

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Great Dismal Swamp

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Birds



Introduction



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

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 560 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The refuge, established by Congress in 1974, consists of over 112,000 acres of forested wetlands. Lake Drummond, which at 3,100 acres is the larger of two natural lakes found in Virginia, lies at the refuge's center. The refuge was established to protect and restore the biologically important Great Dismal Swamp ecosystem. Within that mission a primary concern is to provide protected habitat for migratory birds.

Birding is popular in the refuge April through June, but is best from early-April to late-May, the peak of the spring neo-tropical bird migration. As many as thirty five species of warblers have been observed and provide the principal attraction.

Downy Woodpecker



David Schneider

This brochure lists more than 210 birds that have been identified on the refuge, and is in accordance with the Seventh American Ornithologists Union Checklist.

Most birds are migratory and their seasonal occurrence and relative abundance are coded as follows:

Season

Sp	spring	March – May
S	summer	June – August
F	fall	September – November
W	winter	December – February

Relative Abundance

Relative abundance indicates how frequently you might see a bird in its favored habitat.

a	abundant	a species which is very numerous
c	common	likely to be seen or heard in suitable habitat
u	uncommon	present, but not certain to be seen
o	occasional	seen only a few times during a season
r	rare	may be present but not every year
acc	accidental	seen only once

- Birds known to nest on or near the refuge

Swans – Geese – Ducks

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Snow Goose	c		u	c
___ • Canada Goose	c	u	c	c
___ Brant		r	r	
___ Tundra Swan	c		u	c
___ • Wood Duck	c	c	c	c
___ Gadwall	o		o	o
___ American Wigeon	o		o	o
___ American Black Duck	u	o	c	c
___ • Mallard	u		u	u
___ Blue-winged Teal	r		u	r
___ Northern Pintail	o		o	o
___ Green-winged Teal	u		u	u
___ Canvasback	r		r	o
___ Redhead	r		o	o
___ Ring-necked Duck	c		c	c
___ Lesser Scaup	c		u	c
___ Bufflehead	u		u	o
___ Common Goldeneye	r			
___ • Hooded Merganser	c	r	c	c
___ Common Merganser	o			o
___ Red-breasted Merganser	o			o
___ Ruddy Duck	u		c	c

Gallinaceous Birds

___ • Wild Turkey _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Northern Bobwhite _____	c	c	c	c

Loons

___ Common Loon _____	o		r	o
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Grebes

___ Pied-billed Grebe _____	u		u	u
___ Horned Grebe _____	r		r	o

Cormorants

___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	c	c	c	c
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Anhingas

___ Anhinga _____	o	r		
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Brown-headed nuthatch

Bitterns – Herons – Egrets

___ American Bittern _____	r	r	r	r
___ • Great Blue Heron _____	c	a	c	c
___ • Great Egret _____	c	a	o	o
___ Snowy Egret _____	o	o		
___ Little Blue Heron _____	r			
___ Cattle Egret _____	o	o	r	
___ • Green Heron _____	c	c	u	
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	u	u		
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron _____	o	o		

Ibises

___ White Ibis _____	r	r	r	
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New World Vultures

___ • Black Vulture _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Turkey Vulture _____	a	a	a	a



Mourning dove

Osprey - Kites - Hawks - Eagles

___ Osprey _____	u	r	r	
___ Swallow-tailed Kite _____	r			
___ Mississippi Kite _____	r	o		
___ • Bald Eagle _____	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Harrier _____	u		o	
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	u		c	u
___ • Cooper's Hawk _____	u	r	c	u
___ • Red-shouldered Hawk _____	c	c	c	c
___ Broad-winged Hawk _____	u	u	u	
___ • Red-tailed Hawk _____	u	u		c
___ Golden Eagle _____			r	r

Falcons

___ • American Kestrel _____	c	r	u	c
___ Merlin _____	r			

Rails

___ King Rail _____	r	r	r	r
___ Virginia Rail _____				r
___ Sora _____	r	r		
___ American Coot _____	o			o

Plovers

___ Semipalmated Plover _____	r		r	
___ • Killdeer _____	c	c	c	c

Avocets

___ American Avocet _____			acc	
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Sandpipers - Phalaropes

___ Greater Yellowlegs _____	r		r	r
___ Lesser Yellowlegs _____	o		o	o
___ Solitary Sandpiper _____	r		r	
___ Spotted Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	
___ Whimbrel _____	r			
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	r		r	
___ Western Sandpiper _____				r

