

Ohio Birding Checklist with Difficulty Codes

Daily/Year/Life _____

This checklist is arranged in three sections, each corresponding to a pair of difficulty codes. The six codes/descriptions are based primarily on the collective experience of Greg Miller and Dan Sanders. Overall abundance and ease of identification have been factored into each of the six codes and are as follows:

Easier to See Birds

1. Readily found within expected habitat during at least one season of the year.
2. Migrant in spring & fall OR breeding/wintering somewhat restricted within the state.

Harder to See Birds

3. Spring-only or fall-only migrant OR breeding/wintering very local within the state.
4. Reported annually but easily missed, even with special effort.

Review List Birds

5. More regularly occurring of the OBRC review-list species during the past 20 years or so.
6. Least expected of the OBRC review-list species; very rare in Ohio.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature within each section are from the Fifty-Seventh Supplement (July 2016) to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-List of North American Birds*. The original version of this checklist was produced by Paul Gardner and Joe Hammond. Helpful comments were contributed by Bill Whan.

Easier to See Birds - 203 Species

____ Canada Goose 1
____ Mute Swan 1
____ *Tundra Swan* 2
____ Wood Duck 1
____ Gadwall 1
____ American Wigeon 1
____ American Black Duck 1
____ Mallard 1
____ Blue-winged Teal 1
____ Northern Shoveler 1
____ Northern Pintail 1
____ Green-winged Teal 1
____ *Canvasback* 2
____ *Redhead* 2
____ Ring-necked Duck 1
____ *Greater Scaup* 2
____ Lesser Scaup 1
____ Bufflehead 1
____ *Common Goldeneye* 2
____ Hooded Merganser 1

____ *Common Merganser* 2
____ Red-breasted Merganser 1
____ Ruddy Duck 1
____ *Wild Turkey* 2
____ Pied-billed Grebe 1
____ Horned Grebe 1
____ Rock Pigeon 1
____ Mourning Dove 1
____ *Yellow-billed Cuckoo* 2
____ *Common Nighthawk* 2
____ Chimney Swift 1
____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1
____ *Virginia Rail* 2
____ Sora 1
____ *Common Gallinule* 2
____ American Coot 1
____ Black-bellied Plover 1
____ *American Golden-Plover* 2
____ Semipalmated Plover 1
____ Killdeer 1
____ *Ruddy Turnstone* 2
____ *Sanderling* 2
____ Dunlin 1
____ Least Sandpiper 1
____ Pectoral Sandpiper 1
____ Semipalmated Sandpiper 1
____ Short-billed Dowitcher 1
____ *Wilson's Snipe* 2
____ *American Woodcock* 2
____ Spotted Sandpiper 1
____ Solitary Sandpiper 1
____ Greater Yellowlegs 1
____ Lesser Yellowlegs 1
____ Bonaparte's Gull 1
____ Ring-billed Gull 1
____ Herring Gull 1
____ Great Black-backed Gull 1
____ Caspian Tern 1
____ Common Tern 1
____ Forster's Tern 1
____ Common Loon 1
____ Double-crested Cormorant 1
____ Great Blue Heron 1
____ Great Egret 1
____ *Snowy Egret* 2
____ Green Heron 1
____ Black-crowned Night-Heron 1
____ *Black Vulture* 2
____ Turkey Vulture 1
____ Osprey 1
____ Bald Eagle 1
____ Northern Harrier 1
____ *Sharp-shinned Hawk* 2
____ Cooper's Hawk 1
____ Red-shouldered Hawk 1
____ *Broad-winged Hawk* 2
____ Red-tailed Hawk 1
____ *Rough-legged Hawk* 2
____ *Eastern Screech-Owl* 2
____ *Great Horned Owl* 2
____ *Barred Owl* 2
____ *Short-eared Owl* 2

