

Warbler, Yellow-throated (Sp, Su)—a simple series of sweet, clear, whistles steadily descending with a couple of rising notes at end; may suggest Louisiana Waterthrush or Yellow Warbler

Waterthrush, Louisiana (Sp)—Begins with three or four shrill, slurred notes followed by a brief rapid jumble *tree, tree, tree terwitter-witter wit*

Waterthrush, Northern (Sp, Su)—Begins with loud, emphatic notes and ends in lower notes, delivered more rapidly *sweet-sweet-sweet, chew-chew-chew*

Waxwing, Cedar (Sp, Su, F, W)—Call is a soft, high-pitched, trilled whistle *zreee*

Woodcock, American (Sp)—A nasal call *peent, peent, peent*

Woodpecker, Downy (Sp, Su, F, W)—Rattle call slow, squeaky, and descending

Woodpecker, Hairy (Sp, Su, F, W)—Rattle call sharp and high, rapid series of notes on one pitch (not descending like Downy)

Woodpecker, Pileated (Sp, Su, F, W)—Call is a loud *kwuck* note or series of notes

Woodpecker, Red-bellied (Sp, Su, F, W)—Call is a rolling, throaty, deeply trilled *churr*

Woodpecker, Red-headed (Sp, F, W)—Common call is a raspy rattle *squeer, squeer*

Wood-Pewee, Eastern (Sp, Su, F)—A clear slow, plaintive *pee-a-wee* alternating with a down slurred *per-yer*

Wren, Carolina (Sp, Su, F, W)—Loud and strident *tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle* and many variations

## Birds of Wetlands and River

Bittern, Least (Sp, Su, F)—on breeding grounds a low and throaty *ku ku ku ku*; common call a harsh, quacking *rick rick rick rick*

Blackbird, Red-winged (Sp, Su, F, W)—*conquereeee*; a harsh, gurgling trill

Crow, Fish (Sp, Su, F, W)—*uhn-uh* or *eh-eh*

Duck, Wood (Sp, Su, F, W)—females squealing flight call is a rising *oo-eek*

Duck, American Black (Sp, F, W)—*quack, quack, quack, quack*

Eagle, Bald (Sp, Su, F, W)—rather weak, flat, chirping whistles

Goose, Canada (Sp, Su, F, W)—*honk, honk, honk*

Gull, Herring (Sp, Su, F, W)—a full *kyow*

Gull, Laughing (Sp, Su, F)—a long series of *huh* notes in a laughing cadence

Heron, Great Blue (Sp, Su, F, W)—very deep, hoarse, trumpeting or croaking *fraaahnk*

Heron, Green (Sp, Su, F)—explosive sharp *skeew*; when nervous an irregular series of low knocking *kuk kuk kuk* notes

Killdeer (Sp, Su, F, W)—distinctive loud, piercing *kill-dee* or *dee-dee-dee*

Kingfisher, Belted (Sp, Su, F, W)—a very distinctive, long, uneven, clattering rattle

Mallard (Sp, Su, F, W)—*quack, quack, quack*

Osprey (Sp, Su, F)—high pitched whistle *khew, khew, khew, khew*

Rail, Virginia (Sp, Su, F, W)—wheezy, pig-like, descending *wep wep wep wep*

Snipe, Wilson's (Sp, F, W)—flight call a dry scraping *scresh*

Sora (F)—Call is a descending whinny *ker-wee ker-wee*

Sparrow, Swamp (Su, F, W)—song a slow, simple, musical trill *chinga chinga chinga* fading at the end

Teal, Green-winged (Sp, F, W)—female *quack* feeble and shrill

Tern, Forster's (Sp, Su, F)—common call a simple, hoarse *kerrr*

Warbler, Prothonotary (Sp, Su)—song a series of high, metallic, rising notes *tsweet, tsweet, tsweet, tsweet*

Warbler, Yellow (Sp, Su)—Sweet, high, clear notes *sweet, sweet, sweet...littlemoresweet*

Wren, Marsh (Sp, Su, F)—Songs are a mechanical-sounding mix of bubbling and trilling

Yellowlegs, Greater (Sp, Su, F)—Flight call a loud ringing *deew, deew, deew*; typically three or four times

Yellowlegs, Lesser (Sp, Su, F)—Flight call of short whistles, flatter, quieter, and softer than Greater; only one or two times

Yellowthroat, Common (Sp, Su, F)—witchety-witchety-witchety

The birds on this list are those that are most often heard at Jug Bay. The season shown is when the bird is likely to sing not the entire time it may be resident. For full resident status see the Checklist of Birds of JBWS.

