

## Montgomery County Species Accounts October 4, 2008

A total of 328 species of birds have been recorded in Montgomery County, 252 regularly occurring and 76 accidentals. The regularly occurring species, including breeders, are discussed here.

**Greater White-fronted Goose.** Rare October to mid-April. Seen with flocks of migrant Canada Geese grazing in open fields.

**Snow Goose.** Occasional October to April. Generally with flocks of migrant Canada Geese grazing in open fields.

**Cackling Goose.** Occasional from October to March. This recently split small version of Canada Goose is sometimes found in flocks of migrant Canada Geese.

**Canada Goose.** Common permanent resident. Migrants arrive in October, leave in April. Graze on golf courses and other grassy expanses, and on corn stubble.

**Mute Swan.** Rare fall through spring. Large lakes.

**Tundra Swan.** Uncommon late October through March. Black Hill, Zion Road Pond, or the Potomac.

**Wood Duck.** Common late February through October; occasional in mild winters. Ponds, streams and swamps such as those along the Potomac, especially Hughes Hollow, Sycamore Landing, Little Bennett, and Black Hill.

**Gadwall.** Uncommon mid-October to mid-April. Ponds or large lakes.

**American Wigeon.** Uncommon mid-August through early May. Ponds and large lakes.

**American Black Duck.** Common, more so in winter. Often with Mallards in the same habitat; large lakes, Hughes Hollow.

**Mallard.** Common resident. Almost any pond or stream.

**Blue-winged Teal.** Uncommon late March to early May; rare in summer; occasional August to early October. Regular in spring at the Pennyfield ponds, Hughes Hollow and Black Hill.

**Northern Shoveler.** Occasional September to April. Ponds, lakes and swamps along the Potomac, as well as the river itself.

**Northern Pintail.** Uncommon mid-September to early December; occasional through the end of April. Ponds and lakes.

**Green-winged Teal.** Common mid-March to early May; uncommon August to mid-November; less likely in winter. Ponds and lakes; regular at the Pennyfield ponds, Hughes Hollow, and Black Hill.

**Canvasback.** Uncommon November through mid-April. Regular at Black Hill and Zion Road pond. Redhead. Ranges from rare in October to occasional in winter to uncommon in spring (April). The most consistent locations are Black Hill and the Potomac above Violette's Lock.

**Ring-necked Duck.** Common October through April on large lakes and ponds.

**Greater Scaup.** Occasional October to February; rare March and April. Large lakes and the Potomac above Violette's Lock.

**Lesser Scaup.** Common October and November; uncommon in winter through early May. Larger lakes and the Potomac above Violette's Lock.

**Surf Scoter.** Rare in late winter. Large lakes and particularly on the Potomac.

**White-winged Scoter.** Rare in late winter. Large lakes and particularly on the Potomac.

**Black Scoter.** Rare in late winter. Large lakes and particularly on the Potomac.

**Long-tailed Duck.** Occasional mid-October to early May, more common in spring. Large lakes and the Potomac above Violette's Lock.

**Bufflehead.** Common mid-October to mid-May. Ponds, lakes and the Potomac.

**Common Goldeneye.** Uncommon November to April, except occasional in winter. Larger lakes, especially Black

Hill.

**Hooded Merganser.** Common November to May; occasional in summer. Ponds and lakes; best places are Black Hill, Lake Needwood, and particularly Hughes Hollow/Sycamore Landing, where they have bred.

**Common Merganser.** Uncommon in November; common December to April. Large lakes and the Potomac, particularly at Violette's Lock. Has bred on the Potomac above Seneca

**Red-breasted Merganser.** Uncommon mid-October to December and March to mid-May; occasional in winter. Large lakes and the Potomac.

**Ruddy Duck.** Common mid-September to February; uncommon to early June. Large lakes.

**Ring-necked Pheasant.** Rare resident, virtually extirpated from farmland, but may hold out near Hughes Hollow or Triadelphia Lake Road.

**Wild Turkey.** Uncommon resident, but increasingly regular in lowlands along the Potomac. In the spring, listen at dawn at Hughes Hollow, Sycamore Landing, Black Hill, or Triadelphia Reservoir.

**Northern Bobwhite.** Rare resident, virtually extirpated from farmlands, but may persist near Sycamore Landing, Triadelphia Lake Road, and up-county near the canal in Dickerson Conservation Area.