____ Belted Kingfisher 1
____ *Red-headed Woodpecker* 2
____ Red-bellied Woodpecker 1
____ *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker* 2
____ Downy Woodpecker 1
____ Hairy Woodpecker 1
____ Northern Flicker 1
____ Pileated Woodpecker 1
____ American Kestrel 1
____ *Eastern Wood-Pewee* 2
____ *Acadian Flycatcher* 2
____ *Willow Flycatcher* 2
____ Least Flycatcher 1
____ Eastern Phoebe 1
____ Great Crested Flycatcher 1
____ Eastern Kingbird 1
____ White-eyed Vireo 1
____ *Yellow-throated Vireo* 2
____ *Blue-headed Vireo* 2
____ Warbling Vireo 1
____ Red-eyed Vireo 1
____ Blue Jay 1
____ American Crow 1
____ Horned Lark 1
____ Purple Martin 1
____ Tree Swallow 1
____ Northern Rough-winged Swallow 1
____ Bank Swallow 1
____ Cliff Swallow 1
____ Barn Swallow 1
____ Carolina Chickadee 1
____ Black-capped Chickadee 1
____ Tufted Titmouse 1
____ *Red-breasted Nuthatch* 2
____ White-breasted Nuthatch 1
____ Brown Creeper 1
____ House Wren 1
____ *Winter Wren* 2
____ *Marsh Wren* 2
____ Carolina Wren 1
____ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1
____ Golden-crowned Kinglet 1
____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1
____ Eastern Bluebird 1
____ *Veery* 2
____ Swainson's Thrush 1
____ Hermit Thrush 1
____ Wood Thrush 1
____ American Robin 1
____ Gray Catbird 1
____ Brown Thrasher 1
____ Northern Mockingbird 1
____ European Starling 1
____ Cedar Waxwing 1
____ House Sparrow 1
____ *American Pipit* 2
____ House Finch 1
____ American Goldfinch 1
____ *Lapland Longspur* 2
____ *Snow Bunting* 2
____ Ovenbird 1
____ *Worm-eating Warbler* 2

____ *Louisiana Waterthrush* 2
____ *Northern Waterthrush* 2
____ Blue-winged Warbler 1
____ Black-and-white Warbler 1
____ *Prothonotary Warbler* 2
____ *Tennessee Warbler* 2
____ Nashville Warbler 1
____ *Kentucky Warbler* 2
____ Common Yellowthroat 1
____ Hooded Warbler 1
____ American Redstart 1
____ *Cape May Warbler* 2
____ *Cerulean Warbler* 2
____ *Northern Parula* 2
____ Magnolia Warbler 1
____ *Bay-breasted Warbler* 2
____ *Blackburnian Warbler* 2
____ Yellow Warbler 1
____ Chestnut-sided Warbler 1
____ *Blackpoll Warbler* 2
____ Black-throated Blue Warbler 1
____ Palm Warbler 1
____ *Pine Warbler* 2
____ Yellow-rumped Warbler 1
____ *Yellow-throated Warbler* 2
____ *Prairie Warbler* 2
____ Black-throated Green Warbler 1
____ *Canada Warbler* 2
____ *Wilson's Warbler* 2
____ *Yellow-breasted Chat* 2
____ Eastern Towhee 1
____ American Tree Sparrow 1
____ Chipping Sparrow 1
____ Field Sparrow 1
____ *Vesper Sparrow* 2
____ Savannah Sparrow 1
____ *Grasshopper Sparrow* 2
____ *Henslow's Sparrow* 2
____ *Fox Sparrow* 2
____ Song Sparrow 1
____ *Lincoln's Sparrow* 2
____ Swamp Sparrow 1
____ White-throated Sparrow 1
____ White-crowned Sparrow 1
____ Dark-eyed Junco 1
____ *Summer Tanager* 2
____ Scarlet Tanager 1
____ Northern Cardinal 1
____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1
____ Indigo Bunting 1
____ *Dickcissel* 2
____ *Bobolink* 2
____ Red-winged Blackbird 1
____ Eastern Meadowlark 1
____ *Rusty Blackbird* 2
____ Common Grackle 1
____ Brown-headed Cowbird 1
____ *Orchard Oriole* 2
____ Baltimore Oriole 1

