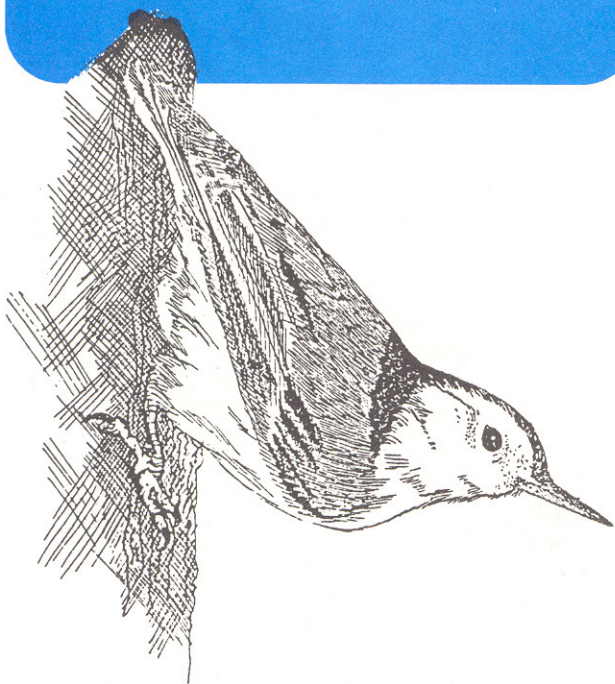


BIRDS OF WEST VIRGINIA



**West Virginia Nongame
Wildlife and
Natural Heritage Program**

Birds of West Virginia

West Virginia, with its temperate climate, diverse vegetation and dramatic topography, plays host to numerous species of birds throughout the year. Watch eagles soar over the Potomac River, listen to the songs of warblers courting in dense evergreen forests atop the Allegheny Plateau, see woodpeckers scour the bark of oak trees for insects, wade through a high elevation fen to glimpse a bittern, or watch a gull resting on a migration stopover along the Ohio River. These and many other natural wonders await even the casual bird watcher in West Virginia.

This list features the 299 birds that are most likely to be seen in West Virginia. Don't count on seeing them all, but with some patience, a little travel, and some early mornings, you should encounter and check off a good number of them. Late spring through early fall is when avian diversity is highest in the Mountain State. From April to July you can rise early and hear the songs of the various species that breed here. Fall and spring are good times to see birds migrating over major waterways and along mountain ridges. Even winter affords the bird watcher access to over 50 species that brave West Virginia's rugged weather. Many songbirds can be seen in pursuit of food and warmth through the mild midday hours.

This list is just one guide available for beginning and serious birders alike. If you need help identifying birds, a quality field guide would be a start in the right direction. Those interested in learning more about the breeding status, ecology and distribution of the state's avifauna are encouraged to consult the new *West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas* by Albert R. Buckelew and George A. Hall, and *West Virginia Birds* by George A. Hall; both are available from the West Virginia Nongame Wildlife and Natural Heritage Program.



Habitat Codes

E=Forest/Field Edges
 F=Fields and Clearings
 G=Generalist, Variety of Habitats
 H=Hardwood Forests
 M=Mountain Cliffs
 P=Pine Forests
 R=Towns and Residential Areas
 S=High Elevation Spruce Forests
 T=Thickets, Heaths
 W=Wetlands, Streams, Open Waters

(N)=Neotropical Migrant: A species most of whose migrant population winters in Latin America or the Caribbean.

Status Codes

E=Exotic, Introduced Species
 M=Spring or Fall Migrant
 P=Permanent, Occurs in WV year-round
 S=Summer Resident
 V=Visitant, appears in WV irregularly
 W=Winter Resident

Abundance Codes

C=Commonly Encountered in WV
 O=Occasionally Encountered in WV
 R=Rarely Encountered in WV

* Please verify sighting with a photograph, confirmation by a person experienced with that species, or a detailed written description, and report to the West Virginia Nongame Wildlife and Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241, (304) 637-0245.

