

Clarks River

National Wildlife Refuge Bird List





*Refuge Mission
Statement:*

*“The mission of the
National Wildlife
Refuge System is
to administer a
national network
of lands and waters
for the conservation,
management, and
where appropriate,
restoration of the fish,
wildlife and plant
resources and their
habitats within the
United States for the
benefit of present and
future generations of
Americans.”*

*National Wildlife
Refuge System
Improvement Act of
1997*

Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge



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



Ray Stainfield

Established in 1997, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was named for its location along the east fork of the Clarks River. The Clarks River is unique because it is one of the few rivers in the western Kentucky area that has not been channelized or dammed. Currently, the Refuge consists of approximately 8,500 acres, and is the only Refuge located solely within the bounds of the state of Kentucky. The Refuge was established to protect beautiful bottomland hardwood forest habitats.

The bottomland hardwood forests of this refuge are utilized by many species of neotropical songbirds. These birds spend approximately eight months of the year wintering in Central and South America, and the remaining months on their breeding grounds in North America's temperate latitudes. Over 200 species of neotropical songbirds can be found using the habitats of the refuge as a stopover (for resting and feeding) during migration or for nesting. The imperiled cerulean warbler, Swainson's warbler, and prothonotary warbler are three of the five birds on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's list of high priority species of management concern. All three of these species are dependent on bottomland hardwood forests and can be found in small numbers on the refuge during the nesting season. Other neotropical songbird species to watch for are summer and scarlet tanagers, Kentucky warblers, indigo buntings, and Acadian flycatchers, all of which readily use the refuge.

For those interested in seeking out these and other birds, the following checklist is provided as an aid. The checklist is based on observations by staff, visiting ornithologists, and birdwatchers who have visited the refuge. By design, it is not all encompassing and, because of this, some of the generalized information that it contains may not necessarily seem appropriate for given species. Also, if you observe a species that is not

*cover photo:
Andy Eller*

Andy Eller



listed here, please report it to us. Your information will be useful as we prepare future editions of this checklist. We do appreciate your help in updating our records.

The taxonomy and nomenclature used by this checklist follow the **Checklist of North America Birds**, American Ornithologists' Union, Seventh Edition, July 2000, as amended through the forty-ninth supplement, August 2008.

How to use your checklist

Symbols that appear in this checklist represent the following:

Seasons

Sp Spring.....March-May
(migration)

S Summer.....June-July
(breeding)

F Fall.....August-November
(migration)

W Winter.....December-
February

Seasonal Code Definitions:

c- common (certain to be seen or heard in suitable habitat)

f- fairly common (less certain to be seen or heard but usually present in smaller numbers)

u- uncommon (present but not easily seen or heard and may be overlooked)

r- (rare) – usually present every year, but typically only in small numbers and perhaps for only a brief period; observed infrequently and may be quite difficult to find even in appropriate habitat.

*- **Nesting species:** An asterisk denotes those species that have been confirmed nesting in the CRNWR Area.

Ray Stainfield



	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Common Name				
Loons				
Order Gaviiformes				
Common Loon				r
Grebes				
Order Podicipediformes				
Pied-billed Grebe	c		c	f
Horned Grebe	f		f	u
Pelican Allies				
Order Pelecaniformes				
American White Pelican	u		u	u
Double-crested Cormorant*c	u	c	f	
Hérons, Egrets, and Allies				
Order Ciconiiformes				
American Bittern	r			
Great Blue Heron*	c	c	c	f
Great Egret*	u	u	f	
Snowy Egret*	u	r	u	
Little Blue Heron*	u	u	u	
Cattle Egret*	f	f	u	
Green Heron*	f	f	u	
Black-crowned Night-Heron*	f	f	f	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*	r	r	r	
Black Vulture*	u	u	u	u
Turkey Vulture*	f	f	f	u
Waterfowl				
Order Anseriformes				
Greater White-fronted Goose	r	r	r	
Snow Goose	u		u	u
Ross's Goose	r		r	r
Canada Goose*	c	c	c	c
Mute Swan				r
Tundra Swan				r
Wood Duck*	f	f	f	r
Gadwall	c		c	c
American Wigeon	u		u	f
American Black Duck	u		u	u
Mallard*	c	u	c	c
Blue-winged Teal	f		f	
Northern Shoveler	f		u	u
Northern Pintail	u		u	u
Green-winged Teal	u		u	f
Canvasback	u		u	u
Redhead	r		u	u
Ring-necked Duck	f		f	f
Greater Scaup	u		u	u
Lesser Scaup	c		c	c
Bufflehead	c		c	c

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Common Goldeneye	u		u	c
Hooded Merganser	u	r	u	f
Common Merganser	r		r	u
Red-breasted Merganser	f		u	u
Ruddy Duck	f		f	u

