



Bird Lane Trail Guide

A Self-Guided Walk





Welcome to Our Bird Lane Trail

This booklet will be your guide around the Environmental Center. Along the way you will encounter numbered posts that correspond to the descriptions within the guide.

Enjoy your walk!

Post #16: **House Sparrow**

Sooty city bird, common and very aggressive. They are present in populated areas such as cities, suburbs, and farms. Plain in color and recognized by their black bib and bill and white cheeks. Often seen in flocks and around feeders and streets.



Post #15: **Black-capped Chickadee**

A small, tame acrobat whose cry is clearly enunciated “chick-a-dee-dee-dee.” Lives in mixed and deciduous woods, willows thickets, groves, or shade trees. They visit feeders, enjoying sunflower seeds and suet. Often tame, inquisitive, and trusting.



This relatively short but ecologically interesting walk follows a wooded wetland habitat along a blue blazed trail.

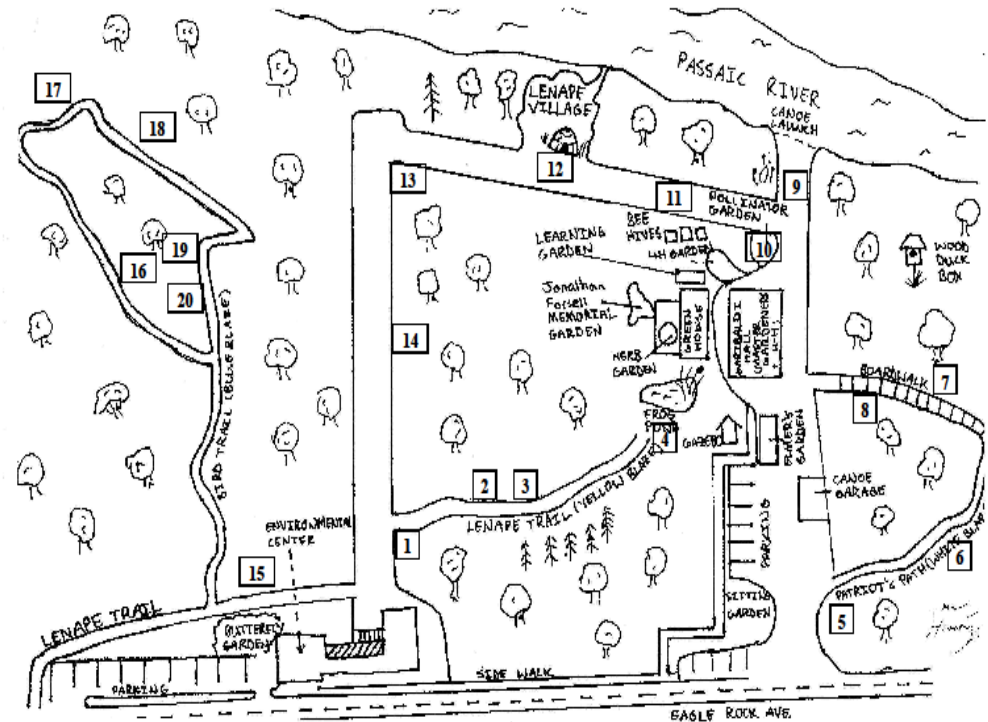
Distance: 1/2 mile loop

Numbered posts: 16

Time: 30 to 45 minutes

Starting Point: The small wooden bridge behind the Environmental Center.

CONTINUE STRAIGHT 	START OF TRAIL 	RIGHT TURN
SPUR LEADING TO A DIFFERENT TRAIL 	END OF TRAIL 	LEFT TURN



Post #1:
Barred Owl

A large owl with dark eyes, mainly nocturnal and well hidden during the day. It has dark eyes, one of only two dark eyed owls in the east. Does not generally tolerate close approach, much more likely than other owls to be heard during the day. Common in dense coniferous or mixed tree forests.



Post #14:
Red-Shouldered Hawk

This hawk lives in woodlands, by wooded rivers, and timbered swamps often near water or moist areas. Adults have reddish shoulders with a wingspan of 35 inches. They feed on small rodents, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.



Post #13:
American Robin

One of the most familiar birds, often seen walking on lawns searching for insects, earthworms, or berries. Recognized by its brick-red breast and dark grey back. In cold weather it prefers moist woods, wetlands, or fruit-bearing trees. Builds nest of grass and mud in orchard trees or shrubs or on buildings. The eggs are light blue and about the size of a quarter.



Post#2:
Downy Woodpecker

Most commonly seen eastern woodpecker in forests, woodlots, suburbs, rivers, orchards, and shade trees. Noted by its white back and small bill. Common, active, and somewhat unwary, and a common visitor to feeders.



Post #3:
Blue Jay

A showy, noisy blue bird with a crest; larger than the robin. Common in oak and pine woods. The only eastern Jay with conspicuous crest, and the only blue-winged jay with white on its wings and tail. Migrates by day in loose flocks of 5-50. Common call is a loud *Jay Jay*, hence the name “blue jay.”



Post #12:
Great Crested Flycatcher

The flycatcher is found in woodland and groves, with cinnamon wings, a grey breast, and a bright yellow belly. The voice is a loud whistled *wheep!*



Post #11:
Great Egret

Large, stately, slender, white heron with a heavy yellow bill, blackish legs and feet. It is distinguished by its large size, and is commonly found in wetlands, ponds, and marshes. Stalks its prey slowly and methodically.



Post #4:
American Goldfinch

A lively, bright yellow bird with a black cap and black wings. It lives in patches of thistle and weed, dandelions on lawns, roadsides, open woods, edges. It is easily found on feeders stocked with thistle.



Post #5:
House Wren

Small and energetic. Common in shrubbery, brush, open woods, thickets, and gardens. They are the plainest and most common wren in the east. Aggressively drives other birds from their nests.



Post #10:
Belted Kingfisher

Hovers with rapidly beating wings, ready for a plunge. The only kingfisher found in most of North America. Both male and female have a blue breast band and white bellies. Only the female has a rust belly band. Common along rivers, brooks, ponds, lakes, and estuaries. Generally solitary birds, rare in winter.



Post #9:
Great Blue Heron

A tall grey bird that can stand up to four feet tall, the largest North American heron. It has long legs and a dagger-like bill; in flight the neck is distinctly folded. Their voice is a deep harsh croak, and they mainly live in marshes, swamps, and on shores.



Post #6:
White-breasted Nuthatch

Nuthatches climb down trees *head first*. Known for their black cap and black beady eyes on a white little face. Common in deciduous woodlands, groves, river woods, shade trees, and on feeders.



Post #7:

Northern Cardinal

Seed-eating song bird and the only eastern crested bird with a conical beak (thick rounded beak necessary for opening hard shells). All red with a pointed crest, though the females are brown with just a small amount of red on their wings and tail. Lives in woodland edges, thickets, and suburban gardens. A nonmigratory bird, but the species has expanded its range northward during the 20th century.



Post #8:

Wild Turkey

Largest game bird in North America. No longer in its original range, it has been widely reintroduced and is fairly common in open woodland or forest clearings. They can fly strongly for short distances but prefer running to avoid danger. They eat acorns, fruits, and seeds. The male, or “gobbler,” calls (gobbles) in the early morning to summon the hens. At night they may roost in trees and in the spring a male’s gobbling call may be heard from a mile away.

