

Welcome to Cecil County Birding

Cecil County is located in the northeast corner of Maryland, with Pennsylvania to the north and Delaware to the east. Five rivers - the Susquehanna, Elk, North East, Bohemia, and Sassafras - ensure ample wetland habitats.

Birding hotspots in Cecil County include Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area, Elk Neck State Park, Elk Neck State Forest, Conowingo Dam, Bethel Wildlife Management Area, and Courthouse Point Wildlife Management Area, as well as community parks in Elkton, Perryville, NorthEast, and Port Deposit. Birding sites are described on the Cecil Bird Club's web site at <http://www.udel.edu/cecilbirds>.

This checklist includes a total of 315 bird species, including accidentals (not regularly occurring) and 1 extinct species (Passenger Pigeon). The list is based on the Third Edition (1996) of the *Field List of the Birds of Maryland*, published by the Maryland Ornithological Society and on reports to the Cecil Bird Club and the Md/DC Records Committee. Nomenclature and taxonomy conforms to the *AOU Checklist of North American Birds, 7th Edition and 43rd Supplement*.

Please report sightings of accidentals (marked as abundance x) and rare birds (5) as well as birds not on this list to the Records Committee of the Cecil Bird Club (e-mail to mww@udel.edu). Birds that breed or have bred in Cecil County are marked with an asterisk *. The following codes for sighting probability are used:

- 1 - hard to miss (abundant)
- 2 - should see in suitable habitat (common)
- 3 - may see in suitable habitat (not-so-common)
- 4 - lucky to find (occasional)
- 5 - how lucky can you get (rare)
- x - accidental - one or two sightings on record
- h - historical records (pre-1950)
- absent at that time of year

Species	s	S	F	W	Notes
DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS					
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	5	
Snow Goose	4	-	4	3	
Ross s Goose	-	-	-	x	
Brant	-	-	-	x	
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	x	
Canada Goose*	1	2	1	1	
Mute Swan*	4	4	4	4	
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	x	
Tundra Swan	3	-	3	3	
Wood Duck*	2	2	2	5	
Gadwall	3	-	3	3	
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	x	
American Wigeon	3	-	3	3	
American Black Duck*	3	4	3	2	
Mallard*	1	1	1	1	
Blue-winged Teal*	3	5	3	5	
Cinnamon Teal	-	h	-	-	
Northern Shoveler	3	-	3	4	
Northern Pintail	3	-	3	5	
Green-winged Teal*	3	5	3	5	
Canvasback	3	x	3	3	
Redhead	5	-	5	5	
Ring-necked Duck	3	-	3	4	
Greater Scaup	4	-	4	4	
Lesser Scaup	2	-	2	3	
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	x	
Surf Scoter	x	-	-	-	
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	5	
Black Scoter	-	-	-	x	
Long-tailed Duck	5	-	5	5	
Bufflehead	3	-	3	2	
Common Goldeneye	3	-	3	2	
Hooded Merganser	3	-	3	3	
Common Merganser	2	-	3	1	
Red-breasted Merganser	4	-	4	4	
Masked Duck	-	-	h	-	
Ruddy Duck	3	-	3	3	
PHEASANT, GROUSE, TURKEY, QUAIL					
Ring-necked Pheasant*	4	4	4	4	
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	x	-	
Wild Turkey*	3	3	3	3	
Northern Bobwhite*	3	3	3	3	
LOONS, GREBES					
Red-throated Loon	5	-	5	5	
Pacific Loon	-	-	-	x	
Common Loon	3	-	3	3	
Pied-billed Grebe	3	4	3	4	
Horned Grebe	4	-	4	4	
Red-necked Grebe	5	-	5	5	
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	x	
PELICANS, CORMORANTS					
American White Pelican	h	-	-	-	
Brown Pelican	-	x	x	x	
Double-crested Cormorant	2	2	2	3	
Great Cormorant	-	-	5	5	
Anhinga	x	-	-	-	
HERONS, EGRETS, BITTERN, IBIS					
American Bittern	4	5	4	-	
Least Bittern*	5	5	5	-	
Great Blue Heron*	1	1	1	1	

