



# Bird Watching in the Park

## Can you find these special creatures?

See if you can find these hand sculptured life sized birds, made by regional Blacksmith and Artist, Leif Johnson. These sculptures are touchable so you can experience close up the birds they represent and help you recognize ones you'll discover while walking our trails.

To get the right size and feel, Leif used resources shared by the Pember Museum of Natural History in Granville, NY. The descriptions and songs are from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology site.



**Great Blue Heron**  
*Sculptured by Leif Johnson*

Scan the QR code for its song



Whether poised at a river bend or cruising the coastline with slow, deep wingbeats, the Great Blue Heron is a majestic sight. This stately heron with its subtle blue-gray plumage often stands motionless as it scans for prey or wades belly deep with long, deliberate steps. They may move slowly, but Great Blue Herons can strike like lightning to grab a fish or snap up a gopher. In flight, look for this widespread heron's tucked-in neck and long legs trailing out behind.



**Northern Cardinal**  
*Sculptured by Leif Johnson*

Scan the QR code for its song



**MISSING**  
The male Northern Cardinal is perhaps responsible for getting more people to open up a field guide than any other bird. They're a perfect combination of familiarity, conspicuousness, and style: a shade of red you can't take your eyes off. Even the brown females sport a sharp crest and warm red accents. Cardinals don't migrate and they don't molt into a dull plumage, so they're still breathtaking in winter's snowy backyards. In summer, their sweet whistles are one of the first sounds of the morning.



**Black-capped Chickadee**  
*Sculptured by Leif Johnson*

Scan the QR code for its song



**MISSING**  
A bird almost universally considered "cute" thanks to its oversized round head, tiny body, and curiosity about everything, including humans. The chickadee's black cap and bib; white cheeks; gray back, wings, and tail; and whitish underside with buffy sides are distinctive. Its habit of investigating people and everything else in its home territory, and quickness to discover bird feeders, make it one of the first birds most people learn.



**Pileated Woodpecker**  
*Sculptured by Leif Johnson*

Scan the QR code for its song



The Pileated Woodpecker is one of the biggest, most striking forest birds on the continent. It's nearly the size of a crow, black with bold white stripes down the neck and a flaming-red crest. Look (and listen) for Pileated Woodpeckers whacking at dead trees and fallen logs in search of their main prey, carpenter ants, leaving unique rectangular holes in the wood. The nest holes these birds make offer crucial shelter to many species including swifts, owls, ducks, bats, and pine martens.



**Kingfisher**  
*Sculptured by Leif Johnson*

Scan the QR code for its song



**MISSING**  
With its top-heavy physique, energetic flight, and piercing rattle, the Belted Kingfisher seems to have an air of self-importance as it patrols up and down rivers and shorelines. It nests in burrows along earthen banks and feeds almost entirely on aquatic prey, diving to catch fish and crayfish with its heavy, straight bill. These ragged-crested birds are a powdery blue-gray; males have one blue band across the white breast, while females have a blue and a chestnut band.



**Nuthatch**  
*Sculptured by Leif Johnson*

Scan the QR code for its song



A common feeder bird with clean black, gray, and white markings, White-breasted Nuthatches are active, agile little birds with an appetite for insects and large, meaty seeds. They get their common name from their habit of jamming large nuts and acorns into tree bark, then whacking them with their sharp bill to "hatch" out the seed from the inside. White-breasted Nuthatches may be small but their voices are loud, and often their insistent nasal yammering will lead you right to them.



**Baltimore Oriole**  
*Sculptured by Leif Johnson*

Scan the QR code for its song



**MISSING**  
The rich, whistling song of the Baltimore Oriole, echoing from treetops near homes and parks, is a sweet herald of spring in eastern North America. Look way up to find these singers: the male's brilliant orange plumage blazes from high branches like a torch. Nearby, you might spot the female weaving her remarkable hanging nest from slender fibers. Fond of fruit and nectar as well as insects, Baltimore Orioles are easily lured to backyard feeders.

For additional information visit our website at [www.hudsoncrossingpark.org](http://www.hudsoncrossingpark.org)

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