Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3
Safe Dates

Species	Abundance	Preferred Breeding Habitat	Jan	Feb	Mar	4-1	4-5	4-10	4-15	4-20	4-25	5-1	5-5	5-10	5-15	5-20	5-25	6-1	6-5	6-10	6-15	6-20	6-25	7-1	7-5	7-10	7-15	7-20	7-25	8-1	8-5	8-10	8-15	8-20	8-25	9-1	9-5	9-10	9-15	9-20	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rock Pigeon	Common	cities, suburbs, farms, bridges	1-1																																								12-31
Great Horned Owl	Common	most upland woodland types																															8-15										12-15
Barred Owl	Common	bottomlands, swamps, moist woods	1-15																														8-15										
House Sparrow	Common	cities, farms, parks, suburbs		2-1																																8-31							
Carolina Chickadee	Common	variety of woodland habitats, suburbs			3-1																															8-31							
Tufted Titmouse	Common	variety of woodland habitats, suburbs			3-1																															8-31							
Carolina Wren	Common	wood edges, thickets, near residences			3-1																																				9-30		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Common	variety of woodland habitats			3-15																															8-31							
Downy Woodpecker	Common	variety of woodlands and edge habitats			3-15																															8-31							
Hairy Woodpecker	Uncommon	deep woods, primarily deciduous			3-15																															8-31							
Pileated Woodpecker	Uncommon	deep woods, some secondary growth			3-15																															8-31							
Northern Cardinal	Common	edge, brush, parks, suburbs			3-15																																				9-30		
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Local	loblolly pines			3-20																												8-15										
Ruffed Grouse	Local	mixed upland woods				4-1																																			9-30		
Eastern Screech-Owl	Common	open woods, orchards				4-1																											8-15										
Common Raven	Uncommon	mountainous, remote regions				4-1																								7-31													
European Starling	Common	open areas with trees nearby				4-1																								7-31													
Northern Mockingbird	Common	open country, hedgerows, suburbs				4-1																																9-10					
Red Crossbill	Rare	mature conifer forests				4-1																														8-31							
Belted Kingfisher	Uncommon	along streams or lakes with banks						4-10																				7-20															
Horned Lark	Uncommon	most short-grass areas						4-10																													9-5						
Northern Bobwhite	Uncommon	farmlands, near edge & hedgerows							4-15																																9-30		
Ring-necked Pheasant	Local	open country, pastures, fields							4-15																																9-30		
Wild Turkey	Uncommon	mature deciduous forests, edges							4-15																																9-30		
Mourning Dove	Common	suburbs, woodlots, farmland							4-15																			7-20															
American Woodcock	Uncommon	upland forest edges							4-15																											8-31							
Northern Goshawk	Rare	large mature mixed woodlands							4-15																											8-31							
Bald Eagle	Local	tall trees near lakes, marshes, rivers							4-15																						8-5												
Barn Owl	Uncommon	open country, near structures							4-15																																9-30		
Common Grackle	Common	suburbs, farmland							4-15															6-30																			
Boat-tailed Grackle	Local	brushy, open woods, near salt water							4-15																											8-31							
Wood Duck	Common	wooded swamps, marshes, streams								4-20																							8-15										
Killdeer	Common	most open, sparsely vegetated areas								4-20													6-25																				
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Local	wooded habitats, usually near water								4-20														6-30																			
American Crow	Common	open areas, edges, farms, parks								4-20																										8-31							
Swainson's Warbler	Rare	brushy, moist forest								4-20																										8-31							
Eastern Meadowlark	Common	hayfields, pastures									4-25																											9-10					
Pine Warbler	Uncommon	variety of pine forests									4-25																					8-10											
Mute Swan	Rare	shore or islands in any water body										5-1																								8-31							
King Rail	Local	fresh & brackish marshes										5-1																								8-31							
Clapper Rail	Local	salt & brackish marshes										5-1																								8-31							
Black Rail	Local	brackish marshes										5-1																					8-15										
Green Heron	Common	woods near marshes or open water										5-1															7-15																
Black Vulture	Common	woods, cliffs, caves, buildings										5-1																		7-31													
Long-eared Owl	Rare	evergreen forest										5-1																													9-30		
Short-eared Owl	Rare	open pastureland, marshes, meadows										5-1																													9-30		
Eastern Phoebe	Common	near water, bridges, buildings										5-1																								8-31							
Black-capped Chickadee	Local	variety of woodland habitats, suburbs										5-1																											9-20				
Eastern Bluebird	Common	wood edges, farmlands										5-1																								8-31							
American Robin	Common	everywhere, except very urban areas										5-1																		7-31													
House Finch	Common	residential, especially evergreens										5-1															7-15																
Chipping Sparrow	Common	farms, open mixed woods, suburbs										5-1																								8-31							
