BIRDS OF CEDAR CREEK
AN ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF
THE CEDAR CREEK NATURAL HISTORY AREA

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FORWARD

This is a checklist of all species of birds recorded at the University of Minnesota Cedar Creek Natural History Area. The purposes of this checklist are: 1) To update "The Birds of the Cedar Creek Natural History Area" by Stephen J. Maxson and George-Ann Davis, which appeared in 1974. 2) To provide a record of the occurrence, abundance, breeding status, and location of the birds of Cedar Creek to allow for comparison with such data in the future, and to have a record of population and range fluctuations for these birds. 3) To provide a ready reference for potential researchers by listing those species sufficiently common that they could be profitably studied at Cedar Creek.

This work relies heavily on the observations of the many people that have done field work at Cedar Creek, notably Drs. Walter Breckenridge, Mark Fuller, Stephen Maxson, David Parmelee, and Dwain Warner. We thank Drs. Neil Bernstein, Breckenridge, Maxson, and Parmelee for their comments on the manuscript.

The Cedar Creek Natural History Area consists of about 2100 hectares in northern Anoka and southern Isanti Counties, Minnesota. A variety of habitats are present. These include abandoned fields, bur oak savannah, northern pin oak forest, marshes, alder and willow swamps, aspen-birch woodlands, mixed deciduous forest, tamarack swamp, cedar bog, cedar forest, mixed pine woods, black spruce bog, and open water.

Codes used to denote the status of bird species are:

R - permanent resident - found on the area year round; at least some individuals do not migrate from the area.
SR - summer resident - found on the area during the summer, at least during mid-June - mid-July, including species known to breed at Cedar Creek and those without positive breeding evidence.
WV - winter visitant - present on the area during the winter.
M - migrant - present only during spring and/or fall migration.
a - abundant - present in large numbers at the proper time of year, found easily.
c - common - present in reasonable numbers, not difficult to find.
u - uncommon - present in very small numbers, may be absent in some years.
r - rare - usually absent, includes all species for which there are only 1 or 2 or a very few records at a given time of year.

*** - nests at Cedar Creek, probably every year.
** - nests at Cedar Creek in some years.
* - nesting at Cedar Creek nearly certain (at least in some years), though there are no records of nests or broods.
() - nesting at Cedar Creek possible.
O - does not nest at Cedar Creek.

n - nest has been found at Cedar Creek.
b - brood (young out of the nest) has been found at Cedar Creek.
For each species the status will be given in winter, spring, summer, and fall. Thus, --, c, r, u denotes a species that is absent in the winter, common in spring migration, rare in the summer, and uncommon in the fall.

The nomenclature and taxonomy follow the sixth edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, even though erroneous phylogenetic relationships can be inferred using this system.

The numbers 24, 26, 76, and 56 refer respectively to Anoka County roads 24, 26, and 76 and Isanti County road 56.
ORDER GAVIIDIFORMES Loons
FAMILY GAVIIDAE Loons

Common Loon, Gavia immer SR -, c, c, u *** n b
Common Loons breed on Fish Lake. There is apparently only one pair each year. In 1974 2 young were seen, in 1975 0, 1976 1, 1977 1, 1978 0, 1979 0, 1980 2, 1981 2, 1982 0, 1983 0, 1984 1, 1985 0, and in 1986 2. In about half the years young are seen with the adults.

ORDER PODICIPEDIFORMES Grebes
FAMILY PODICIPEDIDAE Grebes

Pied-billed Grebe, Podilymbus podiceps SR -, u, u, u ** n b
Pied-billed Grebes are present in the large marshes near Fish Lake. Eggs and young were found west of Fish Lake in 1975.

Horned Grebe, Podiceps auritus M -, r-c, -, u 0
Horned Grebes in some years are not recorded at Cedar Creek, while in others, migrants are present in large numbers on Fish Lake in the spring.

Red-necked Grebe, P. grisegena SR -, r, r, - ** n
Three Red-necked Grebes were on Fish Lake on May 22, 1987, and a pair nested on a floating island of vegetation near the northwest shore of Fish Lake in June 1987.

ORDER PELECANIFORMES Pelecanids, Anhingas, Cormorants, Boobies, etc.
FAMILY PHALACROCORIDAE Cormorants

Double-crested Cormorant, Phalacrocorax auritus SR -, r, r, r 0
The only Cedar Creek records for Double-crested Cormorants are birds flying over the northern portion of the area on May 6, 1973, birds flying over Fish Lake on August 1, 1982, three birds flying over the area on June 11, 1983, six birds flying over Fish Lake on April 12, 1986, three birds over Fish Lake on September 25, 1986, and two birds flying over the area April 12, 1987.

ORDER CICONIIFORMES Storks, Herons, Bitterns, etc.
FAMILY ARDEIDAE Herons, Bitterns

American Bittern, Botaurus lentiginosus SR -, u, u, r ** n
American Bitterns are generally present in the large marshes near Fish Lake and the marsh east of the north-south road. A nest was found on June 5, 1973 in a marsh west of Fish Lake.

Least Bittern, Ixobrychus exilis SR -, u, u, - ()
Least Bitterns are present, at least in some years, in the large marsh between East Bethel Boulevard and Fish Lake and may breed there.

Great Blue Heron, Ardea herodias SR r, u-c, u-c, u-c 0
Great Blue Herons do not breed at Cedar Creek but feed in the lakes and ponds there, and are reasonably common. A Great Blue Heron was in Cedar Creek near 56 on December 21, 1986.

Great Egret, Casmerodius albus SR -, u, r-c, r-c 0
Great Egrets are common on Fish Lake in some years, while in other years, they are absent.

Green-backed Heron, Butorides striatus SR -, c, u-c, c ** n b
Green-backed Herons have nested successfully along the east shore of Beckman Lake, and may also nest along the east shore of Fish Lake. They are also commonly found along Cedar Bog Lake.
Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax* M -, -, r, - 0
The only record of a Black-crowned Night-Heron at Cedar Creek is one
seen at the public access on the east shore of Fish Lake on June 3,
1985. This rarity is surprising since the birds are fairly common in
the Twin Cities area.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, *N. violaceus* M -, r, -, - 0
The only Cedar Creek record for the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is a
bird seen near Cedar Bog Lake on May 8, 1976.

ORDER ANSERIFORMES Ducks, Geese, Swans, Screamers
FAMILY ANATIDAE Ducks, Geese, Swans

Tundra Swan, *Cygnus columbianus* M -, u-a, -, u-c 0
In some years Tundra Swans use Fish Lake as a major migratory
stopover in the spring, and the lake is a sea of white. Even in years
when they do not land, many large flocks fly over the area.

Greater White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons* M -, r, -, - 0
A White-fronted Goose was present in the Beckman Lake area from
April to June 1982.

Snow Goose, *Chen caerulescens* M r, u, -, u 0
Snow Geese are uncommon migrants at Cedar Creek, seen flying over
the area.

Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis* SR -, c, u, c ** b
Canada Geese are common during migration on the small ponds at
Cedar Creek. The first three recorded broods at Cedar Creek were in
1987 on Fish Lake.

Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa* SR -, c, u-c, c-a ** b
Wood Ducks are reasonably common on the small ponds at Cedar Creek
during the breeding season. Their nesting success is usually not good,
since from 1976-87, the only broods Howitz found were two in 1985, four
in 1986, and two in 1987. The only other records of broods are one in
1974 and one in 1984. In some years Wood Ducks are abundant on ponds at
Cedar Creek during the fall migration.

Green-winged Teal, *Anas crecca* SR -, u, r, u ()
Green-winged Teal are fairly common migrants at Cedar Creek on
Cedar Bog and Fish Lakes. A pair was present in a swamp adjacent to the
area, just south of 26 and east of East Bethel Boulevard, during the
breeding season in 1986, but did not nest successfully.

