

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bombay Hook

National Wildlife Refuge

Birds

Introduction

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge lies low and flat on the Atlantic Coastal Plain along the western shore of Delaware Bay. Nearly three-fourths of its 16,251 acres spreads out into tidal salt marsh and cordgrass meadows interrupted by winding rivers and creeks. Away from the bay and marsh are man-made freshwater ponds called impoundments. Upland woods, swamps, brushy thickets, and grassy fields complete the diversity of habitat which attracts a wide variety of bird life.

Look for greatest numbers of waterfowl during March and November. Shorebirds, wading birds and songbirds are most abundant during May, August and September.

This brochure lists 278 species that have been identified on or seen from the refuge, and is in accordance with the seventh American Ornithologists Union Checklist.

Most birds are migratory, therefore, their seasonal occurrence is coded as follows:

Season

Sp	Spring	March – May
S	Summer	June – August
F	Fall	September – November
W	Winter	December – February

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

- Birds known to nest on or near the refuge.
- Italics indicate federally threatened/ endangered species.*

Ducks, Geese, & Swans

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

Turkey & Quail

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

Loons & Grebes

___ Red-throated Loon	o	r	r	
___ Common Loon	o	o	o	
___ Pied-billed Grebe•	o	o	u	o
___ Horned Grebe	o	o	o	

Shearwaters & Storm-Petrels

___ Cory's Shearwater	r	r	r	
___ Sooty Shearwater		r	r	
___ Wilson's Storm-Petrel	r	r		

Bitterns, Herons & Ibises

___ American Bittern•	o	r	u	o
___ Least Bittern•	u	u	o	
___ Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	c
___ Great Egret	a	a	c	o
___ Snowy Egret	a	a	c	r
___ Little Blue Heron	u	c	c	
___ Tricolored Heron	o	u	o	
___ Cattle Egret	o	o	o	
___ Green-backed Heron•	c	c	c	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron	c	c	c	u

Sp S F W



Black-necked stilts

Bryan Feyock

Sp S F W

___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	o	u	u	
___ White Ibis		r	r	
___ Glossy Ibis	a	a	c	
___ White-faced Ibis		r		

Cormorants

___ Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	u
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Vultures, Hawks & Falcons

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

Rails

___ Yellow Rail	r		r	
___ Black Rail	o	o	r	
___ Clapper Rail•	c	c	c	u
___ King Rail•	o	o	o	r
___ Virginia Rail•	u	u	u	o
___ Sora	u	o	o	
___ Common Moorhen•	o	u	o	r
___ American Coot•	u		u	u

Plovers & Sandpipers

___ Black-bellied Plover	c	u	c	o
___ American Golden-Plover	r	r	u	
___ Semipalmated Plover	a	a	c	
___ Killdeer•	c	c	c	u
___ American Oystercatcher	r	r		
___ Black-necked Stilt•	c	c	u	
___ American Avocet	a	a	a	o
___ Greater Yellowlegs	a	a	a	u
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	a	a	a	o
___ Solitary Sandpiper	o	u	u	
___ Willet•	a	a	u	
___ Spotted Sandpiper	c	c	c	

