



Compiled by: Thomas H. Davis

# Birds of Jamaica Bay

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Gateway National Recreation Area  
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge



## Birds of Jamaica Bay Checklist

Species	B	Sp	Su	eF	IF	W
Black-billed	*	R	R	R		
Yellow-billed	Po	R	R	R		
<b>Owl</b>						
Barn	Co	R	R	R	R	R
Snowy					R	R
Long-eared					R	R
Short-eared	Po	R		R	U	U
Saw-whet					R	R
<b>Common Night-hawk</b>		R		R		
<b>Whip-poor-will</b>		R		R		
<b>Chimney Swift</b>		R	R	R		
<b>Ruby-throated Hum</b>		R		R		
<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>		R		U	R	R
<b>Woodpecker</b>						
Red-headed		R		R	R	
Red-bellied		R			R	R
Yellow-bellied Sap.		R		R	R	
Downy		U	R	U	U	U
Hairy		V		V	V	V
<b>Common Flicker</b>	Pr	C	R	A	C	U
<b>Olive-sided Fly-catcher</b>		R		R		
<b>Eastern Wood Pewee</b>		U		U		
<b>Flycatcher</b>						
Yellow-bellied		R		R		
Acadian		R		R		
Alder		R		R		
Willow	Co	R	U			
Least		R		R		
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>		U		R	U	
<b>Great Crested Flyc</b>		R	R	R		
<b>Kingbird</b>						
Western				R	R	
Eastern		U	R	U		
<b>Horned Lark</b>	*	R			R	R
<b>Purple Martin</b>		R		R		
<b>Swallow</b>						
Tree	CO	A	C	A	C	R
Rough winged		R		R		
Bank		U	U	U		
Cliff		R		R		
Barn	Co	C	C	C	U	
<b>Blue Jay</b>		U		U	R	
<b>Crow</b>						
American	Co	U	U	U	U	C
Fish	Co	C	C	U	U	R
<b>Black-capped Chick</b>		R		R	U	R
<b>Nuthatch</b>						
Red-breasted		U		R	U	R
White-breasted		R				R
<b>Brown Creeper</b>		R		R	R	
<b>Wren</b>						
Carolina	Pr	R		R	R	R
House	Co	U		U	R	
Winter		R			R	
Sedge		V		V	V	
Marsh	Co	U	C	U	R	R
<b>Kinglet</b>						
Golden-crowned		U			C	
Ruby-crowned		U		U	C	
<b>Blue-gray Gratchatcher</b>		U		R		
<b>Eastern Bluebird</b>		R			R	
<b>Veery</b>		U		R		
<b>Thrush</b>						
Gray-Cheeked		R		R		
Swainson's		U		R	R	
Hermit		U		U	R	
Wood		U		R		
<b>American Robin</b>	Co	C	U	C	C	U
<b>Gray Catbird</b>	Co	C	C	C	C	U
<b>Northern Mock-ingbird</b>	Co	U	U	U	U	U
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>	Co	U	U	U	U	R
<b>American Pipit</b>				R	R	
<b>Ceder Waxwing</b>	Co	U	R	U	U	R
<b>Shrike</b>						
Northern					V	V
Loggerhead				V	V	V
Starling	Co	A	A	A	A	A
<b>Vireo</b>						
White-eyed	Pr	R	R	R		
Solitary		R			R	
Yellow-throated		R		R		
Warbling		V		V		
Philadelphia		R		R		
Red eyed	Pr	U		U	U	
<b>Warbler</b>						
Blue-winged		R		R		
Golden-winged		R				
Tennessee		R		R		
Orange-crowned				R	R	
Nashville		R		R		

