

## Ground Nesting Birds of Lanark County

There are approximately 50 species of birds in Lanark County that build their nests directly on the ground or very near to the ground. These birds are therefore at particular risk of having their nests destroyed by human recreation, by dogs, by feral cats, and by cattle grazing. The period between April and July is critical, because that is when they are building their nests, laying their eggs, and feeding their young. Some of these species, including the whip-poor-will, black and white warbler, bobolink, eastern meadowlark and ovenbird already have declining populations in North America.

The species are listed in the order in which they appear in standard bird guides, and sorted into two habitats, wetland and upland. Not everyone will agree about each species, since some birds nest very near the ground, but not directly on it, so other species might be added.

The original list was prepared by Cliff Bennett who is a local expert on Lanark County birds, and has for many years written the 'Speaking of Birds' column for the *Lanark Era*. He was also a founding member of the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists, served on the board of Ontario Nature, and in 2007 received a conservation award from the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. The list was then edited using input from other local naturalists.

### Wetland

common loon  
Canada goose  
trumpeter swan  
ring-necked duck  
green-winged teal  
American black duck  
mallard  
blue-winged teal  
pied-billed grebe  
American bittern  
least bittern  
American coot  
common moorhen  
Virginia rail  
sora rail  
sandhill crane  
black tern  
common tern  
sedge wren

### Upland

ruffed grouse  
wild turkey  
turkey vulture  
killdeer  
spotted sandpiper

upland sandpiper  
American woodcock  
common snipe  
common nighthawk  
whip-poor-will  
yellow-bellied flycatcher  
winter wren  
veery  
hermit thrush  
brown thrasher  
blue-winged warbler  
golden-winged warbler  
Tennessee warbler  
Nashville warbler  
black and white warbler  
ovenbird  
mourning warbler  
Canada warbler  
eastern towhee  
white-throated sparrow  
field sparrow  
savannah sparrow  
swamp sparrow  
song sparrow  
vesper sparrow  
bobolink  
eastern meadowlark