



Checklist of the
Birds of New York City

This checklist includes species that can be seen in the five boroughs and adjoining waters. Meant as a tool for birders, it provides a relative measure of seeing a specific species when birding in an appropriate habitat in New York City. Assessing relative abundance is tricky: some species are common in one location because their preferred habitat is available, but they are not found nearby because that habitat is not present. For example, a species that may be common in Jamaica Bay because it prefers saltmarsh, may not be found in the uplands of Prospect Park.

Species not included in the list because they have been seen only once or twice include Pacific Loon, Magnificent Frigatebird, Wood Stork, Sandhill Crane, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Wilson's Plover, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank, Sooty Tern, Cave Swallow, Sage Thrasher, Townsend's Solitaire, Townsend's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Lark Bunting, and Painted Bunting. Nesting indicators are not provided for species that have not nested since the 1970s.

Seasonal Occurrence

W	Winter	December–February (nonbreeding season, including some fall and spring migrants)
Sp	Spring	March–May (breeding and migration)
S	Summer	June–mid-July (breeding and postbreeding, including dispersal)
EF	Early Fall	mid-July–mid-September (southbound, postbreeding migration)
LF	Late Fall	mid-September–November (migration)

Relative Abundance and Status

c	common	easily seen; more than 12 individuals per day in season in habitat
f	fairly common	usually seen; 3–12 individuals per day in season in habitat
u	uncommon	seen, but in small numbers; 1–3 per day in season in habitat
s	scarce	seen in habitat, but not daily
r	rare	seen, but only a few times per season
vr	very rare	not seen every season
i	introduced	not native to North America/an alien species
p	pelagic	Atlantic Ocean off of New York City, not normally or only rarely seen from shore
?		nesting unconfirmed
*		nests within city limits
**		formerly nested within city limits

✓	✓	✓	Species	W	Sp	S	EF	LF
			Loons to Cormorants					
			Red-throated Loon	u				f
			Common Loon	u	u		r	f
			Pied-billed Grebe*	u	s	r	f	u
			Horned Grebe	u	s			u
			Red-necked Grebe	vr	vr			
			Eared Grebe		vr		vr	vr
			Northern Fulmar (p)					
			Cory's Shearwater (p)					
			Greater Shearwater (p)					
			Sooty Shearwater (p)					
			Wilson's Storm-Petrel (p)				vr	
			Leach's Storm-Petrel (p)					
			Northern Gannet (p)	u	c		s	f-c
			American White Pelican		vr			
			Brown Pelican			vr	vr	
			Double-crested Cormorant*	f	c	c	c	c
			Great Cormorant	f-u	u-s			u
			Bitterns to Vultures					
			American Bittern**	r	r		vr	r
			Least Bittern*			vr		
			Great Blue Heron	s	u	u	f	f
			Great Egret*	r	c	c	f	u
			Snowy Egret*	vr	c	c	c	u
			Little Blue Heron*		r	r	r	vr
			Tricolored Heron*		r	s	r	
			Cattle Egret*		u	u	u	
			Green Heron*		u	u	u	
			Black-crowned Night-Heron*	s	c	c	f	s
			Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*		u	u	u	
			Glossy Ibis*		f	c	c	
			White-faced Ibis		vr	vr		
			Black Vulture		vr			vr
			Turkey Vulture	s	u	u	s	u
			Waterfowl					
			Greater White-fronted Goose	vr				
			Snow Goose	s				f
			Canada Goose*	c	c	c	c	c
			Brant	c	c			c
			Mute Swan* (i)	c	c	c	c	c
			Tundra Swan	r				r
			Wood Duck*	s	u	u	u	s
			Gadwall*	f	f	f	f	f
			Eurasian Wigeon	vr				vr
			American Wigeon**	f	u	vr	c	f
			American Black Duck*	c	c	u	u	c
			Mallard*	c	c	c	c	c
			Blue-winged Teal*	r	r	r	u	s
			Northern Shoveler*	f	u	s	f	c
			Northern Pintail**	u			u	c
			Green-winged Teal**	f	f	s	u	c
			Canvasback	f	r		r	u
			Redhead	r			r	r

