

Mason Neck, Occoquan Bay and Featherstone National  
Wildlife Refuges are all managed under Potomac River  
National Wildlife Refuge

Occoquan Bay  
National Wildlife Refuge  
14050 Dawson Beach Road  
Woodbridge, VA 22191  
Visitor Contact Station: 703/491 6869

For further information, contact:  
Potomac River  
National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
12638 Darby Brooke Court  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
703/490 4979  
r5rw\_msnwr@fws.gov

Federal Relay Service  
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing  
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD  
<http://www.fws.gov>

September 2012



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Occoquan Bay

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

### *Birds*



## Introduction



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

*Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 555 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat and represents the most comprehensive wildlife resource management program in the world. Units of the system stretch across the United States from northern Alaska to the Florida Keys, and include small islands in the Caribbean and South Pacific. The character of the refuges is as diverse as the nation itself*

*Twenty miles south of Washington, DC, at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan rivers, Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge is an oasis where migrating birds seek a quiet escape from development. Its diverse grasslands and marshes attract songbirds, raptors and waterfowl that depend on meadows and open water for their food, nesting sites, and a place to rest.*



Donna Dewhurst

*Red-winged blackbird*

This checklist is the result of nearly 2 decades of "citizen science" to ascertain the presence, frequency of occurrence, and abundance of bird species in and around the refuge. To date, a total of 249 (91%) of the 273 species of birds listed for Prince William County have been documented here. This list is in accordance with the Seventh American Ornithologists' Union Checklist and the 49th Supplement (July 2008).

Most birds are migratory. Their seasonal occurrence is coded as follows:

### Season

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

### Relative Abundance

<b>c</b> Common-likely to be found in appropriate habitat
<b>u</b> Uncommon-possibly present; not always observed
<b>r</b> Rare-infrequently observed and not every year
<b>v</b> Irregular Visitor-rare
<b>x</b> Accidental-rare; outside normal geographic range
<b>h</b> Historical-rare; not documented in recent years

### Habitat Types (H)

<b>o</b> Open water-bays and rivers
<b>m</b> Marshes-tidal and non-tidal creeks and wetlands
<b>f</b> Fields-cultivated or natural open areas
<b>e</b> Edges-transitional zones, non-woody/woody vegetation
<b>w</b> Woodlands-predominately woody growth

- Birds known to nest on or near the refuge
  - ^ Observed in vicinity, but not yet at this site
- Italics indicate non-native species.*

	<b>Sp</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Swans, Geese, Ducks</b>					
___ Snow Goose _____	h				m,f
___ Cackling Goose _____				v	o,m
___ • Canada Goose _____	c	c	c	c	o,m,f
___ Tundra Swan _____	u	r	u	u	o
___ Mute Swan _____				r	o
___ <i>Muscovy Duck</i> _____	h	h	h	h	m
___ • Wood Duck _____	c	c	c	c	m
___ Gadwall _____	u		u	u	m

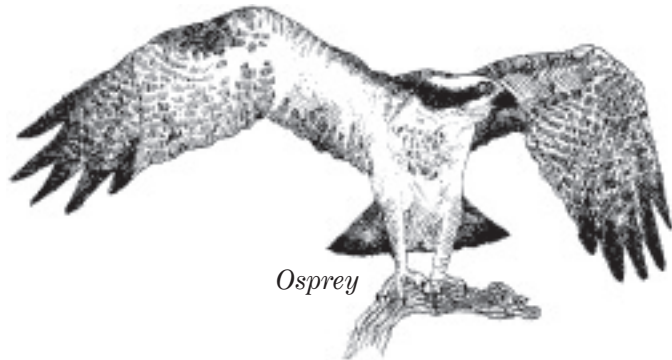
	Sp	S	F	W	H
___ American Wigeon _____	u			u	m
___ Eurasian Wigeon _____	v				o
• American Black Duck _____	c		u	c	m
• Mallard _____	c	c	c	c	o,m
___ Blue-winged Teal _____	u	r	u	u	m
___ Northern Shoveler _____	u		u	u	o,m
___ Northern Pintail _____	u		u	u	m
___ Green-winged Teal _____	c		c	c	m
___ Canvasback _____	u		r	u	o
___ Redhead _____	r		r	r	o
___ Ring-necked Duck _____	r		r	u	o,m
___ Greater Scaup _____	r		r	r	o
___ Lesser Scaup _____	c	r	c	c	o
___ Long-tailed (Oldsquaw) Duck _____	r		r		o
___ Bufflehead _____	c	r	c	c	o
___ Common Goldeneye _____	r		r	r	o
• Hooded Merganser _____	c	r	c	c	o,m
___ Common Merganser _____	c	r	u	c	o
___ Red-breasted Merganser _____	u		r	u	o
___ Ruddy Duck _____	c	r	c	c	o

