

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Santee

National Wildlife Refuge Bird List



photo: Larry Price

*Santee
National
Wildlife
Refuge*



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

How to use your checklist

The bird checklist was designed to be informative and simple to use. Taxonomy and arrangement follow: The American Ornithological Society. 2019. Sixtieth supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Checklist of North American Birds. The Auk 136:uk042. Symbols that 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)

Abundance Designation

a – abundant: This species is present in large numbers and widespread across the area.

c - common: These birds are present should be seen if you look in the right habitat.

- u - uncommon: These are present, but because of their low numbers, behavior, habitat, or distribution, they are not usually seen. However, an average bird watcher should be able to find them by looking in the right places at the right time.
- o - occasional: These birds are present in low numbers and are not expected to be seen without a special effort to find them. At least a few are seen each year.
- r - rare: These birds are not expected to be seen every year. They occur in low numbers, may also be secretive or hard to identify, and may be unreported for several years.
- * - breeds on the refuge

This checklist is based on records and observations by refuge personnel, state biologists, and visiting birders as well as information gleaned from numerous publications. Since we try to keep our list up to date, it is important that persons who see a bird not listed, report this sighting to the refuge manager at Santee National Wildlife Refuge, 2125 Fort Watson Road, Summerton, SC 29148 Telephone: (803) 478-2217.

Santee National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1941 to alleviate the loss of natural waterfowl and wildlife habitat caused by the construction of hydroelectric projects on the Santee and Cooper Rivers. Stretching for eighteen miles along the northern

shore of Lake Marion, the refuge encompasses just over 13,000 acres of mixed hardwoods, pine hardwoods, pine plantations, marsh, croplands, old fields, ponds, impoundments and open waters. This diversity of habitats supports a myriad of wildlife species including nearly 300 bird species recorded on the refuge.

Excellent birding opportunities exist on all four units of the refuge. A walk along the one-mile Wrights Bluff Nature Trail affords visitors the chance to observe songbirds, wading birds, and several species of waterfowl. Dingle Pond is home to a Carolina Bay and provides unique habitat for several wetland species including a great diversity of songbirds, wading birds, and waterfowl. Visitors may utilize a one-mile trail with an observation tower and boardwalk to get a closer look at wildlife.

The Pine Island and Cuddo Units provide the greatest diversity of habitats of the four units. Visitor access on Pine Island is limited to foot and bicycle traffic only. A 7-1/2 mile wildlife drive on the Cuddo Unit provides numerous wildlife observation opportunities with access to miles of hiking and bicycling trails.

An automatic gate on the Cuddo Unit controls hours of access to minimize disturbance to wildlife during critical periods. Current visitor use hours are posted at the entrance gate or may be obtained by contacting the refuge office. Visitor access on portions of the refuge is limited seasonally as a migratory bird sanctuary; please abide by all closure signs on the refuge.



	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Waterfowl				
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	--	--	--	O
___ Snow Goose	--	--	O	U
___ Ross's Goose	--	--	--	R
___ Canada Goose*	C	C	C	C
___ Tundra Swan	--	--	R	U
___ Wood Duck*	A	A	A	A
___ Gadwall	--	--	--	C
___ American Wigeon	--	--	--	C
___ American Black Duck	R	--	--	U
___ Mallard*	O	O	U	A
___ Mottled Duck	--	--	R	O
___ Blue-winged Teal	O	--	C	O
___ Northern Shoveler	R	--	--	C
___ Northern Pintail	--	--	--	O
___ Green-winged Teal	R	--	--	A
___ Canvasback	--	--	--	U
___ Redhead	--	--	--	U
___ Ring-necked Duck	R	--	--	C
___ Greater Scaup	--	--	--	R
___ Lesser Scaup	--	--	--	O
___ Surf Scoter	--	--	--	R
___ White-winged Scoter	--	--	--	R
___ Bufflehead	--	--	--	C
___ Common Goldeneye	--	--	--	R
___ Hooded Merganser	--	--	U	C
___ Red-breasted Merganser	--	--	O	O
___ Ruddy Duck	--	--	--	O
New World Quail				
___ Northern Bobwhite*	U	U	U	U
Turkey				
___ Wild Turkey*	U	U	U	U
Loons				
___ Common Loon	--	--	--	U
___ Red-throated Loon	--	--	--	R
Grebes				
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	U	O	C	A
___ Horned Grebe	R	--	--	U
Storks				
___ Wood Stork	U	U	O	--
Cormorants & Darter				
___ Double-crested Cormorant	C	R	C	A
___ Anhinga*	C	A	C	U
Bitterns, Herons, Egrets & Ibis				
___ American Bittern	R	--	--	U
___ Least Bittern*	U	U	U	--
___ Great Blue Heron*	C	C	A	C

