



THE BIRDS OF DUTCHESS COUNTY, N.Y.

A REFERENCE GUIDE

RALPH T. WATERMAN BIRD CLUB
FOUNDED 1958



Created by Stan DeOrsey (jsmd@att.net) – 7th edition, August 2020

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BIRDING ETHICS


- Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger. Exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, or sound recording. Avoid the use of flash photography.
- Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and **never** use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area. Do not play bird song recordings during nesting season at all.
- Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites.
- Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission. Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas.
- Keep feeding dispensers of water and food clean and free of decay and disease. Maintain and clean nest boxes or structures regularly.
- If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation by cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards especially windows.
- Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.
- Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as those of people participating in other activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.
- If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.
- Support the protection of bird and their habitats.


Adapted from the ABA


DEFINITION OF SYMBOLS

Bar graphs show status by month for each bird species regularly found in Dutchess County. All have been reported since 2010 except Upland Sandpiper (2001) and Barn Owl (2001).

 **ABUNDANT:** widespread and easily found in proper habitat in large numbers.

 **COMMON:** widespread and easily found in proper habitat in smaller numbers.


 **UNCOMMON:** widespread in very small numbers or common only in very limited habitat.

 **IRREGULAR:** not reported every year or very small numbers in very limited habitat.

V **Variable** or erratic winter abundance, many some years, few or none others. See page 12.

Arrow shows population trend based *only* on the May Census and Christmas / Waterfowl Counts since 2010: ↑ increasing, ↓ decreasing, ↔ stable

N **Nocturnal**, usually *heard* or active at night or dusk, crepuscular.

 Identification usually requires hearing song or call.

- Hudson Valley species of greatest conservation need. Ref. NYS DEC *Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy*, updated Sept. 2015.

BREEDS: shading bounds earliest date of first egg to latest date of last fledged including multiple broods. Confirmed at least once since 2000. Shading design indicates *usual* location of nest:



mid to high in trees



bushes or low trees



tree cavity or nest box



manmade structures



on or near ground, marsh vegetation, or burrow



Colonial Nesting in dense or loose colonies.

<S> **Sporadic** breeding, perhaps once per decade.

CURRENT STATUS

HISTORY

Change in Dutchess County status since 1840, but may have been present in the Colonial period:

[x DECADE] **eXpanded** to county during the DECADE, earlier sightings considered accidental.

<YEAR First YEAR known to have regularly bred, YEAR> Last YEAR known to have bred.

(I) **Introduced** by man, *non-native* species.

(R) **Reintroduced** or **Released** *native* species.

Hab. identifies **habitats** in which the species is *most likely* to occur in Dutchess County.

L LAKES, ponds, or creeks

H primarily on **HUDSON** River

S SHORES of lakes and creeks, or mud flats

M MARSHES, bogs, or swamps

O OPEN fields, pastures, or meadows

B BRUSHY fields, forest edges, or thickets

R RESIDENTIAL areas, towns, or feeders

F FORESTS, wood lots, orchards, or groves

Fc primarily **CONIFEROUS** growth

Fd primarily **DECIDUOUS** growth

▲ *usually high* in forest trees

▼ *usually low* in trees or on the ground
no high / low symbol, at any height

A AERIAL, often seen high overhead

Species within Order or Family migrate *mainly* by day *, at night ►, or both ►* at times continuously.

The **Neotropical Migrants** which migrate between N.Y. and Central / South America usually follow:

¹ – Atlantic Ocean direct (in fall),

² – West Indies and Caribbean Sea by Florida,

³ – trans-Gulf of Mexico chiefly by Yucatan,

⁴ – circum-Gulf of Mexico by land.

For those species which migrate through or winter in New York State, most individuals nest in:

^A – Arctic tundra,

^B – Boreal (Taiga) forests and lakes.

© – indicates **circumpolar** or **Holarctic** species, those also *native* to parts of Europe or Asia.

Double lines (==) separate Orders, single lines (—) separate Families, left margin lines (|) group Genus.

Sequence and names follow AOS *Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th edition thru supplement 61.

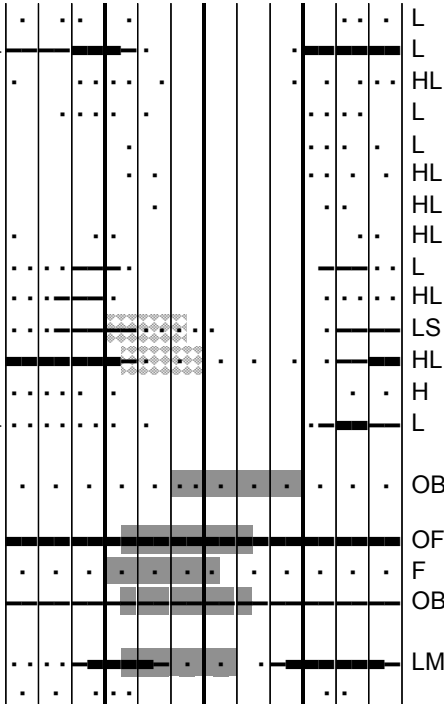
Redhead	.....
Ring-necked Duck ^B	..... [x1920s]	↔
• Greater Scaup ^B ©	.....
• Lesser Scaup ^B	.....
• Surf Scoter ^B	.....
• White-winged Scoter ^B	.....
• Black Scoter ^B	.....
• Long-tailed Duck ^A ©	.....
Bufflehead ^B	.....
• Common Goldeneye ^B ©	.....
Hooded Merganser	..... <1970	↑
Common Merganser ^B ©	..... <2002	↑
Red-breasted Merganser ^B ©	.....
• Ruddy Duck	.....	↔