### Gallinaceous Birds

___ Ring-necked Pheasant _____	h	h			f,e
• Wild Turkey _____	u	u	u	c	m,f,e,w
• Northern Bobwhite _____	c	c	c	u	f,e

### Loons

___ Red-throated Loon _____				v	o
___ Common Loon _____	u	r	u	r	o



*Osprey*

### Grebes

___ Pied-billed Grebe _____	u	r	u	u	o,m
___ Horned Grebe _____	u		u	u	o
___ Red-necked Grebe _____	r				o

### Pelicans

___ American White Pelican _____	x				o
----------------------------------	---	--	--	--	---

### Cormorants

___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	c	c	c	u	o,m
------------------------------------	---	---	---	---	-----

### Bitterns, Herons and Egrets

___ American Bittern _____	r		r	r	m
___ Least Bittern _____	u	u			m
___ Great Blue Heron _____	c	c	c	c	o,m
___ Great Egret _____	c	c	c	r	m
___ Snowy Egret _____	v	v	v		m
___ Little Blue Heron _____	v	v	v		m
___ Cattle Egret _____	r				f
• Green Heron _____	c	c	c		m
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	r	r	r	r	o,m
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron _____		h			m

### Ibises

___ White Ibis _____			x		m
___ Glossy Ibis _____		r			m

### New World Vultures

___ Black Vulture _____	u	u	u	u	o,m,f,e,w
___ Turkey Vulture _____	c	c	c	c	o,m,f,e,w

### Osprey, Kites, Hawks and Eagles

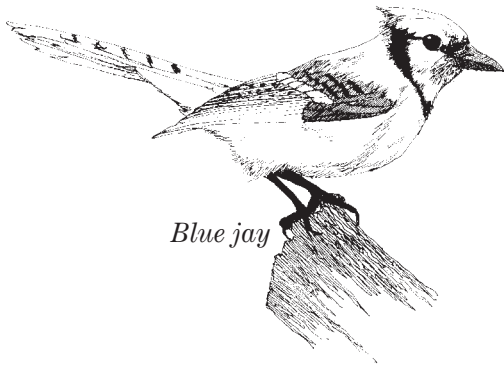
• Osprey _____	c	c	c	r	o,m
___ Mississippi Kite _____	r	r			m,f,e
• Bald Eagle _____	c	u	c	c	o,m
___ Northern Harrier _____	c	r	u	c	m,f
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	u	r	u	u	f,e
___ Cooper's Hawk _____	u	r	u	u	f,e
___ Northern Goshawk _____		r	r	r	m,f,e,w
___ Red-shouldered Hawk _____	c	u	c	c	m,f,e,w
___ Broad-winged Hawk _____	u	r	u	r	f,e
• Red-tailed Hawk _____	c	u	c	c	m,f,e,w
___ Rough-legged Hawk _____	v			v	f,e
___ Golden Eagle _____	v		v		m,f

	Sp	S	F	W	H
<b>Falcons</b>					
• American Kestrel _____	u	r	u	u	f,e
Merlin _____	u		u	r	f,e
Peregrine Falcon _____	r		r	r	m,f,e
<b>Rails</b>					
• King Rail _____	u	c	u	r	m
Virginia Rail _____	r		r	r	m,e
Sora _____	r	r	r		m
Common Moorhen _____		r			m
American Coot _____	u	u	u	c	o,m
<b>Cranes</b>					
Sandhill Crane _____	x				f
<b>Plovers</b>					
Semipalmated Plover _____	r				m
• Killdeer _____	c	c	c	c	m,f
<b>Stilts</b>					
Black-necked Stilt _____	x				m
<b>Sandpipers and Phalaropes</b>					
Baird's Sandpiper _____			r		m,f
Spotted Sandpiper _____	c	u	u		m
Solitary Sandpiper _____	c	r	c		m
Greater Yellowlegs _____	c	r	c	r	m
Lesser Yellowlegs _____	c	r	c	r	m
Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	r	r			m
Western Sandpiper _____	r	r	r		m
Least Sandpiper _____	u	r	u		m
Pectoral Sandpiper _____	r	r	r		m
Dunlin _____	h		h		m
Short-billed Dowitcher _____			h		m
Wilson's (Common) Snipe _____	u		u	u	m
• American Woodcock _____	u	u		r	m,f,e
<b>Gulls and Terns</b>					
Laughing Gull _____	c	c	c	r	o,m
Bonaparte's Gull _____	u		u	r	o,m
Ring-billed Gull _____	c	u	c	c	o,m,f
Herring Gull _____	c	r	c	c	o,m