Hawks, Falcons, and Allies

Order Falconiformes

Osprey*	c	c	c	
Mississippi Kite*	f	c	f	
Bald Eagle*	u	u	u	f
Northern Harrier	r		r	r
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	u	r	u	u
Cooper's Hawk*	u	r	u	u
Red-shouldered Hawk*	f	f	f	f
Broad-winged Hawk*	u	u	u	
Red-tailed Hawk*	f	f	f	f
Rough-legged Hawk				r
Golden Eagle	r			r
American Kestrel*	f	u	f	f
Merlin			r	
Peregrine Falcon	r		r	r

Turkey and Quail

Order Galliformes

Wild Turkey*	f	f	f	f
Northern Bobwhite*	u	u	u	u

Rails, Gallinules, and Cranes

Order Gruiformes

Sora	r		r	
American Coot	c		f	c
Sandhill Crane	r		r	r

Shorebirds, Gulls, and Terns

Order Charadriiformes

Black-bellied Plover	r		u	
American Golden-Plover			u	
Semipalmated Plover	u		f	
Killdeer*	f	f	c	f
Black-necked Stilt	r		r	
American Avocet	r		r	
Spotted Sandpiper	f	r	f	
Solitary Sandpiper	f	r	u	
Greater Yellowlegs	u		u	
Willet	r		r	
Lesser Yellowlegs	f		f	
Ruddy Turnstone	r		r	
Red Knot			r	
Sanderling	r		u	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	r		f	
Western Sandpiper	r		u	
Least Sandpiper	u		f	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
White-rumped Sandpiper			r	
Baird's Sandpiper			r	
Pectoral Sandpiper	u		c	
Dunlin	r		u	r
Stilt Sandpiper			u	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			r	
Short-billed Dowitcher	r		u	
Long-billed Dowitcher	r		r	
Wilson's Snipe	u		f	u
American Woodcock*	f	r	r	r
Wilson's Phalarope			r	
Bonaparte's Gull	f		f	f
Ring-billed Gull	c	r	c	c
Herring Gull	f	r	f	c
Caspian Tern	f	r	f	
Black Tern	u	r	u	
Forster's Tern	f	r	u	r
Doves				
Order Columbiformes				
Rock Pigeon*	f	f	f	f
Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
Cuckoos and Roadrunners				
Order Cuculiformes				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	f	f	f	
Black-billed Cuckoo*	r		r	
Owls				
Order Strigiformes				
Barn Owl	r	r	r	r
Eastern Screech-Owl*	f	f	f	f
Great Horned Owl*	u	u	u	u
Barred Owl*	c	c	c	f
Nightjars				
Order Caprimulgiformes				
Common Nighthawk*	u	r	u	
Chuck-will's-widow*	u	u	r	
Whip-poor-will*	f	f	f	
Swifts and Hummingbirds				
Order Apodiformes				
Chimney Swift*	u	u	u	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	f	f	c	
Kingfisher				
Order Coraciiformes				
Belted Kingfisher*	f	f	f	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Woodpeckers				
Order Piciformes				
Red-headed Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		u	u
Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Hairy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
Northern Flicker*	f	u	f	u
Pileated Woodpecker*	f	f	f	f
Order Passeriformes				
Flycatchers				
Family Tyrannidae				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	r		r	
Eastern Wood-Pewee*	c	c	c	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r	r		
Acadian Flycatcher*	c	c	u	
Alder Flycatcher	r			
Willow Flycatcher	r			
Least Flycatcher	u		u	
Eastern Phoebe*	f	f	f	r
Great Crested Flycatcher*	f	f	u	
Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	u	
Shrike				
Family Laniidae				
Loggerhead Shrike	r	r	r	r
Vireos				
Family Vireonidae				
White-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	
Yellow-throated Vireo*	f	f	u	
Blue-headed Vireo	u		u	
Warbling Vireo*	f	f	u	
Philadelphia Vireo	u		u	
Red-eyed Vireo*	c	c	f	
Jays and Crows				
Family Corvidae				
Blue Jay*	c	f	c	f
American Crow*	f	f	f	f
Fish Crow*	r	r	r	
Larks				
Family Alaudidae				
Horned Lark			r	r
Swallows				
Family Hirundinidae				
Purple Martin*	c	c	u	
Tree Swallow*	f	r	f	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	f	f	f	

