

**BIRDS
OF
WHEELER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 545 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System. It is located in the Tennessee River Valley between the cities of Decatur and Huntsville, Alabama, and was established in 1938, as a wintering area for ducks, geese, and other migratory birds and continues this role today. The refuge's 35,000 acres provides a great diversity of habitats including forested wetlands, upland hardwoods, deep river channels, tributary creeks, swamps, backwater embayments, pine uplands, and agricultural fields. This diversity provides for an amazing variety of birdlife and makes the refuge fertile grounds for enjoying the great activity of bird watching.

How to use your checklist

The bird checklist is designed to be informative and simple to use. It is arranged in the order established by the American Ornithologists' Union. This list was developed with the assistance of Tennessee Valley Audubon members R.B. "Willie" Williams and the late Mark Brown. Symbols which 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: a common species which is very numerous
- c** - common: certain to be seen in suitable habitat
- f** - fairly common: occurs annually
- u** - uncommon: present but not certain to be seen
- r** - rare: seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years
- v** - vagrant: less than ten valid records in last decade
- x** - accidental: less than three valid records
- h** - historical: species occurring formerly
- *** - nests on the refuge
- I** - Introduced species

This checklist includes 295 species of birds and is based on observations by refuge personnel, visiting ornithologists, and birders. If you should find a species not on this list, please notify refuge personnel at either the Refuge Headquarters or Visitor Center. We appreciate your help in updating our records. To report unusual sightings or for further information, contact:

Refuge Manager
Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge
2700 Refuge Headquarters Road
Decatur, Alabama 35603
wheeler@fws.gov

	Sp	S	F	W
WATERFOWL				
___ Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	-	x	x	-
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	r	-	f	f
___ Snow Goose	u	-	c	a
___ Ross' Goose	-	-	f	f
___ Canada Goose*	f	u	a	a
___ Brant	-	-	x	x
___ Barnacle Goose	-	-	x	x
___ Mute Swan (I)	-	x	x	-
___ Tundra Swan	r	-	r	r
___ Wood Duck*	c	c	c	c
___ Gadwall	c	v	c	a
___ Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	v	v
___ American Wigeon	c	-	a	a
___ American Black Duck*	f	u	c	c
___ Mallard*	c	f	a	a
___ Blue-winged Teal*	c	r	c	r
___ Northern Shoveler	c	v	c	c
___ Northern Pintail	u	v	c	c
___ Green-winged Teal	c	-	c	c
___ Canvasback	f	-	c	c
___ Redhead	f	-	c	u
___ Ring-necked Duck	c	-	c	c
___ Greater Scaup	r	-	r	r
___ Lesser Scaup	c	-	c	c
___ Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	x
___ Surf Scoter	-	-	x	-
___ White-winged Scoter	v	-	v	v
___ Black Scoter	-	-	-	x
___ Long-tailed Duck	v	-	v	v
___ Bufflehead	c	-	c	c
___ Common Goldeneye	c	-	c	c
___ Hooded Merganser*	f	u	c	c
___ Common Merganser	r	-	r	r
___ Red-breasted Merganser	f	-	f	u
___ Ruddy Duck	c	-	c	c
GALLINACEOUS BIRDS				
___ Wild Turkey*	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Bobwhite*	f	f	f	f
LOONS				
___ Red-throated Loon	v	-	-	v
___ Common Loon	f	v	f	c
GREBES				
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	c	u	c	a
___ Horned Grebe	f	-	f	c
PELICANS				
___ American White Pelican	r	-	f	r
CORMORANTS				
___ Double-crested Cormorant	c	u	c	c
ANHINGA				
___ Anhinga	h	h	h	-
HERONS				
___ American Bittern	u	-	u	-
___ Least Bittern*	r	r	r	-
___ Great Blue Heron*	c	u	a	a
___ Great Egret	f	u	f	f
___ Snowy Egret	r	r	r	-
___ Little Blue Heron	f	f	u	-
___ Tricolored Heron	r	r	-	-
___ Cattle Egret	c	c	f	x
___ Green Heron*	c	c	f	x
___ Black-cr. Night-Heron	u	u	f	u
___ Yellow-cr. Night-Heron*	f	f	u	-
IBISES and ALLIES				
___ White Ibis	v	r	u	-
___ Glossy Ibis	-	-	v	-
___ Wood Stork	h	h	h	-