**Red-throated Loon.** Rare March to mid-April and late October to mid-December. Large lakes such as Triadelphia Reservoir or, more likely, the Potomac River above the rapids at Violette's Lock.

**Common Loon.** Uncommon late March to mid-May and late September to early December; possible through the winter. Often seen flying overland in the spring. Usually on the Potomac above Violette's Lock; also on large lakes, especially Black Hill and Triadelphia Reservoir.

**Pied-billed Grebe.** Common mid-August to early May. Small ponds to large lakes, Hughes Hollow and the Potomac above Violette's Lock.

**Horned Grebe.** Occasional from mid-October to early February; uncommon through early May. Generally on the

Potomac above Violette's Lock or at Black Hill.

**Red-necked Grebe.** Rare. Seen after deep freezes to the north force them south in January or February. Black Hill or the Potomac or any of its open tributaries.

**Double-crested Cormorant.** Common early March to late November, especially Watkins Island in the Potomac upstream from Swain's Lock and also at Triadelphia Reservoir.

**American Bittern.** Occasional late March to early May and late September to early December. Marshes, especially Hughes Hollow or Sycamore Landing.

**Least Bittern.** Occasional early April to early October. Has bred at Hughes Hollow. Listen for its cu-cu-cu call in summer.

**Great Blue Heron.** Common year-round. Streams and pond edges. Breeds on Watkins Island in the Potomac upstream from Swain's Lock.

**Great Egret.** Uncommon mid-March through June; common July to mid-October at Hughes Hollow, the Pennyfield ponds or edges of large lakes.

**Snowy Egret.** Occasional April to mid-October. Hughes Hollow.

**Little Blue Heron.** Rare in spring, but occasional through mid-September. at Hughes Hollow and Ednor Road at Brown's Bridge.

**Green Heron.** Common April through September. Breeders from the National Zoo area feed on islands in the Potomac, occasionally to Hughes Hollow. They have bred on an island in Lake Whetstone in Montgomery Village.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron.** Uncommon April through September. Breeders from the National Zoo area feed on islands in the Potomac, occasionally to Hughes Hollow. They have bred on an island in Lake Whetstone in Montgomery Village.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.** Occasional April through September. Has bred at Sycamore Landing, Dickerson, Sligo Creek and along Rock Creek near Cedar Lane. Seen annually at Hughes Hollow.

**Glossy Ibis.** Rare spring migrant. Has been seen at Hughes Hollow in late summer.

**Black Vulture.** Common resident. Open country, frequently soaring above Turkey Vultures. They roost along River Road at Seneca.

**Turkey Vulture.** Common year-round. Open country, but birds from the National Zoo area follow Wisconsin Avenue daily to feed in the upper county. Roosts are located along Route 28 west of Rout 24 and at Seneca.

**Osprey.** Common March to May and September and October; uncommon in summer. Larger lakes and the Potomac.

**Bald Eagle.** Uncommon year-round. Nests at Great Falls and elsewhere down the Potomac as well as at Triadelphia Reservoir. Frequents Black Hill in winter.

**Northern Harrier.** Uncommon September to May, except occasional in winter. Requires extensive open fields or marshes.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk.** Common September to May. Woodland edges and suburban feeders.

**Cooper's Hawk.** Uncommon September to May; occasional in summer. Woodlands; sometimes raids feeders. May breed at Seneca Creek State Park.

**Northern Goshawk.** Rare November to February. Woodlands along streams such as Seneca Creek; also at Hughes Hollow and Sycamore Landing.

**Red-shouldered Hawk.** Common year-round in mature woodlands, especially Hughes Hollow.

**Broad-winged Hawk.** Common migrant early April to May and late August to early October; occasional breeder in isolated woodlots. Look at high clouds with your binoculars in September. Check edges of deciduous woods in the morning during migration, especially Little Bennett.

**Red-tailed Hawk.** Common year-round. Prefers fields, but now frequents suburbs with mature trees.

**Rough-legged Hawk.** Rare October to April; a winter visitor in open country following heavy snow cover to the north.

**Golden Eagle.** Rare October to February. Most sightings just inland from the Potomac.

**American Kestrel.** Formerly common spring through fall; now uncommon throughout the year. Perches on power lines in open farm country.