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

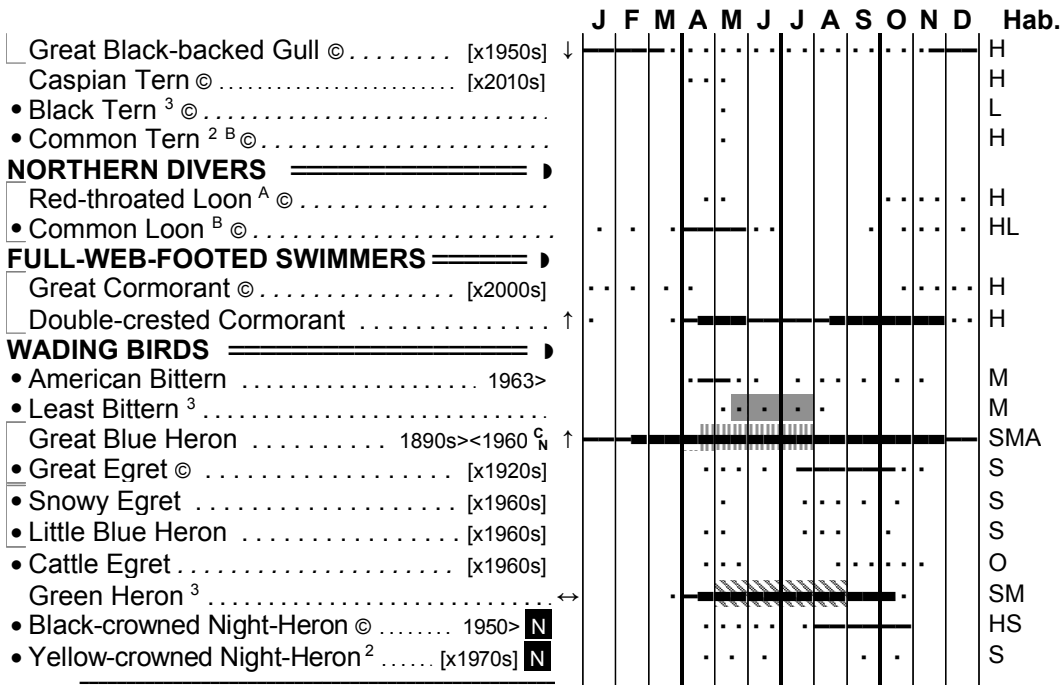
• Northern Bobwhite	..... 1930s>(R)<1950s	
	————— <i>Bobwhite & Pheasant are not self-sustaining</i>	
Wild Turkey	..... by1840s>(R)<1974	↓
• Ruffed Grouse	.....	↓
Ring-necked Pheasant	..... (I)<by1920	↓

GREBES

• Pied-billed Grebe	.....
• Horned Grebe ^B ©	.....



[illegible]



- Glossy Ibis [x1970s]

NEW WORLD VULTURES

- Black Vulture [x1990s]<2002 ↑

- Turkey Vulture [x1930]<by1992 ↑

DIURNAL RAPTORS

- Osprey ² © 1923><2016 ↔

- Golden Eagle ^B © A

- Northern Harrier ^B 1956> ↓

- Sharp-shinned Hawk 1930s><2002 ↓

- Cooper's Hawk ↑

- Northern Goshawk © <1968

- Bald Eagle ^B by1921>(R)<1999 ↑

- Red-shouldered Hawk ↑

- Broad-winged Hawk ⁴ <by1922 ↔

- Red-tailed Hawk ↔

- Rough-legged Hawk ^A © O

NOCTURNAL RAPTORS

- Barn Owl © [x1910s]<1916-1980> N

- Eastern Screech-Owl N ↔

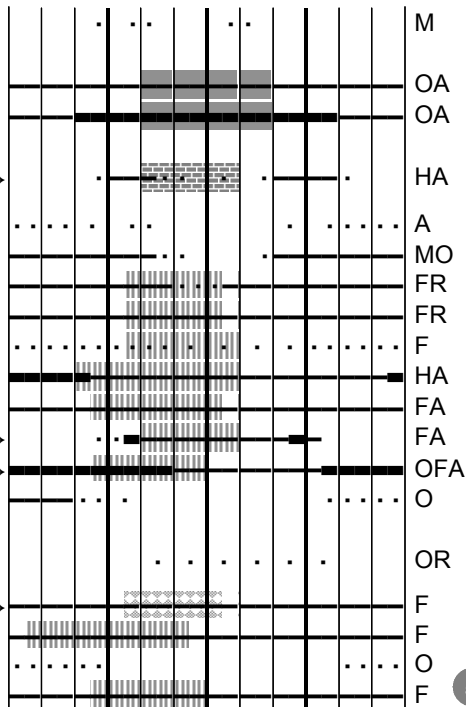
- Great Horned Owl N ↓

- Snowy Owl ^A © V

- Barred Owl N ↑

ACCIPITERS

BUTEOS



Hawks generally first soar after 10AM.



- Long-eared Owl © 1974> **N**
- Short-eared Owl ^B © **N**
- Northern Saw-whet Owl **N**

KINGFISHERS

- Belted Kingfisher ↔

CLIMBING BIRDS

- Red-headed Woodpecker ↑
- Red-bellied Woodpecker [x1960s]<1973 ↑
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker ^B <1994 ▶ ↑
- Downy Woodpecker ↔
- Hairy Woodpecker ↔
- Northern Flicker ▶ ↔
- Pileated Woodpecker by1890><1940s ↑

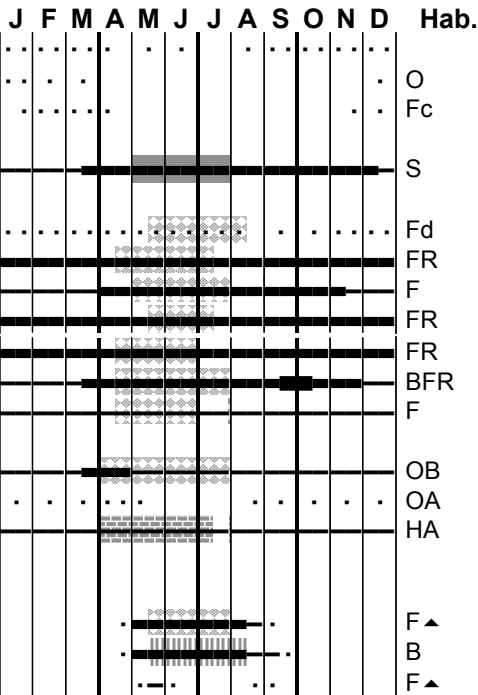
FALCONS

- American Kestrel ↔
- Merlin ^B ©
- Peregrine Falcon © 1933>(R)<1994 ↔

PERCHING BIRDS

Tyrant Flycatchers

- Great Crested Flycatcher ³ ↔
- Eastern Kingbird ³ * ↔
- Olive-sided Flycatcher ⁴ ^B



Hairy's bill is the length of its head, Downy's is half the length.

