

Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge
c/o Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
340 Smith Road
Shirley, NY 11967
631/286 0485
www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges/oysterbay.html

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

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

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

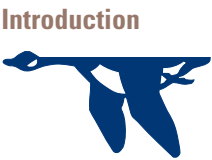
Oyster Bay

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Birds and Mammals



Long-tailed duck
Lloyd Spitalink



This blue goose, designed by J.N. “Ding” Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 560 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the US fish and Wildlife Service, a Federal agency. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people. It represents the most comprehensive wildlife resource management program in the world.

The refuge is located on the north shore of Long Island in eastern Nassau County in the Town of Oyster Bay. It is 20 miles east of New York City and 5 miles west of Target Rock. The major refuge holdings are in Oyster Bay Harbor and the western portion of Cold Spring Harbor. The waters of Oyster Bay surround Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, home of Theodore Roosevelt, the founder of the first national wildlife refuge, Pelican Island in 1903.

The refuge includes more than 3,000 acres of bay bottom and surface waters up to the mean high tide line, in addition to the channels and marshes of Frost, Oak Neck, and Mill Neck Creeks. The refuge consists largely of subtidal habitat, strands of intertidal salt marsh, high salt marsh and freshwater wetlands. These habitats are managed for use by migratory waterfowl and other waterbirds.

More than 126 bird species have been documented at the refuge, including 23 species of waterfowl. Oyster Bay has the greatest winter waterfowl use of any of the Long Island refuges. More than 20,000 ducks have been reported for one survey during peak use. Most waterfowl can be seen in the Bayville, Cold Spring Harbor, and Mill Neck Creek areas.

Federal- and state-designated endangered or threatened species known to use Oyster Bay include the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, northern harrier, least tern, and Kemp’s ridley and loggerhead sea turtles. Peregrine falcons typically migrate through Oyster Bay in the autumn and spring. Bald eagles visit the refuge sporadically in winter. Ospreys, a state-designated species of concern, nest and have successfully fledged young on the refuge. Northern harriers are observed in their spring and autumn migrations.

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 documented breeding at the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex	

Relative Abundance

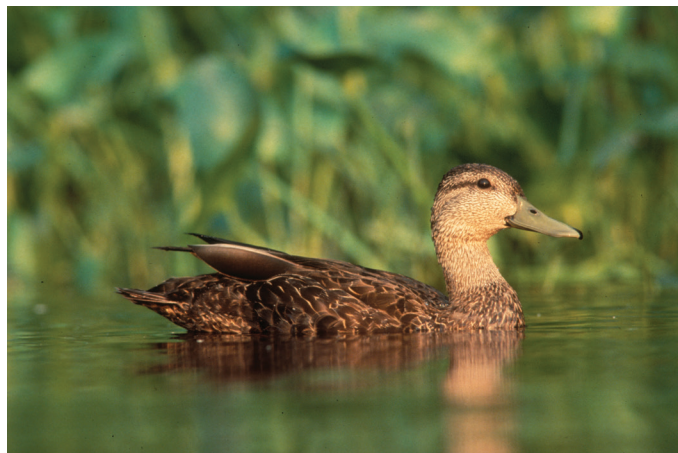
Relative abundance indicates how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat.

a	abundant	a common species which is very numerous
c	common	certain to be seen in suitable habitat
u	uncommon	present, but not certain to be seen
o	occasional	seen only a few times during a season
r	rare	seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years

Swans – Geese – Ducks

	Sp	S	F	W
___ • Mute Swan _____	a	a	a	a
___ • Canada Goose _____	a	a	a	a
___ Brant _____	a	r	a	a
___ • Wood Duck _____	u	u	u	u
___ Gadwall _____	c	r	c	c
___ American Wigeon _____	c	r	c	c
___ American Black Duck _____	c	o	a	a
___ • Mallard _____	a	a	a	a
___ Blue-winged Teal _____			r	
___ Northern Pintail _____			u	u
___ Green-winged Teal _____	u		u	u

