



THE BIRDS OF DUTCHESS COUNTY, N.Y.

A REFERENCE GUIDE

**2026
EDITION**

RALPH T. WATERMAN BIRD CLUB
FOUNDED 1958

Created by Stan DeOrsey (jsmd@att.net) – 8th edition, October 2025

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DEFINITION OF SYMBOLS

Bar graphs show status by month for each bird species regularly found in Dutchess County.

All have been reported since 2015 except Pine Grosbeak (2009).

-  **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.
 - Common migrant in unexpected month, 1 to 3 sightings since 2000.
-  **Variable** or erratic winter abundance, many some years, few or none other years. See page 9.
-  **Nocturnal**, usually *heard* or active at night or dusk; also crepuscular, active in twilight.
 - ♪ Identification usually requires hearing song or call. See page 13.
 - ◆ Species of greatest conservation need (*NYS State Wildlife Action Plan, 2025 draft*).

Double lines (==) separate Orders, single lines (—) separate Families, left margin lines (|) group Genus. Sequence and names follow eBird as of August 2025, eBird follows AOS and other organizations.

CURRENT STATUS

Shading bounds earliest date of first egg to latest date of last fledged including multiple broods. Confirmed at least once since 2020. Shading design indicates *usual* location of nest:



mid to high in trees



bushes or low in trees



tree cavity or nest box



manmade structures



on or near ground, marsh vegetation, or burrow

<S> **Sporadic** - breeds at intervals, sometimes of many years.

C

Colonial nesting - nest in dense or loose colonies in Dutchess County.

D

Double broods - common in N.Y. (others may if eggs lost; other passerines sometimes).

P

Precocial young - leave nest soon after hatching (all others are **altricial**, stay in nest 10+ days).

1

BREEDING

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

L LAKES , ponds, or creeks	F FORESTS , wood lots, orchards, or groves
H primarily on HUDSON River	Fc primarily CONIFEROUS growth
S SHORES of lakes and creeks, or mud flats	Fd primarily DECIDUOUS growth
M MARSHES , bogs, or swamps	▲ <i>usually high</i> in forest trees
O OPEN fields, pastures, or meadows	▼ <i>usually low</i> in trees or on the ground
B BRUSHY fields, forest edges, or thickets	no high / low symbol, at any height
R RESIDENTIAL areas, towns, or feeders	A AERIAL , often seen high overhead

Diet identifies the *primary* food for the species when in Dutchess County. Closely related to habitat.

M Mammals - mice, voles, squirrels, rabbits, also carrion	I Insects plus spiders, worms, and <i>aquatic insects</i>
B Birds and their eggs	G Grasses and their seeds, leaves plus <i>aquatic plants</i>
F Fish	s Seeds , grain, nuts, also buds and roots (<i>hard / dry</i>)
A Amphibians & reptiles - <i>frogs, salamanders, snakes</i>	N Nectar , fruits, berries, and sap (<i>soft / moist</i>)
c Crustaceans - <i>shellfish, crayfish, snails plus mollusks</i>	o Omnivore - almost everything
<i>Food types in italic found in or near water.</i>	<i>Species with Diet s and Habitat R often come to feeders.</i>

Species within Order or Family migrate *mainly* by day * , at night D , or both D* 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 northern parts of Europe or Asia.

Changes in Dutchess County status since 1840, but may have been present in the Colonial period:
[x DECADE] expanded to county during DECADE, occurred regularly often much later.
<YEAR First YEAR known to have regularly bred. **YEAR> Last YEAR known** to have bred.
(I) Introduced by man, *non-native*. **(R) Released** or **Re-established native**. **I_H R_H** for hunting.
Arrow shows trend of reports *only* from the May Census and Christmas / Waterfowl Counts since 2015 vs. prior ten years: **↑** increasing, **↓** decreasing, **↔** stable (usually <20% change)

WHEN TO EXPECT REGULARLY OCCURRING SPECIES

Sketches by Chester A. Reed from *North American Birds Eggs*, 1904.



DABBLING DUCKS

2

WATERFOWL		P _Y D _*	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Hab.	Diet
Snow Goose ^A	[x1950s]	↔	[Timeline bars for Snow Goose]												LO	GS
Greater White-fronted Goose ^A ©	[x1980s]		[Timeline bars for Greater White-fronted Goose]												LO	GS
♦ Brant ^A ©	[x1950s]		[Timeline bars for Brant]												HA	G
Cackling Goose ^A	[x by 2000]	↑	[Timeline bars for Cackling Goose]												LO	GS
Canada Goose ^B	(R _H 1950s) <1956	↔	[Timeline bars for Canada Goose]												LO	GS
Mute Swan ©	(I)[x1960s] <1978	↓	[Timeline bars for Mute Swan]												L	G
Tundra Swan ^A ©	[x1970s]		[Timeline bars for Tundra Swan]												L	G
Wood Duck		↓	[Timeline bars for Wood Duck]												LSM	GS
♦ Blue-winged Teal ³⁻¹	<S><1963-1969>		[Timeline bars for Blue-winged Teal]												LSM	G
Northern Shoveler ©	[x1920s]		[Timeline bars for Northern Shoveler]												LSM	G
Gadwall ©	[x1920s]		[Timeline bars for Gadwall]												LSM	G
American Wigeon ^B			[Timeline bars for American Wigeon]												LSM	G
Mallard ©	(R _H 1940s) <1960	↓	[Timeline bars for Mallard]												LSM	ogs



