

BIRDLIFE *at the* SOUTHERN TIP
OF VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE

On Virginia's Eastern Shore, some 439 bird species have been recorded. Of these, 406 have been found in the Southern Tip of Northampton County, at the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuges, Kiptopeke State Park, Magothy Bay Natural Area Preserve, Mockhorn Island Wildlife Management Area, and surrounding lands. The twin refuges lie at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, gateway to the largest estuary in North America, and the Atlantic Ocean. The meeting of ocean and bay produces an abundance of food for birds, as do the other habitats: coastal beaches, salt marshes, pine and hardwood forests, wooded swamps, grasslands and agricultural areas.

BIRDING *through the* SEASONS

Birding can be fascinating on any day of the year in southern Northampton County. In autumn, large numbers of birds of many species can be observed during their southbound migration, especially during and just after the passage of cold fronts. Most southbound birds of prey and other landbirds are reluctant to make the 17-mile crossing of the Chesapeake Bay, and so under certain conditions, they become concentrated by the narrowing geography of the southern tip of the Peninsula. Winter is an excellent season to see waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and sparrows. Spring offers the welcome return of colonial nesting birds such as terns, herons, egrets and ibises; warblers and other Neotropical migrants also return, though their numbers are small compared to the counts of the autumn. During the summer months, June and July, many birders seek out migrating shorebirds.

This checklist has been organized by month. Within each monthly box are bar-graphs showing species abundance by week. In addition to the time of year, abundance is based on the habitats where the species are most likely to be found.



ABUNDANCE DESIGNATIONS

█ **COMMON:** Virtually certain to be found in proper habitat

▬ **FAIRLY COMMON:** Will usually be found in proper habitat

▬ **UNCOMMON:** Probably present, but will often be missed

..... **OCCASIONAL:** Not always present; may require several visits to find

***** **RARE:** Not recorded annually

VERY RARE TO ACCIDENTAL:
Fewer than 10 records since 1985 (see end of list)

^ Nesting has been recorded in the checklist area.

GEESE, DUCKS & SWANS

- Snow Goose
- Ross's Goose
- Canada Goose^
- Cackling Goose
- Brant
- Tundra Swan
- Wood Duck^
- Gadwall^
- Eurasian Wigeon
- American Wigeon
- American Black Duck^
- Mallard^
- Blue-winged Teal^
- Northern Shoveler
- Northern Pintail^
- Green-winged Teal
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup
- King Eider
- Common Eider
- Harlequin Duck
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter
- Black Scoter
- Long-tailed Duck
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser^
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Ruddy Duck

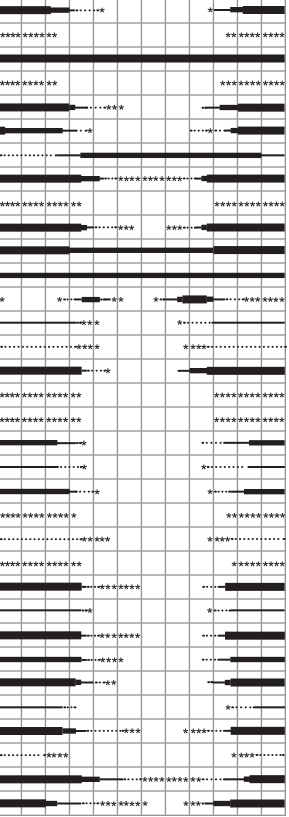
LOONS & GREBES

- Red-throated Loon
- Common Loon
- Pied-billed Grebe^
- Horned Grebe
- Red-necked Grebe

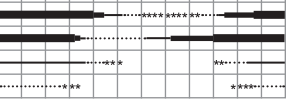
GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

- Northern Bobwhite^
- Wild Turkey^

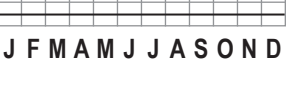
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SHEARWATERS & STORM PETRELS

