

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; Casual to accidental in Ohio.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature within each section are from the American Ornithological Society's *Check-List of North American Birds* (online), Sixty-fourth Supplement (August 2023). The original version of this checklist was produced by Paul Gardner and Joe Hammond. Helpful comments were contributed by Bill Whan.

Acknowledgements: These current codes are based primarily on the collective experience of Dan Sanders and other avid Ohio birders. A special thanks to Laura Keene for producing the 2024 revision of this document.

Easier to See Birds – 204 Species

Date Species Code Location

_____ Canada Goose *1* _____
 _____ Mute Swan *2* _____
 _____ Trumpeter Swan *2* _____
 _____ Tundra Swan *2* _____
 _____ Wood Duck *1* _____
 _____ Blue-winged Teal *1* _____
 _____ Northern Shoveler *1* _____
 _____ Gadwall *1* _____
 _____ American Wigeon *1* _____
 _____ Mallard *1* _____
 _____ American Black Duck *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* _____
 _____ American Woodcock *2* _____
 _____ Wilson's Snipe *2* _____
 _____ Spotted Sandpiper *1* _____
 _____ Solitary Sandpiper *1* _____
 _____ Lesser Yellowlegs *1* _____
 _____ Greater 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* _____
 _____ Northern Harrier *1* _____
 _____ Sharp-shinned Hawk *2* _____
 _____ Cooper's Hawk *1* _____
 _____ Bald Eagle *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 *3* _____
 _____ Belted Kingfisher *1* _____
 _____ Hooded 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* _____
 _____ Great Crested Flycatcher *1* _____
 _____ Eastern Kingbird *1* _____
 _____ Eastern Wood-Pewee *2* _____
 _____ Acadian Flycatcher *2* _____
 _____ Willow Flycatcher *2* _____
 _____ Least Flycatcher *1* _____
 _____ Eastern Phoebe *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* _____
 _____ Carolina Chickadee *1* _____
 _____ Black-capped Chickadee *1* _____
 _____ Tufted Titmouse *1* _____
 _____ Horned Lark *1* _____
 _____ Bank Swallow *1* _____
 _____ Tree Swallow *1* _____
 _____ N. Rough-winged Swallow *1* _____
 _____ Purple Martin *1* _____
 _____ Barn Swallow *1* _____
 _____ Cliff Swallow *2* _____
 _____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet *1* _____
 _____ Golden-crowned Kinglet *1* _____
 _____ Cedar Waxwing *1* _____
 _____ Red-breasted Nuthatch *2* _____
 _____ White-breasted Nuthatch *1* _____
 _____ Brown Creeper *1* _____
 _____ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *1* _____
 _____ House Wren *1* _____
 _____ Winter Wren *2* _____
 _____ Marsh Wren *2* _____
 _____ Carolina Wren *1* _____
 _____ Gray Catbird *1* _____
 _____ Brown Thrasher *1* _____
 _____ Northern Mockingbird *1* _____
 _____ European Starling *1* _____
 _____ Eastern Bluebird *1* _____
 _____ Veery *2* _____
 _____ Swainson's Thrush *1* _____
 _____ Hermit Thrush *1* _____
 _____ Wood Thrush *1* _____
 _____ American Robin *1* _____
 _____ House Sparrow *1* _____
 _____ American Pipit *2* _____
 _____ House Finch *1* _____

_____ American Goldfinch *1* _____
 _____ Lapland Longspur *2* _____
 _____ Snow Bunting *2* _____
 _____ Grasshopper Sparrow *2* _____
 _____ Chipping Sparrow *1* _____
 _____ Field Sparrow *1* _____
 _____ Fox Sparrow *2* _____
 _____ American Tree Sparrow *1* _____
 _____ Dark-eyed Junco *1* _____
 _____ White-crowned Sparrow *1* _____
 _____ White-throated Sparrow *1* _____
 _____ Vesper Sparrow *2* _____
 _____ Henslow's Sparrow *2* _____
 _____ Savannah Sparrow *1* _____
 _____ Song Sparrow *1* _____
 _____ Lincoln's Sparrow *2* _____
 _____ Swamp Sparrow *1* _____
 _____ Eastern Towhee *1* _____
 _____ Yellow-breasted Chat *2* _____
 _____ Bobolink *2* _____
 _____ Eastern Meadowlark *1* _____
 _____ Orchard Oriole *2* _____
 _____ Baltimore Oriole *1* _____
 _____ Red-winged Blackbird *1* _____
 _____ Brown-headed Cowbird *1* _____
 _____ Rusty Blackbird *2* _____
 _____ Common Grackle *1* _____
 _____ 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* _____
 _____ Summer Tanager *2* _____
 _____ Scarlet Tanager *1* _____
 _____ Northern Cardinal *1* _____
 _____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak *1* _____
 _____ Indigo Bunting *1* _____
 _____ Dickcissel *2* _____

