U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bogue Chitto

National Wildlife Refuge Bird List

photo: Bill Lang

Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge offers some of the least disturbed southern swamplands in the United States. It conserves over 36,000 acres of the Pearl River Basin, most of which is accessible only by boat. The refuge's remoteness is the draw for many visitors. The bottomland hardwood forests and cypress and tupelo swamps that make up most of the refuge were set aside in 1980 to preserve and enhance a unique ecosystem threatened by agriculture, residential, and commercial development. It is one of over 560 National Wildlife Refuges in the United States, located only 40 miles north of New Orleans along the Louisiana/Mississippi state line.

Interlaced by the Pearl and Bogue Chitto River systems, the refuge provides nesting, wintering and breeding habitat for nearly 200 species of birds. The forest fills with twittering sound in the fall as neotropical migratory songbirds such as prothonatory and Swainson's warblers, flycatchers, yellow-billed cuckoo, and white-eyed vireo arrive during their migration south for the winter. Many of these birds will rest only briefly before continuing their journey to wintering lands further south, while other birds such as raptors and vultures call the refuge home year round.

The refuge quiets in winter, echoing the low call of wood ducks, mallards and hooded mergansers. With a rush of Spring rains and floods, wild turkey retreat from sandbars to forested areas, but the abundant water draws wading egrets and herons to the rivers and bayous. By summer, the seasonal migration has ended, and most ducks and other wintering birds have returned north to their nesting grounds. Nesting residents such as swallow-tailed and Mississippi kites soar in the thick air of summer, heavy with the soft chirp of year-round residents such as warblers, chickadees, and wrens which can be found in abundance.

The lifeblood of this ecosystem is the Pearl River. The name of the refuge, Bogue Chitto, is derived from a Choctaw phrase meaning "large stream." The original pronunciation is very close to how it is said today: bow-guh chit-uh. Opportunities for bird watching along its banks are plentiful. The boardwalk trail located at the Pearl River turnaround site offers a picturesque sampling of habitats found throughout the refuge, and an ideal setting for wildlife observation. The egret rookery located at this site, is not to be missed during the May-June nesting season. To reach the boardwalk area, take I-59N to the Pearl River Turnaround (Exit 11), then turn right and backtrack down the frontage road about a mile. Entrance to the site is on the left.

photo: USFWS

Responsible birders should abide by the American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics. More information can be found at http://www.aba.org

Report your sightings on eBird

This online checklist program provides birders and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff with updated birding reports. The database is populated with bird observations made each year by both recreational and professional bird watchers. The program is one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. The reports on eBird serve as a vital foundation for better understanding bird distribution. The program resources are free to access and are used by a global community of educators, land managers, ornithologists and conservation biologists.

The following bird list contains 183 species, representing observations on and adjacent to Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge. Sightings of unlisted species should be reported to: Refuge Manager, Bogue Chitto NWR.

This list conforms to the nomenclature and arrangement established by the American Ornithologists' Union (1998). Symbols used in this brochure represent the following:

Sp Spring (March-May)
S Summer (June-August)
F Fall (September-November)
W Winter (December-February)

C Common (likely 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)
* Species of special concern
^ Non-native/exotic species

Four primary habitats common to the refuge are identified as follows:

F Forest
A Aerial Flyover
W Open Water
S Swamp

photo: Bill Lang

Species	Sp	Su	F	W	Habitat
Ducks (Anatidae)					
___Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	U	U	U	U	S
___Canada Goose	R	R	R	R	A
___Wood Duck	C	C	C	C	F
___Mallard	O	R	O	U	W
___Blue-winged Teal	U	R	U	U	W
___Ring-necked Duck	U		U	U	W
___Lesser Scaup				R	W
___Hooded Merganser *	C	C	C	C	F
___Ruddy Duck	U		U	C	W
New World Quail (Odontophoridae)					
___Northern Bobwhite	C	C	C	C	F
Turkeys (Phasianidae)					
___Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C	F
Grebes (Podicipedae)					
___Pied-billed Grebe	O		O	U	W
Cormorants (Phalacrocoracidae)					
___Double-crested Cormorant	C	C	C	C	W
Anhingas (Anhingidae)					
___Anhinga	C	C	C	C	W
Herons (Ardeidae)					
___Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C	S
___Great Egret	C	C	C	C	S
___Snowy Egret	C	C	C	C	S
___Little Blue Heron	U	C	U	U	S
___Tricolored Heron	O	O	O	O	S
___Cattle Egret ^	U	U	U	U	F
___Green Heron	O	C	O		S
___Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	U	C	U		S
Ibises (Threskiornithidae)					
___White Ibis	U	U	U	U	S
___Roseate Spoonbill *		R			S
New World Vultures (Cathartidae)					
___Black Vulture	C	C	C	C	A
___Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C	A
___Pandionidae (Osprey)					
___Osprey	O	O	O	O	A
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies (Accipitridae)					
___Swallow-tailed Kite *	U	U			A
___Mississippi Kite	U	C			A
___Bald Eagle *	U	R	U	U	A

