

Checklist of the Birds of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

This list was compiled by the Mecklenburg County Birds Record Committee. Thanks to Judy Walker, Kim Garrett, Taylor Piephoff, David Wright and members of the Mecklenburg Audubon Society. Staff assistance provided by Marek Smith. This checklist contains columns indicating the breeding status, relative abundance and habitats types utilized by each species. To date, 286 species of birds have been found in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

Seasons

Sp = spring; **Su** = summer; **F** = fall; **W** = winter

Abundance Codes

- C** = common: seen regularly in appropriate habitat.
U = uncommon: around, but not always seen.
R = rare: few records, but within expected range.
A = accidental: individual out of its normal range.
I = irregular/ irruptive.
E = locally extirpated or extinct.
 * = breeds in the County.
 (*) = former breeder.

Habitat Codes

Birds are highly mobile. These codes represent general habitat types utilized by each species.

- A** = all or any habitat.
M = mixed pine/hardwood forest.
H = hardwood forest.
W = open water, wetlands, mud flats.
S = stream/river side, bottomland.
F = open country, fields, old fields.
B = backyard

Common names and sequence of birds conforms to the American Ornithologists Union. 1998. *Checklist of North American Birds*. 7th edition. American Ornithologists Union, Washington, D.C.

Species	B	Sp	Su	F	W	Habitat
Loon, Red-throated					R	W
Loon, Common		U	R	U	C	W
Grebe, Pied-billed		U	R	U	C	W
Grebe, Horned		U		U	C	W
Grebe, Red-necked					R	W
Grebe, Eared				A		W
Pelican, Brown			A			W
Cormorant, Double-crested		C	U	C	U	W
Anhinga		A				W
Bittern, American		R		R		W
Bittern, Least		R	R			W
Heron, Great Blue	*	C	C	C	C	W
Egret, Great		U	U	U	R	W
Egret, Snowy		R	R	R		W
Heron, Little Blue			U	R		W
Heron, Tri-colored			R	R		W
Egret, Cattle		R		R		F W
Heron, Green	*	C	C	C	R	S W
Night-heron, Black-crowned				R		W
Night-heron, Yellow-crowned	*	U	U			S
Ibis, White					R	W

Species	B	Sp	Su	F	W	Habitat
Ibis, Glossy		R	R			W
Vulture, Black	*	U	U	U	U	A
Vulture, Turkey	*	U	U	U	U	A
Goose, Snow		R		R	R	F W
Goose, Ross's					A	F W
Goose, Canada	*	C	C	C	C	F W
Swan, Tundra					R	W
Duck, Wood	*	U	U	U	U	S W
Gadwall		U		U	U	W
Wigeon, American		U		U	U	W
Duck, American Black				U	U	W
Mallard	*	C	C	C	C	W
Teal, Blue-winged		C		C	R	W
Shoveler, Northern		R		U	U	W
Pintail, Northern					R	W
Teal, Green-winged				U	U	W
Canvasback		U		U	U	W
Redhead				U	U	W
Duck, Ring-necked		U		U	C	W
Scaup, Greater					R	W
Scaup, Lesser		U		U	C	W
Scoter, Surf				R		W
Scoter, White-winged				R	R	W
Scoter, Black				R		W
Oldsquaw					R	W
Bufflehead		U		U	C	W
Goldeneye, Common					I	W
Merganser, Hooded	*	U	R	U	C	W
Merganser, Common					I	W
Merganser, Red-breasted			U		U	U W
Duck, Ruddy		U		U	U	W
Osprey	*	C	C	C	R	W
Kite, Mississippi				R		F
Eagle, Bald		R	R	R	R	W
Harrier, Northern		U		U	U	F
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	*	U	R	U	U	A
Hawk, Cooper's	*	U	U	U	U	A
Hawk, Red-shouldered	*	C	C	C	C	M H S
Hawk, Broad-winged	*	U	U	U		M H S
Hawk, Red-tailed	*	C	C	C	C	F
Hawk, Rough-legged					R	F
Kestrel, American	*	C	U	C	C	F B
Merlin		R		R	R	F
Falcon, Peregrine		R		R	R	F B
Pheasant, Ring-necked	(*)	E	E	E	E	F
Turkey, Wild	*	R	R	R	R	F H
Bobwhite, Northern	*	U	U	U	U	F H M
Rail, Yellow				R		W
Rail, Black		R		R		W
Rail, Clapper				A		W
Rail, King	(*)	R		R		W

