

# Clarks River

## *National Wildlife Refuge Bird List*





*Refuge Mission  
Statement:*

*“The mission of the  
National Wildlife  
Refuge System is  
to administer a  
national network  
of lands and waters  
for the conservation,  
management, and  
where appropriate,  
restoration of the fish,  
wildlife and plant  
resources and their  
habitats within the  
United States for the  
benefit of present and  
future generations of  
Americans.”*

*National Wildlife  
Refuge System  
Improvement Act of  
1997*

## Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge



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



*Ray Stainfield*

Established in 1997, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was named for its location along the east fork of the Clarks River. The Clarks River is unique because it is one of the few rivers in the western Kentucky area that has not been channelized or damned. Currently, the Refuge consists of approximately 8,500 acres, and is the only Refuge located solely within the bounds of the state of Kentucky. The Refuge was established to protect beautiful bottomland hardwood forest habitats.

The bottomland hardwood forests of this refuge are utilized by many species of neotropical songbirds. These birds spend approximately eight months of the year wintering in Central and South America, and the remaining months on their breeding grounds in North America's temperate latitudes. Over 200 species of neotropical songbirds can be found using the habitats of the refuge as a stopover (for resting and feeding) during migration or for nesting. The imperiled cerulean warbler, Swainson's warbler, and prothonotary warbler are three of the five birds on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's list of high priority species of management concern. All three of these species are dependent on bottomland hardwood forests and can be found in small numbers on the refuge during the nesting season. Other neotropical songbird species to watch for are summer and scarlet tanagers, Kentucky warblers, indigo buntings, and Acadian flycatchers, all of which readily use the refuge.

For those interested in seeking out these and other birds, the following checklist is provided as an aid. The checklist is based on observations by staff, visiting ornithologists, and birdwatchers who have visited the refuge. By design, it is not all encompassing and, because of this, some of the generalized information that it contains may not necessarily seem appropriate for given species. Also, if you observe a species that is not

*cover photo:  
Andy Eller*

Andy Eller



listed here, please report it to us. Your information will be useful as we prepare future editions of this checklist. We do appreciate your help in updating our records.

The taxonomy and nomenclature used by this checklist follow the **Checklist of North America Birds**, American Ornithologists' Union, Seventh Edition, July 2000, as amended through the forty-ninth supplement, August 2008.

**How to use your checklist**

Symbols that appear in this checklist represent the following:

*Seasons*

Sp Spring.....March-May  
(migration)

S Summer.....June-July  
(breeding)

F Fall.....August-November  
(migration)

W Winter.....December-  
February

**Seasonal Code Definitions:**

c- common (certain to be seen or heard in suitable habitat)

f- fairly common (less certain to be seen or heard but usually present in smaller numbers)

u- uncommon (present but not easily seen or heard and may be overlooked)

r- (rare) – usually present every year, but typically only in small numbers and perhaps for only a brief period; observed infrequently and may be quite difficult to find even in appropriate habitat.

\*- **Nesting species:** An asterisk denotes those species that have been confirmed nesting in the CRNWR Area.