photo: USFWS

	Sp	Su	F	W	Habitat
___Northern Harrier				R	S
___Sharp-shinned Hawk	U		U	U	F
___Cooper's Hawk *	U	U	U	U	F
___Red-shouldered Hawk	C	C	C	C	F
___Broad-winged Hawk	O	U	O		F
___Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	F
Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)					
___Spotted Sandpiper	O		O	U	S
___Solitary Sandpiper *	R		R		S
___Least Sandpiper				R	S
___Wilson's Snipe	R			O	F
___American Woodcock *	U		U	U	S
Gulls and Terns (Laridae)					
___Laughing Gull		O			
___Least Tern		O			
Pigeons (Columbidae)					
___Rock Pigeon ^	U	U	U	U	F
___Eurasian Collared-Dove ^	R	R	R	R	F
___White-winged Dove			O	O	F
___Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C	F
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)					
___Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		F
___Black-billed Cuckoo	R		R		F
Owls (Strigidae)					
___Eastern Screech-Owl	U	U	U	U	F
___Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C	F
___Barred Owl	C	C	C	C	F
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)					
___Common Nighthawk	O	U	O		F
___Chuck-will's-widow *	U	U	U		F
Swifts (Apodidae)					
___Chimney Swift	C	C	C		A
Hummingbirds (Trochilidae)					
___Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C		F
___Rufous Hummingbird				R	F
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)					
___Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C	C	W
Woodpeckers (Picidae)					
___Red-headed Woodpecker *	U	U	U	U	F
___Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	F
___Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		C	C	F
___Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	F

photo: Bill Lang

	Sp	Su	F	W	Habitat
___Hairy Woodpecker	R	R	R	R	F
___Northern Flicker	U	U	U	U	F
___Pileated Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	F
Falcons (Falconidae)					
___American Kestrel *	U	R	U	U	F
___Merlin				R	F
___Peregrine Falcon *			R	R	F
Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)					
___Olive-sided Flycatcher *				R	F
___Eastern Wood-Pewee	U	C	C		F
___Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			R		F
___Acadian Flycatcher	U	C	U		F
___Alder Flycatcher			O		S
___Least Flycatcher			O		F
___Eastern Phoebe	U		C	C	F
___Great Crested Flycatcher	U	C	U		F
___Eastern Kingbird	U	U	U		F
Shrikes (Laniidae)					
___Loggerhead Shrike *	C	C	C	C	F
Vireos (Vireonidae)					
___White-eyed Vireo	U		U		F
___Yellow-throated Vireo	U	C	U		F
___Blue-headed Vireo	U		U	U	F
___Warbling Vireo	R		R		F
___Philadelphia Vireo	R		U		F
___Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		F
Jays and Crows (Corvidae)					
___Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	F
___American Crow	C	C	C	C	F
___Fish Crow	C	C	C	C	W
Swallows (Hirundinidae)					
___Purple Martin	U	C	O		A
___Tree Swallow	C		C	C	A
___Northern Rough-winged Swallow	O	O	U		A
___Bank Swallow	R		R		A
___Cliff Swallow	U	U	U		A
___Barn Swallow	C	C	C		A
Titmice (Paridae)					
___Carolina Chickadee	C	C	C	C	F
___Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C	F
Nuthatches (Sittidae)					
___Red-breasted Nuthatch			R	R	F
___Brown-headed Nuthatch *	C	C	C	C	F

