

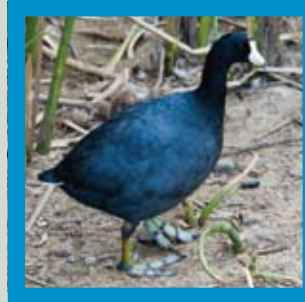
NCA

NEWTOWN CREEK ALLIANCE

Birds of Newtown Creek

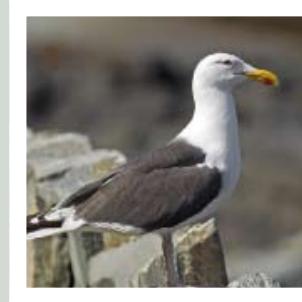
Shown here are some of the more common and interesting species of birds one may encounter on Newtown Creek. For a more comprehensive list of Newtown Creek wildlife please visit our website: newtowncreekalliance.org

Photo: Mike Baird (flicker)



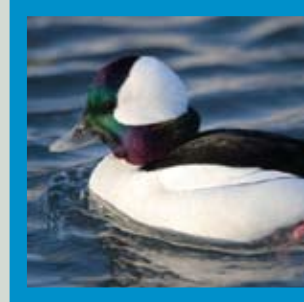
American Coot
The American Coot is grey with a darker head and neck. They have a short thick white bill which usually has a reddish-brown spot between the eyes and yellowish legs with lobed toes in place of webbed feet. Habitat: wetlands and open water bodies nesting in tall reeds.

Photo: Andreas Trepte



Great Black-backed Gull
Grayish-black on the wings and back, with white wing tips. The legs are pinkish, and the bill is yellow or yellow-pink with orange or red near tip of lower bill. Habitat: rocky and sandy coasts and estuaries, lakes, ponds, rivers, wet fields and moorland.

Photo: wikimedia commons



Bufflehead
One of the smallest American ducks, Buffleheads appear on the East Coast each winter. They are monogamous and the females return to the same breeding sites in Canada and Alaska each year. They are highly active, do not tend to collect in large flocks and feed mostly on crustaceans and mollusks.

Photo: Greg Hume



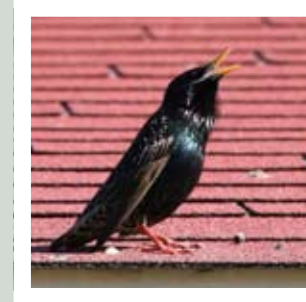
American Kestrel
Males have blue-grey wings with black spots and white undersides while females have a rust-brown back and wings with dark brown barring with creamy buff undersides. Habitat: open to semiopen regions like grasslands, meadows, deserts.

Photo: Alan D. Wilson



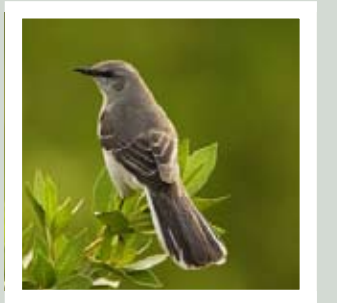
Mourning Dove
Mourning Doves are light grey and brown and generally muted in color. Males and females are similar in appearance. Habitat: urban areas, farms, prairie, grassland, and lightly wooded areas. They avoid swamps and thick forest and commonly nests in trees in cities or near farmsteads.

Photo: David Corby



Mockingbird
Best known for mimicking the songs of other birds and the sounds of insects and amphibians. Mockingbirds are grayish-brown with whitish-gray underparts. Habitat: farmlands, roadsides, city parks, suburban areas and brushy deserts.

Photo: Ryan Hagerty



European Starling
Shiny black, glossed purple or green, and speckled with white. They have a conical, yellow bill and stout, pinkish-red legs. Habitat: a wide range from coastal wetlands to alpine forests

American Robin

The Robin has a brown back and a reddish-orange breast, varying from rich red to peachy orange, a mainly yellow bill with a dark tip, brown legs and feet. Habitat: woodland and more open farmland and urban areas throughout most of North America.