✓	✓	✓	Species	W	Sp	S	EF	LF
			Ring-necked Duck	s	s	vr	r	u
			Tufted Duck	vr				vr
			Greater Scaup	c	f		u	f
			Lesser Scaup	f	s		f	f
			King Eider	vr				vr
			Common Eider	vr			r	
			Harlequin Duck	r			r	
			Surf Scoter	u			u	u
			White-winged Scoter	r				u
			Black Scoter	r			r	f
			Long-tailed Duck	f	u		u	f
			Bufflehead	c	c		s	c
			Common Goldeneye	f	s		s	u
			Barrow's Goldeneye	vr				vr
			Hooded Merganser	f	f		u	f
			Common Merganser	u	r		s	u
			Red-breasted Merganser	c	f			c
			Ruddy Duck*	c	c	u	u	c
			Diurnal Raptors					
			Osprey*		u	u	f	u
			Swallow-tailed Kite		vr			
			Mississippi Kite		vr		vr	
			Bald Eagle	r	r		u	s
			Northern Harrier*	u	u	s	u	f
			Sharp-shinned Hawk	u	u		u	f
			Cooper's Hawk*?	s	u		s	u
			Northern Goshawk	vr			vr	vr
			Red-shouldered Hawk**	r	s		s	u
			Broad-winged Hawk*		u	s	f	u
			Red-tailed Hawk*	f	f	u	f	f
			Rough-legged Hawk	s	r			r
			Golden Eagle					vr
			American Kestrel*	f	u	s	f	f
			Merlin	r	r		s	u
			Peregrine Falcon*	s	s	s	s	u
			Gyrfalcon	vr				vr
			Pheasant to Rails					
			Ring-necked Pheasant* (i)	s	s	s	s	s
			Wild Turkey*	s	s	s	s	s
			Northern Bobwhite*	r	r	r	r	r
			Clapper Rail*	r	u	f	u	r
			King Rail**					
			Virginia Rail*	r	u	u	s	r
			Sora	vr	s	s	s	vr
			Purple Gallinule					vr
			Common Moorhen*		u	f		
			American Coot*	u	f	f	f	f
			Shorebirds					
			Black-bellied Plover	r	c	s	c	f
			American Golden-Plover	vr	vr	vr	s	vr
			Semipalmated Plover		c		c	s
			Piping Plover*		u	u	u	
			Killdeer*	s	u	f	f	s

✓	✓	✓	Species	W	Sp	S	EF	LF
			American Oystercatcher*	r	f	f	f	f
			Black-necked Stilt		vr	vr		
			American Avocet			vr	vr	
			Greater Yellowlegs	r	f	f	c	f
			Lesser Yellowlegs		f	u	c	u
			Solitary Sandpiper		s	r	s	
			Willet*	vr	c	c	f	r
			Spotted Sandpiper*		f	f	f	s
			Upland Sandpiper*		r	r	s	
			Whimbrel		u	s	u	
			Hudsonian Godwit		s		u	
			Marbled Godwit		s		u	
			Ruddy Turnstone	s	c	f	c	f
			Red Knot	r	f		f	s
			Sanderling	c	c	s	c	c
			Semipalmated Sandpiper		c	s	c	r
			Western Sandpiper		u		f	r
			Red-necked Stint					vr
			Little Stint					vr
			Least Sandpiper		c	s	c	
			White-rumped Sandpiper		u		u	
			Baird's Sandpiper		r		r	
			Pectoral Sandpiper		u		u	r
			Purple Sandpiper	f			f	
			Dunlin	c	c		f	c
			Curlew Sandpiper		vr		vr	
			Stilt Sandpiper		u		u	
			Buff-breasted Sandpiper		r		r	
			Ruff		vr		vr	
			Short-billed Dowitcher		f		c	u
			Long-billed Dowitcher	vr	r		s	r
			Common Snipe		u		u	u
			American Woodcock*	r	f	s	f	u
			Wilson's Phalarope		r		r	
			Red-necked Phalarope					vr
			Red Phalarope (p)					
			Jaegers to Alcids					
			Pomarine Jaeger (p)		r		r	r
			Parasitic Jaeger (p)					
			Laughing Gull*	r	c	c	c	u
			Little Gull	r				
			Black-headed Gull	r				
			Bonaparte's Gull	c	f			f
			Ring-billed Gull	c	c	c	c	c
			Herring Gull*	c	c	c	c	c
			Iceland Gull	r				
			Lesser Black-backed Gull	r				r
			Glaucous Gull	vr				
			Great Black-backed Gull*	c	c	c	c	c
			Sabine's Gull(p)					vr
			Black-legged Kittiwake (p)	r	r			r
			Gull-billed Tern		s	r		
			Caspian Tern				s	s

