

Birds of the Patuxent River—Jug Bay Area



The Jug Bay area on the Patuxent River provides some of the most outstanding birding to be found in Maryland. The National Audubon Society designated Jug Bay a “Nationally Important Bird Area” because of its high numbers and diversity of birds. This valuable region contains a variety of habitats: open water, tidal freshwater marshes and mudflats, shrub-scrub swamps, forested uplands, and open fields. The Jug Bay area includes the Patuxent River Park and Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary in Prince George’s County, the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in Anne Arundel County and is a component of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Maryland.

More than 300 species have been identified with over 100 confirmed as nesting. Known for its highly productive freshwater tidal marshes, Jug Bay attracts large concentrations of waterfowl and marsh birds and provides a critical stopover for many neo-tropical migrants.

Staff and volunteers combined resources to produce this checklist. Additional species not included are always possible. Please record all nesting and any new sightings at either visitor center’s bird sightings list.

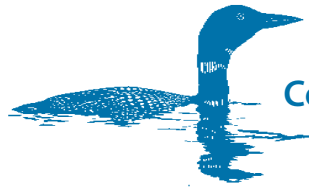
List Coding

Most birds are migratory, therefore their occurrence is coded by season:

- (s) Spring March–May
- (S) Summer June–August
- (F) Fall September–November
- (W) Winter December–February

Relative Abundance:

- (*) Nesting has been confirmed in the area.
- (a) Abundant—very numerous species.
- (c) Common—present in suitable habitat.
- (u) Uncommon—present, not always seen.
- (o) Occasional—only a few sightings/season.
- (r) Rare—seen every two to five years.
- (X) Recorded sighting but very rare.



Loons, Grebes, Cormorant, Herons, and Ibises

	s	S	F	W
___ Red-throated Loon	r		r	r
___ Common Loon.....	o	X	o	o
___ Horned Grebe.....	u		u	o
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	c	o	c	u
___ Red-necked Grebe	X			X
___ Eared Grebe	X			
___ American White Pelican	X	X		X
___ Brown Pelican.....				X
___ Great Cormorant			X	
___ Double-crested Cormorant.....	c	u	c	o
___ Least Bittern*	u	u	u	
___ American Bittern	u	o	o	
___ Black-crowned Night Heron	o	o	o	o
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron	r	r	r	
___ Green Heron*	u	u	c	
___ Tricolored Heron	r	r	o	
___ Little Blue Heron.....	o	o	o	
___ Cattle Egret	o		o	
___ Snowy Egret	o	o	u	

s S F W

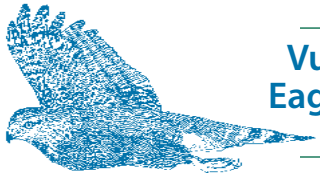
___ Great Egret.....	u	c	a	r
___ Great Blue Heron*	c	c	c	c
___ Wood Stork.....			X	
___ Glossy Ibis.....	u	r	o	
___ White Ibis.....	X	X		



Swans, Geese, and Ducks

s S F W

___ Tundra Swan.....	c		c	u
___ Mute Swan	o	o	o	o
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	X			X
___ Ross’s Goose				r
___ Snow Goose (white & blue).....	o		o	o
___ Canada Goose*	c	u	a	a
___ Cackling Goose.....	r		r	r
___ Black-bellied Whistling Duck				X
___ Fulvous Whistling Duck.....			X	X
___ Wood Duck*	a	a	a	o
___ Mallard*	a	c	a	a
___ American Black Duck*	a	o	a	a
___ Gadwall	u		u	o
___ Green-winged Teal.....	c		a	u
___ American Wigeon.....	u		u	o
___ Eurasian Wigeon.....	X			X
___ Northern Pintail.....	u		c	u
___ Northern Shoveler	u		u	o
___ Blue-winged Teal*	c	o	c	
___ Canvasback	o		o	o
___ Redhead.....	r		r	r
___ Ring-necked Duck	o		u	o
___ Greater Scaup	o		o	o
___ Lesser Scaup.....	o		u	o
___ Surf Scoter.....				X
___ Black Scoter				X
___ White-winged Scoter.....			X	
___ Long-tailed Duck.....	o			o
___ Common Goldeneye	o		o	o
___ Bufflehead	u	r	u	o
___ Common Merganser	c		o	c
___ Red-breasted Merganser.....	u		o	o
___ Hooded Merganser	u		o	o
___ Ruddy Duck.....	u		u	u