Harder to See Birds - 118 Species

- _____ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck 3
- _____ Snow Goose 3
- _____ Ross's Goose 4
- _____ Greater White-fronted Goose 3
- _____ 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**
- _____ Ruffed Grouse 4
- _____ Ring-necked Pheasant 3**
- _____ Red-necked Grebe 4
- _____ Eared Grebe 4
- _____ Eurasian Collared-Dove 3
- _____ White-winged Dove 4
- _____ Black-billed Cuckoo 3
- _____ Chuck-will's-widow 4
- _____ Eastern Whip-poor-will 3
- _____ Rufous Hummingbird 4
- _____ King Rail 4
- _____ Yellow Rail 4
- _____ Sandhill Crane 3
- _____ Black-necked Stilt 4
- _____ American Avocet 4
- _____ Piping Plover 4
- _____ Upland Sandpiper 4
- _____ Whimbrel 4
- _____ Hudsonian Godwit 4
- _____ Marbled Godwit 4
- _____ Red Knot 4
- _____ Ruff 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
- _____ Parasitic Jaeger 4
- _____ Long-tailed Jaeger 4
- _____ Black-legged Kittiwake 4
- _____ Sabine's Gull 4
- _____ Black-headed Gull 4
- _____ Little Gull 4
- _____ Laughing Gull 4
- _____ Franklin's Gull 4
- _____ California Gull 4
- _____ Iceland Gull 4
- _____ Lesser Black-backed Gull 3
- _____ Glaucous Gull 3
- _____ Least Tern 4
- _____ Black Tern 3
- _____ Red-throated Loon 4

- _____ Pacific Loon 4
- _____ Neotropic Cormorant 4
- _____ American White Pelican 3
- _____ Brown Pelican 4
- _____ American Bittern 3
- _____ Least Bittern 3
- _____ Little Blue Heron 4
- _____ Cattle Egret 4
- _____ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 4
- _____ Glossy Ibis 4
- _____ White-faced Ibis 4
- _____ Swallow-tailed Kite 4
- _____ Golden Eagle 4
- _____ Mississippi Kite 4
- _____ Barn Owl 4
- _____ Snowy Owl 4
- _____ Long-eared Owl 3
- _____ Northern Saw-whet Owl 3
- _____ Merlin 3
- _____ Peregrine Falcon 3
- _____ Western Kingbird 4
- _____ Olive-sided Flycatcher 3
- _____ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 3
- _____ Alder Flycatcher 3
- _____ Bell's Vireo 4
- _____ Philadelphia Vireo 3
- _____ Northern Shrike 4
- _____ Fish Crow 3
- _____ Common Raven 4
- _____ Sedge Wren 3
- _____ Gray-cheeked Thrush 3
- _____ Varied Thrush 4
- _____ Evening Grosbeak 4
- _____ Purple Finch 3
- _____ Red Crossbill 4
- _____ White-winged Crossbill 4
- _____ Common Redpoll 4
- _____ Hoary Redpoll 4
- _____ Pine Siskin 3
- _____ Smith's Longspur 4
- _____ Lark Sparrow 3
- _____ Clay-colored Sparrow 4
- _____ Harris's Sparrow 4
- _____ LeConte's Sparrow 4
- _____ Nelson's Sparrow 4
- _____ Yellow-headed Blackbird 4
- _____ Western Meadowlark 4
- _____ Brewer's Blackbird 4
- _____ Golden-winged Warbler 4
- _____ Orange-crowned Warbler 3
- _____ Connecticut Warbler 4
- _____ Mourning Warbler 3
- _____ Kirtland's Warbler 4
- _____ Western Tanager 4
- _____ Blue Grosbeak 3
- _____ Painted Bunting 4

Review-List Birds - 123 Species

- _____ Fulvous Whistling-Duck 6
- _____ Garganey 6
- _____ Cinnamon Teal 6
- _____ Tufted Duck 6
- _____ King Eider 6