BAY DUCKS

SEA DUCKS

		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Hab.	Diet
American Black Duck	↓	[Shaded bar]												LSM	G
Mallard x Am. Black Duck (HYBRID)														LSM	GS
♦ Northern Pintail ^B ©	↓			—								—		LSM	GS
Green-winged Teal ^B	↔			—			○							LSM	G
Canvasback ^B			—	—									—	HL	G
Redhead														L	G
Ring-necked Duck ^B [x1920s]	↑			—				○						L	G
♦ Greater Scaup ^B ©														HL	CG
♦ Lesser Scaup ^B														L	CG
♦ Surf Scoter ^B														L	C
♦ White-winged Scoter ^B														HL	C
♦ Black Scoter ^B														HL	C
♦ Long-tailed Duck ^A ©														HL	C
Bufflehead ^B				—									—	L	C
♦ Common Goldeneye ^B ©	↔			—				○						HL	C
Hooded Merganser <1970	↑													LS	F
Common Merganser ^B © <2002	↔													HL	F
Red-breasted Merganser ^B ©														H	F
♦ Ruddy Duck	↔							○	○				—	L	G
UPLAND GAME BIRDS															
♦ Northern Bobwhite <i>not self-sustaining</i> 1930s>(R _H 1920s)	↓													OB	SI
Wild Turkey by1840s>(R)<1974	↓	[Shaded bar]												OF	SI

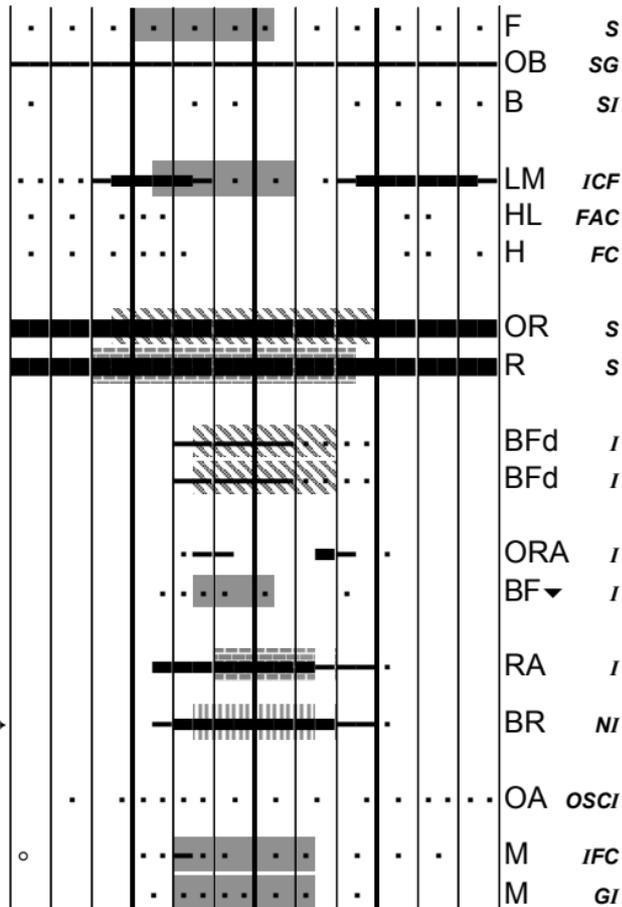




Avoid adding red dye
to Hummingbird feeders.

3

♦ Ruffed Grouse	↓	
Ring-necked Pheasant <i>not self-sustaining</i> (I _H by1920)	↓	
Chukar. <i>not self-sustaining.</i> (I _H 1980s)		
GREBES ===== P _Y D		
♦ Pied-billed Grebe	↑	
Horned Grebe ^B ©		
Red-necked Grebe ^B ©		
DOVES =====		
Mourning Dove	↓	D _B D
Rock Pigeon (I) _{<by1860s} C _N D _B	↓	
CUCKOOS ===== D		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo ²	↑	
♦ Black-billed Cuckoo ⁴	↑	
NIGHTJARS ===== P _Y *		
♦ Common Nighthawk ³ by1989>	↑	N
♦ Eastern Whip-poor-will ³	↓	N
SMALL-FOOTED BIRDS ===== *		
♦ Chimney Swift ³	↑	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird ³	↔	D _B
MARSH DWELLERS ===== P _Y D		
Sandhill Crane ^B [x2000s]		
Virginia Rail	↑	o
♦ Sora	↓	



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



- Snowy Owl ^A © V
- Barred Owl N ↑
- ◆ Long-eared Owl © 1974> N
- ◆ Short-eared Owl ^B © N
- Northern Saw-whet Owl N

KINGFISHERS ===== *

- Belted Kingfisher ↓

CLIMBING BIRDS =====

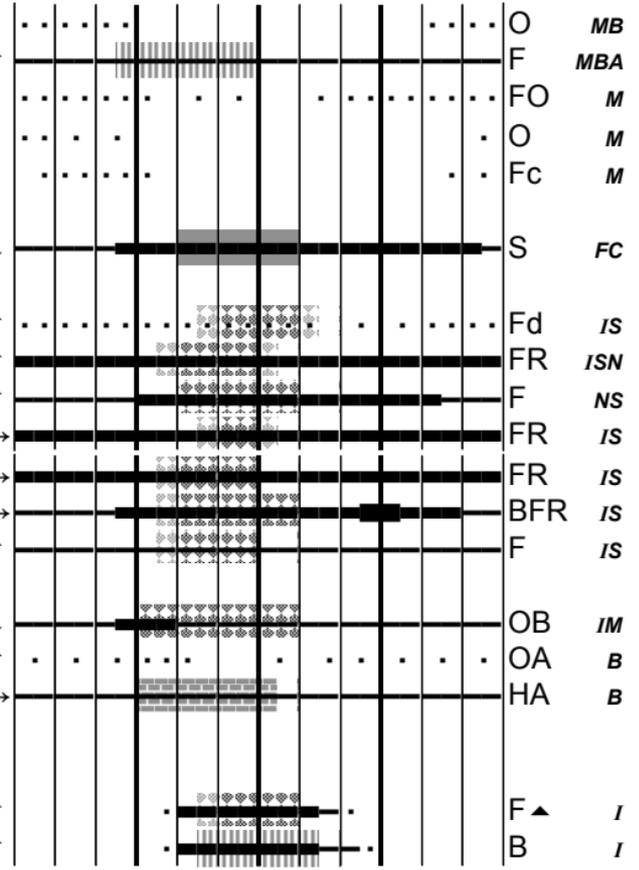
- ◆ Red-headed Woodpecker ↑
- Red-bellied Woodpecker [x1960s]<1973 ↑
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker ^B <1994 ▶ ↑
- Downy Woodpecker ↔
- Hairy Woodpecker ↔
- Northern Flicker ▶ ↔
- Pileated Woodpecker by1890><1940s ↑