Harder to See Birds - 93 Species

___ Greater White-fronted Goose 3
___ Snow Goose 3
___ Ross's Goose 4
___ Brant 4
___ Cackling Goose 4
___ Eurasian Wigeon 4
___ Harlequin Duck 4
___ Surf Scoter 3
___ White-winged Scoter 3
___ Black Scoter 3
___ Long-tailed Duck 4
___ Northern Bobwhite 4**
___ Ring-necked Pheasant 3**
___ Ruffed Grouse 4
___ Red-necked Grebe 4
___ Eared Grebe 4
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove 3
___ Black-billed Cuckoo 3
___ Chuck-will's-widow 4
___ Eastern Whip-poor-will 3
___ Rufous Hummingbird 4
___ King Rail 4
___ Sandhill Crane 3
___ Black-necked Stilt 4
___ American Avocet 4
___ Upland Sandpiper 4
___ Whimbrel 4
___ Hudsonian Godwit 4
___ Marbled Godwit 4
___ Red Knot 4
___ Stilt Sandpiper 3
___ Purple Sandpiper 4
___ Baird's Sandpiper 3
___ White-rumped Sandpiper 3
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper 4
___ Western Sandpiper 4
___ Long-billed Dowitcher 3
___ Willet 4
___ Wilson's Phalarope 3
___ Red-necked Phalarope 3
___ Red Phalarope 4
___ Pomarine Jaeger 4
___ Black-legged Kittiwake 4
___ Sabine's Gull 4
___ Little Gull 4
___ Laughing Gull 4
___ Franklin's Gull 4
___ Thayer's Gull 4
___ Iceland Gull 4
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull 3
___ Glaucous Gull 3
___ Black Tern 3
___ Red-throated Loon 4
___ American White Pelican 3
___ American Bittern 3
___ Least Bittern 3
___ Little Blue Heron 4
___ Cattle Egret 4
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 4
___ Golden Eagle 4

___ Barn Owl 4
___ Snowy Owl 4
___ Long-eared Owl 3
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl 4
___ Merlin 3
___ Peregrine Falcon 3
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher 4
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 4
___ Alder Flycatcher 4
___ Northern Shrike 4
___ Bell's Vireo 4
___ Philadelphia Vireo 3
___ Common Raven 4
___ Sedge Wren 3
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush 3
___ Purple Finch 3
___ Red Crossbill 4
___ White-winged Crossbill 4
___ Common Redpoll 4
___ Pine Siskin 3
___ Evening Grosbeak 4
___ Golden-winged Warbler 4
___ Orange-crowned Warbler 3
___ Connecticut Warbler 4
___ Mourning Warbler 3
___ Clay-colored Sparrow 4
___ Lark Sparrow 3
___ Le Conte's Sparrow 4
___ Nelson's Sparrow 4
___ Blue Grosbeak 3
___ Western Meadowlark 4
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird 4
___ Brewer's Blackbird 4

Review-List Birds - 132 Species

___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck 6
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck 6
___ Trumpeter Swan 6*
___ Cinnamon Teal 6
___ Garganey 6
___ Tufted Duck 6
___ King Eider 6
___ Common Eider 6
___ Barrow's Goldeneye 6
___ Western Grebe 6
___ Common Ground-Dove 6
___ White-winged Dove 5
___ Smooth-billed Ani 6
___ Groove-billed Ani 6
___ White-throated Swift 6
___ Mexican Violetear 6
___ Anna's Hummingbird 6
___ Allen's Hummingbird 6
___ Calliope Hummingbird 6
___ Yellow Rail 6
___ Black Rail 6
___ Purple Gallinule 6
___ Whooping Crane 6
___ Northern Lapwing 6
___ Snowy Plover 6
___ Wilson's Plover 6

