

WELCOME TO HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

This checklist is a general guide to bird abundance in Harford County, Maryland. Harford County, located on the western shore of the upper Chesapeake Bay, offers a diverse habitat for both breeding and migratory bird species. With the bay and the Susquehanna River on the eastern border, and Little Gunpowder Falls on the western border, there is a variety of habitats. Four state parks including Susquehanna and Gunpowder, as well as Swan Harbor Farm, Eden Mill Park, Harford Glen, and Conowingo Dam offer excellent birding opportunities.

A total of 328 species have been recorded in Harford County. This includes historical and unconfirmed species, which are listed separately at the end of the checklist. Confirmed and probable breeding species are indicated by an asterisk (*); historical breeding species (i.e., prior to 1958) are indicated by a dagger (†). Abundance ratings are based on records provided by experienced Harford County birders. Some species, marked with a pound sign (#), are more prevalent than here indicated in the restricted-access areas of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Breeding records are provided by the Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlases of 1983-1987 and 2002-2006. Common bird names and the taxonomic order are in accordance with the 59th Supplement (2018) to the American Ornithologists' Society Checklist.

For more specific migration times, refer to "Field List of the Birds of Maryland, 3rd Edition" by Marshall J. Iliff, Robert F. Ringler, and James L. Stasz, May 1996.

The seasonal occurrence and relative abundance of birds in their suitable habitat are coded as follows:

SEASONS

s – Spring (Mar – May) **F** – Fall (Aug – Nov)

S – Summer (Jun – Jul) **W** – Winter (Dec – Feb)

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

a – abundant Numerous and widespread.

c – common Likely to be present and observed.

u – uncommon Likely to be present, but not routinely observed.

o – occasional Occurs only a few times during a season, or restricted in distribution

r – rare Not observed every year

x – accidental Exceptionally observed outside of its typical geographic range.

				s	S	F	W
GEESE - SWANS - DUCKS (38)							
		Black-bellied Whistling Duck		x			
		Snow Goose	u	x	u	o	
		Ross's Goose	x		r	r	
		Greater White-fronted Goose	r		r	r	
		Brant			r		
		Barnacle Goose				x	
		Cackling Goose	r		o	o	
		Canada Goose *	a	c	a	a	
		Mute Swan *	u	u	u	u	
		Trumpeter Swan	x			x	
		Tundra Swan	u		u	o	
		Wood Duck *	c	c	c	o	
		Blue-winged Teal	u	x	u	x	
		Northern Shoveler	r	x	o	o	
		Gadwall	u	x	u	o	
		Eurasian Wigeon			x	x	
		American Wigeon	u	r	u	o	
		Mallard *	a	c	a	a	
		American Black Duck *	u	o	u	c	
		Northern Pintail	u	x	u	o	
		Green-winged Teal	u		u	o	
		Canvasback	u	x	u	o	
		Redhead	r	x	o	r	
		Ring-necked Duck	c	x	c	o	
		Tufted Duck	x			x	
		Greater Scaup	o	x	o	o	
		Lesser Scaup	u	r	u	o	
		Harlequin Duck	x			x	
		Surf Scoter	r		r	x	
		White-winged Scoter	r	x	r	x	
		Black Scoter			r		
		Long-tailed Duck	o		o	o	
		Bufflehead	u	x	u	c	
		Common Goldeneye	o		o	o	
		Hooded Merganser *	u	r	u	u	
		Common Merganser	c	r	c	c	
		Red-breasted Merganser	o	x	o	o	
		Ruddy Duck	o	x	o	u	
GAMEBIRDS (4)							
		Northern Bobwhite * #	r	r	r	r	
		Ring-necked Pheasant *	r	r	r	r	
		Ruffed Grouse †				x	
		Wild Turkey *	u	u	u	u	
GREBES (4)							
		Pied-billed Grebe *	u	o	u	u	
		Horned Grebe	o	x	o	r	
		Red-necked Grebe	r		x	r	
		Eared Grebe	x		x		