Species	s	S	F	W	Notes
Great Egret	3	3	3	-	
Snowy Egret	3	3	3	-	
Little Blue Heron	3	3	3	-	
Tricolored Heron	-	x	x	-	
Cattle Egret	2	2	22	-	
Green Heron*	2	2	2	-	
Black-crowned Night-Heron*	3	4	3	4	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	-	x	x	-	
White Ibis	-	x	x	-	
Glossy Ibis	4	4	4	-	
NEW WORLD VULTURES					
Black Vulture*	3	3	3	3	
Turkey Vulture*	1	1	1	1	
OSPREY, KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES, FALCONS					
Osprey*	2	2	2	-	
Swallow-tailed Kite	x	-	x	-	
Mississippi Kite	x	-	-	-	
Bald Eagle*	2	3	3	2	
Northern Harrier	3	5	3	3	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	-	2	3	
Cooper's Hawk*	3	4	3	3	
Northern Goshawk	-	-	5	-	
Red-shouldered Hawk*	3	3	2	3	
Broad-winged Hawk*	3	5	3	-	
Red-tailed Hawk*	2	2	2	2	
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	5	
Golden Eagle	-	-	4	5	
American Kestrel*	3	3	3	2	
Merlin	5	-	5	-	
Peregrine Falcon	5	5	5	5	
RAILS, COOT, CRANE					
Black Rail	5	-	-	-	
King Rail*	4	4	4	-	
Virginia Rail*	4	4	4	5	
Sora	4	-	4	-	
Purple Gallinule	-	x	-	-	
Common Moorhen*	5	5	5	-	
American Coot	3	-	3	4	
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	x	
PLOVERS, AVOCET, SANDPIPERS					
Black-bellied Plover	5	-	5	-	
American Golden-Plover	5	-	5	-	
Semipalmated Plover	4	-	4	-	
Killdeer*	2	2	2	3	
American Avocet	-	x	-	-	
Spotted Sandpiper	2	3	2	-	
Solitary Sandpiper	2	4	2	-	
Greater Yellowlegs	3	4	3	5	
Willet	-	5	-	-	
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	4	3	-	
Upland Sandpiper	4	5	4	-	
Whimbrel	x	-	x	-	
European Whimbrel ssp	x	-	-	-	
Long-Billed Curlew	-	-	x	-	
Ruddy Turnstone	5	-	5	-	
Red Knot	-	x	-	-	
Sanderling	5	-	5	-	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	3	4	3	-	
Western Sandpiper	5	-	4	-	
Least Sandpiper	3	4	3	-	
White-rumped Sandpiper	5	-	5	-	

Species	s	S	F	W	Notes
Baird's Sandpiper	-	-	5	-	
Pectoral Sandpiper	4	-	4	-	
Dunlin	5	-	5	-	
Stilt Sandpiper	-	-	5	-	
Ruff	-	x	-	-	
Short-billed Dowitcher	4	4	4	-	
Long-billed Dowitcher	-	-	5	-	
Wilson's Snipe	3	-	3	4	
American Woodcock*	3	3	3	5	
Wilson's Phalarope	-	x	-	-	
Red-necked Phalarope	x	-	-	-	
GULLS, TERNS, JAEGER					
Laughing Gull	3	4	3	5	
Franklin's Gull	x	x	x	x	
Little Gull	x	-	-	x	
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	x	
Bonaparte's Gull	2	-	2	3	
Mew Gull	-	-	-	x	
Ring-billed Gull	1	2	1	1	
California Gull	-	-	-	x	
Herring Gull	2	3	2	1	
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	x	
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	5	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4	-	4	4	
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	5	
Great Black-backed Gull	2	4	2	2	
Sabine's Gull	-	-	x	-	
Black-legged Kittiwake	-	-	-	x	
Least Tern	3	4	5	-	
Caspian Tern	3	4	3	-	
Black Tern	5	-	5	-	
Common Tern	4	-	4	-	
Forster's Tern	3	4	3	5	
Royal Tern	5	-	5	-	
Parasitic Jaeger	-	-	-	x	
PIGEONS, DOVES, CUCKOOS					
Rock Pigeon*	1	1	1	1	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	x	-	-	-	
White-winged Dove	x	-	-	-	
Mourning Dove*	1	1	1	1	
(Passenger Pigeon)				extinct	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	2	2	2	-	
Black-billed Cuckoo*	3	4	3	-	
BARN-OWL, OWLS					
Barn Owl*	5	5	5	5	
Eastern Screech-Owl*	2	2	2	2	
Great Horned Owl*	2	2	2	2	
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	x	
Barred Owl*	3	3	3	3	
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	5	
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	5	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	4	-	4	4	
GOATSUCKERS					
Common Nighthawk*	4	5	4	-	
Chuck-will's-widow*	-	5	-	-	
Whip-poor-will*	4	5	-	-	
SWIFT, HUMMINGBIRDS, KINGFISHER					
Chimney Swift*	2	1	2	-	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	2	2	2	-	
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	x	-	
Belted Kingfisher*	2	2	2	2	

