

Waccamaw

National Wildlife Refuge Bird List





*photo: Craig Sasser
Prothonotary Warbler*

*Waccamaw
National
Wildlife
Refuge*



*This blue goose,
designed by
J. N. "Ding"
Darling, has
become a symbol
of the
National
Wildlife
Refuge
System.*

Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge

Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is one of 553 National Wildlife Refuges that form a network of lands and waters managed specifically for wildlife. The wetland diversity of Waccamaw NWR is what sets it apart from other refuges found along the east coast. Wetland habitats range from historical and actively managed tidal rice fields to black water and alluvial flood plain forested wetlands of the Waccamaw and Great Pee Dee Rivers. These tidal freshwater wetlands are some of the most diverse freshwater wetland systems found in North America and offer many important habitats for migratory birds, fish, and resident wildlife. Species such as the Swallow-tailed Kite, Osprey, Wood Stork, White Ibis, Prothonotary warbler, and many species of waterfowl can be observed on a seasonal basis.



*Red-cockaded
Woodpecker*

The variety of habitats supports more than 400 species of animals including four federally endangered species. One of these species is the Red-cockaded woodpecker which resides in the expansive longleaf pine forests on Sandy Island. In addition, four other species of birds found on the Refuge are classified as endangered in South Carolina and include the Wood Stork, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, & Swallow-tailed Kite. Research shows that the Refuge and surrounding area supports the highest density of nesting swallow-tailed kites in South Carolina and is the northernmost documented nesting site for this species.

Please keep in mind that some trails may be closed seasonally to protect sensitive wildlife areas or because of hunting. Consult the Refuge hunting regulations brochure for closure information.

This checklist is based on records and observations by Refuge personnel, visiting birders, local



Wood Stork

birding organizations, & local tour guides. As we try to keep our list up-to-date, it is important that persons who see a bird not listed, report the sighting to the Refuge Manager at Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, 21424 N. Fraser St. Georgetown, SC 29440 (Telephone: 843/527 8069).

Birding Ethics

Birders on the Refuge are expected to adhere to the Code of Birding Ethics listed below as set forth by the American Birding Association. Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

Promote the welfare of birds & their environments

Support the protection of important bird habitat.

To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area;

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.



*Carolina Wren,
South Carolina
State Bird*

Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from Refuge staff. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to Refuge staff.

Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out above, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities.

If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify Refuge staff.

Group Leader Responsibilities

Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using the same area.

Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited.

Please follow this Code and teach it to others.

How to use your checklist

This bird checklist was designed to be informative and simple to use. The names for birds used comply with recommendations of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU). Species are listed in the order set by the AOU's Checklist of North American Birds, 7th Edition (1998).

Symbols that appear in this checklist represent the following:

Seasonal Appearance

Sp- Spring March-May

S- Summer June-August

F- Fall September-November

W- Winter December-February

Seasonal Abundance

A - Abundant (common species - 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 a season)

R - Rare (seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years)

AC - Very rarely seen with only one or two sightings within the past ten years

* Known or suspected to nest on the Refuge

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Purple Gallinule

	Sp	S	F	W
Loons & Grebes				
___ Red-throated Loon	r		r	u
___ Common Loon	u	r	u	u
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	u	o	c	c
Pelicans, Cormorants, & Darters				
___ Brown Pelican*	o	o	o	o
___ American White Pelican	r	r	r	r
___ Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	c
___ Anhinga	c	c	c	o
Bitterns, Herons, & Egrets				
___ American Bittern	u	u	u	o
___ Least Bittern*	c	c	c	u
___ Great Blue Heron*	c	c	c	c
___ Great Egret*	c	c	c	c
___ Snowy Egret*	c	c	c	c
___ Little Blue Heron	c	c	c	c
___ Tricolored Heron*	o	u	u	c
___ Cattle Egret	o	c	c	r
___ Green Heron*	c	c	u	u
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron*	o	o	o	o
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*	u	c	o	u
Ibises, Storks & Spoonbills				
___ White Ibis*	c	c	c	o
___ Glossy Ibis*	u	u	o	u
___ Wood Stork*	o	o	o	u
___ Roseate Spoonbill	u	o	u	r
New World Vultures				
___ Black Vulture*	c	c	c	c
___ Turkey Vulture*	c	c	c	c
Hawks, Eagles, Kites				
___ Osprey*	c	c	c	u
___ Swallow-tailed Kite*	c	c	o	r
___ Mississippi Kite	o	o	r	
___ Bald Eagle	o	o	o	o
___ Golden Eagle	r		r	r
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk*	o		o	u
___ Cooper's Hawk*	o	o	o	o
___ Red-shouldered Hawk*	o	o	o	o
___ Broad-winged Hawk			u	
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	c	c	c	c
___ Northern Harrier	o		o	o