	Sp	S	F	W	H
Glaucous Gull _____				x	o,m
^ Lesser Black-backed Gull _____					
Great Black-backed Gull _____	c	r	c	c	o,m
Least Tern _____	h		h		o,m,f
Caspian Tern _____	c	u	c		o,m
Black Tern _____	r				o,m
Common Tern _____			r		o
Forster's Tern _____	c	r	c	r	o,m
Royal Tern _____	r	r	r		o
<b>Pigeons and Doves</b>					
Rock Pigeon _____	u	u	u	u	e
• Mourning Dove _____	c	c	c	c	f,e,w
<b>Cuckoos</b>					
• Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____	c	c	c		e,w
Black-billed Cuckoo _____	r				w
<b>Typical Owls</b>					
^ Eastern Screech-Owl _____					
• Great Horned Owl _____	u	u	u	u	e,w
• Barred Owl _____	u	u	u	u	e,w
Short-eared Owl _____	r		r		m,f
<b>Nightjars</b>					
Common Nighthawk _____	u		u		m,f,e



Killdeer  
©June Henshaw



Blue jay

	Sp	S	F	W	H
<b>Swifts</b>					
___ Chimney Swift _____	c	c	c		o,m,f,e,w
<b>Hummingbirds</b>					
___ • Ruby-throated Hummingbird	c	c	c		f,e,w
<b>Kingfishers</b>					
___ Belted Kingfisher _____	c	r	c	c	o,m
<b>Woodpeckers</b>					
___ Red-headed Woodpecker _____	r	r	r	r	m,w
___ • Red-bellied Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c	m,e,w
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker _____	r		r	u	e,w
___ • Downy Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c	m,f,e,w
___ Hairy Woodpecker _____	u	r	u	u	m,e,w
___ • Northern Flicker _____	c	c	c	c	m,f,e,w
___ • Pileated Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c	m,e,w
<b>Tyrant Flycatchers</b>					
___ • Eastern Wood-Pewee _____	c	c	c		e,w
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher _____		r	r		m,w
___ • Acadian Flycatcher _____	c	c	u		m,w
___ Alder Flycatcher _____	r				m,e,w
___ • Willow Flycatcher _____	u	r			m,e
___ ^ Least Flycatcher _____					
___ • Eastern Phoebe _____	c	c	c	r	m,f,e,w
___ Vermilion Flycatcher _____				h	f,e
___ Great Crested Flycatcher _____				x	f,e
___ Ash Throated Flycatcher _____	c	u	u		e,w
___ • Eastern Kingbird _____	c	c	c		m,f,e

Sp S F W H

### Shrikes

\_\_\_ Loggerhead Shrike \_\_\_\_\_ h m,f,e

### Vireos

\_\_\_ • White-eyed Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ c c u e  
 \_\_\_ Yellow-throated Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ u u e,w  
 \_\_\_ Blue-headed (Solitary) Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ r r r e,w  
 \_\_\_ • Warbling Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ u r e,w  
 \_\_\_ Philadelphia Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ r e,w  
 \_\_\_ • Red-eyed Vireo \_\_\_\_\_ c c c m,e,w

### Crows and Jays

\_\_\_ • Blue Jay \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c m,f,e,w  
 \_\_\_ • American Crow \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c o,m,f,w  
 \_\_\_ • Fish Crow \_\_\_\_\_ c c c c o,m,w  
 \_\_\_ Common Raven \_\_\_\_\_ r