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Bank Swallow	u		r	
Cliff Swallow*	c	c	u	
Barn Swallow*	c	f	c	
Chickadees and Titmice				
Family Paridae				
Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
Tufted Titmouse*	c	c	c	c
Nuthatches				
Family Sittidae				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	r		r	r
White-breasted Nuthatch*	f	f	f	f
Creepers				
Family Certhiidae				
Brown Creeper	u		u	u
Wrens				
Family Tryglodytidae				
Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
House Wren*	u	r	u	
Winter Wren	u		u	u
Marsh Wren	r			r
Kinglets				
Family Regulidae				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	f		f	f
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	f		f	u
Gnatcatchers				
Family Sylviidae				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	c	c	
Thrushes				
Family Turdidae				
Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	f
Veery	u		u	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	u		u	
Swainson's Thrush	c		f	
Hermit Thrush	u		u	u
Wood Thrush*	c	c	f	
American Robin*	c	c	c	f
Mimic Thrushes				
Family Mimidae				
Gray Catbird*	f	f	f	
Northern Mockingbird*	f	f	f	f
Brown Thrasher*	f	f	f	r
Starling				
Family Sturnidae				
European Starling*	c	c	c	c

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Pipits				
Family Motacillidae				
American Pipit	u		u	r
Waxwings				
Family Bombycillidae				
Cedar Waxwing*	f	u	f	u
Warblers				
Family Parulidae				
Blue-winged Warbler*	u	u	u	
Golden-winged Warbler	u		u	
Tennessee Warbler*	c		c	
Orange-crowned Warbler	r		r	
Nashville Warbler	f		f	
Northern Parula*	c	c	f	
Yellow Warbler*	f	f	u	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	f		f	
Magnolia Warbler	f		c	
Cape May Warbler	u		r	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	r		r	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	u
Black-throated Green Warbler	f		f	
Blackburnian Warbler	u		u	
Yellow-throated Warbler*	f	f	f	
Pine Warbler*	f	f	f	r
Prairie Warbler*	c	c	u	
Palm Warbler	f		f	r
Bay-breasted Warbler	u		u	
Blackpoll Warbler	f			
Cerulean Warbler*	r	r	r	
Black-and-white Warbler*	f	u	f	
American Redstart*	f	r	c	
Prothonotary Warbler*	c	c	f	
Worm-eating Warbler*	f	f	r	
Swainson's Warbler	r		r	
Ovenbird*	f	f	u	
Northern Waterthrush	u		u	
Louisiana Waterthrush*	f	f		
Kentucky Warbler*	f	f	u	
Connecticut Warbler	r			
Mourning Warbler	r		r	
Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	
Hooded Warbler*	u	u	u	
Wilson's Warbler	u		u	
Canada Warbler	u		u	
Yellow-breasted Chat*	f	f	u	
Tanagers				
Family Thraupidae				
Summer Tanager*	c	c	f	
Scarlet Tanager*	c	f	f	

SP S F W

New World Sparrows

Family Emberizidae

Eastern Towhee*	c	c	c	c
American Tree Sparrow	r			r
Chipping Sparrow*	c	c	c	r
Field Sparrow	c	c	c	f
Vesper Sparrow	r		r	
Savannah Sparrow	u		u	r
Grasshopper Sparrow		r		
Henslow's Sparrow	r	r		
Fox Sparrow	u		u	u
Song Sparrow*	f	r	f	c
Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	
Swamp Sparrow	f		f	f
White-throated Sparrow	c		c	c
White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	r
Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	c
Lapland Longspur				r

Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies

Family Cardinalidae

Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	f		f	
Blue Grosbeak*	f	f	u	
Indigo Bunting*	c	c	c	
Dickcissel*	r	r		

Blackbirds and Allies

Family Icteridae

Bobolink	r		r	
Red-winged Blackbird*	c	c	c	u
Eastern Meadowlark*	f	f	f	f
Rusty Blackbird	u		r	r
Common Grackle*	c	c	u	u
Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	u	r
Orchard Oriole*	c	c	u	
Baltimore Oriole*	c	f	u	

Finches

Family Fringillidae

Purple Finch*	u		u	u
House Finch*	f	u	f	f
Pine Siskin	r		r	r
American Goldfinch*	c	c	c	c

Old World Sparrow

Family Passeridae

House Sparrow*	f	f	f	f
----------------	---	---	---	---

Accessibility Statement

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental disability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

For more information about the Refuge or information contained in this publication contact:

Clarks River NWR
91 US Hwy 641 North
P.O. Box 89
Benton, KY 42025
Phone: 270/527 5770
Fax: 270/527 5052

The Friends of Clarks River NWR

The Friends of the Clarks River NWR is a nonprofit group formed to give assistance and support for Refuge projects and educational programs. To obtain more information or a membership contact the Refuge headquarters, or visit their web site at www.friendsofclarksriver.org.



Stacey Hayden



Andy Eller

Sighting Notes

Date _____

Time _____

Weather _____

No. of Species _____

Route or Area _____

Observers _____

Clarks River
National Wildlife Refuge
91 US Highway 641 North
P.O. Box 89
Benton, KY 42025
Phone 270/527 5770
Fax 270/527 5052
fw4rwclarksriver@fws.gov

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

July 2009