Eastern Wood-Pewee³ ↑
 ♪ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher^{4 B}
 ♪ Acadian Flycatcher⁴ by1920><1973
 ♪ Alder Flycatcher^{4 B} 1931><1980
 ♪ Willow Flycatcher⁴ [x1940s]<by1959 ↑
 ♪ Least Flycatcher^{4 B} ↔

Eastern Phoebe ↑

Shrikes ▸

Northern Shrike^{B ©} ▽

Vireos ▸

White-eyed Vireo 1950><1980 ↑

Yellow-throated Vireo³ ↑

Blue-headed Vireo <1922 ↔

Philadelphia Vireo^{3 B} ↑

Warbling Vireo³ ↑

Red-eyed Vireo³ ↑

Jays and Crows *

Blue Jay ↔

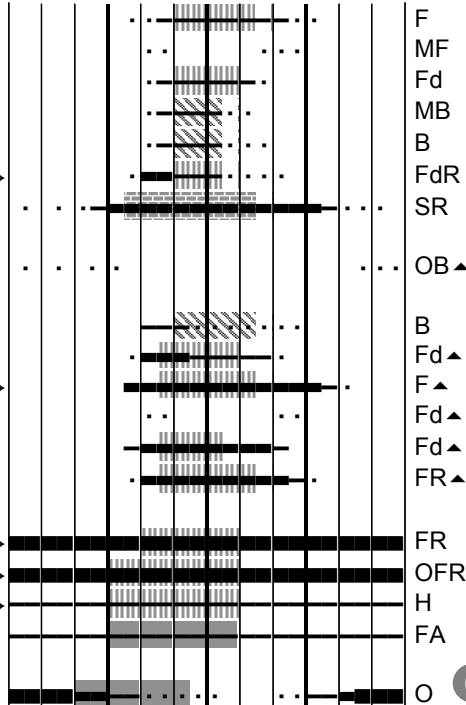
American Crow ↔

♪ Fish Crow [xby1900]<by1989 ↔

Common Raven © [x1980s]<1996 ↑

Larks ▸

• Horned Lark © <1900 ↓





		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Hab.
Swallows														
Bank Swallow ⁴ ©	..... C _N ↔													SO
Tree Swallow	..... <1921 ↑													LO
N. Rough-winged Swallow ⁴ . . .	[x1900s]<1916 ↔													LO
Purple Martin ³	C _N ↔													O
Barn Swallow ³ ©	..... C _N ↔													OR
Cliff Swallow ³	C _N ↑													OR
Chickadees														
Black-capped Chickadee	..... ↔													FR
Tufted Titmouse	..... [x1950s]<1960 ↔													FR
Nuthatches														
Red-breasted Nuthatch	..... <1975 V ▶ ↔													FcR
White-breasted Nuthatch	..... ↑													FR
Treecreepers														
Brown Creeper	..... <by1958 ↔													F
Wrens														
House Wren	..... ↑													BR ▼
Winter Wren	..... <by1981 ↔													SFc ▼
Marsh Wren	..... C _N ↔													M
Carolina Wren	..... [x1950s]<1975 ↑													BR
Gnatcatchers														
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	..... [x1950s]<by1980 ↔													BS

An unknown vocal bird will be a Titmouse more often than not.



Kinglets

Golden-crowned Kinglet^B <S><1975 ↔

Ruby-crowned Kinglet^B ↔

Thrushes

Eastern Bluebird ↔

Veery³ ↔

Gray-cheeked Thrush^{2B} ↔

Swainson's Thrush^{3B} ↔

Hermit Thrush^B <by1924 ↔

• Wood Thrush³ ↔

American Robin *

Mimics

Gray Catbird ↔

• Brown Thrasher ↔

Northern Mockingbird [x1950s]<1961 ↓

Starlings

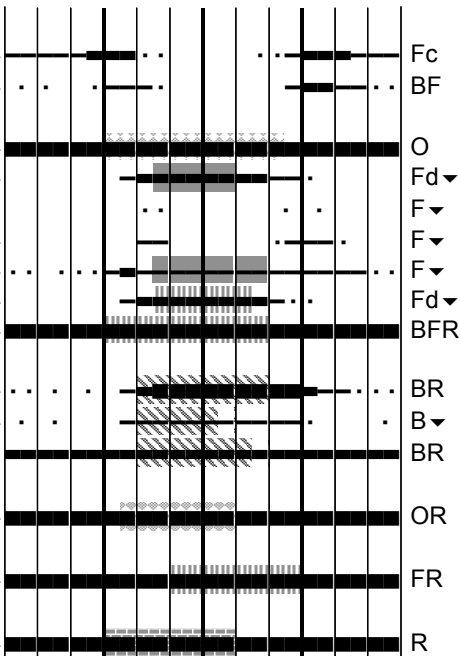
European Starling © (I)[x1900s]<by1914 ↔