FALCONS ===== *

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

PERCHING BIRDS =====

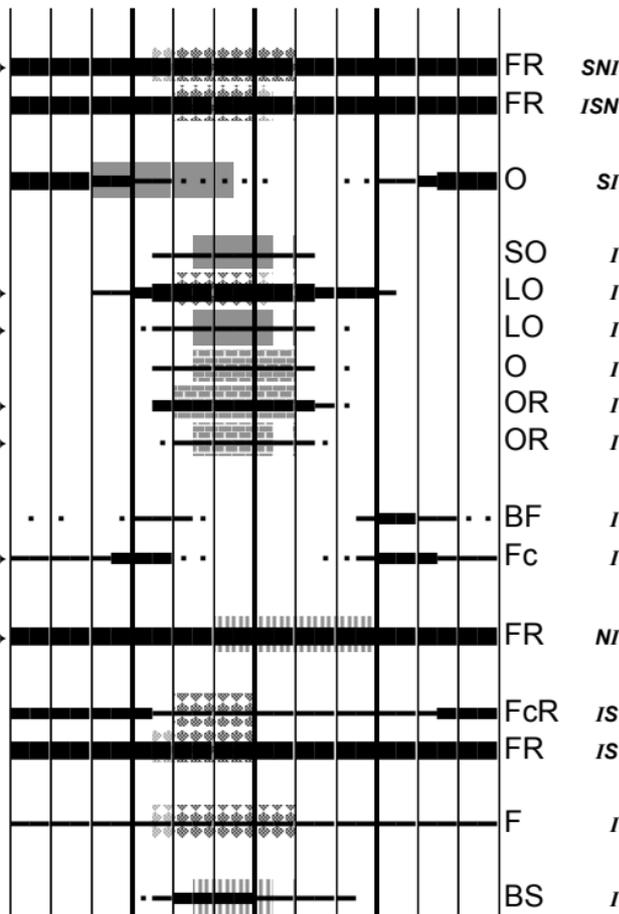
- Tyrant Flycatchers** —————▶
- Great Crested Flycatcher ³ ↑
- Eastern Kingbird ³ *



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



Tits	_____	
Black-capped Chickadee	.....	↔
Tufted Titmouse	..... [x1950s]<1960	↑
Larks	_____ ▶	
♦ Horned Lark	© <1900	^D _B ↓
Swallows	_____ *	
♦ Bank Swallow	⁴ © <1921	^C _N ↓
Tree Swallow	..... <1921	↔
N. Rough-winged Swallow	⁴ ... [x1900s]<1916	↔
Purple Martin	³ <1921	^C _N ↑
♦ Barn Swallow	³ © <1921	^C _N ↔
♦ Cliff Swallow	³ <1921	^C _N ↔
Kinglets	_____ ▶	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	^B <1984, 1985>	↑
Golden-crowned Kinglet	^B <1984, 1985>	↔
Waxwings	_____ *	
♦ Cedar Waxwing	..... <1984, 1985>	^D _B ↔
Nuthatches	_____	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	..... <1980	^V ▶ ↓
White-breasted Nuthatch	..... <1980	↑
Treecreepers	_____	
Brown Creeper	..... <by1958	↑
Gnatcatchers	_____ *	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	..... [x1950s]<by1980	↑





Keep a brush pile in your backyard,
it will attract many bird species.

7

True Finches

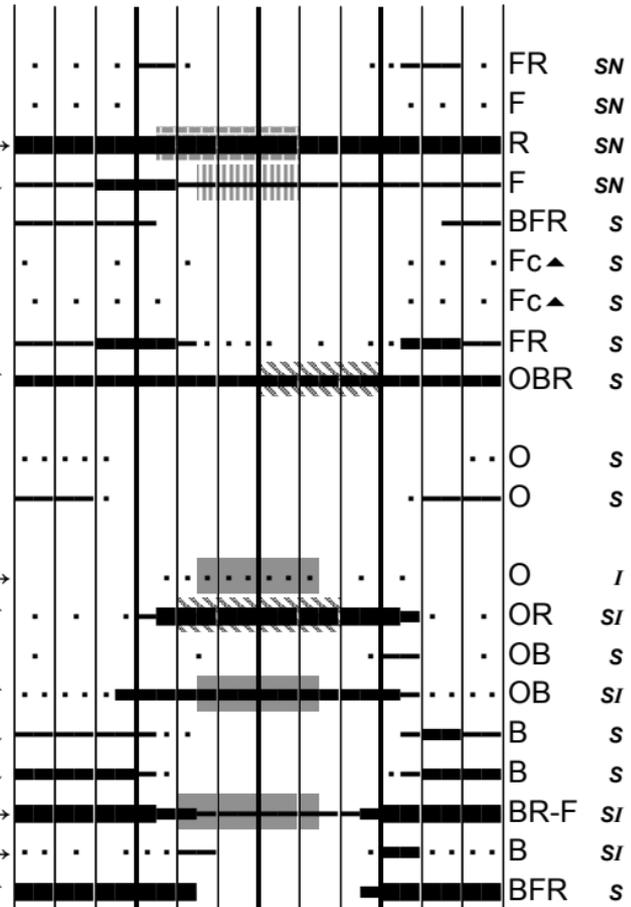
- ◆ Evening Grosbeak [x1910s]<1962> **V**
- Pine Grosbeak ^B © **V**
- House Finch (I)[x1960s]<1965 ^{D_B} ↔
- Purple Finch <by1959 ↓
- Redpoll ^B © **V**
- Red Crossbill © **V**
- White-winged Crossbill ^B © **V**
- Pine Siskin **V**
- American Goldfinch ↑