Vultures, Hawks, Eagles, Bobwhite, and Rails

	s	S	F	W
___ Turkey Vulture*	c	c	c	c
___ Black Vulture*	c	c	c	c
___ Osprey*	c	c	u	
___ Mississippi Kite	X		X	
___ Northern Harrier	u	r	u	c
___ Golden Eagle				X
___ Bald Eagle*	u	u	u	c
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk.....			c	u
___ Cooper's Hawk*	u	o	c	u
___ Northern Goshawk.....	r		r	
___ Broad-winged Hawk*	o	r	o	
___ Red-shouldered Hawk*	c	u	u	c
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	c	u	c	c
___ Rough-legged Hawk.....		r	o	
___ American Kestrel*.....	u	u	u	c
___ Merlin	o	o	o	
___ Peregrine Falcon	r	o	r	
___ Ring-necked Pheasant.....			X	
___ Wild Turkey*	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Bobwhite*	o	o	o	o
___ Limpkin.....	X		X	
___ King Rail*	r	r	u	u
___ Clapper Rail.....	X			
___ Virginia Rail*	o	o	c	o
___ Sora	u	r	a	o
___ Yellow Rail			X	
___ Black Rail	X		X	
___ Purple Gallinule		X		
___ Common Moorhen*	o	o	u	
___ American Coot.....	u	r	u	u
___ Sandhill Crane.....	X			X



Plovers, Snipe, and Sandpipers

	s	S	F	W
___ Black-bellied Plover.....	o		o	r
___ American Golden Plover			X	
___ Semipalmated Plover.....	u	o	o	
___ Killdeer*	c	c	c	u
___ American Avocet	X		X	
___ Black-necked Stilt	X		X	
___ Willet	X		X	
___ Hudsonian Godwit			X	
___ Greater Yellowlegs.....	c	r	c	r
___ Lesser Yellowlegs.....	c	r	u	X
___ Solitary Sandpiper.....	u	o	u	
___ Spotted Sandpiper.....	c	u	c	
___ Upland Sandpiper			X	
___ Ruddy Turnstone	X		X	
___ Red Knot	X			
___ Sanderling.....	X		X	
___ Dunlin	u		u	o
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper.....	o		u	o
___ Western Sandpiper.....	r		o	
___ Least Sandpiper	o	o	u	
___ White-rumped Sandpiper.....	r		r	
___ Baird's Sandpiper.....			X	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper.....	o		o	
___ Ruff.....			X	
___ Stilt Sandpiper	X		X	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher			X	
___ Short-billed Dowitcher.....	r		r	
___ American Woodcock*	c	c	c	u
___ Common Snipe	c	X	c	c
___ Wilson's Phalarope.....			X	
___ Red Phalarope			X	
___ Red-necked Phalarope			X	



