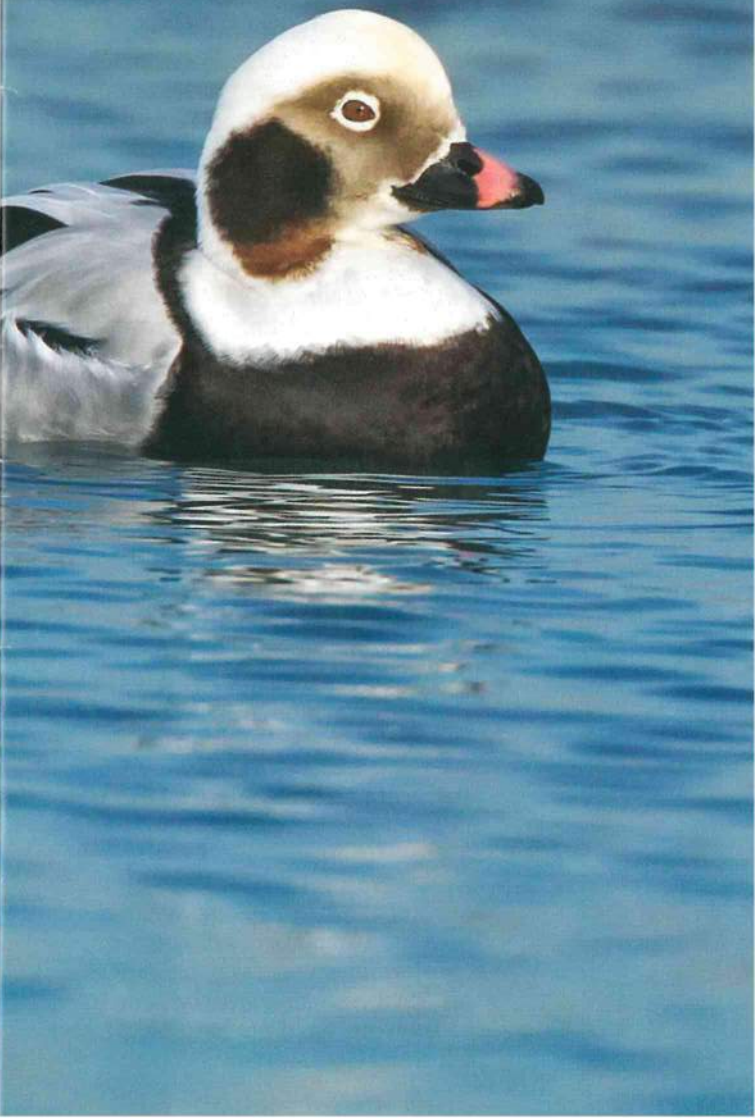
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Oyster Bay

National Wildlife Refuge

Birds and Mammals



Introduction

This blue goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 560 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the US fish and Wildlife Service, a Federal agency. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people. It represents the most comprehensive wildlife resource management program in the world.

The refuge is located on the north shore of Long Island in eastern Nassau County in the Town of Oyster Bay. It is 20 miles east of New York City and 5 miles west of Target Rock. The major refuge holdings are in Oyster Bay Harbor and the western portion of Cold Spring Harbor. The waters of Oyster Bay surround Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, home of Theodore Roosevelt, the founder of the first national wildlife refuge, Pelican Island in 1903.

The refuge includes more than 3,000 acres of bay bottom and surface waters up to the mean high tide line, in addition to the channels and marshes of Frost, Oak Neck, and Mill Neck Creeks. The refuge consists largely of subtidal habitat, strands of intertidal salt marsh, high salt marsh and freshwater wetlands. These habitats are managed for use by migratory waterfowl and other waterbirds.

More than 126 bird species have been documented at the refuge, including 23 species of waterfowl. Oyster Bay has the greatest winter waterfowl use of any of the Long Island refuges. More than 20,000 ducks have been reported for one survey during peak use. Most waterfowl can be seen in the Bayville, Cold Spring Harbor, and Mill Neck Creek areas.

Federal- and state-designated endangered or threatened species known to use Oyster Bay include the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, northern harrier, least tern, and Kemp's ridley and loggerhead sea turtles. Peregrine falcons typically migrate through Oyster Bay in the autumn and spring. Bald eagles visit the refuge sporadically in winter. Ospreys, a state-designated species of concern, nest and have successfully fledged young on the refuge. Northern harriers are observed in their spring and autumn migrations.

