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July 2023



Blackwater

National Wildlife Refuge

Bird Checklist



Introduction



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 560 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Blackwater was established in 1933 and is located on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Dorchester County, Maryland, about 10 miles south of Cambridge. It serves as an important resting and feeding area for migrating and wintering waterfowl that use the Atlantic Flyway. The Eastern Shore of Maryland has one of the largest populations of nesting bald eagles on the Atlantic coast north of Florida.

Species names are in accordance with the most recent American Ornithologists' Union Checklist as amended. This brochure lists 295 species of birds identified by refuge personnel and ornithologists as occurring on the refuge, plus an additional 30 species of accidentals.

Notes

Location _____

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

Most birds are migratory and their seasonal occurrence and relative abundance are coded as follows:

Season

Sp	spring	March – May
S	summer	June – August
F	fall	September – November
W	winter	December – February

A dot (•) indicates birds known to nest on or near the refuge.

Italics indicate threatened/endangered species.

(CB) indicates species that are most likely to be seen on the refuge property adjacent to the Chesapeake Bay.

Relative Abundance

Relative abundance indicates how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat.

a	abundant	a species which is very numerous
c	common	likely to be seen or heard in suitable habitat
u	uncommon	present, but not certain to be seen
o	occasional	seen only a few times during a season
r	rare	seen only a few times in the past 10 years

The refuge would like to thank volunteer Harry Armistead and the birding community for their help in keeping this list accurate.



Red-winged blackbird

Swans – Geese – Ducks

___ Tundra Swan _____	u		c	c
___ Trumpeter Swan _____				r
___ • Mute Swan _____	o	o	o	o
___ Snow Goose _____	u		c	c
___ Ross's Goose _____			o	o
___ Brant (CB) _____			r	r
___ • Canada Goose _____	a	u	a	a
___ Cackling Goose _____	o		u	u
___ Greater White-fronted Goose _____			r	r
___ • Wood Duck _____	c	c	c	o
___ Green-winged Teal _____	c		c	u
___ Eurasian Green-winged Teal _____	o			o
___ • American Black Duck _____	c	u	c	c
___ • Mallard _____	a	c	a	a
___ Northern Pintail _____	c		c	u
___ Blue-winged Teal _____	u	u	u	o
___ Northern Shoveler _____	c		u	c
___ Gadwall _____	u	u	u	u
___ Eurasian Wigeon _____	r		r	r
___ American Wigeon _____	u		u	u
___ Canvasback (CB) _____	u		u	c
___ Redhead (CB) _____	u		u	u
___ Ring-necked Duck _____	u		u	c
___ Greater Scaup (CB) _____	u		u	u
___ Lesser Scaup (CB) _____	c		u	c
___ Long-tailed Duck (CB) _____	c		u	c
___ Black Scoter (CB) _____	u		u	u
___ Surf Scoter (CB) _____	c		c	u
___ White-winged Scoter (CB) _____	u		u	u
___ Common Goldeneye (CB) _____	u		u	u
___ Bufflehead _____	c		u	c
___ Hooded Merganser _____	u		u	u
___ Common Merganser _____	u		u	c
___ Red-breasted Merganser (CB) _____	c		u	u
___ Ruddy Duck _____	u		u	c

Gallinaceous Birds

___ • Wild Turkey _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Northern Bobwhite _____	u	u	u	u

Loons – Grebes

___ Red-throated Loon (CB) _____	o		o	o
___ Common Loon _____	c		c	u
___ Pied-billed Grebe _____	u	o	u	u
___ Horned Grebe (CB) _____	c		u	u
___ Red-necked Grebe (CB) _____	o			

Gannets

___ Northern Gannet (CB) _____	u		o	o
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Pelicans

___ American White Pelican _____	u	o	u	u
___ • Brown Pelican (CB) _____	u	u	u	

Cormorants

___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	c	u	c	r
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Bitterns – Herons – Egrets

