

**AT THE BOARDWALKS, LOOK FOR:**

**Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*)**

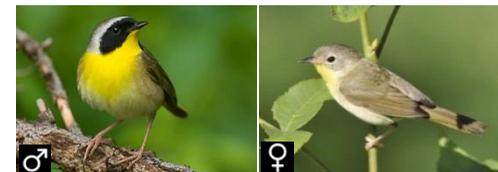
Male: Bright yellow face; reddish streaks on chest. Female: Like male, but duller.



Forages within ten feet of ground. Active. Plucks tiny worms and insects from leaves, flies after insects, habitually hovers to pluck prey.

**Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)**

Male: Black mask distinctive! Female: Plain olive above. Yellow throat contrasts with dark cheek.



Likes to skulk down low in vegetation. Will often pop-up when pished – try it by gently saying “Pishhhhhhhhh” several times and watch the bird respond – it’s fun!

**IN THE WOODLANDS, LOOK FOR:**

**Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*)**

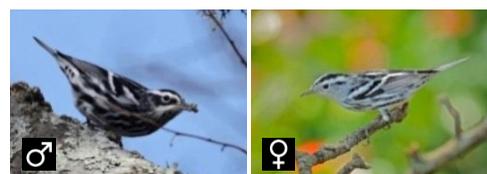
Male: Boldly marked; Bright yellow face; Black throat; White wing bars. Female: Yellow cheeks; Olive-green crown and nape; Faint black streaks



on flanks. Usually found in the middle canopy forest layer and within the tree’s interior. Changes perches by hopping and flying frequently. Responsive to pishing.

**Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)**

Male: Boldly black-and-white; Black patch on face; Very stripy. Female: Similar pattern, but paler on face and throat than male.



One of the first migrants to arrive back in Maine. Look for them creeping on and clinging to tree branches – clambering up and down with ease!

**IN THE FIELDS, LOOK FOR:**

**Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)**

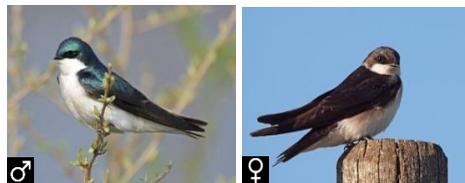
Male: Cream-colored nape; extensive white on back; black underside. Female: Pale, golden-buff overall; patterned wings; dark stripes on head.



Clings to grass stalks. Forages on ground for grass seeds and insects. Bobolinks are significantly declining, due to loss of grassland, and agricultural pesticides. Males arrive about one week earlier than females. Viles’s Bobolinks arrive from their wintering grounds in South America having flown some 5,000 miles!

**Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)**

Male: Metallic blue-green above; Clean white below. Female: Dark above; Clean white below.



Tree Swallows nest in the boxes – and swoop over the fields in search of insects. Enjoy their graceful flight and cheerful chittering calls!

**Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)**

Male: Bright blue above; Bright rufous below. Female: Same color pattern, but not as bright.



Also nests in boxes. Watch anywhere in the field for it flying or perching. Loves to sit on telephone wires or wired fences!

**IN THE PONDS AND MARSHES:**

**Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)**

Male: Glossy Green head; Silvery sides; Chestnut brown breast. Female: Streaked brown and tan; Dull orange & black bill; Blue wing patch.



Mallards are found in almost any wetland habitat in North America. Mallards are generalist foragers and will eat a wide variety of food. They don’t dive, but dabble to feed, tipping forward in the water to eat seeds and aquatic vegetation.

**Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)**

Male: Black overall; Red shoulder with yellow border. Female: Streaky brown; Buffy throat; Thick dark streaks on breast; White eyebrow stripe.



These nimble birds can perch on marsh grass and twigs. Birds usually perch upright with tails down-cocked and often show a hunched or humpback silhouette. Males throw their bright-red shoulders forward while calling during breeding season.

**IN THE THICKETS, LOOK FOR:**

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

Both Male and Female: Sleek gray body, wings, and tail; Dark cap; Chestnut-red under tail.

If you hear what sounds like a cat mewing as you walk through the thickets, you have a Gray Catbird! Makes lots of other whistles and squeaks, too!



**Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)**

Both Male and Female: Gray face; Dark brown eye line; Wide, dark brown, triangular, stripe on throat; Striped breast; Central breast spot.



Hops through the thicket and often forages on the path between the thickets. In the spring, males sing from exposed perches.

**AROUND THE VILES HQ:**

**Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*)**

Upperparts brownish gray; Underparts whitish with dusky sides; Constantly bobs tail!



Often nests on buildings. Ask if a Phoebe is nesting on the Viles HQ. Hear it call its name, a burry, buzzy “free-be”!

- With thanks to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Pete Dunne’s Essential Field Guide Companion (2006), and The Sibley Field Guide to the Birds (2003).
- Scientific names for each bird appear in parentheses after the common name.
- More information on migratory birds: The State of the Birds 2014 – United States [http://www.stateofthebirds.org/maps\\_species#1966-2012-trend-estimates-4](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/maps_species#1966-2012-trend-estimates-4)
- [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org)



## Spring Migrants at Viles Arboretum

Birds arriving at Viles Arboretum from late April to early June from their wintering grounds have come long distances. Some, like the Bobolink, have flown all the way from South America to arrive at the field in front of the Viles Headquarters, a distance of some 5,000 miles! The Yellow Warbler arrives here from wintering grounds in Mexico and northern South America. The other birds featured in this brochure generally winter in the southern states of the US, which still means that they have flown around 1,000 miles to build their nests and breed here at Viles - quite a miracle to see these birds back every spring! Please use this brochure to go look for these birds where they occur throughout the Arboretum, and enjoy the beauty they bring to us and the marvel they represent.

