

Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge
c/o Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges/oysterbay.html

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Oyster Bay

National Wildlife Refuge

Birds and Mammals



Long-tailed duck
Lloyd Spitalink



Introduction



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

Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 560 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, a Federal agency. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people. It represents the most comprehensive wildlife resource management program in the world.

The refuge is located on the north shore of Long Island in eastern Nassau County in the Town of Oyster Bay. It is 20 miles east of New York City and 5 miles west of Target Rock. The major refuge holdings are in Oyster Bay Harbor and the western portion of Cold Spring Harbor. The waters of Oyster Bay surround Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, home of Theodore Roosevelt, the founder of the first national wildlife refuge, Pelican Island in 1903.

The refuge includes more than 3,000 acres of bay bottom and surface waters up to the mean high tide line, in addition to the channels and marshes of Frost, Oak Neck, and Mill Neck Creeks. The refuge consists largely of subtidal habitat, strands of intertidal salt marsh, high salt marsh and freshwater wetlands. These habitats are managed for use by migratory waterfowl and other waterbirds.

More than 126 bird species have been documented at the refuge, including 23 species of waterfowl. Oyster Bay has the greatest winter waterfowl use of any of the Long Island refuges. More than 20,000 ducks have been reported for one survey during peak use. Most waterfowl can be seen in the Bayville, Cold Spring Harbor, and Mill Neck Creek areas.

Federal- and state-designated endangered or threatened species known to use Oyster Bay include the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, northern harrier, least tern, and Kemp's ridley and loggerhead sea turtles. Peregrine falcons typically migrate through Oyster Bay in the autumn and spring. Bald eagles visit the refuge sporadically in winter. Ospreys, a state-designated species of concern, nest and have successfully fledged young on the refuge. Northern harriers are observed in their spring and autumn migrations.

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

- Birds documented breeding at the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Relative Abundance

Relative abundance indicates how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat.

a abundant a common species which is very numerous
c common certain to be seen in suitable habitat
u uncommon present, but not certain to be seen
o occasional seen only a few times during a season
r rare seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years

Swans – Geese – Ducks

| | Sp | S | F | W |
|---------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| • Mute Swan _____ | a | a | a | a |
| • Canada Goose _____ | a | a | a | a |
| Brant _____ | a | r | a | a |
| • Wood Duck _____ | u | u | u | u |
| Gadwall _____ | c | r | c | c |
| American Wigeon _____ | c | r | c | c |
| American Black Duck _____ | c | o | a | a |
| • Mallard _____ | a | a | a | a |
| Blue-winged Teal _____ | | | r | |
| Northern Pintail _____ | | | u | u |
| Green-winged Teal _____ | u | | u | u |





| | Sp | S | F | W |
|----------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| ___ Northern Shoveler _____ | | | u | u |
| ___ Canvasback _____ | | | o | o |
| ___ Redhead _____ | | | r | r |
| ___ Ring-necked Duck _____ | u | | u | u |
| ___ Greater Scaup _____ | c | | c | a |
| ___ Lesser Scaup _____ | u | | c | a |
| ___ Long-tailed duck _____ | o | | c | c |
| ___ Black Scoter _____ | | | r | r |
| ___ Surf Scoter _____ | r | | u | c |
| ___ White-winged Scoter _____ | r | | u | c |
| ___ Common Goldeneye _____ | u | | o | u |
| ___ Bufflehead _____ | c | | c | a |
| ___ Hooded Merganser _____ | u | | u | c |
| ___ Common Merganser _____ | | | | o |
| ___ Red-breasted Merganser _____ | c | | c | c |
| ___ Ruddy Duck _____ | u | r | c | c |



American black duck

Scott Nielsen

Gallinaceous Birds

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ Wild Turkey _____ | u | u | u | u |
| ___ Ring-necked Pheasant _____ | r | r | r | r |

Loons

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ Red-throated Loon _____ | o | | u | c |
| ___ Common Loon _____ | u | r | c | c |

Grebes

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ Pied-billed Grebe _____ | o | o | u | u |
| ___ Horned Grebe _____ | u | | c | c |

Cormorants

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ Double-crested Cormorant _____ | c | c | a | u |
| ___ Great Cormorant _____ | r | | | r |

Bitterns – Herons – Egrets

| | Sp | S | F | W |
|-------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| ___ Great Blue Heron _____ | o | o | c | u |
| ___ Great Egret _____ | c | c | c | r |
| ___ Snowy Egret _____ | c | c | c | r |
| ___ • Green Heron _____ | u | u | u | |
| ___ Black-crowned Night-Heron _____ | c | c | c | o |