** Report only evidence of breeding to the West Virginia Nongame Wildlife and Natural Heritage Program.

Note: Where two or more codes appear together, they are in descending order of importance.

Note: Habitat, status and abundance codes have been generalized for bird watching purposes.

A FIELD CHECKLIST OF WEST VIRGINIA BIRDS**LOONS**

	Habitat	Status	Abundance
___ Red-throated Loon	W	M	R
___ Common Loon	W	M	O

GREBES

___ Pied-billed Grebe**	W	M	O
___ Horned Grebe	W	M	O
___ Red-necked Grebe	W	M	R

CORMORANTS

___ Double-Crested Cormorant	W	M	R
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HERONS & BITTERNS

___ American Bittern*	W	M,S	O
___ Least Bittern* (N)	W	S,M	O
___ Great Blue Heron**	W	P	O
___ Great Egret	W	S	O
___ Snowy Egret	W	V	R
___ Little Blue Heron* (N)	W	V	R
___ Cattle Egret	F,W	V,E	R
___ Green Heron	W	S	C
___ Black-crowned Night Heron**	W	M	O
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron**	W	M	R

WATERFOWL

___ Tundra Swan	W	M	O
___ Mute Swan	W	V,E	O
___ Snow Goose	W	M	R
___ Canada Goose	W,F	P	C
___ Wood Duck	W	S	C
___ Green-winged Teal**	W	M,S	O
___ American Black Duck	W	P	C
___ Mallard	W	P	C
___ Northern Pintail (N)	W	M	O
___ Blue-winged Teal**	W	M,S	O
___ Northern Shoveler	W	M	O
___ Gadwall	W	M	O
___ American Wigeon	W	M	C
___ Canvasback	W	M	O
___ Redhead	W	M	C
___ Ring-necked Duck	W	M	C
___ Greater Scaup	W	M	R
___ Lesser Scaup	W	M	C
___ Oldsquaw	W	M,W	R
___ Black Scoter	W	M	R
___ Surf Scoter	W	M	R
___ White-winged Scoter	W	M	O
___ Common Goldeneye	W	M	C
___ Bufflehead	W	M	O
___ Hooded Merganser**	W	M,S	O
___ Common Merganser	W	M	R
___ Red-breasted Merganser	W	M	O
___ Ruddy Duck	W	M	O

	Habitat	Status	Abundance
VULTURES			
___ Black Vulture**	G	S	O
___ Turkey Vulture	G	S	C
EAGLES & HAWKS			
___ Osprey** (N)	W	M,S	R
___ Bald Eagle**	H,W	S	R
___ Northern Harrier**	W	M,S	O
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	H,S	P	O
___ Cooper's Hawk	H,E	P	O
___ Northern Goshawk*	H,S	P	R
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	H	S	O
___ Broad-winged Hawk (N)	H	S,M	O
___ Red-tailed Hawk	E,F	P	C
___ Rough-legged Hawk	E,F	M,W	R
___ Golden Eagle**	M,G	M	R
FALCONS			
___ American Kestrel	E,F	P	C
___ Merlin* (N)	M,S	M	R
___ Peregrine Falcon* (N)	M	M,S	R
GAMEBIRDS			
___ Ring-necked Pheasant	F,E	P,E	O
___ Ruffed Grouse	H	P	C
___ Wild Turkey	H,F	P	C
___ Northern Bobwhite	F	P	O
RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS			
___ King Rail*	W	M	R
___ Virginia Rail*	W	M,S	R
___ Sora*	W	M,S	R
___ Common Moorhen* (N)	W	M	R
___ American Coot*	W	M	O
PLOVERS			
___ Black-bellied Plover (N)	W	M	R
___ American Golden Plover (N)	W	M	R
___ Semipalmated Plover	W	M	R
___ Killdeer	F,W	P	C
SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES			
___ Greater Yellowlegs	W	M	O
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	W	M	O
___ Solitary Sandpiper	W	M	R
___ Spotted Sandpiper	W	S,M	O
___ Upland Sandpiper* (N)	F	S,M	R
___ Marbled Godwit* (N)	W	M	R
___ Ruddy Turnstone (N)	W	M	R
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper (N)	W	M	C
___ Western Sandpiper (N)	W	M	R
___ Least Sandpiper (N)	W	M	O
___ White-rumped Sandpiper (N)	W	M	R
___ Baird's Sandpiper (N)	W	M	R

