

Southwest Louisiana

National Wildlife Refuge Complex Bird List

Cameron Prairie, Lacassine and Sabine



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

*Birds of
Southwest
Louisiana
National
Wildlife
Refuge
Complex*

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 2 to 5 years)
- * - nests within the Refuge Complex

D. Borden-Billiott/USFWS



Ruby-crowned Kinglet

D. Borden-Billiott/USFWS



Yellow-crowned night Heron

D. Borden-Billiott/USFWS



Red-tailed Hawk

D. Borden-Billiott/USFWS



Great Egret

*cover photo: Ryan Hager
Roseate Spoonbill*

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Loons				
___ Common Loon	o		o	o
Grebes				
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	c	u	c	c
___ Eared Grebe	r		r	r
___ Horned Grebe	r		r	r
Pelicans				
___ American White Pelican	c	o	c	c
___ Brown Pelican	o	o	o	o
Frigatebird				
___ Magnificent Frigatebird		r	r	
Anhingas and Cormorants				
___ Anhinga*	u	u	u	o
___ Double-crested Cormorant	o	c	c	
___ Neotropic Cormorant*	a	a	a	a
Wading Birds-Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets				
___ American Bittern*	u	r	u	u
___ Least Bittern*	c	c	c	r
___ Great Blue Heron*	c	c	c	c
___ Great Egret*	c	c	c	c
___ Snowy Egret*	c	c	c	c
___ Reddish Egret	r	r	r	r
___ Little Blue Heron*	c	c	c	u
___ Tricolored Heron*	c	c	c	c
___ Cattle Egret*	a	a	a	a
___ Green Heron*	a	a	c	o
___ Black-crowned Night Heron	c	c	c	u
___ Yellow-crowned Night Heron	c	c	o	r
___ Glossy Ibis*	o	o	o	o
___ White-faced Ibis*	a	a	c	c
___ White Ibis*	a	a	c	c
___ Roseate Spoonbill*	c	c	u	u
___ Wood Stork		o	o	
Geese				
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	c	r	a	a
___ Ross' Goose	r		o	o
___ Snow Goose	a	r	a	a
___ Canada Goose	o	o	o	o
Ducks and Mergansers				
___ Fulvous Whistling-Duck*	c	u	c	o
___ Black-bellied Whistling Duck*	u	u	o	r
___ Wood Duck*	u	u	u	u
___ Mallard	c	r	a	a
___ American Black Duck	r		r	r
___ Mottled Duck*	c	c	c	c

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Gadwall	c		c	c
___ Northern Pintail	c	r	a	a
___ American Wigeon	c		c	c
___ Northern Shoveler	a	o	a	a
___ Blue-winged Teal*	c	r	a	a
___ Cinnamon Teal	r		r	r
___ Green-winged Teal	c		a	a
___ Canvasback	r		o	o
___ Redhead	r		o	o
___ Greater Scaup	u		u	u
___ Ring-necked Duck	c		c	c
___ Common Goldeneye	r	r	r	r
___ Bufflehead	u		u	u
___ Ruddy Duck	u		o	r
___ Hooded Merganser	o		o	o
___ Red-breasted Merganser	o		o	u
___ Common Merganser	r			r

Eagles, Falcons, Hawks, and Vultures

___ Black Vulture	o	o	o	o
___ Turkey Vulture*	o	o	o	o
___ Osprey	o	r	o	o
___ White-tailed Kite	o	r	o	o
___ Mississippi Kite	r	r	r	
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	o		u	o
___ Cooper's Hawk	o	r	u	o
___ Northern Harrier	u		c	c
___ Red-shouldered Hawk*	o	o	u	u
___ Broad-winged Hawk	o	r	u	
___ Red-tailed Hawk	c	o	c	c
___ Golden Eagle	o		o	o
___ Bald Eagle	r		r	r
___ Crested Caracara	r	r	r	r
___ American Kestrel	u		u	u
___ Merlin	o		o	o
___ Peregrine Falcon	o		o	o