Field Sparrow	Common	brushy, weedy fields, hedgerows										5-1																								8-31							
Song Sparrow	Common	brushy fields, marsh edges, suburbs										5-1																		7-31													
Red-winged Blackbird	Common	marshes, ponds, meadows, hayfields										5-1														7-10																	
Brown-headed Cowbird	Common	everywhere, except urban areas										5-1														7-10																	
Louisiana Waterthrush	Common	rocky streams, sluggish backwaters										5-1														7-10																	
Yellow-throated Warbler	Uncommon	loblolly pines, sycamores										5-1															7-15																
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Rare	mixed, moist woods, with conifers											5-5																									9-10					
Canada Goose	Common	shore or islands in any water body												5-10																7-31													
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Uncommon	dry open upland woods												5-10													7-15																
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Local	shrubs, trees near tidal water												5-10										6-30																			
Red-shouldered Hawk	Common	wet mixed forests, swamps												5-10																				8-20									
Red-tailed Hawk	Common	mature forests, often near edges												5-10																				8-20									
Northern Flicker	Common	open woods, scattered trees, edges												5-10																					8-25								
Loggerhead Shrike	Rare	open country, hedgerows, cedars												5-10														7-20															
Fish Crow	Common	wood edges, farms, tidewater areas												5-10																						8-31							
White-breasted Nuthatch	Common	variety of woodland habitats, suburbs												5-10																			8-15										
Prothonotary Warbler	Uncommon	swamps, bottomlands												5-10														7-20															
Mallard	Common	high ground near water, often woods													5-15																			8-20									
Chuck-will's-widow	Uncommon	dry open upland woods													5-15																	8-10											
Chimney Swift	Common	primarily in towns													5-15																	8-10											
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Common	open woodlands, edges													5-15													7-20															
Black-necked Stilt	Uncommon	edges of salt/sewage ponds, wetlands													5-15												7-15																
American Oystercatcher	Local	sandy ocean beaches, fresh spoil													5-15														7-25														
Piping Plover	Local	sandy ocean beaches													5-15													7-20															
Gull-billed Tern	Local	beaches, coastal islands													5-15										7-5																		
Forster's Tern	Local	salt marshes													5-15								6-25																				
Great Blue Heron	Local	wooded swamps, beaver ponds, islands													5-15									6-30																			
Turkey Vulture	Common	woods, cliffs, caves, buildings													5-15																			8-20									
American Kestrel	Common	open country, scattered trees, edge													5-15												7-15																
Brown Creeper	Local	deep woods, flooded woods													5-15																					8-31							
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Common	woodlands near streams													5-15															7-31													
Brown Thrasher	Common	dense thickets, shrubs, hedgerows													5-15																					8-31							
Vesper Sparrow	Uncommon	short grass areas, cultivated fields													5-15																					8-31							
Henslow's Sparrow	Rare	weedy fields, wet meadows													5-15																					8-31							
Black-and-white Warbler	Uncommon	extensive deciduous or mixed woods													5-15														7-25														
Gadwall	Uncommon	high ground near water														5-20																		8-20									
American Black Duck	Uncommon	high ground near water, often woods														5-20														7-31													
Ring-necked Duck	Rare	shallow wetlands with vegetation														5-20																	8-15										
Hooded Merganser	Rare	wooded swamps, marshes, streams														5-20																				8-31							
Common Merganser	Rare	mature trees near lakes and rivers														5-20														7-31													

Species	Abundance	Preferred Breeding Habitat	Jan	Feb	Mar	4-1	4-5	4-10	4-15	4-20	4-25	5-1	5-5	5-10	5-15	5-20	5-25	6-1	6-5	6-10	6-15	6-20	6-25	7-1	7-5	7-10	7-15	7-20	7-25	8-1	8-5	8-10	8-15	8-20	8-25	9-1	9-5	9-10	9-15	9-20	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pied-billed Grebe	Rare	marshy or weedy ponds														5-20										7-10																	
Virginia Rail	Uncommon	fresh & brackish marshes														5-20																	8-15										
Common Gallinule	Local	marshes with open water														5-20																				8-31							
Upland Sandpiper	Rare	open grasslands & meadows														5-20							6-25																				
Least Bittern	Uncommon	fresh & brackish water marshes														5-20														7-31													
Great Egret	Local	shrubs, trees near tidal water														5-20						6-20																					
Snowy Egret	Local	shrubs, trees near tidal water														5-20								6-30																			
Little Blue Heron	Local	shrubs, trees near tidal water														5-20						6-20																					
Tricolored Heron	Local	shrubs, trees near tidal water														5-20								6-30																			
Cattle Egret	Local	shrubs, trees near tidal water														5-20						6-20																					
White Ibis	No nest records	shrubs, trees near tidal water														5-20					6-15																					