Please limit the use of recorded bird songs in the field. This can be disruptive to the birds. If necessary to use, the time should be very short and played at a low level.

June 2019  
Compiled by Cynthia Bravo  
and Lindsay Hollister

# Phonetic & Mnemonic SONGS & CALLS



## of Birds at the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary



Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary  
Anne Arundel County  
Recreation & Parks  
1361 Wrighton Road  
Lothian, MD 20711  
410-222-8006  
www.jugbay.org

## Birds of Forest and Field

Bluebird, Eastern (Sp, Su, F, W)—Call note is a musical, rising *chur-lee*, extended in song to *chur chur-lee, chur-lee*

Bunting, Indigo (Sp, Su)—Varied, paired quick phrases *fire fire where where here here*

Cardinal, Northern (Sp, Su, F, W)—Song is a loud, liquid whistling with many variations, including *cue cue cue* and *cheer cheer cheer* and *purty purty purty*; both sexes sing year-round; common call is a sharp chip

Catbird, Gray (Sp, Su, F, W)—Song is a mixture of melodious, nasal, and squeaky notes interspersed with catlike *mew* notes

Chat, Yellow-breasted (Sp)—Unmusical song, a jumble of harsh, chattering clucks, rattles, clear whistles, and squawks

Chickadee, Carolina (Sp, Su, F, W)—Call *chick-a dee-dee-dee*; song *feebee, feebay*

Cowbird, Brown-headed (Sp, Su, F, W)—*bubble-bubble-zeeee*

Crow, American (Sp, Su, F, W)—*caw caw caw caw*

Cuckoo, Yellow-billed (Su, F)—A guttural knocking series *cu-cu-cu-cdowl-cdowl*, and other variations

Dove, Mourning (Sp, Su, F, W)—A mournful *oowoo-woo-woo-woo*

Finch, House (Sp, Su, F, W)—Lively, high-pitched song consists chiefly of varied three-note phrases, call *zree*

Flicker, Northern (Sp, Su, F, W)—Call heard on the breeding ground is a long, loud series of *wick-er* notes; a single, loud *klee-yer* is given year-round

Flycatcher, Acadian (Sp, Su, F)—an emphatic, loud *peet-zah ends a very soft song*

Flycatcher, Great Crested (Sp, Su)—Loud, sharp *wheep....wheep*

Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray (Sp, Su, F)—A steady series of mainly thin, wheezy notes interspersed with high chips and slurs; call a querulous *spee spee*

Goldfinch, American (Sp, Su, F, W)—Flight call *po-TA-to-chip (and dip)*

Grosbeak, Blue (Sp, Su, F)—Song is House Finch like, but lower; call *chink*

Hawk, Red-shouldered (Sp, Su, F, W)—*kee-yer, kee-yer, kee-yer, kee-yer*

Hawk, Red-tailed (Sp, Su, F, W)—*keeeeeer*

Jay, Blue (Sp, Su, F, W)—Most common of varied calls is a piercing *jay, jay, jay*; also gives a musical *qweedle-eedle* and mimics a Red-shouldered Hawk

Kestrel, American (Sp, Su, F, W)—Call is a shrill *killy killy killy*

Kingbird, Eastern (Sp, Su, F)—Call is a harsh *dzeet* note, also given in a series

Mockingbird, Northern (Sp, Su, F, W)—Song is a mixture of original and imitative phrases, each repeated several times (usually three) Often sings at night; imitates other species. Both sexes sing in fall

