

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Eastern Neck

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Birds





This goose, designed by Ding Darling, has become a symbol of the Refuge System.

Eastern Neck is one of more than 500 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 wildlife habitat and represents the most comprehensive wildlife management program in the world. Units of the system stretch across the United States from northern Alaska to the Florida Keys and include small islands in the Caribbean and South Pacific. The character of the refuges is as diverse as the nation itself.

The Service also manages national fish hatcheries, and provides federal leadership in habitat protection, fish and wildlife research, technical assistance, and the conservation and protection of migratory birds, certain marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Kent County on Maryland's Eastern Shore was established in 1962 for the protection and management migratory birds.

The 2,285 acres of diversified habitat on the island, plus the waters of Chester River and Chesapeake Bay, provide habitat for a wide variety of bird life. Diving and puddle ducks, swans and geese concentrate around the island in late fall and early winter. Peak concentrations occur from November to January.

This folder lists the birds that are found in the area of Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge. A total of 244 species have been recorded on the refuge. Seven accidental species are also listed. Seasonal abundance data for each species apply to the general Eastern Neck (upper Chesapeake Bay) region and may not reflect the species' status on the refuge.



Canada Geese

This list follows the Sixth American Ornithologists Union Checklist and was updated in 1986 by the Maryland Ornithological Society, Kent County Chapter. It is subject to change as more birds are identified on the refuge.

Most birds are migratory, therefore, their seasonal occurrence is coded as follows:

SEASON

s	Spring	March – May
S	Summer	June – August
F	Fall	September – November
W	Winter	December – February

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

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	may be present but not every year

• Birds known to nest on or near the refuge
Italics indicate threatened/endangered species

*cover photo:
Ruth Pfeffer*

	s	S	F	W
LOONS – GREBES				
Common Loon	u		c	
• Pied-billed Grebe	u	r	c	u
Horned Grebe	u		c	u
Red-necked Grebe	r		r	r

GANNET – PELICANS – CORMORANTS

Double-crested Cormorant	c	u	c	o
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Green Heron

BITTERNS – HERONS – IBISES

• American Bittern	r	u	u	r
• Least Bittern	u	u		
• Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	u
Great Egret	o	o	u	
Snowy Egret	u	c	c	
Little Blue Heron	r	r	r	
Tricolored Heron	r	r	o	
Cattle Egret	c	c	c	
• Green-backed Heron	c	c	c	r
Black-crowned Night-Heron	r	u	u	r
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	r	r	r	
Glossy Ibis	r	r		

SWANS – GEESE – DUCKS

Fulvous Whistling-Duck			r	
Tundra Swan	c		a	a
• Mute Swan	c	c	c	c
Greater White-fronted Goose			r	r
Snow Goose	u		u	u
Brant			r	r
Canada Goose	a		a	a
• Wood Duck	c	c	c	u
Green-winged Teal	c		c	r
• American Black Duck	c	c	c	c
• Mallard	a	a	a	a

	s	S	F	W
Northern Pintail	c		c	c
• Blue-winged Teal	c	r	c	r
Northern Shoveler	u		c	o
Gadwall	c	r	c	c
Eurasian Wigeon	r		r	r
American Wigeon	u		c	c
Canvasback	c		c	c
Redhead	u		u	u
Ring-necked Duck	u		u	u
Greater Scaup	u		u	c
Lesser Scaup	c		c	c
Oldsquaw	c		c	c
Black Scoter	u		u	u
Surf Scoter	u		u	u
White-winged Scoter	u		u	c
Common Goldeneye	a		c	a
Bufflehead	c		c	c
Hooded Merganser	u		o	u
Common Merganser	u		r	u
Red-breasted Merganser	u		r	u
Ruddy Duck	u		c	c

