

Blackwater

National Wildlife Refuge Birds



Introduction

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge established in 1933 is located on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Dorchester County, Maryland about 12 miles south of Cambridge. It serves as an important resting and feeding area for migrating and wintering waterfowl in the chain of wildlife refuges along the Atlantic Flyway that extends from Canada to the gulf of Mexico. The Blackwater area also has one of the largest populations of nesting bald eagles on the Atlantic coast north of Florida.

Species names and order are in accordance with the most recent American Ornithologists Union Checklist as amended. This brochure lists 287 regular species of birds identified by refuge personnel and ornithologists, plus an additional 10 species of accidentals that have been seen only one or two times.



Canada geese



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

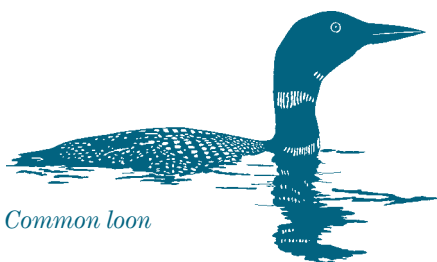
- Birds known to nest on or near the refuge

Italics indicate threatened/endangered species

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	may be present but not every year



	sp	S	F	W
LOONS – GREBES				
___ Red-throated Loon _____	o		o	
___ Arctic Loon _____				
___ Common Loon _____	c	o	c	u
___ Pied-billed Grebe _____	u	o	u	u
___ Horned Grebe _____	c	o	u	u

GANNET – PELICANS – CORMORANTS

___ Northern Gannet _____	u		o	o
___ Brown Pelican _____	o	u	o	
___ Great Cormorant _____	o		o	
___ • Double-crested Cormorant _____	c	u	c	r

BITTERNS – HERONS – IBISES

___ • American Bittern _____	u	o	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	o

	sp	S	F	W
• Little Blue Heron _____	u	u	u	r
Tricolored Heron _____	u	u	u	r
• Cattle Egret _____	u	u	u	
• Green Heron _____	c	c	c	
• Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	u	u	u	o
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron _____	u	u	u	
• Glossy Ibis _____	u	u	u	



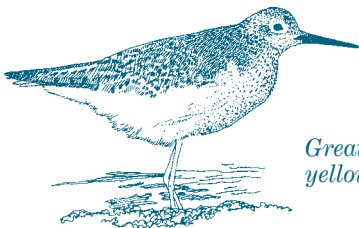
Mallards

SWANS – GEESE – DUCKS

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

VULTURES - HAWKS - FALCONS

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

*Greater yellowlegs***GROUSE – QUAIL – TURKEY**

___	• Ring-necked Pheasant _____	u	u	u	u
___	• Wild Turkey _____	u	u	u	u
___	• Northern Bobwhite _____	c	c	c	c

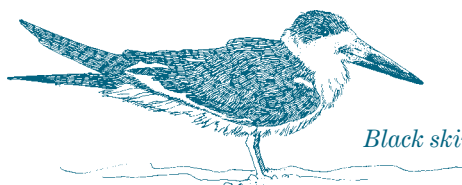
RAILS – CRANES

___	• Black Rail _____	r	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 Moorhen _____	u	u	u	r
___	American Coot _____	u		u	u

PLOVERS – SANDPIPERS

___	Black-bellied Plover _____	u	o	u	r
___	American Golden-Plover _____	r		o	
___	Semipalmated Plover _____	c	u	c	
___	• Killdeer _____	c	c	c	u
___	• American Oystercatcher _____	u	u	u	r
___	Black-necked Stilt _____	o			
___	American Avocet _____		o	o	
___	Greater Yellowlegs _____	c	c	c	u