American Black Duck, *A. rubripes* M -, r, -, r 0
Black Ducks are rare migrants at Cedar Creek (and are probably
conspecific with Mallards (Auk 103: 701-709, 1986)).

Mallard, *A. platyrhynchos* SR -, c, c, c *** n b
Mallards nest near many of the ponds at Cedar Creek, and are the
most common breeding waterfowl there. Nesting success is apparently
very low, since few broods are seen relative to the number of adults.
Two broods were east of the Peterson farm in 1986.

Northern Pintail, *A. acuta* M -, r, -, r 0
Pintails are rare migrants at Cedar Creek.
Blue-winged Teal, *A. discors* SR --, u-c, u-c, u-c ** n
Blue-winged Teal are reasonably common on small ponds at Cedar Creek during the breeding season, though breeding evidence is meager. A female laid 7 eggs in a nest along the western edge of the Allison Savannah woods in 1986, but later abandoned it.

Northern Shoveler, *A. clypeata* M --, u, --, u 0
Shovelers are uncommon migrants at Cedar Creek.

Gadwall, *A. strepera* M --, u, --, r 0
Gadwalls are uncommon to rare migrants at Cedar Creek.

American Wigeon, *A. americana* M --, u, --, u 0
Wigeons are uncommon migrants at Cedar Creek.

Canvasback, *Aythya valisineria* M --, u, --, u 0
Canvasbacks are uncommon on Fish Lake during migration.

Redhead, *A. americana* M --, u, --, u 0
Redheads are uncommon visitors to Fish Lake during migration.

Ring-necked Duck, *A. collaris* SR --, c, u, c ()
Ring-necked Ducks are common on Fish Lake during migration. A pair or two is generally present on Fish Lake, and in 1984 a pair was on Beckman Lake during the summer. There is no positive breeding evidence.

Lesser Scaup, *A. affinis* M --, c-a, --, c-a 0
Lesser Scaup are probably the most common duck at Cedar Creek during migration. Large numbers of them use Fish Lake as a stopover.

Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula* M --, u, --, u 0
Goldeneyes are among the earliest ducks to return to the Cedar Creek area in the spring. They have been seen on Cedar Creek and Fish Lake.

Bufflehead, *B. albeola* M --, c, --, u 0
Buffleheads are common on Fish and Cedar Bog Lakes and on ponds at Cedar Creek during migration.

Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus* M --, c, --, u ()
Hooded Mergansers are common migrants on Cedar Creek ponds and lakes. Though there are no summer records, these secretive ducks could be breeding at Cedar Creek without anyone noticing.

Common Merganser, *Mergus merganser* M --, u, --, r 0
Common Mergansers visit Fish Lake before the ice is completely out in the spring.

Red-breasted Merganser, *M. serrator* M --, u, --, r 0
Red-breasted Mergansers also visit Fish Lake as the ice is withdrawing from the lake.

Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis* M --, r, --, r 0
Ruddy Ducks are rare at Cedar Creek.

ORDER FALCONIFORMES  Vultures, Hawks, Eagles, Falcons, Ospreys, etc.
FAMILY CATHARTIDAE  New World Vultures

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura* M --, u, u, u 0
Turkey Vultures apparently do not breed near Cedar Creek, but regularly fly over the area during the spring and fall and occasionally during the summer.
FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE  Ospreys, Hawks, Eagles, Old World Vultures, etc.
SUBFAMILY PANDIONINAE  Ospreys

Osprey, Pandion haliaetus  M - - u - - 0
Ospreys are fairly common migrants at Cedar Creek.

SUBFAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE  Hawks, Eagles, Kites, Old World Vultures, etc.

American Swallow-tailed Kite, Elanoides forficatus  M - - - r - - 0
The only Swallow-tailed Kite recorded at Cedar Creek was seen by
several observers on July 13, 1974.

Bald Eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalus  M r - - u - - 0
Bald Eagles are reasonably common migrants at Cedar Creek,
especially near Fish Lake. They feed on carcasses of deer that fall in
Cedar Creek. There are three winter records.

Northern Harrier, Circus cyaneus  SR - c u c ** n
Harriers are not common at Cedar Creek during the breeding season,
though are frequently seen on migration. Fuller found a harrier nest in
the marsh south of the 100 ft tower in 1973.

Sharp-shinned Hawk, Accipiter striatus  W V u c - - c 0
Sharp-shinned Hawks are common visitors to the area during
migration, frequently harassing flocks of songbirds. Their hunting
success at Cedar Creek is not good, as Howitz has seen Sharpshins dive
on smaller birds at least two dozen times, succeeding only once.
Sharpshins are uncommon in winter in the area, showing up most
frequently at feeders at Cedar Creek and in the vicinity. There are no
summer records to date.

Cooper's Hawk, Accipiter cooperii  R r c c c ** n
Cooper's Hawks are the only members of the genus Accipiter known to
breed at Cedar Creek. They have nested in oaks along the north-south
road, west of Fish Lake, north of 24 and Bataan, and just off the area
east of Durant. The birds seem to do their hunting at a considerable
distance from the nest, since color-banded chickadees and Blue Jays with
nests near a Cooper's Hawk nest were not taken. Cooper's Hawks are
common migrants at Cedar Creek and rarely winter in the area.

Northern Goshawk, Accipiter gentilis  M - c u r u 0
Goshawks are reasonably common in some winters and in others are
rare or absent. They are probably more likely to occur in the
coniferous portions of Cedar Creek. A Goshawk was seen June 15, 1984
near the Peterson farm. There is no positive breeding evidence at Cedar
Creek.

Red-shouldered Hawk, Buteo lineatus  M - - u - - r 0
Red-shouldered Hawks are uncommon migrants at Cedar Creek. There
are no summer records, though there are Anoka and Isanti County breeding
records.

Broad-winged Hawk, Buteo platypterus  SR - c c u ** n b
Broad-winged Hawks are probably the most common breeding hawk at
Cedar Creek. They commonly nest in the woods in the vicinity of the
laboratory. Large numbers can be seen during migration.

Red-tailed Hawk, Buteo jamaicensis  R u c c c ** n b
Red-tailed Hawks are a common and conspicuous breeding species at
Cedar Creek. They have nested near the laboratory and south of Fish
Lake. Redtails are uncommon to absent in the winter.
Rough-legged Hawk, *B. lagopus* WV u, u, -, u 0
Rough-legged Hawks are uncommon migrants and winter visitors at Cedar Creek.

Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos* M r, r, -, r 0
The only records of Golden Eagles at Cedar Creek are March 15, 1973, October 8, 1975, February 9, 1979, September 2, 1979, February 2, 1985, and March 30, 1986.

**FAMILY FALCONIDAE** Falcons

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius* R r, c, c, c *** n b
Kestrels are common birds at Cedar Creek and have bred in bird boxes there. Kestrels are occasionally present in the area in winter.

Merlin, *F. columbarius* M -, r, -, - 0
A merlin was seen flying north of the Peterson farm on March 31, 1982.

**ORDER GALLIFORMES** Pheasants, Quail, Grouse, Turkeys, etc.

**FAMILY PHASIANIDAE** Pheasants, Quail, Grouse, Turkeys, etc.

**SUBFAMILY PHASIANINAE** Pheasants, Quail

Ring-necked Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus* R u, u, u, u *** n b
Pheasants are uncommon at Cedar Creek. They are much more common in the agricultural areas along the edges of the property. A nest was found in one of the aspen groves north of 26 on April 27, 1980.

**SUBFAMILY TETRAONINAE** Grouse

Spruce Grouse, *Dendragapus canadensis* M -, r, -, - 0
A male Spruce Grouse was seen by Bosanko near the laboratory on April 15 and 16, 1983.

Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus* R u-a, u-a, u-a, u-a *** n b
Ruffed Grouse vary greatly in abundance at Cedar Creek according to their population cycle. In low years they are very scarce, while in years of high population they are abundant. They are found in most of the wooded habitat at Cedar Creek.