Most birds are migratory and their seasonal occurrence and relative abundance are coded as follows:

Season

Sp	spring	March – May
S	summer	June – August
F	fall	September – November
W	winter	December – February
•	Birds documented breeding at the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex	

Relative Abundance

Relative abundance indicates how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat.

a	abundant	a common species which is very numerous
c	common	certain to be seen in suitable habitat
u	uncommon	present, but not certain to be seen
o	occasional	seen only a few times during a season
r	rare	seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years

Swans – Geese – Ducks

		Sp	S	F	W
___	• Mute Swan	a	a	a	a
___	• Canada Goose	a	a	a	a
___	Brant	a	r	a	a
___	• Wood Duck	u	u	u	u
___	Gadwall	c	r	c	c
___	American Wigeon	c	r	c	c
___	American Black Duck	c	o	a	a
___	• Mallard	a	a	a	a
___	Blue-winged Teal			r	
___	Northern Pintail			u	u
___	Green-winged Teal	u		u	u

		Sp	S	F	W
___	Northern Shoveler			u	u
___	Canvasback			o	o
___	Redhead				r
___	Ring-necked Duck	u		u	u
___	Greater Scaup	c		c	a
___	Lesser Scaup	u		c	a
___	Long-tailed duck	o		c	c
___	Black Scoter				r
___	Surf Scoter	r		u	c
___	White-winged Scoter	r		u	c
___	Common Goldeneye	u		o	u
___	Bufflehead	c		c	a
___	Hooded Merganser	u		u	c
___	Common Merganser				o
___	Red-breasted Merganser	c		c	c
___	Ruddy Duck	u	r	c	c

Scott Nielsen

American black duck

Gallinaceous Birds

___	Wild Turkey	u	u	u	u
___	Ring-necked Pheasant	r	r	r	r

Loons

___	Red-throated Loon	o		u	c
___	Common Loon	u	r	c	c

Grebes

___	Pied-billed Grebe	o	o	u	u
___	Horned Grebe	u		c	c

Cormorants

___	Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	a	u
___	Great Cormorant	r			r

		Sp	S	F	W

Bitterns – Herons – Egrets

___	Great Blue Heron	o	o	c	u
___	Great Egret	c	c	c	r
___	Snowy Egret	c	c	c	r
___	• Green Heron	u	u	u	
___	Black-crowned Night-Heron	c	c	c	o

New World Vultures

___	Turkey Vulture	o	o	o	o

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Osprey in nest

Osprey - Kites - Hawks - Eagles

___	• Osprey	c	c	c	r
___	Bald Eagle	o	o	o	o
___	Northern Harrier	o	o	o	o
___	Sharp-shinned Hawk	o		o	o
___	• Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c

Falcons

___	American Kestrel	o	r	o	r
___	Merlin	o		o	o
___	Peregrine Falcon	o	o	o	o

Rails

___	Clapper Rail	r	o	r	
___	• Virginia Rail		u	r	r

Plovers

___	Black-bellied Plover	r		o	o
___	Semipalmated Plover	o	o	o	
___	• Piping Plover	u	u	r	
___	• Killdeer	u	c	c	u

Oystercatchers

___	American Oystercatcher	o	o	o	r

Sandpipers - Phalaropes

		Sp	S	F	W
___	Greater Yellowlegs	u	u	u	r
___	Lesser Yellowlegs	u	u	u	
___	Solitary Sandpiper	r	r	r	
___	• Spotted Sandpiper	r	r	r	
___	Willet	o	o	o	
___	Ruddy Turnstone	r		o	o
___	Red Knot	r		r	r
___	Sanderling	c	o	c	a
___	Semipalmated Sandpiper	u	o	u	
___	Western Sandpiper			r	
___	Least Sandpiper	u	o	u	
___	White-rumped Sandpiper	r		r	
___	Pectoral Sandpiper	r		r	
___	Purple Sandpiper				r
___	Dunlin	u		u	u
___	Short-billed Dowitcher	u	u	u	
___	Common Snipe	r		r	r
___	American Woodcock	r			

Gulls – Terns – Skimmers

___	Laughing Gull	u	u	c	
___	Ring-billed Gull	c	u	a	a
___	Herring Gull	a	a	a	a
___	Lesser Black-backed Gull			r	o
___	Great Black-backed Gull	c	c	a	c
___	Common Tern	c	a	c	
___	Forster's Tern	u	c	u	
___	• Least Tern	u	u	u	
___	Black Skimmer	r	r	r	

