

Southwest Louisiana

National Wildlife Refuge Complex Bird List

Cameron Prairie, Lacassine and Sabine



Roseate Spoonbill by Ryan Hager

The Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex consists of Cameron Prairie, Lacassine and Sabine National Wildlife Refuges. Together these refuges total over 184,000 acres and are located in the extreme southwestern portion of Louisiana in Cameron Parish.

The Complex also manages a private, state and federal venture known as the Cameron Creole Watershed Project consisting of an additional 49,000 acres. The diversity of habitat enhances the value of these southwest Louisiana coastal refuges to a great variety of migratory birds utilizing the Central and Mississippi Flyways.

The Refuge Complex consists of a diversity of habitats including fresh and saltwater marshes, coastal prairie, bottomland hardwoods, numerous ridges and levees, wooded islands, tidal bayous and canals, ponds, and lakes. Additionally, some areas are managed for moist soil plants and agricultural crops to provide desirable waterfowl foods.

This list of birds recorded on the Complex includes 313 species, of which 22 are incidentals, very rarely seen on the Complex with only one or two sightings. This checklist has been designed to be informative and simple to use. The list is arranged in the order established by the American Ornithological Union.

Symbols which appear in this checklist represent the following:

Seasonal Appearance

SP: Spring March-May

S: Summer June-August

F: Fall September-November

W: Winter December-February

Seasonal Abundance

a - abundant

(a common species which is very numerous)

c - common

(certain to be seen in suitable habitat)

u - uncommon

(present but not certain to be seen)

o - occasional

(seen only a few times within a season)

r - rare

(seen at intervals of two to five years)

* - nests within the Refuge Complex



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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service / Chart of the Seasonal Occurrences of Birds on the Red River NWR

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>		<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Loons					___ Canvasback	r		o	o
___ Common Loon	o		o	o	___ Redhead	r		o	o
Grebes					___ Greater Scaup	u		u	u
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	c	u	c	c	___ Ring-necked Duck	c		c	c
___ Eared Grebe	r		r	r	___ Common Goldeneye	r	r	r	r
___ Horned Grebe	r		r	r	___ Bufflehead	u		u	u
Pelicans					___ Ruddy Duck	u		o	r
___ American White Pelican	c	o	c	c	___ Hooded Merganser	o		o	o
___ Brown Pelican	o	o	o	o	___ Red-breasted Merganser	o		o	u
					___ Common Merganser	r			r
Frigatebird					Eagles, Falcons, Hawks, and Vultures				
___ Magnificent Frigatebird		r	r		___ Black Vulture	o	o	o	o
Anhingas and Cormorants					___ Turkey Vulture*	o	o	o	o
___ Anhinga*	u	u	u	o	___ Osprey	o	r	o	o
___ Double-crested Cormorant	o	c	c		___ White-tailed Kite	o	r	o	o
___ Neotropic Cormorant*	a	a	a	a	___ Mississippi Kite	r	r	r	
Wading Birds-Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets					___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	o		u	o
___ American Bittern*	u	r	u	u	___ Cooper's Hawk	o	r	u	o
___ Least Bittern*	c	c	c	r	___ Northern Harrier	u		c	c
___ Great Blue Heron*	c	c	c	c	___ Red-shouldered Hawk*	o	o	u	u
___ Great Egret*	c	c	c	c	___ Broad-winged Hawk	o	r	u	
___ Snowy Egret*	c	c	c	c	___ Red-tailed Hawk	c	o	c	c
___ Reddish Egret	r	r	r	r	___ Golden Eagle	o		o	o
___ Little Blue Heron*	c	c	c	u	___ Bald Eagle	r		r	r
___ Tricolored Heron*	c	c	c	c	___ Crested Caracara	r	r	r	r
___ Cattle Egret*	a	a	a	a	___ American Kestrel	u		u	u
___ Green Heron*	a	a	c	o	___ Merlin	o		o	o
___ Black-crowned Night Heron	c	c	c	u	___ Peregrine Falcon	o		o	o
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron	c	c	o	r	Upland Game Birds				
___ Glossy Ibis*	o	o	o	o	___ Northern Bobwhite*	o	o	o	o
___ White-faced Ibis*	a	a	c	c	Rails, Gallinules, Coots, Cranes				
___ White Ibis*	a	a	c	c	___ Clapper Rail*	c	c	c	c
___ Roseate Spoonbill*	c	c	u	u	___ King Rail*	c	c	c	c
___ Wood Stork		o	o		___ Virginia Rail	o		o	o
Geese					___ Sora	c		u	c
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	c	r	a	a	___ Yellow Rail	o		o	o
___ Ross' Goose	r		o	o	___ Black Rail	r		r	r
___ Snow Goose	a	r	a	a	___ Common Moorhen*	a	a	a	a
___ Canada Goose	o	o	o	o	___ Purple Gallinule*	c	c	u	r
Ducks and Mergansers					___ American Coot*	a	r	a	a
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck*	c	u	c	o	___ Sandhill Crane	r		r	o
___ Black-bellied Whistling Duck*	u	u	o	r	Shorebirds				
___ Wood Duck*	u	u	u	u	___ Black-bellied Plover	c		c	c
___ Mallard	c	r	a	a	___ American Golden-Plover	o		r	
___ American Black Duck	r		r	r	___ Killdeer*	c	c	c	c
___ Mottled Duck*	c	c	c	c	___ Semipalmated Plover	c	o	c	c
___ Gadwall	c		c	c	___ Wilson's Plover	r	r	r	r
___ Northern Pintail	c	r	a	a	___ Black-necked Stilt*	c	c	c	u
___ American Wigeon	c		c	c	___ American Avocet	u	r	u	u
___ Northern Shoveler	a	o	a	a	___ Greater Yellowlegs	c	o	c	c
___ Blue-winged Teal*	c	r	a	a	___ Lesser Yellowlegs	c	o	c	c
___ Cinnamon Teal	r		r	r	___ Solitary Sandpiper	u	u	u	r
___ Green-winged Teal	c		a	a	___ Spotted Sandpiper	c	o	c	u
					___ Willet	c	c	c	c