Species	B	Sp	Su	F	W	Habitat
Rail, Virginia		R		R	R	W
Sora		R		R	R	W
Moorhen, Common		R		R	R	W
Coot, American		C		C	C	W
Crane, Sandhill					A	F
Plover, Black-bellied		R	R	R		W
Golden-Plover, American		R		R		W F
Plover, Sernipalmated		U	U	U		W
Plover, Piping				A		W
Killdeer	*	C	C	C	C	F W B
Yellowlegs, Greater		U	U	U		W
Yellowlegs, Lesser		U	U	U		W
Sandpiper, Solitary		C	C	C		S W
Willet		R				W
Sandpiper, Spotted		C	C	C		S W
Sandpiper, Upland		R	R			F
Whimbrel				A		W
Godwit, Marbled			A			W
Turnstone, Ruddy		R	R			W
Sanderling		R		R		W
Sandpiper, Semipalmated		U	U	U		W
Sandpiper, Western		U	U	U	R	W
Sandpiper, Least		C	C	C	U	W
Sandpiper, White-rumped		R		R		W
Sandpiper, Baird's			R	R		W
Sandpiper, Pectoral		C	C	C		F W
Dunlin		R		R		W
Sandpiper, Stilt		R	R	R		W
Sandpiper, Buff-breasted			R	R		F W
Dowitcher, Short-billed			R	R		W
Snipe, Common		U		U	U	F W
Woodcock, American	*	U	U	U	U	F W
Phalarope, Wilson's			R			W
Gull, Laughing		R		R	R	W
Gull, Franklin's				A		W
Gull, Bonaparte's		C		C	C	W
Gull, Ring-billed		C	R	C	C	W B
Gull, Herring		R		R	U	W
Gull, Sabine's				A		W
Tern, Caspian		U	R	U		W
Tern, Royal				A		W
Tern, Common		U	U	U		W
Tern, Forster's		U	U	U		W
Tern, Bridled				A		W
Tern, Black		R	U	U		W
Noddy, Brown				A		W
Skimmer, Black				A		W
Dove, Rock	*	C	C	C	C	F B
Pigeon, Band-tailed		A				B
Dove, Eurasian Collared		R	R	R	R	B
Dove, Ground					A	F

Species	B	Sp	Su	F	W	Habitat
Dove, Mourning	*	C	C	C	C	A
Cuckoo, Black-billed	(*)		R	R	R	M
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed	*		C	C	C	F L M
Owl, Barn		R	R	R	R	F M B
Screech-Owl, Eastern	*	C	C	C	C	H M S B
Owl, Great Horned	*	C	C	C	C	H M F B
Owl, Barred	*	C	C	C	C	H M S B
Owl, Short-eared				R	R	F
Saw-whet Owl, Northern					R	M
Nighthawk, Common	*	C	C	C		B F
Chuck-will's-widow	*	U	U	U		M
Whip-poor-will	*	U	U	U		F
Swift, Chimney	*	C	C	C		A
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated	*	C	C	C		A
Hummingbird, Anna's					A	B
Hummingbird, Calliope					R	B
Hummingbird, Rufous				R	R	B
Kingfisher, Belted	*	C	C	C	C	S W
Woodpecker, Red-headed	*	U	U	U	U	H B
Woodpecker, Red-bellied	*	C	C	C	C	H M B
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied		U		C	C	M
Woodpecker, Downy	*	C	C	C	C	H M S B
Woodpecker, Hairy	*	U	U	U	U	H M S
Flicker, Northern	*	C	C	C	C	M H B S F
Woodpecker, Pileated	*	U	U	U	U	H
Flycatcher, Olivied-sided		R		R		M S
Wood-Pewee, Eastern	*	C	C	C		M H
Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied				R		S
Flycatcher, Acadian	*	C	C	C		S
Flycatcher, Alder				R		S
Flycatcher, Willow				R		S
Flycatcher, Least		R	R	R		S F
Phoebe, Eastern	*	C	C	C	C	FS
Flycatcher, Great Crested	*	C	C	C		H M B
Kingbird, Eastern	*	C	C	C		F
Shrike, Loggerhead	*	U	U	U	U	F
Vireo, White-eyed	*	C	C	C		F S M
Vireo, Blue-headed	(*)	U	R	U	R	M
Vireo, Yellow-throated	*	U	U	U		H M
Vireo, Warbling		R		R		S H
Virec, Philadelphia		R		R		S
Vireo, Red-eyed	*	C	C	C		H M B
Jay, Blue	*	C	C	C	C	A
Crow, American	*	C	C	C		A
Crow, Fish	*	C	C	C		S'W
Lark, Horned	(*)	R	R	R	R	F
Martin, Purple	*	C	C	C	R	F W
Swallow, Tree		C		R		F W
Swallow, Northern Rough-winged	*	C	C	C	F W	
Swallow, Bank		U	R	R		F W

