

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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July 2015



# Blackwater

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

### *Bird Checklist*



Bald eagle  
Betty Whetzel

## Introduction



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

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 560 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people. On refuges, wildlife comes first!

Blackwater was established in 1933 and 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 that use the Atlantic Flyway. The Blackwater area also has one of the largest populations of nesting bald eagles on the Atlantic coast north of Florida.

Species names are in accordance with the most recent American Ornithologists' Union Checklist as amended. This brochure lists 295 species of birds identified by refuge personnel and ornithologists as occurring on the refuge, plus an additional 21 species of accidentals that have been seen only a few times in the past 10 to 20 years.

## Notes

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Observers \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

A dot (•) indicates birds known to nest on or near the refuge.

*Italics* indicate threatened/endangered species.

(CB) indicates species that are most likely to be seen on the refuge property adjacent to the Chesapeake Bay.

### 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 or accidental seen only a few times in the past 10 years

- The refuge would like to thank volunteer Harry Armistead and the birding community for their help in keeping this list accurate.



*Red-winged blackbird*

	Sp	Su	F	W
<b>Swans – Geese – Ducks</b>				
___ Tundra Swan _____	u		c	c
___ Trumpeter Swan _____				r
___ • Mute Swan _____	o	o	o	o
___ Snow Goose _____	u		c	c
___ Ross's Goose _____			o	o
___ Brant (CB) _____			r	r
___ • Canada Goose _____	a	c	a	a
___ • Wood Duck _____	c	c	c	o
___ Barnacle Goose _____			r	r
___ Cackling Goose _____	o		u	u
___ Greater White-fronted Goose _____			r	r
___ Green-winged Teal _____	c		c	u
___ Eurasian Green-winged Teal _____	o			o
___ • American Black Duck _____	c	u	c	c
___ • Mallard _____	a	c	a	a
___ Northern Pintail _____	c		c	u
___ • Blue-winged Teal _____	u	u	u	o
___ Northern Shoveler _____	c		u	c
___ • Gadwall _____	u	u	u	u
___ Eurasian Wigeon _____	r		r	r
___ American Wigeon _____	u		u	u
___ Canvasback (CB) _____	u		u	c
___ Redhead (CB) _____	u		u	u
___ Ring-necked Duck _____	u		u	c
___ Greater Scaup (CB) _____	u		u	u
___ Lesser Scaup (CB) _____	c		u	c
___ Long-tailed Duck (CB) _____	c		u	c
___ Black Scoter (CB) _____	u		u	u
___ Surf Scoter (CB) _____	c		c	u
___ White-winged Scoter (CB) _____	u		u	u
___ Common Goldeneye (CB) _____	c		u	c
___ Bufflehead _____	c		u	c
___ Hooded Merganser _____	u		u	u
___ Common Merganser _____	u		u	c
___ Red-breasted Merganser (CB) _____	c		u	u
___ Ruddy Duck _____	u		u	c
<b>Gallinaceous Birds</b>				
___ • Wild Turkey _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Northern Bobwhite _____	u	u	u	u

	Sp	Su	F	W
<b>Loons – Grebes</b>				
___ Red-throated Loon (CB) _____	o		o	o
___ Common Loon _____	c	o	c	u
___ Pied-billed Grebe _____	u	o	u	u
___ Horned Grebe (CB) _____	c		u	u
___ Red-necked Grebe (CB) _____	o			
<b>Gannets</b>				
___ Northern Gannet (CB) _____	u		o	o
<b>Pelicans</b>				
___ American White Pelican _____	u		u	u
___ • Brown Pelican _____	u	u	u	
<b>Cormorants</b>				
___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	c	u	c	r
<b>Bitterns – Herons – Egrets</b>				
___ American Bittern _____	u		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	r
___ • 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 (CB) _____	u	u	u	



Great blue heron



Sp Su F W

**Ibises**

\_\_\_ • Glossy Ibis \_\_\_\_\_ u u u

**New World Vultures**

\_\_\_ • Black Vulture \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c  
 \_\_\_ • Turkey Vulture \_\_\_\_\_ a a a a

