

SHORELINE NEIGHBORS



Greater Yellowlegs

(Tringa melanoleuca)



Photo: Warren A. Metcalf

Shorebirds

Shorebirds are small- to medium-sized, long-legged birds built to run quickly and prance gracefully across tidal beaches and mudflats, as well as shallow tidal waters, where they probe the sands and stab in the water to find their food. Many shorebirds are visitors to Maryland, rather than year-round residents, but Maryland tidal shorelines are vital areas for shorebirds to stop, rest, and feed before continuing their long journeys to Central and South America or the Caribbean and back to nesting areas in Canada.

Read the back of the card to learn more about the Greater Yellowlegs.

For More
Information:



Maryland
Department of
the Environment



Greater Yellowlegs

Scientific Name: *Tringa melanoleuca*



Photo: Wirestock

You won't find Greater Yellowlegs in Maryland during most of the year. These birds are well named—they do have bright yellow legs! They mostly nest in Canada, and pass through Maryland's tidal areas on their spring and fall migrations to and from South America. These high-stepping shorebirds use their long beaks to quickly stab their prey of small invertebrates, but sometimes also fish and frogs. Unlike most shorebirds, Greater Yellowlegs are large enough to move around and spend more time in the higher vegetation of tidal marshes.

Living shorelines on public and private properties help expand habitats for these animals. Consider a living shoreline on your property today.

Funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency State Wetland Program Development Grants (CD96390701).

Source: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide

SHORELINE NEIGHBORS



Willet

(*Tringa semipalmata*)

Shorebirds



Photo: GDMatt66

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Read the back of the card to learn more about the Willet.

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Willet



Scientific Name: *Tringa semipalmata*



Photo: EvaAKaufman

Willetts may be found year-round in Maryland in tidal marshes, mudflats, and beaches. Breeding pairs may remain together for years and select their nest sites together in marshes and sand dunes. Both parents raise their young, though females leave the nest early while the male willets raise the chicks alone.

Willetts probe the water, mudflats, and beaches to feed on aquatic insects, spiders, and small crabs and worms and other invertebrates. Willets are distinguished by wide black and white bands on the top and underside of their wings.

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SHORELINE NEIGHBORS



American Oystercatcher

(Haematopus palliatus)

Shorebirds



Photo: Robert Brown

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Read the back of the card to learn more about the American Oystercatcher.

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American Oystercatcher



Scientific Name: *Haematopus palliatus*



Photo: fotoguy22

American Oystercatchers, unlike many shorebirds, are year-round Maryland residents along shorelines. They mostly nest in sandy beaches or sandy spots in tidal marshes. They earned their name by feeding on oysters, clams, and other shellfish—but sometimes the shellfish strike back and clamp their shells over the bird's beak! American oystercatchers are easy to identify with their black, grayish-brown, and white feathers, along with their bright red beak. Both parents guard their nests and young. Young birds are also escape artists from predators and can swim and dive underwater to get away.

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