				s	S	F	W
DOVES – CUCKOOS (5)							
		Rock Pigeon *	c	c	c	c	
		Eurasian Collared-Dove	x				
		Mourning Dove *	c	c	c	c	
		Yellow-billed Cuckoo *	u	u	u		
		Black-billed Cuckoo *	o	r	o		
GOATSUCKERS (3)							
		Common Nighthawk	u	r	u		
		Chuck-will's-widow * #	r	x			
		Eastern Whip-poor-will * #	r	r	r		
SWIFT – HUMMINGBIRD (3)							
		Chimney Swift *	c	c	a		
		Ruby-throated Hummingbird *	u	u	u		
		Rufous Hummingbird	x		r	r	
RAILS – CRANE (8)							
		Yellow Rail	x				
		Black Rail	r	x			
		King Rail * #	o	o	r		
		Virginia Rail *	o	o	o	x	
		Sora †	u	r	u	x	
		Common Moorhen †	r	x	r	x	
		American Coot	u	r	u	c	
		Sandhill Crane	r	x	r	o	
AVOCET – PLOVERS – SANDPIPERS (34)							
		American Avocet	x	x	x		
		Black-bellied Plover	o	o	o	x	
		American Golden-Plover	x		r		
		Semipalmated Plover	u	o	u		
		Killdeer *	c	c	c	u	
		Upland Sandpiper	r	x	r		
		Whimbrel	o	r	r		
		Hudsonian Godwit			x		
		Marbled Godwit	x		x		
		Ruddy Turnstone	o		r		
		Red Knot	x		x		
		Ruff		x			
		Stilt Sandpiper	r		r		
		Sanderling	r	r	r		
		Dunlin	o		u	r	
		Baird's Sandpiper	x		r		
		Least Sandpiper	u	o	u		
		White-rumped Sandpiper	r	x	r		
		Buff-breasted Sandpiper			x		
		Pectoral Sandpiper	o	x	o		
		Semipalmated Sandpiper	u	o	u		
		Western Sandpiper	x	r	o		
		Short-billed Dowitcher	r	r	r		
		Long-billed Dowitcher			x	x	
		American Woodcock *	u	o	u	r	

				s	S	F	W
AVOCET – PLOVERS – SANDPIPERS (cont.)							
		Wilson's Snipe	u	x	u	o	
		Spotted Sandpiper *	c	o	c	x	
		Solitary Sandpiper	c	o	u		
		Lesser Yellowlegs	u	o	u	r	
		Willet	x	x	x		
		Greater Yellowlegs	u	o	u	x	
		Wilson's Phalarope	x				
		Red-necked Phalarope	x		r		
		Red Phalarope	x		x		
JAEGER – GULLS – TERNS – SKIMMER (25)							
		Pomarine Jaeger			x		
		Parasitic Jaeger			x		
		Black-legged Kittiwake				x	
		Sabine's Gull			x		
		Bonaparte's Gull	c	x	u	u	
		Black-headed Gull	r		x	r	
		Little Gull	r		x	x	
		Laughing Gull	o	o	u	r	
		Franklin's Gull			x		
		Mew Gull				x	
		Ring-billed Gull	a	c	a	a	
		California Gull	x			x	
		Herring Gull	u	o	u	u	
		Iceland Gull	x		x	r	
		Lesser Black-backed Gull	o	x	o	o	
		Glaucous Gull	x			r	
		Great Black-backed Gull	c	u	c	c	
		Least Tern *	u	u	r		
		Caspian Tern	u	o	u		
		Black Tern	r	r	o		
		Common Tern	r	r	o		
		Forster's Tern	u	o	c	x	
		Royal Tern	x		x		
		Sandwich Tern			x		
		Black Skimmer		x	x		
LOONS – STORM PETREL - GANNET (5)							
		Red-throated Loon	r		r	o	
		Pacific Loon			x		
		Common Loon	u	x	u	u	
		Leach's Storm-Petrel			x		
		Northern Gannet			x		
CORMORANTS – ANHINGA – PELICANS (5)							
		Double-crested Cormorant *	c	u	c	u	
		Great Cormorant	x		r	r	
		Anhinga	x	x			
		American White Pelican	x	x	x		
		Brown Pelican	x		x	x	

				s	S	F	W
HERONS – IBISES (13)							
		American Bittern	u	x	o	x	
		Least Bittern *	u	u	u		
		Great Blue Heron *	c	c	c	c	
		Great Egret	u	o	u	x	
		Snowy Egret	o	o	o		
		Little Blue Heron	o	o	u		
		Tricolored Heron	x	x	x		
		Cattle Egret *	r	r	r		
		Green Heron *	c	c	c	x	
		Black-crowned Night-Heron*	u	o	u	u	
		Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	x	x	x		
		White Ibis		x	x		
		Glossy Ibis	o	r	r		
VULTURES – HAWKS (15)							
		Black Vulture *	c	c	c	c	
		Turkey Vulture *	c	c	c	c	
		Osprey *	c	c	c	r	
		Swallow-tailed Kite	x				
		Mississippi Kite	r	x	x		
		Bald Eagle *	c	u	c	c	
		Northern Harrier	u	x	u	u	
		Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	r	u	u	
		Cooper's Hawk *	u	u	u	u	
		Northern Goshawk	r		x	r	
		Red-shouldered Hawk *	c	c	c	c	
		Broad-winged Hawk *	u	r	u		
		Red-tailed Hawk *	c	c	c	c	
		Rough-legged Hawk	r		r	r	
		Golden Eagle	x		r	r	
OWLS (8)							
		Barn Owl *	r	r	r	r	
		Eastern Screech-Owl *	c	c	c	c	
		Great Horned Owl *	c	c	c	c	
		Snowy Owl	x		x	x	
		Barred Owl *	u	u	u	u	
		Long-eared Owl			x	r	
		Short-eared Owl	r		r	r	
		Northern Saw-whet Owl	o		o	o	
KINGFISHER – WOODPECKERS (8)							
		Belted Kingfisher *	u	u	u	u	
		Red-headed Woodpecker *	r	r	r	r	
		Red-bellied Woodpecker *	c	c	c	c	
		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u	x	u	u	
		Downy Woodpecker *	c	c	c	c	
		Hairy Woodpecker *	u	u	u	u	
		Northern Flicker *	c	c	c	c	
		Pileated Woodpecker *	u	u	u	u	