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Great Egret*	C	C	A	C
___ Snowy Egret*	O	U	U	R
___ Little Blue Heron*	U	C	U	R
___ Tricolored Heron	O	U	U	R
___ Cattle Egret*	A	A	A	R
___ Green Heron*	A	A	A	R
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron	R	R	R	R
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	C	C	C	--
___ White Ibis*	C	C	C	R
___ Glossy Ibis	--	O	O	--
___ Roseate Spoonbill	--	--	R	--
Hawks Kites, Eagles & Allies				
___ Black Vulture	U	U	U	U
___ Turkey Vulture*	C	C	C	C
___ Osprey*	C	C	C	U
___ Mississippi Kite	O	O	--	--
___ Bald Eagle*	C	O	U	C
___ Northern Harrier	O	--	O	C
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	O	--	O	U
___ Cooper's Hawk	R	R	R	U
___ Red-shouldered Hawk*	C	C	C	C
___ Broad-winged Hawk	O	--	O	--
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	C	C	C	C
Falcons				
___ American Kestrel	R	--	O	C
___ Merlin	R	--	--	--
___ Peregrine Falcon	R	--	R	R
Rails & Allies				
___ Yellow Rail	R	--	--	R
___ Black Rail	R	--	--	R
___ King Rail*	O	O	O	--
___ Virginia Rail	R	--	--	O
___ Sora	R	--	--	--
___ Purple Gallinule*	U	U	--	--
___ Common Gallinule*	A	A	A	C
___ American Coot*	U	O	O	A
Cranes				
___ Sandhill Crane	--	--	O	U
Plovers				
___ Black-bellied Plover	R	--	R	--
___ Semipalmated Plover	U	--	U	--
___ Killdeer*	C	C	C	C
Avocets				
___ American Avocet	--	--	R	--
Sandpipers				
___ Spotted Sandpiper	O	--	O	R
___ Solitary Sandpiper	O	--	O	--

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Greater Yellowlegs	O	--	O	O
___ Willet	O	--	O	--
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	R	--	R	R
___ Sandpiper	O	--	O	--
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	R	--	R	--
___ Western Sandpiper	R	--	--	--
___ Least Sandpiper	U	--	U	R
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	R	--	R	--
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	O	--	U	--
___ Dunlin	R	R	--	--
___ Stilt Sandpiper	R	--	R	--
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	U	--	U	--
___ Wilson's Snipe	O	--	R	C
___ American Woodcock	O	O	O	U

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers

___ Bonaparte's Gull	R	--	--	--
___ Laughing Gull	O	O	U	R
___ Ring-billed Gull	C	R	C	C
___ Herring Gull	U	R	U	U
___ Least Tern	O	R	O	--
___ Caspian Tern	O	--	O	R
___ Black Tern	R	--	R	--
___ Forster's Tern	R	--	O	U
___ Royal Tern	--	R	R	--

Pelicans

___ American White Pelican	--	--	--	U
___ Brown Pelican	R	--	R	--

Pigeons & Doves

___ Rock Pigeon*	C	C	C	C
___ Mourning Dove*	A	A	A	A
___ Common Ground Dove	O	O	O	--
___ Eurasian Collard-Dove	R	--	R	--

Cuckoos

___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	U	U	U	--
___ Black-billed Cuckoo	--	--	R	--

Owls

___ Barn Owl*	O	O	O	O
___ Eastern Screech-Owl*	C	C	C	C
___ Great Horned Owl*	C	C	C	C
___ Barred Owl*	C	C	C	C
___ Short-eared Owl	--	--	--	R