✓	✓	✓	Species	W	Sp	S	EF	LF
			Royal Tern				s	s
			Sandwich Tern			vr		
			Roseate Tern		r	s	s	
			Common Tern*		c	c	c	s
			Arctic Tern			vr	vr	
			Forster's Tern*		c	c	c	s
			Least Tern*		u	f	f	s
			Black Tern			r	r	
			Black Skimmer**		f	c	c	
			Dovekie (p)					
			Common Murre (p)					
			Thick-billed Murre (p)					
			Razorbill (p)					
			Atlantic Puffin (p)					
			Pigeons to Owls to Woodpeckers					
			Rock Pigeon* (i)		c	c	c	c
			Mourning Dove*		c	c	c	c
			Monk Parakeet*(i)		u	u	u	u
			Black-billed Cuckoo*			s	s	r
			Yellow-billed Cuckoo*			s	vr	s
			Barn Owl*		s	s	s	s
			Eastern Screech-Owl*		s	s	s	s
			Great Horned Owl*		u	u	u	u
			Snowy Owl		r			r
			Barred Owl		vr	r		r
			Long-eared Owl		r			vr
			Short-eared Owl**		r	r		r
			Northern Saw-whet Owl		r			r
			Common Nighthawk*		s	f	f	r
			Chuck-will's-widow		r			
			Whip-poor-will		r			
			Chimney Swift*		f	c	f	s
			Ruby-throated Hummingbird		u	u	u	r
			Belted Kingfisher*?		s	u	u	u
			Red-headed Woodpecker		r	r		r
			Red-bellied Woodpecker*		u	u	u	u
			Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		s	u		u
			Downy Woodpecker*		f	f	f	f
			Hairy Woodpecker*		s	s	s	s
			Northern Flicker*		u	f	f	f
			Pileated Woodpecker		r	vr		
			Flycatchers					
			Olive-sided Flycatcher		s		s	
			Eastern Wood-Pewee*		u	s	f	
			Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		s		s	
			Acadian Flycatcher		s			
			Alder Flycatcher		s		s	
			Willow Flycatcher*		f	f	f	
			Least Flycatcher		u		u	
			Eastern Phoebe*		f	r	f	f
			Ash-throated Flycatcher					vr
			Great Crested Flycatcher*		s	s	s	
			Western Kingbird		vr	vr		r

✓	✓	✓	Species	W	Sp	S	EF	LF
			Eastern Kingbird*		f	f	c	
			Shrikes to Vireos to Wrens					
			Loggerhead Shrike		vr			vr
			Northern Shrike		vr			
			White-eyed Vireo*		vr	u	u	s
			Yellow-throated Vireo			s	s	
			Blue-headed Vireo		vr	u		u
			Warbling Vireo*			u	u	u
			Philadelphia Vireo			r	r	
			Red-eyed Vireo*			c	r	s
			Blue Jay*		c	c	c	c
			American Crow*		c	c	c	c
			Fish Crow*		u	c	c	f
			Horned Lark*		u	f	s	u
			Purple Martin*			s	s	
			Tree Swallow*		s	c	c	c
			Northern Rough-winged Swallow*			u	f	f
			Bank Swallow			s		s
			Cliff Swallow			s		s
			Barn Swallow*			c	c	s
			Black-capped Chickadee*		f	f	f	f
			Tufted Titmouse*		f	f	f	f
			Red-breasted Nuthatch		f	f		f
			White-breasted Nuthatch*		f	f	f	f
			Brown Creeper			s		s
			Carolina Wren*		u	u	u	u
			House Wren*			f	u	r
			Winter Wren		r	s		s
			Sedge Wren					r
			Marsh Wren*		s	f	f	s
			Kinglets to Thrushes to Waxwings					
			Golden-crowned Kinglet		s	f		c
			Ruby-crowned Kinglet		s	f		c
			Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*			u	r	u
			Eastern Bluebird**			r	r	r
			Veery*?			u	r	u
			Gray-cheeked Thrush			r		r
			Bicknell's Thrush			r		vr
			Swainson's Thrush			u		r
			Hermit Thrush		u	u		u
			Wood Thrush*		vr	u	s	r
			American Robin*		u	c	c	c
			Varied Thrush		vr			
			Gray Catbird*		r	c	c	u
			Northern Mockingbird*		f	f	f	f
			Brown Thrasher*		r	u	u	u
			European Starling*(i)		c	c	c	c
			American Pipit		vr			s
			Cedar Waxwing*		u	f	f	f
			Warblers					
			Blue-winged Warbler*?			u	s	u
			Golden-winged Warbler			r	r	
			Tennessee Warbler			u		r