A Checklist for

The Birds of Harford County



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		s	S	F	W
WOOD WARBLERS (cont.)					
	Yellow-throated Warbler *	u	o	o	
	Prairie Warbler *	u	u	u	
	Black-throated Gray Warbler	x		x	x
	Black-throated Green Warbler	u	x	u	x
	Canada Warbler	u		u	
	Wilson's Warbler	o		o	x
TANAGERS – GROSBEAKS (8)					
	Summer Tanager * #	x	x	x	
	Scarlet Tanager *	c	u	c	
	Northern Cardinal *	c	c	c	c
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u	x	u	x
	Blue Grosbeak *	u	u	u	
	Indigo Bunting *	c	c	c	x
	Painted Bunting	x			x
	Dickcissel *	r	x	x	x

HISTORICAL SPECIES (1)		UNCONFIRMED SPECIES (1)	
Thick-billed Murre (f)		Clapper Rail (s)	

Historical – Well-documented records exist, although not seen or reported since 1900.

Unconfirmed – Reported by experienced birders in the season(s) indicated but awaiting formal review by the Maryland/DC Records Committee.

This checklist was produced by members of the Harford Bird Club, an organization that has proudly served the local community since 1949 by providing a venue for those who are interested in birds and birding to get together and share their interests. The club sponsors a very active calendar of field trips and other activities. For information on club events visit www.harfordbirdclub.org, or check out the “Harford Bird Club” Facebook Group.

Information on the club’s parent organization, the Maryland Ornithological Society, is at www.mdbirds.org and the “Maryland Ornithological Society” Facebook Group.

Cover Artwork: Digitally rendered sketch of Downy Woodpecker created from a photo by Matt Addicks.

		s	S	F	W
SPARROWS (cont.)					
	Swamp Sparrow *	u	o	u	u
	White-throated Sparrow	c	x	c	c
	White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	u
	Dark-eyed Junco	a	x	a	a
CHAT – BLACKBIRDS – ORIOLES (12)					
	Yellow-breasted Chat *	u	u	o	
	Yellow-headed Blackbird	r		x	r
	Bobolink *	u	r	u	
	Eastern Meadowlark *	u	u	u	o
	Orchard Oriole *	u	u	u	
	Bullock's Oriole	x			x
	Baltimore Oriole *	c	u	c	r
	Red-winged Blackbird *	a	a	a	a
	Brown-headed Cowbird *	c	c	c	c
	Rusty Blackbird	o		o	o
	Brewer's Blackbird	x		x	
	Common Grackle *	c	c	c	c
WOOD WARBLERS (37)					
	Ovenbird *	c	u	c	
	Worm-eating Warbler *	u	u	o	
	Louisiana Waterthrush *	u	u	o	
	Northern Waterthrush	u	x	u	
	Golden-winged Warbler	r		r	
	Blue-winged Warbler *	u	o	u	
	Black-and-white Warbler *	u	u	u	x
	Prothonotary Warbler *	u	u	o	
	Tennessee Warbler	o		u	
	Orange-crowned Warbler	x		x	r
	Nashville Warbler	o	x	o	x
	Connecticut Warbler			r	
	Mourning Warbler	r	x	x	
	Kentucky Warbler *	u	o	o	
	Common Yellowthroat *	c	c	c	r
	Hooded Warbler *	u	o	u	
	American Redstart *	c	u	c	
	Cape May Warbler	o		u	
	Cerulean Warbler *	o	o	r	
	Northern Parula *	c	u	c	x
	Magnolia Warbler	u	x	u	
	Bay-breasted Warbler	o		u	
	Blackburnian Warbler	o		u	
	Yellow Warbler *	c	u	u	X
	Chestnut-sided Warbler	u	x	u	
	Blackpoll Warbler	u	r	u	
	Black-throated Blue Warbler	u	x	u	
	Palm Warbler	u		u	x
	Pine Warbler *	u	u	u	r
	Yellow-rumped Warbler †	c		c	u