**Merlin.** Occasional throughout the year. Woodland edges where migrant passerines are concentrated. Recently has wintered in Silver Spring.

**Peregrine Falcon.** Rare migrant in April and October, but may linger through the winter on large buildings in Bethesda and Rockville.

**King Rail.** Rare April to early October. Marshes such as Hughes Hollow.

**Virginia Rail.** Rare mid-March to October. Marshes such as Hughes Hollow.

**Sora.** Uncommon mid-April to late May and mid-August to mid-October. Marshy edges of lakes and ponds with cattails such as Hughes Hollow, stormwater management ponds, or even streamlets in corn fields.

**Common Moorhen.** Uncommon April to July; rare August to September. Marsh edges; Hughes Hollow.

**American Coot.** Common October to May on lakes and ponds and on the Potomac above Violette's Lock; numerous in winter at Black Hill.

**Black-bellied Plover.** Rare migrant in May and from August to November. Mud flats or turf farms. American Golden-Plover. Rare in April; occasional late August to mid-November. Extensive short grass, turf farms.

**Semipalmated Plover.** Rare May; occasional June to August. Wet mud flats around lakes and ponds or even in wet farm fields. Try Ednor Road at Brown's Bridge.

**Killdeer.** Common year-round in short grass or gravel and muddy edges of lakes and ponds. Try farm fields and turf farms.

**Spotted Sandpiper.** Common mid-April to October. Streams and pond edges; numerous on rocks in the Potomac River near Carderock and Blockhouse Point in

May.

**Solitary Sandpiper.** Uncommon April and May, July to September. Shallow streams and pond edges. Regular at the Pennyfield ponds in spring.

**Greater Yellowlegs.** Uncommon; primarily April and May, July to October. Edges of lakes, wet spots in farm fields or turf farms.

**Lesser Yellowlegs.** Uncommon; primarily April and May, July to September. Edges of lakes, wet spots in farm fields or turf farms.

**Upland Sandpiper.** Rare mid-April to mid-September. Extensive dry fields with short or tall grass, turf farms.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper.** Occasional mid-April to mid-June and mid-July to October; rare in midsummer. Mud flats on the edges of ponds and lakes or flooded fields. Try Ednor Road.

**Western Sandpiper.** Rare July to October. Mud flats on the edges of ponds and lakes or wet spots in turf farms.

**Least Sandpiper.** Uncommon April and May, July and August. Mud flats on edges of ponds and lakes; also wet spots in farm fields or turf farms. Try Ednor Road.

**White-rumped Sandpiper.** Rare mid-August to October. Mud flats on edges of ponds and lakes.

**Baird's Sandpiper.** Rare mid-August to October. Grassy mud on the edges of ponds, turf farms.

**Pectoral Sandpiper.** Occasional late March to mid-May, mid-July to October. Mud flats on lake edges, wet spots on turf farms. Try Ednor Road.

**Dunlin.** Rare September to November. Mud flats on edges of lakes.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper.** Rare July to mid-October. Extensive grassy fields, turf farms.

**Short-billed Dowitcher.** Rare July to early October. Shallow water at pond edges.

**Wilson's Snipe.** Common late February to mid-May; uncommon September to November; occasional in winter.

Marshy pond edges, drainage ditches, wet meadows. Regular at Hughes Hollow and in wet fields along Sycamore Landing Road.

**American Woodcock.** Uncommon February to November; rare in winter. Display begins in February and continues into May in fields near wet woods, particularly along River Road at Hughes Hollow, or further up-county between Edward's Ferry and White's Ferry Roads.

**Laughing Gull.** Rare throughout the year. Migrants could occur along the Potomac. September migrant along the Patuxent River.

**Bonaparte's Gull.** Common migrant mid-March through April; occasional mid-September to mid-December along the Potomac, especially at Riley's Lock; irregular throughout the winter.

**Ring-billed Gull.** Common throughout the year except in summer. Frequents the Potomac as well as shopping mall parking lots; most numerous in migration.

**Herring Gull.** Common throughout the year, except rare in summer, particularly along the Potomac. Great Black-backed Gull. Common mid-October to February; uncommon March to early May along the Potomac or at Brighton Dam.