Upland Game Birds

___ Northern Bobwhite*	o	o	o	o
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Rails, Gallinules, Coots, Cranes

___ Clapper Rail*	c	c	c	c
___ King Rail*	c	c	c	c
___ Virginia Rail	o		o	o
___ Sora	c		u	c
___ Yellow Rail	o		o	o
___ Black Rail	r		r	r
___ Common Moorhen*	a	a	a	a
___ Purple Gallinule*	c	c	u	r
___ American Coot*	a	r	a	a
___ Sandhill Crane	r		r	o

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Shorebirds				
___ Black-bellied Plover	c		c	c
___ American Golden-Plover	o		r	
___ Killdeer*	c	c	c	c
___ Semipalmated Plover	c	o	c	c
___ Wilson's Plover	r	r	r	r
___ Black-necked Stilt*	c	c	c	u
___ American Avocet	u	r	u	u
___ Greater Yellowlegs	c	o	c	c
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	c	o	c	c
___ Solitary Sandpiper	u	u	u	r
___ Spotted Sandpiper	c	o	c	u
___ Willet	c	c	c	c
___ Marbled Godwit	o	r	o	o
___ Hudsonian Godwit	r			
___ Whimbrel	o	r	o	o
___ Long-billed Curlew	o	r	u	u
___ Upland Sandpiper	o	o	o	
___ Ruddy Turnstone	o	r	u	o
___ Sanderling	c	o	u	u
___ Red Knot	r	r	r	r
___ Dunlin	c	u	c	c
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	u	o	u	r
___ White-rumped Sandpiper	c	o		
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	c	u	c	
___ Western Sandpiper	c	o	c	c
___ Least Sandpiper	c	o	c	c
___ Stilt Sandpiper	u	r	u	o
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	c		c	c
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	c	u	c	c
___ Wilson's Snipe	c		c	a
___ American Woodcock	r		r	r
___ Wilson's Phalarope	r		r	
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers				
___ Bonaparte's Gull	o		o	u
___ Laughing Gull	c	c	c	c
___ Franklin's Gull	r	r	r	r
___ Ring-billed Gull	u	o	u	c
___ Herring Gull	u	o	u	u
___ Black Tern	c	c	c	
___ Caspian Tern	u	u	u	o
___ Gull-billed Tern	u	u	u	u
___ Royal Tern	o	o	o	o
___ Common Tern	r	r	r	r
___ Forester's Tern*	c	c	c	c
___ Least Tern	o	u	o	
___ Black Skimmer	u	u	u	u
Pigeons and Doves				
___ Rock Dove	o	o	o	o
___ White-winged Dove	o	o	o	r
___ Mourning Dove*	c	c	c	c
___ Inca Dove	u	u	u	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Common Ground-Dove	r	r	r	r
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove*	u	u	u	u
___ Cuckoos				
___ Black-billed Cuckoo*	o		o	
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	c	c	u	
___ Groove-billed Ani	o	r		o
Owls				
___ Barn Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Short-eared Owl	r		r	r
___ Eastern Screech-Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Great Horned Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Barred Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Burrowing Owl				r
Nighthawks, Nightjars, and Swifts				
___ Common Nighthawk*	c	c	c	
___ Chuck-will's-widow	o		o	r
___ Whip-poor-will	o		o	r
___ Chimney Swift*	o	o	o	
Hummingbirds				
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	c	u	c	r
___ Black Chinned Hummingbird			o	r
___ Rufous Hummingbird			o	r
___ Buff-bellied Hummingbird	r		r	r
Kingfishers				
___ Belted Kingfisher	c	u	c	c
Woodpeckers				
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	o		o	o
___ Red-headed Woodpecker	o	r	o	r
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	u	u	u	u
___ Downy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
___ Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u
___ Northern Flicker*	c	o	c	c
___ Pileated Woodpecker*	u	u	o	o
Flycatchers, Phoebes, and Kingbirds				
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	r	r	r	
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee	u	o	u	
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	r		r	
___ Acadian Flycatcher	u	u	u	
___ Least Flycatcher	r	r	o	c
___ Eastern Phoebe	c		c	c
___ Vermillion Flycatcher	r		r	r
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher	r		r	r
___ Great Crested Flycatcher	o	o	o	
___ Western Kingbird	r	r	r	r
___ Eastern Kingbird*	a	a	a	
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*	o	o	o	r