Longspurs

- Lapland Longspur ^A © [x1950s] **V**
- Snow Bunting ^A © **V**

Sparrows

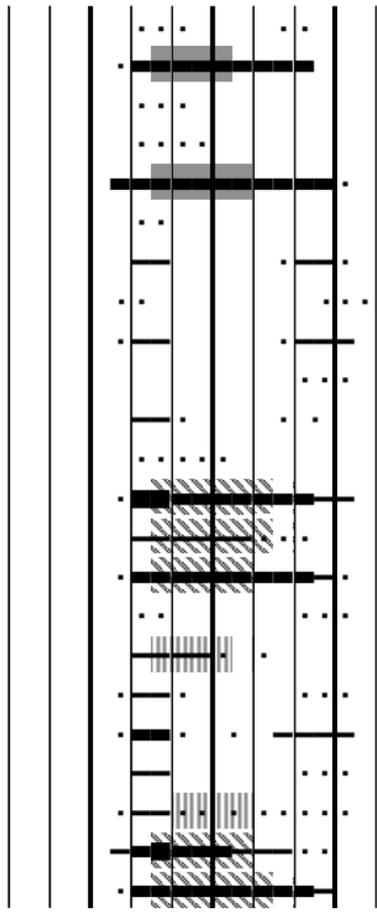
- ◆ Grasshopper Sparrow ^{D_B} ↔
- Chipping Sparrow ^{D_B} ↑
- Clay-colored Sparrow⁴ [x2010s]
- Field Sparrow ^{D_B} ↑
- Fox Sparrow ^B ↓
- American Tree Sparrow ^B ↓
- Dark-eyed Junco ^B <1924><by1963 ^{D_B} ↔
- White-crowned Sparrow ^B ↔
- White-throated Sparrow ^B ↑



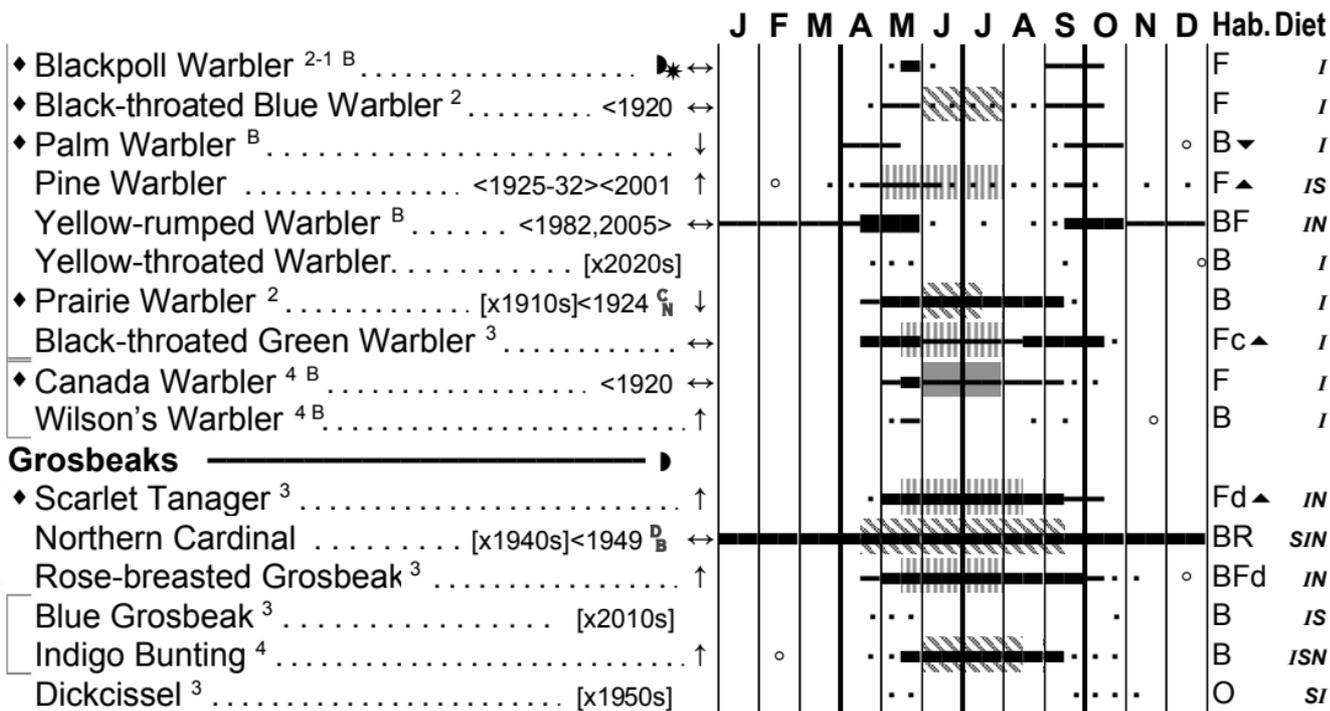
Wood-Warblers are found only in the New World, with over 100 species.



