THE VIRGINIA COAST RESERVE: A BIRDER’S DELIGHT

Virginia's barrier islands shelter more than 250 species of raptors, songbirds, and shorebirds which find food in the adjacent bays and salt marshes.

Explore the list below of some of the species commonly seen at VCR, and then visit our Brownsville Preserve page to plan a trip to our William B. Cummings Birding and Wildlife Trail.

American bald eagle  
American black duck  
American crow  
American goldfinch  
American kestrel  
American oystercatcher  
American robin  
American woodcock  
Baltimore oriole  
barn swallow  
belted kingfisher  
black and white warbler  
black-crowned night-heron  
black skimmer  
black vulture  
black-bellied plover  
blue grosbeak  
blue jay  
blue-gray gnatcatcher  
boat-tailed grackle  
field sparrow  
fish crow  
Forster’s tern  
fox sparrow  
gadwall  
glossy ibis  
golden-crowned kinglet  
grasshopper sparrow  
great blue heron  
great egret  
great horned owl  
great crested flycatcher  
great black-backed gull  
greater yellowlegs  
green heron  
gull-billed tern  
hairy woodpecker  
herring gull  
hooded merganzer  
purple finch  
purple martin  
red-bellied woodpecker  
red-breasted merganzer  
red-eyed vireo  
red-headed woodpecker  
red knot  
red-shouldered hawk  
red-tailed hawk  
red-winged blackbird  
ring-billed gull  
rock pigeon  
royal tern  
ruby-crowned kinglet  
ruby-throated hummingbird  
ruddy duck  
ruddy turnstone  
sanderling  
scarlet tanager  
seaside sparrow
brant
brown pelican
brown thrasher
brown-headed cowbird
brown-headed nuthatch
buffelhead
Canada goose
Carolina chickadee
Carolina wren
cedar waxwing
chimney swift
chipping sparrow
chuck-will’s-widow
clapper rail
common grackle
common loon
common nighthawk
common tern
common yellowthroat
Cooper’s hawk
dark-eyed junco
double-crested cormorant
eastern bluebird
eastern kingbird
eastern meadowlark
eastern phoebe
eastern screech owl
eastern towhee
European starling
horned lark
house finch
house wren
indigo bunting
killdeer
laughing gull
least sandpiper
least tern
lesser scaup
lesser yellowlegs
long-tailed duck
magnolia warbler
mallard duck
mourning dove
northern bobwhite quail
northern cardinal
northern flicker
northern harrier
northern mockingbird
orchard oriole
osprey
ovenbird
palm warbler
peregrine falcon
pie-billed grebe
pileated woodpecker
pine warbler
piping plover
prairie warble
semipalmated plover
semipalmated sandpiper
sharp-shinned hawk
short-billed dowitcher
snowy egret
solitary sandpiper
song sparrow
spotted sandpiper
stilt sandpiper
summer tanager
swamp sparrow
tree swallow
tricolored heron
tufted titmouse
turkey vulture
white ibis
white-eyed vireo
white-throated sparrow
white-crowned sparrow
whimbrel
wild turkey
willet
Wilson’s plover
wood duck
yellow warbler
yellow-bellied sapsucker
yellow-billed cuckoo
yellow-breasted chat
yellow-rumped warbler