

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cape Romain

*National Wildlife Refuge
Bird List*



Merrill P. Irvin



*Cape Romain
National
Wildlife
Refuge*



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

The Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1932, includes about 34,000 acres of woodland, marsh and water within Charleston County, South Carolina. An additional 30,000 acres of State waters (bays, rivers, creeks) are within the refuge boundary. These areas are closed to migratory waterfowl hunting by Presidential Proclamation. Bulls Island, the largest of the four refuge barrier islands, is the only one that is wooded, being covered with a beautiful forest of live oaks, magnolias, pines and palmettos. This 5,000 acre island was added to the refuge in 1936 and has several shallow fresh and brackish water ponds. By furnishing habitat for a great variety and number of birds throughout the year, the Cape Romain Refuge has become recognized as one of the most important wildlife areas on the Atlantic Coast.

The bird populations on the Cape Romain refuge vary greatly in number and species according to the season. Although the refuge fulfills its primary purpose of benefiting waterfowl and shorebirds during migrations and through the winter season, the variety of summer resident species contributes to the year-round attractiveness of this area. The best opportunities for observing a large variety and number of birds are during the fall, winter, and spring months.

*Seasonal
Appearance*

Seasonal Abundance

a - Abundant (a common species which 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)

Sp Spring, March - May

S Summer, June-August

F Fall, September-November

W Winter, December-February

This checklist includes 277 species of birds, which have been recorded on the refuge, principally on Bulls Island and is based on observations by refuge personnel and ornithologists. If you should find an unlisted species, please let us know at Refuge Headquarters. Those with an * nest on the refuge, or did so in recent years. Another 58 species considered extremely rare or out of their normal range have been added on the last page.



	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Loons & Grebes				
___ Red-throated Loon	R		R	U
___ Common Loon	O	R	C	C
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	C	C	A	C
Gannets & Pelicans				
___ Brown Pelican*	A	A	C	C
Cormorants, Anhingas				
___ Double-crested Cormorant	A	C	A	A
___ Anhinga	U	U	O	R
Bitterns, Herons, & Ibises				
___ American Bittern	U	U	U	O
___ Least Bittern*	U	C	U	R
___ 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	U
___ Tricolored Heron*	C	C	C	C
___ Cattle Egret	O	O	R	R
___ Green Heron*	C	C	U	U
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron*	C	C	C	C
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*	U	C	O	U
___ White Ibis*	C	C	C	O
___ Glossy Ibis*	U	U	O	U
Storks				
___ Wood Stork	C	C	C	U
New World Vultures				
___ Black Vulture*	C	C	C	C
___ Turkey Vulture*	C	C	C	C
Waterfowl				
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck				R
___ Snow Goose			R	R
___ Canada Goose	R		O	O
___ Brant				R
___ Tundra Swan	R		C	C
___ Wood Duck*	C	C	C	C
___ Gadwall	C		C	C
___ Eurasian Wigeon				R
___ American Wigeon	C		A	A
___ American Black Duck	C		C	C
___ Mallard	C		C	C
___ Blue-winged Teal*	C	U	C	C
___ Cinnamon Teal				R
___ Northern Shoveler	C		C	C
___ Northern Pintail	C		C	C
___ Green-winged Teal	C		C	C
___ Canvasback	C		C	C

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Redhead	O		U	C
___ Ring-necked Duck	C		C	C
___ Greater Scaup	A		C	C
___ Surf Scoter	O		U	U
___ White-winged Scoter	U			U
___ Black Scoter	U		C	A
___ Harlequin Duck			R	R
___ Oldsquaw			R	R
___ Bufflehead	C		C	A
___ Common Goldeneye			U	U
___ Hooded Merganser	C		C	C
___ Common Merganser			R	C
___ Red-breasted Merganser*	C	R	C	C
___ Ruddy Duck*	O	R	C	C
Hawks, Eagles, Kites				
___ Osprey*	C	C	C	R
___ Swallow-tailed Kite	O	U	R	
___ Mississippi Kite	U	U	R	
___ Bald Eagle	U	O	U	U
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk*	C	O	C	C
___ Cooper's Hawk*	O	O	O	O
___ Red-shouldered Hawk*	U	U	U	U
___ Broad-winged Hawk		R		
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	U	U	C	C
___ Golden Eagle	R		R	R
True Falcons				
___ American Kestrel	U	R	U	U
___ Merlin	R		R	R
___ Peregrine Falcon	R		O	O
Turkeys & New World Quail				
___ Wild Turkey*	C	C	C	C
___ Northern Bobwhite*	U	U	U	U
Rails, Gallinules, Coots & Cranes				
___ Yellow Rail				R
___ Black Rail*		R		
___ Clapper Rail*	A	A	A	A
___ King Rail*	O	O	O	O
___ Virginia Rail	O		O	U
___ Sora	O		U	U
___ Purple Gallinule	R	R	R	R
___ Common Moorhen*	C	C	C	C
___ American Coot*	C	U	A	A
Plovers				
___ Black-bellied Plover	A	O	C	C
___ Lesser Golden Plover	R		R	
___ Wilson's Plover*	C	C	O	R
___ Semipalmated Plover	C	C	C	C

