

Tennessee

National Wildlife Refuge

Bird List



Clayton Ferrell

The Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is located in west Tennessee, along beautiful Kentucky Lake. Its 50,000 acres of wetlands, woodlands and agricultural fields provide foraging, nesting and resting habitat for a myriad of birds. Established in 1945 for migratory birds, the wetlands and agricultural fields are managed for wintering waterfowl, while benefiting wading birds and shorebirds. An aggressive forest management program is underway to improve habitat for forest-dwelling migratory birds, including nesting and migrant wood warblers and thrushes.

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The refuge headquarters office is located just northeast of Paris, Tennessee off of Highway 79. The Duck River Unit, the largest of the three units, is located in Humphreys and Benton Counties at the junction of the Duck and Tennessee Rivers. The sub-headquarters of this unit is located one and one-half miles south of Hustburg, Tennessee. The Big Sandy Unit is located 12 miles north of the town of Big Sandy and is at the junction of the Big Sandy and the Tennessee Rivers. The Busseltown Unit is located in Decatur County along the western bank of the Tennessee River; the entrance to the unit being five miles northeast of Parsons, Tennessee.

How to use your checklist

The bird checklist was designed to be informative and simple to use. Symbols which appear in this checklist represent the following:

Seasonal appearance

- Sp Spring, March-May
- S Summer, June-July
- F Fall, August-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 during a season)
- r rare (seen only once or twice a year; some years not at all)
- x accidental (has been observed on refuge less than three times in a specified season)
- * known or suspected to nest on refuge

Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge
3006 Dinkins Lane, Paris, Tennessee 38242
731/642 2091 / <http://www.fws.gov/tennesseerefuge>

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

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Ethics for Birdwatching

Take care not to disturb nesting birds, exposing eggs and young to extreme temperatures and predation. 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.

Certain areas of the refuge are closed from November 15 through March 15 to minimize bird disturbance. Please observe all refuge signs.

Birdwatchers visiting the Refuge are asked to look for the following species that might occur in the area but have yet to be documented on the refuge. If positive observations are made, please notify us at the Refuge Headquarters.

- Mississippi Kite
- Northern Saw-wet Owl
- Purple Gallinule
- Fish Crow
- Whimbrel
- Connecticut Warbler
- Eurasian Collared-Dove
- Bachman's Sparrow

This bird list includes 306 species of birds and is based on observations by refuge personnel and visiting ornithologists and birders. If you should find an unlisted, rare or accidental species, please let us know at Refuge Headquarters. We appreciate your help in updating our records.



