestown, PA 18901
www.HeritageConservancy.org

Heritage Conservancy has facilitated in the preservation of over 12,000 acres (and counting!) of farmland, forest, watersheds, wildlife habitats and open space in this region. This land will remain intact for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations. Heritage Conservancy also identifies, documents, and protects structures that characterize this region and its rich history by recognizing their architectural integrity and historical significance. Visit our website or reach out to us at 215-345-7020 to learn more about how we are helping to provide a better quality of life for our community and how you can get involved.

This project was funded in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation in support of the Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant Program administered jointly by Natural Lands Trust and the Schuylkill River Heritage Association.



Thank you to our volunteers who helped with collecting bird data and to Diane Allison for sharing her expertise. Thank you to Diane Allison and Curtis Cowgill for contributing the photographs for this brochure. Photos are copyrighted.



For The Birds!

A BIRDING GUIDE FOR QUAKERTOWN SWAMP



Get To Know Quakertown Swamp

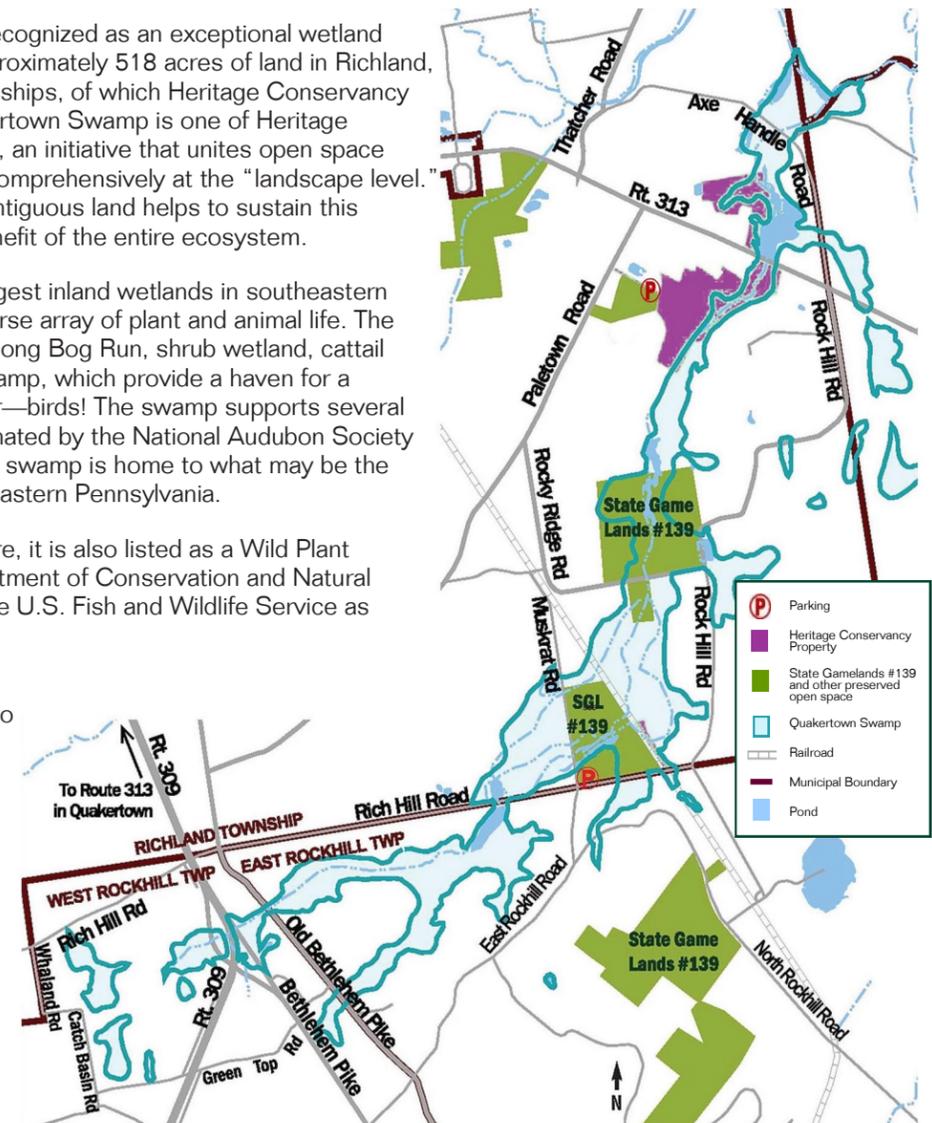
Quakertown Swamp has long been recognized as an exceptional wetland habitat, encompassing an area of approximately 518 acres of land in Richland, East Rockhill and West Rockhill Townships, of which Heritage Conservancy owns and preserves 70 acres. Quakertown Swamp is one of Heritage Conservancy's Lasting Landscapes®, an initiative that unites open space protection and historic preservation comprehensively at the "landscape level." The protection of this vast area of contiguous land helps to sustain this important natural resource for the benefit of the entire ecosystem.

Quakertown Swamp is among the largest inland wetlands in southeastern Pennsylvania, and it is home to a diverse array of plant and animal life. The diverse habitat includes open water along Bog Run, shrub wetland, cattail marsh, wet meadow and forested swamp, which provide a haven for a variety of wildlife species, in particular—birds! The swamp supports several rare bird species and has been designated by the National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area. In fact, the swamp is home to what may be the largest Great Blue Heron rookery in eastern Pennsylvania.

Because of the swamp's unique nature, it is also listed as a Wild Plant Sanctuary by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and it's categorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an all-important wetland area.

Not only does Quakertown Swamp support plant and animal life, but it also provides a benefit for our community. Swamps store water during floods, preventing costly flood damage to downstream areas. Also, their dense plant growth absorbs pollutants from water, which helps to maintain our region's water quality.

As you tour through Quakertown Swamp and admire the sights and sounds of its flourishing bird population, keep in mind the importance of preserving this vital natural resource and the work that goes into maintaining it. We hope that you enjoy Heritage Conservancy's *For The Birds! A Birding Guide For Quakertown Swamp*.



Access Areas: The key areas for bird viewing are at the 70-acre property owned by Heritage Conservancy and the Pennsylvania State Gamelands #139. Parking for access to portions of these properties are off of Paletown Road near Route 313 for the Heritage Conservancy property and a small gravel pull-off on the State Gamelands at Muskrat Road and Rich Hill Road.

****Note:** The Heritage Conservancy parking area is a grassy driveway with room for about one or two cars. Please be careful when turning around to avoid disturbing the vegetation and watch out for wet spots to avoid getting stuck. Much of the land in and around the swamp is privately owned, so please do not enter private property unless you have been given permission. Park on road sides at your own risk.