New World Vultures

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ Turkey Vulture _____ | o | o | o | o |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|



USFWS

Osprey in nest

Osprey - Kites - Hawks - Eagles

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ • Osprey _____ | c | c | c | r |
| ___ Bald Eagle _____ | o | o | o | o |
| ___ Northern Harrier _____ | o | o | o | o |
| ___ Sharp-shinned Hawk _____ | o | | o | o |
| ___ • Red-tailed Hawk _____ | c | c | c | c |

Falcons

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ American Kestrel _____ | o | r | o | r |
| ___ Merlin _____ | | | o | o |
| ___ Peregrine Falcon _____ | o | o | o | o |

Rails

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ Clapper Rail _____ | r | o | r | |
| ___ • Virginia Rail _____ | | u | r | r |

Plovers

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ Black-bellied Plover _____ | r | | o | o |
| ___ Semipalmated Plover _____ | o | o | o | |
| ___ • Piping Plover _____ | u | u | r | |
| ___ • Killdeer _____ | u | c | c | u |

Oystercatchers

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ American Oystercatcher _____ | o | o | o | r |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|



Sandpipers - Phalaropes

| | Sp | S | F | W |
|------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| Greater Yellowlegs | u | u | u | r |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | u | u | u | |
| Solitary Sandpiper | r | r | r | |
| • Spotted Sandpiper | r | r | r | |
| Willet | o | o | o | |
| Ruddy Turnstone | r | | o | o |
| Red Knot | r | | r | r |
| Sanderling | c | o | c | a |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | u | o | u | |
| Western Sandpiper | | | r | |
| Least Sandpiper | u | o | u | |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | r | | r | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | r | | r | |
| Purple Sandpiper | | | | r |
| Dunlin | u | | u | u |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | u | u | u | |
| Common Snipe | r | | r | r |
| American Woodcock | r | | | |

Gulls - Terns - Skimmers

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Laughing Gull | u | u | c | |
| Ring-billed Gull | c | u | a | a |
| Herring Gull | a | a | a | a |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | | | r | o |
| Great Black-backed Gull | c | c | a | c |
| Common Tern | c | a | c | |
| Forster's Tern | u | c | u | |
| • Least Tern | u | u | u | |
| Black Skimmer | r | r | r | |

Pigeons - Doves

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|
| • Rock Pigeon | c | c | c | c |
| • Mourning Dove | c | c | c | c |



Least Sandpiper

USFWS

Cuckoos

| | Sp | S | F | W |
|----------------------|----|---|---|---|
| Black-billed Cuckoo | r | | r | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | u | r | r | |

Typical Owls

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|
| • Eastern Screech-Owl | u | u | u | u |
| • Great Horned Owl | u | u | u | u |
| Snowy Owl | | | | r |

Nightjars

| | | | | |
|------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Common Nighthawk | | r | r | |
|------------------|--|---|---|--|

Swifts

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|--|
| • Chimney Swift | u | c | u | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|--|

Hummingbirds

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| • Ruby-throated Hummingbird | u | u | u | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|--|

Kingfishers

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|
| • Belted Kingfisher | c | c | c | u |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|



Red-bellied woodpecker

Laura Perlick/USFWS

Woodpeckers

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| • Red-bellied Woodpecker | c | c | c | c |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | o | | o | r |
| • Downy Woodpecker | c | c | c | c |
| • Hairy Woodpecker | c | c | c | c |
| • Northern Flicker | c | c | c | u |