| | <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 | u | | u | c |
| _____ Red-throated Loon | o | | o | o | _____ Redhead | u | | u | u |
| _____ Pacific Loon | o | | o | o | _____ Ring-necked Duck | u | | c | c |
| _____ Common Loon | u | | c | c | _____ Greater Scaup | o | | u | u |
| | | | | | _____ Lesser Scaup | u | | u | c |
| Grebes | | | | | _____ Surf Scoter | o | | o | r |
| _____ Pied-billed Grebe | c | r | c | c | _____ White-winged Scoter | r | | r | r |
| _____ Horned Grebe | u | | c | c | _____ Black Scoter | | | r | r |
| _____ Red-necked Grebe | | | r | r | _____ Long-tailed Duck | r | | r | r |
| _____ Eared Grebe | r | | r | r | _____ Bufflehead | u | | u | c |
| _____ Western Grebe | x | | r | r | _____ Common Goldeneye | u | | u | u |
| | | | | | _____ Hooded Merganser* | u | u | c | c |
| Pelicans | | | | | _____ Common Merganser | r | | o | o |
| _____ American White Pelican | o | o | c | u | _____ Red-breasted Merganser | o | | u | u |
| | | | | | _____ Ruddy Duck | u | | c | c |
| Cormorants | | | | | | | | | |
| _____ Double-crested Cormorant* | c | c | a | a | Hawks and Allies | | | | |
| | | | | | _____ Osprey* | u | c | u | |
| Bitterns and Herons | | | | | _____ Bald Eagle* | u | u | u | c |
| _____ American Bittern | u | | u | | _____ Northern Harrier | u | x | u | c |
| _____ Least Bittern | o | o | o | | _____ Sharp-shinned Hawk | u | r | u | u |
| _____ Great Blue Heron* | a | a | a | c | _____ Cooper's Hawk* | u | o | u | u |
| _____ Great Egret* | c | c | c | o | _____ Red-shouldered Hawk* | c | c | c | c |
| _____ Snowy Egret | r | o | o | | _____ Broad-winged Hawk* | u | o | u | |
| _____ Little Blue Heron | u | u | u | | _____ Red-tailed Hawk* | c | c | c | c |
| _____ Tricolored Heron | | x | x | | _____ Rough-legged Hawk | | | | r |
| _____ Cattle Egret | o | o | o | | _____ Golden Eagle | r | | o | u |
| _____ Green Heron* | c | c | c | | _____ American Kestrel* | u | o | u | u |
| _____ Black-crowned Night Heron | u | u | u | r | _____ Merlin | r | | r | r |
| _____ Yellow-crowned Night Heron | u | u | u | | _____ Peregrine Falcon | r | | o | r |
| | | | | | Turkey and Quail | | | | |
| Ibises | | | | | _____ Wild Turkey* | u | u | u | u |
| _____ White Ibis | | r | r | | _____ Northern Bobwhite* | u | u | u | u |
| _____ Glossy Ibis | | | r | | | | | | |
| Storks | | | | | Rails, Gallinules and Coots | | | | |
| _____ Wood Stork | | x | x | | _____ Yellow Rail | | | | r |
| | | | | | _____ King Rail* | o | o | o | |
| Vultures | | | | | _____ Virginia Rail | o | | o | |
| _____ Black Vulture* | c | c | c | c | _____ Sora | u | | c | |
| _____ Turkey Vulture* | c | c | c | c | _____ Common Moorhen | r | r | r | |
| | | | | | _____ American Coot | c | r | a | c |
| Waterfowl | | | | | Cranes | | | | |
| _____ Greater White-fronted Goose | u | | u | u | _____ Sandhill Crane | | | u | o |
| _____ Snow Goose | o | x | u | u | | | | | |
| _____ Ross's Goose | o | | o | o | Shorebirds | | | | |
| _____ Cackling Goose | o | | u | u | _____ Black-bellied Plover | r | | o | |
| _____ Canada Goose* | c | c | c | c | _____ American Golden-Plover | o | | r | |
| _____ Tundra Swan | | | r | r | _____ Semipalmated Plover | u | | u | |
| _____ Wood Duck* | c | c | c | u | _____ Piping Plover | | | r | |
| _____ Gadwall | u | | a | a | _____ Killdeer* | c | c | c | c |
| _____ American Wigeon | u | | c | c | _____ Black-necked Stilt | r | x | x | |
| _____ American Black Duck | u | x | c | c | _____ American Avocet | x | x | r | |
| _____ Mallard* | c | u | a | a | _____ Greater Yellowlegs | u | c | r | |
| _____ Blue-winged Teal | c | o | c | r | _____ Lesser Yellowlegs | c | u | c | x |
| _____ Northern Shoveler | c | | c | c | _____ Solitary Sandpiper | c | o | c | |
| _____ Northern Pintail | c | x | c | c | _____ Willet | r | | r | |
| _____ Green-winged Teal | c | x | c | c | | | | | |