Ray Stainfield



	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Common Name</b>				
<b>Loons</b>				
<b>Order Gaviiformes</b>				
Common Loon				r
<b>Grebes</b>				
<b>Order Podicipediformes</b>				
Pied-billed Grebe	c		c	f
Horned Grebe	f		f	u
<b>Pelican Allies</b>				
<b>Order Pelecaniformes</b>				
American White Pelican	u		u	u
Double-crested Cormorant*c	u	c	f	
<b>Hérons, Egrets, and Allies</b>				
<b>Order Ciconiiformes</b>				
American Bittern	r			
Great Blue Heron*	c	c	c	f
Great Egret*	u	u	f	
Snowy Egret*	u	r	u	
Little Blue Heron*	u	u	u	
Cattle Egret*	f	f	u	
Green Heron*	f	f	u	
Black-crowned Night-Heron*	f	f	f	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*	r	r	r	
Black Vulture*	u	u	u	u
Turkey Vulture*	f	f	f	u
<b>Waterfowl</b>				
<b>Order Anseriformes</b>				
Greater White-fronted Goose	r	r	r	
Snow Goose	u		u	u
Ross's Goose	r		r	r
Canada Goose*	c	c	c	c
Mute Swan				r
Tundra Swan				r
Wood Duck*	f	f	f	r
Gadwall	c		c	c
American Wigeon	u		u	f
American Black Duck	u		u	u
Mallard*	c	u	c	c
Blue-winged Teal	f		f	
Northern Shoveler	f		u	u
Northern Pintail	u		u	u
Green-winged Teal	u		u	f
Canvasback	u		u	u
Redhead	r		u	u
Ring-necked Duck	f		f	f
Greater Scaup	u		u	u
Lesser Scaup	c		c	c
Bufflehead	c		c	c

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Common Goldeneye	u		u	c
Hooded Merganser	u	r	u	f
Common Merganser	r		r	u
Red-breasted Merganser	f		u	u
Ruddy Duck	f		f	u
<b>Hawks, Falcons, and Allies</b>				
<b>Order Falconiformes</b>				
Osprey*	c	c	c	
Mississippi Kite*	f	c	f	
Bald Eagle*	u	u	u	f
Northern Harrier	r		r	r
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	u	r	u	u
Cooper's Hawk*	u	r	u	u
Red-shouldered Hawk*	f	f	f	f
Broad-winged Hawk*	u	u	u	
Red-tailed Hawk*	f	f	f	f
Rough-legged Hawk				r
Golden Eagle	r			r
American Kestrel*	f	u	f	f
Merlin			r	
Peregrine Falcon	r		r	r
<b>Turkey and Quail</b>				
<b>Order Galliformes</b>				
Wild Turkey*	f	f	f	f
Northern Bobwhite*	u	u	u	u
<b>Rails, Gallinules, and Cranes</b>				
<b>Order Gruiformes</b>				
Sora	r		r	
American Coot	c		f	c
Sandhill Crane	r		r	r
<b>Shorebirds, Gulls, and Terns</b>				
<b>Order Charadriiformes</b>				
Black-bellied Plover	r		u	
American Golden-Plover			u	
Semipalmated Plover	u		f	
Killdeer*	f	f	c	f
Black-necked Stilt	r		r	
American Avocet	r		r	
Spotted Sandpiper	f	r	f	
Solitary Sandpiper	f	r	u	
Greater Yellowlegs	u		u	
Willet	r		r	
Lesser Yellowlegs	f		f	
Ruddy Turnstone	r		r	
Red Knot			r	
Sanderling	r		u	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	r		f	
Western Sandpiper	r		u	
Least Sandpiper	u		f	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
White-rumped Sandpiper			r	
Baird's Sandpiper			r	
Pectoral Sandpiper	u		c	
Dunlin	r		u	r
Stilt Sandpiper			u	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			r	
Short-billed Dowitcher	r		u	
Long-billed Dowitcher	r		r	
Wilson's Snipe	u		f	u
American Woodcock*	f	r	r	r
Wilson's Phalarope			r	
Bonaparte's Gull	f		f	f
Ring-billed Gull	c	r	c	c
Herring Gull	f	r	f	c
Caspian Tern	f	r	f	
Black Tern	u	r	u	
Forster's Tern	f	r	u	r
<b>Doves</b>				
<b>Order Columbiformes</b>				
Rock Pigeon*	f	f	f	f
Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
<b>Cuckoos and Roadrunners</b>				
<b>Order Cuculiformes</b>				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	f	f	f	
Black-billed Cuckoo*	r		r	
<b>Owls</b>				
<b>Order Strigiformes</b>				
Barn Owl	r	r	r	r
Eastern Screech-Owl*	f	f	f	f
Great Horned Owl*	u	u	u	u
Barred Owl*	c	c	c	f
<b>Nightjars</b>				
<b>Order Caprimulgiformes</b>				
Common Nighthawk*	u	r	u	
Chuck-will's-widow*	u	u	r	
Whip-poor-will*	f	f	f	
<b>Swifts and Hummingbirds</b>				
<b>Order Apodiformes</b>				
Chimney Swift*	u	u	u	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	f	f	c	
<b>Kingfisher</b>				
<b>Order Coraciiformes</b>				
Belted Kingfisher*	f	f	f	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>Woodpeckers</b>				
<b>Order Piciformes</b>				
Red-headed Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		u	u
Downy Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
Hairy Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
Northern Flicker*	f	u	f	u
Pileated Woodpecker*	f	f	f	f
<b>Order Passeriformes</b>				
<b>Flycatchers</b>				
<b>Family Tyrannidae</b>				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	r		r	
Eastern Wood-Pewee*	c	c	c	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r	r		
Acadian Flycatcher*	c	c	u	
Alder Flycatcher	r			
Willow Flycatcher	r			
Least Flycatcher	u		u	
Eastern Phoebe*	f	f	f	r
Great Crested Flycatcher*	f	f	u	
Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	u	
<b>Shrike</b>				
<b>Family Laniidae</b>				
Loggerhead Shrike	r	r	r	r
<b>Vireos</b>				
<b>Family Vireonidae</b>				
White-eyed Vireo*	c	c	c	
Yellow-throated Vireo*	f	f	u	
Blue-headed Vireo	u		u	
Warbling Vireo*	f	f	u	
Philadelphia Vireo	u		u	
Red-eyed Vireo*	c	c	f	
<b>Jays and Crows</b>				
<b>Family Corvidae</b>				
Blue Jay*	c	f	c	f
American Crow*	f	f	f	f
Fish Crow*	r	r	r	
<b>Larks</b>				
<b>Family Alaudidae</b>				
Horned Lark			r	r
<b>Swallows</b>				
<b>Family Hirundinidae</b>				
Purple Martin*	c	c	u	
Tree Swallow*	f	r	f	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	f	f	f	