♦ 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 ^{3B} 1950s>	↑
Connecticut Warbler ^{2B}	
Mourning Warbler ^{4B}	
♦ Kentucky Warbler ³ [x1960s]<1981,2008>	
Common Yellowthroat ³ ^B ↑	
Hooded Warbler ³	↑
American Redstart ³	↑
♦ Cape May Warbler ^{2B}	↑
♦ Cerulean Warbler ³ [x1890s]<1922	↑
Northern Parula ³ <2002>	↑
Magnolia Warbler ^{3B}	↔
♦ Bay-breasted Warbler ^{3B}	↑
Blackburnian Warbler ³ <by1959	↑
Yellow Warbler ³	↑
Chestnut-sided Warbler ^{3B}	↑



B	I
B	I
B	I
B	I
F	I
MF▼	I
BF	I
B	I
BF▼	I
MB▲	I
B▼	I
BF▼	I
MB	I
Fd▼	I
Fd	I
F▲	I
Fd▲	I
F▲	I
F	I
F▲	I
Fc▲	I
MB	I
B	I



IRRUPTIVE SPECIES IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

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

□ bird(s) for one to a few days ■ bird(s) for many days ■ widespread for a month or more

SPECIES	INDIVIDUALS PER SIGHTING	IRRUPTIONS IN LAST 10 YEARS											COMMENT
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
Glaucous Gull	1			□			□	□				□	most sightings are at Beacon
Rough-legged Hawk	1	□	□	■	■	□	■	■	□	□		□	one or two in county most winters
Snowy Owl	1			□	□							□	nearly always found for one day
Northern Shrike	1	□	□	□	□			■				■	expected most years
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 to 3		■		■		■	■	■	■			some resident, 30+ county wide in irruption
Evening Grosbeak	1 to 20		■		□		□		■				often wide spread
Pine Grosbeak	4 to 10												last Feb. 2009, now usually further north
Redpoll	1 to 50+	□			■		■						erratic, often in large flocks
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	□	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	flocks 500+ uncommon; last, Feb. 2025

These irruptive casual species have not been reported for many years, they usually stay further north: Black-backed Woodpecker, Gyrfalcon, Canada Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing.

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

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 storms, ⑥ errant migrant.

E - EXTIRPATED, † formerly occurred regularly.

Number of sightings, *not individuals*, since 1975;
small digit - sightings pre-1975, not on graph.

Species confirmed at least once via:

s – specimen (S_L or P_L if lost)
P – photo (in online *Birds of Dutchess County*)
M – identified by more than three people
N – NYSARC acceptance

Date of most recent sighting.

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



		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	MOST RECENT
④ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	N						○							June 2025
④ Fulvous Whistling-Duck . . .	N				○									April 1981
⑥ Ross's Goose ^A	3 P	●	—	x	●									March 2024
⑥ Pink-footed Goose ^A	1 P			x									●	Nov.-Mar. 2022
③ Barnacle Goose ©	3 P		○	●								●		March 2007
⑥ Trumpeter Swan (R)	1 P							●						Aug. 2023
② Eurasian Wigeon	5+2 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
⑥ Harlequin Duck ^B	1 P	●	—	x										Jan.-April 2023
② Barrow's Goldeneye ©	4 P	●	—	x	○									Jan.-Feb. 2022-25
④ Rufous Hummingbird ⁴	1 P											●	—	Oct.-Dec. 2012



			J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	MOST RECENT
③	♫ King Rail	† 5 M					○	●							May 1990
⑥	Clapper Rail	1 S									○				Aug. 2004
③	Yellow Rail ^B	N 1 N										○			Sept. 1992
④	American Avocet	4 P							○	○					Aug. 2024
③	Whimbrel ^{2-1 A}	5 P					○		○	○					May 2025
③	Hudsonian Godwit ^{4-1 A}	3 P								○			●	●	Nov. 2016
③	Marbled Godwit	1 P						●							June 1979
③	Ruddy Turnstone ^A ©	3+3 P					○			●					May 2025
③	Red Knot ^{1A} ©	2+1 P					○								May 2025
③	Stilt Sandpiper ^{3 A}	1+2 P								●					Aug. 2022
③	Sanderling ^A ©	8+4 P					○		○	○					May 2025
③	Baird's Sandpiper ^{4 A}	4+3 SP					●			○					Sept. 2022
③	White-rumped Sandpiper ^{3-1 A}	1+3 P					●	○				○			June 2025
③	Buff-breasted Sandpiper ^{3 A}	2+1 P								●					Sept. 2015
③	Willet	2+2 M					○					○			Oct. 1990
③	Wilson's Phalarope	1+3 M					●	○							June 1989
③	Red Phalarope ^A ©	4 P					○					●	○		Oct. 2016
⑤	Sooty Tern	2 P							○	●					Aug. 2020
⑤	Arctic Tern	1 P					●								May 2022
①	Forster's Tern	7 P					●	○	○	○		●			July 2024
③	Black-legged Kittiwake ^A ©	3+4 P	○				●	●					○		June 2023
③	Little Gull	3 P			○	○	○								May 2025
④	Franklin's Gull ⁴	1 P	○												Jan. 2022
④	Slaty-backed Gull	1 P	○												Jan. 2012
⑥	Glaucous-winged Gull	1 P	●												Jan. 2024



