

(Table 2). The most exciting find was a pair of state-threatened Red-shouldered Hawks and their four fledglings. We unexpectedly found two pairs of Cerulean Warblers and observed copulation of one pair in mid-May. Pairs of Black-billed Cuckoos and Vesper Sparrows observed in mid-June were south of their typical breeding range.

The forest habitat was dominated by cavity-nesting species. Downy, Red-bellied, and Red-headed Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches, House Wrens, Tufted Titmice, and Great Crested Flycatchers were among the most frequently observed

species. Prothonotary Warblers were found where trees and standing water were close together. Yellow-billed Cuckoos, American Crows, and Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos were also common. Subcanopy birds were uncommon (only Eastern Towhees were regularly encountered) and ground-nesting birds, such as Ovenbirds, were absent. There are few sub-canopy shrubs, and poison ivy is nearly the only ground layer vegetation in the forest. Saturated soils likely discourage ground-nesting species as well.

The marsh and shrub-swamp area was dominated by Red-winged Black-

birds. Common Yellow-throats, Common Grackles, and Indigo Buntings were abundant in the marsh, responding to the extensive invasion of willows into the bulrushes. More typical marsh/shrub-swamp species included Green Herons, Wood Ducks, Spotted Sandpipers, Willow Flycatchers, and Yellow Warblers. Least Bitterns, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, and Common Moorhens were not recorded, but have been located within similar habitats in Lawrence County.

The most common birds of the open habitat were those adapted to forest-prairie ecotones, such as Mourning Doves, Common Yellowthroats, Indigo Buntings, and American Goldfinches. More typical grassland species included Red-winged Blackbirds, Dickcissels, Grasshopper, and Field and Vesper Sparrows.

Conclusions. Chauncey Marsh Natural Area hosts a good diversity of breeding birds. The bottomland forests are significant for supporting breeding Cerulean Warblers and Red-Shouldered Hawks. However, observed diversity within the marsh habitat was low. Reintroduction of periodic burning and the ability to restore natural hydrologic patterns to the marsh would greatly improve this habitat. Monitoring the forest and marsh will be important to document continued breeding of Red-shouldered Hawks and to detect any threatened or endangered species that may begin utilizing the marsh as restoration efforts continue.

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Table 2. Birds of Chauncey Marsh Natural Area, April-June 1998.
An * denotes species known to breed *within* the natural area.

Great Blue Heron	*Green Heron
*Wood Duck	Hooded Merganser
Turkey Vulture	Red-tailed hawk
*Red-shouldered Hawk	*Northern Bobwhite
*Killdeer	*Spotted Sandpiper
*Mourning Dove	*Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-billed Cuckoo	Great Horned Owl
*Barred Owl	*Ruby-throated Hummingbird
*Northern Flicker	*Red-bellied Woodpecker
*Red-headed Woodpecker	*Hairy Woodpecker
*Downy Woodpecker	*Pileated Woodpecker
*Eastern Kingbird	*Great Crested Flycatcher
*Willow Flycatcher	*Eastern Wood-Pewee
*Horned Lark	Barn Swallow
*Blue Jay	*American Crow
*Carolina Chickadee	*Tufted Titmouse
*White-breasted Nuthatch	*House Wren
*Carolina Wren	*Gray Catbird
*Brown Thrasher	*American Robin
Wood Thrush	*Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
Cedar Waxwing	*White-eyed Vireo
*Red-eyed Vireo	*Warbling Vireo
*Yellow-throated Vireo	*Yellow Warbler
*Northern Parula	*Cerulean Warbler
*Prothonotary Warbler	*Common Yellowthroat
*Red-winged Blackbird	*Orchard Oriole
*Baltimore Oriole	*Common Grackle
(*)Brown-headed Cowbird	*Northern Cardinal
*Indigo Bunting	*Dickcissel
*Eastern Towhee	*Grasshopper Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow	*Field Sparrow
*Song Sparrow	*American Goldfinch