**Ospreys - Hawks – Eagles**

\_\_\_ • Osprey \_\_\_\_\_ c c c  
 \_\_\_ • Bald Eagle \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c  
 \_\_\_ • Northern Harrier \_\_\_\_\_ c u c c  
 \_\_\_ Sharp-shinned Hawk \_\_\_\_\_ u c u  
 \_\_\_ • Cooper's Hawk \_\_\_\_\_ u r c u  
 \_\_\_ Northern Goshawk \_\_\_\_\_ r r  
 \_\_\_ • Red-shouldered Hawk \_\_\_\_\_ u o u u  
 \_\_\_ Broad-winged Hawk \_\_\_\_\_ u u  
 \_\_\_ • Red-tailed Hawk \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c  
 \_\_\_ Rough-legged Hawk \_\_\_\_\_ u u u u  
 \_\_\_ Golden Eagle \_\_\_\_\_ o u u

**Falcons**

\_\_\_ American Kestrel \_\_\_\_\_ u o c u  
 \_\_\_ Merlin \_\_\_\_\_ o u o  
 \_\_\_ Peregrine Falcon \_\_\_\_\_ o o o o

**Rails**

\_\_\_ Yellow Rail \_\_\_\_\_ r r r  
 \_\_\_ • Black Rail \_\_\_\_\_ r r r

Sp Su F W

\_\_\_ • Clapper Rail \_\_\_\_\_ u u u u  
 \_\_\_ • King Rail \_\_\_\_\_ u u u u  
 \_\_\_ • Virginia Rail \_\_\_\_\_ c c c u  
 \_\_\_ Sora \_\_\_\_\_ u u r  
 \_\_\_ • Common Gallinule \_\_\_\_\_ u u u  
 \_\_\_ American Coot \_\_\_\_\_ u u u

**Plovers – Sandpipers**

\_\_\_ Black-bellied Plover \_\_\_\_\_ u o u  
 \_\_\_ American Golden-Plover \_\_\_\_\_ o  
 \_\_\_ Semipalmated Plover \_\_\_\_\_ c u u  
 \_\_\_ • Killdeer \_\_\_\_\_ c c c u  
 \_\_\_ • American Oystercatcher (CB) \_\_\_\_\_ u u u  
 \_\_\_ Black-necked Stilt \_\_\_\_\_ u u  
 \_\_\_ American Avocet \_\_\_\_\_ o o  
 \_\_\_ Greater Yellowlegs \_\_\_\_\_ c c c u  
 \_\_\_ Lesser Yellowlegs \_\_\_\_\_ c c c u  
 \_\_\_ Solitary Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ u u u  
 \_\_\_ • Willet \_\_\_\_\_ c c o  
 \_\_\_ Spotted Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ u u u  
 \_\_\_ Upland Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ r r  
 \_\_\_ Whimbrel \_\_\_\_\_ o o o  
 \_\_\_ Hudsonian Godwit \_\_\_\_\_ r  
 \_\_\_ Ruddy Turnstone (CB) \_\_\_\_\_ u u u  
 \_\_\_ Red Knot \_\_\_\_\_ o o o  
 \_\_\_ Sanderling (CB) \_\_\_\_\_ u u u o  
 \_\_\_ Semipalmated Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ c u c  
 \_\_\_ Western Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ u u o  
 \_\_\_ Least Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ c u c r  
 \_\_\_ White-rumped Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ u o u  
 \_\_\_ Pectoral Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ u u u  
 \_\_\_ Dunlin \_\_\_\_\_ c u c u  
 \_\_\_ Stilt Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ o o u  
 \_\_\_ Buff-breasted Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ r  
 \_\_\_ Ruff \_\_\_\_\_ r r  
 \_\_\_ Short-billed Dowitcher \_\_\_\_\_ u u u o  
 \_\_\_ Long-billed Dowitcher \_\_\_\_\_ r r u o  
 \_\_\_ • American Woodcock \_\_\_\_\_ u u u u  
 \_\_\_ Wilson's Phalarope \_\_\_\_\_ o o r  
 \_\_\_ Red-necked Phalarope \_\_\_\_\_ r r r  
 \_\_\_ Baird's Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_ r r  
 \_\_\_ Wilson's Snipe \_\_\_\_\_ c u u