**Caspian Tern.** Common mid-April to mid-May, occasional in summer and uncommon August to mid-October. Migrates along the Potomac and seen at Triadelphia Reservoir.

**Black Tern.** Occasional in May and from mid-July to mid-September on the Potomac. Rare in summer.

**Common Tern.** Rare in spring and fall when other terns are migrating along the Potomac.

**Forster's Tern.** Occasional late March through November. Migrates along the Potomac.

**Rock Pigeon.** Common all year in urban areas and around barnyards.

**Mourning Dove.** Common all year from suburbs to farmland.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo.** Common May through October in

wooded areas, orchards, and fruit trees with tent caterpillars. Try Little Bennett.

**Black-billed Cuckoo.** Uncommon May, rare June and July, uncommon August to early October. Woodland edges, second-growth forests, orchards, and fruit trees with tent caterpillars. Try Little Bennett.

**Barn Owl.** Rare throughout the year. Nearly extirpated from the county. Can be heard migrating at night in September and October.

**Eastern Screech-Owl.** Common. Deciduous woodlots, especially near streams; large gardens. Try Mt. Ephraim Road, Lake Needwood.

**Great Horned Owl.** Common year-round in mature woods, particularly pines; frequents the outer suburbs.

**Barred Owl.** Common year-round in mature bottomlands such as at Hughes Hollow or Riley's Lock; adapts to humans.

**Long-eared Owl.** Rare late October to April. Likes isolated, dense conifers or stands of conifers near open fields, such as at tree farms or nurseries.

**Short-eared Owl.** Rare November to mid-April in extensive grassy meadows and open farmlands.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl.** Rare mid-October to November and in March; occasional in winter. Small, dense conifers near clearings.

**Common Nighthawk.** Rare breeder; uncommon migrant in May, common August to September. Large numbers overhead on late August evenings.

**Whip-poor-will.** Uncommon mid-April to September. Woodlots in open farmland. Best heard in May. Try the campground area in Little Bennett or Mt. Ephraim Road.

**Chimney Swift.** Common early April to mid-October. Familiar summer sound overhead.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird.** Common late April to early October in woods near water. Red flowers in gardens attract them to nearby feeders. Keep feeders up into the winter to attract vagrants, perhaps western species such as Rufous.

**Belted Kingfisher.** Common year-round. Lakes and ponds, but especially moving water. No stream or pond is too small.

**Red-headed Woodpecker.** Occasional year-round. Open stands of dead trees. Try Riley's Lock, Hughes Hollow, Sycamore Landing Road, or the east end of the lake at Black Hill.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker.** Common resident. Mature deciduous trees in woods or suburbs.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.** Uncommon April to mid-May and mid-September to October; common in winter. Deciduous woods near water. Many winter along the C&O Canal; check apple trees or orchards as well.

**Downy Woodpecker.** Common resident. Any deciduous trees; common feeder bird.

**Hairy Woodpecker.** Common resident. Prefers mature woodland.

**Northern Flicker.** Common year-round, most numerous in migration. Prefers deciduous woods, but relishes ants and often feeds on the ground.

**Pileated Woodpecker.** Common resident. Requires extensive mature woodland, especially along streams, but frequents older suburbs.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher.** Rare in May; occasional in late August and September. Dead snags in open areas of mature woods near water. Try Hughes Hollow, Riley's or Violette's Locks.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee.** Common May to mid-October in mature deciduous woodland.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.** Rare May to early June; occasional August to mid-October. Likes moist woods, swamps.

**Acadian Flycatcher.** Common late April to September in deciduous woodlands near streams. Breeds along the canal, Rock Creek, Seneca Creek, Watts Branch.

**Alder Flycatcher.** Rare May to late September. Shrubs in wetlands such as at Hughes Hollow; deciduous wood

edges.

**Willow Flycatcher.** Uncommon May to September. Breeds at Hughes Hollow, Blue Mash and possibly in streamside fields in Little Bennett.

**Least Flycatcher.** Occasional in May and mid-August to September. Edges of deciduous woods. Calls in spring.

**Eastern Phoebe.** Common early March to early November. A few may winter. Deciduous wood edges, especially near moving water.