Waxwings





Cedar Waxwing *

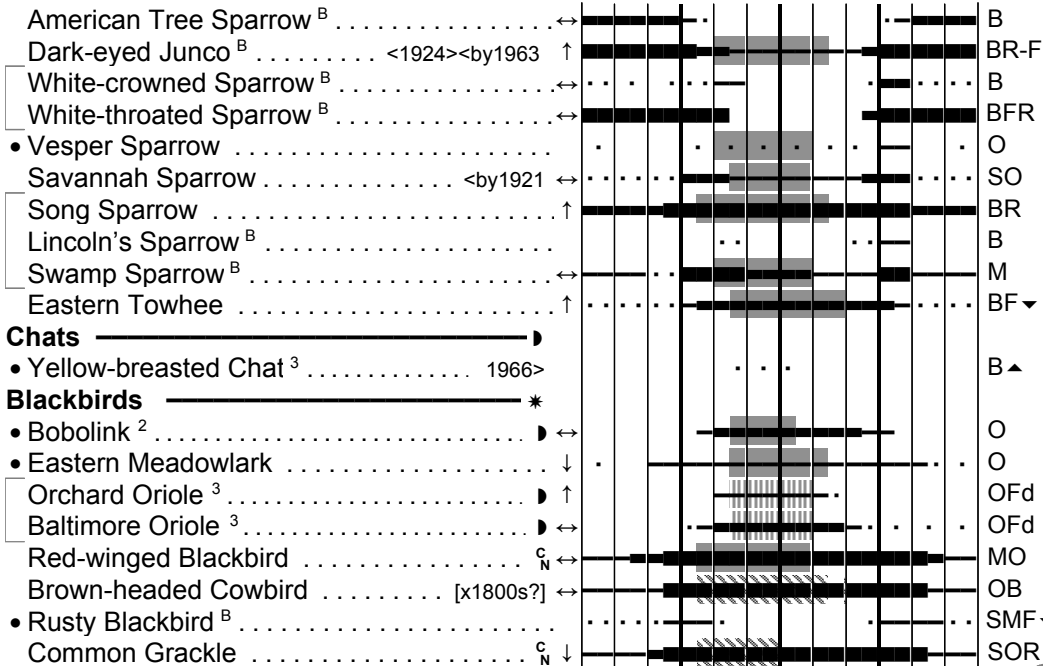
Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow © (I)<c.1865 ↔





	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Hab.
Pipits 													
American Pipit ^A					■	■	.	O
True Finches  *													
Evening Grosbeak [x1920s]<1962> V	.	.	.	■	.					.	■	.	FR
Pine Grosbeak ^B © V	F
House Finch (I)[x1960s]<1965 ↓	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	R
Purple Finch <by1959 ↔	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	F
Common Redpoll ^B © V	■	■	■	■							■	■	BFR
Red Crossbill © V	Fc▲
White-winged Crossbill ^B © V	Fc▲
Pine Siskin V	■	■	■	■	■	■				■	■	■	FR
American Goldfinch ↔	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	OBR
Longspurs 													
Lapland Longspur ^A © V	O
Snow Bunting ^A © V	■	■	.							.	■	■	O
Sparrows 													
• Grasshopper Sparrow				O
Chipping Sparrow ↔	.	.	.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	.	.	OR
Clay-colored Sparrow ⁴ [x2010s]				OB
Field Sparrow ↑	.	.	.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	.	.	OB
Fox Sparrow ^B	■	■	■	■	.						■	■	B



Wood-Warblers

Ovenbird ³ ↑

- Worm-eating Warbler ³ [x1880s]<1901 ↑

- Louisiana Waterthrush ³ [x1870s]<by1880 ↑

Northern Waterthrush ³ <by1977 ↔

- Golden-winged Warbler ³ [x1850s]<by1880s-1985>

- Blue-winged Warbler ³ [x1910s]<1920 ↔

Brewster's Warbler (HYBRID)

Lawrence's Warbler (HYBRID)

Black-and-white Warbler ³↔

- Prothonotary Warbler ³ [x1950s]

Tennessee Warbler^{3B}↔Orange-crowned Warbler^B

Nashville Warbler ³ B 1950s> ↔

Connecticut Warbler ^{2B}Mourning Warbler ^{4 B}

- Kentucky Warbler ³ [x1960s]<1981.2008>

Common Yellowthroat ³ ↑

Hooded Warbler ³ _____ ↑

American Redstart³ ↑

• Cape May Warbler ^{2B}

J F M A M J J A S O N D Hab.

Fd▼

F▼

SF ▼

MF▼

B

B

B

B

F

MF▼

BF

B

BF ▼

MB ▲

B ▼

BF▼

MB

Fd▼

Fd

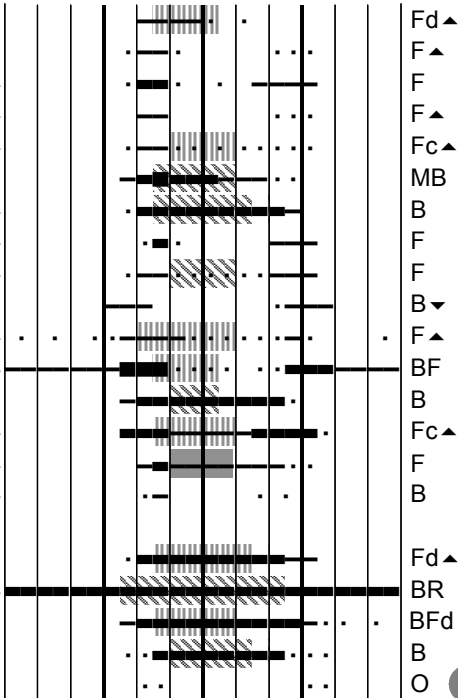
F▲



- Cerulean Warbler ³ [x1920s]<1922 ↓
- Northern Parula ³ <2002> ↑
- Magnolia Warbler ^{3 B} ↔
- Bay-breasted Warbler ^{3 B} ↔
- Blackburnian Warbler ³ <by1959 ↔
- Yellow Warbler ³ ↑
- Chestnut-sided Warbler ^{3 B} ↔
- Blackpoll Warbler ^{2-1 B} ↔
- Black-throated Blue Warbler ² <1920 ↔
- Palm Warbler ^B ↔
- Pine Warbler <1925-32><2001 ↔
- Yellow-rumped Warbler ^B <S><1982 ↔
- Prairie Warbler ² [x1910s]<1924 ^C_N ↓
- Black-throated Green Warbler ³ ↔
- Canada Warbler ^{4 B} <1920 ↔
- Wilson's Warbler ^{4 B} ↔

Grosbeaks

- Scarlet Tanager ³ ↑
- Northern Cardinal [x1940s]<1949 ↔
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak ³ ↑
- Indigo Bunting ⁴ ↑
- Dickcissel ³ [x1950s]



CASUAL AND ACCIDENTAL SPECIES

CASUAL - out of range yet expected again:

- ① breeds in region including spring overshoots and post-breeding dispersal, ② winters in region or occasional invader, ③ migration route variances

ACCIDENTAL - far out of range and not expected:

- ④ known to wander, often great distances,
⑤ disrupted by ocean storms, ⑥ errant migrant.