photo: USFWS

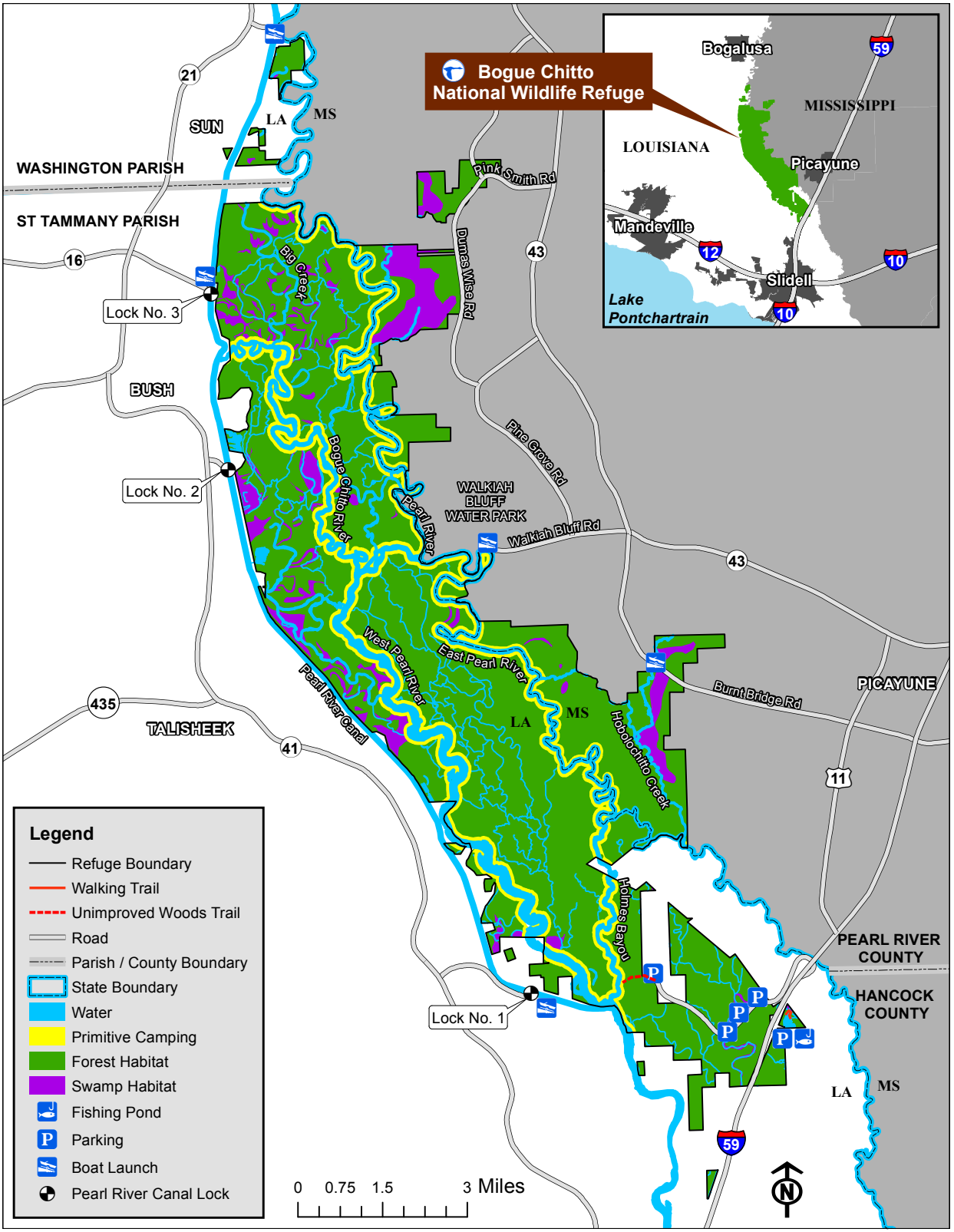
	Sp	Su	F	W	Habitat
Creepers (Certhiidae)					
___Brown Creeper	O		U	U	F
Wrens (Troglodytidae)					
___House Wren	U		U	C	F
___Winter Wren	R		R	R	F
___Carolina Wren	C	C	C	C	F
Kinglets (Regulidae)					
___Golden-crowned Kinglet	U		C	U	F
___Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C		C	C	F
Gnatcatchers (Polioptilidae)					
___Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	C	U	F
Thrushes (Turdidae)					
___Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	C	F
___Veery	R		R		F
___Gray-cheeked Thrush	O		O		F
___Swainson's Thrush	O		O		F
___Hermit Thrush	O		U	O	F
___Wood Thrush *	U	U	U		F
___American Robin	U		C	C	F
Mockingbirds and Thrashers (Mimidae)					
___Gray Catbird	C		C	U	S
___Brown Thrasher	C	C	C	C	S
___Northern Mockingbird	C	C	C	C	F
Starlings (Sturnidae)					
___European Starling ^	C	C	C	C	F
Pipits (Motacillidae)					
___American Pipit	O		O	U	F
Waxwings (Bombycillidae)					
___Cedar Waxwing	C		O	C	F
Wood-Warblers (parulidae)					
___Ovenbird	O		O		F
___Worm-eating Warbler *	R	R	R		F
___Louisiana Waterthrush *	U	C			S
___Northern Waterthrush	R		R	O	S
___Golden-winged Warbler *	R		R		S
___Blue-winged Warbler *	U		U		F
___Black-and-white Warbler	O	R	O		F
___Prothonotary Warbler *	C	C	C		S
___Swainson's Warbler *	U	C	U		S
___Tennessee Warbler	U		U		F
___Orange-crowned Warbler	U		U	C	F
___Nashville Warbler	R		R		F
___Mourning Warbler	R		R		F