**SUBFAMILY MELEAGRIDINAE** Turkeys

Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo* R r, r, r, r ** b
"Wild" Turkeys are frequently introduced in Minnesota, and apparently some of these introduced birds have found their way to Cedar Creek. There are several records of adult birds, all from the 1980's. A brood was seen in 1984 along 56, and another brood in 1985, and so the birds seem to have at least a chance of surviving in the area.

**ORDER GRUIFORMES** Cranes, Rails, etc.

**FAMILY RALLIDAE** Rails

Virginia Rail, *Rallus limicola* SR -, u, u, r *** n b
Virginia Rails are uncommon breeders in the marshes south and west of Fish Lake, the marsh east of the north-south road, and the marsh north of 24 and west of Cedar Creek.

Sora, *Porzana carolina* SR -, c, c, r *** n b
Soras are relatively common breeders in the marshes around Fish Lake.
American Coot, *Fulica americana* SR -, c-a, r-u, a ()
Coots are rare to uncommon in the summer at Cedar Creek, but are common in the spring migration and abundant on Fish Lake during the fall.

FAMILY GRUIDAE Cranes

Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis* SR -, c, c, c *** b
The Cedar Creek area is the only recorded breeding area for Sandhill Cranes in eastern Minnesota. Broods have been seen in 1979, 1980, and 1983 in the large marsh north of 76. Cranes also may have bred in the large marsh just east of East Bethel Boulevard and other marshes near Fish Lake since a brood was seen in that area in 1986. Cranes have probably been breeding at Cedar Creek since the early 1970's. The cranes return to Cedar Creek in early spring, in late March or early April.

ORDER CHARADRIIFORMES Plovers, Sandpipers, Gulls, Terns, Auks, etc.

FAMILY CHARADRIIDAE Plovers

Kildeer, *Charadrius vociferus* SR -, c, u, u ** n b
Kildeers are relatively uncommon at Cedar Creek. They are more common in adjacent agricultural areas. A pair nested successfully near the southwest corner of Allison Savannah in 1986.

FAMILY SColopacidAE Sandpipers

Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca* M -, r, -, - 0
A Greater Yellowlegs was seen along Cedar Creek on May 6, 1978.

Solitary Sandpiper, *T. solitaria* M -, r, -, r 0
A Solitary Sandpiper was east of Fish Lake on August 21, 1974, one was in a small marsh along East Bethel Boulevard on May 2, 1986, two birds were in a small marsh east of Fish Lake on August 14 and 30, 1986, four birds were in a marsh along the south border of Allison Savannah on May 9, 1987, and one bird was on a mud flat west of Fish Lake on May 18, 1987.

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia* M -, r, -, r ()
Spotted Sandpipers have been seen along Cedar Creek, near Cedar Bog Lake on May 1, 1974, and near Fish Lake on May 19, 1974 and August 3, 1974.

Upland Sandpiper, *Bartramia longicauda* M -, -, r, - 0
The only Cedar Creek record of an Upland Sandpiper was a bird standing in the middle of East Bethel Boulevard on June 21, 1982.

Western Sandpiper, *Calidris mauri* M -, -, -, r 0
A western Sandpiper was seen at the duck pens on August 11, 1984.

Common Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago* SR -, u, u, u ()
Snipe are fairly common in moist edge situations at Cedar Creek, especially the marsh east of the north-south road. There is no positive breeding evidence.

American Woodcock, *Scolopax minor* SR -, c, c, c *** n b
Woodcocks are relatively common in the aspen woods at Cedar Creek. They are one of the first birds at Cedar Creek to nest in the spring.
FAMILY LARIDAE Gulls, Terns, Jaegers

SUBFAMILY LARINAE Gulls

Franklin's Gull, Larus pipixcan M -, r, -, - 0
The only record of Franklin's Gull is of a flock seen at Fish Lake on May 13, 1973.

Ring-billed Gull, L. delawarensis M -, c, -, c 0
Ring-billed Gulls are common on Fish Lake at times during the spring and fall.

Herring Gull, L. argentatus M -, u, -, u 0
Herring Gulls are uncommon migrant visitors to Fish Lake.

SUBFAMILY STERNINAE Terns

Common Tern, Sterna hirundo M -, u, -, u 0
Common Terns are uncommon migrant visitors to Fish Lake.

Forster's Tern, S. forsteri M -, u, r, u 0
Forster's Terns are uncommon migrant and rare summer visitors to Fish Lake.

Black Tern, Chlidonias niger SR -, u, u-c, r ** n b
Black Terns are in some years a common nesting species in the large marsh just east of East Bethel Boulevard. In other years they are rare.

ORDER COLUMBIFORMES Pigeons, Doves

FAMILY COLUMBIDAE Pigeons, Doves

Rock Dove, Columba livia R u, u, u, u *** n b
Rock Doves formerly bred on the Peterson farm. They are abundant on adjacent farms such as the one near 24 and Highway 65. They are no longer common on the area.

Mourning Dove, Zenaida macroura SR r, c, c, c *** n b
Mourning Doves are common and conspicuous at Cedar Creek. They breed in the deciduous woodlands, though not in large numbers. Nests may be more common in adjacent residential areas.

ORDER CUCULIFORMES Cuckoos

FAMILY CUCULIDAE Cuckoos

Black-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus erythropthalmus SR -, u, u-c, u-c ** n
Black-billed Cuckoos are in some years common in woodland edge and bushy areas. In other years they are uncommon. Active nests have been found as late as early September.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, C. americana SR -, r, r, r ()
Yellow-billed Cuckoos are rare summer residents at Cedar Creek. They have been found in 1978, 1984, 1985, and 1986 near the laboratory.

ORDER STRIGIFORMES Owls

FAMILY STRIGIDAE Owls

Eastern Screech-Owl, Otus asio R -, r, -, - 0
Screech Owls are rarely found at Cedar Creek. In most years they are probably absent. Howitz heard one south of the laboratory only once. Save for the Barred and Great Horned Owls, the status of the other owls at Cedar Creek is very poorly known.
Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus* R c, c, c, c *** n b
Great Horned Owls are common at Cedar Creek, especially in the more open woodlands and along the borders of the area near farms.

Barred Owl, *Strix varia* R c, c, c, c *** n b
Barred Owls are the commonest owls at Cedar Creek. They are probably present throughout the wooded portions.

Great Gray Owl, *Strix nebulosa* M r, r, -, - 0
Great Gray Owls have been seen on three occasions at Cedar Creek, December 21, 1980 on the Christmas Count, May 11, 1981 by several observers, and by Bernstein later that spring.

Long-eared Owl, *Asio otus* R r, r, -, r ()
Long-eared Owls may be rare vagrants or residents at Cedar Creek. They have been recorded on September 19 and 26 and November 4 and 5, 1977, Fuller mistnetted one in the early 1970's, and one was mistnetted on April 8, 1979 near the 70 foot tower.

Short-eared Owl, *Asio flammeus* WV r, -, -, - 0
The only record of a Short-eared Owl is one Maxson found dead in the tamarack swamp southwest of the 100 ft tower in January, 1971.

Northern Saw-whet Owl, *Aegolius acadicus* R u, u, u, u ()
Saw-whet Owls have been seen from time to time at Cedar Creek. They may be resident in the more northern portions, and in some years in the vicinity of the Peterson farm.

ORDER CAPRIMULGIFORMES Goatsuckers, etc.
FAMILY CAPRIMULGIDAE Goatsuckers

Common Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor* SR -, c, u, c-a ()
Nighthawks are common to abundant migrants at Cedar Creek. They are much less common in the summer, and there is no positive breeding evidence.

Whip-poor-will, *Caprimulgus vociferus* SR -, c, c, u *** n b
Whip-poor-wills are reasonably common breeding birds at Cedar Creek. They have nested in an aspen grove near the southwest border of Cedar Creek in the 1970's, in 1985 beneath the aspens along the marsh north of 76, in 1986 west of the lab near 24, and in 1986 in the oak woods along East Bethel Boulevard.