E if **EXTIRPATED**, † formerly occurred regularly.

Number of sightings, *not individuals*, since 1950.

Species confirmed at least once via:

- S – specimen (S_L or P_L if lost)
P – photo (in *Birds of Dutchess County*, 2019 ed.)
M – identified by more than three people
N – NYSARC acceptance
G – grandfathered

Date of most recent sighting.

○ 1 day ● 2 to 7 days • over 7 days —x over 30 days. Longer shown if overlap.

			J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
④ Fulvous Whistling-Duck ...	N	1 M				○									April 1981
⑥ Ross's Goose ^A		1 M			●										March 1983
③ Barnacle Goose ©		3 P	○	●								●			March 2007
② Eurasian Wigeon		4 M			○	○						○		○	March 2010
⑥ Tufted Duck		1 P			●										March 2009
④ King Eider ^A ©		1 P												○	Dec. 2017
④ Common Eider ^A ©		1 P										●			Oct. 1979
② Barrow's Goldeneye ©		3 M			●										March 1994
④ Eared Grebe ©		2 M				○								○	April 1972
④ Rufous Hummingbird ⁴		1 P										●	—x		Oct.-Dec. 2012



			J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
⑥ Clapper Rail	1 S									○					Aug. 2004
③ King Rail †	10+ M				○ ○ ●			○			○				May 1990
③ Yellow Rail ^B	N 1 N										○				Sept. 1992
④ American Avocet	1 P									○					Aug. 2013
③ Hudsonian Godwit ^{4-1 A}	3 P									○			● ●		Nov. 2016
③ Marbled Godwit	1 P							●							June 1979
③ Ruddy Turnstone ^A ©	2 G							○			●				Sept. 2008
③ Stilt Sandpiper ^{3 A}	2 P									●	●				Aug. 2017
③ Sanderling ^A ©	4 M								●	○	○	○			Sept. 2019
③ Baird's Sandpiper ^{4 A}	5 SP						●				● ●				Sept. 2016
③ White-rumped Sandpiper ^{3-1 A}	2 P							○					●		June 1979
③ Buff-breasted Sandpiper ^{3 A}	3 P									●		● ○			Sept. 2015
③ Willet	3 M				○ ○								○		Oct. 1990
③ Wilson's Phalarope	4 M				● ○ ○										June 1989
③ Red-necked Phalarope ^{1 A} ©	1 P _L									●					Aug. 1970
③ Red Phalarope ^A ©	4 P					○						● ○			Oct. 2016
⑥ Atlantic Puffin ©	1 SPG											○			Sept. 1963
③ Black-legged Kittiwake ^A ©	4 G										○		○ ○		Nov. 1997
④ Slaty-backed Gull	1 P	○													Jan. 2012
⑤ Sooty Tern	1 P										●				Sept. 1979
① Forster's Tern	6 P				● ○					○	○		●		May 2016
⑤ Manx Shearwater	1 P									○					Aug. 2013



			J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
6	Northern Gannet ©	2 P										○	●		Oct. 1986
4	American White Pelican	5 P	○					●	○	●					May 2019
1	Tricolored Heron	3 P				○	●								April 2019
4	White Ibis	1 P							●						July 2017
4	White-tailed Kite	1 M					●								April 1983
2	Black-backed Woodpecker ^B	6 PL	●	●	—	●	—	x				○	●	—	Nov. 1977
2	Gyr Falcon ^A ©	4 P	●	●	—	○	—	x						○	Jan. 1993
4	Western Kingbird ⁴	7 M								○	○	●	○	○	Dec. 2007
E	Loggerhead Shrike †. [x1870s]	10+ SP	○	●	○	○	○	○			●	○	○	○	Feb. 1992
2	Canada Jay ^B	5 P	●	—	—	—	—	x ¹				●	●	—	Nov.-May 1976
2	Boreal Chickadee ^B †	10+ SP		○	●							○	●	○	Nov. 1983
3	Sedge Wren †	5 P						○	●	●					Sept. 2012
6	Northern Wheatear ^A ©	1 M										●			Sept. 1981
4	Mountain Bluebird	2 P	—	x		●								●	Dec.-Jan. 1999
4	Townsend's Solitaire	4 SP	●	—	●								○		Nov. 2013
2	Bohemian Waxwing ^B ©	5 M	○			○							○	●	Jan. 2005
6	Brambling	1 P			●										March 1984
2	Hoary Redpoll ^A ©	5 P	●	○	—	●								○	Dec. 2012
6	Chestnut-collared Longspur	1 N											○		Nov. 1968
4	Lark Sparrow	6 P		●	○	—	x	○		●		○	●		Aug. 2014
6	Lark Bunting	1 M						●							May 1970
4	Harris's Sparrow ^A	3 P	●	—	x ²	—	x ¹					●		●	Dec.-Feb. 1982



			J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
⑥	LeConte's Sparrow ^B	.....	1	P								•			Oct. 2011
③	Nelson's Sparrow	.....	4	P				○				○	•		Oct. 2011
E	Henslow's Sparrow †	1940s>	10+	M			•	○		○		○			Oct. 1965
④	Yellow-headed Blackbird	...	8	P _L	○	○	○	•		○	•			○	Dec. 2012
⑥	Western Meadowlark	<1962>	2	S				•							June 1962
①	Yellow-throated Warbler ²	...	8	M			•	○			○				May 2002
⑥	Townsend's Warbler ⁴	.....	1	M			•								April 1965
①	Summer Tanager ³	.....	4	P	•			x	○						Jan.-April 2020
⑥	Black-headed Grosbeak	....	2	P	•			x	○						May 2013
①	Blue Grosbeak ³	.....	9	M				○	•				•		May 2018
④	Painted Bunting ²	.....	1	N						○					Aug. 1992

Hypothetical and exotic species are omitted. Be aware that escaped domestic or hunt club fowl, plus exotic pet birds, are increasingly encountered.

This Guide is based on records collected continuously since 1885 plus censuses each May from 1919 and most Decembers from 1901. For full details see *The Birds of Dutchess County*, DeOrsey and Butler, revised 2019; digital copy on club website.