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Piping Plover	O		O	O
___ Killdeer*	O	R	C	C
Oystercatchers, Stilts & Avocet				
___ American Oystercatcher*	C	C	A	A
___ Black-necked Stilt	U	U		
___ American Avocet	R			R
Sandpipers				
___ Greater Yellowlegs	O	R	C	C
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	O		O	U
___ Solitary Sandpiper	O	O	O	R
___ Willet*	A	A	C	C
___ Upland Sandpiper	R		R	
___ Whimbrel	O		O	R
___ Long-billed Curlew	R		O	O
___ Marbled Godwit	U		U	U
___ Ruddy Turnstone	C	C	C	C
___ Red Knot	C		U	C
___ Sanderling	A	U	A	A
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	U	O	O	R
___ Western Sandpiper	C	U	C	C
___ Least Sandpiper	C	U	U	C
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	O		O	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	U	O	U	R
___ Dunlin	A	O	C	A
___ Stilt Sandpiper		R		R
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	C	C	C	C
___ Long-billed Dowitcher				O
___ Common Snipe	U		C	C
___ American Woodcock*	O	R	O	O
___ Red-necked Phalarope	R		R	R
___ Wilson's Phalarope	U		U	
Jaegers				
___ Parasitic Jaeger	R			R
Gulls & Terns				
___ Laughing Gull*	A	A	C	O
___ Bonaparte's Gull	U			U
___ Ring-billed Gull	C	O	C	A
___ Herring Gull	C	C	C	A
___ Great Black-backed Gull	R		R	O
___ Caspian Tern*	O	U	U	C
___ Royal Tern*	A	A	C	U
___ Sandwich Tern*	C	C	O	R
___ Common Tern	O	U	U	C
___ Forster's Tern	C	O	U	C
___ Least Tern*	C	C	O	R
___ Sooty Tern*	R	R	R	
___ Black Tern		C	C	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Skimmers				
___ Black Skimmer*	A	A	U	O
Pigeons & Doves				
___ Rock Dove	O	O	O	O
___ Mourning Dove*	C	C	C	C
___ Common Ground-Dove*	O	O	O	O
Cuckoos				
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	O		R	
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	C	C	U	
Owls				
___ Barn Owl*	U	U	U	U
___ Eastern Screech-Owl*	C	C	C	C
___ Great Horned Owl*	C	C	C	C
___ Barred Owl*	U	U	U	U
___ Long-eared Owl				R
___ Short-eared Owl	R		R	U
Nightjars & Swifts				
___ Common Nighthawk*	C	C	U	
___ Chuck-will's-widow*	C	C	O	
___ Whip-poor-will	O		O	O
___ Chimney Swift*	C	C	A	
Hummingbirds				
___ Rudy-throated Hummingbird*	C	C	C	
Kingfishers				
___ Belted Kingfisher*	C	C	C	C
Woodpeckers				
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	U	U	O	O
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O		O	U
___ 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
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	U	C	U	
___ Acadian Flycatcher	C	U		
___ Eastern Phoebe	U		C	C
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	C	C	U	
___ Eastern Kingbird*	C	C	U	
___ Gray Kingbird		O	O	
Shrikes				
___ Loggerhead Shrike*	C	C	O	O