___ American Bittern _____	u		u	u
___ • Least Bittern _____	u	u	u	
___ • Great Blue Heron _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Great Egret _____	c	c	c	o
___ • Snowy Egret _____	c	c	c	r
___ • Little Blue Heron _____	u	u	u	r
___ • Tricolored Heron _____	u	u	u	r
___ • Cattle Egret _____	u	u	u	
___ • Green Heron _____	u	u	u	
___ • Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	u	u	u	o
___ • Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (CB) _____	u	u	u	



Great blue heron

Sp Su F W

Ibises

___ White Ibis _____	r	r	r	
___ • Glossy Ibis _____	u	u	u	

New World Vultures

___ • Black Vulture _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Turkey Vulture _____	a	a	a	a

Ospreys - Hawks – Eagles

___ • Osprey _____	c	c	c	
___ • Bald Eagle _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Northern Harrier _____	u	u	c	c
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	u		c	u
___ • Cooper's Hawk _____	u	r	c	u
___ Northern Goshawk _____			r	r
___ • Red-shouldered Hawk _____	u	o	u	u
___ Broad-winged Hawk _____	u		u	
___ • Red-tailed Hawk _____	c	c	c	c
___ Rough-legged Hawk _____	u		u	u
___ Golden Eagle _____	o		u	u

Falcons

___ American Kestrel _____	u	o	c	u
___ Merlin _____	o		u	o
___ Peregrine Falcon _____	o	o	o	o

Rails

___ Yellow Rail _____	r		r	
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Killdeer

Sp Su F W

___ • Black Rail _____	r	r	r	
___ • Clapper Rail _____	u	u	u	u
___ • King Rail _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Virginia Rail _____	c	c	c	u
___ Sora _____	u		u	r
___ • Common Gallinule _____	u	u	u	
___ American Coot _____	u		u	u

Plovers – Sandpipers

___ Black-bellied Plover _____	u	o	u	
___ American Golden-Plover _____				o
___ Semipalmated Plover _____	c	u	u	
___ • Killdeer _____	c	c	c	u
___ • American Oystercatcher (CB) _____	u	u	u	
___ Black-necked Stilt _____	u	u		
___ American Avocet _____	o	o	o	
___ Greater Yellowlegs _____	c	c	c	u
___ Lesser Yellowlegs _____	c	c	c	u
___ Solitary Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	
___ • Willet _____	c	c	o	
___ Spotted Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	
___ Upland Sandpiper _____		r	r	
___ Whimbrel _____	o	o	o	
___ Hudsonian Godwit _____			r	
___ Ruddy Turnstone (CB) _____	u	u	u	
___ Red Knot _____	o	o	o	
___ Sanderling (CB) _____	u	u	u	o
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	c	u	c	
___ Western Sandpiper _____		u	u	o
___ Least Sandpiper _____	c	u	c	r
___ White-rumped Sandpiper _____	u	o	u	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	
___ Dunlin _____	c	u	c	u
___ Stilt Sandpiper _____	o	o	u	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper _____			r	
___ Ruff _____	r	r		
___ Short-billed Dowitcher _____	u	u	u	o
___ Long-billed Dowitcher _____	r	r	u	o
___ • American Woodcock _____	u	u	u	u
___ Wilson's Phalarope _____	o	o	r	
___ Red-necked Phalarope _____	r	r	r	
___ Baird's Sandpiper _____		r	r	
___ Wilson's Snipe _____	c		u	u



Ruby-throated hummingbird

	Sp	Su	F	W
Jaegers – Gulls – Terns				
• Laughing Gull _____	a	a	a	r
• Bonaparte's Gull _____	u		u	o
• Ring-billed Gull _____	c	u	c	a
• Herring Gull _____	c	u	c	c
• Lesser Black-backed Gull _____	o		o	o
• Great Black-backed Gull _____	u	u	u	u
• Caspian Tern _____	u	u	u	
• Royal Tern (CB) _____	u	u	u	
• Sandwich Tern _____	r	r		
• Common Tern (CB) _____	u	u	u	
• Forster's Tern _____	c	c	a	r
• Least Tern _____	c	u	u	
• Black Tern _____	r	o	o	
• Black Skimmer (CB) _____	o	o	o	
Doves – Owls – Swifts – Hummingbirds				
• Rock Pigeon _____	u	u	u	u
• Mourning Dove _____	c	c	a	c
• Black-billed Cuckoo _____	o		o	
• Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____	u	u	u	
• Barn Owl _____	u	u	u	u
• Eastern Screech-Owl _____	c	c	c	c
• Great Horned Owl _____	c	c	c	c
• Barred Owl _____	u	u	u	u
• Long-eared Owl _____			r	r
• Short-eared Owl _____	o		u	u
• Northern Saw-whet Owl _____	o		o	o