**Great Crested Flycatcher.** Common late April to August; occasional to late September. Mature deciduous woods.

**Eastern Kingbird.** Common late April to late September. Open areas near streams.

**White-eyed Vireo.** Common mid-April to mid-October. Brushy edges and second growth.

**Yellow-throated Vireo.** Uncommon May to September. Mature deciduous bottomland such as the Potomac valley, Little Bennett, or Tucker Lane along the Patuxent River.

**Blue-headed Vireo.** Common April and May; uncommon September and October. Deciduous wood edges. Try Kingsley Trail at Little Bennett.

**Warbling Vireo.** Common late April to May; uncommon to late September. Mature deciduous trees near water, especially along the Potomac from Carderock to Sycamore Landing and in Layhill Park.

**Philadelphia Vireo.** Rare May; uncommon late August to mid-October. Woodlot edges near streams. Try Meadows Nature Center or Tucker Lane.

**Red-eyed Vireo.** Common mid-April to late October. Deciduous woods; sings incessantly.

**Blue Jay.** Common year-round. Large numbers overhead in migration mid-April to early May and late September to late October. Mature oaks anywhere.

**American Crow.** Common resident. In winter large roost at White Flint Mall, Rockville, fans out in long, strung-out flocks each morning to feed in outer suburbs and upper county farmland, returning in the evening.

**Fish Crow.** Common resident. About ten percent of the White Flint crow roost; last flocks in spring and first flocks in fall consist entirely of Fish Crows. Prefers to be near water.

**Common Raven.** Rare resident but becoming more frequent in piedmont. Breeds at Sugarloaf Mountain, Frederick County, and near Little Bennett and Cabin John in Montgomery County.

**Horned Lark.** Occasional year-round. Upper county plowed fields, corn stubble. Try the intersection of Sugarland and Montevideo Roads in winter.

**Purple Martin.** Common mid-March to late September. Common migrant on the Potomac in spring.

**Tree Swallow.** Common mid-March to mid-November. Breeds at Hughes Hollow and the Agricultural Farm Park.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow.** Common April to late October. Breeds along the Potomac at Pennyfield and Dickerson; migrant along the Potomac and at Hughes Hollow. Try River Road at Willard Road in fall migration.

**Bank Swallow.** Uncommon mid-April to mid-September. Often in mixed flocks in May over the Potomac, particularly at Blockhouse Point and Carderock. Try River Road at Willard Road in fall migration.

**Cliff Swallow.** Uncommon mid-April to mid-September. Blockhouse Point in May. Has bred at Lake Needwood and at Brighton Dam and recently under the aqueduct at Riley's Lock.

**Barn Swallow.** Common late March to early October. Open farm country.

**Carolina Chickadee.** Common resident in deciduous woods.

**Tufted Titmouse.** Common resident in deciduous woods.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch.** Irruptive migrant; generally uncommon September to March, occasional to early May. Prefers pines. Little Bennett, Black Hill, and Seneca Creek State Park near Clopper Lake.

**White-breasted Nuthatch.** Common resident in deciduous woods.

**Brown Creeper.** Rare breeder; uncommon rest of year in deciduous woods.

**Carolina Wren.** Common resident in deciduous woods and edges.

**House Wren.** Common mid-April to mid-October. A few overwinter. Tangles on edges of deciduous woods, gardens.

**Winter Wren.** Uncommon October to April in deciduous woods near water. Try Hughes Hollow, stream valleys such as the canal above Pennyfield and Riley's Locks, or the Ten-mile Creek area at Black Hill.

**Sedge Wren.** Rare spring and fall migrant in swampy, grassy field edges. Has been seen in mid-May in Layhill Park.

**Marsh Wren.** Rare migrant in cattails and tall grassy marshes, such as at Hughes Hollow.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet.** Common late September to mid-March in coniferous or deciduous woods. Try Black Hill or Little Bennett.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet.** Common mid-September to late May in any coniferous or deciduous woods.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.** Common April to mid-August, uncommon to late September. A few linger into the winter in deciduous woods, particularly near the canal.

**Eastern Bluebird.** Common throughout the year in open farmland and wood edges.

**Veery.** Common May and September; uncommon breeder in mature deciduous stream valleys such as Watts Branch or Little Bennett.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush.** Occasional migrant mid-to late May, uncommon mid-September to mid-October. Mature deciduous stream valleys such as Watts Branch. Best detected by flight note on an overcast night.