- Sooty Shearwater
- Wilson's Storm-Petrel

PELICANS & ALLIES

- Northern Gannet
- American White Pelican
- Brown Pelican^
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Great Cormorant
- Magnificent Frigatebird

BITTERNS & HERONS

- American Bittern
- Least Bittern
- Great Blue Heron^
- Great Egret^
- Snowy Egret^
- Little Blue Heron^
- Tricolored Heron^
- Cattle Egret^
- Green Heron^
- Black-crowned Night-Heron^
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron^

IBISES

- White Ibis^
- Glossy Ibis^

VULTURES

- Turkey Vulture^
- Black Vulture^

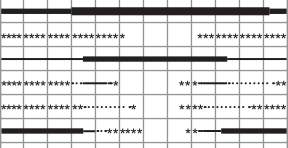
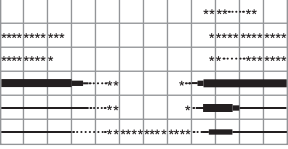
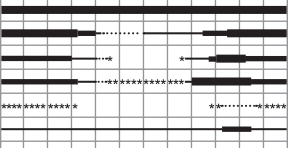
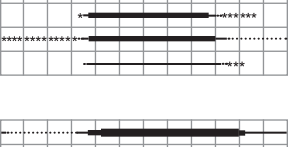
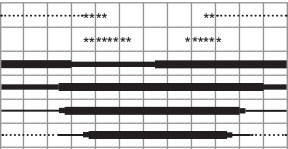
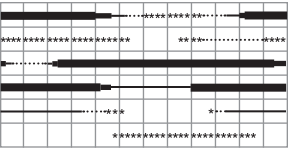
HAWKS, EAGLES & FALCONS

- Osprey^
- Swallow-tailed Kite
- Mississippi Kite
- Bald Eagle^
- Northern Harrier^
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Northern Goshawk
- Red-shouldered Hawk^
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk^
- Swainson's Hawk
- Rough-legged Hawk
- Golden Eagle
- American Kestrel^
- Merlin
- Peregrine Falcon^

RAILS & ALLIES

- Clapper Rail^
- King Rail
- Virginia Rail^
- Sora
- Common Gallinule
- American Coot
- Sandhill Crane

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PLOVERS

- Black-bellied Plover
- American Golden-Plover
- Wilson's Plover^
- Semipalmated Plover
- Piping Plover^
- Killdeer ^

OYSTERCATCHERS

- American Oystercatcher^

STILTS & AVOCETS

- Black-necked Stilt
- American Avocet

SANDPIPERS

- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Willet^
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Upland Sandpiper
- Whimbrel
- Hudsonian Godwit
- Marbled Godwit
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Red Knot
- Sanderling
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- White-rumped Sandpiper
- Pectoral Sandpiper
- Purple Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- Stilt Sandpiper
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper
- Short-billed Dowitcher
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Wilson's Snipe
- American Woodcock^

JAEGERS

- Parasitic Jaeger

DOVES

- Rock Pigeon^
- Eurasian Collared-Dove^
- White-winged Dove
- Mourning Dove^

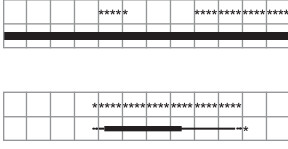
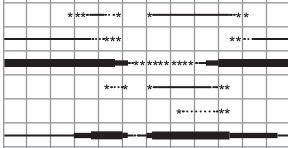
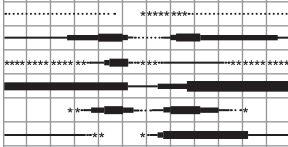
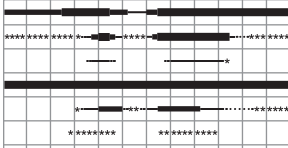
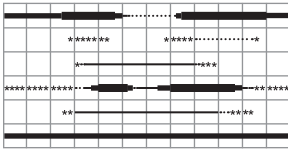
CUCKOOS

- Black-billed Cuckoo
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo^

NIGHTJARS

- Common Nighthawk^
- Chuck-will's-widow^
- Eastern Whip-poor-will

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GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS

- Laughing Gull^
- Little Gull
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- Herring Gull^
- Iceland Gull
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Glaucous Gull
- Great Black-backed Gull^
- Black-legged Kittiwake
- Gull-billed Tern^
- Caspian Tern^
- Royal Tern^
- Sandwich Tern^
- Common Tern^
- Forster's Tern^
- Least Tern^
- Black Tern
- Black Skimmer^

SWIFTS

- Chimney Swift^

OWLS

- Barn Owl^
- Eastern Screech-Owl^
- Great Horned Owl^
- Short-eared Owl
- Long-eared Owl
- Northern Saw-whet Owl

HUMMINGBIRDS

- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Rufous Hummingbird

KINGFISHERS

- Belted Kingfisher^

WOODPECKERS

- Red-headed Woodpecker^
- Red-bellied Woodpecker^
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker^
- Hairy Woodpecker^
- Northern Flicker^
- Pileated Woodpecker^

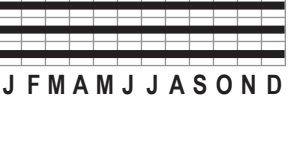
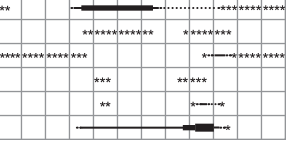
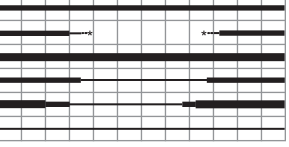
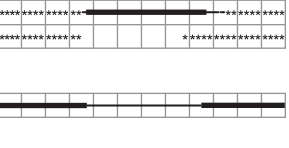
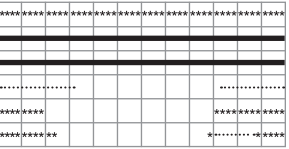
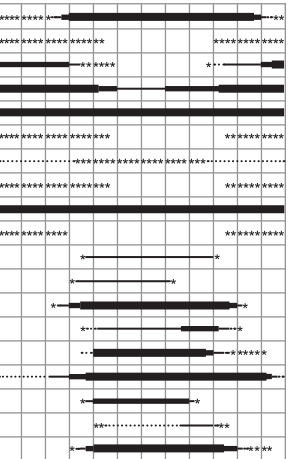
VIROES

- White-eyed Vireo^
- Yellow-throated Vireo^
- Blue-headed Vireo
- Warbling Vireo
- Philadelphia Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo^

JAYS & CROWS

- Blue Jay^
- American Crow^
- Fish Crow^

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FLYCATCHERS

- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Eastern Wood-Pewee^
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
- Acadian Flycatcher^
- Willow Flycatcher
- Alder Flycatcher
- Least Flycatcher
- Eastern Phoebe
- Great Crested Flycatcher^
- Ash-throated Flycatcher
- Western Kingbird
- Eastern Kingbird^

LARKS

- Horned Lark^

SWALLOWS

- Purple Martin^
- Tree Swallow^
- N. Rough-winged Swallow^
- Bank Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Cave Swallow
- Barn Swallow^

CHICKADEES & TITMICE

- Carolina Chickadee^
- Tufted Titmouse^

NUTHATCHES & CREEPERS

- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown-headed Nuthatch^
- Brown Creeper

WRENS

- Carolina Wren^
- House Wren^
- Winter Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren^

MIMICS

- Gray Catbird^
- Northern Mockingbird^
- Brown Thrasher^

STARLINGS, PIPITS & WAXWINGS

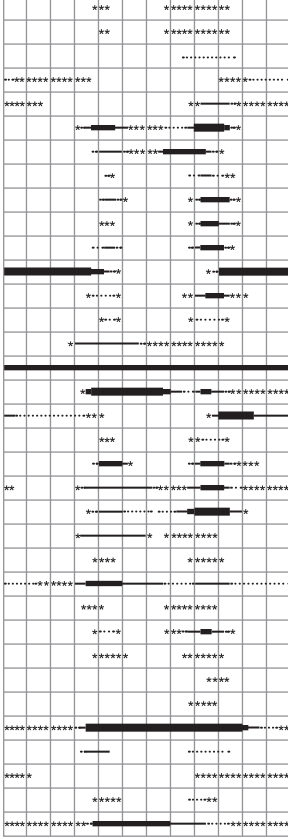
- European Starling^
- American Pipit
- Cedar Waxwing^



