

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Three Sisters Springs Unit Bird List

*Crystal River
National Wildlife
Refuge*



photo: Miles Saunders, Blue-gray gnatcatcher



photo: Miles Saunders, Sandhill Crane

The 57-acre Three Sisters Springs property was acquired by the City of Crystal River and the Southwest Florida Water Management District in 2010. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the property as a Unit of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge. The Unit encompasses 43 acres of forested habitats, 6 acres of wetlands, a 7-acre lake, and the 1-acre second-order magnitude springs known as Three Sisters Springs.

Species taxonomy follows that established in the seventh edition of the American Ornithologists Union (AOU) checklist of North American Birds (1998) and its subsequent supplements (most recently, Chesser et al. 2013).

Seasonal Appearance

Sp Spring, March-May
Su Summer, June-August
F Fall, September-November
W Winter, December-February

Seasonal Abundance

A Abundant=A common species that is very numerous
C Common=certain to be seen in suitable habitat
U Uncommon=present but not certain to be seen
O Occasional=seen only a few times during a season
R Rare=seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years
* Known to have nested on or near Three Sisters Springs
/ Recorded at Crystal River NWR, but not on Three Sisters Springs Unit
t Not native

Another source of information on the regional status and seasonal occurrence of Florida's birds (and where to find them) is Bill Pranty's *A Birder's Guide to Florida* published by the American Birding Association (2005).

	<i>SP</i>	<i>SU</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>W</i>
Waterfowl				
___ Mallard	C			O
___ Green-winged Teal			O	O
___ Mottled Duck*	C		C	C
___ Blue-winged Teal	O		O	
___ Hooded Merganser	O		O	O
___ Red-breasted Merganser	O		O	O
Grebes				
___ Pied-billed Grebe*		C		C
Frigatebirds				
___ Magnificent Frigatebird				O
Cormorants and Darters				
___ Double-crested Cormorant	C	U	C	C
___ Anhinga*	C	C	C	C
Pelicans				
___ American White Pelican				O
___ Brown Pelican				O
Hérons and Bitterns				
___ American Bittern	R	R	R	R
___ Least Bittern	O		O	O
___ Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C
___ Great Egret	C	C	C	C
___ Snowy Egret	C		U	U
___ Little Blue Heron	C	C	C	C
___ Tri-colored Heron		C	C	C
___ Cattle Egret	O			O
___ Green Heron	U	U		U
___ Black-crowned Night Heron	O			O
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron	O			O
Ibises, Spoonbills, Storks				
___ White Ibis	C	C	C	C
___ Roseate Spoonbill/	R	R	R	R
___ Wood Stork			O	O
Vultures				
___ Black Vulture	A	A	A	A
___ Turkey Vulture	A	A	A	A
Hawks and Falcons				
___ Osprey*	C	U	C	C
___ American Swallow-tailed Kite	O	U	U	
___ Bald Eagle	O			O
___ Northern Harrier				O
___ Cooper's Hawk				O
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	C	C	C	C
___ Broad-winged Hawk				R

	<i>SP</i>	<i>SU</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Red-tailed Hawk		R	R	R
___ Merlin	R			
___ Peregrine Falcon				O
Rails, Gallinules, Coots, Cranes				
___ King Rail/	U	U	U	U
___ Virginia Rail	U			
___ Sora*	U	U	U	U
___ Common Gallinule*	A	C	A	A
___ American Coot	C	U	C	C
___ Limpkin*	C	U	C	C
___ Sandhill Crane*	C		C	C
Shorebirds				
___ Killdeer	U			U
___ American Avocet	R			
___ Spotted Sandpiper	O			
___ Wilson's Snipe			U	U
Gulls and Terns				
___ Laughing Gull	A	A	A	A
___ Ring-billed Gull	A	U	C	A
___ Herring Gull	C	C	U	C
___ Royal Tern				R
Pigeons and Doves				
___ Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C
___ Common Ground-dove	C	U	U	U
___ Eurasian Collared-dove/ t	U	U	U	U
___ Rock Pigeon t	U	U	U	U
Cuckoos				
___ Mangrove Cuckoo			R	
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	O		O	
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	O			
Owls				
___ Eastern Screech Owl/	C	C	C	C
___ Great Horned Owl/	U	U	U	U
___ Barred Owl	O			O
Hummingbirds				
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U		
Kingfishers				
___ Belted Kingfisher	C	U	U	C
Woodpeckers				
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	A	A	A	A
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U	C
___ Downy Woodpecker	U	U	U	
___ Pileated Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C

