

Monomoy
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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<http://www.fws.gov>

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Monomoy

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Birds



Common tern
© Mark Wilson





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



Stephanie Koch/USFWS

American Oystercatcher Chicks

Birding at Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

Welcome to Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge. This bird list applies only to the Monomoy Islands, including the portion of Morris Island near refuge headquarters. A longtime favorite among birding enthusiasts, the refuge provides important resting, nesting and feeding habitat for migratory birds. The refuge is so important to migratory shorebirds that, in 1999, North and South Monomoy were designated a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) regional site. WHSRN is comprised of organizations that promote and support the conservation of shorebirds. The designation brings needed attention to the refuge's critical role.

North and South Monomoy islands are accessible by boat only. You may reach the islands by private boat, or by the seasonal commercial ferry. Portions of the islands may be closed seasonally; check ahead by contacting the refuge visitor center. There is road access to Morris Island, with limited parking available at the visitor center.

This newly revised bird list was prepared with the able assistance of refuge volunteer Blair Nikula. Species are listed in accordance with the seventh edition (1998) American Ornithologists Union checklist and the 42nd supplement to that checklist (July, 2000).

Symbols used in this list are defined as follows:

Season

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

Relative Abundance

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
x	accidental	far outside normal range

- birds that have been recorded nesting on the refuge

Italics indicate threatened/endangered species

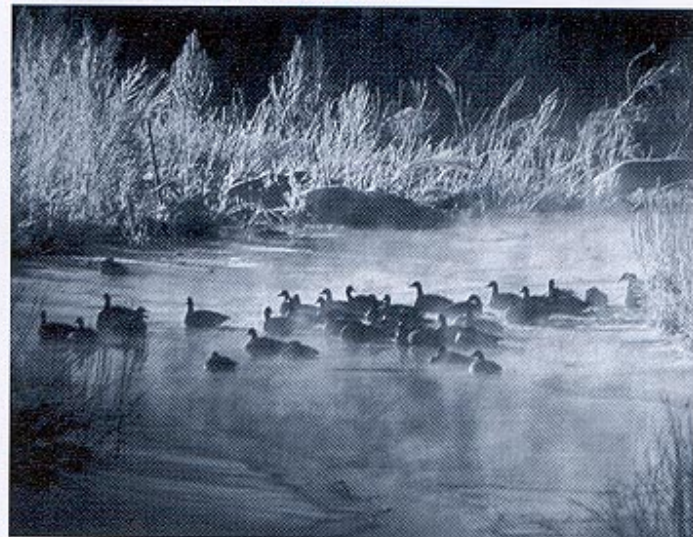
* Exotic species (introduced or escaped)

	Sp	S	F	W
Loons				
___ Red-throated Loon _____	a	r	a	c
___ Common Loon _____	a	u	a	c
Grebes				
___ • Pied-billed Grebe _____	u	r	c	
___ Horned Grebe _____	o		u	o
___ Red-necked Grebe _____	r		r	r
___ Eared Grebe _____		x	x	
Fulmars – Shearwaters				
___ Northern Fulmar _____	r		r	r
___ Cory's Shearwater _____		o	o	
___ Greater Shearwater _____		o	o	
___ Sooty Shearwater _____	o	u	r	
___ Manx Shearwater _____	r	o	r	
Storm – Petrels				
___ Wilson's Storm-Petrel _____		u		
___ Leach's Storm-Petrel _____	r	r	r	
Boobies – Gannets				
___ Northern Gannet _____	a	u	a	u
___ Brown Booby _____			x	

