

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Rachel Carson
321 Port Road
Wells, ME 04090
207/646 9226
207/646 6554 Fax

Federal Relay Center
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

September 2011



Rachel Carson

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Birds



Saltmarsh Sparrow
Brian C. Harris

Introduction



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

Welcome to Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge consists of eleven separate divisions located on the coast between Portland and Kittery in southern Maine. Approximately 5,400 acres have been acquired out of the 14,684 acre current acquisition boundary. When completed, each refuge division will include a tidal waterway, the surrounding marsh and adjacent uplands. Forty-five percent of the habitat protected as refuge is coastal and freshwater wetlands, the remaining habitat is upland, forest, fields and shrublands.



Great blue heron

Highlights of bird activity on the refuge include shorebird migrations in the spring and summer, waterfowl concentrations in the winter and early spring, and raptor migrations in the early fall.

This brochure lists more than 260 species that have been identified on or seen from the refuge, and is in accordance with the seventh American Ornithologists Union Checklist. An additional twenty-six species have been seen only once or at intervals of five or more years and have been listed as accidentals.

Most birds are migratory, therefore, their seasonal occurrence is coded as follows:

Season

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

- Birds known to nest on or near the refuge
 - * Probable or irregular breeder on or near refuge
- Italics indicate threatened/ endangered species*
 "(A)" = accidental/casual in AOU area
 "(I)" = introduced into AOU area

Relative Abundance

Relative abundance suggests how frequently you might see or hear a particular 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



Geese in flight

SWANS - GEESE - DUCKS

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Snow Goose _____	o		o	
___ Brant (Atlantic) _____	o	r	u	r
___ • Canada Goose _____	a	a	a	o
___ • Mute Swan (I) _____	o	o	o	o
___ • Wood Duck _____	o	o	o	
___ Gadwall _____	o	r	o	
___ American Wigeon _____	o		o	r
___ • American Black Duck _____	a	u	a	r
___ • Mallard _____	c	u	c	c
___ *Blue-winged Teal _____	o	o	o	o
___ Northern Shoveler _____	o		r	
___ Northern Pintail _____	o		u	c
___ *Green-winged Teal _____	u	o	c	
___ Ring-necked Duck _____	o		o	r
___ Greater Scaup _____	r		o	
___ King Eider _____	r		r	r
___ • Common Eider _____	c	u	u	a
___ Harlequin Duck _____				r
___ Surf Scoter _____	o	r	u	c
___ White-winged Scoter _____	u	r	u	c
___ Black Scoter _____	o	r	u	c
___ Long-tailed Duck _____	u		o	o
___ Bufflehead _____	c		c	c
___ Common Goldeneye _____	u		u	c



Ruffed grouse

	Sp	S	F	W
Barrow's Goldeneye _____	r		r	r
* Hooded Merganser _____	o	o	o	o
Common Merganser _____	o	r	o	o
Red-breasted Merganser _____	c	o	a	c

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

* Ring-necked Pheasant (I) _____	r	r	r	r
* Ruffed Grouse _____	o	o	o	o
* Wild Turkey _____	u	u	u	u

LOONS

Red-throated Loon _____	o	r	u	u
Common Loon _____	c	o	c	c

GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe _____	o	o	o	
Horned Grebe _____	o	r	o	u
Red-necked Grebe _____	o	r	o	u

SHEARWATERS

Cory's Shearwater _____		r	r	
Great Shearwater _____		r	r	
Sooty Shearwater _____		r	r	
Manx Shearwater _____		r	r	

STORM-PETRALS

Wilson's Storm-Petrel _____		o	r	
Leach's Storm-Petrel _____		r	r	

BOOBIES - GANNETS

Northern Gannet _____	u	o	u	o
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CORMORANTS

Double-crested Cormorant _____	c	a	c	r
Great Cormorant _____	o		o	u

BITTERNS - HERONS - EGRETS

American Bittern _____	o	o	o	
Great Blue Heron _____	c	a	c	o
Great Egret _____	u	a	c	

	Sp	S	F	W
Snowy Egret _____	c	a	c	
Little Blue Heron _____	o	o	o	
Tricolored Heron _____	r	o	r	
* Green Heron _____	u	c	o	

* Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	o	c	u	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron _____	r	r	r	

IBISES

Glossy Ibis _____	o	u	r	
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NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture _____	o	u	c	r
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OSPREY - HAWKS - EAGLES

* Osprey _____	u	c	u	
Bald Eagle _____	o	o	o	o
Northern Harrier _____	o	o	u	o
* Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	o	o	u	o
* Cooper's Hawk _____	u	o	u	u
* Northern Goshawk _____	o	o	o	o
* Red-shouldered Hawk _____	o	o	o	r
* Broad-winged Hawk _____	o	o	o	
* Red-tailed Hawk _____	u	c	u	u
Rough-legged Hawk _____	r		r	o