Pigeons – Doves

___	• Rock Pigeon	c	c	c	c
___	• Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c

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Least Sandpiper

Cuckoos

		Sp	S	F	W
___	Black-billed Cuckoo	r		r	
___	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	u	r	r	

Typical Owls

___	• Eastern Screech-Owl	u	u	u	u
___	• Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u
___	Snowy Owl				r

Nightjars

___	Common Nighthawk		r	r	

Swifts

___	• Chimney Swift	u	c	u	

Hummingbirds

___	• Ruby-throated Hummingbird	u	u	u	

Kingfishers

___	• Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	u

Laura Perlick/USFWS

Red-bellied woodpecker

Woodpeckers

___	• Red-bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	o		o	r
___	• Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___	• Hairy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
___	• Northern Flicker	c	c	c	u

Tyrant Flycatchers

___	Olive-sided Flycatcher	o			
___	• Eastern Wood-Pewee	u	u	u	
___	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r		u	
___	Least Flycatcher	u		u	
___	• Acadian Flycatcher	u		u	
___	• Willow Flycatcher	u	c	u	
___	• Eastern Phoebe	c	u	c	u
___	• Great Crested Flycatcher	u	c		
___	• Eastern Kingbird	c	c	u	

	Sp	S	F	W
Larks				
___ Horned Lark				r
Martins – Swallows				
___ Purple Martin	r	r		
___ • Tree Swallow	c	c	c	
___ • Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c	c	c	
___ Bank Swallow	r	u	r	
___ • Barn Swallow	c	a	c	
Vireos				
___ • White-eyed Vireo	o	u	u	
___ Blue-headed Vireo	u		u	
___ • Yellow-throated Vireo	r	r	r	
___ • Warbling Vireo	u	u	u	
___ Philadelphia Vireo			r	
___ • Red-eyed Vireo	c	c	c	
Crows - Jays				
___ • Blue Jay	a	a	a	a
___ • American Crow	u	u	u	u
___ • Fish Crow	u	c	u	o
Titmice – Chickadees				
___ • Black-capped Chickadee	a	a	a	a
___ • Tufted Titmouse	a	a	a	a
Nuthatches				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	o		o	o
___ • White-breasted Nuthatch	a	a	a	a
Creepers				
___ • Brown Creeper	o	r	u	u
Wrens				
___ • Carolina Wren	a	a	a	a
___ • House Wren	c	c	u	
___ Winter Wren	o		u	u
___ • Marsh Wren	u	u	u	r
Kinglets				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		c	u
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		c	u
Gnatcatchers				
___ • Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	u	u	u	
Thrushes				
___ • Eastern Bluebird	u	c	u	r
___ • Veery	u	r	u	
___ Swainson's Thrush	u		u	
___ Hermit Thrush	u		c	o
___ • Wood Thrush	c	c	u	
___ • American Robin	a	a	a	c
Mimic Thrushes				
___ • Gray Catbird	c	a	c	o
___ • Northern Mockingbird	c	c	c	c
___ • Brown Thrasher	o	o	o	r
Starlings				
___ • European Starling	a	a	a	a
Pipits				
___ American Pipit			o	r
Waxwings				
___ • Cedar Waxwing	o	u	u	o
Wood Warblers				
___ • Blue-winged Warbler	o	o	o	
___ Tennessee Warbler	o		o	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	r		r	r
___ Nashville Warbler	o		o	
___ Northern Parula	c		u	
___ • Yellow Warbler	c	c	u	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		u	
___ Magnolia Warbler	u		u	
___ Cape May Warbler	o		o	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	c		c	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	o
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	u		o	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	o		r	
___ • Pine Warbler	u		u	r
___ Prairie Warbler	u		u	
___ Palm Warbler	u		u	r
___ • Yellow-throated Warbler	u		u	

Dave Menke/USFWS

Cedar waxwing

Frank Miles/USFWS

Yellow-rumped warbler

		Sp	S	F	W
___	Bay-breasted Warbler	u		o	
___	Blackpoll Warbler	u		u	
___	Black-and-white Warbler	c		u	
___	• American Redstart	c	u	u	
___	• Worm-eating Warbler	u	u	r	
___	• Ovenbird	u	u	u	
___	Northern Waterthrush	c	o	c	
___	Louisiana Waterthrush	u		u	
___	Connecticut Warbler			r	
___	Mourning Warbler	r		r	
___	• Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	r
___	Hooded Warbler	o		o	
___	Wilson's Warbler	u		o	
___	Canada Warbler	u		u	
___	Yellow-breasted Chat	u		u	
Tanagers					
___	• Scarlet Tanager	u	u	u	
Sparrows - Towhees					
___	• Eastern Towhee	c	c	c	r
___	American Tree Sparrow	u		o	u
___	• Chipping Sparrow	a	a	u	
___	Field Sparrow	u		u	r
___	• Savannah Sparrow	o	o	o	r
___	Fox Sparrow	u		u	u
___	• Song Sparrow	a	a	a	a
___	Lincoln's Sparrow	o		o	
___	Swamp Sparrow	u		u	r
___	White-throated Sparrow	u		c	c
___	White-crowned Sparrow	r		r	
___	Dark-eyed Junco	u		c	c