**Bicknell's Thrush.** Occasional late May and mid-September to mid-October in mature deciduous stream valleys such as Watts Branch. Best detected by flight note

on an overcast night.

**Swainson's Thrush.** Common May to early June; uncommon late August to October in mature deciduous stream valleys. Common night migrant with distinctive note like a spring peeper.

**Hermit Thrush.** Uncommon late September to mid-May in mixed woodland, holly, or rhododendron thickets, particularly along the Potomac, at Seneca Creek State Park, or at Hughes Hollow along Hunting Quarter Road.

**Wood Thrush.** Common (but declining) late April to mid-September, uncommon to mid-October in mature deciduous woods.

**American Robin.** Common late February to late November in parks and on lawns; uncommon in winter in deciduous woods, often in sizable flocks.

**Gray Catbird.** Common mid-April to mid-November; a few may winter. Thickets, wood edges, and hedgerows.

**Northern Mockingbird.** Common resident from farmland to suburb.

**Brown Thrasher.** Common April and May; uncommon to September; rare in winter. Thickets and wood edges. Try McKee-Beshers.

**European Starling.** Common resident in most habitats.

**American Pipit.** Uncommon October to May. Pastures, corn stubble, especially when freshly manured.

**Cedar Waxwing.** Common throughout the year, especially mid-April to early June and early October to late December. Large tree-top flocks on wood edges and berry-laden ornamentals.

**Blue-winged Warbler.** Uncommon late April to late September. Deciduous woods; breeds in second growth. Try Pennyfield, the Kingsley Trail at Little Bennett, or Triadelphia Lake Road.

**Golden-winged Warbler.** Occasional late April to May and August to mid-September. Wood edges, second growth. Try the Ten-mile Creek area of Black Hill, the Carderock group picnic area, or Meadowside Nature Center.

**Tennessee Warbler.** Uncommon late April to May and mid-August to late October. Deciduous woods and edges.

**Orange-crowned Warbler.** Rare late September to mid-May. Tangles, edges, or hedgerows with small trees.

**Nashville Warbler.** Uncommon late April to May and September to early October. Wood edges and second growth.

**Northern Parula.** Common mid-April to late October. Breeds in deciduous woods near water. Try Little Bennett or along the Potomac or Patuxent Rivers.

**Yellow Warbler.** Common mid-April to late September. Breeds in willows near water. Hughes Hollow, Woottons Mill Park, Little Bennett.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler.** Common late April to May and late August to early October. Wood edges and second growth.

**Magnolia Warbler.** Common late April to May and August to late October. Deciduous edges and second growth.

**Cape May Warbler.** Uncommon late April to May and late August to early November. Deciduous or coniferous woods.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler.** Common mid-April to early June and mid-August to late October. Lower branches of deciduous woods.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler.** Common mid-September to May. Deciduous woods; in winter especially at Riley's Lock and McKee-Beshers.

**Black-throated Green Warbler.** Common late April to May and late August to late October. Deciduous or mixed woods.

**Blackburnian Warbler.** Uncommon late April to late May and late August to early October. Tops of mature deciduous trees in spring, lower branches in fall.

**Yellow-throated Warbler.** Uncommon, but possibly increasing in numbers, late March to early August; occasional to late September. Breeds in mature sycamores

along the Potomac. Try the canal at Pennyfield, Riley's Lock, or Sycamore Landing or between the I-495 bridge and Old Angler's Inn near Carderock.

**Pine Warbler.** Uncommon early March to July; occasional August to mid-December; rare in winter. Breeds locally in Virginia pine stands. Try White Grounds Road north of Route 28, Greenbridge Road, or Little Bennett.

**Prairie Warbler.** Common late April to July, uncommon to early October. Weedy or scrubby scattered second growth. Try River Road near Hughes Hollow, Triadelphia Lake Road, Meadowside Nature Center, Seneca Creek State Park, or Little Bennett.

**Palm Warbler.** Uncommon late March to mid-May; common early September to October; rare in winter. Wooded edges, open brushy fields.

**Bay-breasted Warbler.** Uncommon May to early June and late August to late October. Mature deciduous or mixed woods.

**Blackpoll Warbler.** Common May to mid-June and September-October. Mature deciduous trees and suburban areas in spring, more varied habitat in fall.

