FALL & WINTER

Wood Duck

Waterfowl

- Wood Duck
- Lesser Scaup
- Greater Scaup
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Common Merganser
- Common Loon
- American Coot
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck

Songbirds

- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Yellow Warbler
- Yellow-throated Warbler
- Pine Warbler
- Baltimore Oriole
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Chipping Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Common Grackle
- Hermit Thrush
- Winter Wren

Woodpeckers

- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Raptors

- Cooper's Hawk
- Sharp-shinned Hawk

SPRING

American Kestrel

Waterfowl/ Water Birds

- Ring-billed Gull
- Great Blue Heron
- Green Heron

Songbirds

- Blackpoll Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Tree Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Blue-headed Vireo
- Gray Catbird
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Black-and-white Warbler
- Eastern Phoebe
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Raptors

- American Kestrel
- Osprey

Fun Fact:

Why is this brochure broken up by season? Different seasons can bring entirely new species, behavior, and plumage color. Spring and fall are great times to see migrating birds that may only stay for a few days. Winter is perfect for birding because of the lack of foliage. Summer provides bright plumage, breeding, and observing fledlings. No matter the season, it's a sure thing you'll see some beautiful birds.

SUMMER

Blue-headed Vireo

Waterfowl/ Water Birds

- Great Blue Heron

Songbirds

- Eastern Wood-Peewee
- Scarlet Tanager
- Indigo Bunting
- Acadian Flycatcher
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Purple Martin
- Wood Thrush
- Brown Thrasher
- Eastern Kingbird
- House Finch
- Orchard Oriole
- Yellow-breasted Chat

Raptors

- Broad-winged Hawk

Broad-winged Hawk

DCR
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

Claytor Lake State Park
6620 Ben H. Bolen Drive
Dublin, VA 24084
Phone: (540) 643-2500

VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

Claytor Lake State Park

presents

A Checklist of Common Birds

Tufted Titmouse
Baeolophus bicolor

www.virginiastateparks.gov

A Guide to this Brochure:

This brochure provides a introduction to birding as well as a checklist for birds common to this area, categorized by season. *Note: The categories are when you are **most likely** to see these birds. There can be overlap for multiple birds that are present during multiple seasons.*

Birding Broken Down:

Birdwatching (birding) is the activity of observing and identifying birds in their habitat by looking at physical characteristics or hearing their songs/calls. Here are some tips and tricks:

- Have a pair of binoculars or a scope.
- Use apps like Merlin **Bird ID** to identify calls and features.
- Listening is just as important as seeing when it comes to birding. Study the songs and calls of common birds to help with ID just by hearing alone.
- Be patient and respect the nature around you.

Four Ways to ID:

1. Size and shape

Look at silhouettes, beaks, tails, and even feet shape.

- Eg., the Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks are extremely similar; however, the Sharp-shinned Hawk's head barely protrudes from the wings while the Cooper's Hawk's head is much more elongated (see below).

2. Color pattern

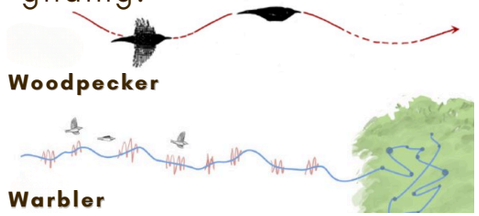
Try and observe overall patterns rather than matching every feather color.

- Eg., Both Turkey Vultures and Black Vultures are dark, large birds that soar. Turkey Vultures have two-toned wings of white and black. Black Vultures have mostly black wings with white wing tips.

3. Behavior

Look at feeding, movement, posture, and other patterns.

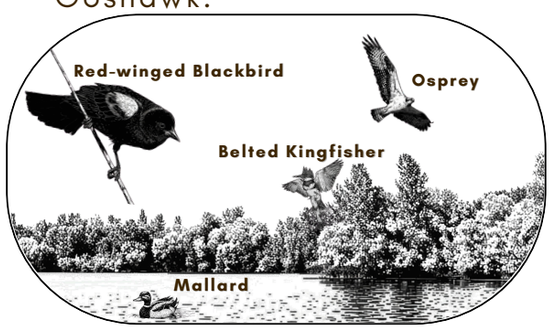
- Eg., sparrows and warblers fly in a straight path with quick wing flaps; woodpeckers "undulate" with hard flapping followed by gliding.



4. Habitat

Location and time of year.

- Eg., are you by a big lake or a big forest? Depending on your answer will determine your odds of seeing an Osprey or an American Goshawk.



***To be 100% confident in your bird ID, field marks can be used to confirm a species (e.g. Mallards have a blue and white speculum and American Black Ducks have a purple and black speculum).**

Bird Checklist

Now that we've got the basics down, let's get started.

YEAR ROUND

Waterfowl

- Canada Goose
- Mallard

Songbirds

- Northern Cardinal
- Blue Jay
- Carolina Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- American Robin
- Eastern Bluebird
- Carolina Wren
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- American Crow
- Mourning Dove
- American Goldfinch
- Northern Mockingbird
- Cedar Waxwing
- Eastern Towhee

Woodpeckers

- Red-bellied
- Red-headed
- Pileated
- Downy
- Hairy
- Northern Flicker

Raptors

- Red-tailed Hawk
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Bald Eagle
- Black Vulture
- Turkey Vulture
- Great-horned Owl
- Barred Owl
- Eastern Screech Owl