Sp Su F W

• Snowy Owl _____				o
• Common Nighthawk _____	o	o	u	
• Chuck-will's-widow _____	u	u	o	
• Eastern Whip-poor-will _____	o	o	r	
• Chimney Swift _____	u	u	u	
• Ruby-throated Hummingbird _____	c	c	u	
• Belted Kingfisher _____	u	o	u	u

Woodpeckers – Falcons – Flycatchers

• Red-headed Woodpecker _____	u	u	u	o
• Red-bellied Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c
• Yellow-bellied Sapsucker _____	o		u	u
• Downy Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c
• Hairy Woodpecker _____	u	u	u	u
• Northern Flicker _____	c	c	a	c
• Pileated Woodpecker _____	u	u	u	u

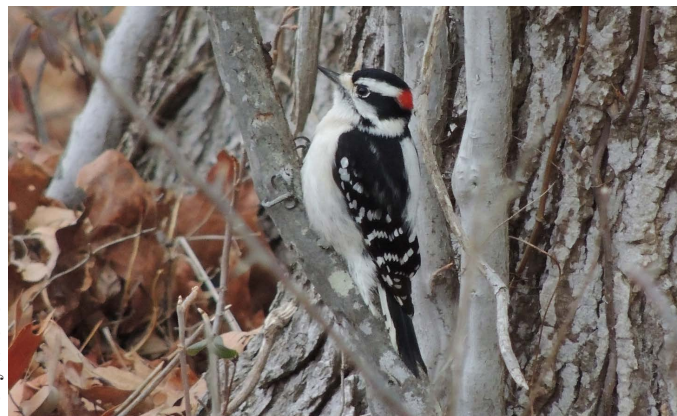
Tyrant Flycatchers

• Eastern Wood-Pewee _____	c	c	c	
• Yellow-bellied Flycatcher _____			r	
• Acadian Flycatcher _____	u	u	u	
• Willow Flycatcher _____	o		u	
• Least Flycatcher _____	r		u	
• Olive-sided Flycatcher _____			r	
• Alder Flycatcher _____			r	
• Eastern Phoebe _____	u	o	u	o
• Great Crested Flycatcher _____	c	c	u	



Barred owl

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Western Kingbird _____			r	
• Eastern Kingbird _____	c	c	u	
Shrikes – Vireos				
___ Loggerhead Shrike _____			r	r
• White-eyed Vireo _____	u	u	u	
___ Blue-headed Vireo _____	u		u	
___ Yellow-throated Vireo _____	o	r	r	
___ Warbling Vireo _____	r		r	
___ Philadelphia Vireo _____			r	
• Red-eyed Vireo _____	u	u	u	
Jays – Crows – Larks – Swallows				
• Blue Jay _____	c	c	a	c
• American Crow _____	c	c	c	c
• Fish Crow _____	u	u	u	u
• Horned Lark _____	u	u	u	u
• Purple Martin _____	c	c	u	
• Tree Swallow _____	c	c	a	o
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____	u	u	u	
___ Bank Swallow _____	u	u	u	
___ Cliff Swallow _____	o	o	o	
• Barn Swallow _____	a	a	u	
Titmice – Nuthatches – Wrens				
• Carolina Chickadee _____	c	c	c	c
• Tufted Titmouse _____	c	c	c	c
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch _____	u		u	u
• White-breasted Nuthatch _____	u	u	u	u
• Brown-headed Nuthatch _____	c	c	c	c



