**Birds and Habitats of Dorchester County**

The diversity of habitat found within Dorchester County accounts for the rich variety of bird life that can be found there. Almost 200 species have been recorded in Dorchester County’s largest county. Some of these birds have seasonal distributions (they struggle more with the winter months), while others breed here year-round. Regardless of the season, all birds enhance the finer habitats and knowledge which birders can further refine by following the winter lists of birds created by the local conservation groups.

**SPECTACULAR BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES**

When viewing Dorchester County keep in mind that much of the county is a part of a conservation easement. The following provides a list of the birding highlights found within the Maryland Waterfowl Refuge System.

**MERRIAM’S WAXWING**

A large flock of these small, black and white colored birds are often seen gliding among utility poles and trees. Merriam’s Waxwings are more common in the winter months and can be found throughout the county.

**EASTERN BLUEBIRD**

This small, blue-colored bird is often found perching on utility poles and trees. Eastern Bluebirds are more common in the winter months and can be found throughout the county.

**BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE**

A small, black and white colored bird that is often found perching on utility poles and trees. Black-capped Chickadees are more common in the winter months and can be found throughout the county.

**HERMIT THRUSH**

A small, brown and white colored bird that is often found perching on utility poles and trees. Hermit Thrushes are more common in the winter months and can be found throughout the county.

**AMERICAN PIPIT**

A small, brown and white colored bird that is often found perching on utility poles and trees. American Pipits are more common in the winter months and can be found throughout the county.

**BOBOLINK**

A small, brown and white colored bird that is often found perching on utility poles and trees. Bobolinks are more common in the summer months and can be found throughout the county.

**CHIPPING SPARROW**

A small, brown and white colored bird that is often found perching on utility poles and trees. Chipping Sparrows are more common in the summer months and can be found throughout the county.

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW**

A small, brown and white colored bird that is often found perching on utility poles and trees. White-throated Sparrows are more common in the winter months and can be found throughout the county.

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW**

A small, brown and white colored bird that is often found perching on utility poles and trees. White-crowned Sparrows are more common in the winter months and can be found throughout the county.

**TOWNSEND’S WARBLER**

A small, brown and white colored bird that is often found perching on utility poles and trees. Townsend’s Warblers are more common in the spring months and can be found throughout the county.

**BALSAM FROST**

A small, brown and white colored bird that is often found perching on utility poles and trees. Balsam Frosts are more common in the summer months and can be found throughout the county.

**SCARLET TANAGER**

A small, brown and white colored bird that is often found perching on utility poles and trees. Scarlet Tanagers are more common in the summer months and can be found throughout the county.

**BRENNER'S SPARROW**

A small, brown and white colored bird that is often found perching on utility poles and trees. Brenner’s Sparrows are more common in the spring months and can be found throughout the county.

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the telltale rubber southbound route winds through pine woodlands, listen for ers Island Road (Route 335) through Golden Hill. Scan for turn left onto Smithville Road. This road winds through and Chimney Swifts here, but you can walk around and observe forest species. sive water and forest views to either side. A of the water and waterfowl. During the spring and sum- mer for Wailer ducks and many other species are typical. For more informa- tion contact the Blackwater Refuge office at (410) 228-2077. Blackwater Refuge Trail

This trail takes you on the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWFR). Established in 1933 as a refuge for migratory birds, Blackwater NWFR encompasses over 36,000 acres. The Refuge contains tidal marshes and tidal marshes, marshes, managed agriculture fields for wintering birds. Along the causeway on both sides of the Narrow Bay Bridge you will note that provides excellent panoramic views of the Nanticoke River and the Chesapeake Bay. The surrounding marshes are good havens for migratory birds, terns, and Shyly-adored Red- beaked marsh birds are the most common. A large patch of Old Hickory Creek is popular with winter waterfowl whose bears can be seen here along with the numerous species of freshwater fish. Among the many species of waterfowl, look for Purple Martin, Black-faced Terns, and the best exhibited whirls. Rest your morn to return to Cambridge, or stay on Route 335 rather than turning left onto Smithville Road to reach the Blackwater Refuge Trail.

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