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
- gray catbird
- 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 merganser
- purple finch
- purple martin
- red-bellied woodpecker
- red-breasted merganser
- 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  
bufflehead  
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  
kildeer  
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 warbler  
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