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Vireos				
___ White-eyed Vireo*	O	U	O	O
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*	O	O	O	
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	C	A	U	
___ Solitary Vireo	O		O	O
Emberizids				
___ Eastern Towhee*	C	C	C	C
___ Bachman's Sparrow	O	R	R	O
___ Chipping Sparrow*	O	O	C	U
___ Field Sparrow*	O	O	O	U
___ Vesper Sparrow	O		U	U
___ Savannah Sparrow	O		A	A
___ Grasshopper Sparrow				R
___ Henslow's Sparrow				R
___ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	O		C	C
___ Seaside Sparrow*	U	U	C	C
___ Fox Sparrow			U	U
___ Song Sparrow	U		C	C
___ Lincoln's Sparrow				R
___ Swamp Sparrow	C		A	A
___ White-throated Sparrow	C		C	A
___ White-crowned Sparrow				R
___ Dark-eyed Junco			A	A
___ Lapland Longspur				R
Cardinals & Allies				
___ Northern Cardinal*	C	C	C	C
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	R		R	
___ Blue Grosbeak	C	U	U	
___ Indigo Bunting*	C	O	O	
___ Painted Bunting*	C	C	U	
Blackbirds				
___ Bobolink		C		U
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	C	C	A	A
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	O	O	C	C
___ Brewer's Blackbird	R		R	
___ Common Grackle*	C	C	C	C
___ Boat-tailed Grackle*	A	A	A	A
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	U	U	U	U
___ Orchard Oriole*	C	O	O	
___ Baltimore Oriole	O		O	O
Cardueline Finches				
___ Purple Finch	O			O
___ Pine Siskin	O			O
___ American Goldfinch	U		O	U
___ Evening Grosbeak				U
Old World Sparrows				
___ House Sparrow*	U	U	U	U

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Starlings				
___ European Starling*	U	O	U	U
Pipits				
___ American Pipit*	O		U	U
Waxwings				
___ Cedar Waxwing*	C		C	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	
___ 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	
___ 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
___ 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	R		U	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Jays & Crows				
___ Blue Jay*	C	C	C	C
___ American Crow*	C	C	C	C
___ Fish Crow*	C	C	C	C
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*	A	A	C	R
Titmice & Chickadees				
___ Carolina Chickadee*	C	C	C	C
___ Tufted Titmouse*	C	C	C	C
Nuthatches				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	R			R
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	U	O	O	U
___ Brown-headed Nuthatch*	C	U	U	U
Creepers				
___ Brown Creeper	U		O	U
Wrens				
___ Carolina Wren*	C	C	C	C
___ House Wren			U	U
___ Winter Wren			O	O
___ Sedge Wren			U	U
___ Marsh Wren*	C	C	C	C
Kinglets & Gnatcatchers				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	O		C	C
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	O		A	A
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	C	C	U	U
Thrushes				
___ Eastern Bluebird*	U	U	U	U
___ Veery	O		O	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	U			
___ Swainson's Thrush	O			
___ Hermit Thrush	O		C	C
___ Wood Thrush*	U	U	O	
___ American Robin	U		C	U
Mockingbirds & Thrashers				
___ Gray Catbird*	O	O	C	C
___ Northern Mockingbird*	C	C	C	C
___ Brown Thrasher*	C	C	C	C

Accidentals

The following 58 species are considered extremely rare or out of their range and in many instances substantiated by only one or two observations. Many of these records are found in Sprunt and Chamberlain, 1949, South Carolina Bird Life with a supplement by Burton, 1979, and "the Chat," the journal of the Carolina Bird Club.

Eared Grebe	Razorbill
Western Grebe	Dovekie
American White Pelican	White-winged Dove
Cory's Shearwater	Snowy Owl
Greater Shearwater	Burrowing Owl
Sooty Shearwater	Saw-whet Owl
Little Shearwater	Western Kingbird
Audubon's Shearwater	Fork-tailed Flycatcher
Great Cormorant	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Magnificent Frigatebird	Say's Phoebe
Roseate Spoonbill	Willow Flycatcher
American Flamingo	Least Flycatcher
Mute Swan	Vermillion Flycatcher
Common Eider	Sprague's Pipit
King Eider	Horned Lark
White-tailed Kite	Bachman's Warbler
Swainson's Hawk	Cerulean Warbler
Sandhill Crane	Kirtland's Warbler
Eskimo Curlew	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Red Phalarope	Western Tanager
Baird's Sandpiper	Black-headed Grosbeak
Pomarine Jaeger	Dickcissel
Long-tailed jaeger	House Finch
Glaucous Gull	Common Redpoll
Iceland Gull	LeConte's Sparrow
Black-headed Gull	Lark Sparrow
Roseate Tern	Clay-colored Sparrow
Bridled Tern	Harris' Sparrow
Brown Noddy Tern	Snow Bunting





Ethics for Birdwatching

Observe birds without disturbing them. Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds. Electronic call devices should be used sparingly even when they are permitted.

Keep an appropriate distance from nests and nesting colonies so as not to disturb the birds or expose them to danger.

Disturb wintering wildlife as little as possible, particularly during critical feeding and resting periods. They need all of their energy reserves to withstand the stresses of harsh weather and migration.

Leave habitat as it was found. Many birds die when they become entangled in fishing lines, 6-pack rings, and other trash, or when they mistake garbage for food.



Sighting Notes

Date

Time

Weather

No. of species

Route or area

Observers

Remarks

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**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD**

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