✓	✓	✓	Species	W	Sp	S	EF	LF
			Orange-crowned Warbler		r	r		r
			Nashville Warbler		vr	u		s
			Northern Parula			f		f
			Yellow Warbler*			f	f	f
			Chestnut-sided Warbler			u		s
			Magnolia Warbler			u		s
			Cape May Warbler			u		s
			Black-throated Blue Warbler			f		u
			Yellow-rumped Warbler		u		c	c
			Black-throated Green Warbler			f		s
			Blackburnian Warbler			u		s
			Yellow-throated Warbler			r		r
			Pine Warbler			u		u
			Prairie Warbler		vr	u		u
			Palm Warbler		r	f		f
			Bay-breasted Warbler			s		s
			Blackpoll Warbler			f		s
			Cerulean Warbler		r			
			Black-and-white Warbler		f	f		
			American Redstart*			c	r	u
			Prothonotary Warbler			r		
			Worm-eating Warbler			r		r
			Ovenbird**			f		u
			Northern Waterthrush			u		u
			Louisiana Waterthrush			r		r
			Kentucky Warbler			r		vr
			Connecticut Warbler			r		r
			Mourning Warbler			r		s
			Common Yellowthroat*			f	f	u
			Hooded Warbler			s		r
			Wilson's Warbler			u		s
			Canada Warbler			f		f
			Yellow-breasted Chat*		vr	r	r	r
			Tanagers to Sparrows to Grosbeaks					
			Summer Tanager			r		
			Scarlet Tanager*			u	s	u
			Eastern Towhee*		s	f	c	c
			American Tree Sparrow		f	u		u
			Chipping Sparrow*		r	u	u	f
			Clay-colored Sparrow					r
			Field Sparrow*		s	u	u	u
			Vesper Sparrow			r	vr	r
			Lark Sparrow		r			vr
			Savannah Sparrow*		u	f	u	c
			Grasshopper Sparrow**			r	r	r
			Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow* u			u	u	f
			Seaside Sparrow*		r	s	s	s
			Fox Sparrow		s	u		
			Song Sparrow*		c	c	c	c
			Lincoln's Sparrow			r		r
			Swamp Sparrow*		u	f	f	c
			White-throated Sparrow			c		c
			White-crowned Sparrow			r	u	u


✓	✓	✓	Species	W	Sp	S	EF	LF
			Dark-eyed Junco		c			s
			Lapland Longspur		vr			
			Snow Bunting		u			u
			Northern Cardinal*		f	f	f	f
			Rose-breasted Grosbeak*			u	r	s
			Blue Grosbeak*			r	r	r
			Indigo Bunting*			s	u	s
			Dickcissel		vr	r		r
			Blackbirds and Grackles to Orioles, Finches, and Old World Sparrows					
			Bobolink			u		s
			Red-winged Blackbird*		u	c	c	c
			Eastern Meadowlark*		s	f	s	f
			Yellow-headed Blackbird					vr
			Rusty Blackbird			f	f	u
			Brewer's Blackbird			u		u
			Common Grackle*		u	c	c	c
			Boat-tailed Grackle*		f	f	f	f
			Brown-headed Cowbird*		f	c	f	c
			Orchard Oriole*			r	r	r
			Baltimore Oriole*		vr	f	f	r
			Purple Finch			r	s	s
			House Finch*		c	c	c	c
			Red Crossbill			r		r
			White-winged Crossbill			r		r
			Common Redpoll			r		r
			Pine Siskin			s		s
			American Goldfinch*		u	f	f	f
			Evening Grosbeak			r		r
			House Sparrow*(i)		c	c	c	c

Checklist reviewers: Ronald V. Bourque, Peter Joost, David S. Künstler, Peter Rhoades Mott, Norman I. Stotz, Don Riepe, and Steve Walter

New York City Audubon is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1979 that celebrates, protects and conserves birds and their habitat in New York City.

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