	Sp	S	F	W
Falcons				
___ American Kestrel	r		u	u
___ Merlin	r		r	r
___ Peregrine Falcon	r		r	r
Owls				
___ Barn Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Eastern Screech-Owl*	c	c	c	c
___ Great Horned Owl*	c	c	c	c
___ Barred Owl*	c	c	c	c
___ Long-eared Owl	r	r	r	r
___ Short-eared Owl	r	r	r	r
Nightjars & Swifts				
___ Common Nighthawk*	c	c	u	
___ Chuck-will's-widow*	c	c	o	
___ Whip-poor-will	o	c	o	o
___ Chimney Swift*	c	c	o	
Hummingbirds				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	c	c	c	u
Kingfishers				
___ Belted Kingfisher*	c	c	c	c
Woodpeckers				
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	o	o	o	o
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	o		o	o
___ Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___ Hairy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Red-cockaded Woodpecker*	r	r	r	r
___ Northern Flicker*	c	c	c	c
___ Pileated Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Tyrant Flycatchers				
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	u	c	u	
___ Acadian Flycatcher	o	c	o	
___ Least Flycatcher	o	c	o	
___ Eastern Phoebe	u	u	c	c
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	o	c	o	
___ Eastern Kingbird*	o	c	c	
___ Gray Kingbird		o	o	
Shrikes				
___ Loggerhead Shrike*	u	u	u	u

Sp S F W

Pigeons & Doves

___ Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	u	u	u	u
___ Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
___ Common Ground-Dove*	o	o	o	o

Cuckoos

___ Black-billed Cuckoo	u	u	u	u
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	c	c	c	u

Turkeys

___ Wild Turkey*	c	c	c	c
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New World Quail

___ Northern Bobwhite*	u	u	u	u
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Rails, Gallinules, Coots & Cranes

___ Yellow Rail				r
___ Black Rail*		r	r	r
___ Clapper Rail*	c	c	c	c
___ King Rail*	o	o	o	o
___ Virginia Rail			o	o
___ Sora	o	c	c	o
___ Purple Gallinule	u	u	r	r
___ Common Moorhen*	c	c	c	c
___ American Coot*	c	u	o	a
___ Sandhill Crane	r	r	r	r

Plovers

___ Black-bellied Plover	r		r	
___ Semipalmated Plover	u	u	u	r
___ Killdeer*	c	c	c	c

Oystercatchers, Stilts & Avocet

___ American Oystercatcher	u	u	u	u
___ Black-necked Stilt	u	u		
___ American Avocet	r		r	

Sandpipers

___ Greater Yellowlegs	o	o	o	c
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	o	o	o	c
___ Solitary Sandpiper	u		u	
___ Willet	u	u	u	u
___ Upland Sandpiper	u		u	
___ Whimbrel	r	r	r	r
___ Long-billed Curlew	r		r	r
___ Marbled Godwit	r		r	u
___ Ruddy Turnstone	u	u	u	u
___ Red Knot	r	r	r	r

Sp S F W

___ Sanderling	u	u	u	u
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	u	u	u	r
___ Western Sandpiper	u	u	u	u
___ Least Sandpiper	u	u	u	u
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	u		u	
___ Spotted Sandpiper	c	c	c	c
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	u	u	u	r
___ Dunlin	u	u	u	u
___ Stilt Sandpiper		r		r
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	u	u	u	u
___ Long-billed Dowitcher				u
___ Common Snipe	o		u	o
___ American Woodcock*	o	r	o	o
___ Red-necked Phalarope	r		r	r
___ Wilson's Phalarope	u		u	

Gulls & Terns

___ Laughing Gull	u	u	u	u
___ Bonaparte's Gull	u			u
___ Ring-billed Gull	u			o
___ Herring Gull	u			o
___ Great Black-backed Gull	r		r	r
___ Caspian Tern	o		u	
___ Royal Tern	o		o	
___ Sandwich Tern	u	u	u	r
___ Common Tern	u	u	u	
___ Forster's Tern			u	u
___ Least Tern	u	o	o	r
___ Sooty Tern	r	r	r	
___ Black Tern		u	u	

Skimmers

___ Black Skimmer	r	r	r	r
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Mockingbirds & Thrashers

___ Gray Catbird*	o	c	c	o
___ Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
___ Brown Thrasher*	c	c	c	c

Thrushes

___ Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	c
___ Veery	o		o	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	u			
___ Swainson's Thrush	o			
___ Hermit Thrush	o	o	o	c
___ Wood Thrush*	u	o	o	
___ American Robin	o		c	c

Sp S F W

Jays & Crows

___ Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
___ American Crow*	c	c	c	c
___ Fish Crow*	o	c	c	o

Swallows

___ Purple Martin*	c	c	c	r
___ Tree Swallow	c	o	c	c
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	c	c	o	
___ Bank Swallow	u		c	
___ Barn Swallow*	o	c	c	u
___ Cliff Swallow	o	u	o	

Titmice & Chickadees

___ Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
___ Tufted Titmouse*	c	c	c	c

Vireos

___ White-eyed Vireo*	o	o	o	o
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*	o	o	o	
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	c	c	o	
___ Blue-headed Vireo	o			o