HISTORICAL

most recent sighting before 1950

Passenger Pigeon †	EXTINCT	M	Fall 1885
Thick-billed Murre ^A ©	..	S _L	Dec. 1897
Red Knot ^{1A} ©	.....	G	July 1922
Long-tailed Jaeger ^{1A} ©		S _L	Sept. 1929
Dovekie ^A ©	.....	S _L	Dec. 1932
Bicknell's Thrush	.....	S _L	Sept. 1940?

253 species occur regularly; 71 are casual, accidental, or historical; 139 have bred since 2000.

SUBSPECIES – LUMPING AND SPLITTING (selected changes since 1973)

1 - “always” a subspecies; 2 - subspecies, was a species; 3 - species, was a subspecies; 4 - other

1	Prairie Horned Lark	resident and breeds in county, one of many subspecies of Horned Lark
1	Northern Horned Lark	found in winter in county, subspecies of Horned Lark
1	Purple Grackle	regularly breeding in county, subspecies of Common Grackle
1	Bronze Grackle	regularly migrate through county, may breed, subspecies of Common Grackle
1	Yellow Palm Warbler	regularly occurring in county, subspecies of Palm Warbler
1	Western Palm Warbler	occur during spring and fall migration, subspecies of P alm Warbler
2	Eurasian Teal	1 rec., Mar-Apr 2019, photo, Green-winged Teal is subspecies of Eurasian Teal
2	Yellow-shafted Flicker	combined with Red-shafted Flicker to form Northern Flicker
2	Slate-colored Junco	combined with four western Junco species to form Dark-eyed Junco
2	Oregon Junco	4 confirmed records, last Dec.-Apr. 2014 photo, subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco
2	Myrtle Warbler	combined with Audubon’s Warbler to form Yellow-rumped Warbler
2	Audubon’s Warbler	1 record, Feb. 5-9, 1976, photo, subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler
3	Cackling Goose	formed by four subspecies split from Canada Goose
3	Common Gallinule	American species split from Eurasian species of (Common) Moorhen
3	Wilson’s Snipe	American species split from Eurasian species of (Common) Snipe
3	Willow + Alder Flycatchers	Traill’s Flycatcher split to form these two species
3	Blue-headed Vireo	Solitary Vireo split to form Blue-headed and two western species
3	American Pipit	American species split from Eurasian species of Water Pipit
3	Eastern Towhee	Rufous-sided Towhee split to form Eastern Towhee and Spotted Towhee
4	Blue Goose	previously a species, now a morph (phase) of Snow Goose, occasionally seen
4	Northern Red-tailed Hawk	unofficial subspecies of Red-tailed Hawk, occurs in county in winter
4	Northern Oriole	Baltimore and Bullock’s Orioles combined as Northern Oriole then split back

IRRUPTIVE SPECIES IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

In a winter with extreme cold or low food supply, large numbers of northern birds migrate well south of their normal winter range. Some are in flocks, others solitary, and they seldom remain in one area.

SPECIES	INDIVIDUALS PER SIGHTING	IRRUPTIVE YEARS SINCE 2010										COMMENT
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Snowy Owl	1		•	•	•				•	•		nearly always found for one day
Black-backed Woodpecker	1											last Nov. 1977, few recent irruptions in East
Gyr Falcon	1											last Jan. 1993, usually further north
Northern Shrike	1	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		expected most years
Canada Jay	1											last May 1976, minimally irruptive
Boreal Chickadee	1 or 2											last Nov. 1983, minimally irruptive
Red-breasted Nuthatch	20 to 50+											some resident, last large irruption 1989
Bohemian Waxwing	1											last Jan. 2005, usually further north
Evening Grosbeak	1 to 20	•	•	•						•		wide spread in Dutchess in years shown
Pine Grosbeak	4 to 10	•										Dutchess is south of usual irruptions
Common Redpoll	1 to 50+	•		•		•				•		erratic, often in large flocks
Hoary Redpoll	1			•								usually with Common Redpolls
Red Crossbill	2 to 30			•								wanders more than others
White-winged Crossbill	1 to 3	•		•				•				wanders more than others
Pine Siskin	1 to 75	•	•	•		•	•	•		•		erratic, often with American Goldfinch
Lapland Longspur	1, occ. 2-3	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	a few expected most years
Snow Bunting	1 to 200	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	very large flocks are infrequent

One winter season is from October of the year shown to April of the next year. Some isolated sightings are omitted.

SELECTED BIRD SONG MNEMONICS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - *kulp, kulp, kulp*; guttural, hard
 Black-billed Cuckoo - *cu, cu, cu, cu*
 Red-shouldered Hawk - *keeya, keeya*; clear and loud
 Great Horned Owl - *hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo*
 Barred Owl - *who cooks for you, who cooks for you-all*
 Olive-sided Flycatcher - *quick, three beers*
 Acadian Flycatcher - *PIZZA*, loud
 Alder Flycatcher - *fee-BEE-o* (end up) [A points up]
 Willow Flycatcher - *FITZ-bew* (end down)[W pts down]
 Least Flycatcher - *che-BEK, che-BEK*
 Great Crested Flycatcher - *weep*
 Yellow-throated Vireo - *three-eight*, repeated
 Warbling Vireo - *when I see you I will squeeze you
and I'll squeeze you till you squirt*
 Red-eyed Vireo - *here I am, over here, at the top,
look up*; repeated continually
 Blue-headed Vireo - like Red-eyed but with pauses
 Tufted Titmouse - *peter, peter, peter*; one of many
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - thin, wheezy
 Veery - like a spinning penny slowing down
 Brown Thrasher - repeats each phrase twice

American Goldfinch - *per-chik-o-ree*, a flight call
 Eastern Towhee - *drink your teeee; chewink*
 Field Sparrow - a ball bouncing, each bounce quicker
 Song Sparrow - three whistles then a trill
 White-throated Sparrow - *old Sam Peabody,
Peabody, Peabody*
 Rusty Blackbird - like a squeaky rusty hinge
 Ovenbird - *teacher, Teacher, TEACHER*
 Golden-winged Warbler - *bee buzz buzz buzz*
 Blue-winged Warbler - *bee buzzzz*
 Black-and-white Warbler - like a squeaky wheel
 Nashville Warbler - *Chattanooga choo-choo-choo*
 Common Yellowthroat - *witchety, witchety, whichety*
 Yellow Warbler - *sweet, sweet, oh so sweet*
 Chestnut-sided Warbler - *pleased, pleased, to meet-CHA*
 Black-throated Blue Warbler - *I am so lazeee*; end up
 Prairie Warbler - rapidly ascending musical buzzes
 Black-throated Green Warbler - *zoo-zee, zoo-zoo-zee*
 Scarlet Tanager - *chick-burr*, Robin with a cold
 Northern Cardinal - song: a boy calling his dog,
call: metallic chink

Many birds have multiple songs plus calls. Not all mnemonics work for everyone.