| | SP | S | F | W | | SP | S | F | W |
|--------------------------------|----|---|---|-----|--------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| _____ Spotted Sandpiper | c | r | c | | Swifts | | | | |
| _____ Upland Sandpiper | r | | r | | _____ Chimney Swift* | u | u | u | |
| _____ Marbled Godwit | x | | r | | Hummingbirds | | | | |
| _____ Ruddy Turnstone | x | | r | | _____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird* | c | c | c | |
| _____ Red Knot | | | r | | Kingfishers | | | | |
| _____ Sanderling | | | | o x | _____ Belted Kingfisher* | u | u | u | u |
| _____ Semipalmated Sandpiper | c | | c | | Woodpeckers | | | | |
| _____ Western Sandpiper | o | o | u | | _____ Red-headed Woodpecker* | u | u | u | u |
| _____ Least Sandpiper | c | u | c | u | _____ Red-bellied Woodpecker* | c | c | c | c |
| _____ White-rumped Sandpiper | o | | o | | _____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | u | | u | u |
| _____ Baird's Sandpiper | r | | o | | _____ Downy Woodpecker* | c | c | c | c |
| _____ Pectoral Sandpiper | c | u | c | | _____ Hairy Woodpecker* | u | u | u | u |
| _____ Dunlin | o | | u | o | _____ Northern Flicker* | c | c | c | c |
| _____ Stilt Sandpiper | o | | u | | _____ Pileated Woodpecker* | u | u | u | u |
| _____ Buff-breasted Sandpiper | | | o | | Flycatchers | | | | |
| _____ Short-billed Dowitcher | u | o | u | | _____ Olive-sided Flycatcher | o | | o | |
| _____ Long-billed Dowitcher | r | o | o | o | _____ Eastern Wood-Pewee* | c | c | c | |
| _____ Common Snipe | c | | c | u | _____ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | r | | r | |
| _____ American Woodcock* | u | o | o | o | _____ Acadian Flycatcher* | c | c | c | |
| _____ Wilson's Phalarope | o | | o | | _____ Alder Flycatcher | r | | r | |
| _____ Red-necked Phalarope | x | | r | | _____ Willow Flycatcher* | o | o | o | |
| Gulls and Terns | | | | | _____ Least Flycatcher | r | | r | |
| _____ Laughing Gull | r | | o | r | _____ Eastern Phoebe* | u | u | u | o |
| _____ Franklin's Gull | r | | o | r | _____ Great Crested Flycatcher* | c | c | c | |
| _____ Bonaparte's Gull | u | | u | c | _____ Eastern Kingbird* | c | c | c | |
| _____ Ring-billed Gull | a | r | a | a | Shrike | | | | |
| _____ Herring Gull | u | | u | c | _____ Loggerhead Shrike* | u | o | u | u |
| _____ Thayer's Gull | | | r | r | Vireos | | | | |
| _____ Lesser Black-backed Gull | | | o | o | _____ White-eyed Vireo* | c | c | c | |
| _____ Great Black-backed Gull | | | r | r | _____ Blue-headed Vireo | u | x | u | x |
| _____ Caspian Tern | c | u | c | | _____ Yellow-throated Vireo* | u | u | u | |
| _____ Common Tern | o | o | o | | _____ Philadelphia Vireo | o | | o | |
| _____ Forster's Tern | o | r | u | r | _____ Warbling Vireo* | u | u | u | |
| _____ Least Tern | r | r | r | | _____ Red-eyed Vireo* | c | c | c | |
| _____ Black Tern | u | r | c | | Jays and Crows | | | | |
| Pigeons and Doves | | | | | _____ Blue Jay* | c | c | c | c |
| _____ Rock Dove* | o | o | o | o | _____ American Crow* | c | c | c | c |
| _____ Mourning Dove* | c | c | a | c | Larks | | | | |
| Cuckoos | | | | | _____ Horned Lark* | u | u | u | u |
| _____ Black-billed Cuckoo | r | r | r | | Swallows | | | | |
| _____ Yellow-billed Cuckoo* | c | c | c | | _____ Purple Martin | c | c | u | |
| Owls | | | | | _____ Tree Swallow* | c | c | c | x |
| _____ Barn Owl | r | r | r | r | _____ Northern Rough-winged Swallow* | c | c | c | |
| _____ Eastern Screech Owl* | c | c | c | c | _____ Bank Swallow | o | r | o | |
| _____ Great Horned Owl* | u | u | u | u | _____ Cliff Swallow* | c | c | c | |
| _____ Barred Owl* | c | c | c | c | _____ Barn Swallow* | c | c | c | |
| _____ Long-eared Owl | r | | r | r | Chickadees and Titmice | | | | |
| _____ Short-eared Owl | r | | r | o | _____ Carolina Chickadee* | c | c | c | c |
| Nightjars | | | | | _____ Tufted Titmouse* | c | c | c | c |
| _____ Common Nighthawk* | u | o | u | | | | | | |
| _____ Chuck-will's-widow* | u | u | u | | | | | | |
| _____ Whip-poor-will* | u | u | u | | | | | | |