	Sp	S	F	W
Cormorants				
___ Great Cormorant _____	c	r	c	c
___ Double-crested Cormorant _____	a	a	a	r
Frigatebirds				
___ Magnificent Frigatebird _____		x		
Bitterns – Herons – Egrets				
___ American Bittern _____	r		o	r
___ Least Bittern _____	r	r		
___ Great Blue Heron _____	c	u	c	u
• Great Egret _____	u	u	u	
• Snowy Egret _____	c	c	c	
___ Little Blue Heron _____	o	o	o	
___ Tricolored Heron _____	r	o	r	
___ Reddish Egret _____		x		
___ Cattle Egret _____	r		r	
___ Green Heron _____	u	u	o	
• Black-crowned Night-Heron _____	c	c	c	r
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron _____		r	r	
Ibises				
• Glossy Ibis _____	o	u	o	
New World Vultures				
___ Black Vulture _____			r	
___ Turkey Vulture _____	o	o	r	
Swans – Geese – Ducks				
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck _____	x		x	
___ White-fronted Goose _____				x
___ Snow Goose _____	r		o	
• Canada Goose _____	a	c	a	a
___ Brant _____	c	r	c	c
• Mute Swan* _____	c	c	c	c
___ Tundra Swan _____			r	
___ Wood Duck _____	r		r	
• Gadwall _____	c	c	c	o
___ Eurasian Wigeon _____	r		r	r
• American Wigeon _____	c	o	c	u
• American Black Duck _____	a	c	a	a
• Mallard _____	c	c	c	c

	Sp	S	F	W
• Blue-winged Teal _____	c	u	c	
• Northern Shoveler _____	u	u	c	
• Northern Pintail _____	c	u	c	o
• Green-winged Teal _____	c	c	c	r
___ Canvasback _____	o		u	o
___ Redhead _____	r		r	r
___ Ring-necked Duck _____	o		c	o
___ Tufted Duck _____		x	x	
___ Greater Scaup _____	u		c	o
___ Lesser Scaup _____	u		c	o
___ King Eider _____	r		r	r
___ Common Eider _____	a	u	a	a
___ Harlequin Duck _____			r	r
___ Surf Scoter _____	c	r	c	c
___ White-winged Scoter _____	c	r	a	c
___ Black Scoter _____	c	r	c	c
___ Long-tailed Duck _____	c	r	a	c
___ Bufflehead _____	c		c	c
___ Common Goldeneye _____	o		c	c
___ Barrow's Goldeneye _____				r
___ Hooded Merganser _____	o		c	o
___ Common Merganser _____	o		u	o
• Red-breasted Merganser _____	a	o	a	a
• Ruddy Duck _____	o	r	c	o

American Black Ducks in Winter



Osprey – Kites – Hawks – Eagles

	Sp	S	F	W
Osprey _____	c	u	u	
Mississippi Kite _____	x			
Bald Eagle _____	o	o	o	r
• Northern Harrier _____	c	u	c	c
Sharp-shinned Hawk _____	u		c	o
Cooper's Hawk _____	u		u	o
Northern Goshawk _____	r		r	r
Red-shouldered Hawk _____	r		r	
Broad-winged Hawk _____	r	r	r	
Swainson's Hawk _____			x	
Red-tailed Hawk _____	c	c	c	c
Rough-legged Hawk _____			r	r

Falcons

American Kestrel _____	u		u	
Merlin _____	o		u	o
Gyr Falcon _____			r	r
Peregrine Falcon _____	u		c	o

Gallinaceous Birds

Ring-necked Pheasant _____	r		r	r
Northern Bobwhite _____	r		r	r

Rails

Clapper Rail _____			r	
King Rail _____			r	
• Virginia Rail _____	r	r	o	
• Sora _____	o	r	o	
Purple Gallinule _____			x	
Common Moorhen _____	r		r	
American Coot _____	o		c	o

Cranes

Sandhill Crane _____			x	
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Plovers

Black-bellied Plover _____	a	c	a	o
American Golden Plover _____	r	r	u	
Wilson's Plover _____	x	x		
Semipalmated Plover _____	u	a	c	
• Piping Plover _____	u	u	u	
Killdeer _____	u		u	



USFWS

American Oystercatcher

Oystercatchers

• American Oystercatcher _____	c	c	c	
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Stilts – Avocets