Nuthatch, White-breasted (Sp, Su, F, W)—Call is a nasally *ank ank ank ank*

Ovenbird (Sp, Su)—Song is a loud fast *teach, teach, teach* rising in volume

Owl, Barred (Sp, Su, F, W)—*who-cooks-for-you, who-cooks-for-you-all*

Owl, Eastern Screech (Sp, Su, F, W)—Primary song a strongly descending, whistled whiny; secondary song a long whistled trill on one pitch

Owl, Great Horned (Sp, Su, F, W)—Call a deep muffled hooting in rhythmic series *ho hoo hoo hoododo hooooo hoo*

Parula, Northern (Sp, Su, F)—Buzzy trill climbs the scale and tips over the top *zeeeeeeeee-tsup*

Phoebe, Eastern (Sp, Su, F, W)—Distinctive song a harsh, emphatic *fee-be*, accented on the first syllable

Redstart, American (Sp, Su, F)—Very variable song, a series of high, thin notes usually followed by a wheezy, downslurred note *tzee, tzee, tzee, tzeeee*

Robin, American (Sp, Su, F, W)—Low, whistled phrases with liquid quality *cheerily, cheer-up, cheerio* (sing songy)

Sparrow, Chipping (Sp, Su, F, W)—A simple, mechanical trill, usually longer and more rattling than that of similar species

Sparrow, Field (Sp, Su, F, W)—Notes like a ping-pong ball dropped on a table, increasing in rate and pitch

Sparrow, Song (Sp, Su, F, W)—*Maids maids maids* (short sharp notes, followed by a trill *put-on-your-tea-kettle-ettle-ettle*)

Sparrow, White-throated (Sp, F, W)—*Oh, sweet, Canada, Canada, Canada*

Starling, European (Sp, Su, F, W)—Song includes squeaks, warbles, chirps, and twittering, also imitates songs of other species

Swallow, Barn (Sp, Su)—rapid twittering

Swallow, Tree (Sp, Su)—Calls and song include whistles and liquid gurgles or chirps

Swift, Chimney (Sp, Su, F)—High hard chips run together into rapid, uneven, twittering series

Tanager, Scarlet (Sp, Su)—A fairly rapid, continuous Robin-like phrases, with a hoarse burry quality; call a hard *CHICK-burr*

Tanager, Summer (Sp, Su)—A series of five to ten robin-like, musical phrases, some with horse burry qualities; call *piki-tukituk*

Thrasher, Brown (Sp, Su, F, W)—Song a series of rich musical phrases, most repeated two times in regimental pattern

Thrush, Wood (Sp, Su)—*Eee-o-lay* flutey, trilly

Titmouse, Tufted (Sp, Su, F, W)—*chiva, chiva, chiva* or *peter, peter, peter* or *here, here, here*

Towhee, Eastern (Sp, Su, F, W)—*Drink your teeeeeeee* and *too-wheee*; call a husky, nasal TWEET

Vireo, Red-eyed (Sp, Su)—Simple, hurried, whistled phrases *here-I-am, in-the-tree, look-up, at-the-top*

Vireo, White-eyed (Sp, Su)—*chik per-wee-o chik*; emphasis on the chiks

Vireo, Yellow-throated (Sp, Su)—Rising and falling *three-eight, three-eight, three-eight*

Warbler, Black and White (Sp, Su)—A long series of *wheezy* notes

Warbler, Hooded (Sp, Su)—Slurred musical words with emphatic ending *weeta-weeta-WEET-tee-o*

Warbler, Kentucky (Sp, Su)—A rolling chant *prreeet prreeet prreeet prreeet prreeet*; similar to Ovenbird & Carolina Wren

Warbler, Prairie (Sp, Su)—A series of high thin buzzes *zeee zeee zeee zeee zeee zeee zeee zeee* rising steadily in pitch (think of the song *Oklaaahoma*)

Warbler, Pine (Sp, Su, F)—Trill, more musical, shorter, slower than Chipping Sparrow

Warbler, Worm-eating (Sp, Su)—Rapid dry trill or buzz, insect-like, even, mechanical

Warbler, Yellow-rumped (Sp, F)—A rather flat, soft warble *sidl sidl sidl sidl seedl seedl seedl seedl seel* usually fading at end

[continued, over]

[more warblers in wetlands section]