Emberizids

___ Eastern Towhee*	c	c	c	c
___ Bachman's Sparrow*	r	r	r	
___ Chipping Sparrow*	o	o	c	u
___ Field Sparrow*	o	o	o	u
___ Vesper Sparrow	o		u	u
___ Savannah Sparrow	o		c	c
___ LeConte's Sparrow	r			r
___ Grasshopper Sparrow				r
___ Henslow's Sparrow				r
___ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			r	u
___ Fox Sparrow			u	u
___ Song Sparrow	u		c	c
___ Lincoln's Sparrow				r
___ Swamp Sparrow	o		o	o
___ White-throated Sparrow	c		c	c
___ White-crowned Sparrow				r
___ Dark-eyed Junco			c	c
___ Lapland Longspur				r

Cardinals & Allies

___ Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak		u		u

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Blue Grosbeak		c	c	c
___ Indigo Bunting*	o	c	o	
___ Painted Bunting*	c	c	u	
___ Dickcissel		r	r	r
Blackbirds				
___ Bobolink		u		u
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	c	c	a	a
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	o	o	o	o
___ Brewer's Blackbird	r		r	
___ Rusty Blackbird				u
___ Common Grackle*	c	c	c	c
___ Boat-tailed Grackle*	u	u	u	u
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	c	c
___ Orchard Oriole*	c	o	o	
___ Baltimore Oriole		o		o
Cardueline Finches				
___ Purple Finch				o
___ House Finch	u	u	u	o
___ Pine Siskin	r			o
___ American Goldfinch	u		o	c
___ Evening Grosbeak				u
Old World Sparrows				
___ House Sparrow*	o	o	o	o
Starlings				
___ European Starling*	o	o	o	o
Pipits				
___ American Pipit*	r		u	u
Waxwings				
___ Cedar Waxwing*	o		u	c
Wood Warblers				
___ Blue-winged Warbler	r		r	
___ Golden-winged Warbler			r	
___ Tennessee Warbler	r		r	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	o		o	o
___ Nashville Warbler	r		r	
___ Northern Parula*	c	c	u	
___ Yellow Warbler	c		u	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	o		o	
___ Magnolia Warbler	r		r	
___ Cape May Warbler	r		u	

Sp S F W

___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	u		u	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	o		a	a
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	u		u	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	o	o	o	
___ Yellow-throated Warbler*	c	c	c	c
___ Pine Warbler*	c	c	c	u
___ Prairie Warbler*	u	u	u	o
___ Palm Warbler	o		c	u
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	r	r		
___ Blackpoll Warbler	o		o	
___ Cerulean Warbler	r		r	
___ Black-and-white Warbler	o		u	u
___ American Redstart	u	o	c	
___ Prothonotary Warbler*	u	u	o	
___ Worm-eating Warbler	o		o	
___ Swainson's Warbler*	o		o	
___ Ovenbird	c		c	
___ Northern Waterthrush	o		o	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush*	o		o	
___ Kentucky Warbler*		u	o	o
___ Connecticut Warbler			r	
___ Mourning Warbler	r		r	
___ Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	c
___ Hooded Warbler*	c	u	o	
___ Wilson's Warbler	r		r	
___ Canada Warbler	r		r	
___ Yellow-breasted Chat*	u	o	o	

Tanagers

___ Summer Tanager*	c	c	c	
___ Scarlet Tanager	o		u	

Nuthatches

___ Red-breasted Nuthatch*	r			r
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	u	o	o	u
___ Brown-headed Nuthatch*	c	o	o	o

Creepers

___ Brown Creeper	u			u
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Wrens

___ Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
___ House Wren		o		c
___ Winter Wren				u
___ Sedge Wren	u		u	
___ Marsh Wren*	c	c	c	c

	Sp	S	F	W
Kinglets & Gnatcatchers				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet			o	u
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	o		c	c
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	c	u	u
Waterfowl				
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck				r
___ Snow Goose			r	r
___ Canada Goose	c		o	c
___ Brant				r
___ Tundra Swan				r
___ Wood Duck*	c	c	c	c
___ Gadwall				c
___ Eurasian Wigeon				r
___ American Wigeon				c
___ American Black Duck				o
___ Mallard	c		c	c
___ Blue-winged Teal	o		c	c
___ Cinnamon Teal				r
___ Northern Shoveler	r			c
___ Northern Pintail				c
___ Green-winged Teal	o		o	c
___ Canvasback				o
___ Redhead				u
___ Ring-necked Duck	r		c	
___ Greater Scaup				r
___ Lesser Scaup				o
___ Surf Scoter			u	u
___ White-winged Scoter			u	u
___ Black Scoter			u	u
___ Harlequin Duck			r	r
___ Oldsquaw			r	r
___ Bufflehead				c
___ Common Goldeneye				r
___ Hooded Merganser				c
___ Common Merganser			r	r
___ Red-breasted Merganser			u	u
___ Ruddy Duck*				o

Dave Menke/USFWS



Bald Eagle Chicks

Sighting Notes

Date _____

Time _____

Weather _____

No. of Species _____

Route or Area _____

Observers _____

Remarks _____

**Waccamaw
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21424 N. Fraser Street
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
843/527 8069**

**www.fws.gov/waccamaw
1 800/344 WILD**

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