Species	B	Sp	Su	F	W	Habitat
Swallow, Cliff	*	U	U	R		F W
Swallow, Barn	*	C	C	C		F W
Chickadee, Carolina	*	C	C	C	C	A
Titmouse, Tufted	*	C	C	C	C	A
Nuthatch, Red-breasted		I		I	I	M
Nuthatch, White-breasted	*	U	U	U	U	H B
Nuthatch, Brown-headed	*	C	C	C	C	M
Creepers, Brown				U	U	H
Wren, Carolina	*	C	C	C	C	A
Wren, Bewick's				R		F
Wren, House	*	C	C	C	U	F B
Wren, Winter		U		U	U	S
Wren, Sedge		R		R	R	F W
Wren, Marsh		R		R	R	W
Kinglet, Golden-crowned		C		C	C	M
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned		C		C	C	A
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray	*	C	C	C	R	A
Bluebird, Eastern	*	C	C	C	C	F M
Veery		U		U		H
Thrush, Gray-cheeked		R		U		H
Thrush, Bicknell's						
Thrush, Swainson's		C		C		H
Thrush, Hermit		U		U	C	M
Thrush, Wood	*	C	C	C		H
Robin, American	*	C	C	C	C	A
Catbird, Gray	*	C	C	C	R	F S B
Mockingbird, Northern	*	C	C	C	C	A
Thrasher, Brown	*	C	C	C	U	F S B
Starling, European	*	C	C	C	C	A
Pipit, American		C		C	C	F
Waxwing, Cedar	*	C	U	C	C	A
Warbler, Blue-winged		U		U		S F
Warbler, Golden-winged		R		R		S F
Warbler, Tennessee		R		U		S H
Warbler, Orange-crowned		R		R	R	S F
Warbler, Nashville		R		R		S F
Parula, Northern	*	C	C	C		S H
Warbler, Yellow	(*)	C	R	C		S
Warbler, Chestnut-sided		C		C		S H
Warbler, Magnolia		U		C		S H
Warbler, Cape May		C		C		H
Warbler, Black-throated Blue		C		C		H M S
Warbler, Yellow-rumped		C		C	C	A
Warbler, Black-throated Green		C		C		H M
Warbler, Blackburnian		U		U		M
Warbler, Yellow-throated	*	U	U	U		M S
Warbler, Pine	*	C	C	C	C	M
Warbler, Prairie	*	U	U	U		F
Warbler, Palm		U		U	R	F
Warbler, Bay-breasted		R		U		M
Warbler, Blackpoll		C		U		H

Species	B	Sp	Su	F	W	Habitat
Warbler, Cerulean		R	R	R		H
Warbler, Black-and-white	(*)	C	R	C		H
Redstart, American	(*)	C	R	C		A
Warbler, Prothonotary	*	C	C	U		S W
Warbler, Worm-eating		U		U	A	S H
Warbler, Swainson's				R		S
Ovenbird	*	C	R	C		H
Waterthrush, Northern		C		C		S
Waterthrush, Louisiana	*	U	U	U		S
Warbler, Kentucky	*	U	U	U		S
Warbler, Connecticut		R		R		S
Warbler, Mourning		R		R		S
Yellowthroat, Common	*	C	C	C	R	F S
Warbler, Hooded	*	U	U	U		S H
Warbler, Wilson s		R		R		S F
Warbler, Canada		U		R		S H
Chat, Yellow-breasted		C	C	C		F
Tanager, Summer		C	C	C		M H
Tanager, Scarlet		C	R	C		H
Tanager, Western				A		H B
Towhee, Eastern	*	C	C	C	C	F S M B
Sparrow, Bachman's	(*)	R	R		A	F M
Sparrow, Chipping	*	C	C	C	U	F B
Sparrow, Clay-colored				R		F
Sparrow, Field	*	C	C	C	C	F
Sparrow, Vesper		U		U	R	F
Sparrow, Lark		R		R	R	F
Sparrow, Savannah		C		C	C	F
Sparrow, Grasshopper	*	U	U	U	R	F
Sparrow, Henslow's	(*)	R	R	R		F
Sparrow, LeConte's		R		R		F
Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed				R		W
Sparrow, Fox		U		U	U	F M
Sparrow, Song	*	C	C	C	C	F S B
Sparrow, Lincoln's		R		R	R	F S
Sparrow, Swamp		C		C	C	W S F
Sparrow, White-throated		C	R	C	C	A
Sparrow, White-crowned		R		R	U	F
Junco, Dark-eyed		C		C	C	A
Cardinal, Northern	*	C	C	C	C	A
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted		C		C		H
Grosbeak, Blue	*	C	C	C	A	F
Bunting, Indigo	*	C	C	C		F
Dickcissel		R		R	R	F
Bobolink		U		R		F
Blackbird, Red-winged	*	C	C	C	C	A
Meadowlark, Eastern	*	C	C	C	C	F
Blackbird, Rusty		R		R	U	A
Blackbird, Brewer's		R		R	R	A
Grackle, Common	*	C	C	C	C	A
Cowbird, Brown-headed	*	C	C	C	C	A

Species	B	Sp	Su	F	W	Habitat
Oriole, Orchard	*	C	C			F S
Oriole, Baltimore		C		C	R	H B
Finch, Purple		I		I	I	H B
Finch, House	*	C	C	C	C	A
Crossbill, Red		R			R	M B
Redpoll, Common		A				B
Siskin, Pine		I		I	I	M B
Goldfinch, American	*	C	C	C	C	A
Grosbeak, Evening		I		I	I	H B
Sparrow, House	*	C	C	C	C	A