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Northern Shoveler _____			u	u
_____ Canvasback _____			o	o
_____ Redhead _____				r
_____ Ring-necked Duck _____	u		u	u
_____ Greater Scaup _____	c		c	a
_____ Lesser Scaup _____	u		c	a
_____ Long-tailed duck _____	o		c	c
_____ Black Scoter _____				r
_____ Surf Scoter _____	r		u	c
_____ White-winged Scoter _____	r		u	c
_____ Common Goldeneye _____	u		o	u
_____ Bufflehead _____	c		c	a
_____ Hooded Merganser _____	u		u	c
_____ Common Merganser _____				o
_____ Red-breasted Merganser _____	c		c	c
_____ Ruddy Duck _____	u	r	c	c



Scott Nielsen

American black duck

Gallinaceous Birds

_____ Wild Turkey _____	u	u	u	u
_____ Ring-necked Pheasant _____	r	r	r	r

Loons

_____ Red-throated Loon _____	o		u	c
_____ Common Loon _____	u	r	c	c

Grebes

_____ Pied-billed Grebe _____	o	o	u	u
_____ Horned Grebe _____	u		c	c

Cormorants

_____ Double-crested Cormorant _____	c	c	a	u
_____ Great Cormorant _____	r			r

Bitterns – Herons – Egrets

_____ Great Blue Heron _____	o	o	c	u
_____ Great Egret _____	c	c	c	r
_____ Snowy Egret _____	c	c	c	r
_____ • Green Heron _____	u	u	u	
_____ Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	c	c	c	o

New World Vultures

_____ Turkey Vulture _____	o	o	o	o
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USFWS

Osprey in nest

Osprey - Kites - Hawks - Eagles

_____ • Osprey _____	c	c	c	r
_____ Bald Eagle _____	o	o	o	o
_____ Northern Harrier _____	o	o	o	o
_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	o		o	o
_____ • Red-tailed Hawk _____	c	c	c	c

Falcons

_____ American Kestrel _____	o	r	o	r
_____ Merlin _____	o		o	o
_____ Peregrine Falcon _____	o	o	o	o

Rails

_____ Clapper Rail _____	r	o	r	
_____ • Virginia Rail _____		u	r	r

Plovers

_____ Black-bellied Plover _____	r		o	o
_____ Semipalmated Plover _____	o	o	o	
_____ • Piping Plover _____	u	u	r	
_____ • Killdeer _____	u	c	c	u

Oystercatchers

_____ American Oystercatcher _____	o	o	o	r
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	Sp	S	F	W
Sandpipers - Phalaropes				
Greater Yellowlegs	u	u	u	r
Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	u	
Solitary Sandpiper	r	r	r	
• Spotted Sandpiper	r	r	r	
Willet	o	o	o	
Ruddy Turnstone	r		o	o
Red Knot	r		r	r
Sanderling	c	o	c	a
Semipalmated Sandpiper	u	o	u	
Western Sandpiper			r	
Least Sandpiper	u	o	u	
White-rumped Sandpiper	r		r	
Pectoral Sandpiper	r		r	
Purple Sandpiper				r
Dunlin	u		u	u
Short-billed Dowitcher	u	u	u	
Common Snipe	r		r	r
American Woodcock	r			

Gulls – Terns – Skimmers

Laughing Gull	u	u	c	
Ring-billed Gull	c	u	a	a
Herring Gull	a	a	a	a
Lesser Black-backed Gull			r	o
Great Black-backed Gull	c	c	a	c
Common Tern	c	a	c	
Forster’s Tern	u	c	u	
• Least Tern	u	u	u	
Black Skimmer	r	r	r	

Pigeons – Doves

• Rock Pigeon	c	c	c	c
• Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c



Least Sandpiper

USFWS

	Sp	S	F	W
Cuckoos				
Black-billed Cuckoo	r		r	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	u	r	r	
Typical Owls				
• Eastern Screech-Owl	u	u	u	u
• Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
Snowy Owl				r
Nightjars				
Common Nighthawk		r	r	
Swifts				
• Chimney Swift	u	c	u	
Hummingbirds				
• Ruby-throated Hummingbird	u	u	u	
Kingfishers				
• Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	u



