

Fish & Wildlife Service

Patuxent Research Refuge
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel, MD 20708-4027
301/497 5580
301/497 5765 FAX
301/497 5779 TDD
<http://patuxent.fws.gov>

Federal Relay Service
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

November 2000



Patuxent

Research Refuge

Birds



Great Blue Heron
Eva Hersey/USFWS

Introduction



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

Patuxent Research Refuge was established by President Roosevelt in 1936 as the nation's first and only National Wildlife Refuge devoted to support wildlife research. Patuxent's mission is "to help protect and conserve the nation's wildlife and habitat through research on critical environmental problems and issues." Its 12,750 acres of forests, meadows and wetlands provide habitat for many species of wildlife within the suburban corridor between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland.

This bird list includes 270 species that have been observed on the Patuxent Research Refuge. Species names and order of listing are in accordance with the Seventh Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds.

The Patuxent Research Refuge offers rewarding opportunities for bird observation throughout the year. Late April through mid-May is the best time to observe migrating warblers. Waterfowl numbers are highest on the refuge during winter, but the greatest variety of waterfowl species are present in mid-March and mid-October.



Male Hooded Merganser

Season

- sp = Spring (March–May)
- S = Summer (June–August)
- F = Fall (September–November)
- W = Winter (December–February)

Relative Abundance

- a = abundant (a species that is numerous)
- c = common (a species that is frequently 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 (rarely seen or heard)
- x = a few documented observations
- = confirmed or probable nesting on the Refuge

Italics indicate threatened/endangered species.

	sp	S	F	W
Loons				
___ Common Loon _____	u		u	
Grebes				
___ • Pied-billed Grebe _____	c	r	c	o
___ Horned Grebe _____	r		r	
___ Red-necked Grebe _____	x			
Cormorants				
___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	o	r	o	r
Anhinga				
___ Anhinga _____	x			
Bitterns – Herons – Egrets				
___ American Bittern _____	o	x	o	x
___ • Least Bittern _____	r	r		
___ • Great Blue Heron _____	c	c	c	c
___ Great Egret _____	u	c	c	
___ Snowy Egret _____	r	r	r	
___ Little Blue Heron _____	r	u	u	
___ Cattle Egret _____	r		r	
___ • Green Heron _____	c	c	c	x
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	r	r	r	
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron _____	r		r	
Ibises				
___ White Ibis _____		x	x	
___ Glossy Ibis _____	r	r	r	

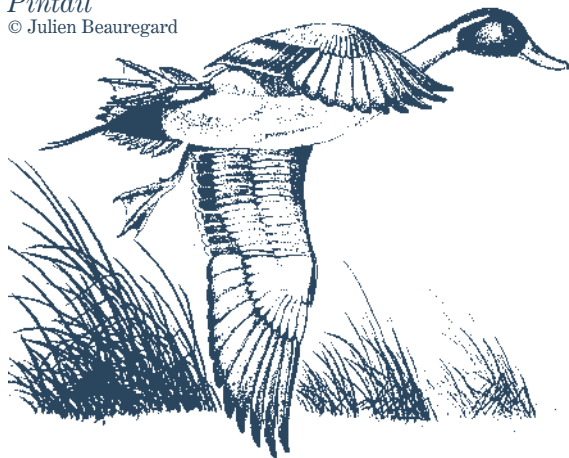
	sp	S	F	W
New World Vultures				
• Black Vulture _____	u	u	u	u
• Turkey Vulture _____	c	c	c	c
Swans – Geese – Ducks				
• Snow Goose _____	x		x	x
• Canada Goose _____	a	a	a	a
Mute Swan _____	x		x	x
Tundra Swan _____	r		r	x
• Wood Duck _____	c	c	c	r
Gadwall _____	u		u	o
American Wigeon _____	u		u	r
• American Black Duck _____	u	o	u	u
• Mallard _____	c	c	c	c
Blue-winged Teal _____	u	r	u	
Northern Shoveler _____	r		r	r
Northern Pintail _____	u		u	r
Green-winged Teal _____	u		u	u
Canvasback _____	r		r	
Redhead _____	r		r	r
• Ring-necked Duck _____	a	x	c	a
Lesser Scaup _____	u		u	o
Bufflehead _____	u		u	r
Oldsquaw _____	x			
Common Goldeneye _____	u		u	o
• Hooded Merganser _____	c	u	c	c
Common Merganser _____	r		r	r
Red-breasted Merganser _____	r		r	r
Ruddy Duck _____	u		u	o/u
Osprey – Kites – Hawks – Eagles				
Osprey _____	u	r	u	
• Bald Eagle _____	u	u	u	u
Northern Harrier _____	o		o	r
Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	c		c	u
• Cooper's Hawk _____	u	o	u	u
Northern Goshawk _____	x		x	x
• Red-shouldered Hawk _____	c	c	c	c
• Broad-winged Hawk _____	u	r	u	
• Red-tailed Hawk _____	c	u	c	c
Rough-legged Hawk _____				x
Golden Eagle _____	x		x	x
Falcons – Caracaras				
• American Kestrel _____	u	u	u	u
Merlin _____	r		r	x
Peregrine Falcon _____	r	x	r	x