	Habitat	Status	Abundance
___ Pectoral Sandpiper (N)	W	M	O
___ Dunlin	W	M	R
___ Stilt Sandpiper (N)	W	M	R
___ Short-billed Dowitcher (N)	W	M	R
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	W	M	R
___ Common Snipe**	W	M,S	O
___ American Woodcock	W,T	M,S	O
___ Wilson's Phalarope (N)	W	V	R
___ Red-necked Phalarope (N)	W	V	R
GULLS & TERNS			
___ Laughing Gull*	W	M	R
___ Franklin's Gull* (N)	W	M	R
___ Bonaparte's Gull	W	M	C
___ Ring-billed Gull	W	M	C
___ Herring Gull	W	M,W	O
___ Caspian Tern	W	M	O
___ Common Tern (N)	W	M	R
___ Black Tern (N)	W	M	R
___ Forster's Tern* (N)	W	M	R
DOVES			
___ Rock Dove	M,R	P,E	C
___ Mourning Dove	F,R	P	C
CUCKOOS			
___ Black-billed Cuckoo (N)	H	S,M	O
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo (N)	H,T,E	S,M	C
OWLS			
___ Common Barn Owl*	E,F	P	R
___ Eastern Screech Owl	H,E	P	C
___ Great Horned Owl	H,E	P	C
___ Snowy Owl	F	W	R
___ Barred Owl	H	P	C
___ Long-eared Owl*	P	P	R
___ Short-eared Owl*	F,W	M	R
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl*	S,P,H	P	R
GOATSUCKERS			
___ Common Nighthawk (N)	F,R,M	S,M	O
___ Chuck Will's Widow* (N)	H,P	S	R
___ Whip-poor-will (N)	H,E	S,M	O
SWIFTS			
___ Chimney Swift (N)	R,F	S,M	C
HUMMINGBIRDS			
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird (N)	E,R	S,M	C
KINGFISHERS			
___ Belted Kingfisher (N)	W	P	C

	Habitat	Status	Abundance
WOODPECKERS			
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	H,E	P	R
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker	H	P	C
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**	H,S	P	R
___ Downy Woodpecker	H,E	P	C
___ Hairy Woodpecker	P,H,S	P	C
___ Northern Flicker	H,S	S,M	C
___ Pileated Woodpecker	H	P	C

FLYCATCHERS

___ Olive-sided Flycatcher* (N)	S	S	R
___ Eastern Wood-pewee (N)	H	S	C
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher* (N)	S	S,M	R
___ Acadian Flycatcher (N)	H	S	C
___ Alder Flycatcher (N)	T,W	S	O
___ Willow Flycatcher (N)	T,W	S	O
___ Least Flycatcher (N)	H,E	S	O
___ Eastern Phoebe (N)	E,M	S	C
___ Great Crested Flycatcher (N)	H	S	C
___ Eastern Kingbird (N)	E,F	S	C

LARKS

___ Horned Lark	F	P	O
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SWALLOWS

___ Purple Martin (N)	R,F	M,S	C
___ Tree Swallow (N)	H,E	M,S	C
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow (N)	E,W,F	M,S	C
___ Bank Swallow (N)	W	M	R
___ Cliff Swallow** (N)	F	S,M	O
___ Barn Swallow (N)	F	S	C

