

## Eastern Bluebird – *Sialia Sialis*

### Habitat Requirements:

Bluebirds are a “creature of the edge,” often inhabiting a mixture of open fields and trees. They will inhabit parks, farm fields, orchards, and even golf courses but prefer forest openings and fields.

### Diet:

Bluebirds are omnivores so they indulge in both bugs and berries. They have been known to hunt on the ground for insects and forage of sumac, dogwood, black gum, black cherry, blueberries, and honeysuckle berries.

### Fun Facts:

- Eastern bluebirds were nearly eliminated from Maryland due to a lack of nesting sites. Bird enthusiasts have been known to place bird nest boxes at the edges of fields.
- Their song is a rambling “chur-lee.”



Summer Resident

## Hermit Thrush – *Catharus guttatus*

### Habitat Requirements:

This brown-backed thrush chooses older forests with a lot of different levels in the canopy to perch. They like sites that have both conifers and hardwoods.

### Diet:

Thrushes will eat a wide variety of insects like ants, caterpillars, and flies. They have also been known to forage for elderberries, pokeberries, serviceberries, and grapes.

### Fun Facts:

- Hermit thrushes have a very distinctive, flute-like, call. You can hear them on warm days calling out a “hoo-doodolilili” and a shrieking “WHEY” call.
- These thrushes tend to stick around longer than any other thrush, often not beginning to migrate until the later fall months.



Summer Resident

## Gray Catbird – *Dumetella carolinensis*

### Habitat Requirements:

These secretive birds can be found in favors dense low growth. Most common in leafy thickets along the edges of woods and streams, shrubby swamps, overgrown brushy fields, and hedges in gardens. Avoids unbroken forest and coniferous woods.

### Diet:

Catbirds are not strictly carnivores but they eat many different types of beetles, ants, caterpillars, grasshoppers, crickets, true bugs, and other insects, as well as spiders and millipedes. They eat many kinds of wild berries and some cultivated fruit (especially in fall and winter).

### Fun Facts:

- The Chippewa Indians named this creature the “Bird That Cries with Grief” due to its raspy calls that are often mistaken for a cats “mew.”
- Catbirds will also mimic the calls of other birds to attract a mate.
- People have observed catbirds eating doughnuts, boiled potatoes, and cheese at birdfeeders.



Year-Round Resident

## Louisiana Waterthrush – *Parkesia motallica*

### Habitat Requirements:

These thrush-like warblers like to take residence in open areas containing water. Some examples would be brooks, ravines, flood plains, and wooded swamps. They favor rapid-flowing, gravel-bottomed streams flowing through hilly, deciduous forest.

### Diet:

They eat many terrestrial insects including beetles, bugs, ants and caterpillars. They will also eat aquatic insects like adult and larval mayflies, dragonflies, and crane-fly larvae and also small crustaceans, snails, a few small fish and seeds.

### Fun Facts:

- This warbler will walk on the ground at the water's edge, bobbing the rear part of its body up and down.



Summer Resident

## Brown Creeper – *Certhia americana*

### Habitat Requirements:

Creepers are known to inhabit woodlands, groves, shade trees. They prefer mature coniferous forests with many large trees, ranging from pine woods to swamp forest. They may be found in younger forests where there is plenty of space to explore.

### Diet:

Creepers mostly dine on insect especially insect eggs and pupae hidden in bark. They will also hunt for weevils, other beetles, leafhoppers, scale insects, aphids, caterpillars, ants, and many others. Also feeds on spiders and pseudo-scorpions. They rarely eat plant seeds.

### Fun Facts:

- The Brown Creeper is an elusive bird, with camouflage that resembles a trees bark.
- They hunt for food by starting from the base of a tree and spiral up in search of hidden insects.
- These little guys can be attracted to your bird feeder using suet or peanut-butter mixtures.
- Their call is a high-pitched “seesoosesoo.”

Year-Round Resident



# A Site for Soaring Eyes: Big Run State Park Map



**Legend**

-  Habitat Site
-  Road
-  Reservoir
-  River
-  Structure