Gulls, Terns, Doves, Cuckoos, Owls, and Nighthawks

	s	S	F	W
___ Franklin's Gull			X	
___ Laughing Gull.....	c	u	c	o
___ Bonaparte's Gull	u		o	r

s S F W

___ Black-headed Gull				X
___ Ring-billed Gull.....	a	u	a	a
___ Herring Gull	a	o	c	a
___ Glaucous Gull.....				X
___ Thayers' Gull.....				X
___ Iceland Gull.....				X
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull	o		o	u
___ Great Black-backed Gull	u		u	c
___ Royal Tern.....	r		r	X
___ Caspian Tern.....	u	o	u	
___ Forster's Tern	c	o	c	r
___ Common Tern.....	r	r	r	
___ Least Tern.....	r		r	
___ Black Tern	o		o	
___ Bridled Tern.....			X	
___ Black Skimmer	X	X	X	
___ Rock Dove*	u	u	u	u
___ Mourning Dove*	a	a	a	a
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*.....	c	c	c	
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	r	X	r	
___ Barn Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Short-eared Owl.....	r		X	X
___ Long-eared Owl				X
___ Great Horned Owl*	c	c	c	c
___ Barred Owl*	c	c	c	c
___ Eastern Screech Owl*	o	o	o	o
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl	r		u	u
___ Common Nighthawk.....	u	r	u	
___ Chuck-will's Widow.....	r	X	r	
___ Whip-poor-will*	o	o	o	
___ Chimney Swift*	c	c	a	



Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Vireos, and Shrike

	s	S	F	W
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	c	c	c	
___ Belted Kingfisher*	c	c	c	u
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*.....	o	o	o	o
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___ Northern Flicker*.....	c	u	c	c

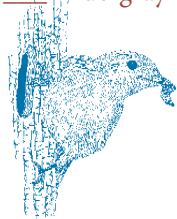
	s	S	F	W
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		c	u
___ Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___ Hairy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Pileated Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	X			
___ Eastern Wood Pewee*	c	c	c	
___ Acadian Flycatcher*	c	c	u	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		r		
___ Alder Flycatcher	o	r		
___ Willow Flycatcher	o	r	o	
___ Least Flycatcher	o	r	u	
___ Eastern Phoebe*	c	c	c	o
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	c	c	u	
___ Gray Kingbird.....			X	
___ Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	c	
___ Western Kingbird.....			X	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.....		X		
___ Loggerhead Shrike		X	X	
___ White-eyed Vireo*	c	c	u	X
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*	u	u	u	
___ Blue-headed Vireo	o	u		
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	a	a	a	
___ Philadelphia Vireo	r	o		
___ Warbling Vireo	o	o		



**Jay, Crows, Lark,
Swallows, Titmouse,
Nuthatches, Wrens,
Kinglets, and Gnatcatcher**

	s	S	F	W
___ Blue Jay*	a	c	a	a
___ Common Raven			X	
___ American Crow*	a	a	a	a
___ Fish Crow*	c	c	c	c
___ Horned Lark*	u	r	r	o
___ Tree Swallow*	a	c	a	
___ Purple Martin*	u	u	u	
___ Bank Swallow*	o	u	o	
___ Cliff Swallow*	o	r	o	

	s	S	F	W
___ Cave Swallow				X
___ Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	o	
___ Barn Swallow*	a	a	a	
___ Tufted Titmouse*	a	a	a	a
___ Black-capped Chickadee			r	
___ Carolina Chickadee*	a	a	a	a
___ Brown Creeper	o	u	u	
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	c	u	c	c
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	o	o	o	
___ House Wren*	u	r	u	X
___ Winter Wren	o	u	u	
___ Carolina Wren*	a	a	a	a
___ Marsh Wren*	c	c	u	o
___ Sedge Wren			X	
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	u	u	u	
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u	c	u	
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	c	u	



**Mimids,
Thrushes, Pipit,
and Waxwing**

	s	S	F	W
___ Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	u
___ Wood Thrush*	a	a	a	
___ Veery	u	X	u	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush.....	u	u		
___ Bicknell's Thrush.....	r	r		
___ Swainson's Thrush.....	c	c		
___ Hermit Thrush.....	u	c	c	
___ American Robin*	a	a	a	c
___ Gray Catbird*	c	u	a	o
___ Northern Mockingbird*	a	a	a	a
___ Brown Thrasher*	c	c	c	u
___ European Starling*	c	c	c	a
___ American Pipit	o	u	u	
___ Cedar Waxwing*	c	u	u	c