Red-bellied woodpecker

Laura Perlick/USFWS

Woodpeckers

• Red-bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	o		o	r
• Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
• Hairy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
• Northern Flicker	c	c	c	u

Tyrant Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher	o			
• Eastern Wood-Pewee	u	u	u	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r		u	
Least Flycatcher	u		u	
• Acadian Flycatcher	u		u	
• Willow Flycatcher	u	c	u	
• Eastern Phoebe	c	u	c	u
• Great Crested Flycatcher	u	c		
• Eastern Kingbird	c	c	u	

	Sp	S	F	W
Larks				
_____ Horned Lark _____				r
Martins – Swallows				
_____ Purple Martin _____	r	r		
_____ • Tree Swallow _____	c	c	c	
_____ • Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____	c	c	c	
_____ Bank Swallow _____	r	u	r	
_____ • Barn Swallow _____	c	a	c	
Vireos				
_____ • White-eyed Vireo _____	o	u	u	
_____ Blue-headed Vireo _____	u		u	
_____ • Yellow-throated Vireo _____	r	r	r	
_____ • Warbling Vireo _____	u	u	u	
_____ Philadelphia Vireo _____			r	
_____ • Red-eyed Vireo _____	c	c	c	
Crows - Jays				
_____ • Blue Jay _____	a	a	a	a
_____ • American Crow _____	u	u	u	u
_____ • Fish Crow _____	u	c	u	o
Titmice – Chickadees				
_____ • Black-capped Chickadee _____	a	a	a	a
_____ • Tufted Titmouse _____	a	a	a	a
Nuthatches				
_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch _____	o		o	o
_____ • White-breasted Nuthatch _____	a	a	a	a
Creepers				
_____ • Brown Creeper _____	o	r	u	u
Wrens				
_____ • Carolina Wren _____	a	a	a	a
_____ • House Wren _____	c	c	u	
_____ Winter Wren _____	o		u	u
_____ • Marsh Wren _____	u	u	u	r
Kinglets				
_____ Golden-crowned Kinglet _____	u		c	u
_____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____	u		c	u
Gnatcatchers				
_____ • Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____	u	u	u	
Thrushes				
_____ • Eastern Bluebird _____	u	c	u	r
_____ • Veery _____	u	r	u	

	Sp	S	F	W
_____ Swainson’s Thrush _____	u		u	
_____ Hermit Thrush _____	u		c	o
_____ • Wood Thrush _____	c	c	u	
_____ • American Robin _____	a	a	a	c
Mimic Thrushes				
_____ • Gray Catbird _____	c	a	c	o
_____ • Northern Mockingbird _____	c	c	c	c
_____ • Brown Thrasher _____	o	o	o	r
Starlings				
_____ • European Starling _____	a	a	a	a
Pipits				
_____ American Pipit _____			o	r
Waxwings				
_____ • Cedar Waxwing _____	o	u	u	o
Wood Warblers				
_____ • Blue-winged Warbler _____	o	o	o	
_____ Tennessee Warbler _____	o		o	
_____ Orange-crowned Warbler _____	r		r	r
_____ Nashville Warbler _____	o		o	
_____ Northern Parula _____	c		u	
_____ • Yellow Warbler _____	c	c	u	
_____ Chestnut-sided Warbler _____	u		u	
_____ Magnolia Warbler _____	u		u	
_____ Cape May Warbler _____	o		o	
_____ Black-throated Blue Warbler _____	c		c	
_____ Yellow-rumped Warbler _____	c		c	o
_____ Black-throated Green Warbler _____	u		o	
_____ Blackburnian Warbler _____	o		r	
_____ • Pine Warbler _____	u		u	r
_____ Prairie Warbler _____	u		u	
_____ Palm Warbler _____	u		u	r
_____ • Yellow-throated Warbler _____	u		u	