USFWS

*Killdeer*



*Ruby-throated hummingbird*

	Sp	Su	F	W
<b>Jaegers – Gulls – Terns</b>				
• Laughing Gull _____	a	a	a	r
• Bonaparte's Gull _____	u		u	o
• Ring-billed Gull _____	c	u	c	a
• Herring Gull _____	c	u	c	c
• Lesser Black-backed Gull _____	o		o	o
• Great Black-backed Gull _____	u	u	u	u
• Caspian Tern _____	u	u	u	
• Royal Tern (CB) _____	u	u	u	
• Sandwich Tern _____	r	r		
• Common Tern (CB) _____	u	u	u	
• Forster's Tern _____	c	c	a	r
• Least Tern _____	c	u	u	
• Black Tern _____	r	o	o	
• Black Skimmer (CB) _____	o	o	o	
<b>Doves – Owls – Swifts – Hummingbirds</b>				
• Rock Pigeon _____	u	u	u	u
• Mourning Dove _____	c	c	a	c
• Black-billed Cuckoo _____	o		o	
• Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____	u	u	u	
• 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	r
• Short-eared Owl _____	o		u	u
• Northern Saw-whet Owl _____	o		o	o

Sp Su F W

• Snowy Owl _____				o
• Common Nighthawk _____	o	o	u	
• Chuck-will's-widow _____	u	u	o	
• Eastern Whip-poor-will _____	o	o	r	
• Chimney Swift _____	u	u	u	
• Ruby-throated Hummingbird _____	c	c	u	
• Belted Kingfisher _____	u	o	u	u

### Woodpeckers – Falcons – Flycatchers

• Red-headed Woodpecker _____	u	u	u	o
• Red-bellied Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c
• Yellow-bellied Sapsucker _____	o		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

### Tyrant Flycatchers

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



*Barred owl*

Sp Su F W

\_\_\_ Western Kingbird \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Eastern Kingbird \_\_\_\_\_  
 c c u r

**Shrikes – Vireos**

\_\_\_ Loggerhead Shrike \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • White-eyed Vireo \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Blue-headed Vireo \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Yellow-throated Vireo \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Warbling Vireo \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Philadelphia Vireo \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Red-eyed Vireo \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Jays – Crows – Larks – Swallows**

\_\_\_ • Blue Jay \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • American Crow \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Fish Crow \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Horned Lark \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Purple Martin \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Tree Swallow \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Northern Rough-winged Swallow \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Bank Swallow \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Cliff Swallow \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Barn Swallow \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Titmice – Nuthatches – Wrens**

\_\_\_ • Carolina Chickadee \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Tufted Titmouse \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Red-breasted Nuthatch \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • White-breasted Nuthatch \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Brown-headed Nuthatch \_\_\_\_\_  
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Betty Whetzel  
 Downy woodpecker

Sp Su F W

\_\_\_ Brown Creeper \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Carolina Wren \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • House Wren \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Winter Wren \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Sedge Wren \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Marsh Wren \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Kinglets – Thrushes – Thrashers**

\_\_\_ Golden-crowned Kinglet \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Ruby-crowned Kinglet \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Blue-gray Gnatcatcher \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Eastern Bluebird \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Veery \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Gray-cheeked Thrush \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Bicknell's Thrush \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Swainson's Thrush \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Hermit Thrush \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Wood Thrush \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • American Robin \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Gray Catbird \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Northern Mockingbird \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Brown Thrasher \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Starlings – Waxwings – Pipits**

\_\_\_ • European Starling \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ American Pipit \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Cedar Waxwing \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Longspurs – Snow Bunting**

\_\_\_ Lapland Longspur \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Snow Bunting \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Wood-warblers**