Kestrel

FALCONS

* American Kestrel _____	o	o	o	
Merlin _____	o	o	u	r
Peregrine Falcon _____	o	o	o	r

RAILS

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

Sp S F W

PLOVERS

___ Black-bellied Plover _____	u	c	a	
___ American Golden-Plover _____	r	o	o	
___ Semipalmated Plover _____	u	a	c	
___ • <i>Piping Plover</i> _____	o	u	o	
___ • Killdeer _____	u	c	u	r

OYSTERCATCHERS

___ • American Oystercatcher _____	o	o		
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SANDPIPERS - PHALAROPES

___ • Spotted Sandpiper _____	o	u	o	
___ Solitary Sandpiper _____	o	o	o	
___ Greater Yellowlegs _____	u	c	c	
___ • Willet (Eastern) _____	c	c	o	
___ Lesser Yellowlegs _____	u	u	c	
___ Upland Sandpiper _____		r		
___ Whimbrel _____	r	u	o	
___ Hudsonian Godwit _____		o	o	
___ Marbled Godwit _____		o	o	
___ Ruddy Turnstone _____	o	u	o	r
___ Red Knot _____	o	o	o	
___ Sanderling _____	o	u	u	r
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	u	a	c	
___ Western Sandpiper _____		o	o	
___ Least Sandpiper _____	u	a	c	
___ White-rumped Sandpiper _____		u	u	
___ Baird's Sandpiper _____		r	o	
___ Pectoral Sandpiper _____	o	o	u	
___ Purple Sandpiper _____	r		r	r
___ Dunlin _____	o	r	c	r
___ Stilt Sandpiper _____		o	o	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper _____		r	r	
___ Ruff _____	r	r	r	
___ Short-billed Dowitcher _____	u	a	c	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher _____		o	o	

Sp S F W

___ * Wilson's Snipe _____	o	r	o	r
___ • American Woodcock _____	o	o	o	r
___ Wilson's Phalarope _____	o	o	o	
___ Red-necked Phalarope _____	r	r	r	

GULLS - TERNS

___ Black-legged Kittiwake _____	r		r	r
___ Bonaparte's Gull _____	o	u	u	r
___ Little Gull _____		o	o	
___ Laughing Gull _____	o	o	o	
___ Ring-billed Gull _____	a	c	a	a
___ Herring Gull _____	a	a	a	a
___ Iceland Gull _____	o		r	o
___ Glaucous Gull _____	r			r
___ Great Blacked backed Gull _____	a	a	a	a
___ • <i>Least Tern</i> _____	o	c		
___ Black Tern _____	r	o	r	
___ <i>Roseate Tern</i> _____	o	o		
___ • Common Tern _____	u	c	u	
___ Arctic Tern _____	o	o		
___ Forster's Tern _____	r	r	o	

SQUAS - JAEGER

___ Parasitic Jaeger _____		r	r	
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AUKS - PUFFINS

___ Dovekie _____				r
___ Common Murre _____				r
___ Thick-billed Murre _____				r
___ Razorbill _____	r			r
___ Black Guillemot _____	r			r

PIGEONS - DOVES

___ • Rock Pigeon (I) _____	a	a	a	a
___ • Mourning Dove _____	a	a	a	c

CUCKOOS - ANIS

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

TYPICAL OWLS

___ • Great Horned Owl _____	u	u	u	u
___ Snowy Owl _____	r		r	r
___ • Barred Owl _____	u	u	u	u
___ Long-eared Owl _____	r			r
___ Short-eared Owl _____	r		r	o
___ * Northern Saw-whet Owl _____	o	o	u	o



Killdeer

Sp S F W

NIGHTJARS

___ Common Nighthawk _____ r o o
___ • Whip-poor-will _____ r o

SWIFTS

___ Chimney Swift _____ o u r

HUMMINGBIRDS

___ • Ruby-throated Hummingbird ___ o u u

KINGFISHERS

___ • Belted Kingfisher _____ u c c r

WOODPECKERS

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

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

___ Olive-sided Flycatcher _____ o o
___ • Eastern Wood-pewee _____ o c r
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher _____ r r r
___ • Alder Flycatcher _____ o u r
___ • Willow Flycatcher _____ u u r
___ * Least Flycatcher _____ u u o
___ • Eastern Phoebe _____ u c u
___ • Great-crested Flycatcher _____ u c o
___ Western Kingbird _____ r
___ • Eastern Kingbird _____ u c o