	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Bank Swallow	u		r	
Cliff Swallow*	c	c	u	
Barn Swallow*	c	f	c	
<b>Chickadees and Titmice</b>				
<b>Family Paridae</b>				
Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c
Tufted Titmouse*	c	c	c	c
<b>Nuthatches</b>				
<b>Family Sittidae</b>				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	r		r	r
White-breasted Nuthatch*	f	f	f	f
<b>Creepers</b>				
<b>Family Certhiidae</b>				
Brown Creeper	u		u	u
<b>Wrens</b>				
<b>Family Tryglodytidae</b>				
Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
House Wren*	u	r	u	
Winter Wren	u		u	u
Marsh Wren	r			r
<b>Kinglets</b>				
<b>Family Regulidae</b>				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	f		f	f
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	f		f	u
<b>Gnatcatchers</b>				
<b>Family Sylviidae</b>				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	c	c	
<b>Thrushes</b>				
<b>Family Turdidae</b>				
Eastern Bluebird*	c	c	c	f
Veery	u		u	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	u		u	
Swainson's Thrush	c		f	
Hermit Thrush	u		u	u
Wood Thrush*	c	c	f	
American Robin*	c	c	c	f
<b>Mimic Thrushes</b>				
<b>Family Mimidae</b>				
Gray Catbird*	f	f	f	
Northern Mockingbird*	f	f	f	f
Brown Thrasher*	f	f	f	r
<b>Starling</b>				
<b>Family Sturnidae</b>				
European Starling*	c	c	c	c