Black-necked Stilt _____		x		
American Avocet _____		x	x	

Sandpipers – Phalaropes

Greater Yellowlegs _____	c	a	c	
Lesser Yellowlegs _____	r	c	c	
Solitary Sandpiper _____	r	r	r	
• Willet _____	c	c	u	
Wandering Tattler _____	x			
• Spotted Sandpiper _____	o	o	r	
Upland Sandpiper _____	r	o		
Whimbrel _____	r	c	c	
Eurasian Curlew _____				x
Long-billed Curlew _____		x		
Black-tailed Godwit _____		x		
Hudsonian Godwit _____		c	o	
Bar-tailed Godwit _____	x	x		
Marbled Godwit _____		o	u	
Ruddy Turnstone _____	c	o	c	
Red Knot _____	c	c	c	r
Sanderling _____	a	a	a	u
Semipalmated Sandpiper _____	a	a	c	
Western Sandpiper _____		o	u	
Red-necked Stint _____	x	x		
Little Stint _____		x		
• Least Sandpiper _____	c	a	c	
White-rumped Sandpiper _____	u	u	u	
Baird's Sandpiper _____				r

Sp S F W



Blair Nikula

Least Sandpiper

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Pectoral Sandpiper _____	r	o	c	
___ Purple Sandpiper _____			r	
___ Dunlin _____	a	u	a	u
___ Curlew Sandpiper _____	r	r		
___ Stilt Sandpiper _____		u	o	
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper _____			r	
___ Ruff _____	r	r		
___ Short-billed Dowitcher _____	c	a	c	
___ Long-billed Dowitcher _____		o	o	
___ Common Snipe _____	r		o	
___ American Woodcock _____	r		r	
___ • Wilson's Phalarope _____	r	o	r	
___ Red-necked Phalarope _____	r	r	r	
___ Red Phalarope _____	r		r	
Jaegers – Gulls – Terns				
___ Pomarine Jaeger _____	r	r	o	
___ Parasitic Jaeger _____	o	o	u	
___ Long-tailed Jaeger _____			r	
___ • Laughing Gull _____	c	a	c	
___ Franklin's Gull _____			r	
___ Little Gull _____	r	r	r	
___ • Black-headed Gull _____	r	r	r	
___ Bonaparte's Gull _____	u	o	c	o
___ Mew Gull _____			x	
___ Ring-billed Gull _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Herring Gull _____	a	a	a	a
___ Iceland Gull _____	r		r	o
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull _____	r	r	u	o
___ Glaucous Gull _____	r		r	r
___ • Great Black-backed Gull _____	a	a	a	a
___ Sabine's Gull _____	r	r	r	

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Black-legged Kittiwake _____	u	o	c	c
___ Ivory Gull _____				x
___ Gull-billed Tern _____		r		
___ Caspian Tern _____	r	r	r	
___ Royal Tern _____		o		
___ Sandwich Tern _____		r		
___ • Roseate Tern _____	u	c	c	
___ • Common Tern _____	a	a	c	
___ • Arctic Tern _____	o	o		
___ Forster's Tern _____		u	u	
___ • Least Tern _____	c	c		
___ Bridled Tern _____			x	x
___ Sooty Tern _____		x	x	
___ Black Tern _____	o	u	u	
___ • Black Skimmer _____	o	u	o	

Auks – Puffins

___ Dovekie _____			r	o
___ Common Murre _____				r
___ Thick-billed Murre _____				r
___ Razorbill _____	r		o	u
___ Black Guillemot _____				r
___ Atlantic Puffin _____			r	r

Doves

___ Rock Dove* _____	o	o	o	o
___ • Mourning Dove _____	c	c	c	c

Cuckoos

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

Barn Owls

___ Barn Owl _____	r		r	
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Typical Owls

___ Eastern Screech-Owl _____			r	r
___ • Great Horned Owl _____	u	u	u	u
___ Snowy Owl _____				r
___ Burrowing Owl _____		x		
___ Long-eared Owl _____			r	
___ • Short-eared Owl _____	r	r	o	r
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl _____			r	