	sp	S	F	W
Gallinaceous Birds				
• Wild Turkey _____	u	u	u	u
• Northern Bobwhite _____	r	r	r	r
Rails				
• Virginia Rail _____	r		r	
Sora _____	o		o	
Common Moorhen _____	r		r	
American Coot _____	u		u	o
Cranes				
• Sandhill Crane _____			r	r
Plovers				
• Semipalmated Plover _____	x	x	x	
• Killdeer _____	c	c	c	u
Sandpipers – Phalaropes				
• Greater Yellowlegs _____	u	o	u	x
Lesser Yellowlegs _____	u	o	u	x
Solitary Sandpiper _____	c	u	c	
Spotted Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	
Upland Sandpiper _____	x			
Semipalmated Sandpiper _____		r	r	
Least Sandpiper _____	r	o	o	
Pectoral Sandpiper _____	x	o	u	
Western Sandpiper _____				x
Common Snipe _____	c		c	u
• American Woodcock _____	u	u	u	o
Gulls – Terns				
• Laughing Gull _____	a	a	a	o
Bonaparte's Gull _____	o	x	o	o
California Gull _____				x
Ring-billed Gull _____	a	u	a	a
Herring Gull _____	a	u	a	a
Thayer's Gull _____				x



	sp	S	F	W
___ Iceland Gull _____				o
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull _____				o
___ Glaucous Gull _____				o
___ Great Black-backed Gull _____	u		u	u
___ Black Tern _____		x		
___ Caspian Tern _____	o	r	o	
___ Common Tern _____	x		x	
___ Forster's Tern _____	x		x	
___ Least Tern _____	x	x	x	
Pigeons – Doves				
___ Rock Dove _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Mourning Dove _____	c	c	c	c
Cuckoos – Anis				
___ Black-billed Cuckoo _____	o	r	o	
___ • Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____	c	c	c	
Barn Owls				
___ Barn Owl _____	x	x		
Typical Owls				
___ • Eastern Screech-Owl _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Great Horned Owl _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Barred Owl _____	c	c	c	c
___ Short-eared Owl _____	x		x	x
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl _____	o		o	o
Nightjars				
___ Common Nighthawk _____	o	o	o	
___ • Chuck-will's-widow _____	x	x		
___ • Whip-poor-will _____	c	c	u	

Pintail
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	sp	S	F	W
Swifts				
___ • Chimney Swift _____	c	c	a	
Hummingbirds				
___ • Ruby-throated Hummingbird _____	c	c	c	
Kingfishers				
___ • Belted Kingfisher _____	c	u	c	u
Woodpeckers				
___ Red-headed Woodpecker _____	o	r	o	o
___ • 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	u	c	c
___ • Pileated Woodpecker _____	u	u	u	u
Tyrant Flycatchers				
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher _____	x		r	
___ • Eastern Wood-Pewee _____	c	c	c	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher _____	r	u	u	
___ • Acadian Flycatcher _____	c	c	u	
___ Alder Flycatcher _____	r	o	o	
___ Willow Flycatcher _____	o	o	o	
___ Least Flycatcher _____	o	u	u	
___ • Eastern Phoebe _____	c	c	c	o
___ • Great Crested Flycatcher _____	c	c	c	
___ • Eastern Kingbird _____	c	c	u	
Shrike				
___ Northern Shrike _____				x
Vireos				
___ • White-eyed Vireo _____	c	c	c	
___ Blue-headed Vireo _____	u	x	u	
___ • Yellow-throated Vireo _____	c	c	c	
___ Warbling Vireo _____	o	x	o	
___ Philadelphia Vireo _____	x		o	
___ • Red-eyed Vireo _____	a	a	a	
Crows – Jays – Magpies				
___ • Blue Jay _____	c	c	c	c
___ • American Crow _____	a	a	a	a
___ • Fish Crow _____	c	o	c	a

Larks

___ Horned Lark _____ sp S F W
r r r

Swallows

___ • Purple Martin _____ c c o
___ • Tree Swallow _____ c c c
___ • Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____ u u u
___ • Bank Swallow _____ u u r
___ Cliff Swallow _____ o r
___ • Barn Swallow _____ c c u