Species	B	Sp	Su	eF	IF	W
Parula		C		U		
Yellow	Co	C	U	U		
Chestnut sided		U		U		
Magnolia		U		U		
Cape May		U		U		
Black throated Blue		U		U		
Yellow rumped		C		R	A	C
Black throated Green		U		U		
Blackburnian		R		R		
Yellow throated		V				
Pine		R		R	R	
Prarie		U		R		
Palm		U		U	U	
Bay-breated		U		R		
Blackpoll		U		U		
Cerulean		R				
Black and White		U		U	R	
American Redstart	Pr	C	U	U	U	
Prothonotary		R				
Worm-eating		R		R		
<b>Ovenbird</b>		U		U		
<b>Waterthrush</b>						
Northern		U		U		
Louisiana		R				
<b>Warbler</b>						
Kentucky		R				
Connecticut				R		
Mourning		R		R		
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>	Co	C	U	U	R	
<b>Warbler</b>						
Hooded		R		R		
Wilson's		R		R		
Canada		U		R		
<b>Yellow-breasted Chat</b>		R		R		
<b>Tanager</b>						
Summer		V				
Scarlet		U		U		
Western					V	
<b>Northern Cardinal</b>	Co	U	U	U	U	U
<b>Grosbeak</b>						
Rose-breasted		U		U		
Blue		R		R		
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>		R		R	R	
<b>Dickissel</b>				V	V	
<b>Rufous-sided Towhee</b>	Co	C	U	C	C	R
<b>Sparrow</b>						
Tree		R			U	U
Chipping		U		R	U	R
Clay-colored				V		
Field		R		R	R	
Vesper		R			R	
Lark				R		
Savannah	*	U		R	U	R
Grasshopper					V	
Henslow's		V			V	
Sharp tailed	Co	R	R	R	R	R
Seaside	Co	U	U	R	R	R
Fox		R		R	U	
Swamp	Pr	U	R	R	U	R
White-throated		C			A	C
White-crowned		R			R	R
<b>Dark-eyed Junco</b>		C			C	C
<b>Lapland Longspuf</b>					V	V
<b>Snow Bunting</b>					R	R
<b>Bobolink</b>		R		R	R	
<b>Red winged Blackbird</b>	Co	A	A	A	A	U
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>		R		R	R	
<b>Blackbird</b>						
Yellow headed				V	V	
Rusty		R		R	R	
<b>Grackle</b>						
Boat-tailed	Co	U		U	U	C
Common	Co	C	R	U	U	R
<b>Brown-head Cowbird</b>	Po	U	R	U	U	R
<b>Oriole</b>						
Orchard		V		V		
Northern		U		U	U	
<b>Purple Finch</b>		R			R	
<b>House Finch</b>	Co	C	C	C	C	C
<b>Crossbill</b>						
Red					R	R
White-winged					R	R
<b>Common Redpoll</b>					R	R
<b>Pine Siskin</b>		R			R	R
<b>American Goldfinch</b>	Pr	U	R	U	U	R
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>		R			R	R
<b>Song Sparrow</b>	Co	C	C	C	U	U
<b>House Sparrow</b>	Co	C	C	C	C	C

# Birds of Jamaica Bay



## Introduction

The Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (JBWR) was established in 1953 by the City of New York. In 1972 the land passed into the hands of the National Park Service as part of Gateway National Recreation Area. This compilation enumerates 325 species of birds recorded at the Refuge through February 1994.

*Revised in 2012; and updated again September 2014.*

## How To Use This Checklist

### Seasonal Headings:

**(B) Breeding:** species confirmed breeding on the NY Breeding Bird Atlas Project 1980-82 (and to date) are coded Confirmed Co, Probables Pr, and Possibles Po. Other birds known to have bred prior to 1970 are marked with an \*. Presently, most of the herons, American Oystercatcher, all the gulls and Common Terns nest on remote islands scattered about Jamaica Bay. **(Sp) Spring:** principally April and May, but in a broader sense, the spring migration. **(Su) Summer:** June and July, the breeding season Southbound shorebird migration begins in July. **(eF) Early Fall:** August and September. Early fall migrants including shorebirds, flycatchers, vireos, and warblers. **(IF) Late Fall:** October and November. Late fall migrants including waterfowl, hawks and finches. **(W) Winter:** December to March.