JAYS & CROWS

___ Blue Jay	H,R	P	C
___ American Crow	H,F,E	P	C
___ Fish Crow**	H,W	P	R
___ Common Raven**	H,S,M	P	O

CHICKADEES & TITMICE

___ Black-capped Chickadee	H,P,S	P	C
___ Carolina Chickadee	H,P	P	C
___ Tufted Titmouse	H,P	P	C

NUTHATCHES

___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	S,H	P	O
___ White-breasted Nuthatch	H	P	C

CREEPERS

___ Brown Creeper	H,S	P	O
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WRENS

___ Carolina Wren	H,R	P	C
___ Bewick's Wren*	F	S	R

	Habitat	Status	Abundance
___ House Wren	F,T,R	S	C
___ Winter Wren	S,H	P	O
___ Sedge Wren*	F,W	S	R
___ Marsh Wren*	W	S,M	R

KINGLETS & GNATCATCHERS

___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	S,H	P	O
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	H	M,W	O
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (N)	H	S	C

THRUSHES

___ Eastern Bluebird	F,E	P	C
___ Veery (N)	H,S	S,M	O
___ Grey-cheeked Thrush (N)	S	M	R
___ Swainson's Thrush (N)	S	M,S	O
___ Hermit Thrush (N)	S,H	S,M	O
___ Wood Thrush (N)	H	S	C
___ American Robin	G	P	C

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS

___ Gray Catbird (N)	H,T	S	C
___ Northern Mockingbird	T,F	P	C
___ Brown Thrasher	T,F	S	C

PIPITS

___ American Pipit*	W	M	O
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WAXWINGS

___ Cedar Waxwing	F,T	P	C
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SHRIKES

___ Loggerhead Shrike*	F,T	S	R
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STARLINGS

___ European Starling	G	P,E	C
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VIREOS

___ White-eyed Vireo (N)	T,E	S	C
___ Solitary Vireo (N)	H,S	S	O
___ Yellow-throated Vireo (N)	H	S	C
___ Warbling Vireo (N)	H	S	O
___ Philadelphia Vireo (N)	H,E	M	R
___ Red-eyed Vireo (N)	H	S	C

WOOD WARBLERS

___ Blue-winged Warbler (N)	H,T	S	C
___ Golden-winged Warbler** (N)	H,T	S	O
___ Brewster's Warbler—Hybrid* (N)	H,T	S	R
___ Lawrence's Warbler—Hybrid* (N)	H,T	S	R
___ Tennessee Warbler (N)	G	M	C
___ Orange-crowned Warbler (N)	H,S	M	R
___ Nashville Warbler** (N)	E,W	M,S	O

Habitat Status Abundance

___ Northern Parula (N)	H	S	C
___ Yellow Warbler (N)	E,T	S	C
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler (N)	F,T	S,M	C
___ Magnolia Warbler (N)	T,S	S,M	O
___ Cape May Warbler (N)	G	M	O
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler (N)	S,H	S,M	C
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler** (N)	S,T	M,S	O
___ Black-throated Green Warbler (N)	H	S,M	C
___ Blackburnian Warbler (N)	S,H	S,M	O
___ Yellow-throated Warbler (N)	H	S	C
___ Pine Warbler (N)	P	S	O
___ Prairie Warbler (N)	H,T	S	C
___ Palm Warbler (N)	F	M	R
___ Bay-breasted Warbler (N)	G	M	O
___ Blackpoll Warbler (N)	G	M	O
___ Cerulean Warbler** (N)	H	S	C
___ Black and White Warbler (N)	H	S,M	C
___ American Redstart (N)	H	S,M	C
___ Prothonotary Warbler** (N)	W,H	S	R
___ Worm-eating Warbler (N)	H	S	C
___ Swainson's Warbler* (N)	H,T	S	R
___ Ovenbird (N)	H	S	C
___ Northern Waterthrush (N)	W,S	S,M	O
___ Louisiana Waterthrush (N)	H,W	S	C
___ Kentucky Warbler (N)	H	S	C
___ Connecticut Warbler (N)	T	M	R
___ Mourning Warbler (N)	S,H,T	S	O
___ Common Yellowthroat (N)	T,F	S	C
___ Hooded Warbler (N)	H	S	C
___ Wilson's Warbler (N)	G	M	O
___ Canada Warbler (N)	H,S,T	S	O
___ Yellow-breasted Chat (N)	T	S	C