		s	S	F	W
GNATCATCHER – KINGLETS – THRUSHES (12)					
	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *	c	u	c	x
	Golden-crowned Kinglet	c		c	u
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	o
	Eastern Bluebird *	c	c	c	c
	Townsend's Solitaire	x			
	Veery *	u	o	u	
	Gray-cheeked Thrush	o		o	
	Bicknell's Thrush	r		r	
	Swainson's Thrush	u		u	
	Hermit Thrush	o		o	u
	Wood Thrush *	c	c	c	
	American Robin *	a	a	a	u
MIMIDS – STARLING (4)					
	Gray Catbird *	c	c	c	o
	Brown Thrasher *	u	u	u	o
	Northern Mockingbird *	c	c	c	c
	European Starling *	a	a	a	a
WAXWING – WEAVER FINCH – PIPIT (3)					
	Cedar Waxwing *	u	u	u	u
	House Sparrow *	a	a	a	a
	American Pipit	u		u	o
FINCHES – LONGSPUR – SNOW BUNTING (10)					
	Evening Grosbeak	r		r	r
	House Finch *	c	c	c	c
	Purple Finch	o	x	o	o
	Common Redpoll	r		x	r
	Red Crossbill			x	x
	White-winged Crossbill	x		x	x
	Pine Siskin	o	x	o	o
	American Goldfinch *	c	c	c	c
	Lapland Longspur	x			r
	Snow Bunting	x		r	r
SPARROWS (19)					
	Eastern Towhee *	u	u	u	u
	American Tree Sparrow	o		o	o
	Chipping Sparrow *	c	c	c	o
	Clay-colored Sparrow			x	x
	Field Sparrow *	u	u	u	u
	Vesper Sparrow †	o	r	o	r
	Savannah Sparrow *	u	r	u	u
	Grasshopper Sparrow *	u	u	o	
	Henslow's Sparrow	x	x		
	LeConte's Sparrow			x	x
	Nelson's Sparrow	r		r	
	Seaside Sparrow	x			
	Fox Sparrow	u		u	o
	Song Sparrow *	c	c	c	c
	Lincoln's Sparrow	o		o	

		s	S	F	W
FALCONS (3)					
	American Kestrel *	u	o	u	u
	Merlin	o		o	o
	Peregrine Falcon *	o	r	o	o
FLYCATCHERS (12)					
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	r		r	
	Eastern Wood-Pewee *	c	c	c	
	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r	x	o	
	Acadian Flycatcher *	c	c	c	
	Alder Flycatcher	r	x	r	
	Willow Flycatcher *	u	u	u	
	Least Flycatcher	r	x	o	
	Eastern Phoebe *	c	c	c	o
	Great Crested Flycatcher *	c	u	u	
	Western Kingbird			x	
	Eastern Kingbird *	c	c	c	
	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	x			
SHRIKE – VIREOS (7)					
	Loggerhead Shrike	x	x	x	x
	White-eyed Vireo *	c	u	c	
	Yellow-throated Vireo *	u	u	u	
	Blue-headed Vireo	u	x	u	
	Philadelphia Vireo	x		r	
	Warbling Vireo *	u	u	u	
	Red-eyed Vireo *	c	c	c	
JAY – CROWS – RAVEN (4)					
	Blue Jay *	a	c	a	a
	American Crow *	a	a	a	a
	Fish Crow *	c	c	c	u
	Common Raven *	o	r	o	o
LARK – SWALLOWS (7)					
	Horned Lark *	u	u	u	u
	Purple Martin *	u	c	c	
	Tree Swallow *	a	c	a	r
	Northern Rough-winged Swallow *	u	u	u	
	Bank Swallow *	u	u	c	
	Cliff Swallow *	o	o	o	
	Barn Swallow *	a	a	a	
TITMICE – NUTHATCHES – CREEPER – WRENS (10)					
	Carolina Chickadee *	c	c	c	c
	Black-capped Chickadee	r	x	r	r
	Tufted Titmouse *	c	c	c	c
	Red-breasted Nuthatch	o		o	o
	White-breasted Nuthatch *	c	u	c	c
	Brown Creeper	u		u	u
	House Wren *	c	c	c	r
	Winter Wren	u		u	u
	Marsh Wren *	u	u	u	r
	Carolina Wren *	c	c	c	c