	Sp	S	F	W
VULTURES				
___ Black Vulture*	u	u	u	u
___ Turkey Vulture*	u	u	u	u

	Sp	S	F	W
HAWKS AND ALLIES				
___ Osprey*	u	f	u	u
___ Mississippi Kite	r	r	r	-
___ Bald Eagle	u	-	u	u
___ Northern Harrier	u	-	f	c
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk*	f	r	f	f
___ Cooper's Hawk*	u	r	u	u
___ Red-shouldered Hawk*	f	u	f	u
___ Broad-winged Hawk*	f	u	c	-
___ Swainson's Hawk	-	-	-	x
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	c	u	c	a
___ Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	v	v
___ Golden Eagle	-	-	v	v
___ American Kestrel*	f	r	c	c
___ Merlin	r	-	r	v
___ Peregrine Falcon	r	-	u	r

	Sp	S	F	W
RAILS AND ALLIES				
___ Yellow Rail	x	-	x	-
___ King Rail	h	h	h	h
___ Virginia Rail	r	-	r	-
___ Sora	u	-	u	-
___ Purple Gallinule	v	v	-	-
___ Common Moorhen	v	v	v	-
___ American Coot*	a	u	a	a

	Sp	S	F	W
CRANES				
___ Sandhill Crane	-	-	f	f

	Sp	S	F	W
SHOREBIRDS				
___ Black-bellied Plover	r	-	u	-
___ American Golden-Plover	u	-	u	-
___ Semipalmated Plover	c	-	c	-
___ Piping Plover	x	-	x	-
___ Killdeer*	a	c	a	a
___ Black-necked Stilt	v	-	v	-
___ American Avocet	-	-	f	-
___ Greater Yellowlegs	c	u	c	f
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	c	u	c	u
___ Solitary Sandpiper	f	u	f	-
___ Willet	v	-	v	-
___ Spotted Sandpiper*	c	u	c	v
___ Upland Sandpiper	r	-	r	-
___ Whimbrel	v	-	v	-
___ Hudsonian Godwit	v	-	v	-
___ Marbled Godwit	v	-	-	-
___ Ruddy Turnstone	r	-	r	-
___ Red Knot	-	-	v	-
___ Sanderling	r	-	u	-
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	c	u	c	-
___ Western Sandpiper	f	-	c	r
___ Least Sandpiper	c	u	c	c
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	u	r	v	-
___ Baird's Sandpiper	r	-	r	-
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	c	r	c	-
___ Dunlin	f	-	f	u
___ Stilt Sandpiper	u	-	u	-
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	r	-	u	-
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	f	-	f	-
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	u	-	u	-
___ Wilson's Snipe	c	r	c	c
___ American Woodcock*	u	u	u	u
___ Wilson's Phalarope	r	-	u	-

	Sp	S	F	W
GULLS AND TERNS				
___ Laughing Gull	r	r	r	r
___ Franklin's Gull	v	v	v	v
___ Bonaparte's Gull	c	-	f	c
___ Ring-billed Gull	a	u	a	a
___ Herring Gull	f	r	c	c
___ Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	x
___ Caspian Tern	u	r	u	-

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Common Tern	u	-	u	-
___ Forster's Tern	c	r	c	u
___ Least Tern	r	r	-	-
___ Black Tern	f	u	c	-

	Sp	S	F	W
PIGEONS AND DOVES				
___ Rock Pigeon* (I)	a	a	a	a
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove (I)	u	u	u	u
___ Mourning Dove*	a	a	a	a
___ Passenger Pigeon	Extinct			
___ Common Ground-Dove	v	v	v	v