photo: USFWS

	Sp	*Su*	*F*	*W*	*Habitat*
___Kentucky Warbler *	U	C	U		F
___Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	C	S
___Hooded Warbler	U	C	U		S
___American Redstart *	O	U	U		F
___Cerulean Warbler *	R		R		F
___Northern Parula	C	C	C		F
___Magnolia Warbler	U		U		F
___Bay-breasted Warbler	O		O		F
___Blackburnian Warbler	O		O		F
___Yellow Warbler	O		U		S
___Chestnut-sided Warbler	R		R		F
___Palm Warbler	R		R	R	F
___Pine Warbler	C	C	C	C	F
___Yellow-rumped Warbler	C		C	C	F
___Yellow-throated Warbler	O	O	O	R	F
___Prairie Warbler *	R		R		F
___Black-throated Green Warbler	U		U		F
___Canada Warbler *	R		O		F
___Wilson's Warbler	R		R	R	F
___Yellow-breasted Chat	U	C	U		F
Emberizids (Emberizidae)					
___Eastern Towhee	C	C	C	C	F
___Bachman's Sparrow *	U	U	U	U	F
___Chipping Sparrow	U		U	U	F
___Field Sparrow	O		O	O	F
___Savannah Sparrow	U		U	U	S
___Grasshopper Sparrow *	O		O	O	F
___Henslow's Sparrow *	O		O	O	F
___Fox Sparrow				R	F
___Song Sparrow	U		U	C	S
___Swamp Sparrow	C		C	C	S
___White-throated Sparrow	U		U	C	F
___White-crowned Sparrow	O		O	U	F
___Dark-eyed Junco	O		U	U	F
Cardinals and Allies (Cardinalidae)					
___Summer Tanager	U	C	U	R	F
___Scarlet Tanager	R		R		F
___Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C	F
___Rose-breasted Grosbeak	O		U		F
___Blue Grosbeak	U		U		F
___Indigo Bunting	U	C	U		F
___Painted Bunting *	U	U	U		F
___Dickcissel *	R	R	R		F
Blackbirds (Icteridae)					
___Red-winged Blackbird	U	U	U	U	S
___Eastern Meadowlark	U	U	U	U	F
___Rusty Blackbird *	U		U	U	S
___Common Grackle	C	C	C	C	F
___Boat-tailed Grackle	C	U	U	U	S
___Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	C	F
___Orchard Oriole *	O	U	O		F
___Baltimore Oriole	O		O		F
Finches (Fringillidae)					
___House Finch ^	U	U	U	U	F
___Pine Siskin				R	F
___American Goldfinch	U		U	U	F
Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)					
___House Sparrow ^	U	U	U	U	F

photo: USFWS

photo: ©John Flores


Bogue Chitto
National Wildlife Refuge
Bogalusa
59
MISSISSIPPI
LOUISIANA
Picayune
Mandeville
12
10
Slidell
Lake
Pontchartrain
10
SUN
LA
MS
WASHINGTON PARISH
ST TAMMANY PARISH
21
16
Lock No. 3
Big Creek
Pink Smith Rd
Dunns Wise Rd
43
BUSH
Lock No. 2
Bogue Chitto River
Pearl River
Pine Grove Rd
WALKIAH
BLUFF
WATER PARK
Walkiah Bluff Rd
43
West Pearl River
East Pearl River
Pearl River Canal
435
TALISHEEK
41
LA
MS
Hobolochitto Creek
Burnt Bridge Rd
PICAYUNE
11
Holmes Bayou
Lock No. 1
PEARL RIVER
COUNTY
HANCOCK
COUNTY
LA
MS
59
Legend
Refuge Boundary
Walking Trail
Unimproved Woods Trail
Road
Parish / County Boundary
State Boundary
Water
Primitive Camping
Forest Habitat
Swamp Habitat
Fishing Pond
Parking
Boat Launch
Pearl River Canal Lock
0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles
N

Bogue Chitto
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http://www.fws.gov/boguechitto/

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