### Status Symbols:

**(A) Abundant:** more than 30 individuals usually recorded every visit, **(C) Common:** 10 to 30 individuals are usually recorded every visit, **(U) Uncommon:** 1 to 9 individuals per visit, sometimes missed, **(R) Rare:** only one or a few individuals recorded throughout the season, often missed, **(V) Very rare:** recorded sporadically, not seen every year.

### Accidentals

The following species have been recorded only once or twice:

Mississippi Kite, Magnificent Frigatebird, Pacific Loon, Tufted Duck, Townsend's solitaire, Sooty Shearwater, White Pelican, Wood Stork, White-faced Ibis, Great White-fronted Goose, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Harlequin Duck, Swallow-tailed Kite, Golden Eagle, Purple Gallinule, Wilson's Plover, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Reddish Egret, Brown Pelican, Spotted Redshank, Purple Sandpiper, Parasitic Jaeger, Pomarine Jaeger, Arctic Tern, Sooty Tern, Great Horned Owl, Tufted Titmouse, Sage Thrasher, Redwing, Townsend's Warbler, Lark Bunting, Little Stint, Red-necked Stint, Northern Gannet, Cave Swallow, Black-throated Grey Warbler, Ross's goose, Cackling goose, Black bellied whistling duck, Sandwich tern, Bicknell's thrush, Common ringed plover

### References

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Production & Illustrations R. Villani & D. Taft.

Species	B	Sp	Su	eF	IF	W
<b>Loon</b>						
Red throated		R			R	R
Common		U			U	R
<b>Grebe</b>						
Pied billed	Co	U	U	U	U	R
Horned		C			C	C
Red necked					R	
Eared		V		V	V	
<b>Cormorant</b>						
Great				U	U	
Double Chested		A	C	A	C	U
<b>Bittern</b>						
American	*	R	R	R	R	R
Least	Co	R	R	R		
<b>Herons and Egrets</b>						
Great Blue		U	R	U	C	U
Great Egret	Co	C	C	C	U	R
Snowy Egret	Co	C	C	A	C	R
Little Blue	Po	U	U	U	R	R
Tricolored heron	Po	U	U	U	R	R
Cattle Egret	Co	U	U	U	R	
Green	Co	U	U	U	R	
<b>Night Heron</b>						
Black crowned	Co	C	C	C	C	U
Yellow-crowned	Co	U	C	U	R	
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>	Co	A	A	A	U	R
<b>Swan</b>						
Tundra					R	R
Mute		C	A	A	C	C
<b>Snow Goose</b>		A	R	R	A	A
<b>Brant</b>		A	R	R	A	A
<b>Canada Goose</b>	Co	A	A	A	A	A
<b>Wood Duck</b>		U	R	U	U	
<b>Green winged Teal</b>	*	C	U	C	C	U
<b>Black Duck</b>	Co	A	A	A	A	A
<b>Mallard</b>	Co	A	A	A	A	A
<b>Pintail</b>	*	U	R	U	C	U
<b>Blue winged Teal</b>	*	U	C	C	U	R
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	Co	C	R	U	C	R
<b>Gadwall</b>	Co	C	C	C	C	U
<b>Wigeon</b>						
Eurasian		R		R	R	R
American	*	A	R	C	A	A
<b>Canvasback</b>		C	R	R	A	U
<b>Redhead</b>	Co	R	R	R	R	R
<b>Ring necked Duck</b>		R			R	
<b>Scaup</b>						
Greater		A	U	U	A	A
Lesser		U			U	U
<b>Common eider</b>				R		
<b>King eider</b>		V	V			V
<b>Oldsquaw</b>					R	R
<b>Scoter</b>						
Black					R	R
Surf					R	R
White winged					R	R
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>		R			U	U
<b>Bufflehead</b>		A	R	R	A	A
<b>Merganser</b>						
Hooded		U	R	R	U	R
Common					V	V
Red-breasted		C	R	U	A	A
<b>Ruddy Duck</b>	Co	A	C	C	A	A
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>		R		R	R	R
<b>Osprey</b>	Co	A	A	U	U	
<b>Bald Eagle</b>			R	R	R	R
<b>Northern harrier</b>	Co	R	R	U	U	U
<b>Hawk</b>						
Cooper's		R		R	R	R
Goshawk					R	R
Red-shouldered					R	
Broad-winged		R		R		
Red-tailed		U			U	U
Rough legged					U	U
<b>American Kestrel</b>	*	U	R	U	U	R
<b>Merlin</b>		R		U	R	R
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>		R	R	U	R	R
<b>Ringed-necked Pheasant</b>	Co	U	U	U	U	U