- _____ Common Eider 6
- _____ Barrow's Goldeneye 6
- _____ American Flamingo 6
- _____ Western Grebe 6
- _____ Common Ground-Dove 6
- _____ Smooth-billed Ani 6
- _____ Groove-billed Ani 6
- _____ White-throated Swift 6
- _____ Mexican Violetear 6
- _____ Black-chinned Hummingbird 6
- _____ Anna's Hummingbird 6
- _____ Calliope Hummingbird 6
- _____ Allen's Hummingbird 6
- _____ Broad-billed Hummingbird 6
- _____ Purple Gallinule 6
- _____ Black Rail 6
- _____ Limpkin 6
- _____ Whooping Crane 6
- _____ Northern Lapwing 6
- _____ Wilson's Plover 6
- _____ Snowy Plover 6
- _____ Long-billed Curlew 6
- _____ Eskimo Curlew 6
- _____ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 6
- _____ Curlew Sandpiper 6
- _____ Red-necked Stint 6
- _____ Eurasian Woodcock 6
- _____ Spotted Redshank 6
- _____ Thick-billed Murre 6
- _____ Black Guillemot 6
- _____ Long-billed Murrelet 6
- _____ Ancient Murrelet 6
- _____ Atlantic Puffin 6
- _____ Ivory Gull 6
- _____ Ross's Gull 6
- _____ Black-tailed Gull 6
- _____ Heermann's Gull 6
- _____ Common Gull 6
- _____ Short-billed Gull 6
- _____ Slaty-backed Gull 6
- _____ Glaucous-winged Gull 6
- _____ Kelp Gull 6
- _____ Sooty Tern 6
- _____ Large-billed Tern 6
- _____ Arctic Tern 6
- _____ Royal Tern 6
- _____ Arctic Loon 6
- _____ Leach's Storm-Petrel 6
- _____ Black-capped Petrel 6
- _____ Wood Stork 6
- _____ Magnificent Frigatebird 6
- _____ Brown Booby 6
- _____ Northern Gannet 6
- _____ Anhinga 6
- _____ Great Cormorant 6
- _____ Tricolored Heron 5
- _____ Reddish Egret 6
- _____ White Ibis 6
- _____ Roseate Spoonbill 6
- _____ White-tailed Kite 6
- _____ American Goshawk 5
- _____ Harris's Hawk 6
- _____ Swainson's Hawk 6
- _____ Ferruginous Hawk 6

- _____ Northern Hawk Owl 6
- _____ Burrowing Owl 6
- _____ Great Gray Owl 6
- _____ Boreal Owl 6
- _____ Red-naped Sapsucker 6
- _____ Black-backed Woodpecker 6
- _____ Red-cockaded Woodpecker 6
- _____ Crested Caracara 6
- _____ Gyrfalcon 6
- _____ Prairie Falcon 6
- _____ Ash-throated Flycatcher 6
- _____ Tropical Kingbird 6
- _____ Gray Kingbird 6
- _____ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 6
- _____ Gray Flycatcher 6
- _____ Dusky Flycatcher 6
- _____ Western Flycatcher 6
- _____ Say's Phoebe 6
- _____ Vermilion Flycatcher 6
- _____ Loggerhead Shrike 5
- _____ Black-billed Magpie 6
- _____ Boreal Chickadee 6
- _____ Violet-green Swallow 6
- _____ Cave Swallow 6
- _____ Bohemian Waxwing 6
- _____ Brown-headed Nuthatch 6
- _____ Rock Wren 6
- _____ Bewick's Wren 6
- _____ Mountain Bluebird 6
- _____ Townsend's Solitaire 6
- _____ Northern Wheatear 6
- _____ Eurasian Tree Sparrow 6
- _____ White Wagtail 6
- _____ Sprague's Pipit 6
- _____ Brambling 6
- _____ Pine Grosbeak 6
- _____ Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch 6
- _____ Chestnut-collared Longspur 6
- _____ Cassin's Sparrow 6
- _____ Black-throated Sparrow 6
- _____ Lark Bunting 6
- _____ Brewer's Sparrow 6
- _____ Golden-Crowned Sparrow 6
- _____ Baird's Sparrow 6
- _____ Green-tailed Towhee 6
- _____ Spotted Towhee 6
- _____ Hooded Oriole 6
- _____ Bullock's Oriole 6
- _____ Great-tailed Grackle 6
- _____ Swainson's Warbler 6
- _____ Black-throated Gray Warbler 6
- _____ Townsend's Warbler 6
- _____ Painted Redstart 6
- _____ Black-headed Grosbeak 6

Total Ohio Species = 451 *

* Six Extinct/Extirpated Species Omitted
 Extinct: Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet
 Extirpated: Greater Prairie-Chicken, Gray Partridge, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow.

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