

BIRDS OF JERSEY CITY

GUIDE 1: PARKS AND YARDS

American Robin



Robins are often seen on the ground in spring probing the ground looking for worms to eat. They are a medium sized bird with a bright red-orange breast. Rarely seen at bird feeders they do enjoy bird baths.

A more graceful and sleek cousin of the pigeon, Mourning Doves can often be seen perched in trees or on telephone lines. They feed on seeds on the ground and can be often seen in pairs or small groups.

Mourning Dove



Northern Mockingbird



Mockingbirds are known for their singing and can often be heard singing constantly and imitating other bird calls as well as neighborhood sounds. They are gray with a long tail, long legs, and white patches on their wings. They can often be seen perched on fences, shrubs, and trees.

Blue Jay



Another medium-sized bird that is unmistakable with its blue and white coloration. They are noisy and smart and can be often found eating from bird feeders, they also eat acorns from oak trees.

Red-Winged Blackbird



Red-winged blackbirds are often found in large groups in early spring in reeds and thick vegetation. Males are black with a striking red and yellow coloration on their wings. They can be noisy and their "conk-la-ree" call can be one of the first bird songs to be heard as winter turns to spring.

Northern Cardinal

Cardinals have a distinctive crest and thick orange beak. Males are bright red and females are light brown. They can be found year-round but are especially noticeable at bird feeders in winter.



Gray Catbird



Catbirds are relatives of the mockingbird but are gray with a black cap, and rusty-brown feathers under their tail. They like thick brush and shrubs and feed on fruit and berries. Their call sounds like a cat.

American Goldfinch



New Jersey's state bird. Males are bright yellow in the spring and summer. Females are duller in color as are males after the breeding season. They can often be seen in flocks in winter. They feed on nyjer, sunflower, and safflower at feeders.

House Finch



Frequently found in backyards, where they will flock in groups around feeders, and also in parks, where they usually perch high in trees. Adult males have varying amounts of red on their head and bodies, while females are mostly brown. Originally native to the western United States, they were introduced as pets in the east in the 1940s and released into the wild, where they flourished.

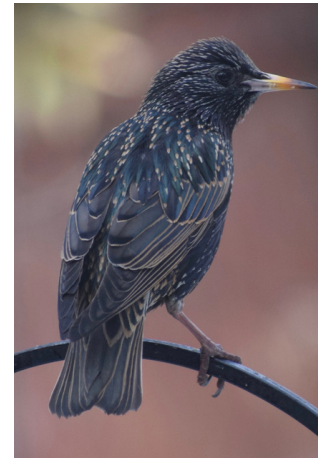
Common Grackle



Grackles are large blackbirds with dark, iridescent feathers, a long beak and tail, and yellow eyes. They are often found at bird feeders and in backyards, especially if seed is sprinkled on the ground. They forage in large groups and their diet includes seeds, insects, worms, grain, fruit, and even small birds.

European Starling

Originally introduced to the United States in the 1890s, starlings are often considered a pest, as they compete with native birds for food and habitat. Starlings are aggressive and adaptable. In spring and summer, the adult's feathers are glossy and dark. In winter, the feathers are dotted with white and gold. Like mockingbirds and catbirds, starlings can mimic other bird calls.



Canada Goose



Canada Geese are a large waterfowl species. They are commonly seen in waterbodies and rivers around the city but also spend much of their time feeding in grass fields in parks. Despite their name, many Canada Geese do not fly north to breed in spring, and instead stay in Jersey City year round. They often seen in flocks and fly in a V formation.

Red-tailed Hawk

Red-tailed hawks are a large bird of prey commonly seen in Lincoln Park. Often seen soaring high above or perched in a tree looking for prey. They get their distinctive red tail when they reach adulthood. They feed mostly on mammals – squirrels, voles, mice, rats, and rabbits and also eat birds and even snakes.



Downy Woodpecker



Downy Woodpeckers are a small black and white bird commonly seen quickly moving along trunks of trees or among reeds. They mainly feed on insects but also are attracted to suet in bird feeders.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Cowbirds are brood parasites, which means that parents never make a nest or raise young. Rather, female cowbirds lay their eggs in other species' nests who inadvertently raise young cowbirds as their own. Males are black with a brown head and females are brown. Cowbirds often flock with blackbirds and starlings.



House Sparrow



House Sparrows are common throughout Jersey City. They are adaptable and live around buildings where many birds cannot. Another non-native species that was introduced to North America. Males have a gray cap, black bib, white cheeks, and a chestnut neck.