Cedar waxwing



Frank Miles/USFWS

Yellow-rumped warbler

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

Tanagers

• Scarlet Tanager	u	u	u
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Sparrows - Towhees

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

Cardinals - Grosbeaks - Allies

• Northern Cardinal	a	a	a	a
• Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u	o	u	
• Indigo Bunting	u	u	u	
Snow Bunting				u

Blackbirds – Orioles

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

Finches

Purple Finch	r		o	o
• House Finch	u	u	u	u
Common Redpoll				r
Pine Siskin			o	r
• American Goldfinch	a	a	a	c

Old World Sparrows

• House Sparrow	a	a	a	a
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Frank Miles/USFWS

Blue jay

Mammal Species of the Complex

The Oyster Bay area supports over 20 species of mammals that live here year round or visit seasonally. All mammals are warm-blooded, most have hair, most give birth to live young, and the females produce milk to nurse their newborns. The smallest mammal on Long Island is the masked shrew, which weighs only 1/10 of an ounce. Our largest terrestrial mammal is the white tailed deer, which can weigh up to 250 lbs. Mammals can be classified as carnivores (meat eaters), herbivores (plant eaters) or omnivores (plant and meat eaters). Some mammals, like bats, eat mainly insects and are insectivores, while those that eat primarily fish, like seals and dolphins, are called piscivores.

Many mammals are secretive and nocturnal, coming out only at night. The best times to observe animals such as bats, foxes, and raccoons are during the crepuscular hours, dawn or dusk. Others such as grey squirrels, chipmunks, and seals are usually seen during daylight hours. Seals can often be seen during the winter months hauled out on beaches or rocks. A good place to view seals is on the rocks of Rocky Point, at the northern tip of Centre Island.

In addition to visual observations, another way to identify what mammals are in the area is to look for their tracks. A field guide of tracks can help you figure out which species are present. You can assist biologists by reporting observations of rarer animals to help document their presence and range. Otter sightings or carcasses should be reported to the Long Island River Otter Project at 631/267 5228 or mike@peconic.org. Southern species such as manatees have been recorded as far north as Massachusetts, but are considered very rare north of Georgia. You never know what mammals

may show up! Dolphins have been sighted in Long Island Sound with increasing frequency. Dolphin and whale sightings should be reported to the Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (www.cresli.org). The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation (www.riverheadfoundation.org) should be notified of any injured seals, whales, dolphins, or sea turtles. Their hotline number is 631/369 9840. Refuge and state biologists should be informed of any unusual sightings as well. Observing wildlife takes patience and skill, but with a little luck you can enjoy a rewarding wildlife experience!

Opossum
Short-tailed Shrew
Little Brown Myotis
Eastern Pipistrelle
Big Brown Bat
Eastern Cottontail
Eastern Chipmunk
Gray Squirrel
Southern Flying Squirrel
White-footed Mouse
Meadow Mouse
Muskrat
House Mouse
Norway Rat
Harbor Porpoise
Red Fox
Raccoon
River Otter
Harbor Seal
Gray Seal
White-tailed Deer

Don Freiday/USFWS



Gray squirrel

USFWS



Harbor seal



Otters

USFWS

Notes

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We hope you enjoy your visit. Post your special sightings on our “Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex” facebook page or send us an email at: longislandrefuges@fws.gov. Be sure to include your name, date, time, and location.

This brochure was produced with the assistance of the following partner organizations:

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, serving Huntington and Northern Oyster Bay Townships. The organization works to protect wildlife and its habitat through conservation action, advocacy, education and responsible recreation. www.hobaudubon.org.



Sagamore Hill National Historic Site

Sagamore Hill preserves in public ownership and interprets the structures, landscape, collections, and other cultural resources associated with Theodore Roosevelt's home in Oyster Bay, New York to ensure that future generations understand and appreciate the life and legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, his family, and the significant events associated with him at Sagamore Hill. www.nps.gov/sahi/index.htm



Friends of the Bay

Friends of the Bay's mission is to preserve, protect and restore the ecological integrity and productivity of the Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor Estuary and the surrounding watershed area.