		Sp	S	F	W
Cardinals - Grosbeaks - Allies					
___	• Northern Cardinal	a	a	a	a
___	• Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u	o	u	
___	• Indigo Bunting	u	u	u	
___	Snow Bunting				u
Blackbirds – Orioles					
___	• Red-winged Blackbird	a	a	c	o
___	Eastern Meadowlark	r		r	
___	Rusty Blackbird	u		u	u
___	• Common Grackle	a	u	a	u
___	• Brown-headed Cowbird	u	u	u	o
___	• Orchard Oriole	c	c	r	
___	• Baltimore Oriole	c	c	u	
Finches					
___	Purple Finch	r		o	o
___	• House Finch	u	u	u	u
___	Common Redpoll				r
___	Pine Siskin			o	r
___	• American Goldfinch	a	a	a	c
Old World Sparrows					
___	• House Sparrow	a	a	a	a

Frank Miles/USFWS

Blue jay

Mammal Species of the Complex

The Oyster Bay area supports over 20 species of mammals that live here year round or visit seasonally. All mammals are warm-blooded, most have hair, most give birth to live young, and the females produce milk to nurse their newborns. The smallest mammal on Long Island is the masked shrew, which weighs only 1/10 of an ounce. Our largest terrestrial mammal is the white tailed deer, which can weigh up to 250 lbs. Mammals can be classified as carnivores (meat eaters), herbivores (plant eaters) or omnivores (plant and meat eaters). Some mammals, like bats, eat mainly insects and are insectivores, while those that eat primarily fish, like seals and dolphins, are called piscivores.

Don Freiday/USFWS

Gray squirrel

USFWS

Harbor seal

Many mammals are secretive and nocturnal, coming out only at night. The best times to observe animals such as bats, foxes, and raccoons are during the crepuscular hours, dawn or dusk. Others such as grey squirrels, chipmunks, and seals are usually seen during daylight hours. Seals can often be seen during the winter months hauled out on beaches or rocks. A good place to view seals is on the rocks of Rocky Point, at the northern tip of Centre Island.

In addition to visual observations, another way to identify what mammals are in the area is to look for their tracks. A field guide of tracks can help you figure out which species are present. You can assist biologists by reporting observations of rarer animals to help document their presence and range. Otter sightings or carcasses should be reported to the Long Island River Otter Project at 631/267 5228 or mike@peconic.org. Southern species such as manatees have been recorded as far north as Massachusetts, but are considered very rare north of Georgia. You never know what mammals may show up! Dolphins have been sighted in Long Island Sound with increasing frequency. Dolphin and whale sightings should be reported to the Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (www.cresli.org). The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation (www.riverheadfoundation.org) should be notified of any injured seals, whales, dolphins, or sea turtles. Their hotline number is 631/369 9840. Refuge and state biologists should be informed of any unusual sightings as well. Observing wildlife takes patience and skill, but with a little luck you can enjoy a rewarding wildlife experience!

Opossum
Short-tailed Shrew
Little Brown Myotis
Eastern Pipistrelle
Big Brown Bat
Eastern Cottontail
Eastern Chipmunk
Gray Squirrel
Southern Flying Squirrel
White-footed Mouse
Meadow Mouse
Muskrat
House Mouse
Norway Rat
Harbor Porpoise
Red Fox
Raccoon
River Otter
Harbor Seal
Gray Seal
White-tailed Deer

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Otters

Notes

Trail(s) _____

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

We hope you enjoy your visit. Post your special sightings on our "Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex" facebook page or send us an email at: longislandrefuges@fws.gov. Be sure to include your name, date, time, and location.

This brochure was produced with the assistance of the following partner organizations:

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, serving Huntington and Northern Oyster Bay Townships. The organization works to protect wildlife and its habitat through conservation action, advocacy, education and responsible recreation. www.hobaudubon.org.