SHRIKES

___ Northern Shrike _____ r r o

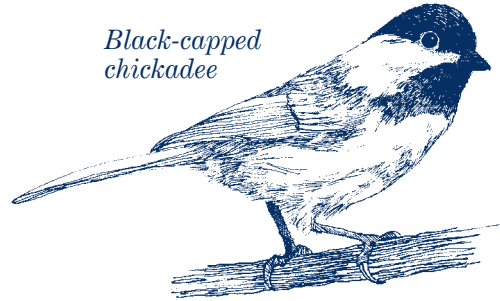
Sp S F W

VIREOS

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

CROWS - JAYS

___ • Blue Jay _____ a a a a



Black-capped chickadee

___ • American Crow _____ a a a a
___ * Fish Crow _____ o o o
___ * Common Raven _____ o o o u

LARKS

___ • Horned Lark _____ o o u

SWALLOWS

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

CHICKADEES - TITMICE

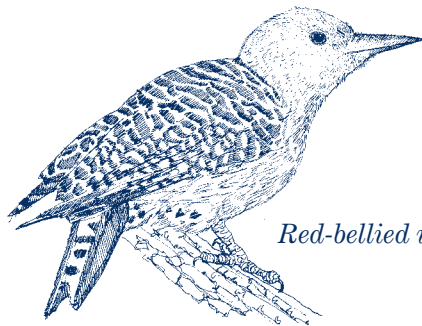
___ • Black-capped Chickadee _____ c c c c
___ • Tufted Titmouse _____ u u u u

NUTHATCHES

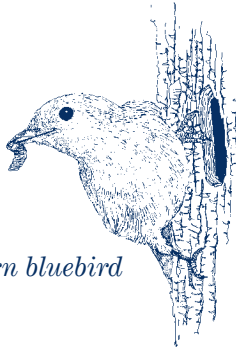
___ • Red-breasted Nuthatch _____ c o u c
___ • White-breasted Nuthatch _____ c c c c

CREEPERS

___ • Brown Creeper _____ u o u o



Red-bellied woodpecker



Eastern bluebird

WRENS

- ___ • Carolina Wren _____
- ___ • House Wren _____
- ___ * Winter Wren _____
- ___ • Marsh Wren _____

KINGLETS

- ___ * Golden-crowned Kinglet _____
- ___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____

GNATCATCHERS

- ___ * Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____

THRUSHES

- ___ • Eastern Bluebird _____
- ___ • Veery _____
- ___ Swainson's Thrush _____
- ___ • Hermit Thrush _____
- ___ • Wood Thrush _____
- ___ • American Robin _____

MOCKINGBIRDS - THRASHERS

- ___ • Gray Catbird _____
- ___ • Northern Mockingbird _____
- ___ • Brown Thrasher _____



*American robin
feeding young*

Sp	S	F	W
o	u	u	o
o	u	o	
o	o	o	
o	o	o	
o	r	c	o
o	r	u	r
r	r	r	
o	u	u	o
o	u	o	
o		o	
u	u	u	r
o	u	r	
c	a	a	u
c	a	c	r
u	c	u	o
u	u	o	

STARLINGS

- ___ • European Starling (I) _____

PIPIT

- ___ American Pipit _____

WAXWINGS

- ___ Bohemian Waxwing _____
- ___ • Cedar Waxwing _____

WOOD WARBLERS

- ___ * Blue-winged Warbler _____
- ___ Tennessee Warbler _____
- ___ Orange-crowned Warbler _____
- ___ • Nashville Warbler _____
- ___ Northern Parula _____
- ___ • Yellow Warbler _____
- ___ • Chestnut-sided Warbler _____
- ___ • Magnolia Warbler _____
- ___ Cape May Warbler _____
- ___ * Black-throated Blue Warbler _____
- ___ * Yellow-rumped Warbler _____
- ___ • Black-throated Green Warbler _____
- ___ * Blackburnian Warbler _____
- ___ • Pine Warbler _____
- ___ * Prairie Warbler _____
- ___ Palm Warbler _____
- ___ Bay-breasted Warbler _____
- ___ Blackpoll Warbler _____
- ___ • Black-and-White Warbler _____
- ___ • American Redstart _____
- ___ • Ovenbird _____
- ___ • Northern Waterthrush _____
- ___ * Louisiana Waterthrush _____
- ___ Mourning Warbler _____
- ___ • Common Yellowthroat _____
- ___ Wilson's Warbler _____
- ___ • Canada Warbler _____
- ___ Yellow-breasted Chat _____

SPARROWS - TOWHEES

- ___ • Eastern Towhee _____
- ___ American Tree Sparrow _____
- ___ • Chipping Sparrow _____
- ___ Clay-colored Sparrow _____
- ___ • Field Sparrow _____
- ___ Vesper Sparrow _____