\_\_\_ Blue-winged Warbler \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Golden-winged Warbler \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Tennessee Warbler \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Orange-crowned Warbler \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Nashville Warbler \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Northern Parula \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ • Yellow Warbler \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Chestnut-sided Warbler \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Magnolia Warbler \_\_\_\_\_  
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	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Cape May Warbler _____	o	r	u	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler _____	u	o	u	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler _____	c		a	c
___ Black-throated Green Warbler _____	u	o	u	
___ Blackburnian Warbler _____	o	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	o	u	
___ Blackpoll Warbler _____	u		u	
___ Cerulean Warbler _____	r			
___ • Black-and-white Warbler _____	u	o	c	r
___ American Redstart _____	u	u	c	
___ • Prothonotary Warbler _____	u	u	r	
___ • Worm-eating Warbler _____	u	u	o	
___ • Ovenbird _____	c	c	c	
___ Northern Waterthrush _____	o	o	u	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush _____	o	o		
___ • Kentucky Warbler _____	u	r	o	
___ Connecticut Warbler _____			o	
___ Mourning Warbler _____	r		o	
___ • Common Yellowthroat _____	a	a	c	o
___ Hooded Warbler _____	o	o	o	
___ Wilson's Warbler _____	r	o	o	
___ Canada Warbler _____	u	o	u	
___ • Yellow-breasted Chat _____	u	u	o	o

### Sparrows & Allies

___ • Eastern Towhee _____	u	u	u	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		
___ • Seaside Sparrow _____	a	a	u	r
___ Nelson's Sparrow _____	r		r	r
___ • Saltmarsh Sparrow _____	u	u	o	r

	Sp	Su	F	W
___ Fox Sparrow _____	u		u	u
___ • Song Sparrow _____	u	u	a	c
___ Lincoln's Sparrow _____			o	r
___ • Swamp Sparrow _____	u	u	c	c
___ White-throated Sparrow _____	a		a	c
___ White-crowned Sparrow _____	o		u	o
___ Dark-eyed Junco _____	c		c	c

### Tanagers – Cardinals – Grosbeaks

___ • Summer Tanager _____	c	c	o	
___ • Scarlet Tanager _____	u	o	u	
___ • Northern Cardinal _____	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____	u	o	u	
___ • Blue Grosbeak _____	c	c	u	
___ • Indigo Bunting _____	c	c	u	
___ • Dickcissel _____	r	r	o	

### Blackbirds – Orioles

___ Bobolink _____	u	u	c	
___ • Red-winged Blackbird _____	a	a	a	a
___ • Eastern Meadowlark _____	c	c	c	c
___ Rusty Blackbird _____	u		u	o
___ Brewer's Blackbird _____	r			r
___ • Boat-tailed Grackle (CB) _____	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	u	
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird _____			r	r



*Indigo bunting*



Sp Su F W

**Finches**

___ Purple Finch _____	u		u	u
___ • House Finch _____	u	o	u	u
___ 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 _____	r		r	r

**Old World Sparrow**

___ • House Sparrow _____	c	c	c	c
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**Accidentals**

White Ibis	Cinnamon Teal
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Swainson's Hawk
American Swallow-tailed Kite	Gyr Falcon
Marbled Godwit	Sandhill Crane
Roseate Tern	Black-headed Gull
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Eurasian Collared-Dove
Bachman's Sparrow	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Bullock's Oriole	Northern Shrike
Gull-billed Tern	Cave Swallow
Great Cormorant (CB)	Lark Sparrow
Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Extirpated)	



Betty Whetzel

*Northern pintails*

**Birding Ethics**

When visiting public or private lands, it is important that you practice and promote ethical behavior while viewing and photographing wildlife. Although you may not think your individual actions are harmful to wildlife, the cumulative effect of individual actions can jeopardize wildlife's ability to survive.

- Do not disturb nesting, feeding, or resting birds and other wildlife.
- When photographing birds, do not "push" too close or "linger" too long.
- Do not use recorded calls or make other alarming noises on the refuge.
- Do not feed wildlife on the refuge.
- Do not litter. Many birds and other wildlife die after becoming entangled in fishing lines, 6-pack rings and other trash, or when they mistake garbage, especially plastic, for food.



Mary Konchar

*Lesser snow geese*