WARBLERS

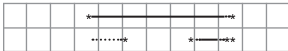
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Nashville Warbler
- Northern Parula
- Yellow Warbler^
- Chestnut-sided Warbler
- Magnolia Warbler
- Cape May Warbler
- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Yellow-throated Warbler^
- Pine Warbler^
- Prairie Warbler^
- Palm Warbler
- Bay-breasted Warbler
- Blackpoll Warbler
- Black-and-white Warbler^
- American Redstart^
- Prothonotary Warbler^
- Worm-eating Warbler
- Ovenbird^
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- Northern Waterthrush
- Kentucky Warbler
- Connecticut Warbler
- Mourning Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat^
- Hooded Warbler^
- Wilson's Warbler
- Canada Warbler
- Yellow-breasted Chat^

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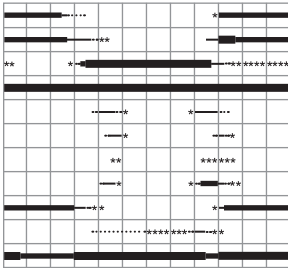
TANAGERS

- Summer Tanager^
- Scarlet Tanager



THRUSHES & ALLIES

- 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^



OLD WORLD SPARROWS

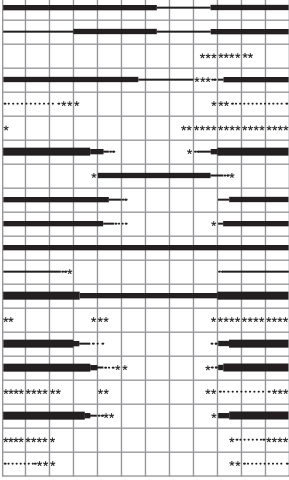
- House Sparrow^



SPARROWS & ALLIES

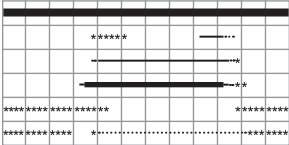
- Eastern Towhee^
- Chipping Sparrow^
- Clay-colored Sparrow
- Field Sparrow^
- Vesper Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Savannah Sparrow
- Grasshopper Sparrow^
- Nelson's Sparrow
- Saltmarsh Sparrow
- Seaside Sparrow^
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow^
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Lapland Longspur
- Snow Bunting

J F M A M J J A S O N D



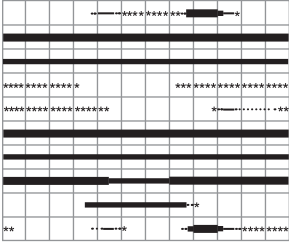
CARDINALS & ALLIES

- Northern Cardinal^
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Blue Grosbeak^
- Indigo Bunting^
- Painted Bunting
- Dickcissel^



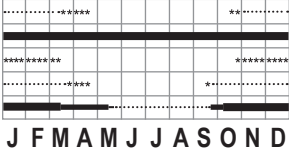
BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES

- Bobolink^
- Red-winged Blackbird^
- Eastern Meadowlark^
- Yellow-headed Blackbird
- Rusty Blackbird
- Common Grackle^
- Boat-tailed Grackle^
- Brown-headed Cowbird^
- Orchard Oriole^
- Baltimore Oriole

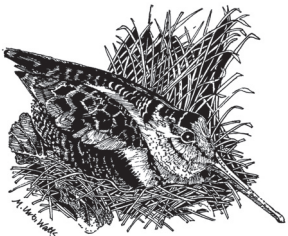


FINCHES

- Purple Finch
- House Finch^
- Common Redpoll
- Pine Siskin
- American Goldfinch^