Downy woodpecker

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Brown Creeper _____	u		u	u
• Carolina Wren _____	c	c	c	c
• House Wren _____	u	u	u	o
___ Winter Wren _____	u		u	u
___ Sedge Wren _____	r	r	r	r
• Marsh Wren _____	c	c	u	u
Kinglets – Thrushes – Thrashers				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet _____	u		c	c
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____	u		c	u
• Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____	u	u	u	r
• Eastern Bluebird _____	c	c	c	c
___ Veery _____	u	o	u	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush _____	r		u	
___ Bicknell's Thrush _____	r		r	
___ Swainson's Thrush _____	u		u	
___ Hermit Thrush _____	u		c	u
• Wood Thrush _____	u	u	u	
• American Robin _____	a	c	a	c
• Gray Catbird _____	u	u	c	u
• Northern Mockingbird _____	c	c	c	c
• Brown Thrasher _____	u	u	u	u
Starlings – Waxwings – Pipits				
• European Starling _____	a	a	a	a
___ American Pipit _____	u		u	u
• Cedar Waxwing _____	u	o	c	u
Longspurs – Snow Bunting				
___ Lapland Longspur _____				r
___ Snow Bunting _____	o		o	o
Wood-warblers				
___ Blue-winged Warbler _____	u	u	u	
___ Golden-winged Warbler _____	r		r	
___ Tennessee Warbler _____	o		u	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler _____			o	r
___ Nashville Warbler _____	o		u	r
___ Northern Parula _____	u	o	u	
• Yellow Warbler _____	u	u	u	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler _____	u	o	u	
___ Magnolia Warbler _____	u	o	c	

Sp Su F W

___ Cape May Warbler _____	o	r	u	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler _____	u	o	u	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler _____	c	a	c	
___ Black-throated Green Warbler _____	u	o	u	
___ Blackburnian Warbler _____	o	o	u	
___ • Yellow-throated Warbler _____	u	r	o	
___ • Pine Warbler _____	c	c	c	u
___ • Prairie Warbler _____	u	u	u	
___ Palm Warbler _____	u		u	o
___ Bay-breasted Warbler _____	o	o	u	
___ Blackpoll Warbler _____	u		u	
___ Cerulean Warbler _____	r			
___ • Black-and-white Warbler _____	u	o	c	r
___ American Redstart _____	u	u	c	
___ • Prothonotary Warbler _____	u	u	r	
___ • Worm-eating Warbler _____	u	u	o	
___ • Ovenbird _____	c	c	c	
___ Northern Waterthrush _____	o	o	u	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush _____	o	o		
___ • Kentucky Warbler _____	u	r	o	
___ Connecticut Warbler _____			o	
___ Mourning Warbler _____	r		o	
___ • Common Yellowthroat _____	a	a	c	o
___ Hooded Warbler _____	o	o	o	
___ Wilson's Warbler _____	r	o	o	
___ Canada Warbler _____	u	o	u	

Chats

___ • Yellow-breasted Chat _____	u	u	o	o
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Sparrows & Allies

___ • Eastern Towhee _____	u	u	u	u
___ American Tree Sparrow _____	r		r	o
___ • Chipping Sparrow _____	c	c	c	o
___ • Field Sparrow _____	u	u	c	u
___ Vesper Sparrow _____	o		u	o
___ Savannah Sparrow _____	c		c	u
___ • Grasshopper Sparrow _____	u	u	o	
___ Henslow's Sparrow _____	r	r		
___ • Seaside Sparrow _____	c	c	u	r