ABERRANT PLUMAGE OR WHY A BIRD DOESN'T MATCH THE BOOK

Reasons for differences in birds of the same species are many apart from age, sex, and seasonal changes.

- **Feather wear & molting** - Feathers become worn changing the amount of color seen. During molts it is possible to have part old plumage of one color and part new of a different color, for example Scarlet Tanager. Recently molted plumage is new and bright.
- **Transition to adult** - Immature or first winter plumage usually molts to full adult plumage by their first spring. However some species take multiple years to reach full adult plumage, for example gulls take two to four years, Bald Eagles take four years. In these cases, each year is a progression of partial change.
- **Food** - Some foods brighten or dull certain colors, notably changing the red in a House Finch to orange. Food can also tint feathers, such as pollen on a Hummingbird's face or berry stains on Gray Catbirds.
- **Pigment deficiencies** - **Leucism** is when only certain feather groups lack pigment. This is often found in Red-tailed Hawks, American Crows, and Common Grackles. An **albino** bird has ALL feathers lacking pigment thus totally white, and with red eyes. **Melanism** is when feather pigment is particularly dark.
- **Polymorphism** - Some species can have young in the same nest with different colors such as Eastern Screech-Owls with red and gray morphs or phases, also hawks with light and dark phases.
- **Subspecies** - Many subspecies vary in small ways such as overall body size or bill length, but others look quite different in plumage details such as Horned Larks and Dark-eyed Juncos.
- **Hybrids** - When two related but different species breed, the result is often a mixture of their parents, notably Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers. Waterfowl are notorious for cross breeding with many plumage variations including Mallard x Black Duck. There are also gull hybrids.

WHERE TO BIRD IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

These birding areas are open to the public, hours vary. Some are privately owned or may charge an entry fee. Use the address noted for GPS, parking may be separate. For added detail and other sites see eBird Hotspots or internet searches.

- Respect private property, do not trespass.
- Site conditions vary greatly - *use at your own risk.*
- Avoid woods during deer hunting season, mid-November to mid-December.

★ highlights the best areas each season.

Map identifies location on map on back cover.

Acc. identifies the means of access to the site:

C area can be birded from a **CAR**

E area is suitable for an **EASY** walk

D area contains more **DIFFICULT** walks

Hab. identifies the **habitats** found at each site.

See page 2 for a description of habitats.

	City / Town	Map	Acc.	Hab.
Andrew Haight Road	Millbrook	1	CE	MOF
Berkshire Road	Dover Plains	2	C	OF
Bowdoin County Park, 85 Sheafe Road	Wappingers Falls	3	ED	HMOF
Bower Park, 3 Ravine Road	Pleasant Valley	4	E	SOF
★Sp Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary, east: 6862 NY-82, west: 241 Mountain Rd.	Stanfordville	5	E	SMOF
★Sp Cary Institute (CIES), 2917 Sharon Turnpike	Millbrook	6	CE	SOF
Clinton Nature Trail, 1215 Centre Road	Clinton	7	E	SOF
Cruger Island Road	Red Hook	8	E	HMF
Deep Hollow Road	Amenia	9	CE	SF
Deer Pond Farm (Audubon), 57 Wakeman Hill Rd., Sherman, Conn	Pawling	10	ED	MOBF
Dennings Point, Dennings Ave.	Beacon	11	E	HF

	City / Town	Map	Acc.	Hab.
Depot Hill MUA, 332 Depot Hill Road	Poughquag	12	ED	SBF
Dover Stone Church Preserve, 3128 NY-22	Dover Plains	13	ED	BF
Dutchess Rail Trail (DRT), Poughkeepsie to Hopewell Jct.	—	14	E	MOBF
Eleanor Roosevelt NHS (Val-Kill), 54 Val-Kill Park Road	Hyde Park	15	E	LOBF
Ferncliff Forest, 68 Mount Rutsen Road	Rhinebeck	16	ED	MF
Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS, 4097 Albany Post Road	Hyde Park	17	E	HOF
Harlem Valley Rail Trail (HVRT), Wassaic to Columbia County	—	18	E	MOBF
Hopeland Area (Mills State Park), 110 Old Post Road	Staatsburg	19	E	OFB
Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road	Millbrook	20	ED	LMOF
James Baird State Park, 280 Club House Road	Pleasant Valley	21	CED	LOF
Klara Sauer Trail & Long Dock Park, 23 Long Dock Road	Beacon	22	E	HOB
Lafayetteville MUA, Wilbur Flats Road	Milan	23	CE	LMOF
Lake Walton County Park, Cottage Drive	East Fishkill	24	E	LOBF
Locust Grove, Morse Historic Site, 2683 South Road	Poughkeepsie	25	E	HSOF
Mack Road	Union Vale	26	CED	F
Madam Brett Park, 560 South Ave.	Beacon	27	ED	SMBF
Millbrook School Road	Millbrook	28	E	SMOF
(Ogden) Mills Memorial State Park, 9 Old Post Road	Staatsburg	29	E	HMOF
Montgomery Place, 26 Gardener Way	Red Hook	30	E	HSOF
Nellie Hill Preserve (Great Thicket NWR), 2968 NY-22	Dover Plains	31	D	OFB
☆ _{Su} Norrie State Park, 256 Norrie Point Way	Staatsburg	32	CE	HSOF
Nuclear Lake, 3144 Route 55	Pawling	33	ED	LMF
Pawling Nature Reserve, 37 Quaker Lake Road	Pawling	34	CED	LMF