	Sp	S	F	W
Nightjars				
___ Common Nighthawk _____	r		r	
___ Whip-poor-will _____	r		r	
Swifts				
___ Chimney Swift _____	o	o	o	
Hummingbirds				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird _____	r		u	
Kingfishers				
___ • Belted Kingfisher _____	u	u	u	r
Woodpeckers				
___ Red-headed Woodpecker _____			r	
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker _____	r		r	r
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker _____	r		o	
___ • Downy Woodpecker _____	u	u	u	u
___ Hairy Woodpecker _____	o		o	o
___ • Northern Flicker _____	c	u	c	u
Tyrant Flycatchers				
___ Olive-striped Flycatcher _____	r		r	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee _____	o	o	u	
___ Western Wood-Pewee _____			x	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher _____	r		r	
___ Acadian Flycatcher _____	r		r	
___ Alder Flycatcher _____	r		r	
___ Willow Flycatcher _____	o		o	
___ Least Flycatcher _____	o		o	
___ Eastern Phoebe _____	r		o	
___ Say's Phoebe _____			x	
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher _____			x	
___ Great Crested Flycatcher _____	o	u	r	
___ Cassin's Kingbird _____			x	
___ Western Kingbird _____		r	r	
___ • Eastern Kingbird _____	u	u	u	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher _____			x	
Shrikes				
___ Loggerhead Shrike _____			r	
___ Northern Shrike _____	r		r	r

	Sp	S	F	W
Vireos				
___ White-eyed Vireo _____			r	
___ Yellow-throated Vireo _____			r	
___ Blue-headed Vireo _____	r		u	
___ Warbling Vireo _____	r		r	
___ Philadelphia Vireo _____			o	
___ Red-eyed Vireo _____	o		u	

	Sp	S	F	W
Crows – Jays				
___ Blue Jay _____	c	c	c	u
___ • American Crow _____	c	c	c	c
___ Fish Crow _____	r	r		

	Sp	S	F	W
Larks				
___ • Horned Lark _____	c	c	c	u

	Sp	S	F	W
Swallows				
___ Purple Martin _____	r	r		
___ Brown-chested Martin _____		x		
___ • Tree Swallow _____	c	c	a	
___ • Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____	u	u		
___ Bank Swallow _____	o	o		
___ Cliff Swallow _____	r	r	r	
___ • Barn Swallow _____	c	u	o	

	Sp	S	F	W
Titmice – Chickadees				
___ • Black-capped Chickadee _____	c	c	c	c
___ • Tufted Titmouse _____	c	c	c	c

	Sp	S	F	W
Nuthatches				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch _____	u		u	u
___ White-breasted Nuthatch _____	u	u	u	u