Northern Harrier	Rare	marshes, wet pastures & meadows														5-20													7-25														
Cooper's Hawk	Uncommon	mixed woodlands, groves														5-20														7-31													
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Rare	moist woods, swamps, bogs														5-20																				8-31							
Peregrine Falcon	Local	cliffs, buildings, bridges														5-20																	8-15										
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Local	northern coniferous forests														5-20																						9-10					
House Wren	Common	open woods, dead trees, suburbs														5-20																	8-15										
Winter Wren	Uncommon	moist woods with hemlocks														5-20																				8-31							
Pine Siskin	Rare	northern conifers														5-20																				8-31							
Eastern Towhee	Common	dry open woodlands, edges, brush														5-20																				8-31							
Ovenbird	Common	open, mature, mixed upland forest														5-20															8-5												
Worm-eating Warbler	Uncommon	deep deciduous woods														5-20												7-20															
Least Tern	Local	beaches, coastal islands, spoil areas															5-25								7-5																		
Royal Tern	Local	beaches, coastal islands, spoil areas															5-25								7-5																		
Black Skimmer	Local	beaches, coastal islands															5-25								7-5																		
Red-headed Woodpecker	Local	open country with scattered trees															5-25																	8-20									
Acadian Flycatcher	Common	moist woods, bottomlands															5-25														8-5												
Great Crested Flycatcher	Common	variety of woodland habitats															5-25													7-31													
Eastern Kingbird	Common	open areas, edges, often near water															5-25								7-5																		
White-eyed Vireo	Common	brushy areas, often near water															5-25																8-15										
Yellow-throated Vireo	Uncommon	tall deciduous trees															5-25																8-15										
Blue Jay	Common	variety of woodland habitats, suburbs															5-25																				9-5						
N. Rough-winged Swallow	Uncommon	near water with steep banks															5-25					6-20																					
Tree Swallow	Uncommon	open country near water															5-25						6-25																				
Barn Swallow	Common	open country near buildings, bridges															5-25						6-25																				
Marsh Wren	Uncommon	cattail and other tall marshes															5-25																		8-25								
Gray Catbird	Common	dense thickets, shrubs, hedgerows															5-25																			8-31							
Hermit Thrush	Local	damp forests with hemlocks															5-25																						9-15				
Wood Thrush	Common	variety of woodland habitats															5-25																	8-20									
Grasshopper Sparrow	Common	hayfields, grassy pastures															5-25																			8-31							
Yellow-breasted Chat	Common	brushy fields, thickets, wood edges															5-25														8-5												
Golden-winged Warbler	Rare	damp, brushy fields, wood edges															5-25											7-20															
Blue-winged Warbler	Uncommon	brushy fields, wood edges															5-25											7-20															
Nashville Warbler	Rare	swamp and bog areas															5-25																8-15										
Kentucky Warbler	Uncommon	moist deciduous woods, understory															5-25										7-15																
Common Yellowthroat	Common	brushy areas, preferably wet															5-25															8-10											
Hooded Warbler	Uncommon	moist forests with dense understory															5-25												7-25														
Cerulean Warbler	Uncommon	mature moist or riverside forests															5-25														8-5												
Prairie Warbler	Common	brushy fields, edges, small pines															5-25											7-20															
Scarlet Tanager	Common	mature deciduous forests															5-25															8-10											
Indigo Bunting	Common	edges, open forests, brush areas															5-25																8-15										
Green-winged Teal	Rare	high ground near water																6-1						6-30																			
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Rare	cities, suburbs, farms																6-1												7-31													
Sora	Local	fresh marshes, wet meadows																6-1												7-31													
Wilson's Snipe	Rare	marshy edges of ponds, streams																6-1									7-15															
Brown Pelican	Local	shrubby marsh island																6-1												7-31													
American Bittern	Rare	tall marshes, wet fields																6-1								7-10																	
Glossy Ibis	Local	shrubs, trees near tidal water																6-1						6-30																			
Osprey	Common	marshes, tidal water, channel markers																6-1															8-15										
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Uncommon	conifers in extensive woodlands																6-1												7-31													
Monk Parakeet	Rare	urban, suburban, city parks																6-1												7-31													
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Common	variety of woodland habitats																6-1															8-15										
Blue-headed Vireo	Local	coniferous or mixed woodlands																6-1																8-20									
Warbling Vireo	Uncommon	open deciduous or riverside woods																6-1														8-10											
Red-eyed Vireo	Common	variety of woodland habitats																6-1												7-31													
Purple Martin	Common	open country, colonial																6-1					6-25																				
