



this is for
The Birds



There are more than 400 species of birds in Arkansas, ninety of them commonly found.

The War Eagle Mill and surrounding pastoral areas are inviting “vacation” stops to rare coastal and western birds. Hobbs State Park Recreation Area hosts a rich mixture of songbirds, nightbirds and ordinary red-breasted robins.

Birding offers a great opportunity to teach young people about our winged friends. What is the difference between the commonly spotted white-throated sparrow and a field sparrow? The white-throated is a common winter resident of the woods surrounding War Eagle, and the **field sparrow** lives here all year long. **White-throated** and **white-crowned sparrows** are named for their distinguishing features, but the field sparrow does have a white eye ring. Birding sharpens our senses and deepens our ability to notice the small, but significant details in the world around us.

Woodpeckers love to put on a show. **Downy, hairy** and **pileated woodpeckers** are commonly found all year long near War Eagle, where they are attracted to large mature trees, especially ones with dead limbs.

Mourning doves are a common permanent resident, and flocks of them are easily spotted in stubble fields abundant with waste grain encircled by stands of trees. War Eagle is an ideal location for them.



Ruby-throated hummingbirds are found April to mid-October, with the young birds arriving at feeders and bright foliage in mid-July.

Belted Kingfishers love to nest on dirt river banks in the spring, and during the winter they are contented as long as there is unfrozen open water where they prefer to feed on small fish.



Although the **white-breasted nuthatch** is common in the mature forest around War Eagle, it would be pleasant and mildly surprising to spot a red-breasted nuthatch in the region, and even then, only in winter. This challenge could warm up a winter day, and make great conversation over a hot lunch at the Bean Palace Restaurant.