	sp	S	F	W
___ Lesser Yellowlegs _____	c	u	c	o
___ Solitary Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	
___ • Willet _____	c	c	r	
___ Spotted Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	
___ Upland Sandpiper _____		r	r	
___ Whimbrel _____	o			
___ Hudsonian Godwit _____			r	
___ Ruddy Turnstone _____	u	u	u	
___ Red Knot _____	o	o		
___ Sanderling _____	u	u	o	
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	c	c	u	
___ Western Sandpiper _____		u	u	r
___ Least Sandpiper _____	c	c	u	r
___ White-rumped Sandpiper _____	u	o	u	
___ Baird's Sandpiper _____			r	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	
___ Dunlin _____	c	u	c	u
___ Stilt Sandpiper _____	o	o	u	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper _____			r	
___ Ruff _____	r			
___ Short-billed Dowitcher _____	u	u	c	r
___ Long-billed Dowitcher _____	r	r	u	r
___ Common Snipe _____	c	r	u	u
___ • American Woodcock _____	u	u	u	u
___ Wilson's Phalarope _____	r	r	r	
___ Red-necked Phalarope _____	r	r	r	



Black skimmer

JAEGERS – GULLS – TERNS – AUKS

___ • Laughing Gull _____	a	a	a	r
___ Bonaparte's Gull _____	u		u	o
___ Ring-billed Gull _____	a	u	a	a
___ • Herring Gull _____	c	u	a	c
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull _____	o		o	o
___ • Great Black-backed Gull _____	u	u	u	u
___ Gull-billed Tern _____		r		
___ Caspian Tern _____	u	u	c	
___ • Royal Tern _____	u	u	u	
___ Sandwich Tern _____	r	r		
___ • Common Tern _____	u	u	o	
___ • Forster's Tern _____	c	c	a	r
___ • Least Tern _____	u	u	r	
___ Black Tern _____	r	o	o	
___ • Black Skimmer _____	o	o	o	
___ Dovekie _____				

DOVES – CUCKOOS – OWLS – SWIFTS – HUMMINGBIRDS

___	• Rock Dove _____	u	u	u	u
___	• Mourning Dove _____	c	c	a	c
___	Black-billed Cuckoo _____	u		u	
___	• Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____	c	c	c	
___	• 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
___	Short-eared Owl _____	o		u	u
___	Northern Saw-whet Owl _____	o		o	o
___	Common Nighthawk _____	o	u	u	
___	• Chuck-will's widow _____	u	u	o	
___	• Whip-poor-will _____	u	u	o	
___	• Chimney Swift _____	u	u	u	
___	• Ruby-throated Hummingbird _____	c	c	u	
___	Belted Kingfisher _____	u	o	u	u



*Great
horned
owl*

WOODPECKERS – FLYCATCHERS

___	• Red-headed Woodpecker _____	u	u	u	u
___	• 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	a	c
___	• Pileated Woodpecker _____	u	u	u	u
___	• Eastern Wood-Pewee _____	c	c	c	
___	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher _____				r
___	• Acadian Flycatcher _____	u	u	u	
___	Willow Flycatcher _____	o	r	u	
___	Least Flycatcher _____			u	
___	• Eastern Phoebe _____	u	o	u	o
___	• Great Crested Flycatcher _____	c	c	u	
___	Western Kingbird _____			r	
___	• Eastern Kingbird _____	c	c	u	

LARKS – SWALLOWS – JAYS – CROWS

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



*White-breasted
nuthatch*

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 _____	u	u	u	u
_____	Brown Creeper _____	u		u	u
_____	• Carolina Wren _____	c	c	c	c
_____	• House Wren _____	u	u	u	o
_____	Winter Wren _____	u		u	u
_____	• Sedge Wren _____	o	o	o	o
_____	• 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	acc
_____	• Eastern Bluebird _____	c	c	c	c
_____	Veery _____	u		u	
_____	Gray-cheeked Thrush _____	o		u	
_____	Swainson's Thrush _____	u		u	
_____	Hermit Thrush _____	u		c	u
_____	• Wood Thrush _____	c	c	u	
_____	• American Robin _____	a	c	c	c
_____	• Gray Catbird _____	u	u	c	u
_____	• Northern Mockingbird _____	c	c	c	c
_____	• Brown Thrasher _____	u	u	u	u

