

**Native Species**  
**Bald Eagle**



*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* Length: 70-100 cm Weight: 3.6-6.4 kg

**National Bird**

These raptors aren't really bald, but their white-feathered heads stand out from their brown body and wings. They usually fly in solitude, but can gather by the hundreds in winter.

Immature Bald Eagles spend the first four years of their lives in nomadic exploration of vast territories and can fly hundreds of miles per day.

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## 2025 Series

### Quick Facts:

- Bald Eagles occasionally hunt cooperatively, with one individual flushing prey towards another.
- Bald Eagles can live a long time. The oldest recorded bird in the wild was at least 38 years old when it was hit and killed by a car in New York in 2015. It had been banded in the same state in 1977.
- Their names are Águila Calva in Spanish and Pygargue à tête blanche in French.
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**Native Species**  
**Barred Owl**



*Strix varia* Length: 40-63 cm Weight: 470-1050 g

**Who cooks for you?**

Barred Owls are large, stocky owls with rounded heads, no ear tufts, and medium length, rounded tails. They are one of the 8 different species of owls that make Maryland their home.

The Barred Owl's hooting call sounds like "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?" and can be heard and sometimes seen along rivers in low-lying woods.

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# Barred Owl

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### Quick Facts:

- The Barred Owl can be recognized by the “barred” feather pattern running horizontally across its chest and down its belly.
- Feeding mainly on meadow voles, they may prey upon birds, frogs, and crayfish.
- Pleistocene fossils of Barred Owls, at least 11,000 years old, have been dug up in Florida, Tennessee, and Ontario.
- Their names are Búho Barrado in Spanish and Chouette rayée in French.
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**Native Species**  
**Belted Kingfisher**



*Megasceryle alcyon* Length: 28-35cm Weight: 140-170g

### Shaggy Crest

Belted Kingfishers are common along streams and shorelines across North America. Their large heads and hefty bill make them stand out as they fly, using the open space above the water as a flyway. They also perch on riverside branches and telephone wires.

The Belted Kingfisher is one of the few bird species in which the female is more brightly colored than the male. Among the nearly 100 species of kingfishers around the world, the sexes often look alike.

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### Quick Facts:

- Belted Kingfishers wander widely, sometimes showing up in the Galapagos Islands, Hawaii, the British Isles, the Azores, Iceland, Greenland, and the Netherlands.
- They are called Martín Pescador Americano in Spanish and Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique in French.
- Belted Kingfishers sometimes come to backyards that contain ponds or goldfish pools, often to the dismay of the homeowners.
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Native Species  
Eastern Bluebird



*Sialia sialis* Length: 16-21cm Weight: 27-34g

### Blue Wonder

You can find Eastern Bluebirds in open country with patchy vegetation and large trees or nest boxes. Meadows, old fields, and golf courses are good places to spot them.

Eastern Bluebirds are found across eastern North America and south as far as Nicaragua. Birds that live farther north and in the west of the range tend to lay more eggs than eastern and southern birds.

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### Quick Facts:

- More than half of an eastern bluebird's diet consists of beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, and caterpillars. When the weather is cooler and insects are scarce, it'll also eat fruits and berries.
- Called Azulejo Oriental in Spanish and Merlebleu de l'Est French.
- The oldest recorded Eastern Bluebird was at least 10 years, 6 months old. It had been banded in New York in May 1989, and was found dead in South Carolina November 1999.
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**Native Species**  
**Least Tern**



*Sternula antillarum* Length: 20-25cm Weight: 45-55g

**Little Striker**

The smallest of all Terns, these birds are listed as “Threatened” in Maryland due to loss of habitat in the Chesapeake Bay. Along the Mid-Atlantic coast, Least Terns are often called “little strikers” because they hunt fish by striking the water and because adults dive-bomb anyone approaching their nest.

Least Terns can typically be seen breeding in Maryland from April to September. They are seen along the coast generally where sand beaches are close to extensive shallow waters for feeding.

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### Quick Facts:

- The oldest recorded Least Tern was at least 24 years, 1 month old when it was found in New Jersey in 1981. It had been banded in 1957 in Massachusetts.
- They are called Charrancito Americano in Spanish and Petite Sterne in French.
- The Least Tern is the world's smallest tern—it weighs in at about the same size as a mockingbird.
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## Native Species Painted Bunting



 *Passerina ciris* Length: 12– 14 cm Weight: 15.5g


### Colorful Plumage

These birds are rarely seen in Maryland, but when spotted, the males attract attention with their wonderful plumage. They are more common in the Coastal Southeast and Central U.S.

The French name of the Painted Bunting, *nonpareil*, means “without equal,” a reference to the bird’s dazzling plumage.

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# Painted Bunting

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### Quick Facts:

- The oldest recorded wild Painted Bunting was at least 12 years old, as reported from a Florida banding study.
- While not common in Maryland, they have been spotted more regularly in the last few years.
- Common names in other languages include Azulillo Sietecolores in Spanish and Passerin nonpareil in French.
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**Native Species**  
**Prothonotary Warbler**



 *Protonotaria citrea* Length: 13 cm Weight: 14-16g


**Wetland Lover**

In spring and summer, this bright golden warbler sings from trees and shrubs near wetlands. It is unique among eastern warblers in its habit of nesting in holes in trees, rather than in the open; it will sometimes nest in birdhouses placed close to the water.

For Prothonotary Warblers it pays to be bright. Males that are brighter yellow gain access to better nest sites than less colorful males, according to a study conducted in Louisiana.

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# Prothonotary Warbler

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### Quick Facts:

- The name 'Prothonotary' originally referred to a group of official scribes in the Catholic Church who wore bright yellow hoods, as this bird appears to do.
- They are named Reinita Protonotaria in Spanish and Paruline orangée (in French).
- The oldest recorded Prothonotary Warbler was a male, and at least 8 years, 11 months old when he was identified by his band in Ohio in 2021. He was banded in the same area in 2014.
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Photo Credits: Donna Tolbert-Anderson DNR Photo Contest





**Native Species**  
**Scarlet Tanager**



*Piranga olivacea* Length: 16-17cm Weight: 24-38g

**Regal Red**

Scarlet Tanagers are medium-sized songbirds with fairly stocky proportions. They have thick, rounded bills suitable both for catching insects and eating fruit. Their heads are fairly large and their tails are somewhat short and broad.

Scarlet Tanagers, which are typically found within forest interiors, are negatively impacted by habitat fragmentation. Fragmented habitats lead to increased vulnerability to nest parasitism by cowbirds and predation. As a result, population declines occur.

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## 2025 Series

### Quick Facts:

- Some individuals have been recorded flying over 3,000 miles per season, most of which occurs at night.
- Their names are Piranga Escarlata in Spanish and Piranga écarlate in French.
- The oldest Scarlet Tanager on record was a male, and at least 11 years, 11 months old. He was banded in Pennsylvania in 1990 and found in Texas in 2001.
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Photo Credits: Mark Tegges DNR photo Contest



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