

Patuxent Research Refuge
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Patuxent

Research Refuge

Birds



Great Blue Heron
Eva M. Hersey/USFWS

Introduction

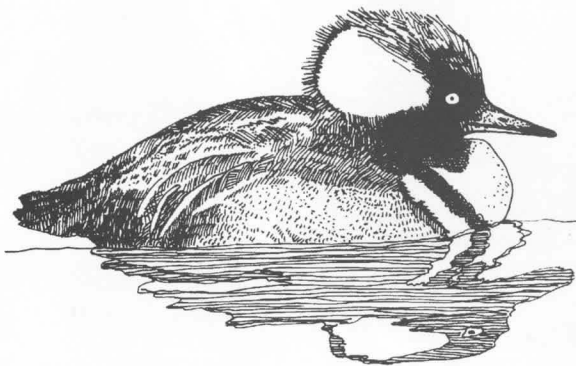


This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

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	

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

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
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Plovers

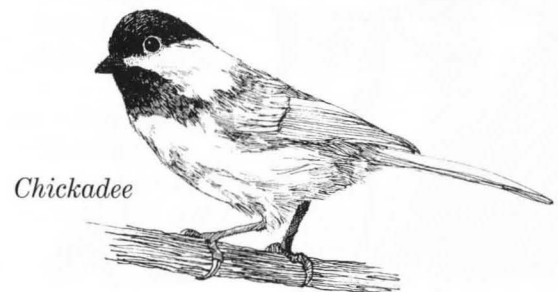
Semipalmated Plover	x	x	x	
• Killdeer	c	c	c	u

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	x
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



Chickadee

	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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Swifts

___ • Chimney Swift

Hummingbirds

___ • Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Kingfishers

___ • Belted Kingfisher

Woodpeckers

___ Red-headed Woodpecker

___ • Red-bellied Woodpecker

___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

___ • Downy Woodpecker

___ • Hairy Woodpecker

___ • Northern Flicker

___ • Pileated Woodpecker

Tyrant Flycatchers

___ Olive-sided Flycatcher

___ • Eastern Wood-Pewee

___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

___ • Acadian Flycatcher

___ Alder Flycatcher

___ Willow Flycatcher

___ Least Flycatcher

___ • Eastern Phoebe

___ • Great Crested Flycatcher

___ • Eastern Kingbird

Shrike

___ Northern Shrike

Vireos

___ • White-eyed Vireo

___ Blue-headed Vireo

___ • Yellow-throated Vireo

___ Warbling Vireo

___ Philadelphia Vireo

___ • Red-eyed Vireo

Crows – Jays – Magpies

___ • Blue Jay

___ • American Crow

___ • Fish Crow

sp	S	F	W
c	c	a	
c	c	c	
c	u	c	u
o	r	o	o
c	c	c	c
u		u	u
c	c	c	c
u	u	u	u
c	u	c	c
u	u	u	u
x		r	
c	c	c	
r	u	u	
c	c	u	
r	o	o	
o	o	o	
o	u	u	
c	c	c	o
c	c	c	
c	c	u	
			x
c	c	c	
u	x	u	
c	c	c	
o	x	o	
x		o	
a	a	a	
c	c	c	c
a	a	a	a
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



Red -Tailed Hawk

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 u
___ 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

	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

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



Blue Jay

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	