	Sp	S	F	W
PARAKEETS				
___ Carolina Parakeet			Extinct	

	Sp	S	F	W
CUCKOOS				
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	u	-	u	-
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	c	c	c	-

	Sp	S	F	W
OWLS				
___ Barn Owl*	r	r	r	r
___ Eastern Screech-Owl*	c	c	c	c
___ Great Horned Owl*	f	f	f	f
___ Barred Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Short-eared Owl	v	-	v	r

	Sp	S	F	W
NIGHTJARS				
___ Common Nighthawk*	c	c	c	-
___ Chuck-will's-widow*	c	c	u	-
___ Whip-poor-will	u	-	u	-

	Sp	S	F	W
SWIFTS				
___ Chimney Swift*	c	c	a	-

	Sp	S	F	W
HUMMINGBIRDS				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	c	c	c	-

	Sp	S	F	W
KINGFISHERS				
___ Belted Kingfisher*	f	u	c	c

	Sp	S	F	W
WOODPECKERS				
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	f	-	c	c
___ Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
___ Hairy Woodpecker*	f	f	f	f
___ Northern Flicker*	c	c	c	c
___ Pileated Woodpecker*	f	f	f	f

	Sp	S	F	W
FLYCATCHERS				
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	r	-	r	-
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	c	f	c	-
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	v	-	v	-
___ Acadian Flycatcher*	u	u	u	-
___ Alder Flycatcher	v	-	v	-
___ Willow Flycatcher*	v	r	v	-
___ Least Flycatcher	r	-	r	-
___ Eastern Phoebe*	c	c	c	c
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher	-	-	x	-
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	c	c	u	-
___ Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	c	-

	Sp	S	F	W
SHRIKES				
___ Loggerhead Shrike*	f	f	f	f

	Sp	S	F	W
VIREOS				
___ White-eyed Vireo*	c	f	c	-
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*	f	u	f	-
___ Blue-headed Vireo	u	-	u	u
___ Warbling Vireo	v	-	v	-
___ Philadelphia Vireo	u	-	u	-
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	c	f	c	-

	Sp	S	F	W
JAYS AND CROWS				
___ Blue Jay*	c	c	c	c
___ American Crow*	f	f	f	a

	Sp	S	F	W
LARKS				
___ Horned Lark*	c	f	c	a
MARTINS AND SWALLOWS				
___ Purple Martin*	c	c	v	-
___ Tree Swallow*	c	r	c	-
___ N. Rough-winged Swallow*	c	f	c	x
___ Bank Swallow	c	-	c	-
___ Cliff Swallow*	f	c	f	-
___ Barn Swallow*	c	c	c	x
CHICKADEES AND TITMICE				
___ Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
___ Tufted Titmouse*	c	c	c	c
NUTHATCHES				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	u	-	u	u
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	u	u	u	u
___ Brown-headed Nuthatch	v	-	v	v
CREEPERS				
___ Brown Creeper	u	-	f	c
WRENS				
___ Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
___ Bewick's Wren	h	h	h	h
___ House Wren	f	r	c	r
___ Winter Wren	u	-	u	f
___ Sedge Wren	u	-	f	x
___ Marsh Wren	u	-	u	r
KINGLETS AND GNATCATCHERS				
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	f	-	c	c
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c	-	c	c
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	f	c	v
THRUSHES				
___ Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	c
___ Veery	f	-	u	-
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	u	-	u	-
___ Swainson's Thrush	f	-	u	-
___ Hermit Thrush	f	-	u	f
___ Wood Thrush*	c	c	c	-
___ American Robin*	a	c	c	a
MIMIC THRUSHES				
___ Gray Catbird*	c	c	c	r
___ Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
___ Brown Thrasher*	c	c	c	c
STARLING				
___ European Starling* (I)	a	a	a	a
PIPITS				
___ American Pipit	f	-	c	c
WAXWINGS				
___ Cedar Waxwing	c	v	c	a
WARBLERS				
___ Blue-winged Warbler	u	r	f	-
___ Golden-winged Warbler	u	-	u	-
___ Tennessee Warbler	c	-	c	-
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	f	-	f	f
___ Nashville Warbler	u	-	u	-
___ Northern Parula*	c	u	c	-
___ Yellow Warbler*	c	u	c	-
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	f	-	f	-
___ Magnolia Warbler	f	-	c	-
___ Cape May Warbler	f	-	u	-
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	v	-	v	-
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	a	-	a	a
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	f	-	f	-
___ Blackburnian Warbler	f	-	f	-
___ Yellow-throated Warbler*	f	u	f	-
___ Pine Warbler*	c	c	c	c
___ Prairie Warbler*	f	u	f	-