	City / Town	Map	Acc.	Hab.
☆ _{Sp} Peach Hill Park, 32 Edgewood Drive	Poughkeepsie	35	ED	OFB
Poets' Walk Park, 776 River Road	Red Hook	36	E	HOF
Pond Gut, end of Pond Gut Road	LaGrange	37	ED	MF
Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, 342 South Ave.,	Poughkeepsie	38	CE	HLOF
☆ _W Rockefeller Lane / Pitcher Lane	Red Hook	39	CE	O
Sheffield Hill Road	Millerton	40	CE	MOF
Slocum-Mostachetti Preserve, 3517 Pleasant Ridge Road	Wingdale	41	E	MOBF
Stissing Mountain MUA, 112 Hicks Hill Road	Stanfordville	42	D	SF
☆ _F Stony Kill Farm Education Center, 79 Farmstead Lane	Wappingers Falls	43	E	MOF
Stringham Park, 78 Stringham Road	LaGrange	44	E	LO
☆ _W Sylvan Lake, boat launch, 303 Sylvan Lake Road	Beekman	45	C	LOF
Taconic-Hereford MUA, 909 Tyrrel Road	Pleasant Valley	46	E	SF
Taconic State Park (Rudd Pond), 59 Rudd Drive	Millerton	47	E	LOF
☆ _{Su} Thompson Pond Preserve, 335 Lake Road	Pine Plains	48	ED	LMF
Tivoli Bays WMA, 215 Kidd Lane	Tivoli	49	ED	HMBF
Tymor Forest Park, 8 Tymor Park Road	Union Vale	50	E	LMOF
Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, 119 Vanderbilt Park Road	Hyde Park	51	E	HSOF
☆ _F Vassar College Farm & Ecological Preserve, 51 Vassar Farm Ln.	Poughkeepsie	52	E	LMOF
Wappinger Lake, 48 Liss Road also end of Spring Street	Wappingers Falls	53	C	L
Wassaic MUA, Tower Hill Road	Amenia	54	D	BF
Wilcox Park, 1639 Route 199	Milan	55	E	LOF
Wilderstein Historic Site, 330 Morton Road	Rhinebeck	56	ED	HMOF
Winnakee Nature Preserve, end of Terwilliger Road Extension	Hyde Park	57	E	F

REPORTING DUTCHESS COUNTY BIRD SIGHTINGS

1) **Rare birds: Report immediately via PEEPS, then to eBird, later to NYSARC.**

A rare bird is one for which the bar graph has just a dot or no mark for the month in which you observe it. Try to get a photo of any rare bird (especially if it is not listed in this Guide) to show reviewers.

2) **First of season, first of the year, unusual sightings: Report immediately via PEEPS, then to eBird.**

3) **All other sightings: Report to eBird.**

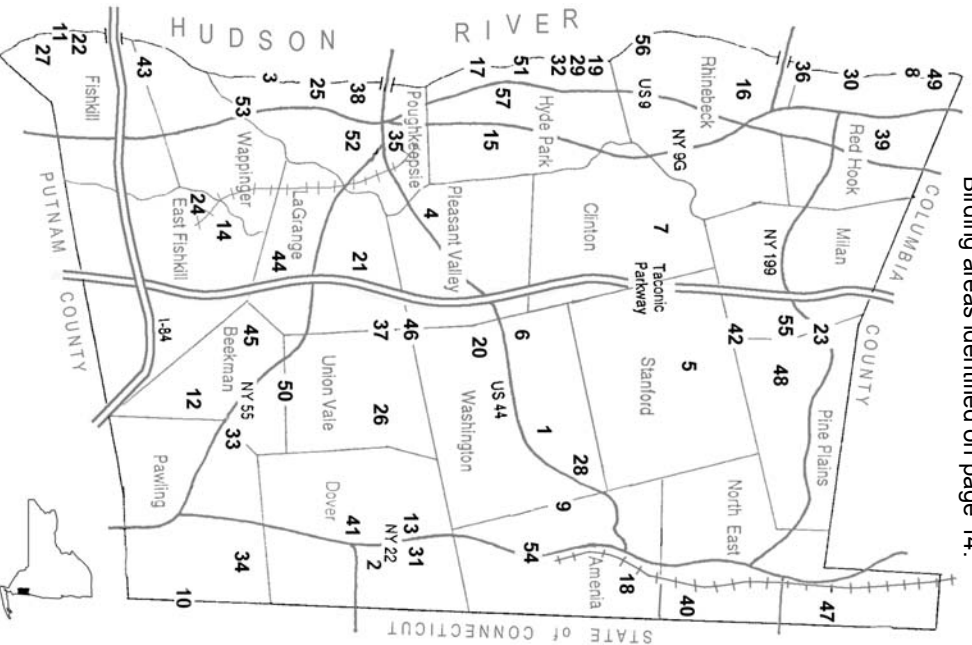
PEEPS is the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club electronic bird alert system started by Carena Pooth in 2014. Participants send and receive bird alerts almost instantly via email or cell phone text message. PEEPS alerts should be as brief as possible, containing only the “**4 Ws**” – **What, Where, When, Who**. PEEPS is a benefit for RTWBC members only. For more information, visit WatermanBirdClub.org/resources/rare-bird-alert.

eBird's massive online data base at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is used by ornithologists and frequently influences conservation decisions. Almost all RTWBC monthly records, summarized in each *Wings over Dutchess* newsletter, now come via eBird. eBird is also a great tool for birders to track their own sightings, find “good” birds, and learn about local sightings. Get on board at ebird.org.

NYSARC (New York State Avian Records Committee) is a committee of NYSOA (NYS Ornithological Association) that maintains the official NYS checklist and evaluates reports of rare bird sightings in the state. For instructions and a historical database of reports, visit nybirds.org/NYSARC.

WHERE TO BIRD IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

Birding areas identified on page 14.



Walks are held each Wednesday and most Saturdays, free and open to everyone. For a walk and monthly meeting schedule, club membership, recent sightings, and more – visit

WWW.WATERMANBIRDCUB.ORG