ORDER APODIFORMES Swifts, Hummingbirds
FAMILY APODIDAE Swifts

Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica* SR -, u, u, u 0
Chimney Swifts are rarely seen at Cedar Creek and are not known to nest in the vicinity.

FAMILY TROCHILIDAE Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris* SR -, c, c, c ** n b
Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are reasonably common at Cedar Creek. They have nested on oak branches along and east of the north-south road and west of Fish Lake. All three of these nests were at least 100 m from the nearest flower.
ORDER CORACIIFORMES  Rollers, Hornbills, Bee-eaters, Kingfishers, etc.
FAMILY ALCEDINIDAE  Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher, Ceryle alcyon  SR  r, u, u, u ** b
Belted Kingfishers are rather uncommon at Cedar Creek. A pair is frequently present on Fish Lake. Kingfishers have bred on or near the area. There is one winter record (1986-87) of a kingfisher along Cedar Creek.

ORDER PICIFORMES  Woodpeckers, Barbets, Toucans, Honeyguides, etc.
FAMILY PICIDAE  Woodpeckers

Red-headed Woodpecker, Melanerpes erythrocephalus  R  --c, c, u-c, c *** n b
Red-headed Woodpeckers are relatively common breeding birds in the open oak woods at Cedar Creek. In most winters birds are present on the south shore of Fish Lake and along 26 south of 24. Banding has shown that at least some of the birds present in winter also bred there. The number of wintering Red-headed Woodpeckers appears related to the acorn crop.

Red-bellied Woodpecker, M. carolinus  R  c, c, c, c *** n b
Red-bellied Woodpeckers are common in the deciduous woods at Cedar Creek, though are relatively uncommon during the breeding season.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Sphyrapicus varius  M  --, c, --, c O.
Sapsuckers are common migrants at Cedar Creek, but have never been reported during the breeding season, despite their presence in surrounding parts of the state.

Downy Woodpecker, Picoides pubescens  R  c, c, c, c *** n b
Downy Woodpeckers are the most common woodpeckers at Cedar Creek, breeding throughout the wooded portions.

Hairy Woodpecker, P. villosus  R  c, c, c, c *** n b
Hairy Woodpeckers are common residents at Cedar Creek. They nest throughout the wooded portions, though are not as common as Downies.

Black-backed Woodpecker, P. arcticus  M  --, r, --, r O
The only records of a Black-backed (Three-toed) Woodpecker at Cedar Creek are a bird near the lab on October 23, 1981 and a bird west of Fish Lake on May 2, 1986.

Northern Flicker, Colaptes auratus  SR  r, c, c, c *** n b
Flickers are common in the open woods at Cedar Creek, nesting in aspens and oaks. There are two winter records.

Pileated Woodpecker, Dryocopus pileatus  R  c, c, c, c *
Pileated Woodpeckers are reasonably common at Cedar Creek. In recent years they have been reducing to wood chips elm trees killed by Dutch elm disease.

ORDER PASSERIFORMES  Passerines
FAMILY TYRANNIDAE  Tyrant Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher, Contopus borealis  M  --, u-c, --, u-c O
Olive-sided Flycatchers are fairly common migrants at Cedar Creek. There is no evidence that they breed at Cedar Creek, though late spring migrants have been seen in early June and early fall migrants in July.
Eastern Wood Peewee, C. virens SR -, c-a, c-a, c *** n b
Peewees are probably the most abundant flycatcher at Cedar Creek. They are abundant and conspicuous in the savannah and open oak woods. All the nests Howitz has seen have been placed far from the trunk on dead oak branches.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Empidonax flaviventris M -, u, -, u O
Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are spring and fall migrants at Cedar Creek, and apparently are uncommon, but since they are easily confused with other species in the same genus, their true abundance is difficult to assess.

Alder Flycatcher, E. alnorum SR -, u, u, u *
Alder Flycatchers are not common at Cedar Creek, but are present each year (and presumably breed) in the swamp south of Lawrence's cabin. There are no Cedar Creek records of the Willow Flycatcher, E. traillii, though this species is far more common than the Alder Flycatcher in Anoka County.

Least Flycatcher, E. minimus SR -, c, c, u *** n b
The Least Flycatcher is the most common Empidonax at Cedar Creek. They are common in oak and mixed deciduous woods.

Eastern Phoebe, Sayornis phoebe SR -, c, c, c *** n b
Eastern Phoebes have nested on several of the buildings at Cedar Creek, including Lawrence's, Norris's, and Corneia's cabins, the laboratory, and biotelemetry buildings. They also have nested under the 24 and 26 bridges over Cedar Creek. Phoebes are among the earliest birds to return to Cedar Creek in the spring, frequently returning in late March.

Great Crested Flycatcher, Myiarchus crinitus SR -, c, c, u *** n b
The Great Crested Flycatcher is a reasonably common breeding species in the wooded areas of Cedar Creek. They primarily nest in natural cavities in oaks.

Western Kingbird, Tyrannus verticalis SR -, r, r, r ** n b
Western Kingbirds bred on and near the area in the 1950's and 1960's, but have not done so recently. The only recent records are September 13, 1976 and July 10, 1983.

Eastern Kingbird, T. tyrannus SR -, c, c, u *** n b
Eastern Kingbirds are a common and conspicuous breeding species of the open areas at Cedar Creek. They generally nest in oaks or conifers and catch flying insects in the fields and savannahs.

FAMILY ALAUDIDAE Larks

Horned Lark, Eremophila alpestris SR r, u, u, u *
Horned Larks are uncommon on the area itself, but are more common on adjacent farmland. They are common in and presumably nest in the agricultural fields west of the duck pens and along 56.

FAMILY HIRUNDINIDAE Swallows

Purple Martin, Progne subis SR -, c, u, c ()
Purple Martins apparently do not breed on or very near Cedar Creek. Large flocks of Purple Martins pass through the area on migration.
Tree Swallow, *Tachycineta bicolor* SR -, c, c, c *** n b
Tree Swallows are generally the most common swallow at Cedar Creek. They breed in old woodpecker and chickadee holes and in natural cavities, usually near water.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* SR -, u, u, u ** n b
Rough-winged Swallows have bred on or near the area, but are uncommon.

Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia* SR -, u-c, u, u-c ()
Bank Swallows probably do not breed on the Cedar Creek Natural History Area itself, but do elsewhere in the general area. On migration they may be present flying over the area, often in company with Tree Swallows, and sometimes in large numbers.

Cliff Swallow, *Hirundo pyrrhonota* SR -, u, u, r 0
Cliff Swallows are uncommon visitors to Cedar Creek. They do not nest on or near the area.

Barn Swallow, *H. rustica* SR -, c, c, c *** n b
Barn Swallows are common aerial foragers at Cedar Creek. They nest on the Peterson farm and on buildings in adjacent residential areas.

FAMILY CORVIDAE: Crows, Jays

Gray Jay, *Perisoreus canadensis* WV r, r, -, r 0
The first Cedar Creek records for this northern species are from the winter of 1976-77. The first bird was seen on October 27, 1976 and the last on April 15, 1977. Gray Jays irrupted south that winter probably due to drought in their normal range. The only other record is October 28, 1986 near Norris's cabin.

Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata* R c-a, c-a, c-a, c-a *** n b
Blue Jays are one of the characteristic birds of the oak forests and savannas. Studies of color-banded birds by Bill Hilton and Jean Vesall have shown that most jays at Cedar Creek are resident. Some migration through Cedar Creek takes place during the spring and fall, and it is likely that some Cedar Creek jays migrate south for the winter, especially in years when acorns are scarce. Jays probably nest in all of the wooded portions of Cedar Creek. A very high nesting density of jays exists in the residential subdivision on the east side of Cedar Creek.

American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos* R c, c, c, c *** n b
Crows are present year round at Cedar Creek, and most are presumably resident. Nests are known from the interior of oak woods at Cedar Creek. Crows (along with raccoons) are probably the chief nest predators at Cedar Creek.