Species	s	S	F	W	Notes
WOODPECKERS					
Red-headed Woodpecker*	5	5	5	5	
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	1	1	1	1	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	-	3	3	
Downy Woodpecker*	1	1	1	1	
Hairy Woodpecker*	3	3	3	3	
Northern Flicker*	1	1	1	2	
Pileated Woodpecker*	3	3	3	3	
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS					
Olive-sided Flycatcher	5	-	5	-	
Eastern Wood-Pewee*	2	2	2	-	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	4	-	4	-	
Acadian Flycatcher*	2	2	2	-	
Alder Flycatcher	-	-	x	-	
Willow Flycatcher*	3	3	3	-	
Least Flycatcher	4	-	4	-	
Eastern Phoebe*	2	2	2	5	
Great Crested Flycatcher*	2	2	2	-	
Eastern Kingbird*	2	2	2	-	
SHRIKES, VIREOS					
Loggerhead Shrike	5	-	-	5	
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	x	
White-eyed Vireo*	1	1	2	-	
Yellow-throated Vireo*	2	2	2	-	
Blue-headed Vireo	3	-	3	-	
Warbling Vireo*	3	3	3	-	
Philadelphia Vireo	5	-	4	-	
Red-eyed Vireo*	1	1	2	-	
JAY, CROWS, LARK					
Blue Jay*	1	1	1	1	
American Crow*	1	1	1	1	
Fish Crow*	2	2	2	2	
Common Raven	-	-	-	x	
Horned Lark*	4	4	4	3	
SWALLOWS					
Purple Martin*	3	3	3	-	
Tree Swallow*	1	3	1	-	
Northern Rough-winged Sw.*	2	3	3	-	
Bank Swallow*	2	3	2	-	
Cliff Swallow*	4	5	4	-	
Barn Swallow*	1	1	1	-	
CHICKADEES, TITS					
Carolina Chickadee*	1	1	1	1	
Black-capped Chickadee	-	-	-	5	
Tufted Titmouse*	1	1	1	1	
NUTHATCHES, CREEPER					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	-	4	4	
White-breasted Nuthatch*	2	2	2	2	
Brown Creeper*	3	4	3	3	
WRENS					
Carolina Wren*	1	1	1	1	
House Wren*	2	2	2	5	
Winter Wren	3	-	3	3	
Marsh Wren*	4	4	4	5	
KINGLETS, GNATCATCHER					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	-	2	3	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	-	2	3	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	2	2	3	-	
THRUSHES					
Eastern Bluebird*	2	2	2	2	
Veery*	3	4	3	-	