Titmice – Chickadees

___ • Carolina Chickadee _____ c c c c
___ Black-capped Chickadee _____ r r r
___ • Tufted Titmouse _____ c c c c

Nuthatches

___ Red-breasted Nuthatch _____ u x u u
___ • White-breasted Nuthatch _____ c c c c

Creepers

___ • Brown Creeper _____ u o c u

Wrens

___ • Carolina Wren _____ c c c c
___ • House Wren _____ u u u x
___ Winter Wren _____ u c c
___ Marsh Wren _____ x x

Kinglets

___ Golden-crowned Kinglet _____ c c c
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____ c a u

Old World Warblers

___ • Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____ c c u

Thrushes

___ • Eastern Bluebird _____ c c c u
___ Veery _____ u r u
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush _____ o u
___ Bicknell's Thrush _____ o o
___ Swainson's Thrush _____ c c
___ Hermit Thrush _____ u c u
___ • Wood Thrush _____ c c u
___ • American Robin _____ a c a u

Mimic Thrushes

___ • Gray Catbird _____ c c a o
___ • Northern Mockingbird _____ c c c c
___ • Brown Thrasher _____ c c u o

Starlings

___ • European Starling _____ a a a a

Wagtails – Pipits

___ American Pipit _____ o o o

Waxwings

___ • Cedar Waxwing _____ c o c u

Wood Warblers

___ Blue-winged Warbler _____ u o o
___ Golden-winged Warbler _____ r r r
___ Tennessee Warbler _____ u r u
___ Orange-crowned Warbler _____ r
___ Nashville Warbler _____ u u
___ • Northern Parula _____ a a u
___ • Yellow Warbler _____ c c r
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler _____ u r u
___ Magnolia Warbler _____ c r c
___ Cape May Warbler _____ o r o
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler _____ c r c
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler _____ a a c
___ Black-throated Green Warbler _____ c x c
___ Blackburnian Warbler _____ u r u
___ • Yellow-throated Warbler _____ x/u x
___ • Pine Warbler _____ c c u
___ • Prairie Warbler _____ c c o
___ Palm Warbler _____ u u



Red-Tailed Hawk

	sp	S	F	W
Bay-breasted Warbler	o	x	u	
Blackpoll Warbler	c	r	c	
• Cerulean Warbler	u	o	r	
• Black-and-white Warbler	u	u	c	
• American Redstart	a	a	c	
• Prothonotary Warbler	u	u	r	
• Worm-eating Warbler	o	o	o	
• Ovenbird	a	a	c	
Northern Waterthrush	u	o	u	
• Louisiana Waterthrush	c	c	x	
• Kentucky Warbler	u	u	r	
Connecticut Warbler			o	
Mourning Warbler	o	r	o	
• Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	x
• Hooded Warbler	u	u	u	
Wilson's Warbler	o	r	o	
Canada Warbler	c	o	u	
• Yellow-breasted Chat	c	c	o	

Tanagers

• Summer Tanager	u	u	r	
• Scarlet Tanager	c	c	u	

Sparrows – Towhees

• Eastern Towhee	c	c	c	u
American Tree Sparrow	o		o	u
• Chipping Sparrow	c	c	u	x
• Field Sparrow	c	u	c	u
Vesper Sparrow	r		r	
Savannah Sparrow	o		o	r
• Grasshopper Sparrow	r/u	r/u	r	
Henslow's Sparrow		x		
Fox Sparrow	u		u	u
• Song Sparrow	c	u	c	c
Lincoln's Sparrow	r		o	
Swamp Sparrow	c		c	u
White-throated Sparrow	a	x	a	a
White-crowned Sparrow	o		o	r
Dark-eyed Junco	a		a	a

Cardinals – Grosbeaks – Allies

• Northern Cardinal	c	c	c	c
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u		u	x
• Blue Grosbeak	c	c	u	
• Indigo Bunting	a	a	c	
Dickcissel	x		x	x

Blackbirds – Orioles

	sp	S	F	W
Bobolink	o	r	o	
• Red-winged Blackbird	a	c	c	u
• Eastern Meadowlark	o	o	o	r
Rusty Blackbird	u		u	o
• Common Grackle	a	c	a	u
• Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	c	o
• Orchard Oriole	u	u	u	
• Baltimore Oriole	u	o	u	

Finches

Purple Finch	r		o	r
• House Finch	c	c	c	c
Common Redpoll				x
Pine Siskin	r		r	r
• American Goldfinch	c	c	c	c
Evening Grosbeak	r		r	r
• House Sparrow	u	u	u	u



Historical Sightings

Species not recorded in the 1990s.

Wood Stork	Long-eared Owl
Greater White-fronted Goose	Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Greater Scaup	Loggerhead Shrike
White-winged Scoter	Bewick's Wren
Black Scoter	Sedge Wren
King Rail	Bachman's Sparrow
Purple Gallinule	Lark Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	Harris's Sparrow
Sanderling	Lapland Longspur
White-rumped Sandpiper	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Dunlin	Pine Grosbeak
Short-billed Dowitcher	Red Crossbill
Long-billed Dowitcher	White-winged Crossbill
Red-necked Phalarope	