Northern mockingbird  
Robert Savannah

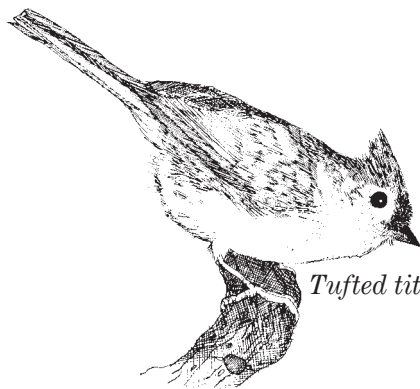
	Sp	S	F	W	H
<b>Larks</b>					
___ Horned Lark _____	r		r	r	f
<b>Swallows</b>					
___ Purple Martin _____	c	c	c		o,m,f,w
___ • Tree Swallow _____	c	c	c	r	o,m,f,w
___ • Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____	c	c	c		o,m,f
___ Bank Swallow _____	u	u			o,m
___ Cliff Swallow _____	r				m
___ • Barn Swallow _____	c	c	c		o,m,f,w

### Titmice and Chickadees

___ • Carolina Chickadee _____	c	c	c	c	m,e,w
___ Black-capped Chickadee _____				h	e,w
___ • Tufted Titmouse _____	c	c	c	c	m,f,e,w

### Nuthatches

___ Red-breasted Nuthatch _____	v		v		e,w
___ • White-breasted Nuthatch _____	c	c	c	c	f,e,w



*Tufted titmouse*

	Sp	S	F	W	H
<b>Creepers</b>					
___ Brown Creeper _____	u		u	u	e,w
<b>Wrens</b>					
___ • Carolina Wren _____	c	c	c	c	m,f,w
___ • House Wren _____	u	u	u	r	f,e
___ Winter Wren _____	r		r	u	m,e,w
___ Sedge Wren _____			r		m
___ Marsh Wren _____	u	r	r		m

### Kinglets

___ Golden-crowned Kinglet _____	u		u	u	m,e,w
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____	u		u	u	m,e,w

### Old World Warblers

___ • Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____	c	c	c	r	m,e,w
-----------------------------------	---	---	---	---	-------

### Thrushes

___ • Eastern Bluebird _____	c	c	c	c	f,e,w
___ Veery _____	r	r			m,w
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush _____	r				m,e,w
___ ^ Bicknell's Thrush _____					
___ Swainson's Thrush _____	u		r		m,e,w
___ Hermit Thrush _____	u		u	u	m,e,w
___ Wood Thrush _____	u	r	u		w
___ • American Robin _____	c	c	c	u	m,f,e,w