		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	MOST RECENT
5	Manx Shearwater													Aug. 2013
6	Northern Gannet ©													Nov. 2021
6	Neotropic Cormorant													2022 thru 2025
4	White Ibis													Aug. 2025
4	Roseate Spoonbill													Aug. 2023
4	American White Pelican	○				●	○	●						June 2023
①	Tricolored Heron				○	○								April 2019
4	White-tailed Kite					●								April 1983
4	Swallow-tailed Kite				○	○								April 2023
②	Black-backed Woodpecker ^B												○	Nov. 1977
②	Gyr Falcon ^A ©	●	○	○	x								○	Jan. 1993
4	Western Kingbird ⁴									○	●	○	○	Dec. 2007
4	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher ⁴						●	○			○			June 2022
6	Fork-tailed Flycatcher										○			Sept. 2022
E	Loggerhead Shrike .. [x1870s] †									●				Feb. 1992
②	Canada Jay ^B	●	—	—	—	x ¹							● ¹ ●	Nov.-May 1976
②	Boreal Chickadee ^B [x1950s] †			x							○ ●	○	—	Nov. 1983
5	Cave Swallow												●	Nov. 2024
②	Bohemian Waxwing ^B ©	○			○								○ ○	Jan. 2005
③	Sedge Wren					●	●	○	●	x ●				Aug.-Sept. 2023
4	Mountain Bluebird	x		●									●	Dec.-Jan. 1999
4	Townsend's Solitaire	●	—	x									○	Nov. 2013
③	♫ Bicknell's Thrush													May 1923
6	Northern Wheatear ^A ©									●				Sept. 1981
6	Brambling			●										March 1984

not safely identifiable by sight in migration



		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	MOST RECENT
4	Lark Sparrow			o								o	•	Oct. 2021
4	Harris's Sparrow ^A		x										•	Dec.-Feb. 1982
6	LeConte's Sparrow ^B											•		Oct. 2011
3	Nelson's Sparrow										•	•		Oct. 2021
4	Yellow-headed Blackbird	o	o		•								o	July 2025
1	Summer Tanager ³	•			x		o	o						June 2021
4	Black-headed Grosbeak					o								May 2013
6	Lazuli Bunting											•		Nov. 2024
4	Painted Bunting ²								o					Aug. 1992

HISTORICAL SPECIES - last sighting before 1975, over 50 years ago

E	Passenger Pigeon	..... EXTINCT † M	Fall 1885	6	Townsend's Warbler ⁴	..... 1 M	April 1965
6	Thick-billed Murre ^A ©	..... 2 SL	Dec. 1897	E	Henslow's Sparrow	..... 1940s> † M	Oct. 1965
5	Long-tailed Jaeger ^{1A} ©	..... 1 SL	Sept. 1929	6	Chestnut-collared Longspur	.. 1 N	Nov. 1968
5	Dovekie ^A ©	..... 3 SL	Dec. 1932	6	Lark Bunting	..... 1 M	May 1970
6	Western Meadowlark	... <1962> 1 S	June 1962	3	Red-necked Phalarope ^A ©	... 2 PL	Aug. 1970
6	Atlantic Puffin ©	..... 1 SP	Sept. 1963	4	Eared Grebe ©	..... 2 M	April 1972

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 details see *The Birds of Dutchess County* by DeOrsey and Butler, plus *Addendum*, on club website - WATERMANBIRDClub.ORG.

SUBSPECIES – LUMPING AND SPLITTING (selected changes)

"ALWAYS" A SUBSPECIES	Northern Horned Lark	found in winter in county, one of many subspecies of Horned Lark
	Prairie Horned Lark	irregular resident has bred in county, subspecies of Horned Lark
	Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	2 records May 2017 & May 2025 photos, western subspecies
	Purple Grackle	regularly breeding in county, subspecies of Common Grackle
	Bronze Grackle	regularly migrate through county, may breed, subspecies of Common Grackle
	Yellow Palm Warbler	regularly occurring in county, subspecies of Palm Warbler
	Western Palm Warbler	occur during spring and fall migration, subspecies of Palm Warbler
SUBSPECIES WAS A SPECIES	Eurasian Teal	1 rec. Mar-Apr 2019 photo, Green-winged Teal is subspecies of Eurasian Teal
	Thayer's Gull	2 records, Jan. 2021 & Dec. 2024, photos, subspecies of Iceland Gull
	Yellow-shafted Flicker	combined with Red-shafted Flicker to form Northern Flicker
	Slate-colored Junco	combined with four western Junco species to form Dark-eyed Junco
	Oregon Junco	4 confirmed records, last Dec-Apr 2014 photo, subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco
SPECIES WAS A SUBSPECIES	Myrtle Warbler	combined with Audubon's Warbler to form Yellow-rumped Warbler
	Audubon's Warbler	1 record, Feb. 5-9, 1976, photo, subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler
	Cackling Goose	formed by four subspecies split from Canada Goose
	Herring Gull, Cattle Egret, Barn Owl, Northern Goshawk	- American species split from Eurasian species
	Willow + Alder Flycatchers	Trail's Flycatcher split to form these two species
OTHER	Eastern Warbling-Vireo	Warbling Vireo split to form Eastern and Western Warbling-Vireos
	Northern House Wren	House Wren split to form Northern House Wren and six Caribbean species
	Eastern Towhee	Rufous-sided Towhee split to form Eastern Towhee and Spotted Towhee
OTHER	Blue Goose	previously a species, now morph (phase) of Snow Goose, occasionally seen
	Canada Jay	Gray Jay renamed when it became Canada's national bird
	Hoary Redpoll	combined with Common Redpoll to form one conspecific species, Redpoll

BIRD CLASSIFICATION (SIMPLIFIED)

Each classification level groups species with similar characteristics, the oldest first. Ongoing DNA analysis is changing our understanding of origins and relationships. The sequence of bird names will continue to evolve.

Kingdom: *Animalia* - animals; not plants, bacteria, etc. The first basic animals appeared about 550 million years ago, while basic plants appeared over 1 billion years ago.

Phylum: *Chordate*; subphylum: *Vertebrata* - animals with a backbone and a nervous system; not insects, mollusks, worms, etc. The first were fish, they flourished 400 million years ago.

Class: *Aves* - birds, have feathers; not amphibians, reptiles (includes dinosaurs), or mammals. Birds began to appear about 160 million years ago, evolving from varieties of dinosaurs. The first modern birds were aquatic and generally appeared about 80 million years ago.