Sp Su F W

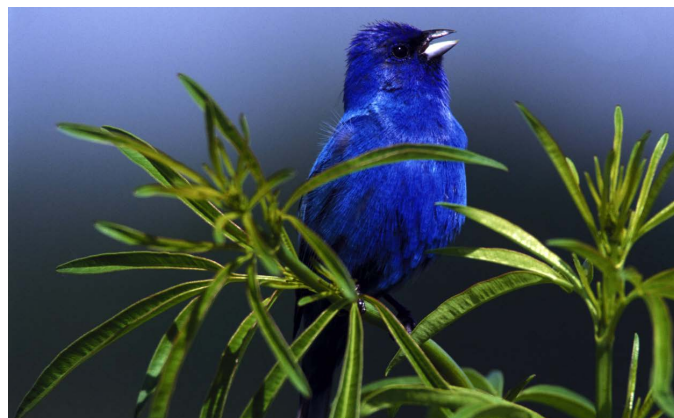
___ Nelson's Sparrow _____	r		r	r
___ • Saltmarsh Sparrow _____	u	u	o	r
___ Fox Sparrow _____	u		u	u
___ • Song Sparrow _____	u	u	a	c
___ Lincoln's Sparrow _____			o	r
___ • Swamp Sparrow _____	u	u	c	c
___ White-throated Sparrow _____	a		a	c
___ White-crowned Sparrow _____	o		u	o
___ Dark-eyed Junco _____	c		c	c

Tanagers – Cardinals – Grosbeaks

___ • Summer Tanager _____	c	c	o	
___ • Scarlet Tanager _____	u	o	u	
___ • Northern Cardinal _____	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____	u	o	u	
___ • Blue Grosbeak _____	c	c	u	
___ • Indigo Bunting _____	c	c	u	
___ • Dickcissel _____	r	r	o	

Blackbirds – Orioles

___ Bobolink _____	u	u	c	
___ • Red-winged Blackbird _____	a	a	a	a
___ • Eastern Meadowlark _____	u	u	c	c
___ Rusty Blackbird _____	u		u	o
___ Brewer's Blackbird _____	r			r
___ • Boat-tailed Grackle (CB) _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Common Grackle _____	a	a	a	a
___ • Brown-headed Cowbird _____	c	c	c	u
___ • Orchard Oriole _____	c	c	o	

*Indigo bunting*

Sp Su F W

___ Baltimore Oriole _____	u	u	u	
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird _____			r	r
Finches				
___ Purple Finch _____	u		u	u
• House Finch _____	u	o	u	u
___ Red Crossbill _____	o		o	o
___ White-winged Crossbill _____				r
___ Common Redpoll _____				r
___ Pine Siskin _____	o		u	u
• American Goldfinch _____	c	c	c	c
___ Evening Grosbeak _____	r		r	r

Old World Sparrow

___ • House Sparrow _____	c	c	c	c
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Accidentals

Very rare species only recorded one or twice on the refuge.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Fulvous Whistling-Duck | Cinnamon Teal |
| American Swallow-tailed Kite | Swainson's Hawk |
| Marbled Godwit | Gyr Falcon |
| Roseate Tern | Sandhill Crane |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher | Black-headed Gull |
| Bachman's Sparrow | Eurasian Collared-Dove |
| Bullock's Oriole | Scissor-tailed Flycatcher |
| Gull-billed Tern | Northern Shrike |
| Great Cormorant (CB) | Cave Swallow |
| Barnacle Goose | Lark Sparrow |
| Black-bellied Whistling Duck | White-faced Ibis |
| Tropical Kingbird | Anhinga |
| Mississippi Kite | Northern Lapwing |
| Red Phalarope | Harlequin Duck |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | |
| <i>Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Extirpated)</i> | |



Lesser snow geese



Northern pintails

Betty Whetzel

Birding Ethics

When visiting public or private lands, it is important that you practice and promote ethical behavior while viewing and photographing wildlife. Although you may not think your individual actions are harmful to wildlife, the cumulative effect of individual actions can jeopardize wildlife's ability to survive.

- Do not disturb nesting, feeding, or resting birds and other wildlife.
- When photographing birds, do not "push" too close or "linger" too long.
- Do not use recorded calls or make other alarming noises on the refuge.
- Do not feed wildlife on the refuge.
- Do not litter. Many birds and other wildlife die after becoming entangled in fishing lines, 6-pack rings and other trash, or when they mistake garbage, especially plastic, for food.

Mary Konchar