	Sp	S	F	W		Sp	S	F	W		Sp	S	F	W
Upland Sandpiper	r		r		Acadian Flycatcher •	c	c	o		Black-throated Blue Warbler	c		c	
Whimbrel	r	r	r		Alder Flycatcher	r		r		Yellow-rumped Warbler	a		a	c
Hudsonian Godwit			o	o	Willow Flycatcher •	u	u	o		Black-throated Green Warbler	c		c	
Marbled Godwit			r	r	Least Flycatcher	o		o		Blackburnian Warbler	u		u	
Ruddy Turnstone	a	u	u		Eastern Phoebe •	c	u	c	r	Pine Warbler	o	o	o	
<i>Red Knot</i>	a	o	o		Great Crested Flycatcher •	c	c	u		Prairie Warbler	u	r	o	
Sanderling	a	u	c	o	Eastern Kingbird •	c	a	c		Palm Warbler	c		c	r
Semipalmated Sandpiper	a	a	a		Scissor-tail Flycatcher			r		Bay-breasted Warbler	o		o	
Western Sandpiper	r	a	a	r	Vireos					Blackpoll Warbler	c		u	
Least Sandpiper	c	c	c	r	White-eyed Vireo •	c	c	c		Cerulean Warbler	r			
White-rumped Sandpiper	c	u	u		Blue-headed Vireo	o		u		Black-and-white Warbler	c	o	c	
Baird's Sandpiper			r	r	Warbling Vireo	r		r		American Redstart •	c	o	c	
Pectoral Sandpiper	c	c	c	r	Philadelphia Vireo			r		Prothonotary Warbler •	o	o	r	
Dunlin	a	o	a	a	Yellow-throated Vireo •	u	o	o		Worm-eating Warbler	o		r	
Curlew Sandpiper	o	o	r		Red-eyed Vireo •	a	a	a		Ovenbird	c	u	u	
Stilt Sandpiper	u	c	c		Jays, Crows, Larks & Swallows					Northern Waterthrush	u	r	u	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			r	r	Blue Jay •	a	c	a	c	Louisiana Waterthrush •	o	o	o	
Ruff	o	o	o		American Crow •	c	c	c	u	Kentucky Warbler •	u	u	o	
Short-billed Dowitcher	a	a	a		Fish Crow •	c	c	c	o	Connecticut Warbler			r	
Long-billed Dowitcher	c	u	a	r	Horned Lark •	u	u	u	u	Mourning Warbler	o		o	
Common Snipe	u		u	u	Purple Martin •	c	c	o		Common Yellowthroat •	a	a	c	o
American Woodcock •	c	u	c	o	Tree Swallow •	a	a	a	r	Hooded Warbler	r	r	r	
Wilson's Phalarope	o	u	o		N. Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	u		Wilson's Warbler	o		o	
Red-necked Phalarope	o		r		Bank Swallow	c	a	u		Canada Warbler	c	o	o	
Gulls, Terns & Skimmer					Cliff Swallow	o	o	o		Yellow-breasted Chat •	u	u	u	r
Laughing Gull	a	a	a		Barn Swallow •	c	c	c		Tanagers, Sparrows & Allies				
Black-headed Gull	r				Chickadees, Nuthatches & Wrens					Scarlet Tanager •	c	c	u	
Bonaparte's Gull	u	r	o	u	Carolina Chickadee •	c	c	c	c	Summer Tanager	o			
Ring-billed Gull	a	c	a	a	Tufted Titmouse •	c	c	c	c	Eastern Towhee •	c	c	c	u
Herring Gull	a	a	a	a	Red-breasted Nuthatch	u	u	o		American Tree Sparrow	o		o	u
Lesser Black-backed Gull	r	r	o	o	White-breasted Nuthatch	o	o	o	o	Chipping Sparrow •	u	u	u	r
Great Black-backed Gull	c	c	c	c	Brown Creeper	u	u	u		Field Sparrow •	c	c	c	u
Least Tern	o	o	o		Carolina Wren •	c	c	c	c	Savannah Sparrow	a		a	u
Gull-billed Tern	o	o			House Wren •	c	c	c	r	Grasshopper Sparrow •	o	u	o	r
Caspian Tern	u	u	u		Winter Wren	u		u	u	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	u		u	o
Royal Tern			r	o	Sedge Wren •	o	o	o	r	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow •	u	u	u	o
Common Tern	r	r	r		Marsh Wren •	c	c	c	o	Seaside Sparrow •	a	a	c	o
Forster's Tern •	c	a	c		Kinglets, Thrushes & Thrashers					Fox Sparrow	u		u	u
White-winged Tern			r		Golden-crowned Kinglet	c		c	c	Song Sparrow •	a	c	a	a
Black Tern	r	o	o		Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	u	Swamp Sparrow •	c	c	c	c
Black Skimmer	o	u	o		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher •	c	u	o		White-throated Sparrow	a		a	a
Doves, Cuckoos, Owls, Swifts & Hummingbirds					Eastern Bluebird •	u	u	u	u	White-crowned Sparrow	o		o	o
Rock Dove •	u	u	u	u	Veery	u	r	u		Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	c
Mourning Dove •	c	c	a	a	Gray-cheeked Thrush	o		o		Lapland Larkspur	r			o
Yellow-billed Cuckoo •	c	c	u		Bicknell's Thrush	o		o		Snow Bunting				o
Black-billed Cuckoo •	o	o	o		Swainson's Thrush	u		u		Northern Cardinal •	c	c	c	c
Barn Owl •	u	u	u	u	Hermit Thrush	c		c	u	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u			u
Eastern Screech-Owl •	c	c	c	c	Wood Thrush •	c	c	u		Blue Grosbeak •	u	u	u	
Great Horned Owl •	c	c	c	c	American Robin •	a	c	a	c	Indigo Bunting •	c	c	u	
Barred Owl •	c	c	c	c	Gray Catbird •	a	c	a	u	Dickcissel			r	r
Long-eared Owl				r	Northern Mockingbird •	c	c	c	c	Blackbirds & Finches				
Short-eared Owl	o		o	u	Brown Thrasher •	c	c	c	o	Bobolink	o	c	a	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	r		r	r	Starlings, Pipits & Waxwings					Red-winged Blackbird •	a	a	a	a
Common Nighthawk			r	r	European Starling •	a	a	a	a	Eastern Meadowlark •	u	u	u	u
Whip-poor-will	o	o			American Pipit	u	u	u		Rusty Blackbird	u		u	u
Chimney Swift	u	u	u		Cedar Waxwing •	c	o	c	u	Common Grackle •	a	a	a	a
Ruby-throated Hummingbird •	c	c	c		Wood Warblers					Boat-tailed Grackle	o	o	c	u
Belted Kingfisher •	c	u	c	u	Blue-Winged Warbler	o		o		Brown-headed Cowbird •	c	c	c	u
Woodpeckers & Flycatchers					Golden-winged Warbler	r		r		Orchard Oriole •	c	c	o	
Red-headed Woodpecker	r		r	r	Tennessee Warbler	o		o		Baltimore Oriole •	u	u	o	
Red-bellied Woodpecker •	c	c	c	c	Nashville Warbler	o		o		Purple Finch	o		o	o
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	o	o	o	o	Northern Parula	c	o	c		House Finch •	u	u	u	u
Downy Woodpecker •	c	c	c	c	Orange-crowned Warbler			r	r	Common Redpoll			r	r
Hairy Woodpecker •	u	u	u	u	Yellow Warbler •	c	c	u		Pine Siskin	r		o	r
Northern Flicker •	c	c	c	c	Chestnut-sided Warbler	c		c		American Goldfinch •	a	c	a	c
Olive-sided Flycatcher	r		r		Magnolia Warbler	c		c		Evening Grosbeak	r		r	r
Eastern Wood-Pewee •	c	c	c		Cape May Warbler	o		o		House Sparrow •	u	u	u	u