VULTURES – HAWKS – FALCONS

• Black Vulture	c	c	c	c
• Turkey Vulture	a	a	a	a
• Osprey	a	a	c	
• Bald Eagle	c	u	c	u
Northern Harrier	c		c	c
Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		c	u
Cooper's Hawk	o		o	o
• Red-shouldered Hawk	u	u	u	u
Broad-winged Hawk	o		c	
• Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c
Rough-legged Hawk	r		r	r
Golden Eagle	r		r	r
• American Kestrel	a	u	a	a
Merlin	r		o	r
Peregrine Falcon			o	

GROUSE – QUAIL – TURKEY

• Northern Bobwhite	c	c	c	c
• Wild Turkey	c	c	c	c

RAILS – CRANES

Clapper Rail	r	r	r	
• King Rail	c	c	c	c
• Virginia Rail	a	a	a	u
Sora	u		u	u
Common Moorhen	r	r	r	
American Coot	u		u	c

	s	S	F	W
PLOVERS – SANDPIPERS				
— Black-bellied Plover	u	u	u	
— Semipalmated Plover	u	u	u	
— • Killdeer	c	c	c	u
— Greater Yellowlegs	c	c	c	
— Lesser Yellowlegs	c	u	c	
— Solitary Sandpiper	u	u	u	
— Spotted Sandpiper	c	u	c	
— Ruddy Turnstone			r	
— Sanderling			r	r
— Semipalmated Sandpiper	c	c	c	
— Western Sandpiper	r	r	r	
— Least Sandpiper	c	c	c	r
— White-rumped Sandpiper		u	u	
— Pectoral Sandpiper	u	u	u	
— Dunlin	c	u	c	r
— Stilt Sandpiper		r	r	
— Short-billed Dowitcher	u	u	u	
— Common Snipe	u		u	u
— • American Woodcock	c	u	c	u

JAEGERS – GULLS – TERNS – AUKS

— Laughing Gull	c	u	c	r
— Bonaparte's Gull	o		o	o
— Ring-billed Gull	a	c	a	c
— Herring Gull	c	u	c	c
— Lesser Black-backed Gull	r		r	r
— Great Black-backed Gull	u	r	c	c
— Caspian Tern	u		u	
— Royal Tern	r		u	
— Common Tern	u	u	u	
— Forster's Tern	r	o	c	
— Least Tern	r	u	u	

DOVES – CUCKOOS – OWLS – HUMMINGBIRDS

— • Rock Dove	u	u	u	u
— • Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
— • Black-billed Cuckoo	o	o	o	
— • Yellow-billed Cuckoo	c	u	u	
— • Common Barn Owl	u	u	u	u
— • Eastern Screech-Owl	c	c	c	c
— • Great Horned Owl	c	c	c	c
— Snowy Owl			r	r
— • Barred Owl	u	u	u	u
— Short-eared Owl	o		o	o
— Northern Saw-whet Owl			r	r
— • Common Nighthawk	u	u	c	
— Chuck-will's widow	u	u	r	
— • Whip-poor-will	u	u	c	
— • Chimney Swift	c	c	c	
— • Ruby-throated Hummingbird	c	u	c	
— • Belted Kingfisher	u	u	u	u

WOODPECKERS – FLYCATCHERS

	s	S	F	W
— Red-headed Woodpecker	r	r	r	r
— • Red-bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
— Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		u	u
— • Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
— • Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
— • Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
— • Eastern Wood-Pewee	c	c	c	
— Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	o		o	
— • Acadian Flycatcher	u	u	u	
— • Eastern Phoebe	c	u	c	r
— • Great Crested Flycatcher	u	c	u	
— • Eastern Kingbird	c	c	c	



Blue jay

LARKS – SWALLOWS – JAYS – CROWS

— • Horned Lark	c	c	u	u
— • Purple Martin	u	c	u	
— • Tree Swallow	c	c	a	r
— • Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	u	
— • Bank Swallow	u	u	u	
— Cliff Swallow	r		r	
— • Barn Swallow	a	a	a	
— • Blue Jay	c	c	a	c
— • American Crow	c	c	c	c
— • Fish Crow	c	c	c	u

