



Checklist of Birds of the Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge and Vicinity

Jefferson and Whitefield, New Hampshire

Pondicherry is a Division of the Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. It is a conservation partnership between the US Fish and Wildlife Service, NH Fish and Game Department and NH Audubon. The current size is 6,405 acres. It was first established in 1963 at 312 acres to provide feeding, resting, and nesting habitat for migratory birds at remote Cherry and Little Cherry Ponds. Since 2000, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has acquired over 6,000 additional acres of prime boreal forest, river, swamp and marsh habitat using Duck Stamp and Land and Water Conservation Funds.

Pondicherry was designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1972 because of its bird diversity and wetland habitat. It was designated as New Hampshire's first Important Bird Area in 2004. Pondicherry has been a destination for birders since 1899 when Ornithologist Horace Wright began studies here. The Refuge and adjacent lands form the headwaters of the John's River, an important tributary of the Connecticut River. Grassland, shrub-land, and successional forest habitat surrounding the Refuge enhances the diversity of wildlife found here. The view from Cherry Pond of the surrounding White Mountains is considered to be one of the finest in the region.

Birding Pondicherry using the Trail System

The Pondicherry Trail is 1.5-miles long starting on Airport Road in Whitefield and goes to Cherry Pond and an observation platform. The Mud Pond Trail is a 0.6-mile wheelchair accessible boardwalk trail to a boreal forest fen that starts on Route 116 in Jefferson. The mile long Little Cherry Pond Trail connects Cherry and Little Cherry Ponds and starts at the west side of Cherry Pond. The Colonel Whipple Trail is 2 miles long and starts on Whipple Road in Jefferson. The best birding is in May and June for warblers and September and October for migrating waterfowl.

Key to the Checklist

Breeding Status: B Breeds on or near the Refuge. B? Breeding is unconfirmed.

Status:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| M Migrant | V Vagrant |
| PR Permanent Resident | I Irruptive |
| SR Summer Resident | * Refuge Specialty |
| WR Winter Resident | |

Season:





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Sp Spring 16 March - 15 June

Su Summer 16 June - 31 August

Fa Fall 1 September - 15 November

Wi Winter 16 November - 15 March

Relative Abundance:

C Common: Easily found in suitable habitat.

U Uncommon: Present but found in limited numbers.

O Occasional: Seen several times during the season.

R Rare: Occurs at intervals of 2-5 years.

VR Very Rare: Has been seen only once or twice.

| Common Name | B | Status | Sp | Su | Fa | Wi | Sightings |
|---------------------------|---|--------|----|----|----|----|-----------|
| Loons-Grebes-Cormorants | | | | | | | |
| Red-throated Loon | | M | O | | O | | |
| Common Loon * | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | | M | O | O | U | | |
| Horned Grebe | | M | O | | U | | |
| Red-necked Grebe | | M | O | | U | | |
| Double-crested Cormorant | | M | | O | O | | |
| Great Cormorant | | M | | R | R | | |
| Bitterns-Herons | | | | | | | |
| American Bittern | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Least Bittern | | V | R | R | | | |
| Green Heron | B | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | | V | R | R | | | |
| Great Blue Heron | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Great Egret | | M | O | R | | | |
| Glossy Ibis | | V | VR | | | | |
| Geese-Ducks | | | | | | | |
| Tundra Swan | | M | | | VR | | |
| Snow Goose | | M | O | | O | | |
| Brant | | M | R | | R | | |
| Canada Goose | B | SR | C | U | C | | |
| Cackling Goose | | M | | | R | | |
| Wood Duck | B | SR | C | U | C | | |
| Mallard | B | SR | C | U | C | R | |
| American Black Duck * | B | SR | C | C | C | O | |
| Gadwall | | M | O | | O | | |
| Northern Pintail | | M | R | | O | | |
| American Widgeon | | M | | | O | | |
| Northern Shoveler | | M | R | R | O | | |
| Blue-winged Teal | B | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Green-winged Teal | B | SR | C | U | U | | |





