

# 2023 I BIRD NY CHALLENGE

## Find New York State Birds

Birding is an activity enjoyed by many New Yorkers of all ages and abilities, and is a great way to connect with the outdoors. Did you know that the array of habitats in New York supports more than 450 different species of birds? Use your observation skills and join the I BIRD NY Challenge by identifying any 10 bird species of your choosing in New York State. Record each of your 10 observations on this entry sheet and submit it back to DEC. After successfully completing this challenge, you will be awarded a commemorative patch, given a completion certificate, and entered into a drawing for great birding prizes! Both youth and adult winners will be selected.

**Bonus:** Submit a photo documenting your I BIRD NY Challenge experience and earn an extra entry in the prize giveaway.



Name of Birder: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Birding Challenge Log

1. Name: _____	Date Observed: _____
Location: _____	Town/City: _____
2. Name: _____	Date Observed: _____
Location: _____	Town/City: _____
3. Name: _____	Date Observed: _____
Location: _____	Town/City: _____
4. Name: _____	Date Observed: _____
Location: _____	Town/City: _____
5. Name: _____	Date Observed: _____
Location: _____	Town/City: _____
6. Name: _____	Date Observed: _____
Location: _____	Town/City: _____
7. Name: _____	Date Observed: _____
Location: _____	Town/City: _____
8. Name: _____	Date Observed: _____
Location: _____	Town/City: _____
9. Name: _____	Date Observed: _____
Location: _____	Town/City: _____
10. Name: _____	Date Observed: _____
Location: _____	Town/City: _____

## Common Bird Species in New York State

Need a place to start? Use this field guide to help complete your Birding Challenge Log!

### House Sparrow



The house sparrow is one of the more common birds in the world. Not native to this country, it was first introduced to the United States in Brooklyn in 1851. Male house sparrows have a gray cap on their heads framed by brown with white cheeks and a black neck.

Length: 5 to 7 inches.

### American Robin



One of the first birds seen as spring arrives in New York, robins can often be seen hopping around the ground pulling earthworms. The robin's cheery call can be heard at first light. Robins can be identified by their rusty orange chest.

Length: 9 to 11 inches.

### European Starling



Like the house sparrow, the starling is not native to this country. They were first introduced to North America in 1890 from Europe. Starlings can form large flocks in fall and winter. Starlings change color by season, from purplish green in the summer to brownish black with white spots in the winter.

Length: approx. 8 inches.

### Northern Cardinal



The northern cardinal is one of the country's most distinguishable birds given the male's bright red color. The cardinal has slowly expanded its range northward and is now found in most states east of the Mississippi River. Male cardinals are bright red in color. Female cardinals are brownish-gray with red tinges on their crest (top of head), wings, and tail.

Length: 8 to 9 inches.

### Black-capped Chickadee



Named after its distinctive chick-a-dee-dee call, the chickadee is one of the friendliest birds around. They are very curious and will often fly right up to a person to investigate them and can sometimes be fed by hand. The chickadee has a black cap and throat with white cheeks.

Length: 4 to 6 inches.

### Blue Jay



Noisy, raucous, and aggressive at feeders, the blue jay is a bright blue bird with a noticeable crest atop its head. It has a grayish face and underside, and a black necklace. Common in woods and near homes, jays will mob hawks and owls to drive them away. Listen for its loud "Jay" call; you might hear it before you see it!

Length: 11 to 12 inches

### Mallard Duck



Mallards are one of the most abundant ducks in the world and very popular with New York duck hunters. The male mallard can be identified by its gleaming green head and curled black tail feathers. The female is brown in color. Both sexes have a white-bordered blue patch on the wing.

Length: 20 to 26 inches.

### Red-tailed Hawk



The most popular hawk in North America, the red-tailed hawk can often be seen perched on a telephone pole or tree limb or slowly circling high in the air. Red-tailed hawks can be identified by their rusty red upper tail feathers.

Length: 18 to 26 inches.

### Mourning Dove



Similar to the chickadee, the mourning dove is named after its primary call – a gloomy cooing sound. Mourning doves are commonly seen picking up seeds and grit on the ground. When disturbed they take off like a rocket. Mourning doves are brown to pinkish tan in color with black spots on the wings and black tips on their pointed tail feathers.

Length: 11 to 12 inches.

### Red-winged Blackbird



Named after the distinctive red shoulder patches of the male, the red-winged blackbird is one of the most abundant birds in North America. Males like to be noticed and are very vocal, belting out a distinctive konk-la-ree call.

Length: 7 to 9.5 inches.

**Rules:** 1) Challenge open to all ages. 2) One entry per person. 3) Challenge open March 1 through November 1. 4) All entries must be received by November 17.

**Complete the Birding Challenge form using an online form:** [surveyMonkey.com/r/IBirdNYChallenge](https://surveyMonkey.com/r/IBirdNYChallenge)

**OR email to** [birdingchallenge@dec.ny.gov](mailto:birdingchallenge@dec.ny.gov)

**OR mail the forms to:**

I BIRD NY Birding Challenge

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-1020



[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

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