

EVIDENCE CODES
for Observed and Breeding Birds

Please refer to the Loudoun County Bird Atlas Handbook for details and examples for each code.

Observed:

- E – Observed outside of safe dates, not exhibiting breeding behavior (includes winter birds and migrants)
- O – Observed within safe dates, not in breeding habitat

Possible Breeder:

- X – Heard or seen in breeding habitat within safe dates

Probable Breeder:

- A – Agitated behavior or anxiety calls
- P – Pair seen within safe dates
- T – Bird holding territory (counter-singing, chasing, etc.)
- C – Courtship or copulation
- N – Visiting probable nest site
- B – Adult wren or woodpecker carrying nesting material or nest building

Confirmed Breeder: (two-letter code)

- NB – Adult carrying nesting material or nest building (except wrens and woodpeckers)
- DD – Distraction display
- UN – Used nest or eggshells found
- FL – Recently fledged young
- CF – Parent carrying food, feeding young, or removing fecal sac
- RC – Raptor performing courting display or repeatedly carrying food to a specific area
- ON – Parent leaving/entering nest site or on nest
- NE – Nest with eggs
- NY – Nest with young

The following is a list of species found throughout Loudoun County. An asterisk indicates a potential breeder in Loudoun County.

Please submit an Atlas Verification Form to the Atlas Coordinator if 1) you observe a Species of Special Interest in *bold and italics font* or 2) you observe evidence of breeding for a Species of Special Interest in **bold font** or for a species not thought to breed in the county. Refer to the Atlas Handbook for details regarding these Species of Special Interest and for an exception that applies to the Northern Goshawk and Peregrine Falcon.

Species	Safe Dates	OB	PO	PR	CO
Grter White-fronted Goose					
Snow Goose					
Cackling Goose					
Canada Goose*	5/10-8/20				
Mute Swan					
Tundra Swan					
Wood Duck*	5/1-8/15				
Gadwall					
American Wigeon					
American Black Duck					
Mallard*	5/15-8/10				
Blue-winged Teal					
Northern Shoveler					
Northern Pintail					
Green-winged Teal					
Canvasback					
Redhead					
Ring-necked Duck					
Greater Scaup					
Lesser Scaup					
Surf Scoter					
White-winged Scoter					
Black Scoter					
Long-tailed Duck					
Bufflehead					
Common Goldeneye					
Hooded Merganser*	6/1-8/15				
Common Merganser					
Red-breasted Merganser					
Ruddy Duck					
Northern Bobwhite*	4/15-9/30				
Ring-necked Pheasant*	4/15-9/30				
Ruffed Grouse*	4/1-7/31				
Wild Turkey*	4/15-9/30				
Red-throated Loon					
Common Loon					
Pied-billed Grebe*	5/15-7/15				
Horned Grebe					
Red-necked Grebe					

Species	Safe Dates	OB	PO	PR	CO
Eared Grebe					
Double-crested Cormorant					
American Bittern					
Least Bittern					
Great Blue Heron*	5/15-6/30				
Great Egret					
Snowy Egret					
Little Blue Heron					
Green Heron*	5/1-7/15				
Blk-crowned Night-Heron					
Ylw-crowned Night-Heron					
White Ibis					
Black Vulture*	5/1-8/1				
Turkey Vulture*	4/10-8/1				
Osprey					
Mississippi Kite					
Bald Eagle*	4/15-8/5				
Northern Harrier					
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	6/1-8/10				
Cooper’s Hawk*	5/20-8/20				
Northern Goshawk					
Red-shouldered Hawk*	5/1-8/31				
Broad-winged Hawk*	6/5-8/10				
Red-tailed Hawk*	5/1-8/31				
Rough-legged Hawk					
Golden Eagle					
American Kestrel*	5/20-7/31				
Merlin					
Peregrine Falcon					
Black Rail					
King Rail					
Virginia Rail*	5/20-8/15				
Sora					
Common Gallinule					
American Coot					
Sandhill Crane					
Black-bellied Plover					
American Golden-Plover					
Semipalmated Plover					
Killdeer*	4/20-7/5				
Spotted Sandpiper					
Solitary Sandpiper					
Greater Yellowlegs					
Willet					
Lesser Yellowlegs					
Upland Sandpiper*	5/20-6/25				
Whimbrel					
Semipalmated Sandpiper					
Western Sandpiper					
Least Sandpiper					

Species	Safe Dates	OB	PO	PR	CO
White-rumped Sandpiper					
Baird’s Sandpiper					
Pectoral Sandpiper					
Dunlin					
Stilt Sandpiper					
Buff-breasted Sandpiper					
Short-billed Dowitcher					
Long-billed Dowitcher					
Wilson’s Snipe					
American Woodcock*	4/15-9/10				
Wilson’s Phalarope					
Bonaparte’s Gull					
Little Gull					
Laughing Gull					
Franklin’s Gull					
Ring-billed Gull					
Herring Gull					
Glaucous Gull					
Great Black-backed Gull					
Least Tern					
Caspian Tern					
Black Tern					
Common Tern					
Forster’s Tern					
Rock Pigeon*	All Year				
Mourning Dove*	5/1-7/20				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	6/15-7/31				
Black-billed Cuckoo					
Barn Owl*	5/1-9/30				
Eastern Screech-Owl*	4/1-8/15				
Great Horned Owl*	12/15-8/31				
Snowy Owl					
Barred Owl*	1/15-8/31				
Long-eared Owl					
Short-eared Owl					
Northern Saw-whet Owl					
Common Nighthawk*	6/5-7/15				
Eastern Whip-poor-will*	5/10-7/15				
Chimney Swift*	5/20-8/15				
Ruby-thrted Humingbird*	5/25-7/31				
Rufous Hummingbird					
Belted Kingfisher*	4/10-7/20				
Red-headed Woodpecker*	5/25-8/20				
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	3/15-8/31				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					
Downy Woodpecker*	3/15-8/31				
Hairy Woodpecker*	3/15-8/31				
Northern Flicker*	5/10-8/25				
Pileated Woodpecker*	3/15-8/31				
Olive-sided Flycatcher					