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|------------------------|---|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Canvasback | | M | | | VR | | |
| Redhead | | M | | | VR | | |
| Ring-necked Duck * | B | SR | C | U | C | | |
| Greater Scaup | | M | O | | O | | |
| Lesser Scaup | | M | O | | O | | |
| Surf Scoter | | M | O | | O | | |
| White-winged Scoter | | M | O | | O | | |
| Black Scoter | | M | O | | O | | |
| Long-tailed Duck | | M | | | O | | |
| Bufflehead | | M | O | | U | | |
| Common Goldeneye | | M | O | R | U | | |
| Hooded Merganser | B | SR | C | U | U | R | |
| Common Merganser | | M | U | R | U | | |
| Red-breasted Merganser | | M | O | | U | | |
| Ruddy Duck | | M | O | | O | | |
| Hawks-Falcons-Vultures | | | | | | | |
| Turkey Vulture | | SR | U | U | U | R | |
| Osprey | | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Bald Eagle | | M | O | O | O | R | |
| Golden Eagle | | M | | | VR | | |
| Northern Harrier * | B | SR | U | U | U | R | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | B | PR | U | U | U | O | |
| Cooper's Hawk | B | PR | O | O | U | O | |
| Northern Goshawk | B | PR | O | O | O | O | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Broad-winged Hawk | B | PR | U | U | C | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | B | SR | U | O | U | O | |
| Rough-legged Hawk | | WR | | | R | R | |
| American Kestrel | B | SR | C | U | U | | |
| Merlin | B | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Peregrine Falcon | | M | R | | R | R | |
| Gyrfalcon | | I | | | | VR | |
| Grouse-Turkey-Pheasant | | | | | | | |
| Spruce Grouse | B | PR | O-R | O-R | O-R | O-R | |
| Ruffed Grouse * | B | PR | C-U | C | C | U | |
| Wild Turkey | B | PR | O | U | U | O | |
| Northern Bobwhite | | Stocked | | | VR | | |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | | Stocked | R | | R | R | |
| Rails | | | | | | | |
| Virginia Rail * | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Sora * | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Common Moorhen | | V | R | | | | |



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| Common Name | B | Status | Sp | Su | Fa | Wi | Sightings |
|--------------------------|---|--------|----|----|----|----|-----------|
| American Coot | | M | R | | R | | |
| Plovers-Sandpipers | | | | | | | |
| Semipalmated Plover | | M | O | R | R | | |
| Killdeer | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Greater Yellowlegs | | M | U | O | O | | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | | M | R | | R | | |
| Solitary Sandpiper | | M | U | O | U | | |
| Spotted Sandpiper | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Upland Sandpiper | | M | | VR | | | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | | M | O | R | O | | |
| Least Sandpiper | | M | U | U | U | | |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | | M | VR | | | | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | | M | VR | | | | |
| Dunlin | | M | R | | R | | |
| Stilt Sandpiper | | M | VR | | VR | | |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | | M | R | | | | |
| Long-billed Dowitcher | | M | R | | | | |
| Wilson's Snipe * | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| American Woodcock * | B | SR | C | U | C | | |
| Red-necked Phalarope | | M | R | | | | |
| Red Phalarope | | M | | | R | | |
| Gulls-Terns | | | | | | | |
| Bonaparte's Gull | | M | R | R | R | | |
| Ring-billed Gull | | M | O | O | O | | |
| Herring Gull | | M | O | O | O | | |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | | M | | | VR | | |
| Great Black-backed Gull | | M | O | O | O | | |
| Common Tern | | M | O | | | | |
| Arctic Tern | | M | R | | | | |
| Black Tern | | M | R | | | | |
| Doves-Cuckoos | | | | | | | |
| Rock Pigeon | B | SR | O | O | O | O | |
| Mourning Dove | B | SR | C | C | C | U | |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | B | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | | M | VR | | | | |
| Owls | | | | | | | |
| Great Horned Owl | B | PR | U | U | U | U | |
| Long-eared Owl | | V | R | | | | |
| Barred Owl | B | PR | U | U | U | U | |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl | B | PR | O | U | U | O | |
| Northern Hawk Owl | | I | | | | VR | |
| Nightjars | | | | | | | |