Semipalmated Plovers





Bruce Flaig

Piping Plover

Creepers

___ Brown Creeper _____

Wrens

___ Carolina Wren _____

___ House Wren _____

___ Winter Wren _____

___ Sedge Wren _____

___ Marsh Wren _____

Kinglets

___ Golden-crowned Kinglet _____

___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet _____

Old World Warblers

___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher _____

Thrushes

___ Northern Wheatear _____

___ Eastern Bluebird _____

___ Veery _____

___ Gray-cheeked Thrush _____

___ Bicknell's Thrush _____

___ Swainson's Thrush _____

___ Hermit Thrush _____

___ Wood Thrush _____

___ • American Robin _____

Mimic Thrushes

___ • Gray Catbird _____

___ • Northern Mockingbird _____

___ • Brown Thrasher _____

Starlings

___ • European Starling* _____

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Pipits

___ American Pipit _____

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Waxwings

___ Cedar Waxwing _____

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Wood Warblers

___ Blue-winged Warbler _____

o

___ Golden-winged Warbler _____

r r

___ Tennessee Warbler _____

r o

___ Orange-crowned Warbler _____

o

___ Nashville Warbler _____

r o

___ Northern Parula _____

o o

___ • Yellow Warbler _____

c c o

___ Chestnut-sided Warbler _____

r o

___ Magnolia Warbler _____

o o

___ Cape May Warbler _____

r o

___ Black-throated Blue Warbler _____

r o

___ Yellow-rumped Warbler _____

c a o

___ Black-throated Green Warbler _____

o o

___ Blackburnian Warbler _____

r o

___ Yellow-throated Warbler _____

r

___ • Pine Warbler _____

u o o

___ Prairie Warbler _____

r o

___ Palm Warbler _____

o c

___ Bay-breasted Warbler _____

r o

___ Blackpoll Warbler _____

o u

___ Cerulean Warbler _____

r

___ Black-and-white Warbler _____

u u

___ American Redstart _____

o u

___ Prothonotary Warbler _____

r r

___ Worm-eating Warbler _____

r

___ Ovenbird _____

r o

___ Northern Waterthrush _____

o u

___ Kentucky Warbler _____

r

___ Connecticut Warbler _____

r

___ Mourning Warbler _____

r r

___ • Common Yellowthroat _____

c c c

___ Hooded Warbler _____

r

___ Wilson's Warbler _____

r o

___ Canada Warbler _____

r o

___ Yellow-breasted Chat _____

o

	Sp	S	F	W
Tanagers				
___ Summer Tanager _____	r		r	
___ Scarlet Tanager _____	r		o	
Sparrows – Towhees				
___ • Eastern Towhee _____	u	r	u	
___ American Tree Sparrow _____			o	o
___ • Chipping Sparrow _____	u	u	u	
___ Clay-colored Sparrow _____			r	
___ Field Sparrow _____	r		o	
___ Vesper Sparrow _____			r	
___ Lark Sparrow _____		r	r	
___ Lark Bunting _____			r	
___ • Savannah Sparrow _____	c	c	c	c
___ Grasshopper Sparrow _____			r	
___ Henslow's Sparrow _____			r	
___ LeConte's Sparrow _____			x	
___ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow _____			r	
___ • Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow _____	c	c	o	
___ • Seaside Sparrow _____		r	r	
___ Fox Sparrow _____			o	
___ • Song Sparrow _____	c	c	c	c
___ Lincoln's Sparrow _____			o	
___ Swamp Sparrow _____	r		u	
___ White-throated Sparrow _____	u		c	
___ White-crowned Sparrow _____	r		u	
___ Dark-eyed Junco _____	u		c	o
___ Lapland Longspur _____	u		u	o
___ Snow Bunting _____	o		c	c
Cardinals – Grosbeaks				
___ • Northern Cardinal _____	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak _____	o		u	
___ Blue Grosbeak _____	r		r	
___ Indigo Bunting _____	o		u	
___ Painted Bunting _____	x		x	
___ Dickcissel _____			r	

Blackbirds – Orioles

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Bobolink _____	o		c	
___ • Red-winged Blackbird _____	c	c	c	
___ Eastern Meadowlark _____	r		o	
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird _____		r	r	
___ Rusty Blackbird _____			u	
___ • Common Grackle _____	c	c	c	
___ Brown-headed Cowbird _____	u	u	u	
___ Orchard Oriole _____	r	r		
___ Baltimore Oriole _____	u	u	c	

Finches

	Sp	S	F	W
___ Pine Grosbeak _____				r
___ Purple Finch _____	o		o	r
___ • House Finch* _____	c	c	c	c
___ Red Crossbill _____	r		r	r
___ White-winged Crossbill _____	r		r	r
___ Common Redpoll _____				r
___ Pine Siskin _____	r		o	r
___ • American Goldfinch _____	c	c	c	c
___ Evening Grosbeak _____	r		r	r

Old World Sparrows

	Sp	S	F	W
___ • House Sparrow* _____	c	c	c	c

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Yellowlegs