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Shrikes and Vireos				
___ Loggerhead Shrike*	u	u	u	u
___ Warbling Vireo	r		r	
___ Philadelphia Vireo		u		c
___ White-eyed Vireo	u	u	u	o
___ Red-eyed Vireo	u	u	u	
___ Yellow-throated Vireo	o		o	
___ Blue-headed Vireo	o		u	u
Jays and Crows				
___ Blue Jay*	u	u	u	u
___ American Crow	o	o	o	o
___ Fish Crow	u	u	u	u
Swallows				
___ Barn Swallow*	a	a	a	
___ Cliff Swallow*	c	u	c	
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c		c	r
___ Bank Swallow	u	o	u	
___ Tree Swallow	a		a	a
___ Purple Martin*	c	c	u	
Chickadees, Nuthatches, Titmice				
___ Carolina Chickadee*	u	u	u	u
___ Brown Creeper	r		o	o
___ Tufted Titmouse	u	u	u	u
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch			r	r
Wrens				
___ Marsh Wren*	a	c	a	a
___ Sedge Wren	u		u	c
___ Carolina Wren*	c	c	c	c
___ House Wren	u		u	u
___ Winter Wren			o	u
Kinglets, Gnatcatchers, Thrushes and Allies				
___ Goleen-crowned Kinglet	o		o	o
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	c
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	c	o	c	u
___ Eastern Bluebird	u	u	r	r
___ Swainson's Thrush	c		u	
___ Veery	u		o	
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	u		o	
___ Hermit Thrush	u		u	u
___ Wood Thrush	u		u	r
___ American Robin	u		u	u
Thrashers, Pipits, Waxwings, and Starlings				
___ Gray Catbird*	u	r	u	u
___ Northern Mockingbird*	c	c	c	c
___ Brown Thrasher*	u	u	u	u
___ American Pipit	u		u	u

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
___ Sprague's Pipit	r		r	r
___ Cedar Waxwing	u		u	u
___ European Starling*	c	c	c	a
Wood Warbler				
___ Tennessee Warbler	c		c	
___ Nashville Warbler	o		u	
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	u		u	c
___ Blue-winged Warbler	o		o	
___ Golden-winged Warbler	r		r	
___ Northern Parula*	u	u	u	r
___ Yellow Warbler	u	r	u	
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		u	
___ Magnolia Warbler	u		u	
___ Cape May Warbler	r		r	
___ Blackburnian Warbler	u		r	
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	r		r	
___ Cerulean Warbler	u		r	
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	u		u	
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	a
___ Palm Warbler	u		u	u
___ Pine Warbler	u		u	u
___ Prairie Warbler	o		o	
___ Blackpoll Warbler	u			
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	c		u	
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	u	o	o	r
___ Black-and-White Warbler	c		c	r
___ American Redstart	c		c	
___ Prothonotary Warbler*	c	c	u	
___ Worm-eating Warbler	o		o	
___ Common Yellowthroat*	c	c	c	c
___ Mourning Warbler	r		o	
___ Kentucky Warbler	c	r	u	
___ Northern Waterthrush	u	r	u	
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	o	r	o	
___ Ovenbird	c	r	o	
___ Canada Warbler	o	o	u	
___ Hooded Warbler	c	u	u	
___ Wilson's Warbler	o		o	o
___ Yellow-breasted Chat	u	o	u	r
Tanagers, Cardinals and their Allies				
___ Scarlet Tanager*	u		o	
___ Summer Tanager*	c	u	c	
___ Western Tanager	r		r	
___ Dickcissel	u	o	o	
___ Blue Grosbeak	c	o	u	
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	c		u	
___ Indigo bunting	c	o	u	
___ Painted Bunting	u	u	u	r
___ Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c

SP S F W

Sparrows and their Allies

___ Eastern Towhee	o	o	o	o
___ Chipping Sparrow	o		o	o
___ Field Sparrow	o		u	u
___ Vesper Sparrow	r		o	o
___ Lark Sparrow	o	r	o	o
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	o		u	u
___ Sharp-tailed Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Seaside Sparrow*	c	c	c	c
___ Savannah Sparrow	a		a	a
___ Song Sparrow	u		c	c
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Swamp Sparrow	c		c	c
___ Fox Sparrow			o	o
___ White-crowned Sparrow	o		o	o
___ White-throated Sparrow	u		u	u
___ Dark-eyed Junco			o	o
___ Lapland Longspur				r

