

What are all these Birds doing Here?



Lake Champlain Birding Trail
For information: (802) 287-4284
www.lakechamplainbirding.org

Migrating Through

Lake Champlain is part of the Atlantic flyway between northern breeding grounds and southern wintering grounds. Spectacular numbers of waterfowl gather here in spring and fall. Watch for Common Goldeneyes, Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Snow and Canada Geese, and Northern Pintails.

Breeding

Many of the bird species found along the lake are part-time residents. They head south in autumn when their food sources become scarce—then return in spring to nest and raise young.

Wintering

It is hard to believe that for some birds that summer in the far north, the Champlain Valley provides a balmy winter home. Wintertime is your chance to see Bohemian Waxwings, Snow Buntings, Common Redpolls, Snowy Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, and Bald Eagles.

Living Year-Round

Some birds at your winter feeder make the Champlain Valley their year-round home. Several waterfowl species also stay all year, including: Canada Geese, Black Ducks, Mallards, and Common Mergansers. Great Horned Owls and Red-tailed Hawks brave winters here as well.

Bird Watching Tips

- Respect wildlife homes—leave nests and their occupants as you found them.
- Use binoculars or a spotting scope so you can view birds from a distance. Approaching a nest, even if you leave it alone, can lead predators to it.
- Blend in with your surroundings—wear neutral-colored clothing and move slowly and quietly.
- Share your lunch only with other humans.
- Limit use of recordings, calls, or whistles to attract birds.
- Leave pets at home or keep them on leash.
- Obtain permission before birding on private land.
- Respect wildlife refuges where birding is not allowed in order to protect nesting birds.



Common Goldeneye migrates through. (Courtesy of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, credit Mike Hopiak.)



Canada Geese nest and raise young. (Courtesy of the USFWS, credit Robert C. Fields.)



Snowy Owls winter here. (Courtesy of Rod and Betty Vallee.)



Red-tailed Hawks live here year-round. (Courtesy of the USFWS, credit J.&K. Hollingsworth.)

(Photograph courtesy of Jeff Nadler.)