Divided into Orders, each Order evolved from a different species. The number of Orders shifts between 20+ to nearly 50. There are about 250 Families for about 11,000 living bird species.

Using the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) as an example:

Order (≡): *Passeriformes* - perching birds, songbirds, the youngest of the living Orders. They appeared about 30 million years ago in Australia, evolving many species in the last 5 million years.

Family (—): *Turdidae* - thrushes, occurs worldwide, often excellent singers, living on or near the ground and eating insects, worms and some fruit.

Genus (|): *Sialia* - bluebirds. There are about 22 genera in the family of thrushes. Hybridization generally occurs between species in the same genus.

Species: *sialis* - Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*). Western and Mountain Bluebirds are also in this genus.

Subspecies: *sialis* - found in the East, others are in south Florida and Mexico to Nicaragua. Subspecies interbreed where breeding range overlaps.

PEOPLE REFLECTED IN BIRD NAMES

- Audubon, John J. (1785-1851) painted and published the *Birds of America*.
- Baird, Spencer F. (1823-1887) secretary of Smithsonian Institution, revolutionized bird classification.
- Barrow, John (1764-1848) cofounder of Royal Geographical Society, promoter of Arctic exploration.
- Bicknell, Eugene (1859-1925) cofounder of the American Ornithologists Union.
- Blackburn, Anna (1740-1793) a patron of ornithology with a museum in England.
- Bonaparte, Charles (1803-1857) naturalist, published updates to Wilson's work.
- Brewster, William (1851-1919) life long ornithologist and founder of Boston's Nuttall Ornithological Club
- Cooper, William (1798-1864) cofounder of the NY Lyceum of Natural History.
- Forster, Johann R. (1729-1798) accompanied Captain Cook and studied Hudson's Bay birds.
- Franklin, John (1786-1847) British arctic explorer.
- Gambel, William (1819-1849) early California ornithologist
- Harris, Edward (1799-1863) accompanied Audubon through Missouri.
- Henslow, John S. (1796-1861) an English botanist.
- Lawrence, George (1806-1895) worked with Baird and Cassin on western surveys.
- LeConte, John L. (1825-1883) a leading American entomologist.
- Lincoln, Thomas (1812-1883) accompanied Audubon on his Labrador trip.
- Nelson, Edward (1855-1934) a government naturalist working in Alaska and Mexico.
- Ross, Bernard R. (1827-1874) an agent for the Hudson's Bay Co.
- Swainson, William (1789-1855) a widely traveled and versatile naturalist plus prolific author.
- Thayer, John Eliot (1862-1933) patron of ornithology, his specimen and book collections are at Harvard.
- Townsend, John (1809-1851) explored the West collecting birds.
- Traill, Thomas S. (1781-1862) professor in Edinburgh and supporter of Audubon.
- Wilson, Alexander (1766-1813) "Father of American Ornithology" published observations in 9 volumes.

Above only for Dutchess County species.

There is an effort to replace bird names based on people.

SELECTED BIRD SONG MNEMONICS

♪ Should hear to identify. Most birds have multiple songs or calls. Not all mnemonics work for everyone

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - <i>kulp, kulp, kulp</i> ; guttural, hard	American Goldfinch - <i>per-chik-o-ree</i> , a flight call
Black-billed Cuckoo - <i>cu, cu, cu, cu</i>	Field Sparrow - a ball bouncing, each bounce quicker
Red-shouldered Hawk - <i>keeya, keeya</i> ; clear and loud	White-throated Sparrow - <i>old Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody</i>
Great Horned Owl - <i>hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo</i>	Song Sparrow - three whistles then a trill
Barred Owl - <i>who cooks for you, who cooks for you-all</i>	Eastern Towhee - <i>drink your teeee; chewink</i>
Great Crested Flycatcher - <i>weep</i>	Rusty Blackbird - like a squeaky rusty hinge
Olive-sided Flycatcher - <i>quick, three beers</i>	Ovenbird - <i>teacher, Teacher, TEACHER</i>
♪ Acadian Flycatcher - <i>PIZZA</i> , loud	Golden-winged Warbler - <i>bee buzz buzz buzz</i>
♪ Alder Flycatcher - <i>fee-BEE-o</i> (end up) [A points up]	Blue-winged Warbler - <i>bee buzzzz</i>
♪ Willow Flycatcher - <i>FITZ-bew</i> (end down) [W down]	Black-and-white Warbler - like a squeaky wheel
♪ Least Flycatcher - <i>che-BEK, che-BEK</i>	Nashville Warbler - Chattanooga choo-choo-choo
Yellow-throated Vireo - <i>three-eight</i> , repeated	Common Yellowthroat - <i>witchety, witchety, whichety</i>
Blue-headed Vireo - like Red-eyed but with pauses	Yellow Warbler - <i>sweet, sweet, oh so sweet</i>
Eastern Warbling-Vireo - <i>when I see you I will squeeze you and I'll squeeze you till you squirt</i>	Chestnut-sided Warbler - <i>pleased, pleased, t'meet-CHA</i>
Red-eyed Vireo - <i>here I am, over here, at the top, look up</i> ; repeated continually	Black-throated Blue Warbler - <i>I am so lazeee</i> ; end up
♪ Fish Crow - <i>uh uh</i> and nasal <i>car</i> , not <i>caw</i>	Prairie Warbler - rapidly ascending musical buzzes
Tufted Titmouse - <i>peter, peter, peter</i> ; one of many	Black-throated Green Warbler - <i>zoo-zee, zoo-zoo-zee</i>
Brown Thrasher - repeats each phrase twice	Scarlet Tanager - <i>chick-burr</i> , Robin with a cold
Veery - like a spinning penny slowing down; call <i>veer</i>	Northern Cardinal - song: a boy calling his dog, call: metallic chink

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 *Where to Bird* on club website or eBird Hotspots.