Bank Swallow	Uncommon	near water with steep banks, colonial																6-1				6-20																					
Cliff Swallow	Local	open country near buildings, bridges																6-1					6-25																				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Local	coniferous or mixed woods																6-1										7-20															
Purple Finch	Uncommon	mixed woods, parklands, residential																6-1														8-10											
Clay-colored Sparrow	Rare	scrubby open areas																6-1												7-31													
Dark-eyed Junco	Local	edges of northern mixed woods																6-1												7-31													
Seaside Sparrow	Local	salt marshes																6-1														8-10											
Saltmarsh Sparrow	Local	salt marshes																6-1														8-10											
Swamp Sparrow	Local	marshes, wet brushy areas, bogs																6-1												7-31													
Orchard Oriole	Common	edges, hedgerows, scattered trees																6-1							7-5																		
Baltimore Oriole	Common	shade trees, open deciduous woods																6-1											7-25														
Northern Parula	Common	moist woods, bottomlands, spruces																6-1															8-15										
Yellow Warbler	Common	wet brushy areas, farmlands																6-1								7-10																	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Local	brushy, second-growth, edges																6-1														8-10											
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Uncommon	mature conifer or mixed forests																6-1																8-20									
Blue-winged Teal	Rare	high ground near water																	6-5						7-5																		
Common Nighthawk	Uncommon	barren country and flat roofs																	6-5								7-15															
Laughing Gull	Local	salt marshes																	6-5							7-10																	
Herring Gull	Local	beaches, coastal islands, spoil areas																	6-5							7-10																	
Great Black-backed Gull	Local	beaches, coastal islands, spoil areas																	6-5							7-10																	
Common Tern	Local	beaches, coastal islands, spoil areas																	6-5					6-30																			
Least Flycatcher	Local	wood edges, open deciduous woods																	6-5									7-20															
Savannah Sparrow	Local	hayfields, wet meadows, pastures																	6-5													8-10											
Bobolink	Uncommon	fields, meadows, pastures																	6-5					6-30																			
Northern Waterthrush	Rare	swamps and bogs, pond edges																	6-5								7-15															

Species	Abundance	Preferred Breeding Habitat	Jan	Feb	Mar	4-1	4-5	4-10	4-15	4-20	4-25	5-1	5-5	5-10	5-15	5-20	5-25	6-1	6-5	6-10	6-15	6-20	6-25	7-1	7-5	7-10	7-15	7-20	7-25	8-1	8-5	8-10	8-15	8-20	8-25	9-1	9-5	9-10	9-15	9-20	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Local	mixed woods with heavy understory																	6-5												8-5												
Summer Tanager	Local	mixed dry upland woods																	6-5													8-10											
Blue Grosbeak	Uncommon	thickets, hedgerows & edges																	6-5													8-10											
Dickcissel	Uncommon	open country, especially alfalfa																	6-5													8-10											
Ruddy Duck	Rare	dense marshes with open water																		6-10															8-25								
American Coot	Rare	marshes with open water																		6-10															8-25								
Spotted Sandpiper	Local	beaches or rocky streams																		6-10				6-30																			
Willet	Local	salt marshes																		6-10				7-1																			
Double-crested Cormorant	Local	treed islands																		6-10				6-30																			
Mississippi Kite	Rare	riparian forests with nearby open areas																		6-10										7-31													
Alder Flycatcher	Local	wet brushy areas, prefers alders																		6-10								7-20															
Willow Flycatcher	Common	wet to fairly dry brushy areas																		6-10								7-20															
Sedge Wren	Rare	wet meadows, marshes																		6-10																8-31							
Veery	Uncommon	moist mixed woods																		6-10												8-10											
White-throated Sparrow	Rare	brushy openings																		6-10										7-31													
American Redstart	Uncommon	moist, deciduous forest																		6-10								7-20															
Magnolia Warbler	Uncommon	northern coniferous forests																		6-10											8-5												
Blackburnian Warbler	Uncommon	northern coniferous or mixed woods																		6-10										7-31													
Black-throated Green Warbler	Local	northern coniferous or mixed woods																		6-10											8-5												
Canada Warbler	Uncommon	thick, moist forest undergrowth																		6-10							7-15																
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Common	variety of forest habitats, edges																			6-15									7-31													
Broad-winged Hawk	Uncommon	hilly woodlands																			6-15											8-10											
Cedar Waxwing	Uncommon	open woodland, shade trees, streams																			6-15									7-31													
American Goldfinch	Common	brushy fields, edges, hedgerows																			6-15															8-31							
Mourning Warbler	Rare	brushy areas in woodlands or edges																			6-15									7-31													
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Local	edges of moist deciduous woods																			6-15											8-10											
Black-billed Cuckoo	Rare	variety of forest habitats, edges																				6-20						7-20															
Purple Gallinule	Rare	shrubby swamps																				6-20								7-31													