Tyrant Flycatchers

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



| | Sp | S | F | W |
|---|----|---|---|---|
| Larks | | | | |
| ___ Horned Lark _____ | | | | r |
| Martins – Swallows | | | | |
| ___ Purple Martin _____ | r | r | | |
| ___ • Tree Swallow _____ | c | c | c | |
| ___ • Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____ | c | c | c | |
| ___ Bank Swallow _____ | r | u | r | |
| ___ • Barn Swallow _____ | c | a | c | |
| Vireos | | | | |
| ___ • White-eyed Vireo _____ | o | u | u | |
| ___ Blue-headed Vireo _____ | u | | | |
| ___ • Yellow-throated Vireo _____ | r | r | r | |
| ___ • Warbling Vireo _____ | u | u | u | |
| ___ Philadelphia Vireo _____ | | | r | |
| ___ • Red-eyed Vireo _____ | c | c | c | |
| Crows - Jays | | | | |
| ___ • Blue Jay _____ | a | a | a | a |
| ___ • American Crow _____ | u | u | u | u |
| ___ • Fish Crow _____ | u | c | u | o |
| Titmice – Chickadees | | | | |
| ___ • Black-capped Chickadee _____ | a | a | a | a |
| ___ • Tufted Titmouse _____ | a | a | a | a |
| Nuthatches | | | | |
| ___ Red-breasted Nuthatch _____ | o | o | o | |
| ___ • White-breasted Nuthatch _____ | a | a | a | a |
| Creepers | | | | |
| ___ • Brown Creeper _____ | o | r | u | u |
| Wrens | | | | |
| ___ • Carolina Wren _____ | a | a | a | a |
| ___ • House Wren _____ | c | c | u | |
| ___ Winter Wren _____ | o | | u | u |
| ___ • Marsh Wren _____ | u | u | u | r |
| Kinglets | | | | |
| ___ Golden-crowned Kinglet _____ | u | | c | u |
| ___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____ | u | | c | u |
| Gnatcatchers | | | | |
| ___ • Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____ | u | u | u | |
| Thrushes | | | | |
| ___ • Eastern Bluebird _____ | u | c | u | r |
| ___ • Veery _____ | u | r | u | |

| | Sp | S | F | W |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| ___ Swainson's Thrush _____ | u | | u | |
| ___ Hermit Thrush _____ | u | | c | o |
| ___ • Wood Thrush _____ | c | c | u | |
| ___ • American Robin _____ | a | a | a | c |

Mimic Thrushes

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ • Gray Catbird _____ | c | a | c | o |
| ___ • Northern Mockingbird _____ | c | c | c | c |
| ___ • Brown Thrasher _____ | o | o | o | r |

Starlings

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ • European Starling _____ | a | a | a | a |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|

Pipits

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| ___ American Pipit _____ | | | o | r |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|

Waxwings

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ • Cedar Waxwing _____ | o | u | u | o |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|

Wood Warblers

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| ___ • Blue-winged Warbler _____ | o | o | o | |
| ___ Tennessee Warbler _____ | o | | o | |
| ___ Orange-crowned Warbler _____ | r | | r | r |
| ___ Nashville Warbler _____ | o | | o | |
| ___ Northern Parula _____ | c | | u | |
| ___ • Yellow Warbler _____ | c | c | u | |
| ___ Chestnut-sided Warbler _____ | u | | u | |
| ___ Magnolia Warbler _____ | u | | u | |
| ___ Cape May Warbler _____ | o | | o | |
| ___ Black-throated Blue Warbler _____ | c | | c | |
| ___ Yellow-rumped Warbler _____ | c | | c | o |
| ___ Black-throated Green Warbler _____ | u | | o | |
| ___ Blackburnian Warbler _____ | o | | r | |
| ___ • Pine Warbler _____ | u | | u | r |
| ___ Prairie Warbler _____ | u | | u | |
| ___ Palm Warbler _____ | u | | u | r |
| ___ • Yellow-throated Warbler _____ | u | | u | |



Cedar waxwing

Dave Menke/USFWS



Frank Miles/USFWS

Yellow-rumped warbler

| | Sp | S | F | W |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| ___ Bay-breasted Warbler _____ | u | | o | |
| ___ Blackpoll Warbler _____ | u | | u | |
| ___ Black-and-white Warbler _____ | c | | u | |
| ___ • American Redstart _____ | c | u | u | |
| ___ • Worm-eating Warbler _____ | u | u | r | |
| ___ • Ovenbird _____ | u | u | u | |
| ___ Northern Waterthrush _____ | c | o | c | |
| ___ Louisiana Waterthrush _____ | u | | u | |
| ___ Connecticut Warbler _____ | | | r | |
| ___ Mourning Warbler _____ | r | | r | |
| ___ • Common Yellowthroat _____ | c | c | c | r |
| ___ Hooded Warbler _____ | o | | o | |
| ___ Wilson's Warbler _____ | u | | o | |
| ___ Canada Warbler _____ | u | | u | |
| ___ Yellow-breasted Chat _____ | u | | u | |

Tanagers

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| ___ • Scarlet Tanager _____ | u | u | u | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|--|