Photo: Mdf



Photo: Gerrit Vyn



Laughing Gull
The Laughing Gull has a white body and black head. A dark grey back and wings, tipped in black and has a long red beak. The black hood is mostly lost in winter. Habitat: coastal marshes and ponds in large colonies.

Mallard

The males have a glossy green head and are grey on wings and belly, while the females have mainly brown-speckled plumage. Habitat: fresh- and salt-water wetlands, small ponds, rivers, lakes and estuaries.

Photo: Mitch Waxman

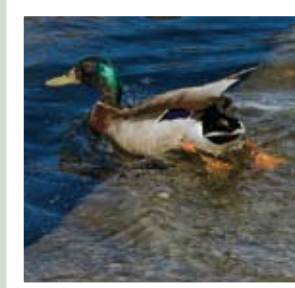


Photo: wikimedia commons



Red Breasted Merganser
A diving duck identified by a long thin red-orange bill. They migrate to the East Coast during winters and mainly eat small fish, but also aquatic insects, crustaceans, and frogs. Males are easily identified by a shaggy crest on the back of the head and red eyes.

Photo: Mitch Waxman



Yellow-crowned Night Heron
A large, all-black waterbird with a stocky body and long neck bird, and a bare patch of orange-yellow facial skin. Juveniles are dark grey or brownish. Habitat: distributed across North America near rivers, lakes and along the coastline.

Photo: Mitch Waxman



Great Blue Heron
The Great Blue Heron is the largest North American heron. Slate-grey flight feathers, and red-brown thighs with red-brown/black stripes up the flanks. Habitat: fresh and saltwater marshes, mangrove swamps, flooded meadows, lake edges, or shorelines.

Killdeer

A shorebird with a brown back and wings, a white belly and breast with two black bands and a tawny orange rump. A brown head and face with a white forehead and orange-red eyering. Habitat: grassland, fields, meadows, and pastures.

Photo: Alan D. Wilson

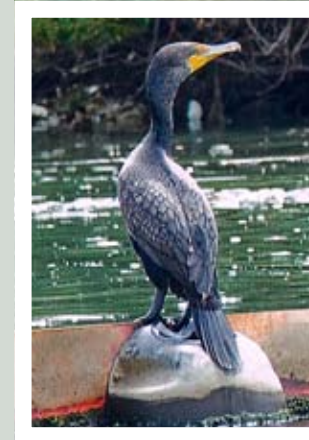


Photo: Mitch Waxman



Red-Tailed Hawk
Red-Tailed Hawks have a whitish underbelly with a dark brown band across the belly, a short hooked bill and yellow feet. The red tail, is uniformly brick-red above and light buff-orange below. Habitat: a wide range of habitats and altitudes throughout the North American continent.

Photo: Mitch Waxman



Double-crested Cormorant
A large, all-black waterbird with a stocky body and long neck bird, and a bare patch of orange-yellow facial skin. Juveniles are dark grey or brownish. Habitat: distributed across North America near rivers, lakes and along the coastline.

Grey Catbird

Named for its cat-like call. Plain lead gray with a dark grey cap, rust-colored undertail with black tail feathers with a slim black bill, eyes, legs and feet. Habitat: semi-open areas with dense, low growth. Found in urban, suburban, and rural habitats in North America east of the Rocky Mountains. Source: Wikipedia

Photo: Peter Massas

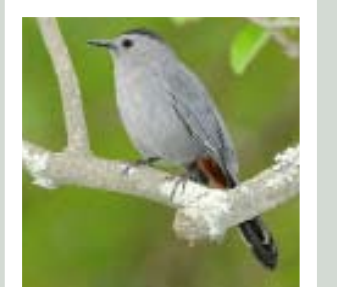


Photo: Mitch Waxman



Ring-billed Gull
White with a relatively short, yellow bill with a dark ring. Silver gray back and wings and yellow legs. The eyes are yellow with red rims. Habitat: near lakes, rivers or the coast, nesting colonially on the ground.

Photo: Jim Rorabaugh/USFWS



Flycatcher
Flycatchers are mostly plain in appearance. Insect-eaters, they catch insects in flight and from foliage while hovering. There are 20 New York species of flycatcher. Habitat: throughout North and South America.