**Cerulean Warbler.** Uncommon late April to July; rare in August. Declining breeder possibly at Blockhouse Point and Sycamore Landing at the tops of mature deciduous trees. You will hear it more often than see it. Learn its song.

**Black-and-white Warbler.** Common April to May and August to late October; uncommon breeder in mixed woods. Rare in winter.

**American Redstart.** Common but declining mid-April to late October. Deciduous understory, second growth. Breeds at the end of Sycamore Landing Road.

**Prothonotary Warbler.** Common mid-April to mid-August; occasional to late September. Breeds along the canal. Try Hughes Hollow, Riley's Lock, and the wet woods north of Great Falls.

**Worm-eating Warbler.** Uncommon late April to mid-September. Steep hillsides in oak-hickory climax. Breeds in Little Bennett, at Triadelphia Lake Road near the reservoir, at Blockhouse Point and elsewhere along the canal.

**Ovenbird.** Common mid-April to late October. Mature woods with a deciduous understory. Breeds in Little Bennett, at Tucker Lane and at Triadelphia Lake Road along cemetery trail.

**Northern Waterthrush.** Uncommon late April to late May and August to late October. Swamps and thickets near wooded bogs. Try the canal, Meadowside, Little Bennett, or Hughes Hollow.

**Louisiana Waterthrush.** Uncommon late March to July, occasional to late August. Nests on steep stream banks with deciduous woods in Little Bennett, at Tucker Lane, and along the Potomac and fast-moving tributaries. Check streams running into the canal between Carderock and Old Angler's Inn and next to the turning basin at Riley's Lock.

**Kentucky Warbler.** Uncommon late April to mid-August; occasional to mid-September. Moist mature deciduous woods with heavy undergrowth. Try Tucker Lane, Meadowside, Little Bennett, Triadelphia Lake Road, or the towpath at Pennyfield, Seneca, or Sycamore Landing. Listen for the song across the canal.

**Connecticut Warbler.** Rare in May; occasional early September to late October. Dense thickets near water; stands of jewelweed or giant ragweed; weedy edges to cornfields.

**Mourning Warbler.** Occasional in May and early August to early October. Dense undergrowth in moist woods. Listen for its song between Pennyfield and Blockhouse Point. Often sings from a concealed perch.

**Common Yellowthroat.** Common mid-April to early October; often lingers into the winter. Edges, especially near water.

**Hooded Warbler.** Uncommon late April to September. Heavy understory in moist woods. Breeds along Tucker Lane and at Meadowside Nature Center on wooded hillsides near the creek.

**Wilson's Warbler.** Occasional in May, uncommon late August to late October. Thickets, especially willows, near water. Try Pennyfield.

**Canada Warbler.** Uncommon late April to May and early August to early October. Eye-level undergrowth in mature

deciduous woods.

**Yellow-breasted Chat.** Common late April to early August; occasional to October; rare in winter. Dense thickets, second growth in open country. Try Triadelphia Lake Road or River Road near McKee-Beshers. Dependable in Little Bennett, Dickerson Conservation Park, and the Ten-mile Creek area of Black Hill.

**Summer Tanager.** Occasional late April to May; rare June to late September. Oaks along the canal from Great Falls to Blockhouse Point.

**Scarlet Tanager.** Common mid-April to late October. Mature oaks and other deciduous trees.

**Eastern Towhee.** Common mid-March to October; uncommon in winter. Prefers leaf litter in deciduous edges.

**American Tree Sparrow.** Uncommon early November to February; occasional to early April. Weedy fields, brush, small trees, marshes, wet swales with alders. Try the Agricultural Farm Park.

**Chipping Sparrow.** Common late March to August, uncommon to early November; rare in winter. Grassy fields, lawns.

**Clay-colored Sparrow.** Rare mid-September to late October. Check flocks of Chipping Sparrows in weedy fields.

**Field Sparrow.** Common throughout the year. Brushy edges of open fields. Try the Agricultural Farm Park, Meadowside, Little Bennett, or Sycamore Landing Road.

**Vesper Sparrow.** Occasional early April to mid-September. Farmlands, grassy fields; Agricultural Farm Park.

**Savannah Sparrow.** Uncommon March to early May and September to November; rare in summer; occasional in winter. Grassy, weedy, or plowed fields.