Sp	S	F	W
a	a	a	c
o		u	r
r			r
o	a	c	u
r	r	r	
o		o	
		o	r
u	u	u	
u	o	u	
u	a	o	
o	u	u	
u	u	u	
o		o	
u	o	u	
* c	u	a	o
• c	c	u	
o	o	u	
u	c	u	
* o	o	o	
u		u	
o		o	
u		u	
• u	a	c	
o	r	u	
• o	o	o	
		o	r
r	r		
r	r	r	
• u	a	c	
o	r	u	
• o	o	o	
		r	r
u	c	u	r
o		u	c
u	c	c	
		o	
• o	o	u	
r	r	o	

	Sp	S	F	W
• Savannah Sparrow _____	u	c	u	r
• Nelson's Sparrow _____	o	c	o	
• Saltmarsh Sparrow _____	o	c	r	
Seaside Sparrow _____		r		
Fox Sparrow _____	o		o	r
• Song Sparrow _____	c	a	c	u
Lincoln's Sparrow _____	o		u	
• Swamp Sparrow _____	o	u	u	r
• White-throated Sparrow _____	u	o	c	o
White-crowned Sparrow _____	o		u	r
* Dark-eyed Junco _____	c	o	c	a
Lapland Longspur _____	o		o	r
Snow Bunting _____	u		u	o

CARDINALS - GROSBEAKS - ALLIES

• Scarlet Tanager _____	o	u	o	
• Northern Cardinal _____	c	c	c	c
• Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____	u	u	o	
• Indigo Bunting _____	o	u	o	
Dickcissel _____			o	r

BLACKBIRDS - ORIOLES

• Bobolink _____	u	c	o	
• Red-winged Blackbird _____	a	a	c	r
• Eastern Meadowlark _____	o	o	o	r
Rusty Blackbird _____	o	r	o	
• Common Grackle _____	a	a	c	r



Red-winged blackbird



American goldfinch

	Sp	S	F	W
• Brown-headed Cowbird _____	c	c	c	r
* Orchard Oriole _____	r	o		
• Baltimore Oriole _____	o	u	o	

FINCHES

• Pine Grosbeak _____	r		r	r
• Purple Finch _____	u	u	c	o
• House Finch _____	c	a	a	u
* Red Crossbill _____	r	r	r	r
* White-winged Crossbill _____	r	r	r	r
Common Redpoll _____	r		r	r
* Pine Siskin _____	o	r	o	o
• American Goldfinch _____	c	a	a	c
• Evening Grosbeak _____	o	o	o	o

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

• House Sparrow (I) _____	a	a	a	c
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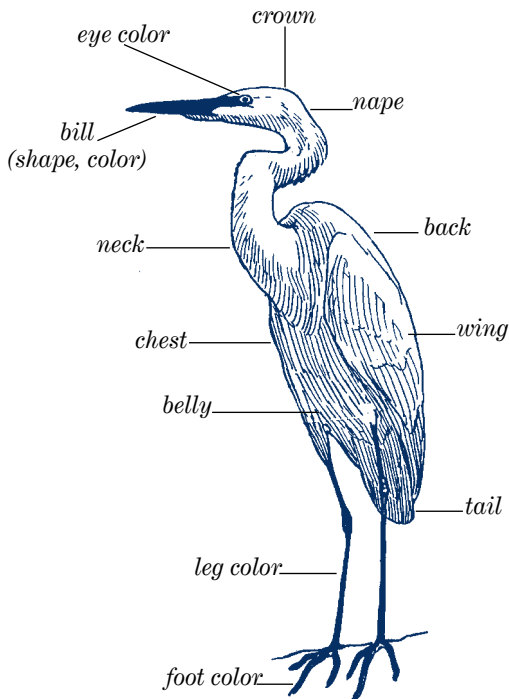
ACCIDENTALS

These additional 26 species are considered accidentals:

Tundra Swan	White-winged Tern (A)
Canvasback	Royal Tern
Ruddy Duck	Black Skimmer
Northern Bobwhite	Great Gray Owl
Cattle Egret	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Clapper Rail	Gray Jay
Common Moorhen	Cave Swallow
Pacific Golden-Plover	Boreal Chickadee
American Avocet	Gray-cheeked Thrush
Curlew Sandpiper	Bicknell's Thrush
Black-headed Gull	Worm-eating Warbler
Sooty Tern	Summer Tanager
Caspian Tern	Hoary Redpoll

TIPS FOR FIELD I.D.

The identification of birds is greatly aided by simply noting a few key field marks. The diagram below illustrates several of these. In addition, general size, color, habitat, song and behavior help narrow down the options. Remember, use more than one field mark, as many species are similar and can only be distinguished by using a combination of several marks.



NOTES

Location _____

Date _____ Time _____

Observers _____

Weather _____