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Least Sandpiper _____			r	r
___ Short-billed Dowitcher _____			r	
___ Common Snipe _____	o		o	o
___ • American Woodcock _____	u	u	u	r

Skuas - Jaegers - Gulls - Terns

___ Laughing Gull _____	u	u		
___ Ring-billed Gull _____	c		c	c
___ Herring Gull _____	u			u
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull _____				o
___ Great Black-backed Gull _____	o			o
___ Caspian Tern _____	o		u	
___ Royal Tern _____	o		u	
___ Common Tern _____			o	
___ Forster's Tern _____			o	
___ Black Tern _____			r	
___ Bonaparte's Gull _____				o

Doves

___ Rock Pigeon _____	r	r		
___ • Mourning Dove _____	c	c	c	c

Cuckoos

___ Black-billed Cuckoo _____	o		o	
___ • Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____	c	c	u	

Typical Owls

___ • Eastern Screech-Owl _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Great Horned Owl _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Barred Owl _____	c	c	c	c
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl _____				r



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Barred owl

Nightjars

___ Common Nighthawk _____	r		r	
___ • Chuck-will's-widow _____	u	u	u	
___ • Whip-poor-will _____	o	o		

Swifts

___ • Chimney Swift _____	c	c	c	
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Hummingbirds

___ • Ruby-throated Hummingbird _____	c	c	u	
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Kingfishers

___ • Belted Kingfisher _____	c	c	c	c
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Eastern Kingbird

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Woodpeckers

___ • Red-headed Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Red-bellied Woodpecker _____	a	a	a	a
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker _____	c		o	c
___ • Downy Woodpecker _____	a	a	a	a
___ • Hairy Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Northern Flicker _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Pileated Woodpecker _____	c	c	c	c

Tyrant Flycatchers

___ • Eastern Wood-Pewee _____	a	a		
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher _____	r			
___ • Acadian Flycatcher _____	c	c		
___ Alder Flycatcher _____	r			
___ Willow Flycatcher _____	r			
___ Least Flycatcher _____	r			
___ • Eastern Phoebe _____	u	u	u	u
___ • Great Crested Flycatcher _____	c	c	c	
___ • Eastern Kingbird _____	u	u	u	

Vireos

___ • White-eyed Vireo _____	a	a	c	u
___ • Yellow-throated Vireo _____	c	c	u	
___ Blue-headed Vireo _____	u		u	c
___ Warbling Vireo _____	o		r	
___ Philadelphia Vireo _____	o		r	
___ • Red-eyed Vireo _____	c	c	u	

Crows - Jays

	Sp	S	F	W
• Blue Jay _____	c	c	c	c
• American Crow _____	c	c	c	c
Fish Crow _____	c	u	u	c

Swallows

Purple Martin _____	u	u		
• Tree Swallow _____	u	o	u	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____	r	r	o	
Bank Swallow _____	r			
Cliff Swallow _____	r		r	
• Barn Swallow _____	c	c		

Titmice – Chickadees

• Carolina Chickadee _____	a	a	a	a
Black-capped Chickadee _____			r	r
• Tufted Titmouse _____	c	c	c	c

Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch _____				o
• White-breasted Nuthatch _____	c	c	c	c
• Brown-headed Nuthatch _____	u	u	u	u

Creepers

Brown Creeper _____	u		u	u
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Wrens

• Carolina Wren _____	a	a	a	a
House Wren _____	o			
Winter Wren _____	u		u	u
Marsh Wren _____			r	r

Kinglets

Golden-crowned Kinglet _____	u		o	u
Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____	c		u	c

Old World Warblers

• Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____	c	c	u	
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Thrushes

• Eastern Bluebird _____	u	o	u	u
Veery _____	u			
Gray-cheeked Thrush _____	u		o	
Bicknell's Thrush _____	r			
Swainson's Thrush _____	u		o	
Hermit Thrush _____	c		u	c
• Wood Thrush _____	c	c		
• American Robin _____	a	c	a	a