Sparrows - Towhees

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ • Eastern Towhee _____ | c | c | c | r |
| ___ American Tree Sparrow _____ | u | | o | u |
| ___ • Chipping Sparrow _____ | a | a | u | |
| ___ Field Sparrow _____ | u | | u | r |
| ___ • Savannah Sparrow _____ | o | o | o | r |
| ___ Fox Sparrow _____ | u | | u | u |
| ___ • Song Sparrow _____ | a | a | a | a |
| ___ Lincoln's Sparrow _____ | o | | o | |
| ___ Swamp Sparrow _____ | u | | u | r |
| ___ White-throated Sparrow _____ | u | | c | c |
| ___ White-crowned Sparrow _____ | r | | r | |
| ___ Dark-eyed Junco _____ | u | | c | c |

Cardinals - Grosbeaks - Allies

| | Sp | S | F | W |
|------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| ___ • Northern Cardinal _____ | a | a | a | a |
| ___ • Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____ | u | o | u | |
| ___ • Indigo Bunting _____ | u | u | u | |
| ___ Snow Bunting _____ | | | | u |

Blackbirds - Orioles

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ • Red-winged Blackbird _____ | a | a | c | o |
| ___ Eastern Meadowlark _____ | r | | r | |
| ___ Rusty Blackbird _____ | u | | u | u |
| ___ • Common Grackle _____ | a | u | a | u |
| ___ • Brown-headed Cowbird _____ | u | u | u | o |
| ___ • Orchard Oriole _____ | c | c | r | |
| ___ • Baltimore Oriole _____ | c | c | u | |

Finches

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ Purple Finch _____ | r | | o | o |
| ___ • House Finch _____ | u | u | u | u |
| ___ Common Redpoll _____ | | | | r |
| ___ Pine Siskin _____ | | | o | r |
| ___ • American Goldfinch _____ | a | a | a | c |

Old World Sparrows

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ___ • House Sparrow _____ | a | a | a | a |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|



Frank Miles/USFWS

Blue jay

Mammal Species of the Complex

The Oyster Bay area supports over 20 species of mammals that live here year round or visit seasonally. All mammals are warm-blooded, most have hair, most give birth to live young, and the females produce milk to nurse their newborns. The smallest mammal on Long Island is the masked shrew, which weighs only 1/10 of an ounce. Our largest terrestrial mammal is the white tailed deer, which can weigh up to 250 lbs. Mammals can be classified as carnivores (meat eaters), herbivores (plant eaters) or omnivores (plant and meat eaters). Some mammals, like bats, eat mainly insects and are insectivores, while those that eat primarily fish, like seals and dolphins, are called piscivores.

Many mammals are secretive and nocturnal, coming out only at night. The best times to observe animals such as bats, foxes, and raccoons are during the crepuscular hours, dawn or dusk. Others such as grey squirrels, chipmunks, and seals are usually seen during daylight hours. Seals can often be seen during the winter months hauled out on beaches or rocks. A good place to view seals is on the rocks of Rocky Point, at the northern tip of Centre Island.

In addition to visual observations, another way to identify what mammals are in the area is to look for their tracks. A field guide of tracks can help you figure out which species are present. You can assist biologists by reporting observations of rarer animals to help document their presence and range. Otter sightings or carcasses should be reported to the Long Island River Otter Project at 631/267 5228 or mike@peconic.org. Southern species such as manatees have been recorded as far north as Massachusetts, but are considered very rare north of Georgia. You never know what mammals

may show up! Dolphins have been sighted in Long Island Sound with increasing frequency. Dolphin and whale sightings should be reported to the Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (www.cresli.org). The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation (www.riverheadfoundation.org) should be notified of any injured seals, whales, dolphins, or sea turtles. Their hotline number is 631/369 9840. Refuge and state biologists should be informed of any unusual sightings as well. Observing wildlife takes patience and skill, but with a little luck you can enjoy a rewarding wildlife experience!

Opossum
Short-tailed Shrew
Little Brown Myotis
Eastern Pipistrelle
Big Brown Bat
Eastern Cottontail
Eastern Chipmunk
Gray Squirrel
Southern Flying Squirrel
White-footed Mouse
Meadow Mouse
Muskrat
House Mouse
Norway Rat
Harbor Porpoise
Red Fox
Raccoon
River Otter
Harbor Seal
Gray Seal
White-tailed Deer

Don Freiday/USFWS



Gray squirrel

USFWS



Harbor seal



Otters

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