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|---------------------------|----|--------|----|----|----|----|-----------|
| Common Nighthawk | | M | O | | O | | |
| Whip-poor-will | B | SR | U | U | | | |
| Swifts-Hummingbirds | | | | | | | |
| Chimney Swift | B? | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Kingfishers | | | | | | | |
| Belted Kingfisher | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Woodpeckers | | | | | | | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Downy Woodpecker | B | PR | C | C | C | U | |
| Hairy Woodpecker | B | PR | C | C | C | U | |
| Black-backed Woodpecker * | B | PR | U | U | U | U | |
| Northern Flicker | B | SR | C | C | U | | |
| Pileated Woodpecker | B | PR | U | U | U | U | |
| Flycatchers | | | | | | | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | B | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Alder Flycatcher | B | SR | U | C | U | | |
| Willow Flycatcher | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Least Flycatcher | B | SR | C | C | U | | |
| Eastern Phoebe | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | B | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Eastern Kingbird | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Shrikes-Vireos | | | | | | | |
| Northern Shrike | | WR/I | R | | O | O | |
| White-eyed Vireo | | V | R | | | | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Warbling Vireo | B | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Philadelphia Vireo | B | SR | R | R | R | | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | B? | SR | R | R | | | |
| Blue-headed Vireo | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Jays-Crows | | | | | | | |
| Gray Jay | B | PR | O | O | O | O | |
| Blue Jay | B | PR | C | C | C | U | |
| American Crow | B | PR | C | C | C | U | |
| Common Raven | B | PR | C | C | C | U | |
| Larks | | | | | | | |
| Horned Lark | | M | | | R | R | |
| Swallows | | | | | | | |
| Tree Swallow | B | SR | C | C | O | | |
| No. Rough-winged Swallow | B | SR | O | O | O | | |



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| Common Name | B | Status | Sp | Su | Fa | Wi | Sightings |
|--------------------------------|----|--------|----|----|----|-----|-----------|
| Bank Swallow | B | SR | U | U | O | | |
| Cliff Swallow | B? | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Barn Swallow | B | SR | C | C | O | | |
| Chickadees-Nuthatches-Creepers | | | | | | | |
| Black-capped Chickadee | B | PR | C | C | C | C | |
| Boreal Chickadee | B | PR | U | U | U | U | |
| Tufted Titmouse | | M | O | O | | O | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | B | PR | C | C | C | U | |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | B | PR | U | U | U | O | |
| Brown Creeper | B | PR | U | U | U | O | |
| Wrens-Kinglets-Gnatcatchers | | | | | | | |
| House Wren | B | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Winter Wren | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Carolina Wren | | V | R | | R | | |
| Marsh Wren * | | M | O | O | O | | |
| Sedge Wren | | M | VR | | VR | | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | B | PR | C | C | C | C-U | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | | SR | R | R | R | | |
| Thrushes | | | | | | | |
| Northern Wheatear | | V | R | | | | |
| Eastern Bluebird | B | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Veery | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | | M | R | | R | | |
| Bicknell's Thrush | | M | R | | R | | |
| Swainson's Thrush | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Hermit Thrush | B | SR | C | C | U | | |
| Wood Thrush | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| American Robin | B | SR | C | C | C | O-R | |
| Thrashers | | | | | | | |
| Gray Catbird | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Northern Mockingbird | | SR | R | R | R | R | |
| Brown Thrasher | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Starlings | | | | | | | |
| European Starling | B | PR | U | U | U | R | |
| Pipits | | | | | | | |
| American Pipit | | M | R | | O | | |
| Waxwings | | | | | | | |
| Bohemian Waxwing | | I | O | | O | O | |
| Cedar Waxwing | B | PR | C | C | C | O-R | |
| Wood Warblers | | | | | | | |
| Tennessee Warbler | B | SR | O | O | O | | |