TITMICE – NUTHATCHES – WRENS

— Black-capped Chickadee			r	r
— • Carolina Chickadee	c	c	c	c
— • Tufted Titmouse	c	c	c	c
— Red-breasted Nuthatch	u		u	u
— • White-breasted Nuthatch	u		u	u
— Brown Creeper	u		u	u
— • Carolina Wren	c	c	c	c
— • House Wren	c	c	c	r

	s	S	F	W
___ Winter Wren	u		u	u
___ •Sedge Wren	o	o	o	r
___ •Marsh Wren	c	c	c	r

KINGLETS – THRUSHES – THRASHERS

___ •Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		c	c
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		c	c
___ •Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	c	r	u	r
___ •Eastern Bluebird	a	a	c	c
___ Veery	u		u	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	u		u	
___ Swainson's Thrush	c		c	
___ Hermit Thrush	u		u	u
___ •Wood Thrush	c	c	c	
___ •American Robin	a	c	a	u
___ •Gray Catbird	c	c	c	o
___ •Northern Mockingbird	c	c	c	c
___ •Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	o

WAXWINGS – SHRIKES – STARLINGS

___ Water Pipit	r		r	r
___ •Cedar Waxwing	c	r	c	u
___ Loggerhead Shrike	r		r	r
___ •European Starling	c	c	a	c

VIREOS – WOOD WARBLERS

___ •White-eyed Vireo	c	u	c	
___ Solitary Vireo	o		o	
___ •Yellow-throated Vireo	u	u	u	
___ •Warbling Vireo	r	r	r	
___ •Red-eyed Vireo	c	u	c	
___ Blue-winged Warbler	u		u	
___ Tennessee Warbler	o		u	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler			r	
___ Nashville Warbler	r		r	
___ •Northern Parula	c	u	u	
___ •Yellow Warbler	a	c	u	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		u	
___ Magnolia Warbler	u		u	
___ Cape May Warbler	r		u	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	u		c	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	a		a	c
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	u		u	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	u		u	
___ •Yellow-throated Warbler	u	o	u	
___ •Pine Warbler	u	u	u	r
___ •Prairie Warbler	u	u	u	
___ Palm Warbler	u		u	o
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	u		u	
___ Blackpoll Warbler	u		u	
___ •Black-and-white Warbler	c	r	c	

	s	S	F	W
___ American Redstart	c	r	c	
___ •Prothonotary Warbler	u	u	u	
___ •Ovenbird	u	u	c	
___ Northern Waterthrush	u		u	
___ •Louisiana Waterthrush	u	r	u	
___ •Kentucky Warbler	u	o	u	
___ Connecticut Warbler	r		o	
___ Mourning Warbler	r		o	
___ •Common Yellowthroat	c	a	c	r
___ Wilson's Warbler	r		r	
___ Canada Warbler	u		u	
___ •Yellow-breasted Chat	u	u	u	r



American goldfinch

TANAGERS – SPARROWS

___ •Summer Tanager	r	o	r	
___ •Scarlet Tanager	c	o	c	
___ •Northern Cardinal	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	o		u	
___ •Blue Grosbeak	o	u	o	
___ Indigo Bunting	c	c	c	
___ Rufous-sided Towhee	c	c	c	u
___ American Tree Sparrow	o		o	u
___ •Chipping Sparrow	c	c	c	o
___ •Field Sparrow	c	c	c	c
___ Vesper Sparrow	r	r	r	r
___ Savannah Sparrow	u		u	u
___ •Grasshopper Sparrow	u	u	u	
___ •Henslow's Sparrow	r	r	r	
___ Sharp-tailed Sparrow	r	r	r	r
___ •Seaside Sparrow	r	r	r	r
___ Fox Sparrow	r		u	u
___ •Song Sparrow	a	c	a	c
___ Swamp Sparrow	c	r	c	c
___ White-throated Sparrow	a		a	a
___ White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Dark-eyed Junco	a		a	a
___ Snow Bunting			o	o

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Hearing impaired visitors may call the Maryland
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