**Grasshopper Sparrow.** Uncommon early April to mid-October. Grassy or fallow fields in farm country. Try the corner of Hughes and River Roads.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.** Rare May and October. Weedy streams or ponds adjacent to corn fields.

**Fox Sparrow.** Uncommon early October to early April. Most likely in February and March. Wooded undergrowth or multiflora rose thickets adjacent to deciduous woods; sometimes in suburban gardens. Try the end of Lake Needwood or, after snows, on rural road edges.

**Song Sparrow.** Common throughout the year. Brushy edges.

**Lincoln's Sparrow.** Occasional May and mid-September to late November. Thickets, often near water. Try Layhill Park or McKee-Beshers.

**Swamp Sparrow.** Common March to May and September to November; rare in summer; occasional in winter. Marshes, brushy fields; Hughes Hollow, Sycamore Landing Road, the end of Lake Needwood, or Meadowside Nature Center.

**White-throated Sparrow.** Common late September to early June. Brushy undergrowth and edges.

**White-crowned Sparrow.** Uncommon October to mid-May. Brushy roadside edges in up-county farmland. Try West Willard Road at Isaac Walton Way..

**Dark-eyed Junco.** Common late September to early May. Edges, shrubs.

**Lapland Longspur.** Rare mid-October to late March in plowed fields or corn stubble, usually with large flocks of Horned Larks.

**Snow Bunting.** Rare mid-October to mid-March in plowed fields or corn stubble, usually with large flocks of Horned Larks.

**Northern Cardinal.** Common resident. Wood edges, suburban gardens.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak.** Uncommon late April to May and September to late October. Tops of deciduous trees.

**Blue Grosbeak.** Uncommon late April to late October. Treelines and telephone lines in farm country. Try Hughes Road at River Road, Triadelphia Lake Road, or Ednor Road at Brown's Bridge.

**Indigo Bunting.** Common late April to late October.

Telephone lines in open farmland, weedy fields, and brushy areas with small trees. Breeds along River Road and at Little Bennett.

**Dickcissel.** Occasional May to July, rare in fall. Has bred on West Offutt Road near Poolesville. Try Triadelphia Lake Road. Breeds regularly in nearby Frederick County.

**Bobolink.** Common late April to May and August to October. Flocks in alfalfa or mustard fields. Try Triadelphia Lake Road.

**Red-winged Blackbird.** Common throughout the year. Marshes, farm fields. Breeds at Hughes Hollow.

**Eastern Meadowlark.** Uncommon and rapidly declining; occasional in winter. Open fields, power lines, fence posts. Try Triadelphia Lake Road or the polo fields on Hughes Road near River Road.

**Rusty Blackbird.** Uncommon early October to mid-May. Swamps, wooded wetlands; Hughes Hollow and Hunting Quarter Road, or the canal bed between Violette's Lock and Pennyfield.

**Common Grackle.** Common throughout most of the year, but uncommon in winter. Marshes, open fields, wooded suburbs.

**Brown-headed Cowbird.** Common March to October; uncommon in winter. Woods, farms, suburbs.

**Orchard Oriole.** Common mid-April to early August; uncommon to early September. Treelines, farmyards, suburban street trees. Pennyfield, Hughes Hollow, Woottons Mill Park, Meadowside Nature Center.

**Baltimore Oriole.** Common late April to late September. Deciduous woods; look for hanging nests in sycamore trees over the canal at Pennyfield, also Woottons Mill Park.

**Purple Finch.** Occasional September to early May. Most reliable in spring or fall, but is irruptive and can be plentiful some winters at feeders and in deciduous woods.

**House Finch.** Common resident. Farmlands to suburbs.

**Common Redpoll.** Irruptive; rare November to mid-April. Brushy, weedy edges; alder and birch catkins; thistle feeders.

**Pine Siskin.** Occasional October to May, most often in spring or fall migration. Weedy edges, thistle, sweet gum; often with goldfinches at feeders.

**American Goldfinch.** Common throughout the year. Weedy fields, thistle, second growth; feeders.

**Evening Grosbeak.** Irruptive; rare October to early May. A few pass through each year in October-November and April-May. Deciduous woods, feeders.

**House Sparrow.** Common resident from farmyards to suburbs to cities.

—Paul O'Brien