Species	B	Sp	Su	eF	IF	W
<b>Rail</b>						
Black		V	V	V		
Clapper	Co	U	U	U	R	
King		V			V	
Virginia		R		R	R	
<b>Sora</b>			U	U	R	
<b>Common Moorhen</b>	Co	U	U	U	R	
<b>American Coot</b>	Co	U	R	U	U	R
<b>Plover</b>						
Black bellied		A	C	A	A	U
Lesser Golden		R		U	R	
Semipalmated		A	A	A	U	R
Piping	Co	R	R	R		
<b>Kildeer</b>	Co	U	U	C	U	R
<b>American Oyster-catcher</b>	Co	C	C	A	A	R
<b>Black-necked Stilt</b>		V				
<b>American Avocet</b>				R	R	
<b>Yellowlegs</b>						
Greater		A	C	A	A	R
Lesser		C	U	C	U	
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>		U		U		
<b>Willet</b>	Co	C	C	C	R	
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>	Co	U	U	U	R	
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b>			R	R		
<b>Whimbrel</b>		R	R	R	R	
<b>Godwit</b>						
Hudsonian			U	U	U	
Marbled			R	R	R	R
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>		A	C	A	C	U
<b>Red knot</b>		A	C	A	U	R
<b>Sanderling</b>		R	R	U	U	R
<b>Sandpiper</b>						
Semipalmated		A	A	A	C	
Western		R	R	C	U	R
Least		A	C	A	U	
White rumped		R	U	C	U	
Baird's				R	R	
Pectoral		U	U	C	U	
Dunlin		C		U	A	C
Curlew		V	V	R	R	
Stilt		R	U	C	U	
Buff-Breasted				R		
<b>Ruff</b>		R	R	R	R	
<b>Dowicher</b>						
Short-billed		U	A	A	U	
Long-billed		R	U	U	C	R
<b>Common Snipe</b>		R			R	R
<b>American Woodcock</b>		Co	C	C	U	R
<b>Phalarope</b>			R	R	R	
Wilson's		R	U	U	R	
Northern		R		R		
Red		V		V		
<b>Gull</b>						
Laughing	Co	A	A	A	U	
Little		V	V	V	V	V
Black-headed		V	V	V	V	V
Bonaparte's		U	R	R	U	U
Ring-billed		A	U	A	A	A
Herring	Co	A	A	A	A	A
Iceland		R			R	R
Lesser Black-backed		V			V	V
Glaucous		R	R		R	R
Great Black-backed	Co	A	C	A	A	A
<b>Tern</b>						
Gull billed	Co	R	R	R		
Caspian		R	R	R		
Royal			R	R		
Roseate		R	R	R		
Common	Co	C	C	A	R	
Forster's	Co	C	C	C	R	
Least	*	C	C	C		
Black		R	R	R		
<b>Black Skimmer</b>	Co	C	A	A	U	
<b>Dove</b>						
Rock	Co	C	C	C	C	C
Mourning	Co	C	C	C	C	C
<b>Cuckoo</b>						