Warblers and Tanagers

	s	S	F	W
___ Prothonotary Warbler*	u	u	u	
___ Blue-winged Warbler.....	o	o		
___ Golden-winged Warbler.....	r	r		
___ Tennessee Warbler	u	u		
___ Orange-crowned Warbler.....			X	
___ Nashville Warbler.....	o	u		
___ Northern Parula Warbler*	c	c	c	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	u	u		
___ Cape May Warbler	u	u		
___ Magnolia Warbler	u	c		
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	c	c	u	
___ Black and White Warbler*	c	u	c	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	u	c		
___ Cerulean Warbler.....	r	r		
___ Blackburnian Warbler	o	o		
___ Black-throated Green Warbler.....	u	u		
___ Yellow-throated Warbler*	u	u	u	
___ Prairie Warbler*	c	u	c	
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	o	o		
___ Blackpoll Warbler.....	c	X	u	
___ Pine Warbler*	u	u	u	r
___ Palm Warbler	u	c	r	
___ Yellow Warbler*	c	u	u	
___ Mourning Warbler.....	o	o		
___ Connecticut Warbler		o		
___ Kentucky Warbler*	u	o	u	
___ Canada Warbler	u	o	u	
___ Wilson's Warbler	o	o		
___ Hooded Warbler*	u	u	u	
___ Worm-eating Warbler*	u	o	u	
___ Ovenbird*	c	c	c	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush*	c	u	r	
___ Northern Waterthrush	u	o	u	
___ Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	u
___ Yellow-breasted Chat*	c	u	u	X
___ American Redstart*	c	u	c	
___ Summer Tanager*	u	u	o	
___ Scarlet Tanager*	c	c	c	



**Sparrows,
Grosbeaks,
Buntings, and Blackbirds**

	s	S	F	W
___ Eastern Towhee*	c	c	c	u
___ American Tree Sparrow.....	o		o	u
___ Field Sparrow*	c	c	c	u
___ Chipping Sparrow*	c	c	c	r
___ Lark Sparrow	X			X
___ Grasshopper Sparrow*	u	u	u	X
___ Sharp-tailed Sparrow	X		X	
___ Seaside Sparrow	r			
___ Fox Sparrow	r		u	u
___ Savannah Sparrow	u		c	u
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	r		u	X
___ Song Sparrow*	c	u	a	c
___ Vesper Sparrow	r	r	r	
___ Swamp Sparrow.....	c	X	c	u
___ Harris's Sparrow				X
___ White-throated Sparrow	a		a	a
___ White-crowned Sparrow	o		u	o
___ Dark-eyed Junco	a		u	a
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	u		u	
___ Northern Cardinal*	a	a	a	a
___ Dickcissel		X	X	
___ Blue Grosbeak*	c	c	c	
___ Indigo Bunting*	a	a	a	
___ Bobolink.....	o	r	u	
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	u	o	u	o
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird.....				X
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	a	a	a	a
___ Common Grackle*	a	a	a	c
___ Brewer's Blackbird.....				X
___ Rusty Blackbird	u		u	u
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	u	c	u
___ Orchard Oriole*	c	c	o	

	s	S	F	W
___ Baltimore Oriole*	u	u	u	r
___ Purple Finch	u		o	u
___ House Finch*	c	c	c	c
___ Red Crossbill.....	r			r
___ White-winged Crossbill				r
___ Pine Siskin.....	o		o	o
___ American Goldfinch*	c	c	c	c
___ Common Redpoll	X			r
___ Evening Grosbeak.....	r		r	r
___ House Sparrow*	u	u	u	u
___ Lapland Longspur.....				r

**Chesapeake Bay
National Estuarine
Research Reserve—MD**

*A program of the Maryland Department
of Natural Resources.*



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Patuxent River Park

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Bird Checklist of the Patuxent River



**Jug Bay
Area**