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site

Sagamore Hill preserves in public ownership and interprets the structures, landscape, collections, and other cultural resources associated with Theodore Roosevelt's home in Oyster Bay, New York to ensure that future generations understand and appreciate the life and legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, his family, and the significant events associated with him at Sagamore Hill. www.nps.gov/sahi/index.htm

Friends of the Bay

Friends of the Bay's mission is to preserve, protect and restore the ecological integrity and productivity of the Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor Estuary and the surrounding watershed area.

Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge
c/o Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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Shirley, NY 11967
631/286 0485
www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges/oysterbay.html

Federal Relay Service
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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http://www.fws.gov

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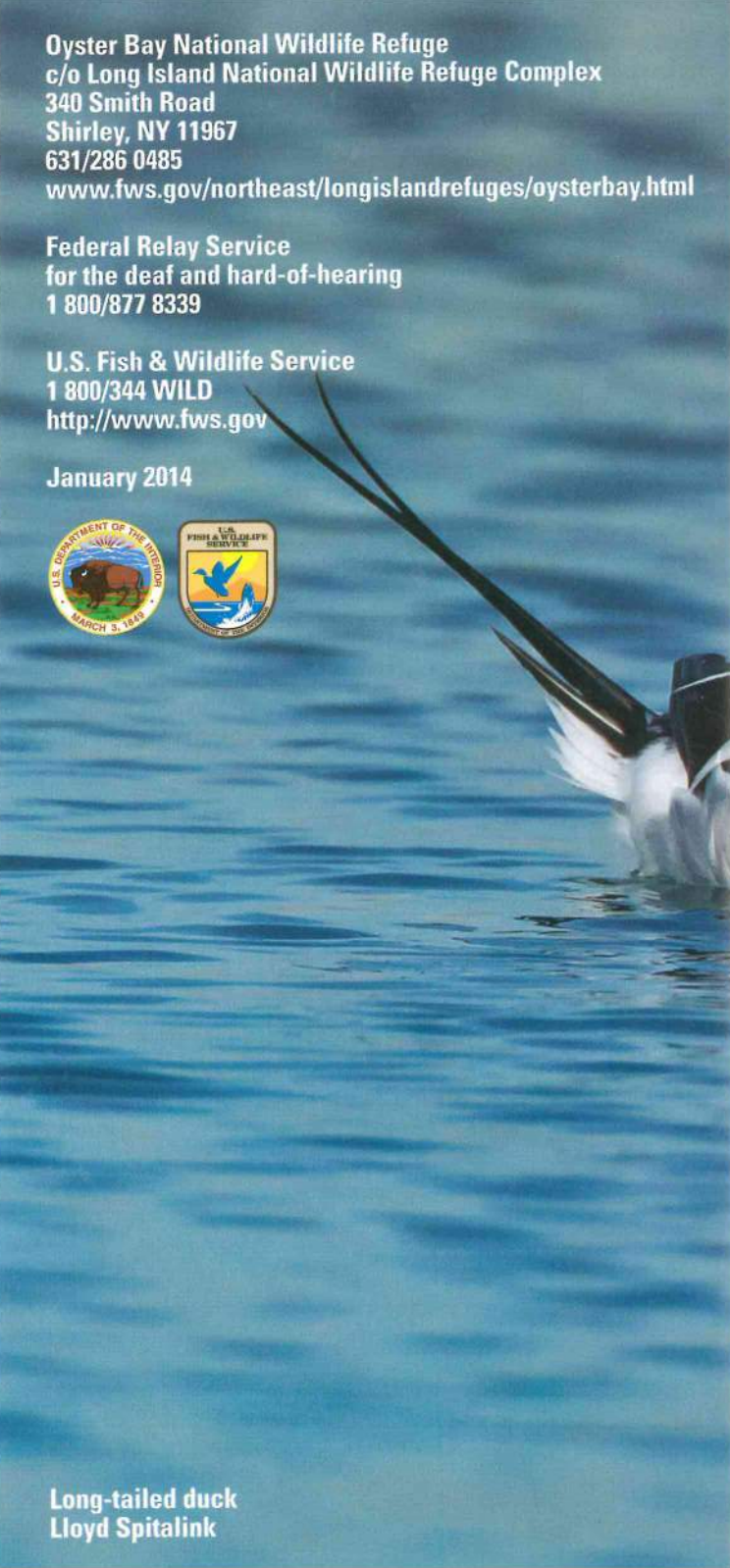

Long-tailed duck
Lloyd Spitalink