

RedGate Park Birding Game

Game Objective

The Objective of this game is to see 18 birds on the 18 holes of this golf course. The birds suggested are based on what birders have seen in each habitat. Unlike golf, where the tee and green see the action, birding takes place everywhere. Hence this game uses each hole marker as a starting point and suggests a bird you might see before you come to the next hole marker. Your phone is a great birding asset—for birdcalls as well as other information. Just type the name of the bird you're seeking into your search engine. NOTE: You will need binoculars!



1 Canada Goose

Signs will lead you from the parking lot to Hole number 1. Between Hole number 1 and hole number 2, you are likely to see flocks of Canadian Geese. They may be on the hillsides, in the water, or flying over. You will see a second path running parallel to you, but stay on the left-hand path. You'll go up a gradual hillside into a small wood.



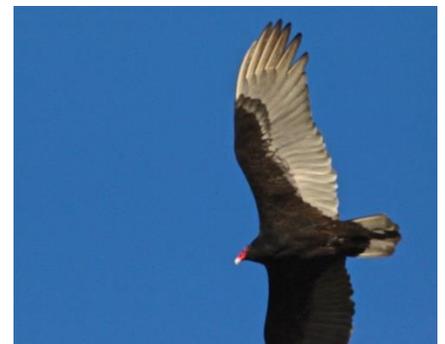
2 Red-bellied Woodpecker

Between this marker and the next, you are very likely to see, and hear, the red-bellied woodpecker. He makes a coughing sound like a red-headed gentleman in a herringbone jacket who wants your attention.



3 Turkey Vulture

From now on keep an eye on the sky. The turkey vulture has a tiny red head, and black wings with an in-set of white. This bird glides, often in lazy circles, over the landscape.



4 Blue Jay

Blue Jays love Redgate. Listen for their twangy “Thief, Thief, Thief!” and look for the bright blue of their upper plumage broken by white patches on their wings and tail.



5 Northern Flicker

You will now be going up the hill to Hole 6. Flickers could be anywhere along here, on the ground, in the trees, or flying. Listen for their “Peah!” and, if they fly away from you, their white rump. Do be careful crossing the road!



6 Northern Mockingbird

You’ll turn back now, to head toward the marker for Hole 7. A mockingbird lives in the small landscaped area the path circles. This bird has prominent white wing patches and is often less shy than other birds.



7 American Crow

You will be passing the parking lot on your left as you sweep past the clubhouse to reach the 8th marker. This is a great place to look overhead for flying American Crows. They literally say, “Caw, caw, caw!”



8 Mourning Dove

As you walk between 8 and 9, look for Mourning Doves. They are often in the short grass of the old greens or sitting in groups in bare trees. They make a “coo-ah, coo-coo-coo” but the best way to ID them is that their wings seem to creak when they fly.



9 Chipping Sparrow

You'll be walking now from Hole 9 back toward the Clubhouse. Birders who have been birding all over the world, say they have never seen so many chipping sparrows as at Redgate. You can often see these birds picking up seeds right on the paved path! They have rusty red caps and say "chip, chip, chip!" They aren't year-round birds in our area, but they have stayed at Redgate all winter.



10 Red-Shouldered Hawk

Head from the Clubhouse area to the marker for hole number 10. As you move toward number 11, look to your left for Red-shouldered Hawks perched on the poles that used to hold nets around the driving range. They make a high "ker-yer" sound. You will pass various crossroads and turnoffs in the next section. Stay to the left at the first, right at the second, and left at the third. Marker 11 is under a lone tree.



11 Great Blue Heron

Train your binoculars on the cattail swamp down the hill. Look especially at the stepping stones near the far side of the water. There is often a Great Blue Heron there. You'll be swinging past the swamp as you go down, then up, the hill toward Marker 12.



12 White-Breasted Nuthatch

Marker 12 is close to the industrial buildings on East Gude Drive, but there are still birds to be seen as you head down then next long hill. White-breasted nuthatches love this area. They pick up seeds and stuff them into the loose bark of what are then called "pantry trees." They make a nasal 'yank, yank, yank' that sounds like they want you to get out of their way. When you are behind the Zava Zone building, you will have to skirt around a tree that has fallen across the path.



13 Carolina Wren

The habitat after Stone 13 is perfect for the Carolina Wren, especially the rotting logs on the forest side of the path. This wren has a white stripe through the eye, and has 24 different vocalizations—all of them LOUD, given how tiny he is. The male defends his territory year-round.



14 Eastern Bluebird

After a few dips and a long downhill, you'll go part-way up again for Stone 14. This is a great place to look for flying birds you might have missed earlier—like the vultures and blue jays, but you'll now be heading downhill toward a set of river birches that grow on both sides of the path. This is a favorite haunt of Eastern Bluebirds who sing "Turalee!" You'll cross the road again on your way to Hole 15.



15 American Robin

Robins may be on the ground, or in the trees. You may have noticed them already. They are very common near the Entrance and in the parking lot at certain times of the year. You will now pass the cell tower on your left. Sometimes vultures perch on it!



16 Carolina Chickadee and Tufted Titmouse

Take note—the only Portajohn in the Park is between Holes 16 and 17. Thanks to the Park for Maintaining it! In the trees around this (adorable) structure, you can almost always find mixed flocks of chickadees and titmice.



17 Northern Cardinal

You are now between the arms of Rt 28, and East Gude Drive, so you may not want to linger, but you may still see Cardinals as you sweep down the hill toward the final hole. Cardinals are one of the most beloved birds in our area.



18 Mallard

Mallards are well-known for the males' beautiful green heads, and their lovely gliding ways on water. We don't have as many in the Park as we expected, but you may well see them at this final water feature.



For complete illustrated list, see:

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L9784319/media?yr=all&m=>

This document is available at www.RedGatePark.org in
the Birds of RedGate Section.