### Mimic Thrushes

___ • Gray Catbird _____	c	c	c	u	m,e
___ • Northern Mockingbird _____	c	c	c	c	m,e
___ • Brown Thrasher _____	c	c	c	u	m,e

### Starlings

___ • European Starling _____	c	c	c	c	m,f,w
-------------------------------	---	---	---	---	-------

### Pipits

___ American Pipit _____	r		r		m,f,e
--------------------------	---	--	---	--	-------

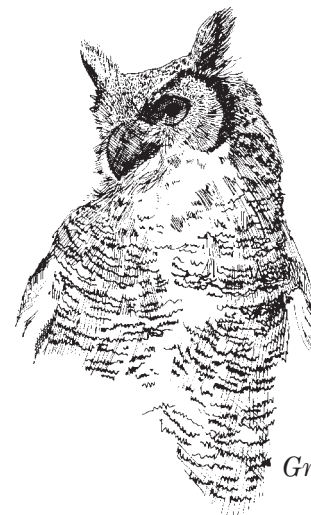
### Waxwings

___ • Cedar Waxwing _____	u	u	u	u	m,e,w
---------------------------	---	---	---	---	-------

	Sp	S	F	W	H
<b>Wood Warblers</b>					
___ Blue-winged Warbler _____	r				f,e
___ "Lawrence's" W. [BW/GW Hybrid] _____	r				f,e
___ ^ Golden-winged Warbler _____					
___ Tennessee Warbler _____	r		r		f,e,w
___ Nashville Warbler _____	r	r	r		f,e,w
___ • Northern Parula _____	c	u	u		w
___ • Yellow Warbler _____	c	c	c		e,w
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler _____	r		r		e,w
___ Magnolia Warbler _____	r		r		e,w
___ Cape May Warbler _____			r		e,w
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler _____	u	r	u		w
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler _____	u	r	u	c	m,f,e,w
___ Black-throated Green Warbler _____	r		r		w
___ Blackburnian Warbler _____	r		r		w
___ Yellow-throated Warbler _____	u	r	r		w
___ Pine Warbler _____	u	r	u		e,w
___ Prairie Warbler _____	u	r	u		f,e
___ Palm Warbler _____	c	r	c	r	f,e,w
___ Bay-breasted Warbler _____	r		r		w
___ Blackpoll Warbler _____	u	r	u		w
___ ^ Cerulean Warbler _____					
___ Black-and-White Warbler _____	u	r	u		w
___ American Redstart _____	u	r	u		e,w
___ • Prothonotary Warbler _____	c	c	u		m,e,w
___ Worm-eating Warbler _____	r				e,w
___ Ovenbird _____	r	r	r		m,e,w
___ Northern Waterthrush _____	u	r	u		m,w
___ Louisiana Waterthrush _____	u	r			m,w
___ Kentucky Warbler _____	r		r		m,e,w
___ Connecticut Warbler _____			r		m,e,w
___ Mourning Warbler _____	r				m,e,w
___ • Common Yellowthroat _____	c	c	c	r	m,f,e
___ Hooded Warbler _____	u	r	r		w
___ Wilson's Warbler _____	r		r		e,w
___ Canada Warbler _____	r		r		e,w
___ • Yellow-breasted Chat _____	c	c	c		f,e

### Tanagers

___ Summer Tanager _____	r				w
___ Scarlet Tanager _____	u	r	u		e,w



*Great horned owl*

	Sp	S	F	W	H
<b>Towhees and Sparrows</b>					
___ • Eastern (Rufous-sided) Towhee _____	c	c	c	u	m,f,e,w
___ American Tree Sparrow _____	r		r	u	f,e
___ Chipping Sparrow _____	u	u	u	u	m,f,e
___ Clay-colored Sparrow _____		x			f,e
___ Brewer's Sparrow _____	x			x	f,e
___ • Field Sparrow _____	c	c	c	c	m,f,e
___ Vesper Sparrow _____	u	r	u	r	f,e
___ Lark Sparrow _____				h	m,f,e
___ Savannah Sparrow _____	u		u	r	f,e
___ Grasshopper Sparrow _____	u	u	u		f
___ Henslow's Sparrow _____		h	h		f,e
___ LeConte's Sparrow _____			x		f
___ Seaside Sparrow _____	x				m,f
___ Fox Sparrow _____	u		r	u	f,e
___ • Song Sparrow _____	c	c	c	c	m,f,e,w
___ Lincoln's Sparrow _____	r		r	r	m,f,e
___ Swamp Sparrow _____	c	r	c	c	m,f,e
___ White-throated Sparrow _____	c		u	c	m,f,e
___ White-crowned Sparrow _____	u		u	u	m,f,e
___ Dark-eyed Junco _____	c		u	c	m,f,e
___ Snow Bunting _____			v		f
___ Lapland Longspur _____				v	f



*Eastern meadowlark*

## NOTES

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Observers \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

	Sp	S	F	W	H
<b>Cardinals and Grosbeaks</b>					
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____	r		r		e,w
• Northern Cardinal _____	c	c	c	c	m,f,e,w
___ Dicksissel _____			v		f
• Blue Grosbeak _____	c	c	c		f,e,w
• Indigo Bunting _____	c	c	c		f,e,w

<b>Blackbirds and Orioles</b>					
___ Bobolink _____	u	r	u		f,e
• Red-winged Blackbird _____	c	c	c	c	m,f,e
• Eastern Meadowlark _____	c	u	c	u	f,e
___ Rusty Blackbird _____	u	r	r	u	m,e
• Common Grackle _____	c	c	c	c	m,e,w
• Brown-headed Cowbird _____	c	c	c	c	f,e,w
• Orchard Oriole _____	c	c	c		e,w
• Baltimore Oriole _____	u	u	u		e,w

<b>Finches</b>					
___ Purple Finch _____	r	r		r	e,w
• House Finch _____	c	c	c	c	f,e,w
^ Pine Siskin _____			v	v	f,e,w
___ American Goldfinch _____	c	c	c	c	f,e
___ Common Redpoll _____				v	f,e
^ Evening Grosbeak _____					

<b>Old World Sparrows</b>					
• House Sparrow _____	u	u	u	u	f,e,w

Special thanks to the Friends of the Potomac River Refuges and the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia for their help on this birdlist.