- 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
Bontecou Wildlife Preserve, 80 Shuman Rd.	Stanfordville	1A	E	SOF
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, 74 Cruger Island Road (road floods at high tide)	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	Amenia - Millerton	18	E	MOBF
Hopeland Area (Mills State Park), 110 Old Post Road	Staatsburg	19	E	OBF
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	H Sof
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	H Sof
Nellie Hill Preserve (Great Thicket NWR), 2968 NY-22	Dover Plains	31	D	OBF
☆ _{Su} Norrie State Park, 256 Norrie Point Way	Staatsburg	32	CE	H Sof
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	OBF
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
Rhinecliff Landing Park, Hutton St.	Rhinecliff	38A	CE	H
☆W Rockefeller Lane / Pitcher Lane (Greig Farm)	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	H Sof
☆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

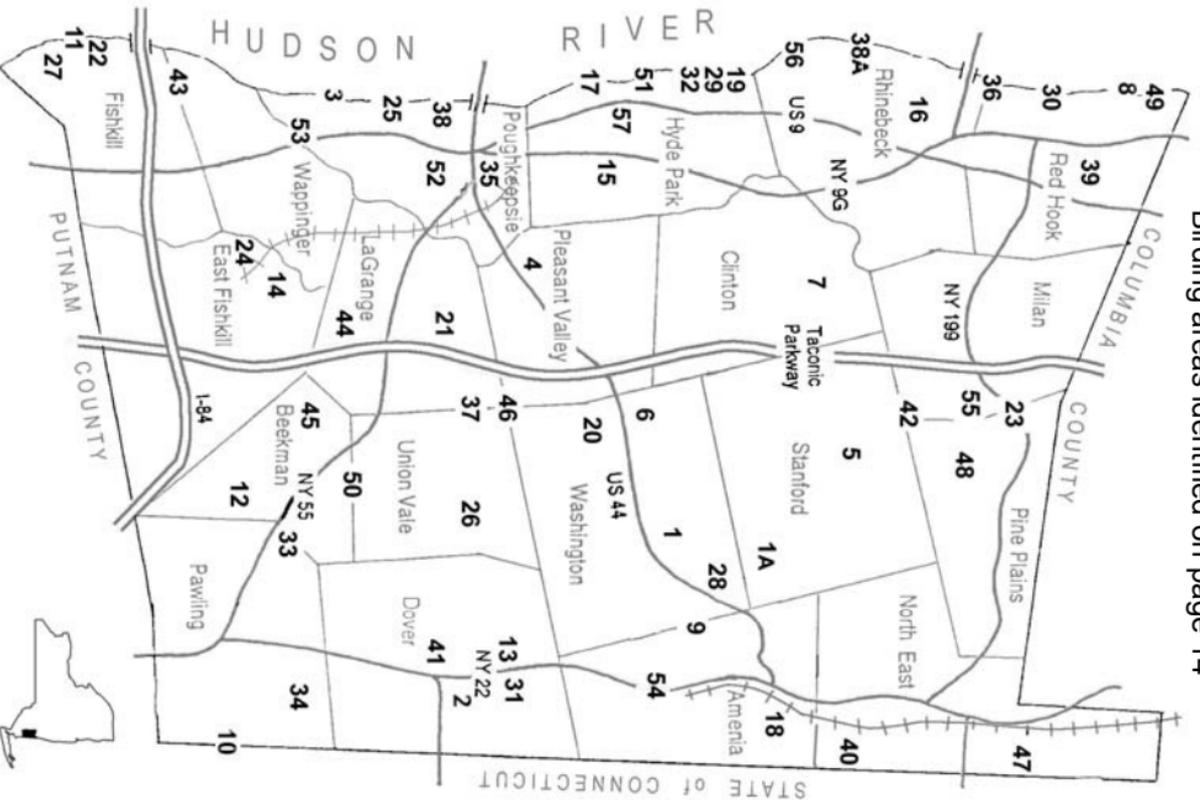
BIRDING PRINCIPLES & REPORTING SIGHTINGS (PEEPS)

- Keep well back from nests, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. Always avoid stressing or exposing birds to danger, particularly exercise restraint and caution during observation and photography.
- Avoid using flash photography and limit use of recordings - **never** use recordings during nesting season, in heavily birded areas or for any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or rare in the area.
- When attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation by cats (keep indoors) and other animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards like windows (ideally keep feeders 30 feet away).
- Regularly clean feeding dispensers and maintain nest boxes free of decay, cleaning after being used.
- Recognize that your behavior reflects on birding. Do not enter private property without permission.
- Share your knowledge and experience especially with new birders. Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders and non-birders. Report your sightings for others.

- **PEEPS** is the Waterman Bird Club electronic bird alert system started by Carena Pooth. Participants send and receive alerts via WhatsApp. Alerts should be brief, containing only the “**4 Ws**” – **What, Where, When, Who**. For more information, visit WatermanBirdClub.org/resources/rare-bird-alert
 - **eBird**'s online database is used for monthly records summarized in *Wings over Dutchess*. eBird also tracks your sightings and helps find “good” or local birds. Get on board at ebird.org.
 - **NYSARC (New York State Avian Records Committee)** evaluates reports of state rare bird sightings and maintains the official NYS checklist. For instructions and historical reports, visit nybirds.org/NYSARC.
1. **Rare birds: Report immediately via PEEPS, then to eBird, later to NYSARC.** A rare bird has a dot or no mark for the month on the bar graph. Try to get a photo especially if it is not listed in this Guide.
 2. **First of season, first of the year, unusual sightings: Report immediately via PEEPS, then to eBird.**
 - 15 3. **All other sightings: Report to eBird.**

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.WATERMANBIRDCLUB.ORG