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| Common Name | B | Status | Sp | Su | Fa | Wi | Sightings |
|------------------------------|---|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Orange-crowned Warbler | | M | R | | R | | |
| Blue-winged Warbler | | V | VR | | | | |
| Golden-winged Warbler | | V | R | | | | |
| Nashville Warbler | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Northern Parula | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Yellow Warbler | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler * | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Magnolia Warbler | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Cape May Warbler | B | SR | O | R | O | | |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | B | SR | C | U | C | | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | B | SR | C | C | C | R | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Blackburnian Warbler | B | SR | C | U | C | | |
| Prairie Warbler | | V | VR | | | | |
| Palm Warbler * | B | SR | C-U | U | C | | |
| Pine Warbler | B | SR | O-R | O-R | O-R | | |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | B | SR | U | R | U | | |
| Blackpoll Warbler | | M | U | | U | | |
| Prothonotary Warbler | | V | VR | VR | | | |
| Black-and-white Warbler | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| American Redstart | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Ovenbird | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Northern Waterthrush | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | | V | VR | | | | |
| Mourning Warbler * | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Common Yellowthroat | B | SR | C | C | C | | |
| Wilson's Warbler | B | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Canada Warbler * | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Tanagers | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Tanager | B | SR | U | U | O | | |
| Sparrows | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Towhee | | M | R | VR | R | | |
| American Tree Sparrow | | M/WR | U | | U | U-O | |
| Chipping Sparrow | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Field Sparrow | | M | R | R | R | | |
| Vesper Sparrow | | M | R | R | R | | |
| Savannah Sparrow | B | SR | C | C | U | | |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | | V | VR | | | | |
| Fox Sparrow | | M | O | | O | | |
| Song Sparrow | B | PR | C | C | C | U | |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Swamp Sparrow | B | SR | C | C | C | | |



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|-----------------------------|----|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| White-throated Sparrow | B | SR | C | C | C | O | |
| White-crowned Sparrow | | M | U | O | U-C | | |
| Dark-eyed Junco | B | PR | C | U | C | O | |
| Lapland Longspur | | M | | | | O | |
| Snow Bunting | | WR/I | | | O | O | |
| Blackbirds-Orioles | | | | | | | |
| Bobolink | B | SR | U | U | O | | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | B | SR | C | C | O | | |
| Eastern Meadowlark | | M | R | R | R | | |
| Rusty Blackbird | B | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Common Grackle | B | SR | C | U | U | | |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | B | SR | U | O | O | | |
| Baltimore Oriole | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Cardinals-Finches-Grosbeaks | | | | | | | |
| Northern Cardinal | B | PR | O | O | O | R | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | B | SR | U | U | U | | |
| Indigo Bunting | B | SR | U | U | O | | |
| Pine Grosbeak | B? | I | O | R | O | U-O | |
| Purple Finch | B | PR | C-U | U | C-U | C-O | |
| House Finch | | SR | O | O | O | | |
| Red Crossbill | | I | R | R | R | R | |
| White-winged Crossbill | B | I | U-R | O-R | C-R | C-R | |
| Common Redpoll | | I | R | | U-R | C-O | |
| Hoary Redpoll | | I | | | | VR | |
| Pine Siskin | B | PR/I | O | O | C-O | C-O | |
| American Goldfinch | B | PR | U | C | C | U-O | |
| Evening Grosbeak | B | PR/I | O | O | O | U-O | |
| Old World Sparrows | | | | | | | |
| House Sparrow | B | PR | U | U | U | R | |

Total Species: 238 (Arctic Tern and Red-necked Phalarope were last new birds seen in 2006)

Breeding Species: 129 and 5 unconfirmed

Common and Uncommon Species: 118

Hypothetical: Species not confirmed as having been seen on the Refuge but possible:

Ross's Goose

Snowy Egret

Eastern Screech Owl

Short-eared Owl

Snowy Owl

Great Gray Owl

Three-toed Woodpecker

Red-bellied Woodpecker



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Birders are encouraged to report sightings of species not listed, hypothetical, rare or with unconfirmed breeding status to NH Bird Records at New Hampshire Audubon, 3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301. (603 224-9909) or by e-mail to <http://ebird.org/content/nh> and David.Govatski@gmail.com

The area covered in this report includes:

- Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge
- Airport Marsh and Hazen's Pond
- Mount Washington Regional Airport grasslands and adjacent wetlands
- Route 116 on the north, Turnpike Road and Route 115A on the east, Route 115 on the south, and Airport and Hazen's Road on the west.

This list was compiled by David Govatski and Carl Bretton with contributions from Bob Quinn, Tudor Richards, Chris Martin, Dick Mallion, Sam Stoddard and Alan Delorey.

Last Update: 8 March 2012 by David Govatski

For more information about birding Pondicherry contact David Govatski at the Friends of Pondicherry. David.Govatski@Gmail.Com

Reference:

Wright, Horace W. 1911 and 1999 Update. The Birds of the Jefferson Region of the White Mountains. (Reprinted in 2000 by the Durand Press of Etna, NH).