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Palm Warbler	c	-	c	f
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	c	-	c	-
___ Blackpoll Warbler	c	-	x	-
___ Cerulean Warbler	u	r	u	-
___ Black-and-white Warbler*	f	r	c	-
___ American Redstart*	c	u	c	-
___ Prothonotary Warbler*	c	c	c	-
___ Worm-eating Warbler*	f	u	f	-
___ Swainson's Warbler*	r	r	r	-
___ Ovenbird*	f	u	c	-
___ Northern Waterthrush	f	-	u	v
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	u	r	u	-
___ Kentucky Warbler*	f	f	c	-
___ Connecticut Warblerv	-	v	-	-
___ Mourning Warbler	v	-	v	-
___ Common Yellowthroat*	a	f	c	r
___ Hooded Warbler*	f	f	c	-
___ Wilson's Warbler	r	-	u	-
___ Canada Warbler	u	-	u	-
___ Yellow-breasted Chat*	c	c	c	-
TANAGERS				
___ Summer Tanager*	c	c	c	-
___ Scarlet Tanager*	c	u	f	-
SPARROWS				
___ Eastern Towhee*	c	c	c	c
___ Bachman's Sparrow	v	v	-	-
___ American Tree Sparrow	-	-	-	v
___ Chipping Sparrow*	c	u	c	u
___ Field Sparrow*	c	c	c	a
___ Vesper Sparrow	f	-	f	r
___ Lark Sparrow*	r	r	r	-
___ Savannah Sparrow	c	-	c	c
___ Grasshopper Sparrow*	u	u	u	-
___ Henslow's Sparrow	h	-	h	h
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	-	-	-	r
___ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	v	-	-	-
___ Fox Sparrow	f	-	f	c
___ Song Sparrow*	c	u	c	a
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	u	-	u	-
___ Swamp Sparrow	c	-	c	a
___ White-throated Sparrow	a	-	a	a
___ White-crowned Sparrow	u	-	f	f
___ Dark-eyed Junco	f	-	c	c
___ Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	f
GROSBEAKS				
___ Northern Cardinal*	a	a	a	a
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	c	-	c	-
___ Blue Grosbeak*	c	c	c	-
___ Indigo Bunting*	a	c	a	x
___ Dickcissel*	c	c	u	x
BLACKBIRDS AND ALLIES				
___ Bobolink	c	-	u	-
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	c	c	a	a
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	c	c	c	c
___ Western Meadowlark	-	-	v	v
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird	v	-	v	v
___ Rusty Blackbird	u	-	c	c
___ Brewer's Blackbird	u	-	u	r
___ Common Grackle*	c	c	a	a
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	a	a
___ Orchard Oriole*	c	c	u	-
___ Baltimore Oriole*	f	u	f	-
FINCHES				
___ Purple Finch	u	-	u	u
___ House Finch* (I)	a	a	a	a
___ Red Crossbill	-	-	-	x
___ Pine Siskin	u	-	u	f
___ American Goldfinch*	f	u	c	c
___ Evening Grosbeak	r	-	r	r
OLD WORLD SPARROWS				
___ House Sparrow* (I)	a	a	a	a