Northern Raven, *C. corax* M -, r, -, r 0
The only records of ravens at Cedar Creek are of single birds flying over the area on March 2, 1980, April 1 and 7, 1985, and March 31, 1986, and a bird feeding on a deer carcass on November 26, 1986.
FAMILY PARIDAE Chickadees, Titmice

Black-capped Chickadee, Parus atricapillus R c, c, a, a *** n b

The Black-capped Chickadee is generally the most abundant permanent resident at Cedar Creek. Chickadees probably fledge more young than any other bird at Cedar Creek, and the woods are alive with juvenile and adult chickadees in the summer and fall. In most years there is no discernible chickadee migration at Cedar Creek. Chickadees are common to abundant in all wooded and bushy habitat at Cedar Creek. The many rotten birches, aspens, and alders provide them with sites to excavate nest cavities. The chickadee population at Cedar Creek tripled between 1976 and 1985, despite several very cold winters and winters of record snowfall.

Tufted Titmouse, P. bicolor R r, r, r, r *

Tufted Titmice used the feeders at Corneia's cabin during the early years of Cedar Creek. There are no titmice records from the 70's or 80's. Titmice are apparently retreating from central Minnesota as shown by their increasing rarity on Christmas counts. The Tufted Titmouse should be considered extirpated from Cedar Creek.

FAMILY SITTIDAE Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch S. canadensis R r-u, r-u, r-u, u *

Red-breasted Nuthatches are found in some of the coniferous portions of Cedar Creek in all seasons at least in some years, and are probably resident there. They are usually present in small numbers in the cedar-tamarack-pine areas near Corneia's cabin and in the pine stands near the end of the Lundgren Branch. Their numbers apparently fluctuate considerably and in some years they are rare or absent. In other years they have been found just north of 24 and Lawrence's cabin, by Cedar Bog Lake, and by the duck pens. During the late summer and early fall, migratory Red-breasted Nuthatches pass through the area. The spring migration is less noticeable.

White-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta carolinensis R c, c, c, c *** n b

White-breasted Nuthatches are common residents throughout the deciduous woodlands at Cedar Creek, and are less common in the coniferous portions. All the White-breasted Nuthatch nests Howitz has seen at Cedar Creek have been in oaks.

FAMILY CERTHIIDAE Creepers

Brown Creeper, Certhia americana M r-u, c, r, c ** b

Brown creepers are common spring and fall migrants. The only summer records are a family group by Hernando's cabin July 7, 1979, and a single bird on June 5, 1985. Few if any creepers winter at Cedar Creek in most winters.

FAMILY TROGLODYTIDAE Wrens

House Wren, Troglodytes aedon SR -, u-c, u-c, - *** n b

House Wrens have been uncommon at Cedar Creek, but have been increasing and by 1987 were common. Jeff Burns attempted to study House Wrens at Cedar Creek in the 1970's but was unable because of their scarcity. They can usually be found along the south border of Cedar Creek near the houses there, and along the edges of some of the marshes near Fish Lake, where Howitz has found 14 nests in old chickadee holes.
Winter Wren, *T. troglodytes* M -, u, -, u 0

Winter Wrens are uncommon migrants at Cedar Creek. During spring and fall there is occasionally one in the thick vegetation along the trail just south of Cedar Bog Lake.

Sedge Wren, *Cistothorus platensis* SR -, u-c, u-c, - *

Sedge Wrens are summer residents along some of the larger sedge meadows and marshes at Cedar Creek, notably along the south shore of the huge marsh south of Fish Lake, the large marsh southeast of the lab, and the marsh along Cedar Creek south of 24. They presumably nest there, but there are no nest records.

Marsh Wren, *C. palustris* SR -, u-c, u-c, - *

Marsh Wrens are summer residents along the large marshes north and south of Fish Lake Road. They presumably nest there, but there are no nest records.

**FAMILY MUSCICAPIDAE** Thrushes, Old World Warblers, etc.

**SUBFAMILY SYLVIINAE** Gnatcatchers, Kinglets

Golden-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus satrapa* M, WV u, c, -, c 0

Golden-crowned Kinglets are common early spring and late fall migrants at Cedar Creek. In winter they are rare or absent in the deciduous woods at Cedar Creek and are absent to uncommon in the coniferous areas.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *R. calendula* M -, c-a, -, c-a 0

Ruby-crowned Kinglets are common to abundant spring and fall migrants at Cedar Creek.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila caerulea* SR -, u, u, - ** n b

Gnatcatchers have been increasing at Cedar Creek. The first record was a pair with fledglings along East Bethel Boulevard 800 m north of 26 in July 1977. Single birds were seen in 1978. Cedar Creek's first record of a gnatcatcher nest was in 1984 in a dead northern pin oak 200 m northnorthwest of the end of Fish Lake Road. Another pair also had fledged young in 1984 in the oak woods south of 76. In 1985 and 1986 pairs were present in these locations and also just south of Fish Lake Road and East Bethel Boulevard. In 1987 a nest was found in an oak 150 m west of the 1984 nest.

**SUBFAMILY TURDINAE** Thrushes

Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis* SR -, c, c, c *** n b

Eastern Bluebirds are considered by some to be a threatened species because of their declining numbers. These declines are usually attributed to competition for nest cavities from starlings and House Sparrows. Bluebirds at Cedar Creek are common and conspicuous. They nest in old chickadee and woodpecker holes and in natural cavities. These cavities are especially common in the birches and aspens around the many marshes at Cedar Creek, and bluebirds nest there and forage out in the fields and in edge situations. Bluebirds are also a common nesting species in the oak savannah. Bluebirds are one of the earliest species to arrive at Cedar Creek in the spring and the last to leave in the fall. Fledging success is apparently good as every year Howitz notices several broods. Cedar Creek is evidently excellent bluebird habitat.

Townsend's Solitaire, *Myadestes townsendi* WV r, -, -, - 0

The only record of Townsend's Solitaire is a winter record at Lawrence's cabin.
Veer, *Catharus fuscescens* SR -, c, c, u *** n
Veeries are common migrants and are common breeders in moist wooded areas at Cedar Creek, especially those with areas of standing water. Veeries commonly nest in the woods near the lab, Lawrence's cabin, Norris's cabin, and similar areas.

Gray-cheeked Thrush, *C. minimus* M -, u, -, u 0
The Gray-cheeked Thrush is probably the least common of the migrant *Catharus* thrushes at Cedar Creek.

Swainson's Thrush, *C. ustulatus* M -, c, -, u 0
Swainson's Thrush is probably the most common of the migrant *Catharus* thrushes at Cedar Creek.

Hermit Thrush, *C. guttatus* M -, u, -, u 0
Hermit Thrushes are fairly common early spring and late fall migrants at Cedar Creek.

Wood Thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina* SR -, u, u, - ()
The only places at Cedar Creek Wood Thrushes have been recorded are the islands of deciduous woods in the swamps about .5 km south of the laboratory, and in 1986 near the laboratory itself.

American Robin, *Turdus migratorius* SR r, a, c-a, c *** n b
Robins are fairly common nesters on the Cedar Creek area proper, but are abundant in the adjacent residential areas, especially the subdivision just east of Durant. During spring migration robins can be abundant at Cedar Creek as they forage in the fields and savannahs. There are two winter records of a robin at Cedar Creek.

Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius* WV r, -, -, - 0
A Varied Thrush was on the western edge of the CCNHA near a bird feeder on January 24, 1981. It may have been wintering there. A Varied Thrush also wintered at a feeder about 2 km southeast of the CCNHA during the winter of 1983-84.

**FAMILY MIMIDAE** Mockingbirds, Thrashers

Gray Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis* SR -, c-a, c-a, u *** n b
Catbirds are common to abundant nesters in undergrowth, especially hazelnut at Cedar Creek.

Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum* SR -, c, c, u *** n b
Thrashers are common in edge and savannah habitats at Cedar Creek, but are outnumbered by catbirds by perhaps 3/1.

**BOMBYCILLIDAE** Waxwings

Bohemian Waxwing, *Bombycilla garrulus* WV r, -, -, - 0
Bohemian Waxwings are irregular visitors to the Cedar Creek area. There are records from the winters of 1985-86 and 1986-87.

Cedar Waxwing, *B. cedrorum* SR, r, c, c-a, c *** n b
Cedar Waxwings are one of the most common breeding birds at Cedar Creek. They commonly nest near the laboratory, in the oak savannahs, especially Allison Savannah, in residential areas adjacent to the CCNHA, and semicolonially in the coniferous windbreaks along East Bethel Boulevard. Waxwings frequently feed by flycatching at Cedar Creek. Waxwing fledging success at Cedar Creek is apparently poor. Their nests are frequently poorly camouflaged and they nest in areas where crows and jays are abundant. Waxwings are rare in the winter at Cedar Creek, probably because of the scarcity of fruit.
FAMILY LANIIDAE Shrikes

Northern Shrike, *Lanius excubitor* WV u, -, -, r 0
Northern Shrikes are uncommon winter visitors at Cedar Creek. Bill Hilton caught three Northern Shrikes in traps where they had killed redpolls and chickadees at the resident biologist's house in January and February 1982.

Loggerhead Shrike, *L. ludovicianus* M -, r, -, r 0
A Loggerhead Shrike was seen near the 70 foot tower on April 25, 1975, in Allison Savannah on May 11, 1975, and on October 29, 1983 near some old fields at Cedar Creek.

FAMILY STURNIDAE Starlings

European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris* R u, u, u, c *** n b
Starlings are not common at Cedar Creek. Howitz has only found two nests, both along the southeast shore of Fish Lake. They also nest in old woodpecker holes on the old Heckenlaible farm. Starlings are seldom found in the areas of Cedar Creek away from human habitation. They do not appear to compete significantly with native species at Cedar Creek.

FAMILY VIREONIDAE Vireos

Solitary Vireo, *Vireo solitarius* SR -, c, -, u 0
Solitary Vireos are fairly common migrants at Cedar Creek. There are no summer records, but it would not be inconceivable that an occasional bird could be found in the northern parts of the CCNHA.

Yellow-throated Vireo, *V. flavifrons* SR -, c, c, u *** n b
Yellow-throated Vireos are fairly common nesters in the drier, partly open woods at Cedar Creek. Nests were found in 1974 and 1986.

Warbling Vireo, *V. gilvus* SR -, u-c, u-c, u ** b
At Cedar Creek Warbling Vireos are chiefly found as breeding birds in aspen clumps, and so have a spotty distribution. They are uncommon elsewhere but are dependable in certain of these aspen groves, such as those north of 76 and those north of 26.

Philadelphia Vireo, *V. philadelphicus* M -, u, -, u 0
Philadelphia Vireos are a migrant at Cedar Creek, and apparently uncommon, though because of possible confusion with the other vireos or Tennessee Warblers it is difficult to estimate their abundance.

Red-eyed Vireo, *V. olivaceus* SR -, c, c, c *** n b
Red-eyed Vireos are among the most common nesters in the deciduous woods at Cedar Creek. Nationally, Red-eyed Vireo numbers have been on the decline, presumably due to habitat destruction in Latin America. At Cedar Creek, while still common, they do not appear to saturate the suitable habitat, and the resources available could apparently sustain a significantly higher breeding population.
FAMILY EMBERIZIDAE  Wood Warblers, Tanagers, Blackbirds, Orioles, Sparrows, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Finches, etc.

SUBFAMILY PARULINAE  Wood Warblers

Blue-winged Warbler, *Vermivora pinus*  SR, u, u, - *** b

Blue-winged Warblers have been breeding at Cedar Creek at least since 1976. The hybrid "Brewster's Warbler" is regularly seen at Cedar Creek, and a male Brewster's, probably the same bird, had a territory just north of the lab for four years. Bluewings have never been as common as Goldenwings at Cedar Creek, but apparently are increasing. They are most common along 24, but singing males have been found in oak woods near Fish Lake. The first Bluewing-Bluewing pair was found in 1983. Bluewings are displacing Goldenwings in much of the Goldenwing breeding range in the eastern U.S., but Goldenwings seem to be holding their own at Cedar Creek, at least through 1987.

Golden-winged Warbler, *V. chrysoptera*  SR, c, c, u-c *** n b

There were no summer records of Golden-winged Warblers or Blue-winged Warblers at Cedar Creek before 1976. However, since 1976 Goldenwings have been a common and conspicuous breeding species at Cedar Creek. Most pairs are within 100 m of 24 or along the north-south road. Like Bluewings, Goldenwings also appear to be increasing at Cedar Creek, expanding into new areas. In 1987 two singing males were along the southeast shore of Fish Lake. Nesting success appears to be quite good, since every year several broods fledge. After fledging, broods can travel far from their nesting areas, and can be found east of East Bethel Boulevard in areas where they almost certainly did not nest.

Tennessee Warbler, *V. peregrina*  M, c-a, - , c-a 0

Tennessee Warblers are among the most abundant migrants at Cedar Creek. Occasional very early fall migrants pass through Cedar Creek in July.

Orange-crowned Warbler, *V. celata*  M, c, - , c 0

Orange-crowned Warblers are fairly common migrants at Cedar Creek. Orange-crowns generally arrive in the spring at about the same time as Palm Warblers, after the Yellow-rumped Warblers, and before the rest of the warbler species.

Nashville Warbler, *V. ruficapilla*  SR, c-a, c, c-a *** b

Nashville Warblers are very common migrants at Cedar Creek. Only the Yellow-rumped Warbler is more abundant in migration. Nashville Warblers are common breeders in the bogs and some of the swampy areas at Cedar Creek. Nashvilles breed in the boggy areas south and north of Lawrence's cabin, the black spruce bog, and in the bogs around Ice Lake. In some years Nashvilles also breed in some of the small aspen stands at Cedar Creek.

Northern Parula, *Parula americana*  M, u, - , - 0

Parula Warblers are rather uncommon migrants at Cedar Creek.

Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*  SR, c, c, c *** n b

Yellow Warblers breed fairly commonly along the edges of some of the large marshes at Cedar Creek, especially the large marshes west and south of Fish Lake and the marsh east of the north-south road.

Chestnut-sided Warbler, *D. pensylvanica*  SR, c, u, c *

Chestnut-sided Warblers are common spring and fall migrants at Cedar Creek. During the breeding season, a few birds are present in forest edge habitat, though frequently in different places in different years. In 1987 at least 10 males were present. At least one pair probably attempts breeding every year.
Magnolia Warbler, D. magnolia M -, u, -, u 0
Magnolia Warblers are uncommon migrants at Cedar Creek.

Cape May Warbler, D. tigrina M -, r, -, u 0
Cape May Warblers are irregularly seen migrants at Cedar Creek.
Howitz never saw one in 10 years at Cedar Creek until August 1986, when on the 14th he saw 3 birds, on the 15th he saw 4 birds, and on the 30th he saw 5 birds. Presumably, in 1986 the population was unusually high or Cape Mays followed an unusual migration route so that many passed through Cedar Creek.

Black-throated Blue Warbler, D. caerulescens M -, r, -, r 0
The only Cedar Creek records of a Black-throated Blue Warbler were a male along Cedar Creek north of 24 on May 5, 1976 and a female in the wooded swamp 300 m south of Hernando's cabin on August 9, 1976.

Yellow-rumped Warbler, D. coronata M -, a, -, a 0
Yellow-rumped Warblers are probably the most abundant migrant warbler at Cedar Creek. They are the first warbler to arrive in the spring and the last to leave in the fall.