	<i>SP</i>	<i>SU</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>W</i>
Flycatchers				
___ Eastern Phoebe	C		C	C
___ Great Crested Flycatcher	U	U	U	
___ Eastern Kingbird			R	
Vireos				
___ White-eyed Vireo*	U	U	C	C
___ Blue-headed Vireo			U	
___ Yellow-throated Vireo/	U	C	U	R
___ Red-eyed Vireo		U	O	
Jays and Crows				
___ Blue Jay*	C	U	C	C
___ American Crow	A	A	A	A
___ Fish Crow	A	A	A	A
Swifts and Swallows				
___ Chimney Swift	U	U	U	
___ Purple Martin/	A	A	C	U
___ Tree Swallow	O			
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U			
___ Barn Swallow		U	U	
___ Cliff Swallow	O			
Chickadees and Titmice				
___ Carolina Chickadee*	U	U	U	U
___ Tufted Titmouse*	C	C	C	C
Wrens				
___ Carolina Wren*	C	U	C	C
___ House Wren*	U	U	U	U
___ Marsh Wren*	U			U
Kinglets and Gnatcatchers				
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	O	O	C
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	C	U	U	C
Thrushes				
- Eastern Bluebird*	C	C	C	C
- Hermit Thrush		R		R
- Wood Thrush/		C	C	
- American Robin			C	C
Mockingbirds and Thrashers				
___ Gray Catbird	C		C	C
___ Northern Mockingbird*	C		C	A
___ Brown Thrasher*	C	C	C	U
Waxwings and Starlings				
___ Cedar Waxwing	U			
___ European Starling/ t	C	C	C	C

	<i>SP</i>	<i>SU</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>W</i>
Warblers				
___ Tennessee Warbler	U			
___ Orange-crowned Warbler				O
___ Blue-winged Warbler			O	
___ Northern Parula	U	C	C	U
___ Yellow Warbler	O		O	
___ Magnolia Warbler	U		U	
___ Cape May Warbler	U		U	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	U		U	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	O		O	O
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	A		U	A
___ Palm Warbler	A	C	C	A
___ Pine Warbler	U		U	C
___ Prairie Warbler	U		U	C
___ Blackpoll Warbler	U		U	
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	R		R	R
___ Black-and-white Warbler	C		U	C
___ American Redstart	C	U		
___ Prothonotary Warbler	U		U	
___ Common Yellowthroat	C		U	C
___ Connecticut Warbler	U			
___ Ovenbird+	C		C	R
Sparrows and Towhees				
___ Eastern Towhee/	A	A	A	A
___ Bachman's Sparrow	U		U	U
___ Chipping Sparrow	U			U
___ Field Sparrow	U			U
___ Vesper Sparrow			U	U
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	U			
___ Savannah Sparrow			U	
___ Song Sparrow	U			U
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	U			
___ Swamp Sparrow	U		U	U
___ White-throated Sparrow			U	U
Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings				
___ Scarlet Tanager	U			
___ Northern Cardinal*	A	A	A	A
___ Indigo Bunting	U			
___ Painted Bunting	O		O	
Finches				
___ American Goldfinch	U			U
___ House Finch	U			U
Blackbirds				
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	A	C		A
___ Boat-tailed Grackle*	A	A	A	A
___ Common Grackle*	A	A	C	A
___ Brown-headed Cowbird/	U	U	C	C
___ Baltimore Oriole	U			U

Birding Ethics

When visiting public or private lands, it is important that you practice and promote ethical behavior while viewing and photographing wildlife. Although you may not think your individual actions are harmful to wildlife, the cumulative effect of individual actions can jeopardize wildlife's ability to survive.

- Do not disturb nesting, feeding, or resting birds and other wildlife. When photographing birds, do not "push" too close or "linger" too long.
- Do not use recorded calls or make other alarming noises on the Refuge.
- Do not feed wildlife on the Refuge.
- Do not litter. Many birds and other wildlife die after becoming entangled in fishing lines, 6-pack rings and other trash, or when they mistake garbage, especially plastic, for food.

Sighting Notes

Date _____

Time _____

Weather _____

No. of species _____

Route or area _____

Observers _____

Remarks _____



This Blue Goose is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Special thanks to Diana "Dee" Bolton whose meticulous record-keeping over many years of birding on Three Sisters formed the basis of this checklist.

Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge

1502 SE Kings Bay Drive

Crystal River, FL 34429

352/563-2088

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Crystal_River/

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