| | <i>SP</i> | <i>S</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>W</i> | | <i>SP</i> | <i>S</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>W</i> |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|--|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Nuthatches | | | | | | | | | |
| _____ Red-breasted Nuthatch | o | | o | o | _____ Pine Warbler* | u | u | u | u |
| _____ White-breasted Nuthatch* | u | c | u | u | _____ Prairie Warbler* | u | u | u | |
| Creepers | | | | | _____ Palm Warbler | u | | u | |
| _____ Brown Creeper | u | | u | u | _____ Bay-breasted Warbler | u | | u | |
| Wrens | | | | | _____ Blackpoll Warbler | c | | r | |
| _____ Carolina Wren* | c | c | c | c | _____ Cerulean Warbler | u | r | o | |
| _____ Bewick's Wren | r | r | r | r | _____ Black-and-white Warbler* | u | o | u | |
| _____ House Wren | o | r | o | r | _____ American Redstart* | u | o | u | |
| _____ Winter Wren | u | | u | u | _____ Prothonotary Warbler* | c | c | c | |
| _____ Sedge Wren | u | r | u | r | _____ Worm-eating Warbler* | u | u | u | |
| _____ Marsh Wren | o | | u | r | _____ Swainson's Warbler | r | r | r | |
| Kinglets and Gnatcatchers | | | | | _____ Ovenbird* | u | u | u | |
| _____ Golden-crowned Kinglet | u | | u | u | _____ Northern Waterthrush | u | | u | |
| _____ Ruby-crowned Kinglet | u | | u | u | _____ Louisiana Waterthrush* | u | u | u | |
| _____ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* | c | c | c | | _____ Kentucky Warbler* | u | u | u | |
| Thrushes | | | | | _____ Common Yellowthroat* | c | c | c | x |
| _____ Eastern Bluebird* | c | c | c | c | _____ Hooded Warbler* | u | o | u | |
| _____ Veery | o | | o | | _____ Wilson's Warbler | o | | o | |
| _____ Gray-cheeked Thrush | u | | u | | _____ Canada Warbler | o | | o | |
| _____ Swainson's Thrush | c | | c | | _____ Yellow-breasted Chat* | c | c | c | |
| _____ Hermit Thrush | o | | u | u | Tanagers | | | | |
| _____ Wood Thrush* | c | c | c | | _____ Summer Tanager* | c | c | c | |
| _____ American Robin* | c | c | c | c | _____ Scarlet Tanager* | c | c | c | |
| Mimic Thrashers | | | | | Towhees, Sparrows and Longspurs | | | | |
| _____ Gray Catbird* | u | u | u | | _____ Eastern Towhee* | c | c | c | c |
| _____ Northern Mockingbird* | c | c | c | c | _____ American Tree Sparrow | r | | r | r |
| _____ Brown Thrasher* | c | c | c | u | _____ Chipping Sparrow* | u | u | u | r |
| Starlings | | | | | _____ Field Sparrow* | c | c | c | c |
| _____ European Starling* | c | c | c | a | _____ Vesper Sparrow | u | | u | r |
| Pipits | | | | | _____ Lark Sparrow | r | r | | |
| _____ American Pipit | u | | u | u | _____ Savannah Sparrow | c | | c | c |
| Waxwings | | | | | _____ Grasshopper Sparrow | o | r | o | |
| _____ Cedar Waxwing* | u | o | u | u | _____ Henslow's Sparrow | | | r | |
| Warblers | | | | | _____ Le Conte's Sparrow | o | | o | u |
| _____ Blue-winged Warbler | o | r | o | | _____ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | r | | r | |
| _____ Golden-winged Warbler | o | | o | | _____ Fox Sparrow | u | | u | u |
| _____ Tennessee Warbler | c | | c | | _____ Song Sparrow | c | r | c | c |
| _____ Orange-crowned Warbler | r | | o | r | _____ Lincoln's Sparrow | u | | u | r |
| _____ Nashville Warbler | u | | u | | _____ Swamp Sparrow | c | | c | c |
| _____ Northern Parula* | u | u | u | | _____ White-throated Sparrow | c | | c | c |
| _____ Yellow Warbler* | u | o | u | | _____ White-crowned Sparrow | u | | u | u |
| _____ Chestnut-sided Warbler | u | | u | | _____ Dark-eyed Junco | c | | c | c |
| _____ Magnolia Warbler | u | | u | | _____ Lapland Longspur | | | r | o |
| _____ Cape May Warbler | u | | u | | Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies | | | | |
| _____ Black-throated Blue Warbler | r | | r | | _____ Northern Cardinal* | c | c | c | c |
| _____ Yellow-rumped Warbler | c | | c | u | _____ Rose-breasted Grosbeak | u | | u | |
| _____ Black-throated Green Warbler | c | | c | | _____ Blue Grosbeak* | u | u | u | |
| _____ Blackburnian Warbler | u | | u | | _____ Indigo Bunting* | c | c | c | |
| _____ Yellow-throated Warbler* | u | u | u | | _____ Dickcissel* | u | u | u | |
| | | | | | Blackbirds and Allies | | | | |
| | | | | | _____ Bobolink | u | | o | |
| | | | | | _____ Red-winged Blackbird* | c | c | a | a |
| | | | | | _____ Eastern Meadowlark* | u | u | u | u |
| | | | | | _____ Rusty Blackbird | u | | u | u |
| | | | | | _____ Brewer's Blackbird | r | | r | r |

| | <i>SP</i> | <i>S</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>W</i> | Sighting Notes |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------|
| _____ Common Grackle* | c | c | c | c | |
| _____ Brown-headed Cowbird* | c | c | c | c | |
| _____ Orchard Oriole* | c | c | u | | |
| _____ Northern Oriole* | u | o | o | | <i>Date</i> |

Old World Finches

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------------|
| _____ Purple Finch | u | | u | u | |
| _____ House Finch* | c | u | u | c | |
| _____ Pine Siskin | o | | o | o | |
| _____ American Goldfinch* | c | c | c | c | <i>Time</i> |
| _____ Evening Grosbeak | r | | r | r | |

Weaver Finches

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| _____ House Sparrow* | c | c | c | c | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|--|

Accidental Birds:

These species have been recorded on the refuge only once or twice or the records of occurrence are very old:

Yellow-billed Loon

Brown Pelican

Anhinga

White-faced Ibis

Roseate Spoonbill

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Barnacle Goose

Brant

Eurasian Wigeon

Cinnamon Teal

Northern Goshawk

Swainson's Hawk

Whooping Crane

Curlew Sandpiper

Red Phalarope

Pomarine Jaeger

Weather

Number of species

Route or area

Observers

Remarks