

CCCA Birder page

Order of bird prevalence in Vermont:

Seasonality: Prevalence changes dramatically throughout the year (breeding season vs. migration vs. winter).

Habitat: Some birds are common statewide, while others are common only in specific habitats (forests, fields, wetlands).

Data Interpretation: "Prevalence" can mean total population size, frequency of sightings on checklists (like eBird data), or geographic range. Frequency of sightings is often the most practical measure for birders.

Based on general abundance and frequency of observation across Vermont (primarily using eBird frequency data as a guide for typical encounter rates during appropriate seasons), here is an *estimated* order from most prevalent to least prevalent for the birds on the list:

Estimated Order of Prevalence in Vermont (Most to Least Common):

1. **American Robin:** Extremely common and widespread, especially spring through fall.
2. **Black-capped Chickadee:** Very common year-round resident, familiar feeder bird.
3. **Blue Jay:** Common and conspicuous year-round resident.
4. **American Crow:** Very common and widespread year-round.
5. **Song Sparrow:** Abundant and widespread breeder in various habitats.
6. **European Starling:** Abundant, especially near human settlements, year-round resident.
7. **Red-winged Blackbird:** Abundant breeder in wetlands and fields, very common in summer.
8. **Mourning Dove:** Very common, widespread, year-round, often near human areas.
9. **White-breasted Nuthatch:** Common year-round resident in woodlands.
10. **Downy Woodpecker:** Common year-round resident in woods and at feeders.
11. **Common Yellowthroat:** Abundant and widespread breeder in brushy areas and field edges.
12. **Mallard:** Common year-round resident on various water bodies.

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13. **Tree Swallow:** Common breeder, often seen near water and open fields, arrives early spring.
 14. **Chipping Sparrow:** Common and widespread breeder in open woods, edges, and suburbs.
 15. **Northern Flicker:** Common and widespread woodpecker, often seen foraging on the ground.
 16. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Abundant migrant, fairly common breeder in coniferous forests (Myrtle subspecies).
 17. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Common resident, especially in coniferous forests, numbers can fluctuate.
 18. **Ovenbird:** Common breeder in deciduous forests, known for its loud song.
 19. **Great Blue Heron:** Common and widespread near water, spring through fall.
 20. **Turkey Vulture:** Increasingly common and widespread, seen soaring spring through fall.
 21. **White-throated Sparrow:** Abundant migrant, common breeder in northern/higher elevation forests.
 22. **Eastern Phoebe:** Common breeder, often near structures, known for tail-wagging.
 23. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Common breeder in successional shrubby habitats and young forests.
 24. **Black-and-white Warbler:** Common breeder in deciduous and mixed woods.
 25. **Wood Thrush:** Fairly common breeder in mature deciduous forests, known for flute-like song (populations have declined).
 26. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Fairly common breeder in deciduous woodlands.
 27. **Blue-headed Vireo:** Fairly common breeder, primarily in mixed or coniferous forests.
 28. **Nashville Warbler:** Fairly common breeder in brushy areas, bogs, and young forests.
 29. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Fairly common breeder in mixed and deciduous forests.
 30. **House Wren:** Fairly common breeder, often near edges and human habitation.

31. **Savannah Sparrow:** Fairly common breeder in open grasslands and agricultural fields.
32. **Ruffed Grouse:** Fairly common resident in forests, but populations fluctuate and can be hard to see.
33. **Bobolink:** Locally common breeder in large grasslands and hayfields (species of conservation concern due to habitat loss).
34. **Warbling Vireo:** Fairly common breeder, often high in deciduous trees near water or edges, but perhaps less widespread or numerous than Blue-headed.
35. **American Kestrel:** Uncommon breeder and migrant, populations have significantly declined; requires open country.

Important Considerations:

- This list is an informed estimate. Precise ranking can vary based on specific location within Vermont, time of year, and annual fluctuations.
- Resources like the Vermont eBird portal provide detailed, real-time frequency charts based on citizen science data, which is the best source for current prevalence information.
- State resources like Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and Audubon Vermont also provide information on bird status and distribution.