Blackbirds and their Allies

___ Baltimore Oriole	u	o	u	
___ Orchard Oriole*	c	c	u	
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	a	a	a	a
___ Western Meadowlark			r	r
___ Bobolink		u		r
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	a	a	a	a
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird			r	r
___ Rusty Blackbird	r		r	r
___ Brewer's Blackbird	o		o	u
___ Common Grackle	o	o	o	u
___ Boat-tailed Grackle*	a	a	a	a
___ Great-tailed Grackle	u	u	u	u
___ Brown-headed Cowbird*	u	u	u	c

Finches and Old World Sparrows

___ 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



USFWS

Eastern Kingbird

*Young Great Egret**Great Egret**American Robin**White Ibis*

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.

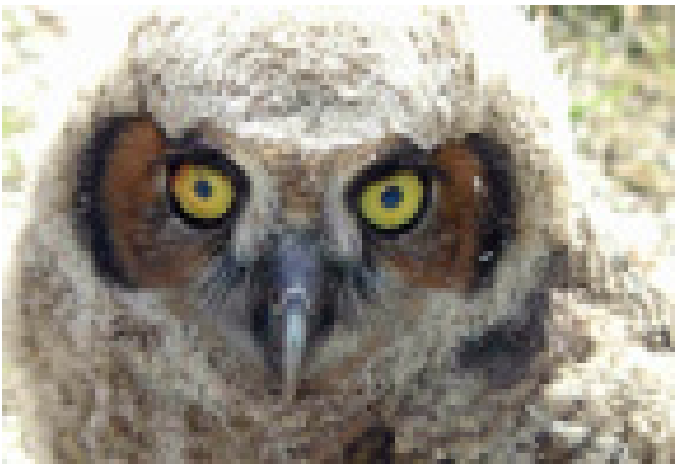
Disturb wintering wildlife as little as possible, particularly during critical feeding and resting periods. They need all of their energy reserves to withstand the stresses of harsh weather and migration.

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.

Wes Brown/USFWS



Barn Owl

Dan Everett



Cedar Waxwing

Sighting Notes

Date _____

Time _____

Weather _____

No. of species _____

Route or area _____

Observers _____

Remarks _____



USFWS



Female Boat-tailed Grackles

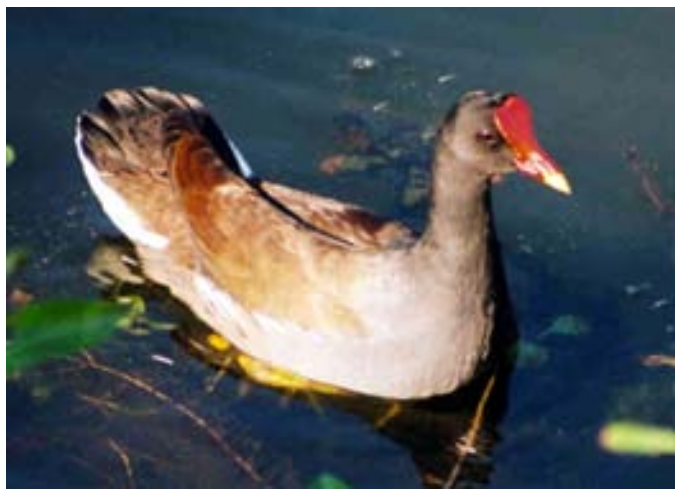
To report unusual sightings, or for further information, contact:

Visitor Services Manager
 Southwest Louisiana National
 Wildlife Refuge Complex
 Headquarters
 Cameron Prairie NWR
 1428 Highway 27
 Bell City, LA 70630-9618
 337/598 2216

USFWS



Black & White Warbler



D. Borden-Billiot/USFWS

Common Moorhen

**Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex
(Cameron Prairie, Lacassine, Sabine and Shell Keys)
1428 Highway 27
Bell City, LA 70630
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www.fws.gov/swlarefugecomplex

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