Osprey

Sometimes called sea hawk, fish eagle or fish hawk, the Osprey is a fish-eating bird of prey with brown upperparts, a greyish head and underparts, and black wings and eye patch. Habitat: Nests near any body of water providing an adequate food supply.

Photo: Mitch Waxman

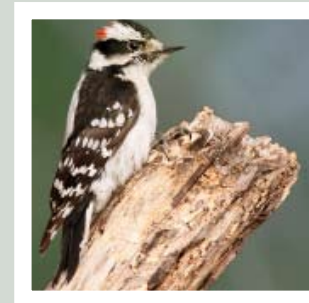


Photo: Laura Risi Hoffman



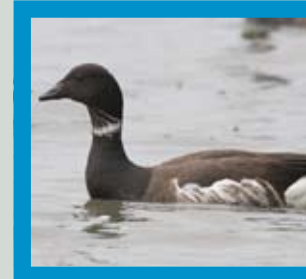
House Sparrow
The plumage of the House Sparrow is mostly different shades of grey and brown. The sexes differ: females and young birds are pale brown and grey, and males have brighter black, white, and brown markings. Habitat: urban or rural areas associated with human habitation world-wide.

Photo: Wolfgang Wander



Downy Woodpecker
Mainly black with a white back, throat and belly and white spotting on the wings. A pair of white stripes above and below the eye. Adult males have a red patch on the back of the head. Habitat: forested areas, mainly deciduous, across most of North America. They nest in a tree cavity.

Photo: wikimedia commons



Brant
An abundant small goose of ocean shorelines, the Brant breeds in the Arctic tundra and winters along both coasts. They seldom leave tidal estuaries and feed on eel-grass, seaweed and sea lettuce. Brants on the Atlantic coast have light gray bellies.

Photo: Mitch Waxman



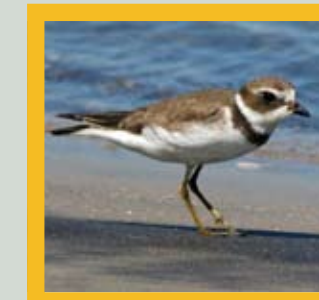
Great Egret
The Great Egret is a large heron with all-white plumage. Standing up to 1 m (3.3 ft) tall, a yellow bill and black legs and feet distinguish it from other white egrets. Habitat: adapts well to human habitation; can be seen near wetlands and bodies of water in urban and suburban areas

Photo: Beehive



Eastern Kingbird
Eastern Kingbirds have long pointed wings and large broad bills and prefer semi-open or open areas. They wait on exposed perches and catch insects in flight. They tend to defend their breeding territories aggressively, often chasing away much larger birds.

Photo: wikimedia commons



Semipalmated Plover
A common Plover seen in the NY area on their migration to and from breeding grounds in Northern Canada and Alaska. They are opportunistic feeders, identified by their short bills, single black neckband and partly webbed feet.

Photo: T. Willis Elkins



Green Heron
Relatively small, adults have a glossy, greenish-black cap, a greenish back and grey-black wings, a chestnut neck with a white line down the front and short yellow legs. Habitat: small wetlands in low-lying areas.

Herring Gull

Adults are white with grey back and wings, black wingtips with white spots, and pink legs. Immature birds are gray-brown. Habitat: coasts, lakes, rivers and garbage dumps.

Photo: Mitch Waxman



Photo: Malene Thyssen



Barn Swallow

The Barn Swallow has distinctive blue upperparts, a long, deeply forked tail and curved, pointed wings. Habitat: open country with low vegetation; pasture, meadows and farmland with nearby water.

Photo: Malene Thyssen



Little Blue Heron

Adults have blue-grey plumage with a purplish head and neck and have long blue filamentous plumes. The legs and feet are dark blue. Young are white with dark wing tips and greenish legs. Habitat: sub-tropical swamps on platforms of sticks in trees or shrubs.

Year-round
 Summer
 Winter
 Migratory