Black-throated Green Warbler, D. virens SR -, c, r-u, c ()
Black-throated Green Warblers are common migrants at Cedar Creek and probably rare to uncommon breeders. Black-throated Greens have been seen during the breeding season north of Lawrence's cabin, and west of Hernando's cabin. They may be regular in the pine woods 400 m north of Cornelia's cabin. No positive breeding evidence has as yet been found, but this may be due to the absence of observers in the proper areas.

Blackburnian Warbler, D. fusca SR -, u-c, u, u-c *
Blackburnian Warblers are fairly common migrants at Cedar Creek.
There is apparently a small breeding population in the pine woods 400 m north of Cornelia's cabin. Singing males were found there when looked for in 1981, 1983, 1984, 1986, and 1987.

Pine Warbler, D. pinus SR -, r, r, r ()
The only Pine Warblers recorded at Cedar Creek were a bird seen south of Cedar Bog Lake on August 16, 1976, and a pair seen June 12, 1987 in the pines near Cornelia's. They may breed in the pine woods in the northern portions of Cedar Creek.

Palm Warbler, D. palmarum M -, c, -, c 0
Palm Warblers are common migrants in the early spring and the fall.

Bay-breasted Warbler, D. castanea M -, u, -, u 0
Bay-breasted Warblers are rather uncommon migrants at Cedar Creek.

Blackpoll Warbler, D. striata M -, c, -, c 0
Blackpolls are common migrants at Cedar Creek.

Cerulean Warbler, D. cerulea M -, r, -, - 0
The only record of a Cerulean Warbler at Cedar Creek was a bird east of the duck pens on May 23, 1974.

Black-and-White Warbler, Mniotilta varia SR -, c, u-c, c *** n b
Black-and-White Warblers are common migrants and relatively uncommon breeders at Cedar Creek. They have bred in the moist woods near the lab and south of the eastern telemetry tower.
American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla* SR - c, u, c ()

Redstarts are among the most common migrant warblers at Cedar Creek. Very few redstarts breed at Cedar Creek, which is somewhat surprising given their abundance in neighboring counties. Howitz has never found more than two pairs of redstarts at Cedar Creek in any given year, and has no breeding season record since 1981.

Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus* SR -, c, c, c *** n b

Ovenbirds are a common nesting species in the moist woods at Cedar Creek and breed less commonly in the oak woods.

Northern Waterthrush, *S. noveboracensis* SR -, c, u, u ** b

Northern Waterthrushes are common migrants at Cedar Creek, and presumably breed in small numbers along the shores of Cedar Bog Lake and in the boggy area southeast of Lawrence's cabin. A pair was feeding young on July 7, 1979 near the northwest shore of Cedar Bog Lake. Cedar Creek is by far the farthest south that Northern Waterthrushes are known to nest in Minnesota.

Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis* M -, u, -, u 0

Connecticut Warblers are uncommon to rare migrants at Cedar Creek.

Mourning Warbler, *O. philadelphia* SR -, u, r, u ** b

Mourning Warblers are uncommon migrants and rare breeders at Cedar Creek. A pair bred about 500 m northnortheast of Corneia's cabin in 1954, and a pair bred in the moist woods about 700 m south of the lab in 1979. In June 1987 males were in two locations along the Lundgren Branch and north of Allison Savannah.

Common Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas* M -, a, a, a *** n b

Yellowthroats are abundant in long grassy vegetation at Cedar Creek. They are especially common in wet areas with an open canopy. Yellowthroats may be the most abundant bird at Cedar Creek during the breeding season.

Hooded Warbler, *Wilsonia citrina* M -, -, r, - 0

The only Cedar Creek record of a Hooded Warbler was a male that was singing in the oaks 500 m southeast of the lab on June 16, 1980.

Wilson's Warbler, *W. pusilla* M -, u, -, u-c 0

Wilson's Warbler is a rather uncommon migrant at Cedar Creek.

Canada Warbler, *W. canadensis* M -, u, r, u ()

Canada warblers are rather uncommon migrants at Cedar Creek. There are four summer records, June 23 and 30, 1978, June 20, 1980, and June 6, 1981 all near 24. There is no positive breeding evidence.

**SUBFAMILY THRAUPINAE** Tanagers

Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea* SR -, c, c-a, c *** n b

Scarlet Tanagers are a common and conspicuous breeding species at Cedar Creek, especially in the oak woods. Tanager numbers at Cedar Creek appear to have increased in the 1980's, a surprising development given the habitat destruction on their Latin American wintering grounds. At Cedar Creek tanagers generally nest in oaks near an opening in the tree canopy.

**SUBFAMILY CARDINALINAE** Cardinal Finches

Northern Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis* R u, u, u, u ()

Cardinals are rare to uncommon at Cedar Creek. The only place cardinals have occurred with any consistency is near the houses along 26.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus* SR -, c, c, u *** n b

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are reasonably common at Cedar Creek in wooded areas with considerable understory, nesting in such species as hazelnut, alder, and small oaks.

Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea* SR -, c, a, c *** n b

Indigo Buntings are abundant in the considerable edge habitat at Cedar Creek. Buntings are also common in the savannah areas, using the surviving hazelnut, poison ivy, or blackberries as nesting cover.

Dickcissel, *Spiza americana* SR -, r, r, r ()

Dickcissels were seen during the summer in the early 1970's sitting on wires near the duck pens.

SUBFAMILY EMBERIZINAE Sparrows

Rufous-sided Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* SR -, c, c, u *** n b

Towhees are common at Cedar Creek and breed where openings occur in the oak woodlands and in the savannahs.

American Tree Sparrow, *Spizella arborea* WV r-c, c, -, c 0

Tree Sparrows are generally more common in the winter at Cedar Creek than are juncos, but are not nearly as abundant in migration. In winter tree sparrows occur along the plowed county roads, and in some of the fields and savannah areas.

Chipping Sparrow, *S. passerina* SR -, c, c, c *** n b

Chipping Sparrows at Cedar Creek frequently nest in evergreens, but occur in fields where such nest sites are rare or absent, and are also found in the pine woods north of Cedar Bog Lake. They occur in many of the same fields as do Vesper and Field Sparrows.

Clay-colored Sparrow, *S. pallida* SR -, u, u, - ** n

Clay-colored Sparrows are rare to uncommon, but regular at Cedar Creek. They nest in the Christmas tree plantation west of Allison Savannah, and also have been found at the west end of the field west of East Bethel Boulevard 1.2 km north of 26.

Field Sparrow, *S. pusilla* SR -, a, a, c *** n b

Field Sparrows are among the most abundant breeding birds at Cedar Creek. They breed in fields and oak savannahs, nesting on or near the ground in small trees, bushes, or vines.

Vesper Sparrow, *Poecetes gramineus* SR -, c, c, c *** n b

Vesper Sparrows commonly breed in the short grass fields at Cedar Creek, especially those with patches of bare ground.

Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus* SR -, c, c, u *** n b

Lark Sparrows are so easily seen at Cedar Creek that it is surprising that they are so much less common elsewhere in the state. Lark Sparrows are most abundant in the Allison Savannah, the Christmas tree plantation to its west, and the savannah portion of Cedar Creek to its north. They also are common in the fields just north of the laboratory.

Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis* M -, r, r, - ()

Savannah Sparrows are common in the agricultural fields west of the duck pens. The only record of a Savannah Sparrow on Cedar Creek property is a bird in the field southeast of Fish Lake on May 25, 1986.
Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*  SR -, u, u, - *
Grasshopper Sparrows are not common at Cedar Creek. They occur in the fields between Fish Lake and East Bethel Boulevard and in the fields south of 24 east of the lab.

Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca*  M -, c, -, c 0
Fox Sparrows are common migrants at Cedar Creek.

Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia*  SR -, c-a, c-a, c-a *** n b
Song Sparrows are common to abundant breeding birds in the moist areas of grasses and sedges at Cedar Creek.

Lincoln's Sparrow, *M. lincolnii*  M -, r-u, -, r-u 0
Lincoln's Sparrows are rare migrants at Cedar Creek. They have occurred along the path to Cedar Bog Lake.

