

Patuxent Research Refuge
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PAM FILE

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	

	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

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

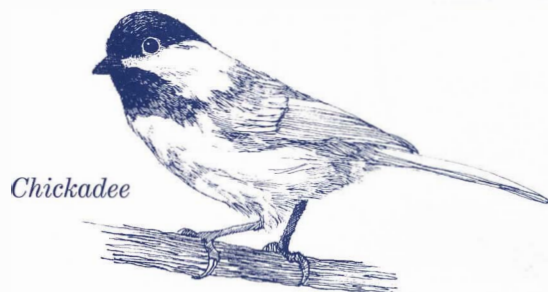
Semipalmated Plover _____	x	x	x	
• Killdeer _____	c	c	c	u

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	
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		
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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	c	c	a	
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Hummingbirds

• Ruby-throated Hummingbird	c	c	c	
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Kingfishers

• Belted Kingfisher	c	u	c	u
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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
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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

	sp	S	F	W
Larks				
___ Horned Lark	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

	sp	S	F	W
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	

	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	
Dickeissel	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	