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	SP	S	F	W		SP	S	F	W
Chickadees, Nuthatches, Titmice					___ Prothonotary Warbler*	c	c	u	
___ Carolina Chickadee*	u	u	u	u	___ Worm-eating Warbler	o		o	
___ Brown Creeper	r		o	o	___ Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	c
___ Tufted Titmouse	u	u	u	u	___ Mourning Warbler	r		o	
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch		r	r		___ Kentucky Warbler	c	r	u	
					___ Northern Waterthrush	u	r	u	
					___ Louisiana Waterthrush	o	r	o	
Wrens					___ Ovenbird	c	r	o	
___ Marsh Wren*	a	c	a	a	___ Canada Warbler	o	o	u	
___ Sedge Wren	u		u	c	___ Hooded Warbler	c	u	u	
___ Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c	___ Wilson's Warbler	o		o	o
___ House Wren	u		u	u	___ Yellow-breasted Chat	u	o	u	r
___ Winter Wren		o	u						
Kinglets, Gnatcatchers, Thrushes and Allies					Tanagers, Cardinals and their Allies				
___ Goleen-crowned Kinglet	o		o	o	___ Scarlet Tanager*	u		o	
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	c	___ Summer Tanager*	c	u	c	
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	o	c	u	___ Western Tanager	r		r	
___ Eastern Bluebird	u	u	r	r	___ Dickcissel	u	o	o	
___ Swainson's Thrush	c		u		___ Blue Grosbeak	c	o	u	
___ Veery	u		o		___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	c		u	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	u		o		___ Indigo bunting	c	o	u	
___ Hermit Thrush	u		u	u	___ Painted Bunting	u	u	u	r
___ Wood Thrush	u		u	r	___ Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
___ American Robin	u		u	u					
Thrashers, Pipits, Waxwings, and Starlings					Sparrows and their Allies				
___ Gray Catbird*	u	r	u	u	___ Eastern Towhee	o	o	o	o
___ Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c	___ Chipping Sparrow	o		o	o
___ Brown Thrasher*	u	u	u	u	___ Field Sparrow	o		u	u
___ American Pipit	u		u	u	___ Vesper Sparrow	r		o	o
___ Sprague's Pipit	r		r	r	___ Lark Sparrow	o	r	o	o
___ Cedar Waxwing	u		u	u	___ Le Conte's Sparrow	o		u	u
___ European Starling*	c	c	c	a	___ Sharp-tailed Sparrow	u		u	u
					___ Seaside Sparrow*	c	c	c	c
					___ Savannah Sparrow	a		a	a
					___ Song Sparrow	u		c	c
Wood Warbler					___ Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Tennessee Warbler	c		c		___ Swamp Sparrow	c		c	c
___ Nashville Warbler	o		u		___ Fox Sparrow		o	o	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	u		u	c	___ White-crowned Sparrow	o		o	o
___ Blue-winged Warbler	o		o		___ White-throated Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Golden-winged Warbler	r		r		___ Dark-eyed Junco		o	o	
___ Northern Parula*	u	u	u	r	___ Lapland Longspur			r	
___ Yellow Warbler	u	r	u						
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		u		Blackbirds and their Allies				
___ Magnolia Warbler	u		u		___ Baltimore Oriole	u	o	u	
___ Cape May Warbler	r		r		___ Orchard Oriole*	c	c	u	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	u		r		___ Eastern Meadowlark*	a	a	a	a
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	r		r		___ Western Meadowlark		r	r	
___ Cerulean Warbler	u		r		___ Bobolink	u		r	
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	u		u		___ Red-winged Blackbird*	a	a	a	a
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	a	___ Yellow-headed Blackbird		r	r	
___ Palm Warbler	u		u	u	___ Rusty Blackbird	r		r	r
___ Pine Warbler	u		u	u	___ Brewer's Blackbird	o		o	u
___ Prairie Warbler	o		o		___ Common Grackle	o	o	o	u
___ Blackpoll Warbler	u				___ Boat-tailed Grackle*	a	a	a	a
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	c		u		___ Great-tailed Grackle	u	u	u	u
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	u	o	o	r	___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	u	u	u	c
___ Black-and-White Warbler	c		c	r					
___ American Redstart	c		c						