American Woodcock



Northern Harrier

VERY RARE SPECIES

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Greater White-fronted Goose

Mute Swan

Garganey

Pacific Loon

Eared Grebe

Northern Fulmar

Black-capped Petrel

Great Shearwater

Cory's Shearwater

Manx Shearwater

Audubon's Shearwater

Red-billed Tropicbird

Wood Stork

Brown Booby

Anhinga

White-faced Ibis

White-tailed Kite

Ferruginous Hawk

Gyr Falcon

Yellow Rail

Black Rail

Purple Gallinule

Long-billed Curlew

Baird's Sandpiper

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Wilson's Phalarope

Red-necked Phalarope

Red Phalarope

Franklin's Gull

Black-headed Gull

Black-tailed Gull

California Gull

Thayer's Gull

Roseate Tern

Arctic Tern

Brown Noddy

Sooty Tern

Bridled Tern

Long-tailed Jaeger

Pomarine Jaeger

Dovekie

Razorbill

Common Murre

Thick-billed Murre

Common Ground-Dove

VERY RARE SPECIES *continued*

Snowy Owl

Barred Owl

Burrowing Owl

Black-chinned Hummingbird

Allen's Hummingbird

Western Wood-Pewee

Say's Phoebe

Pacific-slope Flycatcher

Gray Kingbird

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

Fork-tailed Flycatcher

Loggerhead Shrike

Northern Shrike

Bell's Vireo

Common Raven

Brown-chested Martin

Black-capped Chickadee

Bewick's Wren

Northern Wheatear

Mountain Bluebird

Townsend's Warbler

Cerulean Warbler

Black-throated Gray Warbler

Swainson's Warbler

MacGillivray's Warbler

Bachman's Sparrow

American Tree Sparrow

Henslow's Sparrow

Le Conte's Sparrow

Harris's Sparrow

Western Tanager

Black-headed Grosbeak

Brewer's Blackbird

Red Crossbill

White-winged Crossbill

Evening Grosbeak

ADDITIONAL SPECIES

Recorded at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel

Barrow's Goldeneye

Western Grebe

Clark's Grebe

Herald (Trinidad) Petrel

Bulwer's Petrel

Leach's Storm-Petrel

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel

White-tailed Tropicbird

Sabine's Gull

Mew Gull

Great Skua

Ruff

Rock Wren

If you find a species that is not on this checklist, or that is not listed as occurring at the time of the month, please report your sighting as quickly as possible via eBird at www.ebird.org.

For further information, contact

Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge

5003 Hallett Circle,
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-2760

or visit our website

www.fws.gov/refuge/Eastern_Shore_of_Virginia/



Black and White Warbler (top)
Cape May Warbler (bottom)

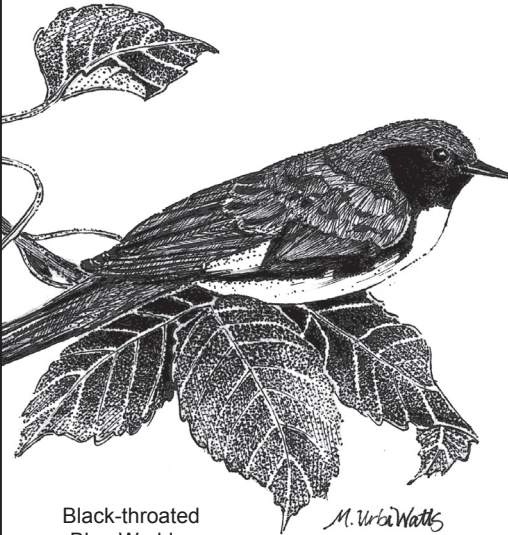
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BIRDS

*A guide to abundance and birding
through the seasons on the
Eastern Shore of Virginia*



Black-throated
Blue Warbler

EASTERN SHORE OF
VIRGINIA
Southern Tip