WAXWINGS – SHRIKES – STARLINGS

_____	American Pipit _____	u		u	u
_____	• Cedar Waxwing _____	u	o	c	u
_____	Loggerhead Shrike _____			r	r
_____	• European Starling _____	a	a	a	a

VIREOS – WOOD WARBLERS

_____	• White-eyed Vireo _____	u	u	u	
_____	Blue-headed Vireo _____	u		u	
_____	Yellow-throated Vireo _____	o	r	r	
_____	Warbling Vireo _____	r			
_____	Philadelphia Vireo _____			r	
_____	• Red-eyed Vireo _____	c	c	c	
_____	Blue-winged Warbler _____	u	u	u	
_____	Golden-winged Warbler _____	r		r	
_____	Tennessee Warbler _____	o		u	
_____	Orange-crowned Warbler _____			r	r
_____	Nashville Warbler _____	o		u	acc
_____	Northern Parula _____	u		u	
_____	• Yellow Warbler _____	c	u	u	
_____	Chestnut-sided Warbler _____	u		u	
_____	Magnolia Warbler _____	u		c	
_____	Cape May Warbler _____	o		u	
_____	Black-throated Blue Warbler _____	u		u	
_____	Yellow-rumped Warbler _____	a		a	c
_____	Black-throated Green Warbler _____	u		u	
_____	Blackburnian Warbler _____	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		u	
_____	Blackpoll Warbler _____	u		u	
_____	Cerulean Warbler _____	r			
_____	• Black-and-white Warbler _____	u	o	c	acc
_____	American Redstart _____	u		c	
_____	• Prothonotary Warbler _____	u	u		
_____	• Worm-eating Warbler _____	u	u	o	
_____	• Ovenbird _____	c	u	c	
_____	Northern Waterthrush _____	o		u	
_____	Louisiana Waterthrush _____	o	o		
_____	• Kentucky Warbler _____	u	r	o	
_____	Connecticut Warbler _____			o	
_____	Mourning Warbler _____			o	
_____	• Common Yellowthroat _____	a	c	c	o
_____	Hooded Warbler _____	o	o	o	
_____	Wilson's Warbler _____	r		o	
_____	Canada Warbler _____	u	o	u	
_____	• Yellow-breasted Chat _____	u	u	u	o

TANAGERS – SPARROWS

_____	• Summer Tanager _____	c	c	o	
_____	• Scarlet Tanager _____	u	u	u	
_____	• Northern Cardinal _____	c	c	c	c
_____	Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____	u		u	
_____	• Blue Grosbeak _____	c	c	u	
_____	• Indigo Bunting _____	c	c	u	
_____	• Eastern Towhee _____	c	c	c	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		
_____	• Sharp-tailed Sparrow _____	u	u	u	o
_____	• Seaside Sparrow _____	c	c	u	r
_____	Fox Sparrow _____	u		u	u
_____	• Song Sparrow _____	u	u	a	c
_____	Lincoln's Sparrow _____			o	r
_____	Swamp Sparrow _____	c	r	c	c
_____	White-throated Sparrow _____	a		a	c
_____	White-crowned Sparrow _____	o		u	o
_____	Dark-eyed Junco _____	c		c	c
_____	Snow Bunting _____	u	u	c	

BLACKBIRDS – FINCHES

_____	Bobolink _____	u	u	c	
_____	• Red-winged Blackbird _____	a	a	a	a
_____	• Eastern Meadowlark _____	c	c	c	c
_____	Yellow-headed Blackbird _____			r	r
_____	Rusty Blackbird _____	u		u	o
_____	Brewer's Blackbird _____	r			r
_____	• Boat-tailed Grackle _____	u	u	u	u
_____	• Common Grackle _____	a	a	a	a
_____	• Brown-headed Cowbird _____	c	c	c	u
_____	• Orchard Oriole _____	c	c	o	
_____	Baltimore Oriole _____	u		u	
_____	Purple Finch _____	u		u	u
_____	House Finch _____	u	o	c	c
_____	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 _____	o		o	o
_____	• House Sparrow _____	c	c	c	c

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Hearing impaired visitors may call the
Maryland Relay Service at TDD/800 735 2258 voice

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

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