Nightjars & Swifts

___ Common Nighthawk*	U	U	U	--
___ Chuck-will's Widow*	C	C	U	--
___ Eastern Whip-poor-will*	C	C	C	--
___ Chimney Swift*	C	C	C	--

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Hummingbirds				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	C	U	C	--
Kingfishers				
___ Belted Kingfisher*	U	U	U	C
Woodpeckers				
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O	R	C	C
___ Downy Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C
___ Hairy Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U
___ Northern Flicker*	C	U	C	A
___ Pileated Woodpecker*	C	C	C	C

Flycatchers

___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	C	C	C	--
___ Acadian Flycatcher*	C	C	C	--
___ Willow Flycatcher	R	--	R	--
___ Least Flycatcher	--	--	R	--
___ Eastern Phoebe	O	--	O	C
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	C	C	C	--
___ Eastern Kingbird*	C	C	C	--

Shrikes

___ Loggerhead Shrike*	U	U	U	U
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Vireos

___ White-eyed Vireo*	C	C	C	O
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*	C	C	C	--
___ Blue-headed Vireo	O	--	O	C
___ Warbling Vireo*	R	R	R	--
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	C	C	C	--
___ Philadelphia Vireo	--	--	R	--

Jays & Crows

___ Blue Jay*	C	C	C	C
___ American Crow*	A	A	A	A
___ Fish Crow*	A	A	C	R

Larks

___ Horned Lark	O	--	O	O
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Swallows

___ Purple Martin*	C	C	U	--
___ Tree Swallow*	A	--	C	U
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	U	U	U	--
___ Bank Swallow	O	--	O	--
___ Cliff Swallow	U	O	O	--
___ Barn Swallow*	A	A	A	--

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Titmice & Chickadees				
___ Carolina Chickadee*	C	C	C	C
___ Tufted Titmouse*	C	C	C	C
Nuthatches				
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	--	--	--	R
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	U	U	U	U
___ Brown-headed Nuthatch*	C	C	C	C
Creepers				
___ Brown Creeper	--	--	--	U
Wrens				
___ Carolina Wren*	C	C	C	C
___ House Wren	U	--	U	U
___ Winter Wren	--	--	--	U
___ Sedge Wren	O	--	U	--
___ Marsh Wren*	U	U	U	U
Gnatcatchers & Kinglets				
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	C	C	C	U
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	--	--	O	U
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U	--	O	A
Thrushes				
___ Eastern Bluebird*	C	C	C	C
___ Veery	U	--	U	--
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	R	--	R	--
___ Bicknell's Thrush	R	--	R	--
___ Swainson's Thrush	U	--	U	--
___ Hermit Thrush	U	--	O	C
___ Wood Thrush*	C	C	C	--
___ American Robin	U	U	C	C
Mockingbirds & Thrashers				
___ Gray Catbird*	U	O	U	U
___ Northern Mockingbird*	C	C	C	C
___ Brown Thrasher*	C	C	C	C
Starlings				
___ European Starling*	C	C	C	C
Pipits				
___ American Pipit	R	--	O	U
Waxwings				
___ Cedar Waxwing	O	--	R	C
Warblers				
___ Blue-winged Warbler	R	--	R	--
___ Golden-winged Warbler	R	--	R	--
___ Tennessee Warbler	O	--	U	--
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	O	--	R	U
___ Nashville Warbler	R	--	R	--