Species	s	S	F	W	Notes
Gray-cheeked Thrush	4	-	4	-	
Bicknell's Thrush	x	-	x	-	
Swainson's Thrush	3	-	3	-	
Hermit Thrush	3	-	3	3	
Wood Thrush*	2	2	2	-	
American Robin*	1	1	1	2	
MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS					
Gray Catbird*	1	1	2	5	
Northern Mockingbird*	2	2	2	2	
Brown Thrasher*	2	2	2	5	
STARLING, PPIT, WAXWING					
European Starling*	1	1	1	1	
American Pipit	3	-	3	4	
Cedar Waxwing*	2	3	2	2	
NEW WORLD WARBLERS					
Blue-winged Warbler*	3	3	3	-	
Golden-winged Warbler	5	-	5	-	
Tennessee Warbler	3	-	3	-	
Orange-crowned Warbler	x	-	5	-	
Nashville Warbler	4	-	4	-	
Northern Parula*	2	2	3	-	
Yellow Warbler*	2	2	3	-	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	-	3	-	
Magnolia Warbler	3	-	3	-	
Cape May Warbler	4	-	3	-	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2	-	2	-	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	-	2	3	
Black-throated Green Warbler	3	-	3	-	
Blackburnian Warbler	3	-	3	-	
Yellow-throated Warbler*	3	4	4	-	
Pine Warbler*	2	2	2	-	
Prairie Warbler*	3	3	4	-	
Palm Warbler	3	-	3	-	
Bay-breasted Warbler	3	-	3	-	
Blackpoll Warbler	3	-	3	-	
Cerulean Warbler*	3	3	4	-	
Black-and-white Warbler*	2	3	2	-	
American Redstart*	2	2	2	-	
Prothonotary Warbler*	3	4	4	-	
Worm-eating Warbler*	3	3	4	-	
Ovenbird*	2	2	3	-	
Northern Waterthrush	3	-	3	-	
Louisiana Waterthrush*	2	2	3	-	
Kentucky Warbler*	2	2	4	-	
Connecticut Warbler	-	-	5	-	
Mourning Warbler	5	-	4	-	
Common Yellowthroat*	1	1	2	5	
Hooded Warbler*	3	4	3	-	
Wilson's Warbler	4	-	4	-	
Canada Warbler	3	-	3	-	
Yellow-breasted Chat*	3	3	4	-	
TANAGERS, BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS					
Summer Tanager*	5	5	-	-	
Scarlet Tanager*	2	2	2	-	
Western Tanager	-	-	x	-	
Eastern Towhee*	2	2	2	3	
American Tree Sparrow	3	-	3	3	
Chipping Sparrow*	2	2	2	5	
Field Sparrow*	2	2	2	2	
Vesper Sparrow*	4	4	4	5	
Savannah Sparrow	3	-	3	4	

Species	s	S	F	W	Notes
Grasshopper Sparrow*	3	3	3	-	
Henslow's Sparrow	5	5	-	-	
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	x	-	
Seaside Sparrow	5	5	-	-	
Fox Sparrow	3	-	3	4	
Song Sparrow*	1	1	1	2	
Lincoln's Sparrow	5	-	5	-	
Swamp Sparrow*	3	4	3	3	
White-throated Sparrow	1	-	2	1	
White-crowned Sparrow	3	-	3	3	
Dark-eyed Junco	1	-	2	1	
Lapland Longspur	-	-	5	5	
Snow Bunting	-	-	5	5	
Northern Cardinal*	1	1	1	1	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	-	3	-	
Blue Grosbeak*	3	3	3	-	
Indigo Bunting*	2	1	2	-	
Painted Bunting	x	-	-	x	
Dickcissel	-	x	-	-	
BLACKBIRDS, GRACKLES, ORIOLES					
Bobolink*	3	5	3	-	
Red-winged Blackbird*	1	1	1	1	
Eastern Meadowlark*	3	3	3	4	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	x	
Rusty Blackbird	5	-	5	5	
Brewer's Blackbird	x	-	-	x	
Common Grackle*	1	1	1	1	
Brown-headed Cowbird*	2	2	2	3	
Orchard Oriole*	3	3	3	-	
Baltimore Oriole*	2	2	3	-	
SISKINS, CROSSBILLS, NEW WORLD SPARROW					
Purple Finch	4	-	3	4	
House Finch*	1	1	1	1	
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	x	
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	-	x	
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	x	
Pine Siskin	4	-	4	4	
American Goldfinch*	2	2	2	2	
Evening Grosbeak	5	-	5	5	
House Sparrow*	2	2	2	2	
Add-ons					

Checklist of the Birds of Cecil County



Published by the Cecil Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

Visit us on the web at <http://www.udel.edu/cecilbirds/>

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