___ Piping Plover 5
___ Long-billed Curlew 6
___ Ruff 5
___ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 6
___ Curlew Sandpiper 6
___ Red-necked Stint 6
___ Eurasian Woodcock 6
___ Spotted Redshank 6
___ Parasitic Jaeger 5
___ Long-tailed Jaeger 5
___ Thick-billed Murre 6
___ Black Guillemot 6
___ Long-billed Murrelet 6
___ Ancient Murrelet 6
___ Atlantic Puffin 6
___ Ivory Gull 6
___ Black-headed Gull 5
___ Ross's Gull 6
___ Black-tailed Gull 6
___ Heermann's Gull 6
___ Mew Gull 6
___ California Gull 5
___ Kelp Gull 6
___ Sooty Tern 6
___ Least Tern 6
___ Large-billed Tern 6
___ Arctic Tern 6
___ Royal Tern 6
___ Arctic Loon 6
___ Pacific Loon 5
___ Black-capped Petrel 6
___ Leach's Storm-Petrel 6
___ Wood Stork 6
___ Magnificent Frigatebird 6
___ Northern Gannet 6
___ Neotropic Cormorant 6
___ Great Cormorant 6
___ Anhinga 6
___ Brown Pelican 6
___ Tricolored Heron 5
___ Reddish Egret 6
___ White Ibis 6
___ Glossy Ibis 5
___ White-faced Ibis 5
___ Roseate Spoonbill 6
___ Swallow-tailed Kite 6
___ Mississippi Kite 5
___ Northern Goshawk 5
___ Harris's Hawk 6
___ Swainson's Hawk 6
___ Northern Hawk Owl 6
___ Burrowing Owl 6
___ Great Gray Owl 6
___ Boreal Owl 6
___ Red-naped Sapsucker 6
___ Red-cockaded Woodpecker 6
___ Black-backed Woodpecker 6
___ Crested Caracara 6
___ Gyrfalcon 6
___ Prairie Falcon 6
___ Gray Flycatcher 6
___ Dusky Flycatcher 6

___ Say's Phoebe 6
___ Vermilion Flycatcher 6
___ Western Kingbird 5
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 6
___ Loggerhead Shrike 5
___ Black-billed Magpie 6
___ Fish Crow 5
___ Violet-green Swallow 6
___ Cave Swallow 6
___ Boreal Chickadee 6
___ Brown-headed Nuthatch 6
___ Rock Wren 6
___ Bewick's Wren 6
___ Northern Wheatear 6
___ Mountain Bluebird 6
___ Townsend's Solitaire 6
___ Varied Thrush 5
___ Bohemian Waxwing 6
___ Eurasian Tree Sparrow 6
___ Sprague's Pipit 6
___ Brambling 6
___ Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch 6
___ Pine Grosbeak 6
___ Hoary Redpoll 6
___ Smith's Longspur 6
___ Swainson's Warbler 6
___ Kirtland's Warbler 5
___ Black-throated Gray Warbler 6
___ Townsend's Warbler 6
___ Painted Redstart 6
___ Green-tailed Towhee 6
___ Spotted Towhee 6
___ Cassin's Sparrow 6
___ Bachman's Sparrow 6
___ Black-throated Sparrow 6
___ Lark Bunting 6
___ Baird's Sparrow 6
___ Harris's Sparrow 5
___ Golden-Crowned Sparrow 6
___ Western Tanager 6
___ Black-headed Grosbeak 6
___ Painted Bunting 6
___ Great-tailed Grackle 6
___ Bullock's Oriole 6

Total Ohio Species = 434 (Six Extinct/Extirpated Species Omitted)

* Vagrant Trumpeter Swans from the west, although probably unrecognizable as such, would be code 6. ODNR-released TRUS and their progeny are not countable in Ohio but would be code 2.

** Only considered to be countable in certain counties/locations due to frequently released populations.

Acknowledgements: These current codes are based primarily on the collective experience of Dan Sanders and other avid Ohio birders. Thanks to Jacob Roalef for producing the 2016 revision of this document.