TANAGERS

___ Summer Tanager** (N)	H	S	C
___ Scarlet Tanager** (N)	H	S	C

CARDINALS & GROSBEAKS

___ Northern Cardinal	F,T,R	P	C
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak (N)	H	S	O
___ Blue Grosbeak (N)	F,T	S	O
___ Indigo Bunting (N)	E	S	C
___ Dickcissel* (N)	F	M,S	R

TOWHEES & SPARROWS

___ Rufous-sided Towhee	H,F	P	C
___ Bachman's Sparrow*	F	S	R
___ American Tree Sparrow	F	W	O
___ Chipping Sparrow	R,E,T	S	C
___ Field Sparrow	E,F	S	C
___ Vesper Sparrow	F	S,M	O
___ Lark Sparrow*	F	S	R
___ Savannah Sparrow	F	S	O

Habitat Status Abundance

___ Grasshopper Sparrow*	F	S	O
___ Henslow's Sparrow*	F	S	R
___ Fox Sparrow	F,T	W,M	O
___ Song Sparrow	F,T,R	P	C
___ Lincoln's Sparrow*	T	M	R
___ Swamp Sparrow*	W	P	O
___ White-throated Sparrow**	F,T,W	W,M,S	O
___ White-crowned Sparrow	P,H	W,M	O
___ Harris' Sparrow	E	W	R
___ Dark-eyed Junco	S,H,E	P	C

BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES

___ Bobolink** (N)	F	M,S	O
___ Red-winged Blackbird	F,W	P	C
___ Eastern Meadowlark	F	P	C
___ Rusty Blackbird	T,W	M,W	O
___ Common Grackle	F,R	S,M	C
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	H	P	C
___ Orchard Oriole (N)	F,H	S	O
___ Baltimore Oriole (N)	F,R	S	C

FINCHES

___ Pine Grosbeak**	H	W	R
___ Purple Finch	S,H	P	O
___ House Finch	R	P	C
___ Red Crossbill*	S,P	W,S	O
___ White-winged Crossbill*	S	W	O
___ Common Redpoll	T	V	O
___ Pine Siskin**	H,S	W,M,S	O
___ American Goldfinch	E,F,R	P	C
___ Evening Grosbeak	S,H,R	V	O

WEAVER FINCHES

___ House Sparrow	R,F	P,E	C
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POTENTIAL ACCIDENTAL VISITANTS

Please report all sightings of the following accidentals:

- ☐ American White Pelican
- ☐ White Ibis
- ☐ Glossy Ibis
- ☐ Wood Stork
- ☐ Black-bellied Whistling Duck
- ☐ Greater White-fronted Goose
- ☐ Ross' Goose
- ☐ Yellow Rail
- ☐ Sandhill Crane
- ☐ Piping Plover
- ☐ American Avocet (N)
- ☐ Black-necked Stilt (N)
- ☐ Willet
- ☐ Sanderling
- ☐ Whimbrel (N)
- ☐ Hudsonian Godwit (N)
- ☐ Buff-breasted Sandpiper (N)
- ☐ Red Phalarope (N)
- ☐ Parasitic Jaeger (N)
- ☐ Great Black-backed Gull
- ☐ Sabine's Gull
- ☐ Rufous Hummingbird
- ☐ Ash-throated Flycatcher
- ☐ Western Kingbird (N)
- ☐ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (N)
- ☐ Boreal Chickadee
- ☐ Bohemian Waxwing
- ☐ Varied Thrush
- ☐ Northern Shrike
- ☐ Sutton's Warbler-Hybrid
- ☐ Kirtland's Warbler (N)
- ☐ Clay-colored Sparrow
- ☐ Lapland Longspur
- ☐ Smith's Longspur
- ☐ Snow Bunting
- ☐ Western Meadowlark
- ☐ Yellow-headed Blackbird
- ☐ Brewer's Blackbird

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, services, programs, and employment opportunities to all persons without regard to sex, race, age, religion, national origin or ancestry, disability, or other protected group status.