*SP S F W*

**Pipits**

**Family Motacillidae**

American Pipit

u

u

r

**Waxwings**

**Family Bombycillidae**

Cedar Waxwing\*

f

u

f

u

**Warblers**

**Family Parulidae**

Blue-winged Warbler\*

u

u

u

Golden-winged Warbler

u

u

Tennessee Warbler\*

c

c

Orange-crowned Warbler

r

r

Nashville Warbler

f

f

Northern Parula\*

c

c

f

Yellow Warbler\*

f

f

u

Chestnut-sided Warbler

f

f

Magnolia Warbler

f

c

Cape May Warbler

u

r

Black-throated Blue Warbler

r

r

Yellow-rumped Warbler

c

c

u

Black-throated Green Warbler

f

f

Blackburnian Warbler

u

u

Yellow-throated Warbler\*

f

f

f

Pine Warbler\*

f

f

f

r

Prairie Warbler\*

c

c

u

Palm Warbler

f

f

r

Bay-breasted Warbler

u

u

Blackpoll Warbler

f

Cerulean Warbler\*

r

r

r

Black-and-white Warbler\*

f

u

f

American Redstart\*

f

r

c

Prothonotary Warbler\*

c

c

f

Worm-eating Warbler\*

f

f

r

Swainson's Warbler

r

r

Ovenbird\*

f

f

u

Northern Waterthrush

u

u

Louisiana Waterthrush\*

f

f

Kentucky Warbler\*

f

f

u

Connecticut Warbler

r

Mourning Warbler

r

r

Common Yellowthroat\*

c

c

c

Hooded Warbler\*

u

u

u

Wilson's Warbler

u

u

Canada Warbler

u

u

Yellow-breasted Chat\*

f

f

u

**Tanagers**

**Family Thraupidae**

Summer Tanager\*

c

c

f

Scarlet Tanager\*

c

f

f

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
<b>New World Sparrows</b>				
<b>Family Emberizidae</b>				
Eastern Towhee*	c	c	c	c
American Tree Sparrow	r			r
Chipping Sparrow*	c	c	c	r
Field Sparrow	c	c	c	f
Vesper Sparrow	r		r	
Savannah Sparrow	u		u	r
Grasshopper Sparrow		r		
Henslow's Sparrow	r	r		
Fox Sparrow	u		u	u
Song Sparrow*	f	r	f	c
Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	
Swamp Sparrow	f		f	f
White-throated Sparrow	c		c	c
White-crowned Sparrow	u		u	r
Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	c
Lapland Longspur				r

### **Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies**

#### **Family Cardinalidae**

Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	f		f	
Blue Grosbeak*	f	f	u	
Indigo Bunting*	c	c	c	
Dickcissel*	r	r		

### **Blackbirds and Allies**

#### **Family Icteridae**

Bobolink	r		r	
Red-winged Blackbird*	c	c	c	u
Eastern Meadowlark*	f	f	f	f
Rusty Blackbird	u		r	r
Common Grackle*	c	c	u	u
Brown-headed Cowbird*	c	c	u	r
Orchard Oriole*	c	c	u	
Baltimore Oriole*	c	f	u	

### **Finches**

#### **Family Fringillidae**

Purple Finch*	u		u	u
House Finch*	f	u	f	f
Pine Siskin	r		r	r
American Goldfinch*	c	c	c	c

### **Old World Sparrow**

#### **Family Passeridae**

House Sparrow*	f	f	f	f
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## **Accessibility Statement**

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental disability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

## **For more information about the Refuge or information contained in this publication contact:**

Clarks River NWR  
91 US Hwy 641 North  
P.O. Box 89  
Benton, KY 42025  
Phone: 270/527 5770  
Fax: 270/527 5052

## **The Friends of Clarks River NWR**

The Friends of the Clarks River NWR is a nonprofit group formed to give assistance and support for Refuge projects and educational programs. To obtain more information or a membership contact the Refuge headquarters, or visit their web site at [www.friendsofclarksriver.org](http://www.friendsofclarksriver.org).



*Stacey Hayden*



*Andy Eller*

## Sighting Notes

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

No. of Species \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Route or Area \_\_\_\_\_

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Observers \_\_\_\_\_

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
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