Swamp Sparrow, *M. georgiana*  SR -, c, c, c *** n
Swamp Sparrows are common breeding birds along the edges of many of the marshes at Cedar Creek, notably the large marshes west and south of Fish Lake.

White-throated Sparrows, *Zonotrichia albicollis*  SR -, a, u, a ()
White-throated Sparrows are abundant spring and fall migrants at Cedar Creek, especially in bushy areas. White-throated Sparrows have been found in the bogs around Cedar Bog Lake during the breeding season, but appear to have declined there since the study of Breckenridge (1955).

White-crowned Sparrow, *Z. leucophrys*  M -, u, -, u 0
White-crowned Sparrows are uncommon migrants at Cedar Creek.

Harris' Sparrow, *Z. querula*  M -, r, -, - 0
Harris' Sparrow is a rare migrant at Cedar Creek. The only records are two birds east of the north-south road on May 3, 1974, a bird near the laboratory on May 11, 1978, and a bird by the resident biologist's house on May 15, 1980.

Dark-eyed Junco, *Junco hyemalis*  WV u-c, a, -, a 0
Juncos are abundant spring and fall migrants at Cedar Creek. They are usually not common on the area in winter, but are common at feeders in the vicinity. There are no summer records.

Snow Bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis*  WV u, -, -, - 0
Snow Buntings are uncommon winter visitors at Cedar Creek, occurring in large flocks in the fields along the county roads.

**SUBFAMILY ICTERINAE** Icterids

Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*  SR -, u, u, - ()
Bobolinks are rarely seen on the Cedar Creek property itself. There are records of Bobolinks along the western and eastern edges of the property, and 1 km south of the property. There is no positive breeding evidence.

Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*  SR -, a, a, a *** n b
Red-winged Blackbirds are abundant at Cedar Creek. They probably breed in all of the cattail marshes and in many of the other marshy areas. The first males return to Cedar Creek by about April 1. Vast flocks of redwings and grackles roost in the marshes west of Fish Lake in October and early November.
Eastern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna* SR –, c, c, c *
Eastern Meadowlarks are common in the fields southeast of the Peterson farm, and may also be present in the fields along 24 and 26.

Western Meadowlark, *S. neglecta* SR –, u, u, u *
Western Meadowlarks are not common at Cedar Creek. They can usually be found near the intersection of 24 and 26.

Yellow-headed Blackbird, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* SR –, c, c, u ** n b
A colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds generally breeds in the large marsh west of Fish Lake. Numbers vary from year to year, and in very dry years they may be absent. Yellow-headed Blackbirds have also bred in the cattails along the north shore of Fish Lake and in marshes southwest of the area.

Rusty Blackbird, *Euphagus carolinus* M –, u, –, u 0
Rusty Blackbirds are uncommon migrants at Cedar Creek, visiting the wooded swamps there.

Brewer's Blackbird, *E. cyanocephalus* SR –, u, u, u ()
Brewer's Blackbirds are not common at Cedar Creek. They have been seen along 56, and are fairly common in some of the farmland adjacent to the area, and on the median-strip of Highway 65.

Common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula* R r, c, c, c *** n b
Grackles are common breeders along the north shore of Fish Lake and breed uncommonly in residential areas adjacent to the area. Immense flocks of grackles pass through the area on migration, and large flocks occur occasionally on the area even in the summer. Grackles occasionally winter in the Cedar Creek vicinity.

Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater* SR –, c, c, u *** n b (brood parasites)
Cowbirds are conspicuous at Cedar Creek in the spring, but are much less noticeable from June onwards. At Cedar Creek cowbird eggs have been found in the nests of Least Flycatchers, Lark Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Ovenbirds, and Common Yellowthroats. Cowbird fledglings have been found being fed by Scarlet Tanagers, Song Sparrows, Nashville Warblers, Golden-winged Warblers, Black-and-White Warblers, and Red-eyed Vireos. At Cedar Creek cowbirds do not parasitize cavity nesters, jays, and apparently not such suitable and common hosts as Cedar Waxwings and Eastern Phoebes.

Northern Oriole, *Icterus galbula* SR –, c, c, u *** n b
Baltimore (Northern) Orioles are common breeders at Cedar Creek, especially where marshes border woods. Aspen branches hanging over water seem to be preferred nest sites, but oaks and large birches are also used.

**SUBFAMILY CARDUELINAE** Cardueline Finches

Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator* WV r-c, r-u, –, r 0
Pine Grosbeaks are recorded at Cedar Creek about one out of two winters. Occasionally they are common to abundant. At Cedar Creek they feed extensively on ash seeds.
Purple Finch, Carpodacus purpureus  R  u-c, c, r, u-c  ** b
Purple Finches are common spring migrants and reasonably common fall migrants at Cedar Creek. In some winters they are reasonably common at feeders near the area. Purple Finches have bred on or near the area, since adults with dependent fledglings were seen at feeders at the Vesall residence adjacent to the area along Durant in 1979 and 1980. There are also breeding season records of Purple Finches in some of the coniferous portions of Cedar Creek. Breeding on the area probably does not occur in most years.

Red Crossbill, Loxia curvirostra  WV  r-u, -, -, r-u  0
Red Crossbills are uncommon at Cedar Creek, even in the coniferous portions.

White-winged Crossbill, L. leucoptera  WV  r-u, -, -, r-u  0
Like Red Crossbills, White-winged Crossbills are uncommon at Cedar Creek.

Common Redpoll, Carduelis flammea  WR  r-a, r-a, -, r-u  0
Common Redpoll numbers at Cedar Creek probably vary more from year to year than those of any other species. In some winters they are absent. In others they are the most abundant winter bird at Cedar Creek. In some winters they are reasonably common at Cedar Creek but rare in the Twin Cities. At Cedar Creek redpolls feed on birch seeds and "weed" seeds that extend above the snow. Numbers commonly increase throughout the winter and then the birds disappear in late March and early April. The so-called "Hoary Redpoll" (C. hornemanni) undoubtably occurs at Cedar Creek, but is probably just a color morph of the Common Redpoll (Auk 102:82-96, 1985).

Pine Siskin, C. pinus  R  r-c, c, r, c ()
Pine Siskins are common migrants at Cedar Creek and are common in some winters. In other winters they are rare or absent. There are some summer records, but no positive breeding evidence. Since siskins occasionally breed in the Twin Cities, and breed farther north in Minnesota, it is likely that they will eventually breed at Cedar Creek.

American Goldfinch, C. tristis  R  c-a, c-a, c-a, c-a  *** n b
Goldfinches are common to abundant at Cedar Creek the year round. They breed in late summer, nesting in conifers, deciduous trees, and especially in bushes near marshes. Banding by Jean Vesall indicates that at least some of the goldfinches in the Cedar Creek area are present throughout the year.

Evening Grosbeak, Coccothraustes vespertina  WV  c, u-c, -, c  0
Evening Grosbeaks are in most winters common at Cedar Creek and in adjacent areas. At Cedar Creek Evening Grosbeaks feed on seeds retained on the trees in winter, but also patronize bird feeders, and many apparently commute between Cedar Creek and these feeders on a regular basis. They roost at Cedar Creek in conifers and in oaks that retain leaves in winter. There are no breeding season records.

FAMILY PASSERIDAE  Weaver Finches

House Sparrow, Passer domesticus  R  u, u, u, u  *** n b
House Sparrows are not common on the Cedar Creek property itself. They are common in adjacent residential and agricultural areas.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


APPENDIX

HYPOTHETICAL SPECIES

The following are species on the Cedar Creek "list", but for which we have been unable to find a record in the Cedar Creek files.

Dowitcher, Limnodromus sp. M
Snowy Owl, Nyctea scandiaca WV
Boreal Chickadee, Parus hudsonicus M
Lapland Longspur, Calcarius lapponicus WV