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Finches and Old World Sparrows

	SP	S	F	W
___ House Sparrow*	u	u	u	u
___ American Goldfinch	o		o	c
___ House Finch	o		o	u
___ Purple Finch		r	r	

These additional 22 species are considered accidental, very rarely seen on the Complex with only one or two sightings.

Brant	Black swan
Oldsquaw	Masked duck
White-winged scoter	Masked Booby
Northern Gannet	Bell's Vireo
Brown Crested Flycatcher	Rough-legged Hawk
Swallow-tailed Kite	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Swainson's Warbler	Black Francolin
American Tree Sparrow	Sooty Tern
Brown Noddy	Pine Siskin
Whooping Crane	Western Grebe
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Lesser Nighthawk

Ethics for Birdwatching

Observe birds without disturbing them. Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds. Electronic call devices should be used sparingly even when they are permitted.

Keep an appropriate distance from nests and nesting colonies so as not to disturb the birds or expose them to danger.

Disturb wintering wildlife as little as possible, particularly during critical feeding and resting periods. They need all of their energy reserves to withstand the stresses of harsh weather and migration.

Leave habitats as they are found. Many birds die when they become entangled in fish lines, crab strings, six-pack rings, and other trash, or when they mistake garbage for food.

Acknowledgements

This Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Bird List was compiled by USFWS volunteer and birder, Sharon Wallace. Sharon worked with refuge staffs and area ornithologists to develop one comprehensive bird list for the refuge complex. Species names and seasonal abundance codes were updated throughout the process.

To report unusual sightings, or for further information, contact:

Visitor Services Manager
 SW Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Headquarters
 Cameron Prairie NWR, 1428 Highway 27, Bell City, LA 70630
 337/598 2216



Sighting Notes

Date

Time

Weather

Number of species

Route or area

Observers

Remarks