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Northern Parula*	C	C	C	--
___ Yellow Warbler	C	--	C	--
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	O	--	U	--
___ Magnolia Warbler	O	--	U	--
___ Cape May Warbler	O	--	U	--
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	O	--	U	--
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	O	--	O	A
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	O	--	U	--
___ Blackburnian Warbler	O	--	U	--
___ Yellow-throated Warbler*	C	C	C	O
___ Pine Warbler*	C	C	C	C
___ Prairie Warbler*	C	U	U	R
___ Palm Warbler	O	--	O	U
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	O	--	U	--
___ Blackpoll Warbler	U	--	R	--
___ Cerulean Warbler	R	--	R	--
___ Black-and-white Warbler	U	O	U	U
___ American Redstart	U	R	C	--
___ Prothonotary Warbler*	C	C	C	--
___ Worm-eating Warbler	U	--	U	--
___ Swainson's Warbler*	U	U	O	--
___ Ovenbird	U	--	U	--
___ Northern Waterthrush	U	--	U	--
___ Louisiana Waterthrush*	U	R	U	--
___ Kentucky Warbler*	U	U	U	--
___ Connecticut Warbler	--	--	R	--
___ Mourning Warbler	R	--	R	--
___ Common Yellowthroat*	C	C	C	C
___ Hooded Warbler*	C	C	C	--
___ Wilson's Warbler	O	--	O	R
___ Canada Warbler	U	--	U	--
___ Yellow-breasted Chat*	C	C	U	--
Sparrows				
___ Eastern Towhee*	C	C	C	C
___ Bachman's Sparrow*	R	R	R	--
___ Chipping Sparrow*	C	U	C	C
___ Field Sparrow*	C	U	C	C
___ Vesper Sparrow	--	--	--	O
___ Savannah Sparrow	U	--	U	C
___ Grasshopper Sparrow	--	--	--	U
___ Henslow's Sparrow	U	--	--	O
___ LeConte's Sparrow	U	--	--	U
___ Fox Sparrow	--	--	O	O
___ Song Sparrow	O	--	O	C
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	--	--	--	R
___ Swamp Sparrow	O	--	O	C
___ White-throated Sparrow	O	--	O	C
___ White-crowned Sparrow	--	--	--	R
___ Dark-eyed Junco	O	--	R	C

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Cardinals & Allies				
___ Summer Tanager*	C	C	C	--
___ Scarlet Tanager	O	--	O	--
___ Northern Cardinal*	A	A	A	A
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	--	U	--
___ Blue Grosbeak*	C	C	C	--
___ Indigo Bunting*	C	C	C	--
___ Painted Bunting*	U	U	U	--
___ Dickcissel*	R	R	R	--
Blackbirds				
___ Bobolink	U	--	U	--
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	C	C	C	C
___ Brewer's Blackbird	--	--	--	R
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	U	U	U	U
___ Rusty Blackbird	O	--	--	U
___ Common Grackle*	C	C	C	C
___ Boat-tailed Grackle*	O	O	O	--
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	C	C	C	A
___ Orchard Oriole*	C	C	C	--
___ Baltimore Oriole	O	--	--	O
Cardueline Finches				
___ Purple Finch	--	--	--	O
___ House Finch*	U	U	U	U
___ Pine Siskin	R	--	--	O
___ American Goldfinch	R	R	O	U
___ Evening Grosbeak	--	--	--	R
Old World Sparrows				
___ House Sparrow*	O	O	O	O

This is a list of very rare, accidentals, extirpated and extinct species known from the refuge.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck
 Black-bellied Whistling Duck
 Barnacle Goose
 Mute Swan
 Eurasian Wigeon
 American Swallow-tailed Kite
 White-tailed Kite
 Rough-legged Hawk
 Golden Eagle
 Marbled Godwit
 Red-cockaded Woodpecker
 Vermillion Flycatcher
 Gray Kingbird
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
 Bell's Vireo
 Cave Swallow
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 American Golden Plover
 Red-necked Grebe
 Lark Sparrow

Birding Ethics

We believe that all birders have an obligation to protect wildlife, the natural environment, and the rights of others. We ask that birders adhere to the following general guidelines of good birding behavior.

Birders must always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds or other wildlife. In keeping with this principle, we will:

Observe and photograph birds without knowingly disturbing them in any significant way;

Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds;

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.

Birders must always act in ways that do not harm the natural environment. In keeping with this principle, we will:

Stay on existing roads, trails and pathways whenever possible to avoid trampling;


Leave all habitat as it was found. Many birds die when they become entangled in discarded fishing lines, 6 pack rings and other trash, or when they mistake garbage for food.

Birders must always respect the rights of others. In keeping with this principle, we will:

Respect the privacy and property of others by observing "No Trespassing" signs;

Observe all laws and the rules and regulations that govern public use of birding areas;

Always behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the birding community in the eyes of the public.



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**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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photo: barred owl, USFWS