Mimic Thrushes

• Gray Catbird _____	c	a	a	c
• Northern Mockingbird _____	u	c	u	u
• Brown Thrasher _____	u	c	c	u

Starlings

European Starling _____	u	o	u	u
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Pipits

American Pipit _____	r			r
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Waxwings

Cedar Waxwing _____	c	u	u	c
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Wood Warblers

Blue-winged Warbler _____	u		r	
Golden-winged Warbler _____	r			
Tennessee Warbler _____	r		o	
Orange-crowned Warbler _____	u		u	c
Nashville Warbler _____	r		o	
• Northern Parula _____	c	c	u	
• Yellow Warbler _____	u	u	u	
Chestnut-sided Warbler _____	u		o	
Magnolia Warbler _____	u		u	
Cape May Warbler _____	u		u	
Black-throated Blue Warbler _____	c		c	
Yellow-rumped Warbler _____	c		c	c
• Black-throated Green Warbler _____	u	u	u	
Blackburnian Warbler _____	o		o	
• Yellow-throated Warbler _____	c	c	u	
• Pine Warbler _____	a	c	c	c
• Prairie Warbler _____	a	a	u	r
Palm Warbler _____	u			u



Prairie warbler



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Prothonotary warbler

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Bay-breasted Warbler _____	o		o	u
___ Blackpoll Warbler _____	u		o	
___ Cerulean Warbler _____	o			
___ • Black-and-white Warbler _____	c	c	c	u
___ • American Redstart _____	c	c		
___ • Prothonotary Warbler _____	a	a	c	
___ • Worm-eating Warbler _____	c	c	u	
___ • Swainson's Warbler _____	c	c	u	
___ • Ovenbird _____	a	a	c	
___ Northern Waterthrush _____	c		r	
___ • Louisiana Waterthrush _____	c	c	u	
___ Kentucky Warbler _____	r	r	r	
___ Mourning Warbler _____	r			
___ • Common Yellowthroat _____	a	a	c	u
___ • Hooded Warbler _____	a	a	c	
___ Wilson's Warbler _____	r		r	
___ Canada Warbler _____	o		o	
___ • Yellow-breasted Chat _____	c	c	u	

Tanagers

___ • Summer Tanager _____	c	c	u	
___ Scarlet Tanager _____	u	r	u	

Sparrows - Towhees

___ • Eastern Towhee _____	a	a	a	a
___ American Tree Sparrow _____			r	r
___ • Chipping Sparrow _____	u	u	o	c
___ Field Sparrow _____	u			u
___ Vesper Sparrow _____			r	r
___ Savannah Sparrow _____	u		u	u
___ Fox Sparrow _____	u			u
___ • Song Sparrow _____	c	u	c	c
___ Lincoln's Sparrow _____	o			o
___ Swamp Sparrow _____	c	r	c	c
___ White-throated Sparrow _____	a		c	a
___ White-crowned Sparrow _____	o			o
___ Dark-eyed Junco _____	a		c	a

Cardinals - Grosbeaks - Allies

___ • Northern Cardinal _____	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____	u			
___ • Blue Grosbeak _____	u	u	u	
___ • Indigo Bunting _____	c	c	u	

Blackbirds - Orioles

___ Bobolink _____	u		u	
___ • Red-winged Blackbird _____	c	u	c	a
___ Eastern Meadowlark _____	r	o	o	o
___ Rusty Blackbird _____	u		u	u
___ Brewer's Blackbird _____	r			r
___ • Common Grackle _____	c	c	c	a
___ Boat-tailed Grackle _____	o		o	o
___ • Brown-headed Cowbird _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Orchard Oriole _____	u	u		
___ Baltimore Oriole _____	u		o	r

Finches

___ Purple Finch _____	o			o
___ • House Finch _____	u	o		u
___ Pine Siskin _____	o			o
___ • American Goldfinch _____	c	u	c	c

Notes

Trail(s) _____

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

We hope you enjoy your visit. Post your special sightings on our facebook page or send us an email to our website. Be sure to include your name, date, time, and location.



White-throated sparrow

USFWS

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
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Swainson's warbler
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